

14.1 - Glossary

Earth science terms

Active geomorphological site -

Back-filling – the term used for refilling an excavated hole with the material dug out of it.

Biogeomorphological -

Braided rivers – occur where there are steep gradients. Rivers consist of interwoven channels.

Cadman

Chert – flint-like rocks, composed of silica in its glass-like form.

Clinometer – Surveying instrument for measuring slopes.

Coring – removal of a ‘core’, or small piece, of rock using a hand-held power tool.

Cross bedding

Curry Fund – a fund administered by the Geologists’ Association, for conservation projects.

Cyclothem

Drumlins – elongated whale-backed mounds of boulder clay.

Erratic – a large rock, pebble etc that has travelled a long way from its source.

Fluvial – of or found in a river.

Geodiversity

GIS systems -

Glacial – characterised or produced by ice.

Glaciated valley – a U-shaped valley formed by the erosion by a glacier.

Global Positioning System (GPS) – Developed and controlled by the United States Department of Defense, this consists of 18 satellites in different orbits with at least four visible at any time from Earth. They give a locational accuracy of less than 2cm on baselines of 1,000km. See chapter 6, page xx.

Graded bedding

Integrity sites

Karst – the name comes from the Karst region of Yugoslavia. It refers to a type of limestone landscape which features denudation by percolating ground waters and underground streams. Eg limestone pavement in northern England.

Lithology -

National Scheme for Geological Site Documentation (NSGSD) -

Palaeoenvironmental -

Palaeozoic – means ‘old life’ and refers to the period of time embracing the Cambrian to Permian, from 600-230 m.y.

Periglacial – the term used for a region adjacent to an ice sheet.

Quaternary – Ice Age

Relict landforms -

Sedgwick

Semi-natural landforms -

Sole structure

Springline -

Static geomorphological sites -

Stratigraphic/stratigraphy – study of rock layers

Tertiary – time between the end of the Cretaceous and the present, from 65 m.y. to 0 m.y.

Tufa – porous rock composed of calcium carbonate and formed round mineral springs.

Unconformity

General

Active waste – waste material that will continue to decompose

Biodiversity Action Plan –

Capital costs – purchase of large objects which will depreciate with time, eg vehicles, computers, land.

County Wildlife Site (CWS) - a non-statutory term applied to sites identified as being of at least county significance for their wildlife habitat and species interest. The purpose of CWS recognition is to highlight the significance of the features they contain, so that landowners, local authorities and others can choose to take action to conserve them.

Heritage Coast - areas of coastline within which services are established jointly between the Local Authority and the Countryside Commission, in order to promote sustainable leisure activities and sensitive management.

Inert waste – waste material that will not decompose, eg topsoil, bricks etc.

Inter-tidal zones – areas covered at high tide and uncovered at low tide

Landfill tax – A tax levied on all materials disposed of in landfill sites. The aim of this tax is to encourage recycling and reduce waste. Operators of landfill sites can direct up to 20 per cent of the tax they have collected towards approved local and national environmental projects. The Royal Society for Nature Conservation administers two landfill tax credit schemes, the Hanson Environment Fund and Biffaward.

Local Agenda 21 – Focuses on putting together local strategies for sustainable development.

Local Nature Reserve (LNR) - a site designated under the 1949 National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act which allows local authorities to designate land primarily for nature conservation purposes, although they are also designed to promote public access and form an educational facility. **See chapter 3, page 12.**

Local Record Centre

Marine Nature Reserve (MNR) - a site designated under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 in order to conserve marine flora or fauna or geographical or physiological features of interest. The selection and notification of MNRs has been poor with only one being declared in England – Lundy in Devon.

Matched Funding

National Biodiversity Network

National Park and Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) - sites declared under the 1949 National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act. The ‘natural beauty’ for which they are defined and which the Act requires all agencies to seek to conserve, is interpreted to include not only the landscape qualities of an area but also the flora and fauna. **See chapter 3, page 10.**

National Nature Reserve (NNR) - A site designated under the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949, for their nationally important habitat. NNR status affords a site the highest level of recognition available under UK legislation, although they have no more legal protection than SSSIs. **See chapter 3, page 10.**

Neap tide – a tide just after the first and third quarters of the moon when there is least difference between high and low water.

Ramsar Site - a site designated as a Wetland of International Importance under the 1973 Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International importance.

Regional Development Agencies – nine agencies, which were set up to coordinate economic development in the English regions. One of their statutory purposes is to contribute towards sustainable development.

Revenue costs – ongoing costs such as salaries etc

River catchment – the area from which rainfall flows into a river.

Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) – these sites are designated under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 as being of special nature conservation significance, either biological or geological. SSSIs form a national network of sites, and are subject to regulations designed to control management activities and protect against development. The original purpose of the SSSI system was to provide a representative series of sites regionally, by selecting the largest, richest or otherwise most significant examples. So it is by no means a comprehensive system. **See chapter 3, page 7 for more information.**

Special Area of Conservation (SAC) - a site designated under the EC Habitats Directive 1992, for its important, rare or threatened habitat or rare or threatened species. Together SACs and SPAs will form a network of wildlife sites across Europe to be known as Natura 2000.

Special Protection Area (SPA) - a site designated under the EC Conservation of Wild Birds Directive 1979, in order to conserve the habitat of certain vulnerable birds and regularly occurring migratory birds.

Sustainable development – the basis for Local Agenda 21, this is a concept that describes the capacity to improve quality of life without depleting the Earth's resources.

Voluntary Marine Conservation Area (VMCA) - a non-statutory designation applied to coastlines that support rich marine wildlife communities, as a response to the lack of established MNRs. Action is taken to safeguard the communities and promote local and general public appreciation and understanding of them.

Legislation and documentation

Data Protection Act

Deposit of the plan – formal stage in the adoption of a Structure Plan.

Development plan – Structure Plan, District Local Plan, Minerals/Waste Local Plan or Unitary Development Plan.

Environmental Information Regulations

Examination in Public – the final part of the formal stage (deposit) of a Structure Plan. The EIP Panel Chairman will consider any objections to the plan, but you may not be able to attend.

Section 106 agreement/Section 75 agreement – Part of the Town and Country Planning Act, this is a legal agreement to undertake a specific task, provide access or make contributions, during or after development.

Statement of Recommended Practice – the regulations imposed by charity law on the documentation of income

Supplementary Planning Guidance

SWOT analysis – a summary of your group's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats; this can be used as part of your group's development plan.

Unitary Development Plan – a composite development plan produced by unitary authorities which undertake the role of both county and district or borough councils in a single-tier system.

14.2 - Abbreviations used in this handbook

AGLV (Scotland)	Area of Great Landscape Value
AONB	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
ASE	Association for Science Education
ASSI (NI)	Area of Special Scientific Interest
AWRG	Association of Welsh RIGS Groups
BAP	Biodiversity Action Plan
BBOWT	The Wildlife Trust for Buckinghamshire, Bedfordshire and Oxfordshire
BGRG	British Geomorphological Research Group
BGS	British Geological Survey
BTCV	British Trust for Conservation Volunteers
CADW	Welsh Historic Monuments
CCW	Countryside Council for Wales
CLAN	Conservation Local Action Networks
CNC	
COPUS	Committee on the Public Understanding of Science
COSLA	Convention of Scottish Local Authorities
CVS	Council for Voluntary Service
DANI	Department of Agriculture Northern Ireland
DETR	Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions
DFEE	Department for Education and Employment
DIGS	Dorset Important Geological Sites
DoE NI	Department of the Environment, Northern Ireland
DTI	Department of Trade and Industry
EA	Environment Agency
EAF	Environmental Action Fund
EB	Environmental Body
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EIP	Examination in Public
EHS (NI)	Environment and Heritage Service
EoSWA	East of Scotland Water Authority
ES	Environmental Statement
ESA	Environmentally Sensitive Area
ESCR (NI)	Earth Science Conservation Review
ESTA	Earth Science Teachers' Association
FLAG	Federation of Lapidary and Geological Societies
FSC	Field Studies Council
FWAG	Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group
GA	Geologists' Association
GCG	Geological Curators' Group
GCR	Geological Conservation Review
GLRC	Geological Locality Record Centre
GIS	Geographical Information Systems
HLF	Heritage Lottery Fund
HSE	Health and Safety Executive
HMIP	Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Pollution
IAESD	Inter Agency Earth Science Database
IUGS	International Union of Geological Sciences
JNCC	Joint Nature Conservation Committee

LEAP (England and Wales)	Local Environment Agency Plan
LIPS	Local Interpretation Plans
LNR	Local Nature Reserve
LRC	Local Record Centre
MAFF	Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food
MCofS	The Mountaineering Council of Scotland
MPG	Minerals Planning Guidance
NCC	Nature Conservancy Council
NCV	National Centre for Volunteering
NEWRIGS Group	North East Wales RIGS Group
NFU	National Farmers' Union
NFUS	National Farmers' Union of Scotland
NGRC	National Geological Records Centre
NLCB	National Lottery Charities Board
NHA	Natural Heritage Area
NNR	National Nature Reserve
NoSWA	North of Scotland Water Authority
NOF	New Opportunities Fund
NPPG (Scotland)	National Planning Policy Guidance
NRA	National Rivers Authority
NSA	Natural Scenic Area
NSGSD	National Scheme for Geological Site Documentation
PAN (Scotland)	Planning Advisory Note
PDO	Potentially Damaging Operation
PPG	Planning Policy Guidance
PPS (NI)	Planning Policy Statement
PUSET	Public Understanding of Science Engineering and Technology
RDA	Regional Development Agency
RPG	Regional Planning Guidance
RSGS	Royal Scottish Geographical Society
RSNC	Royal Society for Nature Conservation
RSPB	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
SAC	Special Area of Conservation
SCEC	Scottish Community Education Council
SCP	Scottish Conservation Projects Trust
SCRA	Scottish Countryside Rangers' Association
SEPA	Scottish Environment Protection Agency
SAGT	Scottish Association of Geography Teachers
SINC	Site of Importance for Nature Conservation
SLF	Scottish Landowners' Federation
SNCI	Site of Nature Conservation Interest
SNH	Scottish Natural Heritage
SORP	Statement of recommended practice
SPA	Special Protection Area
SPG	Supplementary Planning Guidance
STB	Scottish Tourist Board
TAN (Wales)	Technical Advisory Note
UDP	Unitary Development Plan
UKRIGS	Association of UK RIGS Groups
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation