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## 6 - Glossary

### Glossary of terms

**Biodiversity** - The concept of variety in all species of plants and animals through which nature finds its balance

**Classification** - A process of sorting the landscape into different types using selected criteria but without attaching relative values to the different kinds of landscape.

**Cumulative effects** - The combination of effects that result from changes caused by a development in conjunction with other past, present or reasonably foreseeable actions.

**Enhancement** - Landscape improvement through restoration, reconstruction or creation.

**Field pattern** - The pattern of hedges and walls that define fields in farmed landscapes.

**Genius loci (Sense of place)** – The essential character and spirit of an area: genius loci literally means ‘spirit of the place’.

**Geographical information system** - Computerised database of geographical information that can easily be updated and manipulated.

**Heritage** - Historic or cultural associations.

**Land use** - The primary use of the land, including both rural and urban activities

**Landcover** - Combinations of land use and vegetation that cover the land surface.

**Landform** - Combinations of slope and elevation that produce the shape and form of the land.

**Landscape** - An area, as perceived by people, whose character is the result of the action and interaction of nature and/or human factors

**Landscape assessment** - Term used to cover description, classification and analysis of landscape

**Landscape character areas** - A defined area with a distinct character and recognisable pattern. The combination of elements consist particular combinations of geology, landform, soils, landcover and human settlement. It reflects the particular sense of place of different areas of the landscape and how this is perceived by people..

**Landscape character sensitivity** - The inherent robustness of the areas character. Low L.C.S. = robust character. High L.C.S. = sensitive character

**Landscape type** - An archetypal subdivision within a character area.

**Methodology** - The specific approach and techniques used for a given study.

**Overall landscape sensitivity** - The combined affect of landscape character sensitivity and visual sensitivity.

**Ramsar** - Statutory protection of sites for their International importance as wetlands (could be due to ecology, botany, zoology, limnology or hydrology). Given the same protection as SPA

**SAC** - Special Area of Conservation. Statutory protection of sites for their International importance for plants, animals or their habitats

**SINC** - Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation. Sites with particular importance for Nature Conservation, containing habitats or features that are effectively irreplaceable. Excludes statutorily designated sites.

**SPA** - Special Protection Area. Statutory protection of sites for their International importance for bird's and their habitats

**SSSI** - Sites of Special Scientific Interest. Areas notified by Natural England under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. Biological or geological sites considered to be of national importance for conservation.

**Visual amenity** - The value of a particular area or view in terms of what can be seen

**Visual sensitivity** - The degree to which physical characteristics of enclosure or openness affect each area. Low V.S. = discrete/enclosed. High V.S. = prominent/open