

# Sensitivity Indicators Terminology

It is important that consistent terms are used in Landscape Character Analysis. Key advocator of this was the late John Benson at the Jan CCN workshop on 'Logodaelic adventure in Landscape Sensitivity and Capacity'.

The three indicators of sensitivity are intended to be assessed against the component attributes of Landscape Character. The indicators have been distilled from Topic paper 6 in particular s.4.2. It would be useful to gauge others views on this.

The definitions of indicators form the basis for making professional judgements on sensitivity. The words in bold are indicators that must be judged and balanced when coming to a decision on each of the attributes.

**I don't think there is any formula but a combination of professional judgment and supporting spatial related data.**

**Condition:** How well has the attribute been preserved/conserved, it is a measure of the level and quality of land management It also includes a judgement on the level of **intactness**. (we felt intactness and condition are too inter-related to separate) This includes matters such as if a SSSI is in a 'favourable condition'. This indicator is very much about the **potential** of particular components of the landscape. It may have been rich at one time or purely has future potential. It is also about **quality**; are the attributes particularly good of their kind?...What signs of **decline** or **neglect** are there? The analysis of attribute condition can be said to range from poor/degraded to excellent/pristine. At either end of the spectrum the attribute could be measured as being highly sensitive to change, risking extinction or partial corruption. The issue is whether the attribute has the potential for enhancement/restoration or be retained/preserved

**Significance:** . Gives an indication of rarity. E.g. Designations,(SSSI's, SAM's) rarity. It indicates representativeness / essence of that landscape character and how it is manifest or apparent. Also the extent to which the attribute dominates or is prevalent and how it contributes to landscape setting..

**Robustness:** **Inherent property** of particular character attributes and their **vulnerability**.

Inherent robustness coupled with likely threats, the latter from The Hampshire Landscape Character Assessment. Look at in relation to the following criteria to make a judgement

- Damageable?
- Replicable?
- Repairable?
- Replaceable?.. Over what timescale does it take to recover?