

APPENDIX 2

GLOSSARY OF LANDFORM ELEMENTS

The definitions in this glossary are taken from Speight (1984).

BKP - Backplain

Large flat resulting from aggradation by over-bank stream flow at some distance from the stream channel and in some cases biological (peat) accumulation; often characterized by a high water table and the presence of swamps or lakes.

BOU - Blow Out

Usually small, open or closed depression excavated by the wind.

C - Crest

Landform element that stands above all, or almost all, points in the adjacent terrain. It is characteristically smoothly convex upwards.

CON - Cone (volcanic)

Hillock with a circular symmetry built up by volcanism. The crest may form a ring around a crater.

CRA - Crater

Steep to precipitous closed depression excavated by explosions due to volcanism, human action, or impact of an extraterrestrial object.

Depression

Landform element that stands below all, or almost all, points in the adjacent terrain. A 'closed depression' (D) stands below all such points; an 'open depression' (V) extends at the same elevation, or lower, beyond the locality where it is observed.

DDE - Drainage Depression

Level to gently inclined shallow open depression with smoothly concave cross-section, rising to moderately inclined side slopes, eroded or aggraded by sheet wash.

DUN - Dune

Moderately inclined to very steep ridge or hillock built up by the wind.

F - Flat

Landform element that is neither a crest nor a depression and that is level or very gently inclined.

FAN - Fan

Large gently inclined to level element with radial slope lines inclined away from a point, resulting from aggradation, or occasionally from erosion, by channelled, often braided, stream flow, or possibly by sheet flow.

FOO - Footslope

Moderately to very gently inclined waning lower slope resulting from aggradation or erosion by sheet flow, earth flow or creep.

FOR - Foredune

Elongated, moderately inclined to very steep ridge built up by the wind from material from an adjacent beach.

H - Hillock

Compound landform element comprising a narrow crest and adjoining slopes, the crest length being less than the width of the landform element.

HSL - Hillslope

Gently inclined to precipitous slope, commonly simple and maimal, eroded by sheet wash or water-aided mass movement.

L - Lower Slope

Slope element adjacent above a flat or depression but not adjacent below a crest or flat.

LUN Lunette

Elongated, gently curved, low ridge built up by wind on the margin of a playa (shallow, level-floored closed depression), typically with a moderate, wave-modified slope towards the player and a gentler outer slope.

MAA - Maar

Level-floored, commonly water-filled closed depression with a nearly circular steep rim, excavated by volcanism.

OXB - Ox-bow

Long, curved, commonly water-filled closed depression eroded by channelled stream flow but closed as a result of aggradation by channelled or over-bank stream flow. The floor of an ox-bow may be more or less aggraded by over-bank stream flow, wind, and biological (peat) accumulation.

PLA - Plain

Large very gently inclined or level element, of unspecified geomorphological agent or mode of activity.

R - Ridge

Compound landform element comprising a narrow crest and adjoining slopes, the crest length being greater than the width of the landform element.

S - Slope

Landform element that is neither a crest nor a depression and that has an inclination greater than about 1%.

STC - Stream Channel

Linear, generally sinuous open depression, in parts eroded, excavated, built up and aggraded by channelled stream flow. This element comprises stream bed and banks.

SWP - Swamp

Almost level closed, or almost closed depression with a seasonal or permanent water table at or above the surface, commonly aggraded by over-bank stream flow and sometimes biological (peat) accumulation.

TOR - Tor

Steep to precipitous hillock, typically convex, with a surface mainly of bare rock, either coherent or comprising subangular to rounded large boulders (exhumed corestones, also themselves called tors) separated by open fissures; eroded by sheet wash or water-aided mass movement.

U - Upper Slope

Slope element adjacent below a crest or flat but not adjacent above a flat or depression.