

Landscapes of Worcestershire Landscape Type Information Sheet Enclosed Commons

Landscape Type Description

A landscape of very similar character to the Sandstone Estate-lands, with the same ordered pattern of large fields of regular outline, straight roads and estate plantations. It is an open, formal landscape with a visual clarity primarily defined by the straightness of the field boundaries, patterns that have arisen as a result of late enclosure from former waste and woodland.

Key characteristics

Primary

- Hedgerow boundaries to fields
- Planned enclosure pattern of straight boundaries and roads

Secondary

- Pastoral land use
- Planned woodland character
- Woodland pattern of discrete blocks

Tertiary

- Gently rolling topography
- Open farmland landscape
- Impoverished soils
- Dispersed pattern of isolated farmsteads and scattered way-side dwellings

This is a planned landscape with a notable regular pattern - defined by the straightness of its hedgelines, roads and the outlines of its woodlands.

This regularity is strongly expressed visually, the general openness of the landscape enabling the pattern to be clearly evident.

Tree cover along watercourses can contribute significantly to the landscape structure, hedgerow tree cover is generally less significant.

The presence of wayside dwellings corresponds to the historic evolution of these landscapes from areas of former waste and commonland. Scattered farmsteads can also be a characteristic feature today. These landscapes are often located adjacent, or close, to areas which remain today as unenclosed commonland.

Parkland and ornamental grounds, together with associated estate villages can contribute to the landscape diversity of the enclosed commons.

These are farmed landscapes with an inherent land use of mixed agriculture, although recent increases in arable dominance may be evident. If such a trend continues, the functional value of hedge-rows could be significantly reduced. Any loss or deterioration in the hedgerow structure could dilute the visual clarity of these landscapes. Such a continued trend could result in the functional value of hedgerows becoming greatly reduced. Any loss or deterioration of the boundary structures will quickly affect the clarity of definition of this Landscape Type.

Landscape Guidelines

- conserve and restore distinctive hedgerow pattern with priority given to primary hedgerows
- conserve and enhance tree cover along water courses
- conserve scale, spatial patterns and specific character of way-side dwellings
- promote the creation and appropriate management of natural vegetation communities on non-farmed areas and along high-ways
- conserve and enhance the spatial pattern and scale of the landscape, particularly through opportunities for woodland planting
- promote the development of wide field margins for wildlife benefit

For more information visit www.worcestershire.gov.uk/lca