Gloucestershire Landscape Character Typology

Landscape characterisation is the practical process by which areas of distinctive character are classified, mapped and described. In this assessment landscape character types have been identified.

Landscape Character Types are distinct types of landscape that are relatively homogeneous in character. They are generic in nature in that they may occur in different parts of the country.

A principal requirement of the county assessment was to use GIS to develop a digital landscape typology for the county, with reference to the Countryside Agency’s Character Map of England, the National Landscape Typology for England, and the ‘Landscape Character Assessment Guidance for England and Scotland’. The national typology was used as a starting point and basis for testing and refining the typology for Gloucestershire. The assessment was also guided by the findings of previous landscape character assessments and related studies, and by drawing together essential county-wide datasets wherever possible.

The findings of the Gloucestershire Landscape Character Assessment provided an initial description and classification of the Gloucestershire landscape into county landscape types, which linked directly into the national typology framework. It also enabled subsequent district, borough and other assessments to fit within this nested hierarchy of landscape types and areas, with each level of assessment adding more detail to the one above.
The County Landscape Character Types:

1. Wooded Valleys  
2. Limestone Hills  
3. Limestone Plateau  
4. Wooded Scarp and Lower Scarp Slopes  
5. Wooded Syncline and Settled Forest Fringe  
6. Unwooded Vale  
7. Drained Riverine Farmland and Grazed Salt Marsh  
8. Littoral Sands and Rock Outcrops  
9. Undulating Farmland  
10. Ridges and Valleys  
11. Wooded Hills  
12. Floodplain Farmland  
13. Vale Hillocks  
14. Low Hills and Orchards  
15. Undulating Hill Farmland  
16. River Meadows  
17. Wooded Outlier  
18. Settled Unwooded Vale  
19. Farmed Slopes  
20. Clay Vale  
21. Broad Valley Floor Farmland  
22. High Wold  
23. High Wold Dip Slope  
24. Dip Slope Lowland  
25. River Basin Lowland  
26. Escarpment  
27. Secluded Valleys  
28. Escarpment Valleys  
29. Low Sandstone Hills  
30. Low Limestone Ridge  
31. Gently Undulating Lowland Farmland  
32. Low Wooded Hills  
33. Urban

Landscape Character Assessment: Gloucestershire and Forest of Dean: County Scoping Study and County Typology, November 2002, Landscape Design Associates.