

## **Cherwell District Landscape Assessment**



# CHERWELL DISTRICT LANDSCAPE ASSESSMENT

FOR

CHERWELL DISTRICT COUNCIL

BY

COBHAM RESOURCE CONSULTANTS  
AVALON HOUSE  
MARCHAM ROAD  
ABINGON  
OXON  
OX14 1UG

NOVEMBER 1995

7292

 <b>PRESTOL</b>				
Date	26 MAR 1997			
	P	A	PLA	Other
Initial				
Seen				
Comments				
Job				
File				

# CONTENTS

---

	PAGE
<b>1 INTRODUCTION</b>	<b>1</b>
• Background to the Study	1
• Approach and Methodology	2
<b>2 THE CHERWELL LANDSCAPE</b>	<b>5</b>
• Introduction	5
• Physical Influences	5
• Human Influences	7
• Landscape Features	10
• Variations in Landscape Character	14
<b>3 THE LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREAS</b>	<b>19</b>
• Introduction	19
• Upper Cherwell Basin	19
• Cherwell Valley	20
• Lower Cherwell Floodplain	23
• Ironstone Hills and Valleys	25
• Incised Ironstone Plateau	27
• Upper Heyford Plateau	29
• Oxfordshire Estate Farmlands	30
• Otmoor Lowlands	32
<b>4 EVALUATION AND GUIDELINES</b>	<b>36</b>
• Introduction	36
• Conservation Landscapes	37
• Repair Landscapes	38
• Restoration Landscapes	39
• Reconstruction Landscapes	40

## APPENDICES

**APPENDIX 1:** References

**APPENDIX 2:** Description of landscape types

## FIGURES

---

- Figure 1: The Study Area
- Figure 2: Simplified Geology
- Figure 3: Landform and Drainage
- Figure 4: Landscape Features
- Figure 5: Landscape Character Areas
- Figure 6: Landscape Types
- Figure 7: Upper Cherwell Basin
- Figure 8: Cherwell Valley
- Figure 9: Lower Cherwell Floodplain
- Figure 10: Ironstone Hills and Valleys
- Figure 11: Incised Ironstone Plateau
- Figure 12: Upper Heyford
- Figure 13: Oxfordshire Estate Farmlands
- Figure 14: Otmoor Lowlands
- Figure 15: Enhancement Strategy

## PHOTOGRAPHIC SHEETS

---

- No. 1: Landscape Features
- No. 2: Landscape Character Areas-1
- No. 3: Landscape Character Areas-2
- No. 4: Landscape Types (R1a-R3a)
- No. 5: Landscape Types 2 (R4a-R6b)
- No. 6: Landscape Types 3 (T1-T5)