

# Section 3

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# Glossary

AOD is Above Ordnance Datum and relates to the height of a point measured above mean sea level, shown on Ordnance Survey maps.

**Archaeological interest:** There will be archaeological interest in a heritage asset if it holds, or potentially may hold, evidence of past human activity worthy of expert investigation at some point. Heritage assets with archaeological interest are the primary source of evidence about the substance and evolution of places, and of the people and cultures that made them.

**Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)** is an area designated by the Secretary of State for the Environment, on the recommendation of the Countryside Commission, under the 1949 National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act. It is an area of particularly attractive landscape, which in the Commission's view, should be protected as part of the national heritage.

At grade is the same level as the surrounding area.

**Attribute** is an inherent characteristic of the locality, including for example, openness or enclosure, key views or vistas, landform and patterns in the landscape such as those defined by historic land uses, roads and lanes, buildings, hedgerows or watercourses.

**Coalescence** as used within the report, refers to the merging together of built development, either on the fringes of a settlement, resulting in two adjoining settlements uniting into one continuous built form, or by infill development increasing the density of the built environment, resulting in a change to the spatial pattern of a settlement, affecting its landscape character or that of the adjoining settlement.

**Conservation Area** is an area designated by the Local Planning Authority as being of special architectural or historic interest, the character of which is desirable to preserve or enhance.

**Enclosure** was the process by which open agricultural land, commons and wastes were restructured into parcels contained by stone wall, hedgerow or fence boundaries. The process consolidated a person's ownership of land parcels into a single land holding, with the transfer of land undertaken with neighbours, through a process of enclosure by private agreement, or where opposition occurred, by Act of Parliament. Enclosure by agreement dates back to at least the medieval period, with enclosure by Acts of Parliament most common between 1750 and 1850.

**Field pattern** refers to the shape of parcels of land formed by enclosure, traditionally defined by hedgerows or stone walls. Field patterns have been largely characterised within the report as angular, rectangular, irregular or regular.

**Field size** refers to the relative size of parcels of land. These have been characterised in terms of small, medium and large size as a guide, relative to the variety of field sizes found within the South Gloucestershire area, which have not been measured.

**Heritage asset:** A building, monument, site, place, area or landscape identified as having a degree of significance meriting consideration in planning decisions, because of its heritage interest. Heritage asset includes designated heritage assets and assets identified by the local planning authority (including local listing).

**Historic environment:** All aspects of the environment resulting from the interaction between people and places through time, including all surviving physical remains of past human activity, whether visible, buried or submerged, and landscaped and planted or managed flora.

**Historic Park / Garden** is a designation recognising a site, which has been listed within the Register of Parks and Gardens as of special

historic interest. Sites are registered on the basis of their features and qualities and are considered either of national importance and graded in relation to their significance (register maintained by English Heritage) or of local / regional importance (register maintained by Local Authorities).

**Landscape character** is what makes one landscape different from another. It means the distinct and recognisable pattern of elements that occurs consistently in a particular type of landscape. Distinctive character results from particular combinations of geology, landform, soils, vegetation, land use, field patterns and human settlement. It creates the particular sense of place of different parts of the landscape.

**Landscape character areas** are single unique areas and are the discrete geographical areas of a landscape character type. Each has its own individual character and identity.

**Landscape character types** are distinct and homogeneous areas that are generic in nature. They may occur in different parts of the country, but wherever they occur they will share common combinations of geology, topography, vegetation and human influences.

**Landscape condition** reflects the state of current (or past) management or maintenance of individual features and elements that make up the character in any one place.

**Landscape features** include those constituent parts of the landscape that either in their own right, or in combination with landscape attributes, give the locality its particular character and distinctiveness, including for example, trees, hedges, ponds, geological or geomorphologic features, rights of way, streams and rhines, ponds and aspects of the built environment including structures such as gate posts, walls, railings as well as the buildings themselves.

**Landscape quality** is primarily a combination of its strength of character (i.e. how clearly the distinctive character is expressed in an area, with

the presence of key characteristics and absence of atypical and incongruous features); the state of repair or condition of landscape elements and the integrity and intactness of the landscape.

**Landscape sensitivity** is the degree to which a landscape can accommodate change without unacceptable detrimental effects on character. Sensitivity is not absolute, but is likely to vary relative to the type and scale of change being considered.

**Listed Buildings** are buildings or structures of special architectural or historic interest included and described in the Statutory List of Buildings of Special Architectural or Historic Interest published by English Heritage.

**Local Plan** is a detailed set of policies and proposals designed by a Local Planning Authority to guide the future physical development of an area. Its functions are:

to bring local planning issues before the public.

to develop the policies and general proposals for the local area and to relate them to precise areas of land defined on a Proposals Map;

to provide a detailed basis for co-ordinating and directing development and other use of land - both public and private; and

to provide a detailed basis for determining planning applications;

**Medieval Period** is a period in English history between the 11th century and the 16th century which saw the establishment of centralised government and the feudal system. National Planning Policy Framework and accompanying Guidance set the government's policy with which local policy and planning decisions must align, along with guidance for its application.

**Public Rights of Way** are routes over which all members of the public have a right of passage, including footpaths, bridleways and carriageways (including cycleways).

**Quality of Life Assessment** (formerly Environmental Capital) is a tool for maximising environmental, economic and social benefits as part of any land use planning and management decision. It builds upon the process of characterisation by identifying the benefits that each feature or characteristic fulfils and assesses the importance of each function by explaining the reason it matters, to whom and at what scale. This approach emphasises improvement of the quality of life rather than the status quo and values the common place as well as the unusual and rare.

**RAMSAR** is a designation under the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance. The Severn Estuary is designated due to its immense tidal range; its important run of migratory fish between the sea and the sub estuaries, including Salmon, Sea Trout, Sea Lamprey, River Lamprey, Allis Shad, Twaite Shad and Eel; for regularly supporting over 85,000 waterfowl and by providing a staging area for over 1,500 whimbrel.

**RIGS** is a Regionally Important Geological Site, a non-statutory regional designation applied to geological exposures, in accordance with English Nature criteria standards.

**SAC** is a Special Area of Conservation, designated under the European Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and Wild Fauna and Flora ('the Habitats Directive 1992') and implemented in Britain by the Conservation (Natural Habitats & c.) Regulations 1994 ('the Habitat Regulations'). The Severn Estuary is designated due to its estuarine habitat, intertidal mudflats and sandflats, Atlantic salt meadows, subtidal sandbanks, reefs, and four fish species - Allis Shad, Twaite Shad, Sea Lamprey and River Lamprey.

**SAM** is a Scheduled Ancient Monument, a designation under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeology Areas Act 1979, for the protection of nationally important archaeological sites.

**Saxon Period** is a period in English history between the 5th and the 11th century, which saw the take over of the former Roman province by invaders from mainland Europe.

**Setting of a heritage asset:** The surroundings in which a heritage asset is experienced. Its extent is not fixed and may change as the asset and its surroundings evolve. Elements of a setting may make a positive or negative contribution to the significance of an asset, may affect the ability to appreciate that significance or may be neutral.

**Significance (for heritage policy):** The value of a heritage asset to this and future generations because of its heritage interest. That interest may be archaeological, architectural, artistic or historic. Significance derives not only from a heritage asset's physical presence, but also from its setting.

**SPA** is a Special Protection Area under EC Directive 79/409 on the Conservation of Wild Birds ('the Birds Directive'). The Severn Estuary meets the criteria for designation as a SPA due to the internationally important species and populations of over-wintering wildfowl associated with it.

**SSSI** is a Site of Special Scientific Interest which under the 1981 Wildlife and Countryside Act, English Nature notifies Local Planning Authorities of sites, other than nature reserves, which it has identified as having features of special ecological, geological or physiographic interest of national importance. The Local Planning Authority and English Nature must be consulted with regard to development proposals which would directly or indirectly affect such sites.

**Stakeholder** is the whole constituency of individuals and groups, including special interest, statutory and non-statutory organisations, who have an interest in a subject or a place.

**Sustainable Development** is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

**Tranquillity** has been applied to landscape as meaning an area which has little or no visual or audible influence from built development, traffic, noise or artificial lighting.

**Vernacular** relates to buildings or structures built in a local style, from local materials.

**Warth** is an area of salt marsh on the fringe of a tidal estuary. It comprises an area of transition between the bare mud flats and upper marsh, bordered in the case of the Severn Estuary by a sea wall. The warth forms an integral part of the estuarine ecosystem.

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### Boyd Valley

Bitton	Doynnton
Dyrham and Hinton	Hanham Abbots
Mangotsfield Rural	Oldland
Pucklechurch	Siston
Wick and Abson	

### Laddon Vale

Alveston	Charfield
Cromhall	Rangeworthy
Tortworth	Tytherington
Wickwar	

### Bristol North Fringe

Bradley Stoke	Filton
Patchway	Stoke Gifford
Winterbourne	

### Severnside

Almondsbury	Aust
Olveston Pilning & Severn Beach	

### Cotswold AONB

Acton Turville	Badminton
Cold Ashton	Hawkesbury
Horton	Little Sodbury
Marshfield	Tormarton

### Severn Vale

Falfield	Hill
Oldbury-on-Severn	Rockhampton
Thornbury	

### Kingswood

Kingswood

### Upper Frome Enterprise

Dodington	Frampton Cotterell
Iron Acton	Sodbury
Westerleigh	Yate

## 2014 Review

South Gloucestershire Council would like to thank all those Parishes, residents, organisations and businesses who have contributed to the Review of South Gloucestershire's Adopted Landscape Character Assessment 2005. Their contribution and local knowledge has been invaluable in the development of an updated Landscape Character Assessment for the Council area, and in the production of a landscape strategy to guide the future evolution of our landscapes.