

Appendix 2 – Acronyms, Units of Measurement & Glossary of Selected Terms

Acronyms

ALC	Agricultural Land Classification
AQMA	Air Quality Management Area
BNG	Biodiversity Net Gain
DCA	Devon Character Area
DCC	Devon County Council
DCLA	Devon Landscape Character Area
DEFRA	Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs
DNP	Dartmoor National Park
ENP	Exmoor National Park
FZ	Flood Zone (e.g. FZ1)
HELAA	Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment
LCA	Landscape Character Assessment
LCT	Landscape Character Type
MCA	Mineral Consultation Area
MDDC	Mid Devon District Council
MoD	Ministry of Defence
MSA	Mineral Safeguarding Area
NDHA	Non-Designated Heritage Asset
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
PoW	Prisoner of War
PRoW	Public Right of Way
PV	Photovoltaic
SAC	Special Area of Conservation
SAM	Scheduled Ancient Monument
SFRA	Strategic Flood Risk Assessment
SNA	Strategic Nature Area
SPA	Special Protection Area
SSSI	Site of Special Scientific Interest
SuDS	Sustainable Urban Drainage System
TPO	Tree Protection Order
WCZ	Waste Consultation Zone

Compass points are represented throughout the document as either: N (North), NE (North East), E (East), SE (South East), S (South), SW (South West), W (West), NW (North West)

Units of Measurement

ha	hectare
km	kilometre
m	metre
sqm	square metre

Glossary of Selected Terms

This glossary sets out selected terms found within the HELAA that may be less familiar to users.

Air Quality Management Area

At the time of the report the towns of Crediton and Cullompton are subject to Air Quality Management Areas (AQMA). At the time of writing, a 5-mile air quality buffer zone is proposed within the Mid Devon Air Quality Supplementary Planning Document (adopted 2023)¹ to extend from the AQMA to demonstrate areas of consideration of development inside, adjacent or is likely to increase traffic levels in an AQMA. AQMAs may change over time as pollution levels increase or decrease over time.

North Devon UNESCO Biosphere Reserve

The biosphere reserve includes the North Devon National Landscape and sections of Dartmoor and Exmoor National Parks. There are three management zones within the biosphere. Braunton Burrows, a Special Area of Conservation and Site of Special Scientific Interest, lies with the Core Area. This is shielded by a Buffer Zone, principally comprising of the Taw Torridge Estuary as far as Bideford and Barnstaple. Extending beyond this is a Transition Zone, which is formed by the catchment area of the rivers and streams that drain into the sea on Devon's north coast. Part of Mid Devon falls within the Transition Zone and development within this area will need to take the biosphere into consideration.

Strategic Ecological Importance

Sites have been assessed for their Strategic Ecological Importance in relation to the spatial location within a landscape scale, in order to target biodiversity and nature improvement priorities. This process utilises local strategies and objectives, such as National Character Areas, Local Nature Recovery Strategies, local biodiversity action plans, local Ecological Networks, and green infrastructure strategies. Each site's importance has been ranked in accordance with the strategic significance categories identified within DEFRA's Biodiversity Metric User Guide. While a low ranking indicates that the site is not within a strategically significant area, this does not signify that habitat creation or improvements would not be required.

Devon's Landscape Character Assessment

A Landscape Character Assessment (LCA) describes a landscape at a specific time, grouping areas with similar character and sense of place. It explains what makes each area distinctive and valued, how it has evolved, and what future changes may occur. Each area has guidelines to protect and enhance these qualities while supporting benefits for people, nature, and heritage. LCAs help guide planning and land management, aiming to balance necessary change with conserving the landscape's key features and functions. The Devon-wide Landscape Character Assessments (DLCA)² were completed as a County-wide effort led by the Devon Landscape Policy Group. They comprise two layers of information that together provide a shared evidence base for landscape and seascape character that is consistent across administrative boundaries in the geographical county of Devon:

¹ [Air quality Supplementary Planning Document - MIDDEVON.GOV.UK](https://www.middevon.gov.uk/air-quality-supplementary-planning-document)

² [Devon's landscape character assessment \(DLCA\) - Planning](#)

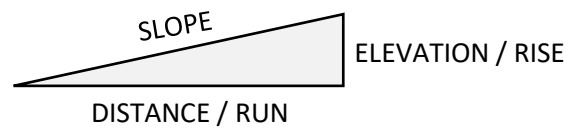
- Landscape Character Types: These are generic types of landscape or seascape that can occur anywhere in Devon.
- Devon Character Areas: These are geographically unique areas that are recognisable at a County scale and that have a distinct sense of place.

The DLCA sits within the wider framework of Natural England’s National Character Areas that cover England.

Slope Percentage

The following standard method, commonly used in research, was used to determine slope steepness, based on the change in height (elevation or rise) over a measured distance (run). A description of the different angles of slope can be found below in Table 2.

$$\frac{\text{ELEVATION}}{\text{DISTANCE}} \times 100 = \text{SLOPE \%}$$



E.g.

$$\frac{30 \text{ metres}}{100 \text{ metres}} \times 100 = 30\%$$

Table 1 Standard slope descriptors

SLOPE (%)	APPROXIMATE DEGREES	TERMINOLOGY
0 - 0.5	0	Level
0.5 - 2	0.3 - 1.1	Nearly level
2 - 5	1.1 - 3	Very gentle slope
5 - 9	3 - 5	Gentle slope
9 - 15	5 - 8.5	Moderate slope
15 - 30	8.5 - 16.5	Strong slope
30 - 45	16.5 - 24	Very strong slope
45 - 70	24 - 35	Extreme slope
70 - 100	35 - 45	Steep slope
> 100	> 45	Very steep slope