

Lowland Moors – Flat, low lying, unsettled wetland landscapes that were gradually drained from the 16th onwards.

Riverside Meadows – Flat, unsettled floodplain landscapes, with meadows traditionally used for seasonal grazing.

Lowland Moss – Raised peat bog which remains unsettled and unenclosed.

Coalfields – Undulating plateau of coal bearing rocks, overlain by small, irregular pasture fields and a scatter of cottages and small farms. Spoil tips and other industrial remains occur throughout.

What is this information being used for?

Shropshire County Council is using this information to work with partners to enhance and protect the county's landscape character. We are currently assisting community groups to undertake their own Landscape Character Assessments to inform their Parish Plans. We are also proposing a Supplementary Planning Document on Landscape as part of the new planning system. In addition, we provide comments on Historic Landscape Character to farmers applying for Higher Level Environmental Stewardship. We are also working with the Forestry Commission and other partners on the West Midlands Woodland Opportunities Map.

If you have an idea or project where this data may be of use, we would like to hear from you.



An Introduction to Shropshire's Landscapes

Why is Shropshire's landscape important?

Shropshire has one of the most impressive landscapes in England. A very wide range of different rock types can be found in the county, from nearly all geological periods. The county's landscape also has a rich human history; ranging from the ancient patchwork of fields and farms in the Shropshire Hills, to the ordered pattern of straight lanes and brick farmsteads on the heathlands of the north-east. And it supports wide range of habitats, including the ancient woodlands along Wenlock Edge, the upland heathlands on the Stiperstones and The Long Mynd, and the raised peat bog at Whixall Moss. In combination, these different physical and cultural aspects determine landscape character. Geology, landform and soils tell us about its physical character, whilst settlement, tree cover and land use inform us about the cultural dimensions of landscape. Landscape character influences how we feel about the places where we live, work and relax. It also makes a significant contribution to our quality of life.



What is the Shropshire Character Framework?

The Shropshire Character Framework provides us with a means of assessing the highly varied landscapes of the county. It has two components: the Landscape Character Assessment (LCA) and the Historic Landscape Character (HLC) Assessment. The first of these operates at a county wide scale, and contains information about the overall character and condition of the landscape, whilst the second provides information about the historical development of the landscape, at a parish scale.

Where can I find out more?

You can find out more information about the Shropshire Character Framework, including detailed descriptions for each Landscape Type, by logging onto the County Council's website: www.shropshire.gov.uk/sustainability

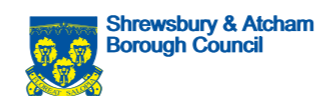
You can also explore a map showing the landscape types that occur in your area on the Environment and Waste section of Shropmap, the County Council's online information map service. Follow the 'Locate it' link on the Shropshire County Council website: www.shropshire.gov.uk/index.nsf

You are welcome contact the County Council directly at the following address:

Sustainability Group
Economy & Environment
Shropshire County Council
Shirehall
Abbey Foregate
Shrewsbury SY2 6ND

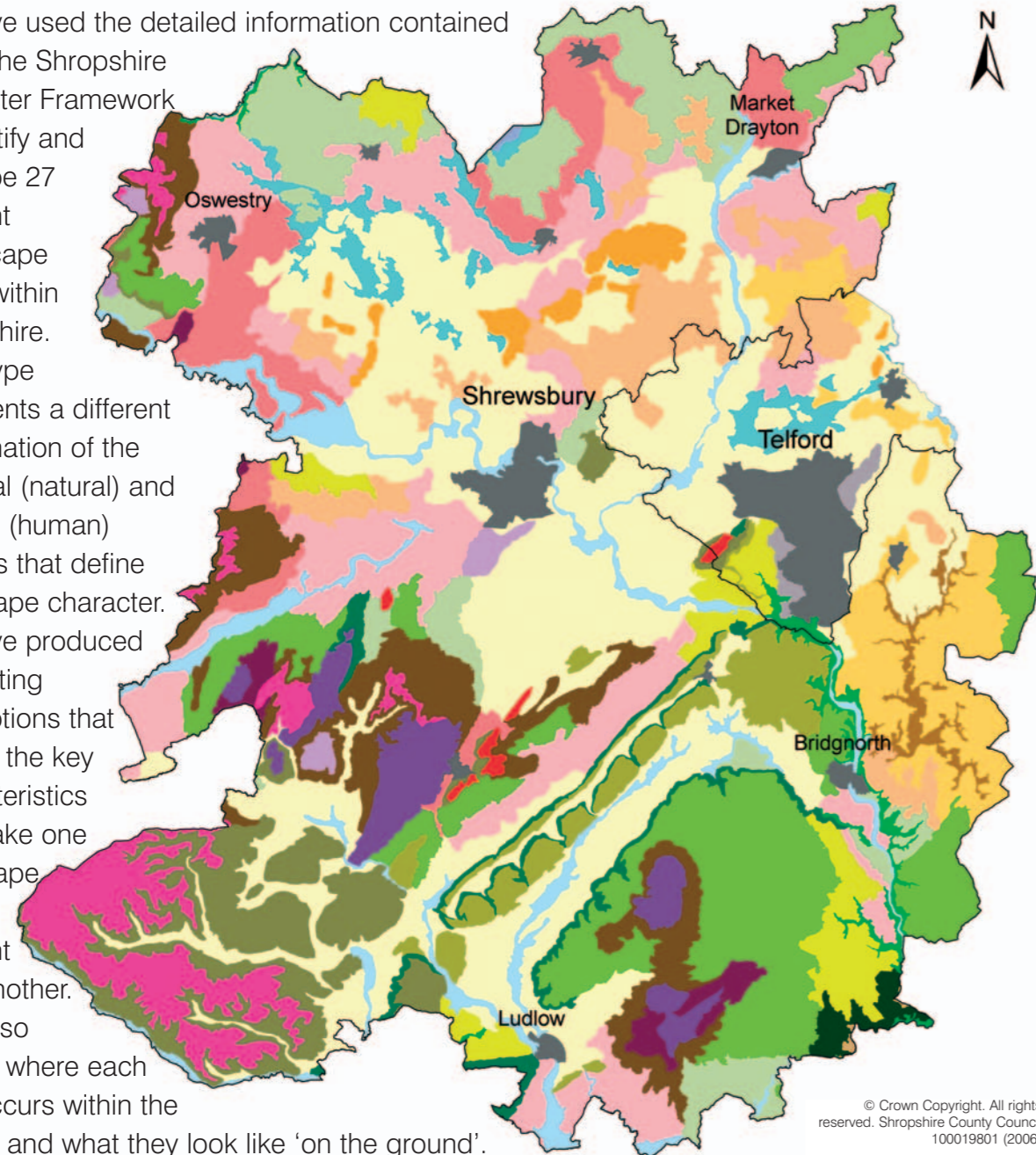
Tel: (01743) 252562
Email: sustainability@shropshire-cc.gov.uk

The Shropshire Character Framework was produced in partnership with:



What are Landscape Types?

We have used the detailed information contained within the Shropshire Character Framework to identify and describe 27 different Landscape Types within Shropshire. Each type represents a different combination of the physical (natural) and cultural (human) aspects that define landscape character. We have produced supporting descriptions that explain the key characteristics that make one landscape type different from another. They also explain where each type occurs within the county, and what they look like 'on the ground'.



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Landscape Types			
High open moorland	Wooded river gorge	Timbered plateau farmlands	Lowland moors
High enclosed plateau	Wooded hills & farmlands	Principal timbered farmlands	Riverside meadows
High volcanic hills & slopes	Wooded hills & estatelands	Timbered pastures	Lowland moss
Upland smallholdings	Sandstone hills	Wooded estatelands	Coalfields
Upstanding enclosed commons	Sandstone estatelands	Estate farmlands	Urban
Pasture Hills	Incised sandstone valleys	Settled pastoral farmlands	
Principal Wooded Hills	Wooded forest	Principal settled farmlands	
	Forest smallholdings	Enclosed lowland heaths	

The Landscape Types in brief

High Open Moorland – Open, unsettled upland landscapes with large areas of moorland and panoramic views.

High Enclosed Plateau – Upland landscapes with scattered farms and a regular pattern of rectangular fields enclosed from open moorland in the 18th and 19th centuries.

High Volcanic Hills and Slopes – Steep hills of volcanic rock that form striking landmarks. These landscapes remain unsettled and contain large areas of open, unimproved grassland used for rough grazing.

Upland Smallholdings – Upland landscapes with cottages and smallholdings that were created between the 16th and 19th centuries.

Upstanding Enclosed Commons – Low hills with field systems and scattered farmsteads that were established on former common land between 16th and 19th centuries.

Pasture Hills – Hills with scattered farms and cottages, and largely ancient fields used for pastoral farming.



Principal Wooded Hills – Steep, heavily wooded hills, with few fields and little settlement.

Wooded River Gorges – Steep, heavily wooded valley sides with little settlement or farmland.

Wooded Hills and Farmlands – Rolling hills with large blocks of woodland and a patchwork of ancient fields, scattered farms and cottages.

Wooded Hills and Estatelands – Rolling hills with large blocks of ancient woodland and mixed farming landuse. Many villages and hamlets contain 19th century estate works cottages, whilst large country houses and parklands are present in some places.

Sandstone Hills – Low sandstone hills covered by light sandy soils, with woodland on the steeper slopes, including plantations of Scots Pine.

Sandstone Estatelands – Gently undulating, open landscapes formed over sandstone rocks, with sandy soils that are used for arable farming. Villages and hamlets are the main form of settlement, and large country houses and parklands occur throughout.

Incised Sandstone Valleys – Shallow, steep sided river valleys cut through sandstone rocks.

Wooded Forest – Unsettled landscapes with near continuous woodland cover and very little farmland.

Forest Smallholdings – Landscapes of small irregular fields, cottages and farms, which were progressively cleared from woodland from the medieval period onwards.

Timbered Plateau Farmlands – Low, rolling hills dived by steep sided, wooded stream valleys. Ancient fields, with hedges containing many trees, are used for mixed farming. Scattered farms and cottages occur throughout, with small villages in some areas.

Principal Timbered Farmlands – The small-medium sized fields were enclosed directly from woodland or rough grazing land, whilst small woods and hedgerow trees give these lowland landscapes a wooded feel. Scattered farms and cottages represent the main form of settlement.

Timbered Pastures – Undulating lowlands with heavy soils used for stock rearing and dairy farming. Numerous hedgerow trees and woods provide a wooded feel.

Wooded Estatelands – Rolling lowlands with mixed farming landuse and large, locally prominent blocks of ancient woodland. Historic county houses with parklands occur throughout, and many villages contain 19th century estate cottages.

Estate Farmlands – Lowland landscapes traditionally associated with mixed farming. Large country house with parklands are common, and most woods are plantations. Villages represent the main form of settlement, together with outlying 18th and 19th century farms.



Settled Pastoral Farmlands – Lowland landscapes with heavy soils which are predominantly used for dairying and stock rearing. Small, irregular fields are present throughout, together with scattered farms and cottages.



Principal Settled Farmlands – Lowland, mixed farming landscapes with small villages and hamlets.

Enclosed Lowland Heaths – Lowland landscapes which were enclosed directly from open heathland between the 16th and 19th centuries.

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