

## GLOSSARY

### **Alluvial gleys**

Greyish-brown, mottled soils which are permanently waterlogged.

### **Argilic gleys**

Deep, stoneless soils variably affected by groundwater.

### **Ancient woodland**

Land which is thought to have been wooded since 1600AD. As little woodland planting was carried out before that date, most woods existing in 1600 AD will in fact be much older than 400 years.

### **Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)**

An area recognised as being of national landscape importance and designated by the Government under the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949.

### **Assart**

Fields cut out of woodland to extend or create farmland, often of medieval origin. This resulted in small scale and irregular fields.

### **Calcareous**

Contains calcium carbonate, 'chalky'.

### **Common land**

An area of private land over which the community has certain specified rights.

### **Coombes**

Rounded hollows or small dry valleys cut into chalk.

### **Coppice**

Trees or shrubs which have been managed by being cut back to near ground level every few years. The shoots which regrow from the stumps ("stools") were a valuable woodland product in the past and still are today.

### **Coppice with standards**

A system of woodland management in which timber-sized trees are grown over coppice.

### **Cross dyke**

A linear earthwork believed to be a prehistoric land boundary that usually measures between 0.2 and 1 kilometer (0.12 and 0.62 mi) in length.

### **Dip slope**

A gentle slope in the land that follows that of the underlying strata, especially the slope falling quietly away from an escarpment.

### **Diversity**

A description of the degree of variation in the landscape. It can apply to landscape elements such as hedges, trees and settlements. A landscape with many different elements could be described as diverse. Diversity also includes variations in the pattern of occurrence of elements e.g. variations in the type of hedgerow.

**Distinctiveness**

Distinctiveness describes those characteristics of a particular landscape which make it identifiable. *Genius loci* or "spirit of the place" are also used to describe the almost indefinable combination of qualities which make a place distinctive, giving it an atmosphere and character that are memorable.

**Element**

A component of the landscape, for example fields, hedges, woods.

**Escarpment ("scarp")**

A very sharp slope at the upper edge of a landform following the underlying strata. When the landform is tilted the gentler slope falling away from the escarpment is the dip slope. The combination of escarpment and dip slope is sometimes called a "cuesta".

**Feature**

A prominent element in the landscape, such as a pond.

**Ghyll**

A steep-sided, wooded valley.

**Habitat**

The place in which a species lives.

**Hammerponds**

A pond formed by the damming of a river or stream, used to provide a supply and head of water to provide power for the iron industry, often remoulded as ornamental lakes.

**Hanger**

Woodland that clings to steep slopes.

**Intensive agriculture**

A term generally used to signify the use of high-input, high output crop and livestock husbandry systems in order to produce the optimum possible economic return from the available land. Intensive agriculture involves high use of fertilizers, agro-chemicals and mechanisation.

**Interglacial**

Warmer periods between ice ages.

**Landform**

The combination of slope and elevation which defines the shape and form of a land surface.

**Landscape**

The appearance of the land.

**Landscape Character**

A distinct, consistent and recognisable pattern of landscape that combine to create the distinctive character of an area.

**Landscape Character Assessment**

The process of identifying, mapping and describing types of landscape and areas of similar landscape character.

**Landscape Design**

This considers all aspects of development design including size and scale of built form, its location on a site, organisation of circulation, treatment of boundaries, hard detailing, planting and management of existing landscape. The objective is to integrate harmoniously with the surrounding landscape.

**Landscape pattern**

A distinct arrangement of landscape elements which may be important as a determinant of the landscape character or an area, e.g. the pattern of hedgerows.

**Nucleated settlement**

A settlement clustered around a central point, such as a village green or church

**Pannage**

The seasonal practise of releasing domestic pigs in woodland to feed on fallen acorns.

**Parkland**

A large, open area of land with woodland and pasture, often landscaped, attached to a large, country house.

**Periglacial**

Very cold conditions associated with glaciation.

**Permafrost**

Permanently frozen ground.

**Pillow mounds**

Low, oblong-shaped mound of soil and/or stones built to house rabbits.

**Quoins**

Corner stones, masonry blokes at the corner of a wall

**Regional Character Area**

Areas of unique and cohesive character in England defined on the Character of England map produced by Natural England.

**Rifes**

Local Sussex name for a small stream draining the flat coastal plain.

**Saline Lagoon**

Stretch of salt or brackish water enclosed by shingle or sandbars.

**Sense of Place**

Something a place has which belongs to that place and no other. Sometimes called *genius loci*. It is what makes a place distinctive.

**Shaw**

Narrow strip of woodland often dividing fields.

**Site of Nature Conservation Importance (SNCI)**

A site in West Sussex note defined by Statute that is considered of importance county-wide for their wildlife and/or geological features and landforms.

**Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)**

An area of land statutorily notified under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) as being of special nature conservation interest. SSSIs include wildlife habitats, geological features and landforms.

**Spring-line**

Following a line of springs emerging at the base of an escarpment.

**Stagnogley**

Seasonally waterlogged clayey soil.

**Strip-lynchet**

Ancient strip field system formed of ridges or ledges arranged along the downhill side of a plot.

**Tranquil area**

Areas defined by the Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE) and the then Countryside Agency as being far enough from visual or noise intrusion caused by development or traffic to be considered remote from urbanising influences.

**Transhumance**

A system of moving livestock from one grazing ground to another in a seasonal cycle, typically involving residence in lowland in the winter and higher ground in the summer.

**Urban fringe**

The countryside around towns where rural and urban areas meet. This transitional area has landscape which is neither entirely urban nor entirely rural.

**Vernacular architecture**

Architecture based on localised needs and construction materials, reflecting local traditions.