

# LANDSCAPE SENSITIVITY AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The development of regional spatial strategies, sub regional studies and local development frameworks is providing a great opportunity for us to promote the use of Landscape Character Assessment in planning policy work. We need an appreciation of all our landscape..... not just the designated bits. Landscape Character is the potential tool to analyse inherent attributes and thereby gauge landscape sensitivity..

**'Landscape sensitivity relates to the stability of character, the degree to which that character is robust enough to continue and to be able to recuperate from loss or damage. A landscape with a character of high sensitivity is one that once lost would be difficult to restore, and, must be afforded particular care and consideration in order for it to survive'**

*from Chris Bray Worcestershire County Council Box 2 CA's Topic Paper 6 Techniques and criteria for judging capacity and sensitivity.*

## **AIM**

**To produce an integrated approach to developing a national Strategic Sensitivity methodology with a view to informing planning decisions on land use change and land management.**

## **OBJECTIVES:**

1. To produce and test a methodology for analysing the inherent sensitivity of the landscape, which interlinks with the strategic aims of other disciplines related to the environment.
2. To ensure that the landscape is understood and considered in all land use planning and ensure that the components that make up the County's landscape character are not needlessly or thoughtlessly damaged or destroyed.
3. To be able to identify areas and attributes most appropriate to either protect, conserve or enhance Landscape Character.
4. To provide a framework for the delivery of landscape benefits that reflect local sense of place.
5. To protect the setting of historic buildings, settlements, and designated archaeological and wildlife sites, countryside access sites, land pattern and their contribution to the landscape character.

6. To inform appropriate land management decisions across the County from wildlife and historic considerations to agri-environment schemes to purely commercial interests..
7. To promote a better understanding and enjoyment of the environment and its components.

## **HCC Desired Outcomes**

1. To work at a national and regional level in developing the methodology.
2. To make the methodology transparent, rigorous, easily understood and repeatable in other areas/regions and form the basis for more detailed study at District / Borough level.
3. To pilot the methodology e.g. in the Western Corridor SRS with West Berkshire CC.
4. To identify key sensitive areas of the Hampshire landscape associated with the historic environment and wildlife and biodiversity sites countryside access areas which are appreciated for their inherent character
5. To identify gaps in landscape related information, which can be addressed at a further tier(s) of study.