

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