



Glossary of HLC Types

Broad Types

Type (Code)	Definition
Civic Amenities (CIV)	Areas of land which predominantly provide services relating to water capture, utilities (but not nuclear energy research), and waste management.
Civil Provision (CP)	Areas of land which predominantly relate to government or local authority services – education, health, legal, and government – religious and funerary facilities, and the University of Oxford.
Commercial (CRT)	Areas of land which are predominantly used for retail or as offices.
Communication (COM)	An area of land which facilitates movement of people or information.
Enclosure (ENC)	Areas of land that are identified as being used primarily for some form of agriculture.
Industry (IND)	Areas of land identified as having a role in the extraction, processing, or manufacturing of materials and goods.
Military (MIL)	Areas of land which are primarily used by the armed forces or which were constructed with some form of defensive function.
Orchards and Horticulture (OH)	Areas of land identified as some form of small-scale horticulture.
Ornamental (ORN)	Areas of land identified as having a predominantly designed or landscaped aspect to them. Not including Country and Public Parks which are characterised as Recreational.
Recreation (REC)	Areas identified as predominantly used for leisure or sporting activities.
Rural Settlement (RSt)	An area of land identified as part of a village or hamlet, a country house, or a farmstead.
Unenclosed Land (UEL)	Areas of land which have remained largely unimproved or unenclosed over a period of time, including downland, riverine landscapes, common and meadows, and greens.
Urban Settlement (SET)	Areas of land with a predominantly populated or settled character found within towns and cities.
Water and Valley Floor (WMG)	Areas of land which are either dominated by water or by agricultural features which use large quantities of water for their management (not including reservoirs or canals).
Woodland (LDW)	Areas of land which are predominantly covered with trees.



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Reservoir (CIV)	A body of water which is recognisable as wholly or partly artificial. Used to collect and supply water for industrial and public use.
Utilities (CIV)	Buildings, sites and structures associated with energy and water production, storage and use. This type does not include the nuclear fusion site at Culham which is characterised as Industry – Energy.
Sewerage Treatment Works (CIV)	An area in which local sewage is filtered and purified in large rectangular or circular tanks.
Waste Disposal (CIV)	Buildings, sites, and structures associated with the disposal or recycling of domestic and industrial waste. This type includes landfill sites and large domestic rubbish dumps.
Educational Facility (CP)	A building or area associated with teaching or learning. Includes: Schools, University sites, Art Galleries, Libraries, and Museums. This type does not include Oxford Colleges.
Oxford College (CP)	Used in Oxford City only. Buildings and gardens associated with the colleges and permanent private halls of the University of Oxford.
Health Care Facility (CP)	Buildings or complexes which provide assistance to help individuals maintain a satisfactory condition of mind and body, freedom from sickness, injury, and pain. Includes: hospitals and doctors' surgeries.
Religious and Funerary (CP)	Buildings and grounds where devotees of a religion live or worship along with places where the dead are carefully and respectfully buried or cremated.
Government Office and Civil Centre (CP)	A building or building complex where municipal offices and other public buildings are situated or the offices of a Government Department.
Immigration Detention Centre (CP)	A site where a period of detention is imposed on immigrants.
Police Station (CP)	Building or buildings which make up a police station.
Prison (CP)	A facility where offenders are confined.
Park and Ride (CP)	Car parks with connections to public transport that allow people wishing to travel into busy areas to leave their vehicles and transfer to public transport.
Bank (CRT)	Used for Oxford City only. Buildings associated with the provision of financial services.
Business Park (CRT)	Area designed to accommodate several businesses, usually non-industrial, but normally not exclusively retail.
Fish Farm (CRT)	Areas characterised by the commercial cultivation of fish populations under controlled conditions.
Office/Commercial (CRT)	Used for Oxford City only. Mixed use office and commercial space within the city of Oxford.
Offices (CRT)	Used for Oxford City only. Groups of office units within the city of Oxford.
Shops (CRT)	Used in Oxford City only. This includes both modern purpose built retail units and those within existing medieval and post-medieval buildings.
Retail Park (CRT)	Area used by a cluster of businesses primarily involved in the sale of goods, often at the edge of an urban area convenient for private transport.



Shopping Centre (CRT)	Cluster of businesses primarily involved in the selling of goods; typically at a hub within a town or city and often within one building.
Roadside Service Centre (CRT)	A commercial complex, usually sited along motorways or trunk roads, providing facilities such as car parking, restaurants, shops and fuel stations.
Road (COM)	Used in Oxford City Only. A way suitable for wheeled transport.
Bridge (COM)	Used in Oxford City Only. A river crossing suitable for wheeled transport.
Main Road (COM)	An A-road over 1 ha in size, often including dual carriageways.
Major Road Junction (COM)	Roundabouts, slip roads, and crossroads associated with Main Roads.
Motorway (COM)	Large multiple carriage-ways for fast moving motor traffic continuing for long distances without traffic controls or intersections.
Bike Path/Bridleway (COM)	Routeway over 1 ha in size used as Bike Path or Bridleway.
Ridgeway (COM)	An ancient trackway running along the chalk ridge of the Berkshire Downs, used by walkers, cyclists, and horse riders.
Car Park (COM)	Used in Oxford City only. An area for parking motor vehicles, usually with permanent surfacing and sometimes in purpose-built multi-storey buildings. This type does not include Park and Ride schemes.
Rail Transport Site (COM)	Areas developed for the use, maintenance and storage of railway trains. Includes: railway stations, tracks, sidings, and depots.
Canals and Locks (COM)	Artificial watercourses and associated infrastructure, usually connecting existing watercourses or bodies. Constructed for the purpose of inland navigation and transportation. Nowadays also used for recreation. Includes: canals, canal arms, locks, basins and wharfs.
Airfield (commercial) (COM)	Small scale commercial bases for air transportation.
Telecommunication (COM)	Large sites associated with the communication of information by wire, radio, electrical, and digital means.
Open Field System (ENC)	System of fields in which several farmers held land in common, intermixed in narrow strips and assessed via length and width, with low or no separating boundaries.
Ancient Enclosure (ENC)	Areas of land enclosed prior to the 18th century. These fields can be co-axial or irregular. Co-axial field systems have a sinuous pattern of small, elongated fields. Irregular field systems consist of piecemeal enclosures of various sizes and shapes. N.B. This HLC type has been used variously throughout the project. It is described as pre-18th century fields, but, at times, it has also been used to indicate fields shown on the mid-late 18th century Roque and Davis Maps. It is possible, therefore, that earlier 18th century fields have been characterised as Ancient.
Closes (ENC)	Medieval and Post-Medieval small and elongated rectilinear enclosures. N.B. This type was only recorded in the later stages of this project. As such, South Oxfordshire and the Vale of the White Horse have not been interrogated for evidence of this type.
Crofts (ENC)	A strip of enclosed land associated with medieval or post-medieval properties.
Ladder Field System (ENC)	A series of fields following a linear/straight pattern. Often extending outwards from a farm, they may be found near roads or tracks. The legs of the ladder may represent much older boundaries, whilst the rungs are often re-ordered.
Squatter Enclosure (ENC)	Small and often irregular fields which enclosed common land.



	Sometimes associated with networks of lanes, access tracks or small cottages and quarries, mining or other industrial activity. Often indicative of illicit encroachment onto common land in the post-medieval period.
Assarted Enclosure (ENC)	Areas of former woodland that have gradually been cleared and enclosed to create farmland. These types of enclosure are frequently irregular in shape, but can be rectilinear. They are often adjacent to or interspersed by woodland. Field boundaries are often thick and contain woodland species.
Piecemeal Enclosure (ENC)	Field systems that have been created out of the medieval open fields by informal agreement. They appear to have been established on a field by field basis and often are small and irregular fields with at least two boundaries of a reverse 'S' curve or 'dog-leg'. Includes: enclosed furlongs and enclosed strips.
Planned Enclosure (ENC)	Fields with a predominantly straight boundary morphology giving a geometric and regular appearance. Normally laid out by surveyors these field patterns are often the result of enclosure during the 18th and 19th centuries. This type of field system often overrides earlier systems.
Prairie/Amalgamated Enclosure (ENC)	Patterns of large fields (in excess of 10 hectares), some with boundaries over 1km long. Often resulting from post WW2 combination of holdings and the removal of earlier boundaries creating land units convenient for highly mechanised arable, or for extensive livestock raising.
Reclaimed Land (ENC)	Low lying land reclaimed through drainage and construction of dykes or land reclaimed after quarrying.
Reorganised Enclosure (ENC)	Fields showing signs of modern adaptation through large scale re-organisation of earlier field boundaries. Frequently occurring next to railways and modern infrastructure developments such as motorways, roadways and bypasses where older field patterns have been disrupted. Often characterised by significant boundary loss since the 1st Edition OS map. N.B. This HLC Type has been used variously throughout the project. It is described as a modern (i.e. post 1900) phenomena, but, at times, it has been used to describe 19th century reorganisation of earlier fields. Some of these are likely to be the result of Enclosure Acts.
Paddocks and Stables (ENC)	Small and generally regular fields used for horses and associated structures.
Processing (IND)	Covers industries applying various processes to primary materials.
Manufacturing (IND)	Land used for the creation of goods.
Mill/Mill Complex (IND)	A building or complex used to process raw materials e.g. flour or paper
Energy (IND)	A building or complex associated with the generation of energy not currently distributed for commercial use. This type relates directly to the nuclear fusion site at Culham.
Extractive Works (IND)	Surface workings including shallow shafts, lode workings, open-pit methods, and quarrying.
Flooded Extractive Pits (IND)	An area of disused mineral extraction which has been flooded to create a lake or pond.
Depot (IND)	A space or complex where goods/vehicles are stored, repaired, and



	distributed.
Industrial Estate (IND)	A site consisting of multiple companies associated with manufacturing and commerce, often sharing some common services.
Timber Yard (IND)	Buildings, sites and structures associated with the processing of timber.
Scrap Yard (IND)	Land used to store and sell reclaimed scrap material.
Castle (MIL)	Private fortified residences, usually medieval in origin.
Hillfort (MIL)	Prehistoric defensive enclosures bounded by one or more substantial banks and ditches.
Defensive Site (MIL)	Historic sites, buildings and structures with a defensive role – used only in Oxford City to characterise the city walls.
Base (MIL)	Land and buildings associated with: housing, training, and management of military personnel.
Airfield (MIL)	Runways and ancillary buildings for military aircraft.
Barracks (MIL)	Domestic facilities for military personnel.
Range (MIL)	Rifle and shooting ranges.
Communication (MIL)	Signal stations for military communiques.
Allotment (OH)	Land, often public, let out to individuals or an individual for the purposes of cultivation or other land use. Often in numerous small parcels, sometimes individually fenced.
Orchard (OH)	An enclosed area of land or garden for the growing of fruit-bearing trees.
Vineyard (OH)	An area of land and associated buildings where grapevines are cultivated.
Nursery/Garden Centre (OH)	Areas of land, buildings, and glass houses used for the cultivation and sale of plants and gardening equipment.
Urban Garden (OH)	Used in Oxford City only. Community gardens created in urban spaces. This includes the University of Oxford Botanic Gardens.
Parkland/Designed Landscape (ORN)	Areas of land designated as Parkland or part of a Designed Landscape associated with a 'great house'. Identified using English Heritage's Historic Parks and Gardens Register and from OS mapping.
Deer Park (ORN)	Deer parks for the keeping of deer. Identified using English Heritage's Historic Parks and Gardens Register and from OS mapping.
Ornamental Water Body (ORN)	An artificial lake or pond, often made by damming a stream, and found within designed landscapes or parks.
Domestic Garden (ORN)	An enclosed piece of ground devoted to the cultivation of flowers, fruit or vegetables for domestic use. Larger than two hectares. Frequently open to the public at certain times of the year.
Sports Facilities (REC)	Areas whose dominant character is provision for sporting activities, whether or not commercially provided, and whether or not in areas of purpose-built structures. This includes recreation grounds, playing fields, and swimming pools.
Racing Sports Site (REC)	Facilities for racing motor vehicles or horses which may also include grandstands or concourses.
Other Leisure (REC)	Places used for other types of sporting and recreational activities.
Community Centre (REC)	Buildings which provide service to both rural and urban groups of people.
Hunting Site (REC)	Areas or structures associated with the hunting of animals.
Country Park (REC)	An area of managed countryside designated for visitors to enjoy recreations such as walking. Often provides public facilities such as



	car parking, toilets, cafes and visitor information. Sometimes found on the rural-urban fringe.
Public Park (REC)	Land usually in urban areas dedicated to outdoor public recreation. Usually with ornamental planting of trees and shrubs, with some formal gardens, ornamental ponds, public conveniences & playgrounds. Primarily used in Oxford City.
Golf Course (REC)	A landscaped area of ground, encompassing different types of terrain and features, such as ponds, sand-filled bunkers etc., on which the game of golf is played. This also includes associated buildings, such as club houses.
Nature Reserve (REC)	Areas of the natural landscape which are managed to sustain or protect wildlife and plant populations. These include heath, scrub, wetland, and wooded environments and can involve some man-made landscape features such as irrigation channels or ponds.
Managed Archaeological Site (REC)	Archaeological sites managed and presented to the public.
Village (RSt)	Collection of farmsteads, dwellings, yards, gardens etc. Larger than a hamlet, but smaller than a town. Often includes church, inn, shops, workshops, manor house.
Hamlet (RSt)	Small settlements with no ecclesiastical or lay administrative function and usually with no other amenities.
Rural Dwelling (RSt)	Isolated residential properties in rural settings. N.B. This type has been variously used within the project: in the south and eastern parts of the county this type has not been used and instead Country House has been favoured. However, it was deemed that this term was not appropriate for some smaller properties and so the type Dwelling was preferred in the west and north-west.
Rural Hotel (RSt)	A building and its directly associated grounds within a rural settlement or setting used for the accommodation of paying travellers and guests.
Rural Caravan/Chalet/Camping (RSt)	An area in a rural setting which provides space for those with tents, caravans or similar recreational vehicles to park. Occasionally includes permanent chalets or caravans. Sometimes with associated facilities such as power points, toilet blocks etc.
Country House (RSt)	Gentry house in a rural setting, normally within a landscaped park and usually accompanied by a range of buildings, yards, gardens etc.
Farmstead (RSt)	A farmhouse, ancillary farm buildings, yards, gardens, and small fields forming the operational centre for the surrounding farmland.
Green (UEL)	Area of often grassy ground, usually common, normally situated at the centre of a Village or Hamlet, sometimes within a Town. Often maintained by grazing.
Rough Ground (UEL)	Areas which show no visible evidence of recent agricultural improvements, which have evolved to their recent extent as a result of a process of woodland clearance, grazing, and episodes of agriculture and settlement since early prehistory. Includes: Upland, Downland, and unimproved common ground.
Historic Urban Core (SET)	The long-established historic centre of a Town or City, typically delineated in historic characterisation as the extent shown on an early epoch of OS mapping.



City (SET)	Large urban settlements, including residential, industrial, civic, commercial and business areas. Usually having a cathedral within its bounds. Often a central place within a region, with subsidiary towns etc.
Town (SET)	Centres of business and population with an area in excess of 2.5 square kilometres (although some smaller places are also historically considered towns, for example, where they are market or former county towns).
Urban Dwelling (SET)	Individual residential properties within urban areas which are larger than 1 hectare.
Urban Hotel (SET)	A building and its directly associated grounds, used for the accommodation of paying travellers and guests.
Public House (SET)	Public Houses and Inns along with their gardens in an urban setting.
Market (SET)	An open space or covered building(s) to which livestock, goods, etc. are brought and displayed for sale.
Urban Caravan/Chalet/Camping (SET)	An area within or on the edge of a town or city providing space for those with tents, caravans or similar recreational vehicles to park. Occasionally includes permanent chalets or caravans. Often with associated facilities such as power points, toilet blocks etc.
River (WMG)	A significant watercourse largely following the natural drainage pattern and flowing towards another river, a lake, or the sea.
Fresh Water Body (WMG)	An area of naturally occurring fresh water. Includes: natural lakes and ponds, but not rivers.
Water Meadow (WMG)	Controlled irrigation to draw nutrient-rich silts and material onto valley-bottom grassland to increase hay yields and enable earlier mowing. Early modern agricultural improvement; normally now no longer operated though earthworks may survive.
Watercress Beds (WMG)	An area set aside for growing watercress. As the water requires large quantities of slightly alkaline water the beds are usually sited around the headwaters of chalk streams.
Ancient Woodland (LDW)	Woodland believed to have existed since at least 1600 in England and defined as such by Natural England. Usually managed for timber, coppice etc. and often contains dividing banks, trackways, charcoal burning platforms etc.
Secondary Woodland (LDW)	Woodland that has developed, usually by natural colonization, on land formerly used for other purposes (agriculture, settlement, industry etc.).
Plantation (LDW)	An area of deliberately planted trees and shrubs usually of uniform age and species. Includes tree nurseries. Often modern, but not exclusively.
Woodland Pasture (LDW)	Scattered trees within grassland, the trees providing shelter for forage as well as being harvested for timber and fuel.