



CHELTENHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

**LANDSCAPE CHARACTER, SENSITIVITY AND CAPACITY ASSESSMENT OF
COTSWOLDS AONB WITHIN THE CHELTENHAM BOROUGH ADMINISTRATIVE AREA**



APRIL 2015

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GLOSSARY

HORSICULTURE – REPRESENTS A LANDSCAPE WHERE HORSES ARE KEPT, TYPIFIED BY POST AND WIRE, POST AND RAIL AND ELECTRIC BOUNDARY FENCING, STABLES AND SHELTERS.

LAND PARCELS – AREAS OF LAND IDENTIFIED BY THE GREEN BELT REVIEW AND ALSO SUGGESTED BY LANDOWNERS/DEVELOPERS AS POTENTIAL DEVELOPMENT SITES.

LANDSCAPE – AN AREA, AS PERCEIVED BY PEOPLE, THE CHARACTER OF WHICH IS THE RESULT OF THE ACTION AND INTERACTION OF NATURAL AND/OR HUMAN FACTORS.

LANDSCAPE CHARACTER – A DISTINCT, RECOGNISABLE AND CONSISTENT PATTERN OF ELEMENTS IN THE LANDSCAPE THAT MAKES ONE LANDSCAPE DIFFERENT FROM ANOTHER.

LANDSCAPE CHARACTERISTIC – ELEMENTS, OR COMBINATIONS OF ELEMENTS, WHICH MAKE A LANDSCAPE CHARACTER DISTINCTIVE.

LCA – LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA. THESE ARE SINGLE UNIQUE AREAS WHICH ARE THE DISCRETE GEOGRAPHICAL AREAS OF A PARTICULAR LANDSCAPE TYPE.

LDA – LANDSCAPE DESIGN ASSOCIATES

LCT – LANDSCAPE CHARACTER TYPE. THESE ARE DISTINCT TYPES OF LANDSCAPE THAT ARE RELATIVELY HOMOGENOUS IN CHARACTER. THEY ARE GENERIC IN NATURE IN THAT THEY MAY OCCUR IN DIFFERENT AREAS IN DIFFERENT PARTS OF THE COUNTRY, BUT WHEREVER THEY OCCUR, THEY SHARE BROADLY SIMILAR COMBINATIONS OF GEOLOGY, TOPOGRAPHY, DRAINAGE PATTERNS, VEGETATION AND HISTORICAL LAND USE AND SETTLEMENT PATTERN AS WELL AS PERCEPTUAL AND AESTHETIC ATTRIBUTES.

LANDSCAPE RECEPTORS – DEFINED ASPECTS OF THE LANDSCAPE RESOURCE THAT HAVE THE POTENTIAL TO BE AFFECTED BY A PROPOSAL.

VISUAL RECEPTORS – INDIVIDUALS AND/OR DEFINED GROUPS OF PEOPLE WHO HAVE THE POTENTIAL TO SEE OR OTHERWISE BE AFFECTED BY PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT.

I. INTRODUCTION

I.1. BACKGROUND TO STUDY

In March 2015, Cheltenham Borough Council [the Council] commissioned Ryder Landscape Consultants to undertake a Landscape Character, Sensitivity and Capacity Study of the Cotswolds AONB and Cheltenham Urban Fringe as part of its emerging Cheltenham Plan. The Council required an assessment of the landscape character and sensitivity of the landscape, the visual amenity and the value and potential capacity to accommodate new development in the AONB.

If the Council is to provide for the full objectively assessed needs for housing and employment for the Borough, the Council will need to examine all reasonable options along Cheltenham's urban edge, which includes land within or immediately adjacent to the Cotswolds AONB. The choice of which sites on the urban edge and within or immediately adjacent to the Cotswolds AONB are potentially most suitable and sustainable for new development will be based on an assessment that considers a wide range of social, economic and environmental issues. These issues include landscape character and visual amenity.

This assessment provides pertinent information which will help to inform the choice of potential sites for release in the emerging Cheltenham Plan. It will also provide practical guidance for assisting Development Management decision-making.

The document consists of this covering report describing the purpose of the assessment, the methodology used and an overview summary. Included in Section 4 are individual summary sheets for each of the Landscape Character Areas assessed, along with a photosheet depicting the character and context of each of these Landscape Character Areas. An example of the field sheets used as an aid to assessment whilst visiting sites is contained at Appendix A.

The extent of the study area is shown below in Figure 1.

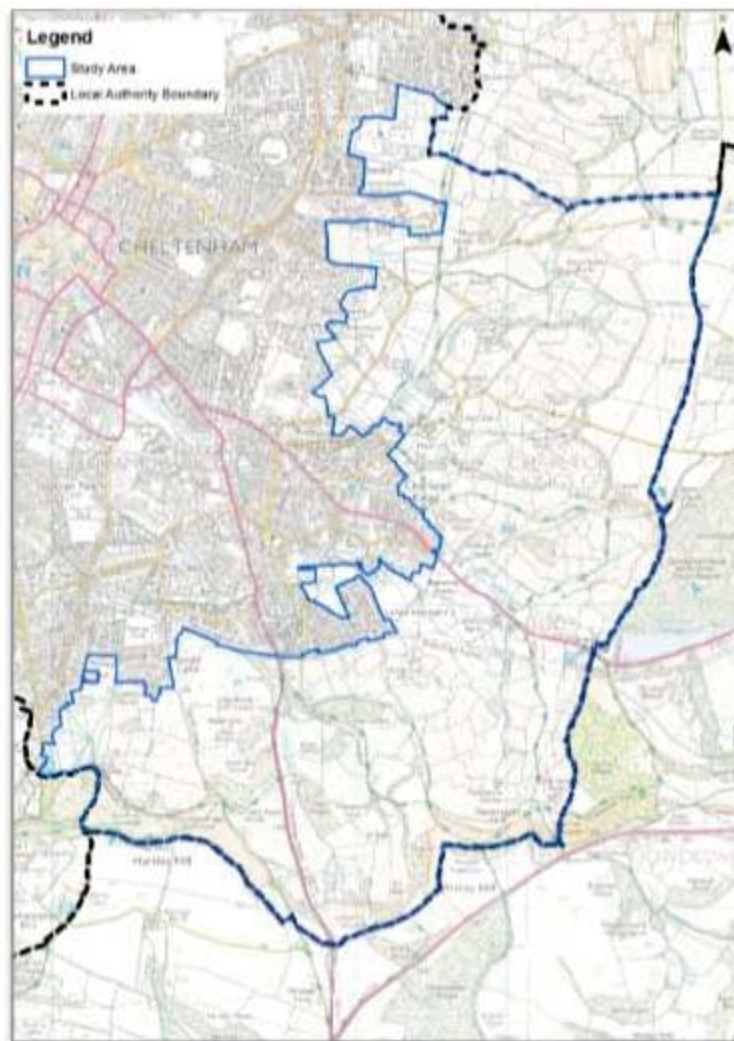


Figure 1. Extent of Study Area

1.2. BACKGROUND AND LOCAL CONTEXT

As part of the process of undertaking the Cheltenham Plan, the Council are undertaking a 'call for sites', in order to identify sites for possible future development.

The process of identifying the sites with possible future development potential requires a suite of information to inform the identification process. Landscape forms a part of this suite of information, and as such, this study has been undertaken in order to thoroughly understand the local landscape character, its quality and value, and the capacity the landscape may have for any further development.

1.3. PURPOSE OF THE ASSESSMENT

The key purpose of the study is to undertake a landscape character assessment of the urban edge of Cheltenham and the area of the Cotswolds AONB that falls within Cheltenham Borough Council. This includes:

- A Landscape Character Assessment;
- Assessment of the sensitivity of identified Landscape Character Areas; and
- Identifies key visual receptors, significant views and viewpoints and sensitivity of receptors to change, considering quality and distinctiveness.

The assessment uses this information to determine how constrained each Landscape Character Area is in terms of landscape using the following three point system:

- Minor constraint
- Moderate constraint
- Major constraint

More information on this three point system to classify Landscape Character Areas by how constrained they are and the resulting capacity is provided in Section 2 – Methodology – Table 6.

Once the level of constraint is identified, the capacity of an area can then be determined. The capacity of an area is assessed on a three point scale as follows:

- Low
- Medium
- High

Additionally the assessment is required to provide key recommendations on how new development, if it were to go ahead, would be best designed to mitigate losses to or improve the current landscape quality. This includes;

- Consideration and making recommendations on how any potential harmful impacts arising from development could be reduced and identify opportunities for mitigation including the retention of important existing features/ landscape elements;
- Identifying broad principles for the location and design of new development to minimise or mitigate effects on landscape character, and views and to maximise benefits through sensitive development; and
- Recommending design principles for boundary treatments for any new 'urban fringe/edge'.

1.4. IMPORTANCE OF LANDSCAPE

Landscape is more than just ‘the view’. It can be the ever-changing backdrop to our daily lives, as much as the places we seek out for leisure. It can mean a park, a piece of wasteland, a beach, a mountain, a forest. It is also about how people relate to these places and to nature – what they value about it, and how they respond to changes in the landscape.

Some landscapes consist entirely of natural elements. These are typically referred to as ‘natural landscapes’.

Other landscapes can be largely the result of human activity, such as arable farmland or urban areas. These can be referred to as ‘cultural landscapes’.

Landscapes should be managed, planned and, where appropriate, protected to deliver a full range of goods and services. A number of documents exist in order to provide the framework and information to manage, plan and where necessary protect our landscapes.

These include;

- The European Landscape Convention.
(<http://www.coe.int.com>)
- The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).
(<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-planning-policy-framework-2>)
- The National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG)
(<http://planningguidance.planningportal.gov.uk/blog/guidance>)
- National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949.
(<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/Geo6/12-13-14/97>)
- Natural England – National Character Areas.
(<http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/publications/nca/>)

1.5. EUROPEAN LANDSCAPE CONVENTION (FLORENCE CONVENTION)

Landscape is defined in the European Landscape Convention (ELC) as ‘an area, as perceived by people, whose character is the result of the action and interaction of natural and/or human factors’.

The ELC recognises that every landscape has a value and acknowledges that the landscape is an important part of the quality of life for people everywhere: in urban areas and in the countryside, in degraded areas as well as in areas of high quality, in areas recognised as being of outstanding beauty as well as everyday landscapes.

The Convention goes on to reference ‘Actions on the Landscape’, where development may occur. Relevant sections of the ELC relating to planning and protection of landscapes include the following excerpts:

“Landscape planning... concerns forms of change that can anticipate new social needs by taking account of ongoing developments. It should also be consistent with sustainable development and allow for the ecological and economic processes that may occur in the medium to long terms.

The concept of protection includes the idea that landscape is subject to changes which, within certain limits, have to be accepted. Protective measures, should not be designed to stop time or to restore natural or human influence characteristics that no longer exist; however, they may guide changes in sites in order to pass on their specific, material and immaterial features to future generations. Landscape protection should find the ways and means of acting at an appropriate level, not only on the characteristics present at sites but also on external factors.”

1.6. COUNTRYSIDE RIGHTS OF WAY ACT (CROW) 2000

The CRoW Act 2000, containing five Parts and 16 Schedules, provides for public access on foot to certain types of land, amends the law relating to public rights of way, increases measures for the management and protection for Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and strengthens wildlife enforcement legislation, and provides for better management of Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).

Section 85 outlines the council's legal duty with regards to the CRoW Act and land within AONBs:

“In exercising or performing any functions in relation to, or so as to affect, land in an area of outstanding natural beauty, a relevant authority shall have regards to the purpose of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the area of outstanding natural beauty.”

1.7. NATIONAL PLANNING POLICY FRAMEWORK (NPPF)

The NPPF as introduced in 2013 is the key national planning document in England shaping plan making and decision taking by Local Planning Authorities. Paragraph 14 of the NPPF explains,

*‘At the heart of the National Planning Policy Framework is a **presumption in favour of sustainable development**, which should be seen as a golden thread running through both plan-making and decision-taking.’*

However this presumption does not automatically apply in the AONB by reason of Footnote No.9 which lists a series of landscape, scientifically important and spatially sensitive areas where specific policies in the Framework indicate development should be restricted.

The specific policies that address landscapes and in particular the weight given to conserving landscape and scenic beauty in AONB's and when development should be restricted are presented below;

NPPF Paragraph 109 – a general requirement of the planning system is made to protect and enhance valued landscapes specifically it states, ‘The planning system should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by protecting and enhancing valued landscapes.’

NPPF Paragraph 113 – which requires Local Planning Authorities to ‘set criteria based policies against which proposals for any development on or affecting protected wildlife or geodiversity sites of landscape areas will be judged’. Paragraph 113 does not make mention of AONB by name or footnote reference but goes on to advise, ‘Distinctions should be made between the hierarchy of international, national and locally designated sites’. AONB status should be viewed as nationally important level of designation on a par with National Park status as enshrined by the Countryside and Right of Way Acts and also by NPPF Paragraph 115.

NPPF Paragraph 115 – the NPPF states that ‘Great weight should be given to conserving landscape and scenic beauty in National Parks, the Broads and Areas of Outstanding National Beauty, which have the highest status of protection in relation to landscape and scenic beauty’. There is no differential between National Parks or AONB status as this paragraph states ‘Great weight’ should be given to conserving landscape and scenic beauty in both.

NPPF Paragraph 116 - gives clear guidance to Local Planning Authorities to refuse planning permission for major developments in these designated areas (by which they include AONB’s) except in exceptional circumstances and where it can be demonstrated they are in the public interest. Three areas of assessment are cited as required to justify major developments in AONB as designated areas and the third of these include an assessment of any detrimental effect on the landscape and the extent to which that could be moderated.

Specific guidance on what constitutes ‘major development’ in an AONB and whether NPPF Paragraph 116 is applicable is given in National Planning Practice Guidance (2014) (NPPG).

One of the core principles in the National Planning Policy Framework is that planning should recognise the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside. Local plans should include strategic policies for the conservation and enhancement of the natural environment, including landscape. This includes designated landscapes but also the wider countryside.

Where appropriate, Landscape Character Assessments should be prepared to complement Natural England’s National Character Area profiles. Landscape Character Assessment is a tool to help understand the character and local distinctiveness of the landscape and identify the features that give it a sense of place. It can help to inform, plan and manage change and may be undertaken at a scale appropriate to local and neighbourhood plan making.

1.8. NATIONAL PLANNING PRACTICE GUIDANCE (NPPG)

National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG) exists in order to assist practitioners in their interpretation and implementation of the policies contained within the NPPF. The Guidance references sections of the NPPF where relevant, along with links to other relevant planning practice guidance. Each individual section of the guidance has a specific and unique Reference ID.

Relevant sections of the National Planning Practice Guidance as they relate to the AONB include:

- **ID 8:** Natural Environment
- **ID 12:** Local Plans
- **ID 37:** Open Space, Sports and Recreation Facilities, Public Rights of Way and Local Green Space

As discussed above under NPPF Paragraph 116 the NPPG provides some guidance on what constitutes major development in the AONB. At NPPG Natural Environment: Landscape Paragraph 5 it states whether proposals are deemed major or not 'will be a matter for the relevant decision taker, taking into account the proposal in question and the local context.' The decision therefore falls to the Local Planning Authority to make as to whether the development is a major one and the assessments required by NPPF 116 are necessary.

Whatever the decision as to whether a development is considered major or not the NPPG reminds the decision maker that 'The Framework (NPPF) is clear that great weight should be given to conserving landscape and scenic beauty in these designated areas irrespective of whether the policy in paragraph 116 is applicable.

1.9. LOCAL PLANNING POLICY

JOINT CORE STRATEGY:

The following policies are pertinent existing and emerging Local Plan policies. They are presented as digital snips to ensure complete correctness of inclusion.

SD 5 Design Requirements

iv. Public Realm and Landscape

New development should ensure that the design of landscaped areas, open space and public realm are of high quality, provide a clear structure and constitute an integral and cohesive element within the design. The contribution of public realm designs, at all scales, to facilitate the preferential use of sustainable transport modes should be maximised

SD 7 Landscape

Policy SD7: Landscape

1. Development will seek to protect landscape character for its own intrinsic beauty and for its benefit to economic, environmental and social well-being.
2. Proposals will have regard to the local distinctiveness and historic character of the different landscapes in the JCS area, drawing, as appropriate, upon existing Landscape Character Assessments and the Landscape Character and Sensitivity Analysis. They will be required to demonstrate how the development will protect or enhance landscape character and avoid detrimental effects on types, patterns and features which make a significant contribution to the character, history and setting of a settlement or area.
3. All applications for development will consider the landscape and visual sensitivity of the area in which they are to be located or which they may affect. Planning applications will be supported by a Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment where, at the discretion of the local planning authority, one is required. Proposals for appropriate mitigation and enhancement measures should also accompany applications.

SD 8 The Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

Policy SD8: The Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)

All development proposals in or adjacent to the Cotswolds AONB will be required to conserve and, where appropriate, enhance its landscape, scenic beauty, wildlife, cultural heritage and other special qualities. Proposals will be required to be consistent with the policies set out in the Cotswolds AONB Management Plan.

CHELTENHAM LOCAL PLAN

CO 1 Landscape Character

POLICY CO 1

LANDSCAPE CHARACTER

Objectives O9, O10 and O12

Development will only be permitted where it would not harm:

- (a) attributes (note 1) and features (note 2) which make a significant contribution to the character, distinctiveness, quality and amenity value of the landscape; and
- (b) the visual amenity of the landscape.

Note 1

'Attributes' of the landscape are defined as being the inherent characteristics of the locality, including openness or enclosure, key views or vistas, topography, and patterns in the landscape such as those defined by historic land uses, roads and lanes, buildings, hedgerows or water courses.

Note 2

'Features' include those constituent parts of the landscape that either in their own right, or in combination with landscape attributes, give the locality its particular character and distinctiveness, including for example, trees, hedges, geological or geomorphological features, rights of way, watercourses, ponds and buildings as well as other structures.

CO 2 Development within or affecting the AONB

POLICY CO 2
DEVELOPMENT WITHIN OR AFFECTING THE AONB

Objectives O9 and O10

Development which would harm the natural beauty of the landscape within the AONB will not be permitted.

Major developments will not be permitted within the AONB except in exceptional circumstances (note 3).

Note 1
The boundary of the AONB within the Borough is shown on the Proposals Map.

Note 2
See also policies CP 3 (sustainable environment), CO 3 (rebuilding or replacement of buildings in the AONB), CO 4 (extension of buildings in the AONB), CO 12 (farm diversification projects), CO 13 (conversion of rural buildings), RC 11 (recreation and sport in the countryside) and RC 12 (golf courses).

Note 3
In assessing exceptional circumstances regard will be had to:
(i) the need for the development, including in terms of any national considerations, and the impact of permitting it, or refusing it, upon the local economy;
(ii) the cost of, and scope for, developing elsewhere outside the designated area, or meeting the need for it in some other way; and
(iii) any detrimental effect on the environment, the landscape and recreational opportunities, and the extent to which that could be moderated.

GE 1 Public Green Space

POLICY GE 1
PUBLIC GREEN SPACE

Objectives O12, O18 and O26

The development of areas identified as 'Public Green Space' or 'Proposed Public Green Space' will not be permitted.

Note 1
The areas to which this policy applies are shown on the Proposals Map.

Note 2
The Green Space Audit and Strategy will assess quality, quantity and accessibility, and inform the role and function of green spaces. In assessing the role and function of green spaces the Council will apply the principles of PPG17, considering all the functions that open space can perform.

GE 4 Pittville Park and Bouncers Lane Cemetery

POLICY GE 4
PITTVILLE PARK AND BOUNCERS LANE CEMETERY

Objectives O12 and O18

Development which would adversely affect the setting or appearance of Pittville Park and Bouncers Lane Cemetery will not be permitted.

Note
The Borough Council will consult English Heritage, the Garden History Society, and the Gloucestershire Gardens and Landscape Trust on all applications affecting Pittville Park and Bouncers Lane Cemetery.

RC 8 New public green space

POLICY RC 8 NEW PUBLIC GREEN SPACE

Objectives O12 and O26

The Borough Council will pursue opportunities to secure by agreement, or where necessary acquire, and layout, land for use as public green space, specifically:

(a) where it is essential for the completion of the Chelt Walk.

RC 10 Allotments

POLICY RC 10 ALLOTMENTS

Objectives O12 and O26

Development involving the loss of allotment land will only be permitted where:

- (a) the site is not included in the allotment strategy as a resource meeting an existing or future need, and where it can be demonstrated that there is no need for alternative outdoor recreational space; or
 - (b) the site does not provide a significant or environmental contribution to the town (note 1); or
 - (c) appropriate compensatory provision is made in agreement with the Borough Council and the Cheltenham and District Allotment Holders Association which meets the following requirements:
 - i. the new site is in the vicinity and would serve the same catchment as the existing; and
 - ii. the new site provides approximately the same number and size of plots as those in active use at the existing site; and
 - iii. the soil is of a high quality and suitable for cultivation; and
 - iv. the new site is accessible to pedestrians, cyclists and the car-borne; and
 - v. adequate car-parking is available at the new site.
-

Note 1

Policy GE 2 (private green space) will apply, and development which would alter the open character of the site may not be permitted.

Note 2

Policy RC 10 will apply to all allotment sites shown on the Proposals Map, irrespective of their statutory or non-statutory status.

RC 12 Golf Courses

POLICY RC 12 GOLF COURSES

Objectives O13 and O27

Within the Green Belt or AONB, only golf courses with a single club house serving purely the needs of members will be permitted.

Note 1

All proposals for new or expanded golf courses will also be subject to policy RC 11 which has regard to the environmental impact on the countryside of the new recreational facilities.

Note 2

Policies CO 2 and CO 6 limit new building in the Green Belt and AONB, hence the requirement that the only built structure associated with the golf course should be a club house of limited size. Where possible, an existing building should be used. Proposals linking a golf course to the development of a new hotel or country club complex will not be acceptable.

Note 3

All proposals for new or expanded golf courses will be required to take into account issues of accessibility, particularly by public transport (see policies CP 4: safe and sustainable living and CP 5: sustainable transport).

Note 4

The Borough Council encourages community access to existing and new facilities.

RC 13 Public rights of way in the countryside

POLICY RC 13

PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY IN THE COUNTRYSIDE

Objectives O26, O28 and O35

Development which would adversely affect existing or new routes of public rights of way will not be permitted unless suitable provision can be made for their retention or diversion.

COTSWOLDS AONB MANAGEMENT PLAN:

The Cotswolds AONB Management Plan Development and Transport policies provide guidance with regards to potential development of land within the Cotswolds AONB. This section is presented within Appendix D to ensure correctness of inclusion.”

COTSWOLDS AONB LANDSCAPE STRATEGY AND GUIDELINES:

Please note: this study was undertaken before recent Landscape Strategy and Guidelines revisions (V4, March 2016) Copies of both versions are available in Appendix D

The following Landscape Strategy and Guidelines are pertinent for the study area. They are presented within Appendix D to ensure complete correctness of inclusion.

2 Escarpment

7 High Wold

8 High Wold Valley

1.10. LANDSCAPE CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

Landscape Character Assessment (LCA) is a standard system for identifying, describing, classifying and mapping the variety of landscape: it helps to explain what makes individual landscapes different from each other.

The assessment of landscape is an important aspect in the consideration of development locations throughout the countryside. There are a number of relevant documents that define landscape and its importance, including the following documents:

Natural England - National Character Area Profiles

National Character Areas (NCA's) divide England into 159 distinct natural areas. Each is defined by a unique combination of landscape, biodiversity, geodiversity and cultural and economic activity.

As part of its responsibilities in delivering the Natural Environment White Paper, Biodiversity 2020 and the European Landscape Convention as well as its own statutory purpose, Natural England has produced the National Character Area (NCA) profiles to make environmental evidence and information easily accessible to a wide audience.

NCA profiles provide a broad range of information that can be used by individuals and communities to help achieve a more sustainable future.

Two National Character Areas are found within the study area: NCA 106: Severn and Avon Vales and NCA 107: Cotswolds. Figure 4 illustrates their locations and extents.

1.11. EXISTING LANDSCAPE CHARACTER ASSESSMENTS

Landscape Character Assessment is an objective way of identifying the elements of a landscape which make up its particular character. Such an assessment helps to guide decisions about proposals which may affect that particular character. It is an aid to understanding how and why the landscape is shaped and how to ensure that change and development does not undermine whatever is characteristic or valued about a particular landscape and the ways to improve the local distinctiveness of a place or area.

The following Landscape Character Assessments are relevant to this study:

JOINT CORE STRATEGY LANDSCAPE CHARACTER ASSESSMENT (2011)

The Joint Core Strategy (JCS) Landscape Character Assessment work was undertaken to provide landscape character and sensitivity analysis around the urban centres of Gloucester, Cheltenham and Tewkesbury. The work comprised of two distinct areas of work, the first was a landscape characterisation process where the landscape was assigned distinct character areas. Once each area had been spatially identified and described, a sensitivity analysis was undertaken. The outcome of the sensitivity analysis was to assign relative value and therefore sensitivity to large scale development, resulting in the production of maps showing the various sensitivities for the specific areas.

This assessment did not cover any of the land within the study area.

THE COTSWOLDS AREA OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY (2002)

In October 2002 the Cotswolds AONB Partnership undertook a Landscape Character Assessment and produced a Landscape Strategy and Guidelines for the designated area. Within the Gloucestershire section of the AONB, 15 Landscape Types were classified.

The study area falls principally within the Landscape Character Type identified as Escarpment. The southern edge and northeast edge of the study area falls within the High Wold Landscape Character Type, while a small area on the southeast corner of the study area falls within the High Wold Valley Landscape Character Type.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE LANDSCAPE CHARACTER ASSESSMENT (2006)

The Gloucestershire Landscape Character Assessment work undertook a County Wide assessment of Gloucestershire and identified a total of 38 landscape character types. The intention of the report was, in combination with the parallel reports for the Forest of Dean and the Cotswolds AONB Landscape Character Assessments, to provide a valuable tool for the spatial planning and decision making processes.

2. METHODOLOGY

The assessment has been undertaken in two key phases: the Landscape Character and Sensitivity Study and the Value and Capacity Study.

The study comprises of two distinct areas of work: the first is a landscape characterisation process where the study area (the landscape to the east of Cheltenham) was surveyed and divided into distinct landscape character types and landscape character areas. Each type and area was then described following the standard methodology explained below in Section 2.5. Once the landscape character had been spatially identified and then described, the second area of work – a value and capacity analysis followed. The objective of this work was to assign relative value and capacity of the landscape to development, with the main output being the maps that show the various capacity and sensitivities for the specific areas.

2.1. THE LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AND SENSITIVITY ASSESSMENT

There were two key parts to the initial baseline phase: desktop study and field survey. Baseline studies for assessing landscape effects require a mix of desk study and field works to identify and record the character of the landscape and the elements, features and aesthetic and perceptual factors that contribute to it. The desktop phase identified all the recorded designations, policies and mapping. The field survey stage allowed the assessor to identify the experience of a landscape and elements associated with an identified landscape parcel that would not otherwise be possible to identify.

2.2. DESKTOP STUDY

- National Landscape Character Assessments.
- Conservation Area Statements.
- Review of existing landscape character type descriptions.
- Planning designations.
- Designations relating to landscape.
- Designations relating to biodiversity and wildlife conservation.
- Designations relating to building conservation.
- Designations relating to historic park and garden conservation.
- Scheduled Ancient Monuments.
- Review of landscape characteristics and patterns identifiable by map studies.

2.3. FIELD SURVEY COMPONENTS (CHARACTER AND SENSITIVITY)

Site visits were undertaken during March and April 2015 by an experienced, chartered landscape architect.

Field assessment sheets were used to record data in a systematic way whilst attending the sites. An example of the field assessment sheet is contained in Appendix A.

Field sheets recorded the key qualities, elements, value and characteristics of the sites.

Photographs were taken to record the character and context of the sites. Photographs were taken according to best practice (Landscape Institute Guidance for photography, Advice Note 01/11).

The field surveys considered the following elements to compile an evidence based analysis of the existing landscape character and its sensitivity.

1. Physical influences and natural factors:

- Landform.
- Hydrology.
- Vegetation types (including tree cover).

2. Human influences and cultural factors:

- Land use.
- Building and settlement pattern.
- Boundaries and field pattern.
- Communications and infrastructure.
- Landmarks and heritage features.
- Amenity value (to include formal and informal recreational facilities and observed intensity of use).

3. Views:

- Key views into and out of an area.
- Number of people able to view the area.

4. Quality and condition of landscape and component features:

- Obvious signs of degradation or dereliction.
- Areas of apparent good land management.
- Potential forces for change.

5. Aesthetics and perceptual qualities to include:

- Aesthetics such as pattern, scale, texture and colour
- Perceptual qualities such as security, tranquillity, noise and naturalness

2.4. EXISTING LANDSCAPE CHARACTER ASSESSMENTS

Landscape characterisation for this study will reference the Landscape Design Associates (LDA) characterisation work for Gloucestershire (2006) commissioned jointly by the County Council and six district authorities.

The subsequent work conducted to characterise and assess the sensitivity is also relevant (the Joint Core Strategy Landscape Characterisation Assessment and Sensitivity Analysis, 2011).

The key relevant landscape character reference document will be the Cotswolds AONB Landscape Character Assessment (LDA, 2002).

Further Guidance:

- Landscape Character Assessment Guidance for England and Scotland (2002);
- An approach to Landscape Character Assessment, Natural England (October 2014)

2.5. LOCAL LANDSCAPE CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

Given the large scale nature of the existing landscape character assessments, it was identified that a local level landscape character assessment was required in order to more thoroughly assess the character, sensitivity, value and capacity of the landscape within the identified study area.

As described in the guidance document '*An approach to Landscape Character Assessment, Natural England (October 2014)*' a Landscape Character Type is summarised as:

- Distinct types of landscape that are relatively homogenous in character;
- Are generic in nature – they may occur in different area in different parts of the country and will share broadly similar combinations of geology, topography, drainage patterns, vegetation, historic land use and settlement pattern (this does not mean that every area within a particular type will be identical, but rather, that there is a common pattern which can be discerned in maps and in the fields survey records);
- May occur repeatedly in a study area, or occur in just one place;
- Can be identified at each level in the hierarchy of assessment;
- Can provide a good spatially referenced framework for analysing change (many influences and pressures affect areas with similar character in similar ways); and
- When analysed, can provide a foundation upon which to develop planning and / or landscape management strategies

A Landscape Character Area is summarised as:

- Unique individual geographical areas in which landscape types occur;
- Share generic characteristics with other areas of the same type, but have their own particular identity;
- Can often be more readily recognised and identified by non-specialists – sense of place is often important to local people and visitors for example;
- May often be more prevalent than landscape character types, because some types will occur in more than one area;
- Can be identified at each level in the hierarchy of assessment;
- Can provide a good spatially referenced framework from where patterns of local distinctiveness, and factors influencing sense of place, can be drawn;

- Can be used to develop tailored policies and strategies that reflect the characteristics that make a given landscape different or special.

The desktop and field surveys as described in section 2.2 and 2.3 contributed to the identification of the following Landscape Character Types and Areas (Table 1 below), mapped at 1:10,000 and shown on Figures 5, 6 and 7. The Types are described within Section 4 of this report.

Table 1: Summary of Landscape Character Types and Landscape Character Areas

Reference	Landscape Character Type	Reference	Landscape Character Area
1	Cemetery	1.1	Bouncers Lane Cemetery
2	Community Allotments	2.1	Ryeworth Allotment
		2.2	Little Herbert's Allotments
3	Community Open Space	3.1	Little Herbert's Playing Fields
		3.2	Pilley Playing Fields
		3.3	Oakley Playing Fields
		3.4	Battledown Cricket Ground and Playing Fields
4	Escarpment	4.1	Hartley Hill Escarpment
		4.2	Ravensgate Hill Escarpment
5	Golf Course	5.1	Lilley Brook Golf Course
6	Lower Pasture	6.1	Noverton Lower Pasture
		6.2	Ham Lower Pasture
		6.3	Greenway Lower Pasture
7	Pasture Slopes	7.1	Oakley Farm Pasture Slopes
		7.2	Hewlett's Reservoir
		7.3	Oakley Pasture Slopes
		7.4	Northfield Farm Pasture Slopes
		7.5	Ham Hill South
		7.6	Dowdeswell Woods Pasture Slopes
		7.7	Ravensgate Hill Pasture Slopes
		7.8	Lineover Wood Pasture Slopes
		7.9	Charlton Kings Pasture Slopes
		7.10	Wellinghill House Pasture Slopes
8	Settled Lowland	8.1	Ham Settled Lowlands
		8.2	Coxhome Settled Lowlands
		8.3	Daisybank Settled Lowlands
		8.4	Lilley Brook Settled Lowlands
		8.5	Battledown Settled Lowlands

Reference	Landscape Character Type	Reference	Landscape Character Area
9	Upland Farmland	9.1	Colgate Upland Farmland
10	Wooded Pasture Slopes	10.1	The Hewlett's Wooded Pasture Slopes
		10.2	Glenfall House Wooded Pasture Slopes
		10.3	Ham Farm Wooded Pasture Slopes
		10.4	Ham Hill South Wooded Pasture Slopes
		10.5	Colgate Wooded Pasture Slopes
		10.6	Pilley Wooded Pasture Slopes
		10.7	Timbercombe Wooded Pasture Slopes
		10.8	Wistley Hill Wooded Pasture Slopes
		10.9	Ravensgate Hill Wooded Pasture Slopes
		10.10	Southfield Manor Wooded Pasture Slopes
		10.11	Greenway Wooded Pasture Slopes
		10.12	Wellinghill Wooded Pasture Slopes
		10.13	Little Herbert's Wooded Pasture Slopes

2.6. LANDSCAPE SENSITIVITY

Table 2 below provides a list of key characteristics and attributes indicating higher or lower sensitivity to change brought about by development. The table is not a prescriptive tool, since the list of key landscape characteristics and attributes is not exhaustive. The table is used as a guide to inform the overall assessment of landscape sensitivity. The sensitivity of the Landscape Character Type / Landscape Character Area to change is defined on a three point scale as **High**, **Medium** or **Low** and is based on professional judgement and interpretation of key landscape characteristics.

Table 2: Definition of landscape sensitivity

Sensitivity	Comments / Examples
High	Landscapes which by nature of their character would be unable to accommodate change caused by development. Typically these would be; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Of high quality with distinctive elements and features making a positive contribution to character and sense of place. Likely to contain features and elements that are rare and could not be replaced.
Medium	Landscapes which by nature of their character would be able to partly accommodate change caused by development. Typically these would be;

Sensitivity	Comments / Examples
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Comprised of commonplace elements and features creating generally unremarkable character but with some sense of place. Likely to contain some features and elements that could not be replaced.
Low	<p>Landscapes which by nature of their character would be able to accommodate changes caused by development. Typically these would be;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Comprised of some features and elements that are discordant, derelict or in decline, resulting in indistinct character with little or no sense of place. Likely to contain few, if any, features and elements that could not be replaced.

2.7. VISUAL SENSITIVITY

Table 3 below provides a list of key visual receptors, or viewers, in the landscape indicating higher or lower sensitivity to change brought about by development. The table is not a prescriptive tool, since the list of visual receptors is not exhaustive. The table is used as a guide to inform the overall assessment of visual sensitivity. The sensitivity of the visual attributes within any given Landscape Character Area to change is defined on a three point scale as **High**, **Medium** or **Low** and is based on professional judgement and interpretation of key views.

Table 3: Definition of visual sensitivity

Visual Sensitivity	Typical Receptors
High	<p>Landscape Character Areas with long distance viewing opportunities. Landscape Character Areas including visual receptors with a particular interest in their surroundings or prolonged viewing opportunities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Residential locations Visitor or recreational sites Nationally or locally recognised footpaths and cycle ways Recognised scenic drives or promoted tourist routes
Medium	<p>Landscape Character Areas with medium distance viewing opportunities. Landscape Character Areas including visual receptors with a general interest in their surroundings or with transient viewing opportunities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> General footpaths Local roads Public spaces
Low	<p>Landscape Character Areas with short distance viewing opportunities. Landscape Character Areas including visual receptors with a limited or passing interest in their surroundings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Views from places of employment

Visual Sensitivity	Typical Receptors
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indoor facilities • Commercial and industrial buildings • Commuters along major roads (typically A and M roads)

2.8. FIELD SURVEY COMPONENTS

Site visits were undertaken during March and April 2015 by an experienced, chartered landscape architect to assess each of the Landscape Character Areas listed in Table 1.

Field assessment sheets were used to record data in a systematic way whilst attending the sites. An example of the field assessment sheet is contained in Appendix A.

Field sheets recorded the key qualities, elements, value and characteristics of the sites.

Photographs were taken to record the character and context of the sites. Photographs were taken according to best practice (Landscape Institute Guidance for photography, Advice Note 01/11).

The field surveys considered the following elements to compile an evidence based analysis of the existing landscape character and its sensitivity.

Assessing:

1. **Designations;**
 - National.
 - Regional.
 - Local.
2. **Other Criteria indicating value;**
 - Landscape quality (condition).
 - Rarity.
 - Representativeness.
 - Recreation value.
 - Perceptual aspects.
 - Tranquillity.
 - Remoteness.
 - Wildness.
 - Scenic beauty.
 - Cultural associations.
 - Conservation interests.

The above notes accord with Box 5.1 of Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (3rd Edition) – Pg 84.

2.9. LANDSCAPE VALUE

The assessment of landscape sensitivity based on key characteristics may be modified by consideration of any special values attributed to a landscape (i.e. a landscape with characteristics that suggest relatively low sensitivity may be judged to be more sensitive because of special values attached to it – either as a result of formal designation or other evidence, such as local designation or cultural links).

The value of a landscape reflects communal perception on a local, regional, national and international scale. It is informed by a number of factors including scenic beauty, tranquillity, cultural associations or other conservation interests including current and past land uses.

Landscapes considered to be of the highest value would generally be nationally designated, whereas those considered of lowest value would be represented by undesignated landscapes identified as requiring recovery. Although value is frequently determined by reference to national and local designations, an absence of such a designation does not infer a lack of value, as other factors such as scarcity can render areas valuable as a local resource.

Taking all these factors into account, the degree to which landscape character sensitivity is modified by landscape values is, therefore, a matter of professional judgement.

Table 4: Definition of landscape value

Value	Comments / Examples
High	The Landscape Character Area has many positive qualities associated with landscape value, e.g. landscape designations; is seen as important by the community; limited/ no degradation or erosion of features resulting in a mainly intact landscape with limited/ no intrusion. A Landscape Character Area with strong aesthetic and sensory qualities.
Medium	The Landscape Character Area has some positive qualities associated with landscape value, e.g. landscape designations, some degradation or erosion of features resulting in areas of more mixed character and reduced overall value, partly intact landscape with some intrusions. A Landscape Character area with some aesthetic and sensory qualities
Low	The Landscape Character Area has limited qualities associated with landscape value, e.g. no landscape designations, few valued features, limited use by the community, mixed character and reduced overall value. A disjointed landscape with intrusions. A Landscape Character Area which lacks/has limited aesthetic and sensory qualities.

2.10. LANDSCAPE CAPACITY

Topic Paper 6 – Techniques and criteria for judging capacity and sensitivity (Scottish Natural Heritage / The Countryside Agency (2002))

“Landscape capacity refers to the degree to which a particular landscape character type or area is able to accommodate change without significant effects on its character, or overall change of landscape character type. Capacity is likely to vary according to the type and nature of change being proposed.”

Landscape Capacity is used to describe the ability of a landscape to accommodate different amounts of change or development of a specific type. This should reflect:

- The inherent sensitivity of the landscape itself, but more specifically its sensitivity to a particular type of development in question. This means that capacity will reflect both the sensitivity of the landscape resource and its visual sensitivity;
- The value attached to the landscape or to specific elements in it.

Landscape capacity is summarised below:

Landscape Character Sensitivity (Based on judgements about sensitivity of aspects most likely to be affected e.g. Natural factors, cultural factors, landscape and aesthetic factors).

+

Visual Sensitivity (based on nature of change and interaction with visual aspects of landscape e.g. general visibility, population and mitigation potential).

+

Landscape Value (designations and other criteria indicating value)

=

Landscape Capacity to accommodate a specific type of change

1.1. DEFINING OUTCOMES OF DESK BASED AND FIELD SURVEY COMPONENTS

The first part of the process is using the assessed visual sensitivity combined with the landscape character sensitivity to arrive at an overall landscape sensitivity. The result for the overall landscape sensitivity is then considered in conjunction with the landscape value for the individual character area to determine the level of overall landscape constraint. The overall landscape constraint judgement is then represented as the overall landscape capacity in line with the values represented in Table 6 below.

It should be noted that an average of the sensitivity ratings has been taken to reach the various assessment. In order to avoid the process of assessment being overly prescriptive, professional judgement is utilised in the assessment of Landscape Constraint and consequently Landscape Capacity.

For example, using a table such as that shown illustrates this three step process:

Table 5: Process of arriving at landscape capacity judgement

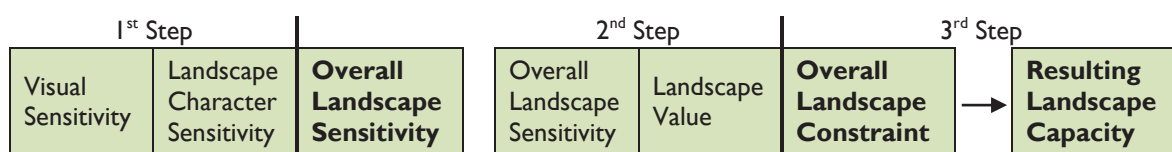


Table 6: Levels of landscape constraint and resulting landscape capacity

Assessment	Description	Resulting Landscape Capacity
MINOR Constraint	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A minor constraint that can be satisfactorily addressed without mitigation, or with limited mitigation. A constraint that only affects a small part of the site and can be addressed without significantly reducing the number of dwellings or area for development. 	HIGH Capacity for built development
MODERATE Constraint	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A constraint that requires more extensive / costly mitigation to satisfactorily address, but that can be overcome. A constraint that affects a larger proportion of the site – requiring mitigation that would reduce the number of houses or area of development that can be built, albeit it would not prevent development from taking place. 	MEDIUM Capacity for built development
MAJOR Constraint	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A significant constraint that requires very substantial / very costly mitigation measures to overcome. Alternatively, a constraint where it is not clear that it is capable of being satisfactorily addressed. A constraint that would very significantly reduce the proportion of the site that can be developed. 	LOW Capacity for built development

3. OUTCOME OF THE ASSESSMENT

3.1. PRESENTATION OF ASSESSMENT

For each landscape character area the following are included to illustrate the various elements of the assessment;

- Assessment Sheet, including site location plan, assessment of landscape character and visual qualities of the site and an overall assessment of value and constraint; and
- Photosheets with supporting photographs taken during field site visits.

When viewing the plans indicating broad planning principles and key views, reference should be made to the Legend contained in Section 3.4 of this report.

3.2. SUMMARY OF INDIVIDUAL SITE CONSTRAINT CLASSIFICATION

A summary of the assessed landscape types, landscape character areas and constraint classification for all the assessed landscape character areas in terms of landscape is set out in Table 4 below;

Table 7: Summary of Site Landscape Character Area Outcomes.

Ref	Land Parcel Types and Areas	Landscape Constraint	Landscape Capacity for built development
1	Cemetery		
1.1	Bouncers Lane Cemetery	Major	Low
2	Community Allotments		
2.1	Ryeworth Allotment	Major	Low
2.2	Little Herbert's Allotments	Major	Low
3	Community Open Space		
3.1	Little Herbert's Playing Fields	Major	Low
3.2	Pilley Playing Fields	Major	Low
3.3	Oakley Playing fields	Major	Low
3.4	Battledown Cricket Ground and Playing Fields	Major	Low
4	Escarpment		
4.1	Hartley Hill Escarpment	Major	Low
4.2	Ravensgate Hill Escarpment	Major	Low
5	Golf Course		
5.1	Lilley Brook Golf Course	Major	Low
6	Lower Pasture		
6.1	Noverton Lower Pasture	Major	Low
6.2	Ham Lower Pasture	Major	Low

Ref	Land Parcel Types and Areas	Landscape Constraint	Landscape Capacity for built development
6.3	Greenway Lower Pasture	Major	Low
7	Pasture Slopes		
7.1	Oakley Farm Pasture Slopes	Major	Low
7.2	Hewlett's Reservoir	Major	Low
7.3	Oakley Pasture Slopes	Major	Low
7.4	Northfield Farm Pasture Slopes	Major	Low
7.5	Ham Hill South	Major	Low
7.6	Dowdeswell Woods Pasture Slopes	Major	Low
7.7	Ravensgate Hill Pasture Slopes	Major	Low
7.8	Lineover Wood Pasture Slopes	Major	Low
7.9	Charlton Kings Pasture Slopes	Major	Low
7.10	Wellinghill House Pasture Slopes	Major	Low
8	Settled Lowland		
8.1	Ham Settled Lowlands	Major	Low
8.2	Coxhome Settled Lowlands	Major	Low
8.3	Daisybank Settled Lowlands	Major	Low
8.4	Lilley Brook Settled Lowland	Major	Low
8.5	Battledown Settled Lowland	Major	Low
9	Upland Farmland		
9.1	Colgate Upland Farmland	Major	Low
10	Wooded Pasture Slopes		
10.1	The Hewlett's Wooded Pasture Slopes	Major	Low
10.2	Glenfall House Wooded Pasture Slopes	Major	Low
10.3	Ham Farm Wooded Pasture Slopes	Major	Low
10.4	Ham Hill South Wooded Pasture Slopes	Major	Low
10.5	Colgate Wooded Pasture Slopes	Major	Low
10.6	Pilley Wooded Pasture Slopes	Major	Low
10.7	Timbercombe Wooded Pasture Slopes	Major	Low
10.8	Wistley Hill Wooded Pasture Slopes	Major	Low
10.9	Ravensgate Hill Wooded Pasture Slopes	Major	Low
10.10	Southfield Manor Wooded Pasture Slopes	Major	Low
10.11	Greenway Wooded Pasture Slopes	Major	Low
10.12	Wellinghill Wooded Pasture Slopes	Major	Low
10.13	Little Herbert's Wooded Pasture Slopes	Major	Low

For ease of reference, these assessment sheets are included within the main body of this document at Section 4.

3.3. GENERAL LANDSCAPE PLANNING PRINCIPLES

Professional judgement was used to determine which of the Landscape Character Areas may potentially have some capacity for development although they all carry ratings of major landscape constraint and low landscape capacity. For the LCAs identified, planning principles sheets have been produced which outline the type and extent of development that may be considered appropriate within the particular LCA. The general principles covered are expanded upon below:

General Design Principles

General design principles have been included within the assessment sheets and are based on the information gathered throughout the assessment stage. The design principles look to provide guidance and recommendations for the type of mitigation treatment (including boundary treatments, inclusion of open space, tree planting and conservation or restoration of valued habitats) that should be considered for any given site.

Enhancement of Key Views

Where key views are identified within the study, it should be ensured that an open foreground is retained within proposals to retain these views. Opportunities for public viewing points, Public Rights of Way, cycleways and the like should be considered to take advantage of the existing views.

Conservation Areas

The proximity of Conservation Areas has been taken into account and key views identified within the Conservation Area Appraisals have been noted where applicable.

Vegetation Treatment

Where appropriate, tree planting has been proposed within and around the boundaries of the prospective developments in order to provide visual and physical linkages with the surrounding landscape character. Reinstatement and enhancement of hedgerow boundaries could become an important element of the planted treatment applied throughout the sites.

It should be clearly noted that the retention of hedgerows and trees does not immediately lead to acceptability of a scheme in landscape terms. Native hedgerows are traditional methods of retaining stock or protecting crops in fields rather than acting as enclosures for houses and industrial units. The retention of existing positive vegetation features should be integrated in a thoughtful way into design proposals so they become a site asset and contribute to the quality of the local environment.

Other less obvious vegetation such as scrub areas and pasture grasslands should be recognised for both their ecological value but also their contribution to landscape character.

Sheets outlining the general planning principles have been produced for the following landscape character areas which may potentially have some capacity for development.








Table 8: Summary of Landscape Character Areas with assessed capacity.

Character Area	Name
LCA 6.1 Lower Pasture	Noverton Lower Pasture
LCA 6.2 Lower Pasture	Ham Lower Pasture
LCA 7.3 Pasture slopes	Oakley Pasture Slopes
LCA 10.13 Wooded Pasture Slopes	Little Herbert's Wooded Pasture Slopes

The findings within this study has concluded that there is limited capacity for built development along urban edge of Cheltenham, however Table 8 has identified a number of possible locations that would have less impact on the landscape character and with robust mitigation could accommodate appropriate development.

3.4. LEGEND TO ACCOMPANY PLANNING PRINCIPLES FOR SITES WITH DEVELOPMENT CAPACITY IDENTIFIED

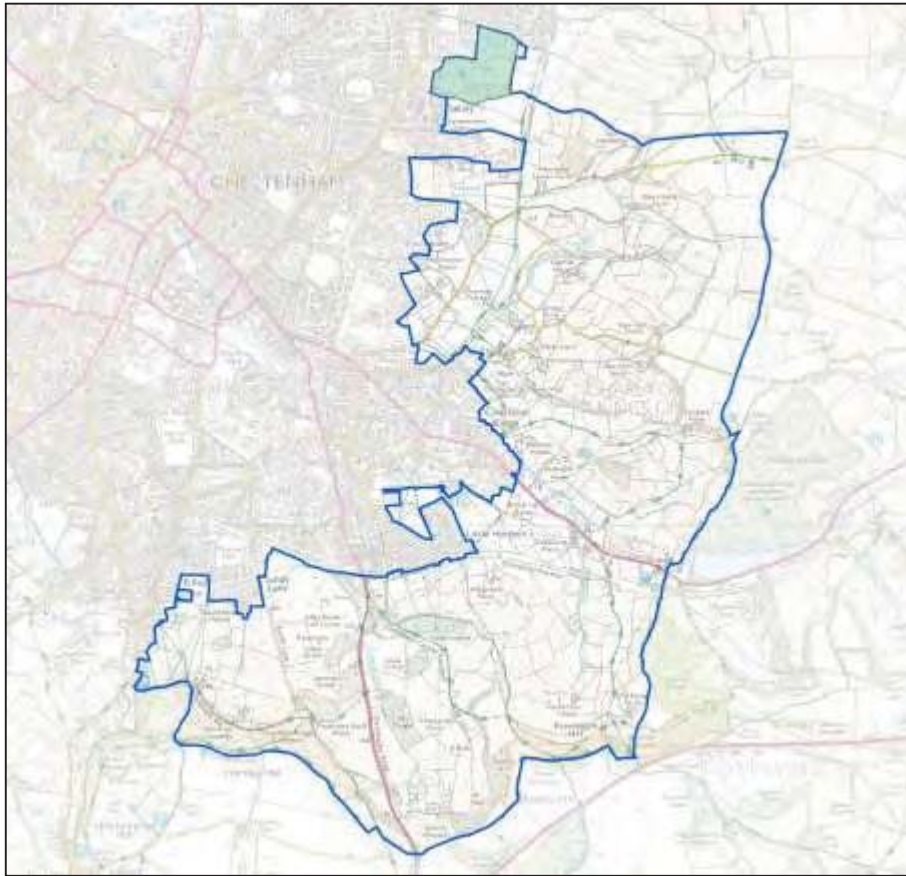
Legend

-  Landscape Character Area
-  Planning Principle Boundary
-  Landscape Capacity
-  Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
-  Suggested Limit of Development
-  Proposed Hedgrow Planting
-  Proposed Intermittent Tree Planting



4. SITE ASSESSMENT AND PHOTOSHEETS

I. CEMETERY



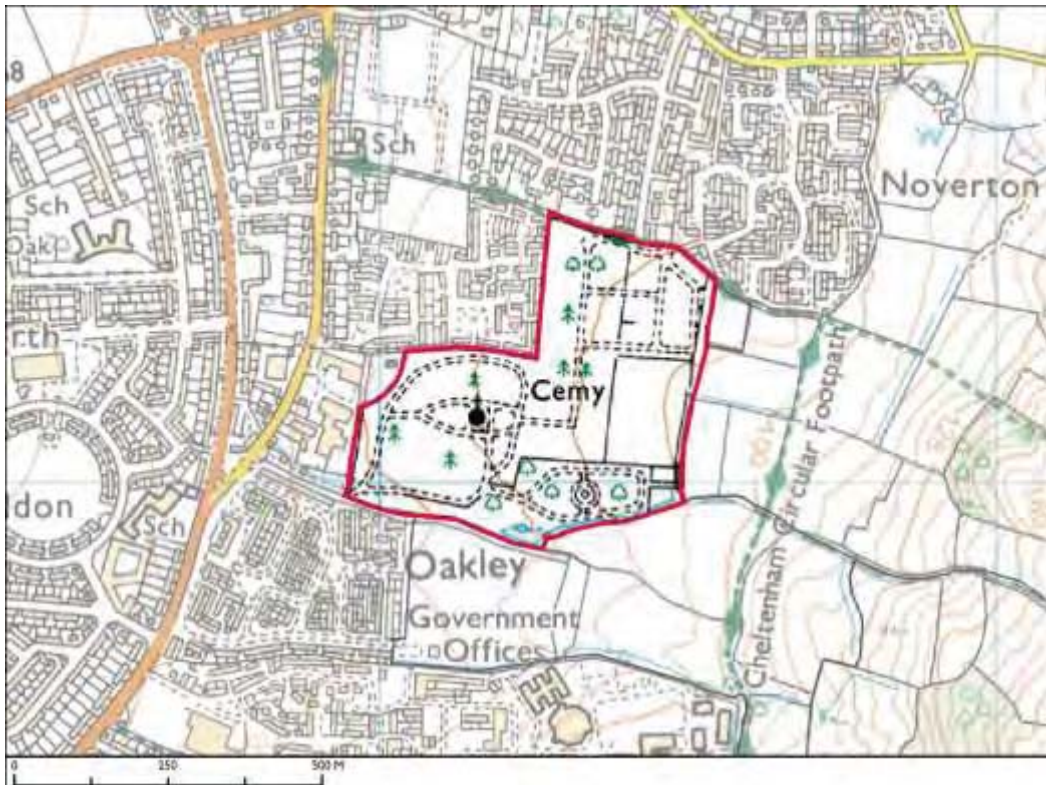
Reflecting the typical character of cemeteries, this character type is small to medium scale and comprises a specific land use. The character type within the study area is well maintained, with Bouncers Lane cemetery being designated as a Grade II Listed Registered Park and Garden. Mature tree stock and Listed buildings support the well maintained and high quality character of this character type.

Boundaries are often mixed but generally formed by post and wire fencing and close board fencing. Located along the urban edge of Cheltenham, residential built form is often a visual influence of the areas, with views out towards the rising scarp slopes of the Cotswolds AONB also forming a visual influence.

Landscape Character Type: Cemetery
Landscape Character Area: Bouncers Lane Cemetery
Site Ref: LCA 1.1

SITE ANALYSIS

Site Location Plan:



Landscape Issues:

Physical Influences:

A small to medium scale, gently sloping site, rising slightly in topography towards the east

Land Cover:

Cemetery including mature tree planting, gardens of remembrance, a Church and a Crematorium

Influence of human activity:

Residential built development, particularly to the north of the site and commercial development to the west

Aesthetic and perceptual aspects:

Wide, expansive views to the east looking out towards rising escarpment slopes, moderate to high tranquillity given the existing land use and the influence of the adjacent rural landscape character to the east

Summary of individual elements:

High quality well maintained elements including footpath trails, buildings, trees and ornamental planting

Distinctive landscape character types:

Rare, given the Grade II Listed Park and Garden status

Overall character of the landscape:

Historic Cemetery with mature vegetation and views towards the rising escarpment slopes to the east.

Designations:

Western area of Cemetery is designated as a Grade II Listed Registered Park and Garden

Landscape Character Appraisal:

A gently sloping landscape, rising slightly towards the east, with wide views towards the escarpment slopes to the east and northeast. Comprising use as a Cemetery, the site is still in regular use. The boundaries to the site are formed by a combination of mature hedges and trees, a number of fencing types and walls with railings.

A small watercourse and associated mature vegetation is located along the north boundary to the site, along with a public right of way (CHP/16/1).

Well vegetated boundaries define the site to the north and south. The boundary to the east comprises a combination of mature hedgerow vegetation and open fence lines, allowing views out towards the rising slopes of the Cotswolds AONB to the east.

The landscape to the east is rural in nature, including numerous woodland blocks.

Given the above the overall Landscape Character is rated as high.

Visual Issues Appraisal:

Views from the site looking east are medium distance and open, looking towards the rising Escarpment slopes of the Cotswolds AONB. Views are restricted to middle distance only by the topography of the Escarpment slopes.

Views of the lower slopes to the east are restricted in places by the mature vegetation along the eastern boundary of the Cemetery.
 Views to the north and west comprise principally of residential development, screened in places by mature boundary vegetation, associated with the urban edge of Cheltenham.
 Filtered views into the area are available from adjacent residential properties to the north of the site, along with elevated views looking into the site from the Cheltenham Circular Footpath to the east of the site.
 Given the above the overall Landscape Visual is rated as high.

Key Visual Receptors:

- Residents along the northern boundary of the area (along Willowherb Close and Bramble Rise)
- Residents along the southern boundary to the area (along Burma Avenue)
- Footpath users along the Cheltenham Circular Way to the east of the area.

Visual Sensitivity:

As summarised in the visual issues appraisal above, the views from the area looking east are open and take in the rising slopes of the Cotswolds AONB. Overall the visual sensitivity is assessed as **High**.

Landscape Character Sensitivity:

As summarised in the landscape character appraisal, the small to medium scale of the landscape character area, high levels of well-maintained boundary vegetation, slightly rising topography and views into the area from adjacent residential properties and The Cheltenham Circular footpath, the overall landscape sensitivity is assessed as **High**.

Landscape Value:

Given the existing use as a Cemetery and the public open access (during opening hours), the area has high recreational value. The visual connections with the escarpment slopes to the northeast and east of the area are valuable perceptual aspects. The quality of the landscape elements are high, with predominantly hedgerow boundaries in good condition and mature tree stock throughout. Given a large portion of the area is designated as a Registered Park and Garden, and taking into consideration the visibility of the site from local footpaths and the generally good condition, the overall value of the landscape character area is assessed as **High**.

Landscape Capacity:

Visual Sensitivity	Landscape Character Sensitivity	Overall Landscape	Landscape Value	Overall Landscape Constraint	Resulting Landscape Capacity
High	High	HIGH	High	MAJOR OVERALL	LOW OVERALL

Please refer to section 2 of the main report for the description of the methodology used.

Further references:

National Landscape Character Areas:
 NCA 106: Severn and Avon Vales

PHOTO SHEET FOR SITE LCA 1.1 – Bouncers Lane Cemetery



VP1. View looking east from the main entrance



VP2. View looking north from centre of area



VP3. View looking north from centre of area



VP4. View looking east from east of area

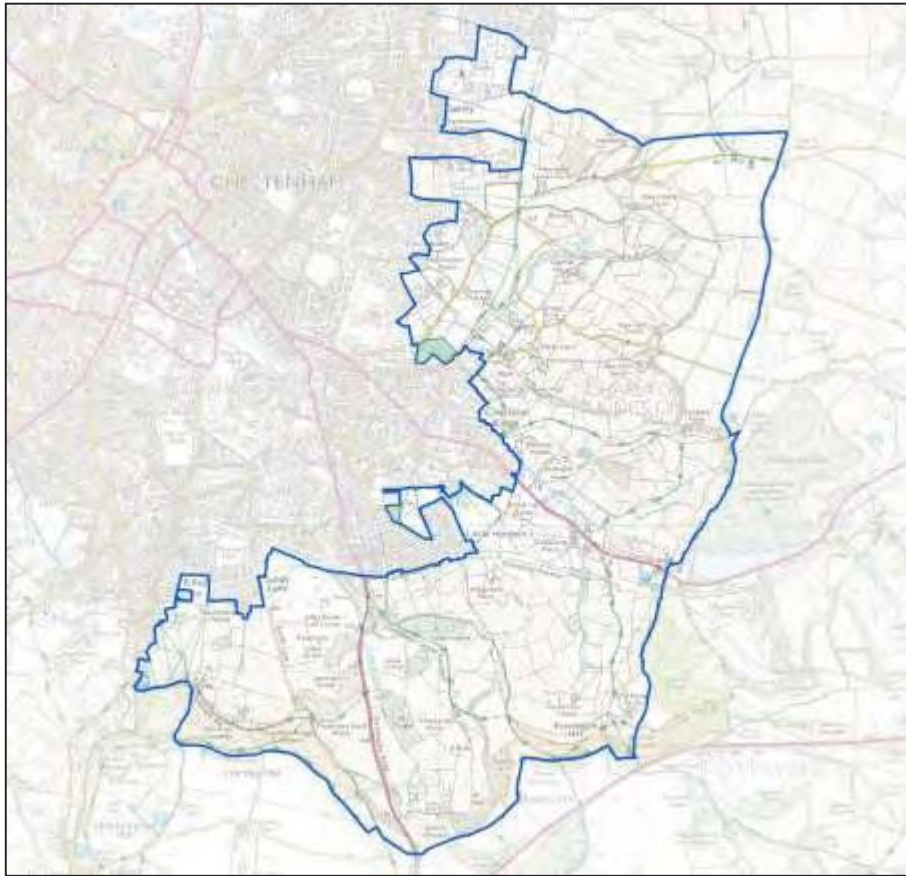


VP5. View looking east from southwest edge of area



VP6. View looking east from western edge of area

2. COMMUNITY ALLOTMENT



Reflecting the typical character of allotments, this character type is small scale and comprises a specific land use with solely allotment use. Boundaries are often mixed but generally formed by post and mesh wire fencing and close board fencing. Numerous small structures are a common feature with sheds and greenhouses within the character type. Footpaths are also a common feature, providing access both within the area or to the boundaries.

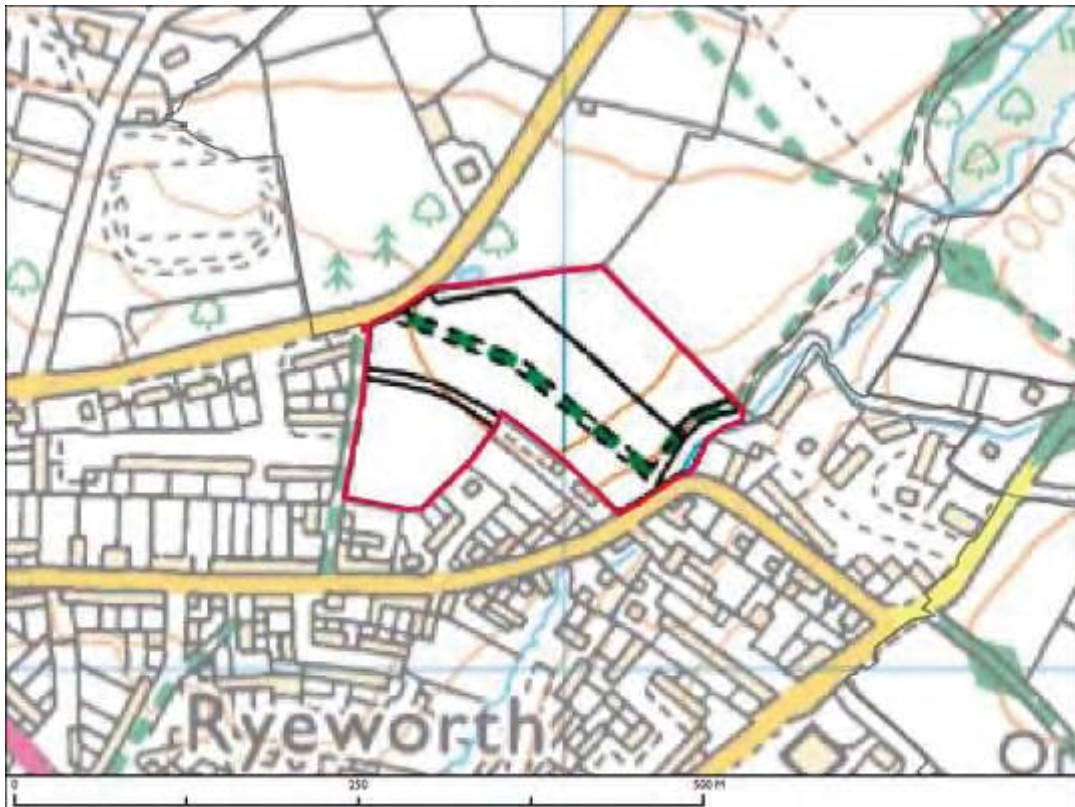
Landscape Character Type: Community Allotments

Landscape Character Area: Ryeworth Allotment

Site Ref: LCA 2.1

SITE ANALYSIS

Site Location Plan:



Landscape Issues:

Physical Influences:

Sloping topography rising to the northwest, small to medium scale site

Land Cover:

Land use comprises allotment use entirely, including numerous sheds and greenhouses

Influence of human activity:

Residential built development to the south, southeast and west

Aesthetic and perceptual aspects:

Views of the elevated escarpment slopes of the Cotswolds AONB to the east, medium tranquillity given the influence of the adjacent rural landscape character to the north and northeast

Summary of individual elements:

Medium quality elements comprising infrastructure associated with allotments such as sheds and greenhouses, well-tended allotment beds and mature hedgerow boundaries

Distinctive landscape character types:

Very distinctive and becoming more rare, given the pressure placed on the landscape by development

Overall character of the landscape:

Small to medium scale allotments with mature boundary vegetation.

Designations:

- Allotments (Local Policy Designation)

Landscape Character Appraisal:

A generally flat landscape with medium distance views of the escarpment slopes of the Cotswolds AONB to the east.

Comprising entirely allotment use, numerous sheds and greenhouses are present on site. Boundaries are defined by mature vegetation and residential boundary fencing to the west, providing some sense of enclosure to the site.

A footpath runs through the centre of the site on a northwest to southeast orientation, linking areas of residential housing that surround the site to the west, south and southeast.

Given the above, the overall Landscape Character Sensitivity is rated as high.

Visual Issues Appraisal:

Views from the site are generally contained by boundary vegetation and residential built development to the west, south and southeast. Medium distance views looking towards the rising escarpment slopes of the Cotswolds AONB are available to the northeast, east and southeast and have a strong influence on the characteristics of the site. Views into the area are available from residential properties to the south and west of the area, along with views by users of the footpath running through the centre of the area.

Key Visual Receptors:

- Residents to the west along Ashley close
- Residents to the south along Ryeworth Road
- Footpath users along footpath ZCK/26/1 through the centre of the site
- Footpath users along ZCK/6/5 to the east of the site.

Visual Sensitivity:

As summarised in the visual issues appraisal, the views are generally contained, though with some medium distance views looking towards the rising escarpment slopes of the Cotswolds AONB to the northeast, east and southeast. In combination with the views available from adjacent residential properties and the footpath through the area, the overall visual sensitivity is assessed as **High**.

Landscape Character Sensitivity:

As summarised in the landscape character appraisal, the small to medium scale of the landscape character area, high levels of well maintained boundary vegetation, sloping topography and views into the area from adjacent residential properties the overall landscape sensitivity is assessed as **High**.

Landscape Value:

With the defined use of the area as allotments, along with the footpath that exists through the centre of the area, the area is considered to have moderate recreational value. With the sloping topography of the landscape, the land is particularly visible from residential properties to the south of the area. The visual connections with the escarpment slopes to the northeast of the area are valuable perceptual aspects. The quality of the landscape elements are moderate, with predominantly hedgerow boundaries in good condition. Taking into consideration the visibility of the site and the generally good condition, the overall value of the landscape character area is assessed as **High**.

Landscape Capacity:

Visual Sensitivity	Landscape Character Sensitivity	Overall Landscape	Landscape Value	Overall Landscape Constraint	Resulting Landscape Capacity
High	High	HIGH	High	MAJOR OVERALL	LOW OVERALL

Please refer to section 2 of the main report for the description of the methodology used.

Further references:

National Landscape Character Areas:
NCA 106: Severn and Avon Vales

PHOTO SHEET FOR SITE LCA 2.1 – Ryeworth Allotment



VP1. View looking east, SE from west boundary of area



VP2. View looking east from centre of area



VP3. View looking east, southeast from centre of area



VP4. View looking southwest along southeast boundary



VP5. View looking southwest along southern boundary

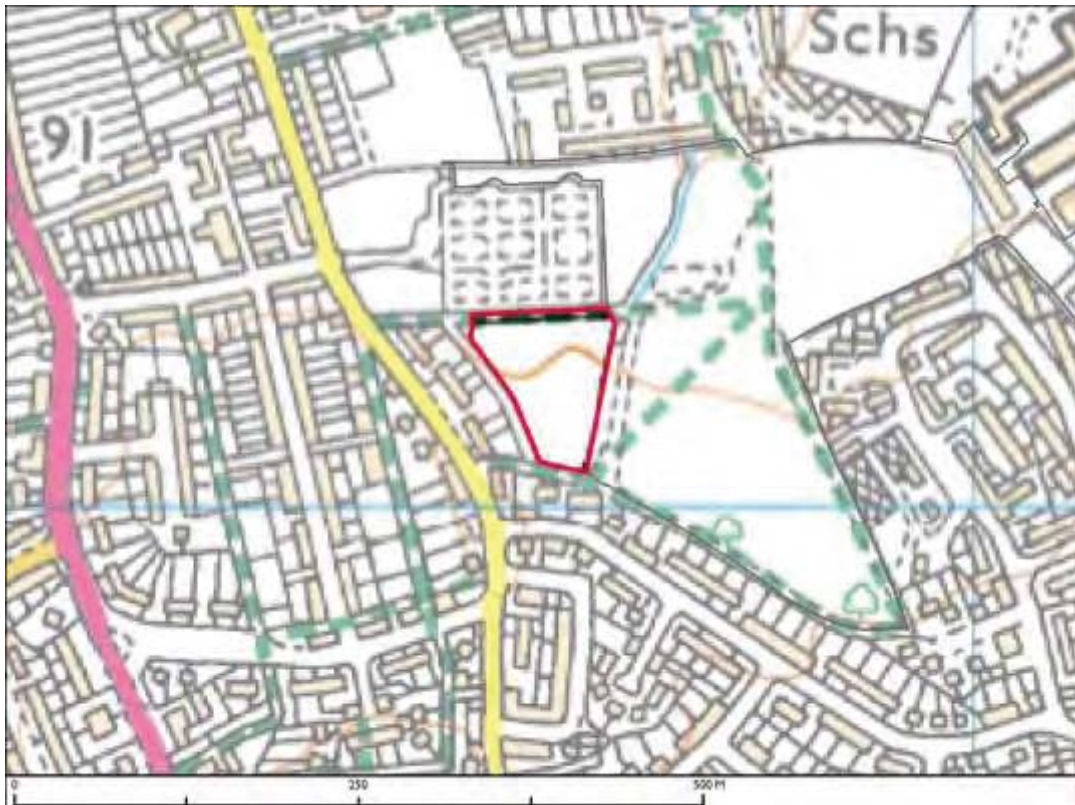


VP6. View looking northwest from southeast of area

Landscape Character Type: Community Allotments
Landscape Character Area: Little Herbert's Allotment
Site Ref: LCA 2.2

SITE ANALYSIS

Site Location Plan:



Landscape Issues:

Physical Influences:

Flat topography, small scale site

Land Cover:

Land use comprises allotment use entirely, including numerous sheds and greenhouses

Influence of human activity:

Residential built development to the south and west. Cemetery located to the north and Playing fields to the east

Aesthetic and perceptual aspects:

Views of the elevated escarpment slopes of the Cotswolds AONB to the east, medium tranquillity given the influence of the adjacent landscape character

Summary of individual elements:

Medium quality elements comprising infrastructure associated with allotments such as sheds and greenhouses, well-tended allotment beds and mature hedgerow boundaries

Distinctive landscape character types:

Very distinctive and becoming more rare, given the pressure placed on the landscape by development

Overall character of the landscape:

Small scale allotments with mature boundary vegetation.

Designations:

- Allotments (Local Policy Designation)

Landscape Character Appraisal:

A generally flat landscape with medium distance views of the escarpment slopes of the Cotswolds AONB to the east.

Comprising entirely allotment use, numerous sheds and greenhouses are present on site. Boundaries are defined by mature vegetation and a combination of close board fencing and chain link fencing, providing some sense of enclosure to the site.

A footpath runs along the northern boundary of the site, linking the playing fields to the east with the residential development to the west of the site.

Visual Issues Appraisal:

Views from the site are generally contained by boundary vegetation and residential built development to the west and south.

Medium distance views looking towards the rising escarpment slopes of the Cotswolds AONB are available to the northeast and east and have a strong influence on the characteristics of the site. Views are available into the area by adjacent residential properties to the west and south, by users of the footpath along the northern boundary of the area and by users of the playing fields to the east of the area.

Key Visual Receptors:

- Residents to the west along Little Herbert's Road
- Residents to the south along Beeches Road
- Footpath users along footpath ZCK/40/1 to the north of the site
- Footpath users along ZCK/64/1 to the south of the site
- Footpath users along ZCK/41/1 to the east of the site
- Users of The Beeches Playing Field to the east.

Visual Sensitivity:

As summarised in the visual issues appraisal above, the area is visible by a number of receptors including residential, footpath and playing field users. As such, the overall visual sensitivity is assessed as **High**.

Landscape Character Sensitivity:

As summarised in the landscape character appraisal, the small to medium scale of the landscape character area, high levels of well maintained boundary vegetation, sloping topography and views into the area from adjacent residential properties, the overall landscape sensitivity is assessed as **High**.

Landscape Value:

With the numerous footpaths that exist adjacent to the character area, along with the use as allotment gardens, the area has high recreational value. Given the proximity of adjacent residential properties overlooking the area, the area has an elevated visual sensitivity. The visual connections with the escarpment slopes to the northeast of the area are valuable perceptual aspects. The quality of the landscape elements are moderate, with predominantly hedgerow boundaries in good condition. Taking into consideration the visibility of the site and the generally good condition, the overall value of the landscape character area is assessed as **High**.

Landscape Capacity:

Visual Sensitivity	Landscape Character Sensitivity	Overall Landscape Sensitivity	Landscape Value	Overall Landscape Constraint	Resulting Landscape Capacity
High	High	HIGH	High	MAJOR OVERALL	LOW OVERALL

Please refer to section 2 of the main report for the description of the methodology used.

Further references:

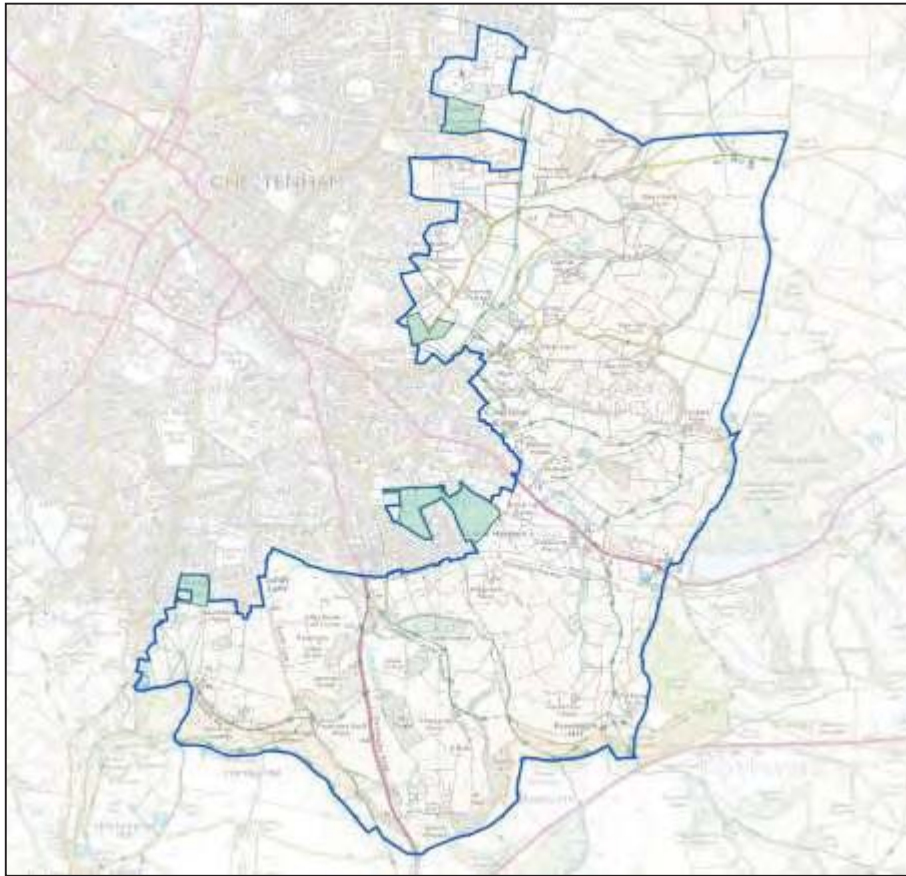
National Landscape Character Area:
NCA 106: Severn and Avon Vales

PHOTO SHEET FOR SITE LCA 2.2 – Little Herbert’s Allotments



VPI. View looking west from eastern boundary of site

3. COMMUNITY OPEN SPACE



This character type encompasses community open space with use as playing fields and cricket grounds. Reflecting the typical character of this character type is small to medium scale and comprises a specific land use. The character type within the study area is well maintained, with open spaces

Mature tree stock and Listed buildings support the well maintained and high quality character of this character type.

Boundaries are often mixed but generally formed by post and wire fencing and close board fencing. Located along the urban edge of Cheltenham, residential built form is often a visual influence of the areas, with views out towards the rising scarp slopes of the Cotswolds AONB also forming a visual influence.

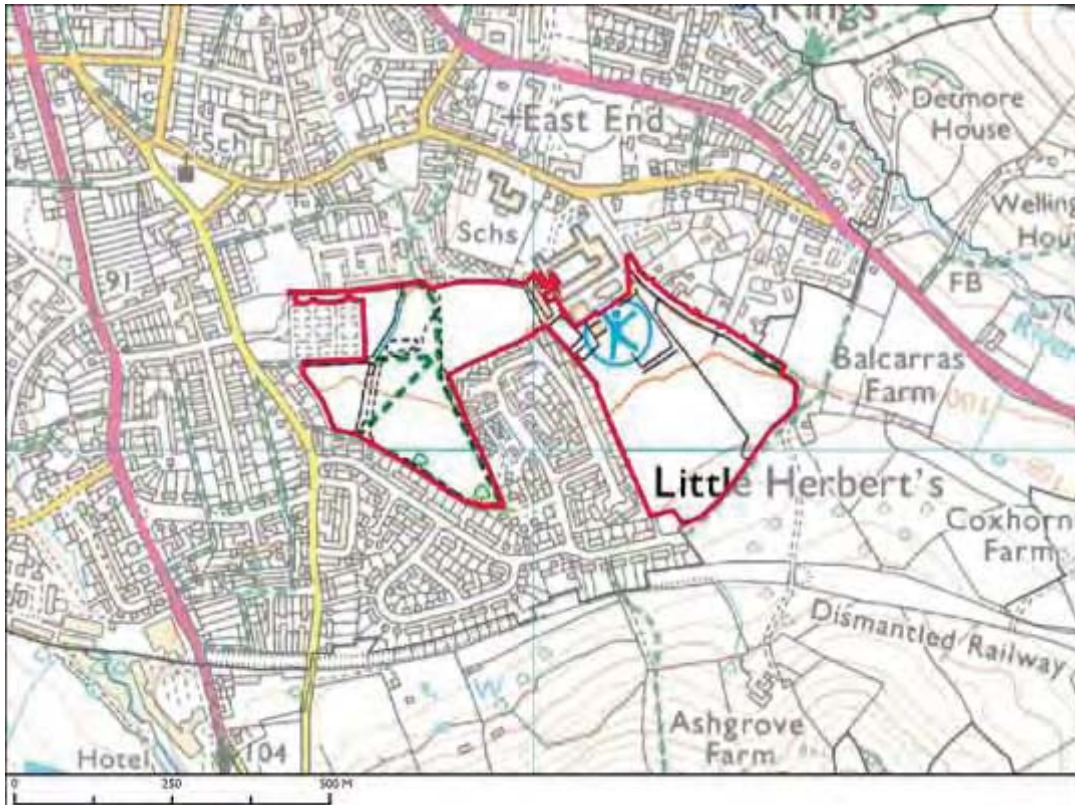
Landscape Character Type: Community Open Space

Site Name: Little Herbert's Playing Fields

Site Ref: LCA 3.1

SITE ANALYSIS

Site Location Plan:



Landscape Issues:

Physical Influences:

Open, medium to large scale area with flat topography

Land Cover:

Open large scale playing fields

Influence of human activity:

Residential built development to the north, west and south

Aesthetic and perceptual aspects:

Views to the rising escarpment slopes of the Cotswolds AONB to the east, low to medium tranquillity given the influence of the adjacent urban landscape character to the west, south and north

Summary of individual elements:

Medium quality elements comprising infrastructure associated with allotments such as sheds and greenhouses, well-tended allotment beds and mature hedgerow boundaries.

Distinctive landscape character types:

Distinctive landscape character type, more commonly found along the urban edge associated with residential development.

Overall character of the landscape:

Open, large scale recreational playing fields

Designations:

- None

Landscape Character Appraisal:

A generally flat and open landscape comprising recreational playing fields land use.

Boundaries are mixed and comprise a mix of fencing types and hedgerows, associated with the adjacent residential development. Allotment gardens to the west of the playing fields increase the vegetation levels in this direction and provide a sense of community land use. Balcarras School located directly to the north of the site has a strong influence on the site and results in the playing fields being well used by the students of the school.

Influence of the rural and wooded character of the adjacent pastoral land use to the east and the distant views of the rising escarpment slopes of the Cotswolds AONB to the east.

Visual Issues Appraisal:

Views from the site looking east look towards the rural and wooded slopes of the Cotswolds AONB are medium distance. Views to the north, west and south are restricted predominantly by the combination of flat topography and the adjacent residential development associated with the urban edge of Cheltenham.

Key Visual Receptors:

- Residents along Balcarras Road to the northeast
- Residents along Willow Road and Maple Drive to the south
- Residents along Glymrose Road and Buckles Close to the north
- Residents along Beeches Road
- Users of the allotment gardens to the west
- Staff and students of Balcarras School to the north of the site
- Footpath users along Footpaths ZCK/41/1 and ZCK/64/1 to the west and south of the site respectively
- Footpath users along Footpath ZCK/25/2 to the southeast of the site.

Visual Sensitivity:

As summarised in the visual issues appraisal above, views are generally contained, except to the east where medium distance views across to the rising escarpment slopes of the Cotswolds AONB are available. Views looking into the area are widely available by residents of the adjacent properties to the south, west and north and by users of the numerous footpaths in the area and by users of the playing fields. The overall visual sensitivity is assessed as **High**.

Landscape Character Sensitivity:

As summarised in the landscape character appraisal, the medium scale of the landscape character area, high levels of boundary vegetation, flat topography and the land use as recreational playing fields, the overall landscape sensitivity is assessed as **Medium**.

Landscape Value:

With the footpaths that exist nearby the character area, the area has moderate recreational value. Given the proximity of adjacent residential properties to the south of the area, visibility is elevated from these properties. The visual connections with the escarpment slopes to the northeast of the area are valuable perceptual aspects. The quality of the landscape elements are moderate, with predominantly hedgerow boundaries in good condition. Taking into consideration the visibility of the site, the high recreational value and the generally good condition, the overall value of the landscape character area is assessed as **High**.

Landscape Capacity:

Visual Sensitivity	Landscape Character Sensitivity	Overall Landscape Sensitivity	Landscape Value	Overall Landscape Constraint	Resulting Landscape Capacity
High	Medium	HIGH	High	MAJOR OVERALL	LOW OVERALL

Please refer to section 2 of the main report for the description of the methodology used.

Further references:

National Landscape Character Areas:
NCA 106: Severn and Avon Vales

PHOTO SHEET FOR SITE LCA 3.1 – Little Herbert’s Playing Fields



VP1. View looking north from SE of area



VP2. View looking west from footpath ZCK/41/1



VP3. View looking east from Footpath ZCK/41/1



VP4. View looking north Footpath ZCK/41/1

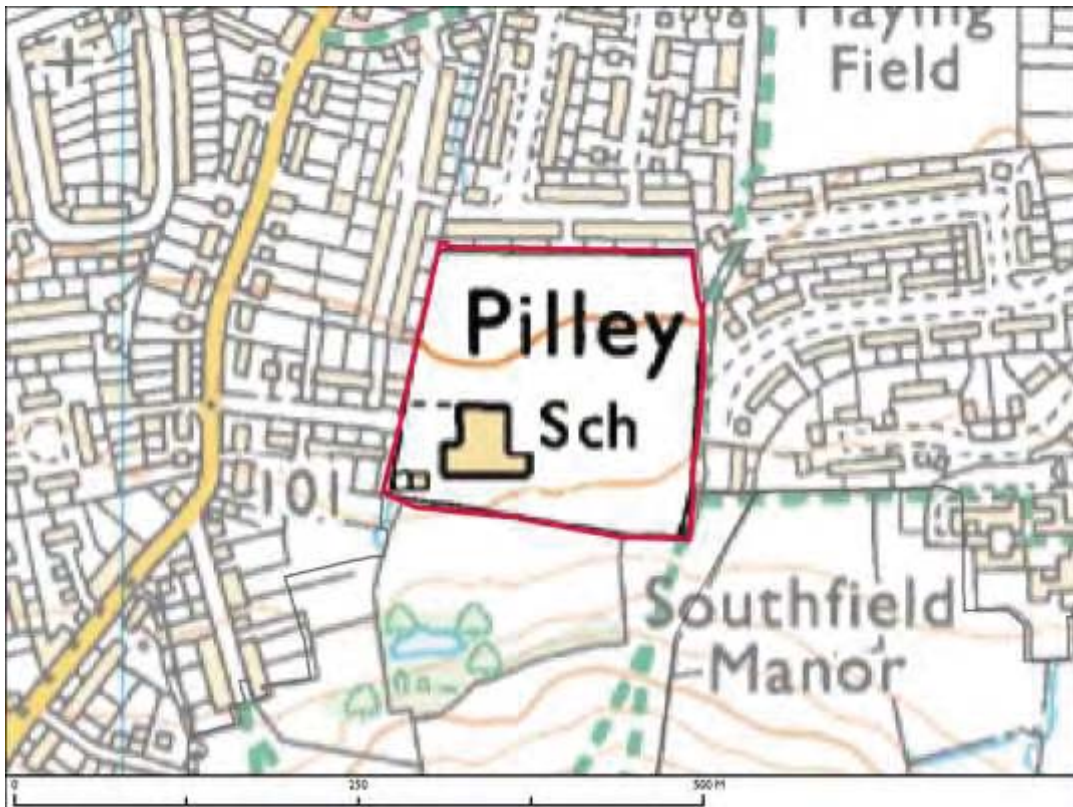


VP5. View looking east from Footpath ZCK/41/1

Landscape Character Type: Community Open Space
Landscape Character Area: Pilley Playing Fields
Site Ref: LCA 3.2

SITE ANALYSIS

Site Location Plan:



Landscape Issues:

Physical Influences:

Flat topography, open and medium scale area

Land Cover:

Playing fields associated with Pilley school

Influence of human activity:

Residential built development to the west, north and east

Aesthetic and perceptual aspects:

Short distance views in all directions, limited by both residential development to the west, north and east and by strong vegetation and rising topography to the south. Low to medium tranquillity given the influence of both the adjacent residential character and rural landscape character

Summary of individual elements:

Medium quality elements comprising infrastructure associated with playing fields

Distinctive landscape character types:

Distinctive landscape character type, more commonly found along the urban edge associated with residential development.

Overall character of the landscape:

Open, medium scale recreational playing fields character.

Designations:

- None

Landscape Character Appraisal:

A flat and open landscape comprising recreational playing field use associated with the Richard Pate School to the southwest. Boundaries types are mixed, with varied fence types to the north and west associated with residential development. Strong vegetation boundaries are present to the east and south associate with footpath ZCK/51/3 to the east and the pasture land to the south. Small woodland blocks and pasture on rising slopes (rising to the south) comprise the land use to the south.

Visual Issues Appraisal:

Views from the site are generally contained due to the flat topography and the adjacent residential development and the well vegetated boundaries to the south and east. Views are also shortened by the rising topography to the south and the small woodland blocks that exist on the rising slopes.

Open views across the site currently exist for the properties along Tensing Road to the north and Hillary Road to the west. Views across the site are also available for users of the Richard Pate School. Intermittent, glimpsed views across the site are available from footpath ZCK/51/3 to the east of the site, however these views are heavily restricted by the mature vegetation that exists along the footpath.

Key Visual Receptors:

- Residents along Tensing Road to the north
- Residents along Hillary road to the west
- Users of the Richard Pate School
- Footpath users along footpath ZCK/51/3

Visual Sensitivity:

As summarised in the visual issues appraisal above, views looking across the area are widely available by adjacent residential properties. However, views looking out, the area is generally contained by built development and boundary vegetation. As such, the overall visual sensitivity of the area is assessed as **Medium**.

Landscape Character Sensitivity:

As summarised in the landscape character appraisal, the small to medium scale of the landscape character area, high levels of well maintained boundary vegetation, flat topography and views into the area from adjacent residential properties to the west, north and east, the overall landscape sensitivity is assessed as **High**.

Landscape Value:

With the footpath that exists to the east of the area and the innate use as a recreational area, the area has moderate recreational value. With the flat topography of the landscape and the overlooking residential properties to the north, east and west of the area, the area has high visibility. The visual connections with the escarpment slopes to the south of the area are valuable perceptual aspects. The quality of the landscape elements are moderate, with predominantly hedgerow boundaries and residential fenced boundaries in predominantly good condition. Taking into consideration the visibility of the site, the innate use as a recreational area and the generally good condition, the overall value of the landscape character area is assessed as **High**.

Landscape Capacity:

Visual Sensitivity	Landscape Character Sensitivity	Overall Landscape Sensitivity	Landscape Value	Overall Landscape Constraint	Resulting Landscape Capacity
Medium	High	HIGH	High	MAJOR OVERALL	LOW OVERALL

Please refer to section 2 of the main report for the description of the methodology used.

Further references:

National Landscape Character Areas:
NCA 106: Severn and Avon Vales

PHOTO SHEET FOR SITE LCA 3.2 – Pilley Playing Fields



VP1. View looking north from footpath ZCK/51/3



VP2. View looking southwest from footpath ZCK/51/3



VP3. View looking southwest from footpath ZCK/51/3

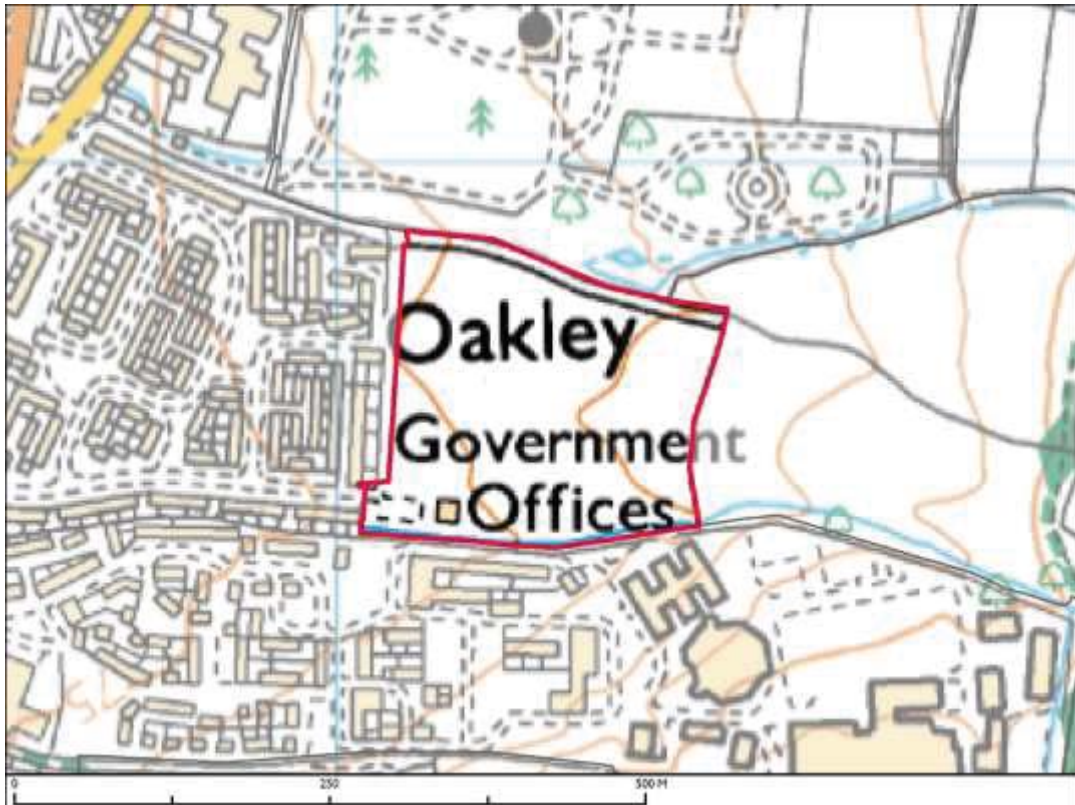
Landscape Character Type: Community Open Space

Landscape Character Area: Oakley Playing Fields

Site Ref: LCA 3.3

SITE ANALYSIS

Site Location Plan:



Landscape Issues:

Physical Influences:

Flat and open topography, medium to large scale

Land Cover:

Playing fields associated with Oakley

Influence of human activity:

Residential built development to the west and south, Bouncer's Lane Cemetery to the north

Aesthetic and perceptual aspects:

Wide, expansive open views to the east, medium tranquillity given the influence of the adjacent rural landscape character to the east and the Cemetery to the north

Summary of individual elements:

Medium quality elements including footpaths, play equipment and boundary treatments

Distinctive landscape character types:

Distinctive landscape character type, more commonly found along the urban edge associated with residential development

Overall character of the landscape:

Open, medium scale recreational playing fields.

Designations:

- None

Landscape Character Appraisal:

A flat and open landscape comprising recreational playing field use. The site is located on rising topography, resulting in its slightly elevated location, however the site itself is flat. Boundaries types are mixed, with varied fence types to the south and west associated with residential development. Strong vegetation boundaries are present to the east associated with the rural land use. Small woodland blocks and pasture on rising slopes (rising to the east) comprise the land use to the east. Demolition works are currently underway of the Government Offices to the south of the site, where works are visible from the playing fields.

Visual Issues Appraisal:

Views from the area are contained to the north and south by well vegetated boundaries associated with residential development and the Cemetery to the north. Views to the west are elevated and look across residential development associated with the urban edge of Cheltenham. Views to the east look towards the rising escarpment slopes of the Cotswolds AONB and the associated pasture and small woodland blocks.

Open views across the site currently exist for the properties along Goodrich Road to the south and Kimberley and Salamanca Roads to the west.

Views across the site are also available for users of the Cheltenham Circular Footpath to the east of the site, however these views are restricted in places by the intervening mature vegetation.

Key Visual Receptors:

- Residents along Salamanca road and Kimberley road to the west
- Residents along Goodrich Road to the south
- Users of the Cheltenham Circular Footpath to the east

Visual Sensitivity:

As summarised in the visual issues appraisal above, views from the area are contained by boundary vegetation and residential development to the north and south, however views to the east and west take in elevated views across Cheltenham and towards the rising slopes of the Cotswolds AONB. Taking this into account, the overall visual sensitivity is assessed as **High**.

Landscape Character Sensitivity:

As summarised in the landscape character appraisal, the small to medium scale of the landscape character area, high levels of well maintained boundary vegetation, sloping topography and views into the area from adjacent residential properties and Harp Hill, the overall landscape sensitivity is assessed as **High**.

Landscape Value:

With the innate recreational use that comes with the playing fields land use, the area has moderate recreational value. With the rising topography that the playing fields are situated on, the area is visible, particularly from the urban area of Cheltenham to the west. The visual connections with the escarpment slopes to the northeast and east of the area are valuable perceptual aspects. The quality of the landscape elements are moderate, with predominantly hedgerow boundaries in good condition. Taking into consideration the visibility of the site, the high recreational use and the generally good condition, the overall value of the landscape character area is assessed as **High**.

Landscape Capacity:

Visual Sensitivity	Landscape Character Sensitivity	Overall Landscape Sensitivity	Landscape Value	Overall Landscape Constraint	Resulting Landscape Capacity
High	High	HIGH	High	MAJOR OVERALL	LOW OVERALL

Please refer to section 2 of the main report for the description of the methodology used.

Further references:

National Landscape Character Areas:
NCA 106: Severn and Avon Vales

PHOTO SHEET FOR SITE LCA 3.3 – Oakley Playing Fields



VP1. View looking NE from SW corner of playing fields



VP2. View looking east from southwest corner of playing fields



VP3. View looking west from SE corner of playing fields



VP4. View looking northwest from southeast corner of playing fields



VP5. View looking NE from SE corner of playing fields



VP6. View looking east from southeast corner of playing fields

Landscape Character Type: Community Open Space

Landscape Character Area: Battledown Cricket Ground and Playing Fields

Site Ref: LCA 3.4

SITE ANALYSIS

Site Location Plan:



Landscape Issues:

Physical Influences:

Flat, small scale topography

Land Cover:

Currently utilised as a Cricket Ground and a Playing Field, the land cover comprises principally open grassland

Influence of human activity:

Residential built development to the north, Battledown Estate to the west and Ryeworth Allotment to the southwest

Aesthetic and perceptual aspects:

Views are generally contained by the surrounding mature well tree boundaries, moderate to high tranquillity given the influence of the adjacent rural landscape character to the east

Distinctive landscape character types:

Distinctive and becoming more rare, given the pressure placed on the landscape by development

Overall character of the landscape:

Flat, small to medium scale grassed recreational ground with mature vegetation to boundaries.

Designations:

- Cotswolds AONB to the southeast of the area. Remainder of area not designated.

Landscape Character Appraisal:

A generally flat and gently sloping (to the southeast) and small to medium scale landscape with two key areas. To the southeast the area comprises principally grass associated with the cricket ground land use including a small timber club house and with mature, well vegetated boundaries. The Cricket ground falls within an area designated as the Cotswolds AONB. To the northwest, the area comprises a medium scale flat area associated with paying fields, with open grassed land cover. The boundary to the northwest is defined by mature trees beyond which residential development is located.

Greenway Lane divides the playing fields and the Cricket Ground through the centre of the area and is lined on both sides with mature tree vegetation.

Visual Issues Appraisal:

Views from the site looking southeast are generally filtered by intervening vegetation, though where views are available, they are medium distance, looking towards the elevated and wooded escarpment slopes within the Cotswolds AONB.

Views to the north, west and south are contained by the mature well vegetated boundaries to the site.

Key Visual Receptors:

- Residents on Ashley Road
- Visitors to the allotment gardens to the southwest
- Road users along Greenway Lane
-

Visual Sensitivity:

As summarised in the visual issues appraisal above, views are predominantly filtered and screened by mature boundary vegetation. However, visual connections exist to the southeast to the rising slopes of the Cotswolds AONB. As such, the overall visual sensitivity is assessed as **Medium**.

Landscape Character Sensitivity:

As summarised in the landscape character appraisal, the small to medium scale of the landscape character area, high levels of well maintained boundary vegetation, sloping topography and views into the area from adjacent residential properties, the overall landscape sensitivity is assessed as **High**.

Landscape Value:

The landscape character area falls partially within the designated area known as the Cotswolds AONB, which is a national designation. Given the nature of the community open spaces, the area has high recreational value. With the gently sloping topography of the landscape the land is particularly visible from residential properties to the south of the area. The visual connections with the escarpment slopes to the northeast of the area are valuable perceptual aspects. The quality of the landscape elements are moderate, with predominantly hedgerow boundaries in good condition. Given the LCA falls partially within a nationally recognised AONB designation, and taking into consideration the visibility of the site and the generally good condition, the overall value of the landscape character area is assessed as **High**.

Landscape Capacity:

Visual Sensitivity	Landscape Character Sensitivity	Overall Landscape Sensitivity	Landscape Value	Overall Landscape Constraint	Resulting Landscape Capacity
Medium	High	HIGH	High	MAJOR OVERALL	LOW OVERALL

Please refer to section 2 of the main report for the description of the methodology used.

Further references:

National Landscape Character Areas:
NCA 106: Severn and Avon Vales

Cotswolds AONB Landscape Character Assessment:
LCT: 2. Escarpment
LCA: 2D – Cooper’s Hill to Winchcombe

PHOTO SHEET FOR SITE LCA 3.4 – Battledown Cricket Ground and Playing Fields



VP1. View looking southeast from west of area

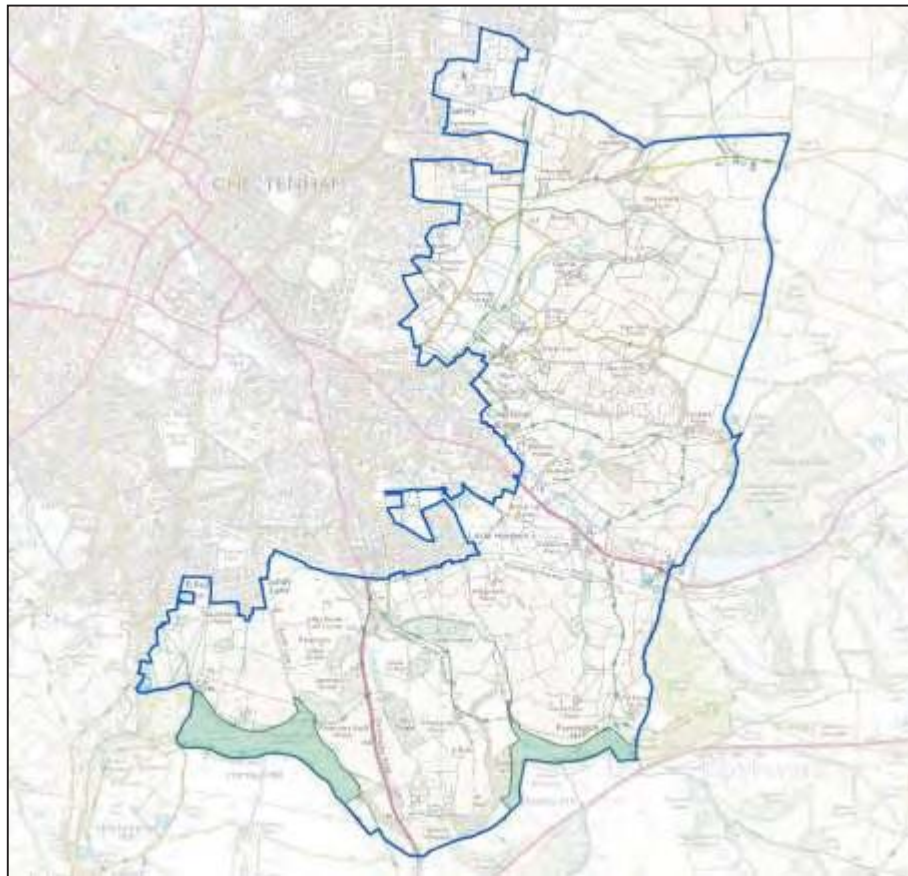


VP2. View looking southeast from west of area



VP3. View looking southeast from west of area

4. ESCARPMENT



The scarp slope of the Cotswolds forms a major landscape feature within the study area, particularly prevalent to the south and southeast. It forms an abrupt face of Jurassic limestone and Lias clay rising in concave profile from the plain below, the slopes steepening towards the top edge. In some areas outcrops of exposed rock occur. The scarp face is outward looking, elevated and exposed.

Land cover comprises principally rough pasture, scrubby moorland with bracken, broom and gorse. Small areas of native woodland towards the lower elevations of the escarpment.

Settlement is very sparse throughout this character type, due to the steeply sloping topography. A small number of individual farmstead properties occur.

Roads within this character type are not a feature, however footpaths including the Cotswold Way National Trail are a common feature.

Landscape Character Type: Escarpment
Landscape Character Area: Hartley Hill Escarpment
Site Ref: LCA 4.1

SITE ANALYSIS

Site Location Plan:



Landscape Issues:

Physical Influences:

Sloping and open, large scale topography

Land Cover:

Escarpment moorland and pasture farmland

Influence of human activity:

Distant views of residential built development to the north

Aesthetic and perceptual aspects:

Wide, expansive open views to the north, high tranquillity

Summary of individual elements:

High quality well maintained elements including footpath trails, gorse and escarpment moor

Distinctive landscape character types:

Very distinctive and becoming more rare, given the pressure placed on the landscape by development.

Overall character of the landscape:

Open, large scale, elevated pasture and moorland character.

Designations:

- Cotswolds AONB
- Local Nature Reserve
- Site of Special Scientific Interest
- Cotswold Way National Trail

Visual Issues Appraisal:

Views from the site are wide and long distance panoramic, looking north across the built development of Cheltenham. Views to the northeast take in the elevated hill ranges of the Cotswolds AONB to the northeast and east.

Landscape Character Appraisal:

An elevated and sloping landscape with wide and long distance panoramic views, particularly to the north. Comprising principally open moorland and pasture with some grazing use, the landscape is generally open with areas of Gorse and Broom and small areas of woodland.

The landscape is tranquil in nature given the rural context and the adjacent rural landscape character to the north and south and the lack of built features within the landscape character area itself.

Key Visual Receptors:

- Footpath users of Cotswold Way National Trail
- Residents of properties along Daisy Bank Road
- Residents of Cheltenham (particularly those to the south and east)
- Footpaths throughout Cheltenham Borough, particularly to the east and south of the Borough.

Visual Sensitivity:

As summarised above, the views looking from the area are expansive and panoramic, resulting in an overall visual sensitivity of **High**.

Landscape Character Sensitivity:

As summarised in the landscape character appraisal, the medium to large scale of the landscape character area, open characteristics, numerous footpaths including the Cotswold Way National Trail, sloping topography and open, expansive and panoramic views from the area, the overall landscape sensitivity is assessed as **High**.

Landscape Value:

The landscape character area falls within the designated area known as the Cotswolds AONB, which is a national designation. With the numerous footpaths that exist across the character area, including the Cotswold Way National Trail, the area has high recreational value. With the sloping topography of the landscape the land is particularly visible from residential properties to the north of the area. The visual connections looking north across the urban form of Cheltenham and the escarpment slopes to the northeast of the area, these are considered to be valuable perceptual aspects. The quality of the landscape elements are high. Given the LCA falls within a nationally recognised AONB designation, and taking into consideration the visibility of the site and the generally good condition, the overall value of the landscape character area is assessed as **High**.

Landscape Capacity:

Visual Sensitivity	Landscape Character Sensitivity	Overall Landscape Sensitivity	Landscape Value	Overall Landscape Constraint	Resulting Landscape Capacity
High	High	HIGH	High	MAJOR OVERALL	LOW OVERALL

Please refer to section 2 of the main report for the description of the methodology used.

Further references:

National Landscape Character Areas:
NCA 106: Severn and Avon Vales

Cotswolds AONB Landscape Character Assessment:

LCT: 2. Escarpment

LCA: 2D – Cooper’s Hill to Winchcombe

LCT: 7. High Wold

LCA: 7C – Cotswolds High Wold Plateau

PHOTO SHEET FOR SITE LCA 4.1 – Hartley Hill Escarpment



VP1. View looking northwest from the Cotswold Way



VP2. View looking north, northwest from the Cotswold Way



VP3. View looking northeast from the Cotswold Way



VP4. View looking east from the Cotswold Way



VP5. View looking north from the Cotswold Way



VP6. View looking west from footpath ZCK/58/2

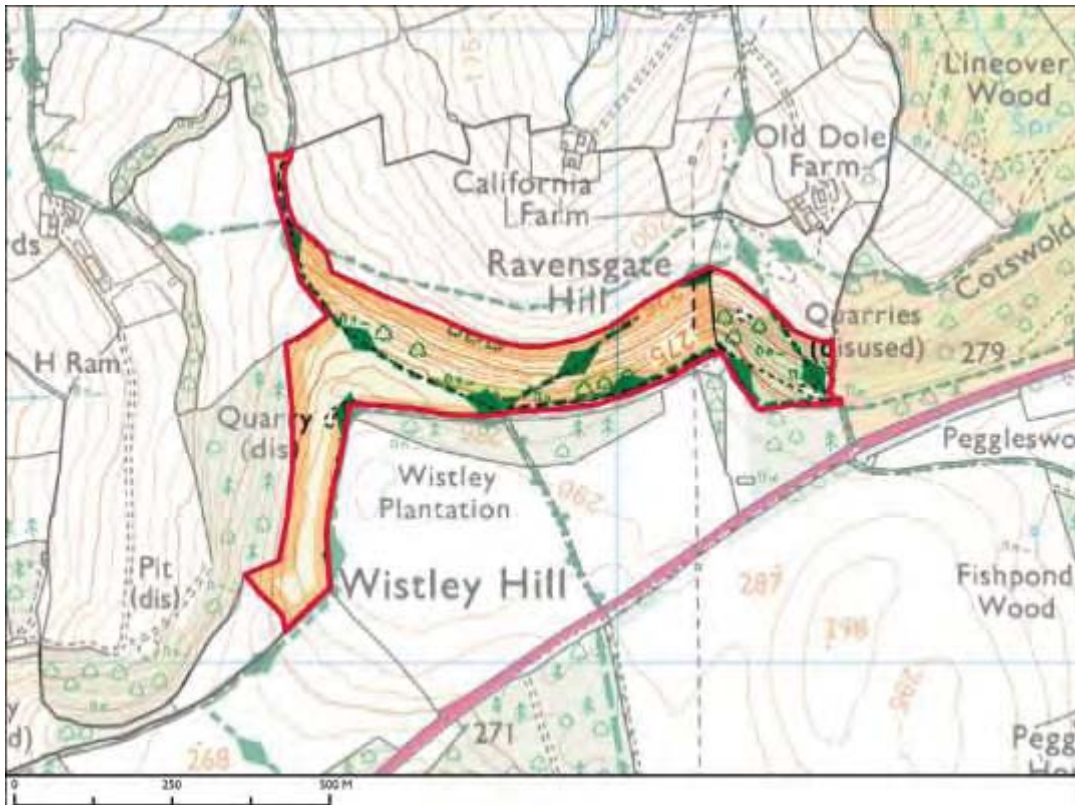
Landscape Character Type: Escarpment

Landscape Character Area: Ravensgate Hill Escarpment

Site Ref: LCA 4.2

SITE ANALYSIS

Site Location Plan:



Landscape Issues:

Physical Influences:

Sloping and open, large scale topography.

Land Cover:

Escarpment moorland and pasture farmland.

Influence of human activity:

Distant views of residential built development to the north and northwest

Aesthetic and perceptual aspects:

Wide, expansive open views to the north, high tranquillity

Summary of individual elements:

High quality well maintained elements including footpath trails, gorse and escarpment moor.

Distinctive landscape character types:

Very distinctive and becoming more rare, given the pressure placed on the landscape by development.

Overall character of the landscape:

Open, large scale, elevated pasture and moorland character.

Designations:

- Cotswolds AONB
- Cotswold Way National Trail

Landscape Character Appraisal:

An elevated and sloping landscape with wide and long distance panoramic views, particularly to the north. Comprising principally open moorland and improved pasture with some grazing use, the landscape is generally open with areas of Gorse and Broom and small woodland copse. The landscape is tranquil in nature given the rural context, the adjacent rural landscape character to the north and south and the lack of built features within the landscape character area itself.

Visual Issues Appraisal:

Views from the site are wide and long distance panoramic views, looking north across the built development of Cheltenham. Views to the northeast take in the elevated hill ranges of the Cotswolds AONB to the northeast and east.

Key Visual Receptors:

- Footpath users of the Cotswold Way National Trail
- Residents of properties along Daisy Bank Road
- Residents of Cheltenham (particularly those to the south and east)
- Footpaths throughout Cheltenham Borough, particularly to the east and south of the Borough.

Visual Sensitivity:

As summarised above, the views looking from the area are expansive and panoramic, resulting in an overall visual sensitivity of **High**.

Landscape Character Sensitivity:

As summarised in the landscape character appraisal, the medium to large scale of the landscape character area, open characteristics, a number of footpaths including the Cotswold Way National Trail, sloping topography and open, expansive and panoramic views from the area, the overall landscape sensitivity is assessed as **High**.

Landscape Value:

The landscape character area falls within the designated area known as the Cotswolds AONB, which is a national designation. With the various footpaths that exist across the character area, the area has moderate recreational value. With the sloping topography of the landscape the land is particularly visible from residential properties to the south of the area. The visual connections with the escarpment slopes to the northeast of the area are valuable perceptual aspects. The quality of the landscape elements are high. Given the LCA falls within a nationally recognised AONB designation, and taking into consideration the visibility of the site and the generally good condition, the overall value of the landscape character area is assessed as **High**.

Landscape Capacity:

Visual Sensitivity	Landscape Character Sensitivity	Overall Landscape Sensitivity	Landscape Value	Overall Landscape Constraint	Resulting Landscape Capacity
High	High	HIGH	High	MAJOR OVERALL	LOW OVERALL

Please refer to section 2 of the main report for the description of the methodology used.

Further references:

National Landscape Character Areas:
NCA 106: Severn and Avon Vales

Cotswolds AONB Landscape Character Assessment:
LCT: 2. Escarpment
LCA: 2D – Cooper’s Hill to Winchcombe

LCT: 7. High Wold
LCA: 7C – Cotswolds High Wold Plateau

LCT: 8. High Wold Valley
LCA: 8C – Upper Churn Valley

PHOTO SHEET FOR SITE LCA 4.2 – Ravensgate Hill Escarpment



VP1. View looking south from footpath ZCK/62/1



VP2. View looking southeast from footpath ZCK/62/1



VP3. View looking south from footpath ZCK/62/1



VP4. View looking southwest from footpath ZCK/62/1

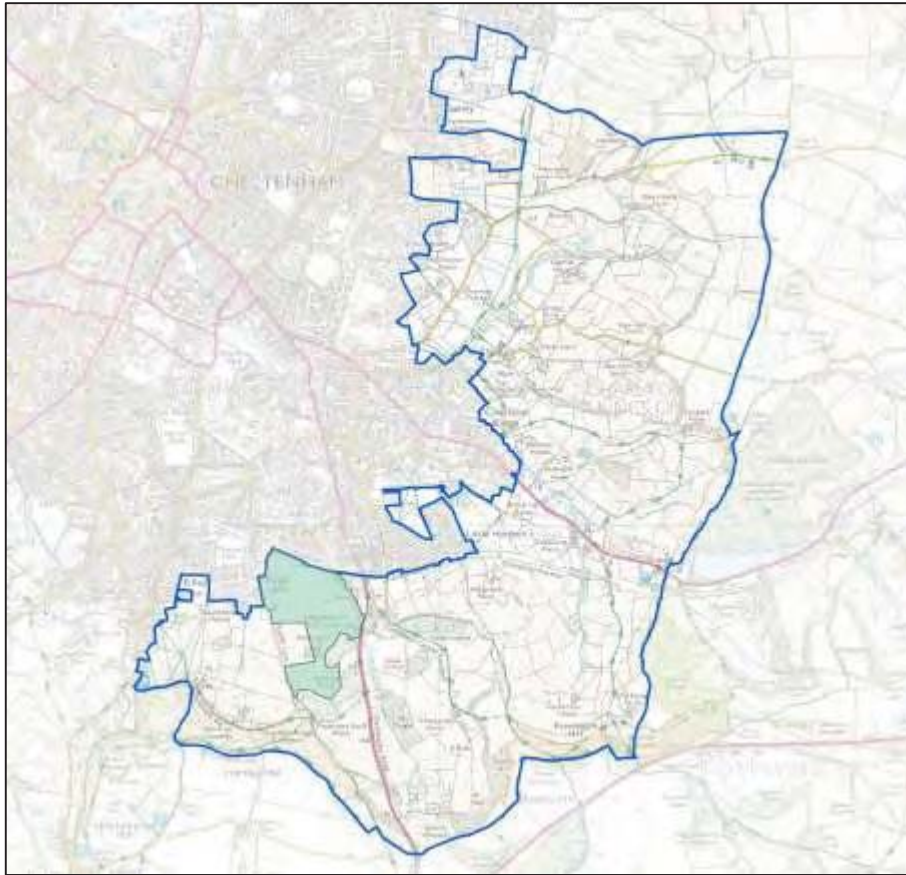


VP5. View looking southeast from footpath ZCK/53/5



VP6. View looking east from footpath ZCK/53/6

5. GOLF COURSE

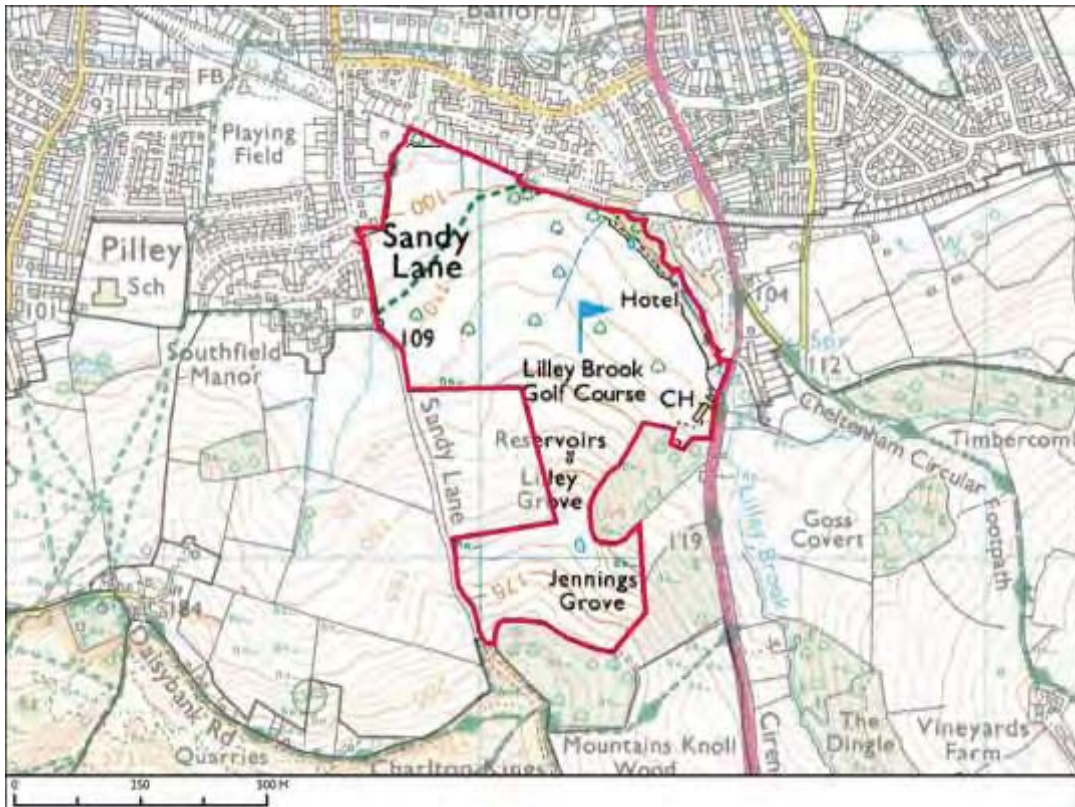


Reflecting the typical character of golf courses, the character type is well maintained and exists on the rising slopes of the escarpment character type. The boundaries are generally well vegetated with mature trees. Access into the type is limited as under private usage, though adjacent local footpaths allow some visibility of the type.

Landscape Character Type: Golf Course
Landscape Character Area: Lilley Brook Golf Course
Site Ref: LCA 5.1

SITE ANALYSIS

Site Location Plan:



Landscape Issues:

Physical Influences:

Sloping and undulating, open, medium scale topography

Land Cover:

Golf course with small scattered areas of woodland

Influence of human activity:

Residential built development to the north

Aesthetic and perceptual aspects:

Open views to the north, medium to high tranquillity given the influence of the adjacent escarpment landscape character to the south

Summary of individual elements:

High quality well maintained elements associated with the golf course including well maintained greens, bunkers, tree stock and boundaries

Distinctive landscape character types:

Very distinctive within the study area

Overall character of the landscape:

Open, medium scale golf course character.

Designations:

- Cotswolds AONB

Landscape Character Appraisal:

A generally sloping and undulating landscape with elevated views to the north, looking across the urban edge of Cheltenham. Land use is defined by the Lilley Brook Golf Course. The boundaries to the Golf course are very well vegetated with mature vegetation along the length of Sandy Lane to the west and riparian vegetation associated with Southfield Brook to the northwest and Lilley Brook to the east, along with Lilley Grove, Jennings Grove and Mountains Knoll Woods to the east and south of the area respectively.

Visual Issues Appraisal:

Views from the site looking south are contained by mature woodland and rising topography associated with Hartley Hill escarpment. Views are also contained to the east and west due to mature woodland on both sides. Views are available looking across the residential development associated with Cheltenham urban edge to the north, including an industrial estate and hotel immediately to the north.

Views looking into the site are limited in places due to the surrounding vegetation, however views are available from residential properties to the north along Longway Avenue and Parkwood Grove and from local footpaths ZCK/58/1 and ZCK/52/1.

Elevated views into the area are available from the Cotswold Way to the south, looking into the site from Hartley Hill / Charlton Kings Common.

Key Visual Receptors:

- Residents along Longway avenue and Parkwood Grove to the north
- Footpath users along Sandy Lane to the west
- Footpath users along local footpaths ZCK/58/1 and ZCK/52/1
- Footpath users along Cotswold Way National Trail to the south

Visual Sensitivity:

As summarised above, the views looking from the area are expansive and long distance particularly towards the south of the area, with open views into the area by adjacent residential properties and footpath users, resulting in an overall visual sensitivity of **High**.

Landscape Character Sensitivity:

As summarised in the landscape character appraisal, the small to medium scale of the landscape character area, high levels of well maintained boundary vegetation, sloping topography and views into the area from adjacent residential properties and Harp Hill, the overall landscape sensitivity is assessed as **High**.

Landscape Value:

The landscape character area falls within the designated area known as the Cotswolds AONB, which is a national designation. With the sole use of the area as recreational ground, the area has a high recreational and amenity value. With the sloping topography of the landscape the land is particularly visible from residential properties to the north of the area. The visual connections with the escarpment slopes to the east and south of the area are valuable perceptual aspects. The quality of the landscape elements are moderate, with predominantly outgrown hedgerow and woodland boundaries in good condition. Given the LCA falls within a nationally recognised AONB designation, and taking into consideration the visibility of the site and the generally good condition, the overall value of the landscape character area is assessed as **High**.

Landscape Capacity:

Visual Sensitivity	Landscape Character Sensitivity	Overall Landscape Sensitivity	Landscape Value	Overall Landscape Constraint	Resulting Landscape Capacity
High	High	HIGH	High	MAJOR OVERALL	LOW OVERALL

Please refer to section 2 of the main report for the description of the methodology used.

Further references:

National Landscape Character Areas:
NCA 106: Severn and Avon Vales

Cotswolds AONB Landscape Character Assessment:
LCT: 2. Escarpment
LCA: 2D – Cooper’s Hill to Winchcombe

PHOTO SHEET FOR SITE LCA 5.1 – Lilley Brook Golf Course



VP1. View looking north from Hartley hill escarpment



VP2. View looking east from footpath Sandy Lane



VP3. View looking east from Sandy Lane



VP4. View looking northeast from Sandy Lane

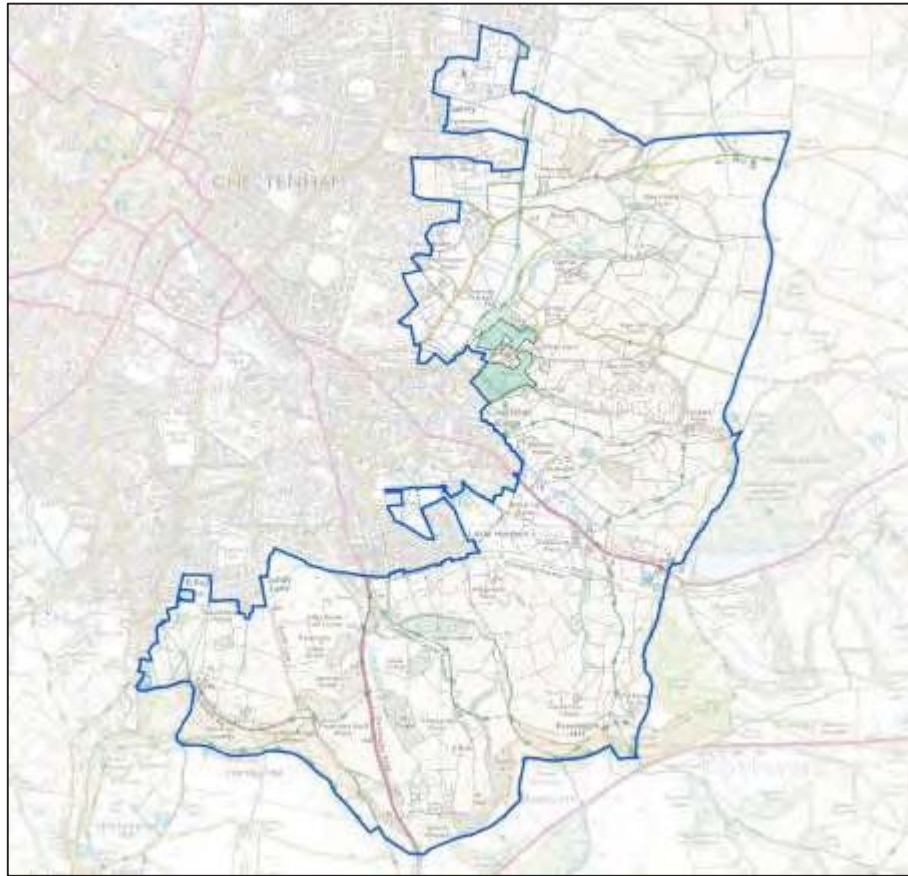


VP5. View looking east from Sandy Lane



VP6. View looking west from the Cheltenham Park Hotel

6. LOWER PASTURE



The lower pasture character type is located along the lowland area immediately adjacent to the eastern urban edge of Cheltenham. Generally flat in nature, the lower pasture is located before the slopes begin to rise towards the east.

Land cover comprises principally pasture, in varying degrees of condition. Boundaries are generally in good condition and principally comprise hedgerows (some well maintained and some outgrown) and post and rail fencing.

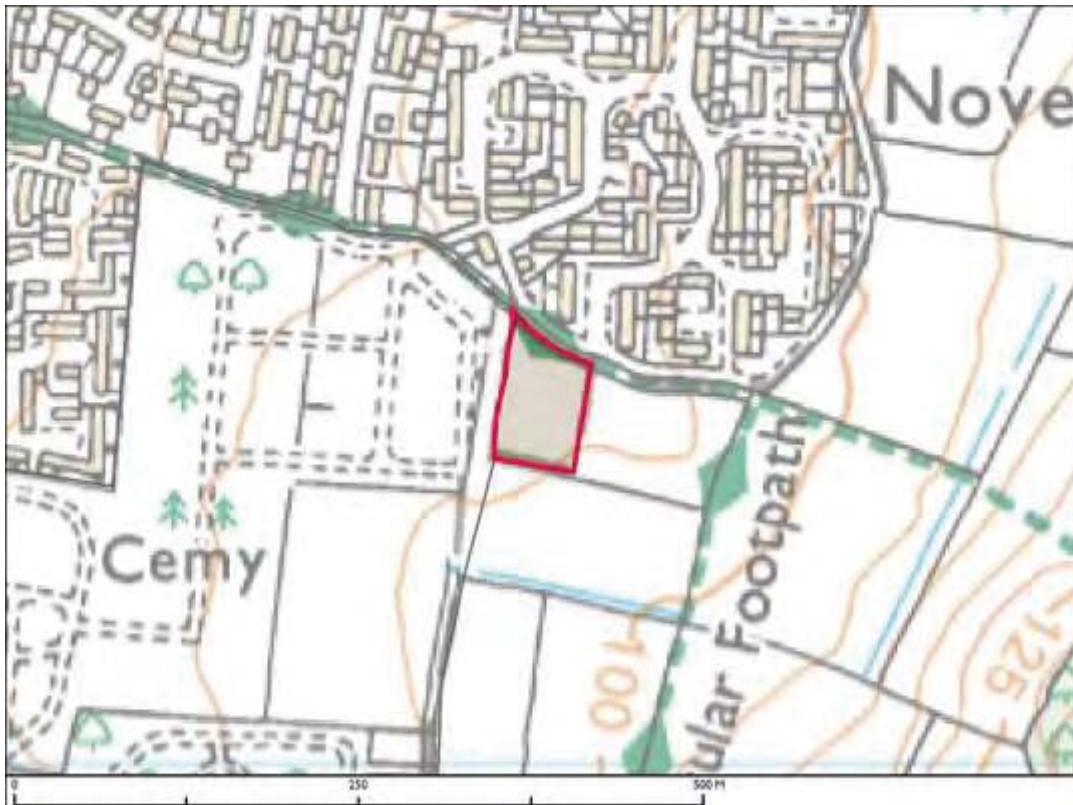
Settlement is very sparse throughout this character type. A small number of individual farmstead properties occur.

Roads within this character type are not common, although those that do exist align generally on an east to west orientation. However local footpaths including the Cheltenham Circular Trail are a common feature.

Landscape Character Type: Lower Pasture
Landscape Character Area: Noverton Lower Pasture
Site Ref: LCA 6.1

SITE ANALYSIS

Site Location Plan:



Landscape Issues:

Physical Influences:

Flat, small scale topography

Land Cover:

Pasture farmland with mature, well vegetated boundaries

Influence of human activity:

Residential built development to the north and Bouncers Lane Cemetery to the west

Aesthetic and perceptual aspects:

Wide, expansive open views to the east, medium to high tranquillity given the influence of the adjacent rural landscape character to the east

Summary of individual elements:

Medium quality elements including footpaths and mature outgrown boundary vegetation and post and rail fencing

Distinctive landscape character types:

Distinctive and becoming more rare, given the pressure placed on the landscape by development

Overall character of the landscape:

Flat, small scale pastoral character.

Designations:

- Local Green Space

Landscape Character Appraisal:

A generally flat and small scale landscape with comprising principally pastoral land use with mature, well vegetated boundaries. The boundary to the north is defined by mature riparian trees and vegetation associated with a water drain which runs along the northern boundary, beyond which residential development is located.

To the west Bouncers Lane Cemetery is located, which currently has a fenced boundary along with mature outgrown hedgerow vegetation. To the south, mature outgrown hedgerow vegetation also forms the boundary. To the east, the boundary has a number of gaps, with a post and rail fence forming the key boundary treatment.

The area appears to be well used by dog walkers accessing the land beyond to the east.

Visual Issues Appraisal:

Views from the site looking east are open and medium distance, looking towards the elevated and wooded scarp slopes within the Cotswolds AONB.

Views to the north, west and south are contained by the mature well vegetated boundaries to the site.

Local footpath users have visibility into the area from footpath CHP/16/1 to the north and footpath ASM/90/2 to the east.

Strong and mature well vegetated boundaries to the north limit views into the site from adjacent residential properties to the north.

Key Visual Receptors:

- Residents on Westwood Lane and Roberts Road to the north
- Visitors to Bouncers Lane cemetery to the west
- Local footpath users along footpath CHP/16/1 to the north and footpath ASM/90/2 to the east

Visual Sensitivity:

As summarised above, the views looking from the area to the east are expansive look towards the rising slopes of the Cotswolds AONB, with views in other direction being generally contained by boundary vegetation and fencing, resulting in an overall visual sensitivity of **Medium**.

Landscape Character Sensitivity:

As summarised in the landscape character appraisal, the small to medium scale of the landscape character area, high levels of boundary vegetation and very gently sloping topography, the overall landscape sensitivity is assessed as **Medium**

Landscape Value:

With the numerous footpaths that exist across the character area, the area has moderate recreational value. The visual connections with the escarpment slopes to the northeast of the area are valuable perceptual aspects. The quality of the landscape elements is moderate, with predominantly hedgerow boundaries in good condition. The area is known locally as the Alan Robson Memorial Field, and was acquired by the local Parish Council in 1976. The area has been left as a natural open space with public access for the quiet enjoyment of the countryside. Taking into consideration the high levels of community use by local dog walkers and the generally good condition, the overall value of the landscape character area is assessed as **High**.

Landscape Capacity:

Visual Sensitivity	Landscape Character Sensitivity	Overall Landscape Sensitivity	Landscape Value	Overall Landscape Constraint	Resulting Landscape Capacity
Medium	Medium	MEDIUM	High	MAJOR OVERALL	LOW OVERALL

Overall, 6.1 has been assessed as having a major overall landscape constraint and a low overall landscape capacity. However, through professional judgement, it is considered that some development within this character area could be permissible and therefore, planning principles for this character area have been developed.

Please refer to section 2 of the main report for the description of the methodology used.

Further references:

National Landscape Character Area:
NCA 106: Severn and Avon Vales

Landscape Character Type: Lower Pasture
Landscape Character Area: Noverton Lower Pasture
Site Ref: LCA 6.1

PLANNING PRINCIPLES

Landscape Principles Plan:



Principles for development:

The adjacent cemetery, surrounding settled residential context to the north, and lack of commercial or industrial development indicates that if development were to be considered in this location, residential development would be the most appropriate. With the flat topography of the area, the strong existing boundary vegetation and the local context of residential housing, it is recommended that should development be considered here, one of the key suggestions would be to retain the existing strong boundary vegetation.

Provision of well-established and thoughtful boundary planting, particularly to the west of the area to ensure views into the site from the adjacent Cemetery are not compromised.

Site Integration:

Fields and boundaries are comprised of a combination of timber post and rail fencing and mature hedgerow vegetation. Improvement to the existing fencing infrastructure and gapping up of existing hedgerow and planted boundaries is recommended.

PHOTO SHEET FOR SITE LCA 6.1 – Noverton Lower Pasture



VP1. View looking south from north of area



VP2. View looking southeast from east of area



VP3. View looking north from southeast of area



VP4. View looking northeast from centre of area



VP5. View looking southeast from NW corner of area

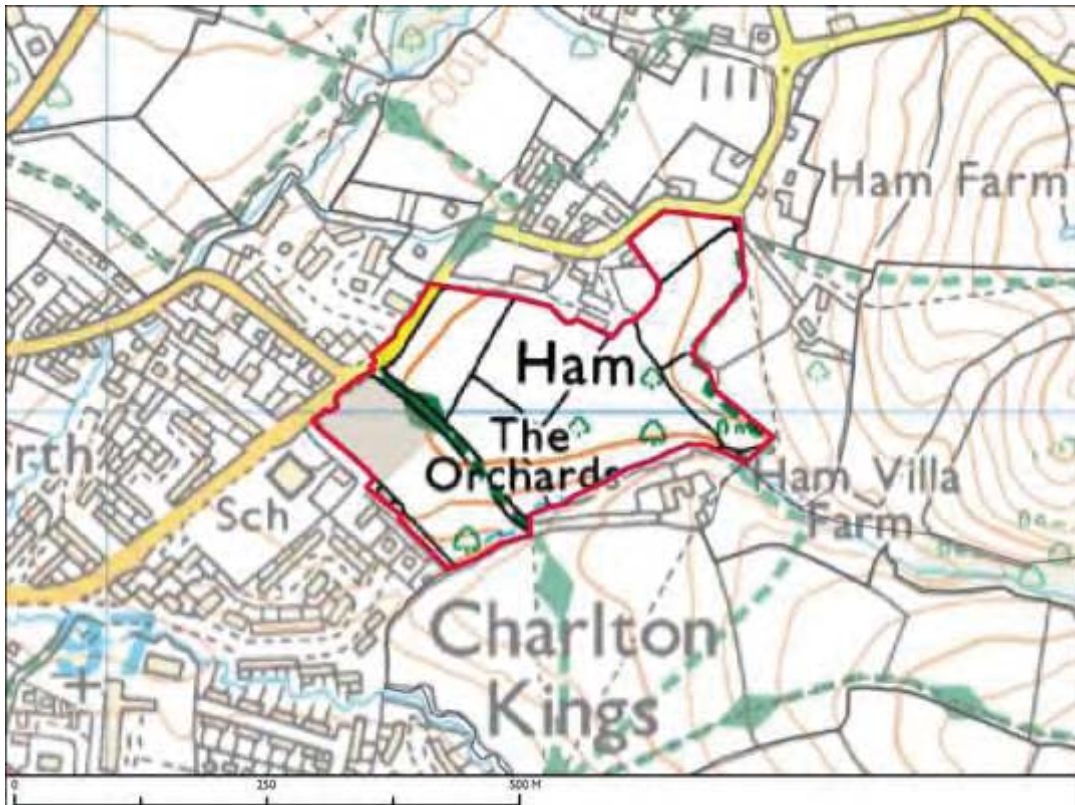


VP6. View looking north from northwest corner of area

Landscape Character Type: Lower Pasture
Landscape Character Area: Ham Lower Pasture
Site Ref: LCA 6.2

SITE ANALYSIS

Site Location Plan:



Landscape Issues:

Physical Influences:

Gently sloping with a uniform fall from east to west with lower ground at the south west

Land Cover:

Pastoral farmland including mature well treed boundaries

Influence of human activity:

Residential built development to the west and southwest

Aesthetic and perceptual aspects:

Wide views to the south, medium to high tranquillity given the influence of the adjacent rural landscape character

Summary of individual elements:

Medium quality elements including footpath trails, post and rail fencing and tree stock

Quality and Condition:

Generally moderate quality. Some signs of degradation with post and rail boundary fencing in poor state of repair and moderate levels of hedgerow management evident

Overall character of the landscape:

Open, small to medium scale pastoral landscape character.

Designations:

- Cotswolds AONB

Landscape Character Appraisal:

A generally gently sloping area, more flat towards the northwest of the site and sloping more towards the south. Comprising principally pastoral land use with small to medium scale fields defined primarily by mature hedgerow and post and rail fencing.

A watercourse drain forms the boundary to the south of the area, along which mature vegetation exists.

Boundaries throughout the area comprise a combination of post and rail fencing (in generally poor condition), along with mature tree planting, gappy hedgerow planting and ornamental shrub planting associated with residential boundaries.

Visual Issues Appraisal:

Views are generally filtered and screened in places looking into and out of the area by boundary vegetation, however this vegetation is gappy in places and allows views into and out of the area at intermittent points.

Views from the area looking south are elevated and look across the River Chelt Valley and the rooftops of the urban edge of Cheltenham, towards the escarpment slopes of Hartley Hill and Wistley Hill to the south.

A number of residential properties are located along the boundaries of the area and consequently have views into the area, particularly properties along the southwest, northwest and northern boundaries.

Views looking from the north of the area are slightly more contained, given the flatter topography, with views looking east towards the escarpment slopes of Ham Hill available.

Key Visual Receptors:

- Residents along northern boundary of site (Glenfall Way)
- Residents along western boundary of site (Hartlebury Way)
- Residents along New Lane
- Road users along Glenfall Way to the north of the area
- Footpath users along ZCK/24/2

Visual Sensitivity:

Views from the site are contained in places by mature boundary vegetation and adjacent residential development. However views looking south from the elevated position of the area look towards the rising escarpment slopes of the Cotswolds AONB. Views into the area are available from adjacent residential properties, surrounding footpaths and by road users along Glenfall Way road to the north, resulting in an overall assessed visual sensitivity of **High**.

Landscape Sensitivity:

As summarised in the landscape character appraisal, given the small to medium scale of the landscape character area, high levels of boundary vegetation, sloping topography and views into the area from adjacent residential properties and Glenfall Way, the overall landscape sensitivity is assessed as **Medium**

Landscape Value:

The landscape character area falls within the designated Cotswolds AONB, which is a national landscape designation. With the numerous footpaths that exist within and nearby the character area, the area has moderate recreational value. With the sloping topography, particularly to the south of the area, the land is particularly visible from residential properties to the south of the area. The visual connections with the escarpment slopes to the south of the area are valuable perceptual aspects. The quality of the landscape elements are moderate, however degraded in places such as the post and rail fencing to the north of the area and the poorly managed hedgerow boundaries. Given the LCA falls within a nationally recognised AONB designation, the overall value of the landscape character area is assessed as **High**. However it is noted there are elements of degraded landscape that may reduce this value slightly.

Landscape Capacity:

Visual Sensitivity	Landscape Character Sensitivity	Overall Landscape Sensitivity	Landscape Value	Overall Landscape Constraint	Resulting Landscape Capacity
High	Medium	HIGH	High	MAJOR OVERALL	LOW OVERALL

The Landscape Capacity for the Landscape Character Area as a whole is assessed to be **LOW OVERALL**. However it is noted that there are areas within the study area which are slightly more degraded, more visually contained and less accessible by Public Rights of Way and therefore have a slightly reduced landscape value. The area to the northwest of the character area comprises flat topography, is located adjacent to a school and is visually contained by surrounding vegetation. It is therefore considered that this location, as marked by the grey shading has a slightly reduced landscape value and therefore the assessed landscape capacity for residential, or other forms of built development is slightly increased. Note: this only applies to the grey area at the top of Glenfall Way.

Should the identified area within the landscape character area be considered for development, the following sheet assesses the potential planning principles with regard to landscape and visual matters.

Please refer to section 2 of the main report for the description of the methodology used.

Further references:

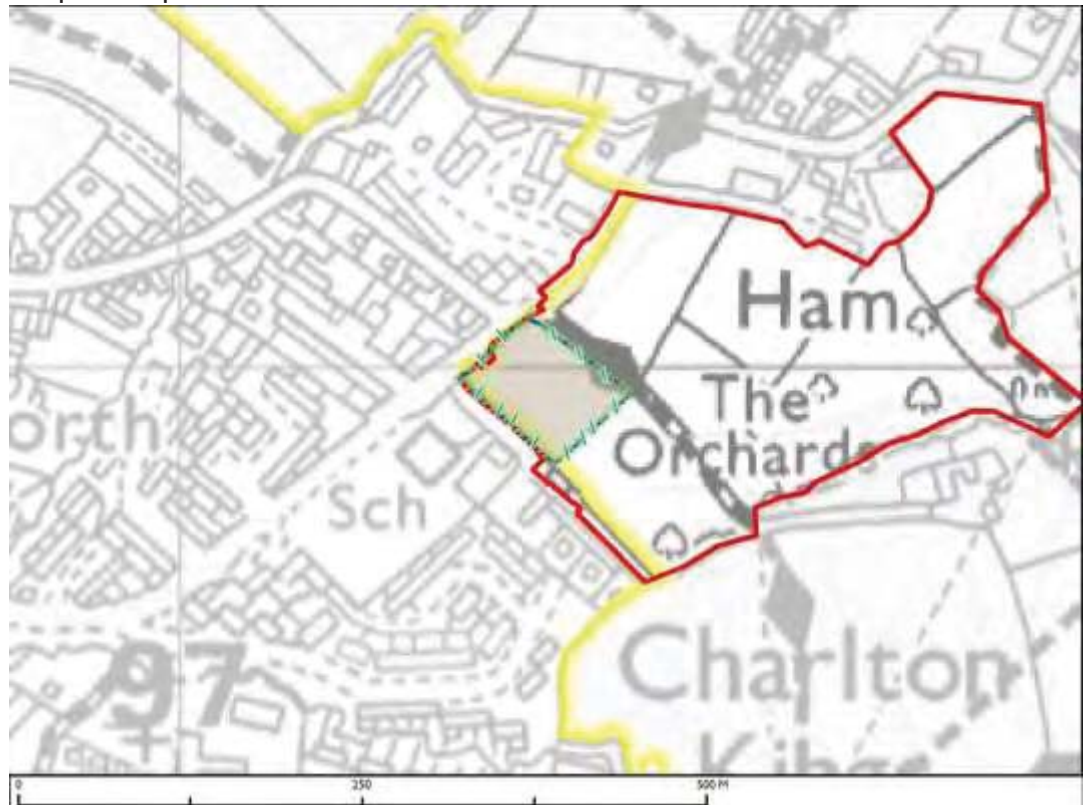
National Landscape Character Areas:
 NCA 106: Severn and Avon Vales
 NCA 107: Cotswolds

Cotswolds AONB Landscape Character Assessment:
 LCT: 2. Escarpment
 LCA: 2D – Cooper’s Hill to Winchcombe

Landscape Character Type: Lower Pasture
Landscape Character Area: Ham Lower Pasture
Site Ref: LCA 6.2

PLANNING PRINCIPLES

Landscape Principles Plan:



Principles for development:

The surrounding settled residential context and lack of commercial or industrial development, indicates that if development were to be considered in this location, residential development would be the most appropriate.

Given the flat topography of the northwest corner of the landscape character area and the slight visual containment this affords, the existing boundary vegetation and the local context of residential housing, it is considered that should development be considered here, this location would be the most visually contained and have some mitigation potential given the existing newly planted area to the south-western part of the character area.

Provision of well-established and thoughtful boundary planting would be essential, particularly to the south and east of the area to ensure long distance views into the site are not compromised. Improved boundary planting adjacent to the school to the northwest edge and along Glenfall Way is also recommended.

Site Integration:

Fields and boundaries are comprised of a combination of timber post and rail fencing and mature hedgerow vegetation. Improvement to the existing fencing infrastructure and gapping up of existing hedgerow and planted boundaries is recommended.

PHOTO SHEET FOR SITE LCA 6.2 – Ham Lower Pasture



VP1. View looking northwest from footpath ZCK/24/2



VP2. View looking northeast from footpath ZCK/24/2



VP3. View looking south from footpath ZCK/24/2



VP4. View looking southwest from footpath ZCK/24/2



VP5. View looking north from footpath ZCK/24/2

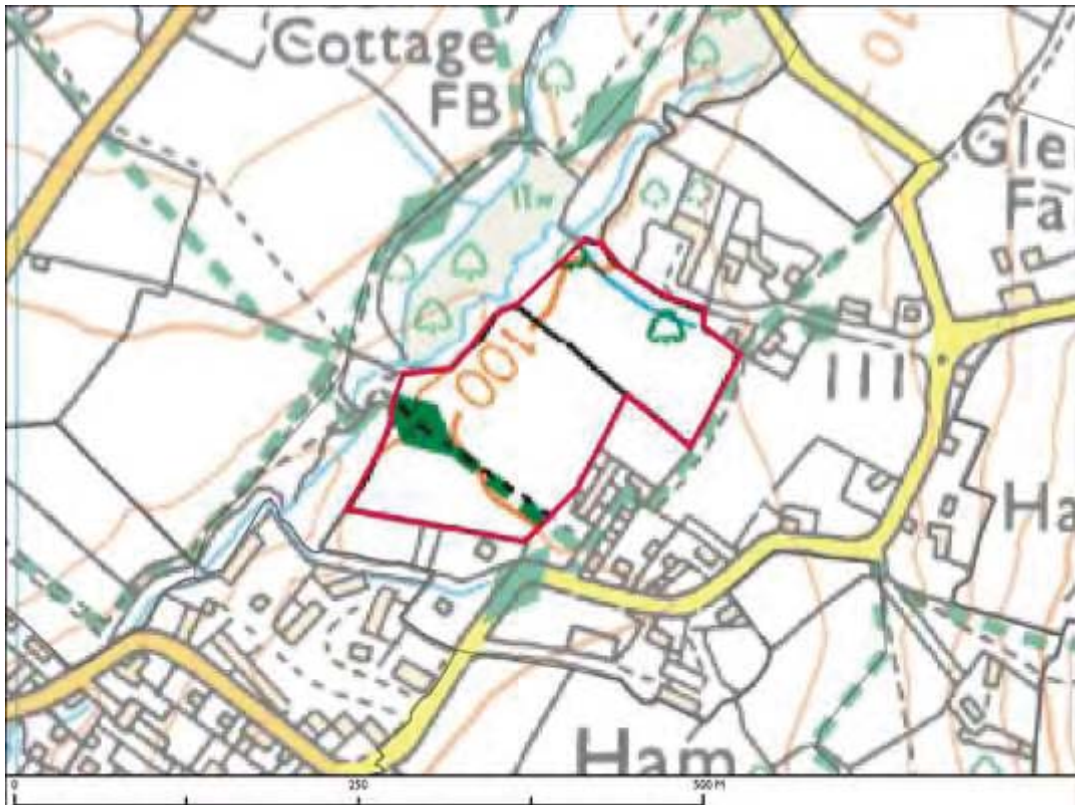


VP6. View looking southwest from footpath ZCK/24/2

Landscape Character Type: Lower Pasture
Landscape Character Area: Greenway Lower Pasture
Site Ref: LCA 6.3

SITE ANALYSIS

Site Location Plan:



Landscape Issues:

Physical Influences:

Gently sloping with a uniform fall from east to west with lower ground at the north west.

Land Cover:

Pastoral farmland including mature well treed boundaries.

Influence of human activity:

Residential built development to the west and southwest and southeast.

Aesthetic and perceptual aspects:

Views looking across the narrow valley to the west, medium to high tranquillity given the influence of the adjacent pastoral landscape character to the northwest.

Summary of individual elements:

Medium quality elements including footpath and post and wire fences

Quality and Condition:

Generally moderate quality. Field boundaries in good condition

Overall character of the landscape:

Open, small to medium scale pastoral landscape character.

Designations:

- Cotswolds AONB

Landscape Character Appraisal:

A generally gently sloping area, more flat towards the southeast of the area and sloping more towards the northwest.

Comprising principally pastoral land use with small to medium scale fields defined primarily by mature hedgerow and post and wire fencing.

A watercourse (Ham Brook) forms the boundary to the northwest of the area, along which mature riparian vegetation exists.

Boundaries throughout the area comprise a combination of post and rail fencing (in generally good condition), along with mature tree planting, hedgerow planting and ornamental shrub planting associated with residential boundaries.

Visual Issues Appraisal:

Views are generally filtered looking into and out of the area by boundary vegetation and riparian vegetation associated with Ham Brook to the west, resulting in a predominantly visually contained area.

A number of residential properties are located along the boundaries of the area and consequently have views into the area, particularly properties along the south, southeast and northeast boundaries.

A footpath runs through the area, resulting in open views across the area by footpath users.

Key Visual Receptors:

- Residents along southwest boundary of site (Ham Close)
- Residents along southeast boundary of site (Ham Road)
- Residents along northeast boundary of site (Ham Lane)
- Footpath users along ZCK/6A/1

Visual Sensitivity:

As summarised in the visual issues appraisal, views are generally well contained, however direct views into the area are available from adjacent residential properties and from the footpath that exists within the area, resulting in an overall assessment of **High** visual sensitivity.

Landscape Character Sensitivity:

As summarised in the landscape character appraisal, given the small to medium scale of the landscape character area, high levels of boundary vegetation, sloping topography and views into the area from adjacent residential properties, the overall landscape sensitivity is assessed as **Medium**.

Landscape Value:

The landscape character area falls within the designated Cotswolds AONB, which is a national landscape designation. With the numerous footpaths that exist within and nearby the character area, the area has moderate recreational value. The area is visible from surrounding residential properties to the south, east and northeast. The visual connections with the rising slopes associated with the escarpments to the east of the area are valuable perceptual aspects. The quality of the landscape elements are moderate to high with boundary treatments in generally good condition. Given the LCA falls within a nationally recognised AONB designation, the overall value of the landscape character area is assessed as **High**.

Landscape Capacity:

Visual Sensitivity	Landscape Character Sensitivity	Overall Landscape Sensitivity	Landscape Value	Overall Landscape Constraint	Resulting Landscape Capacity
High	Medium	HIGH	High	MAJOR OVERALL	LOW OVERALL

Please refer to section 2 of the main report for the description of the methodology used.

Further References:

National Landscape Character Areas:
NCA 106: Severn and Avon Vales
NCA 107: Cotswolds

Cotswolds AONB Landscape Character Assessment:
LCT: 2. Escarpment
LCA: 2D – Cooper’s Hill to Winchcombe

PHOTO SHEET FOR SITE LCA 6.3 – Greenway Lower Pasture



VP1. View looking southeast from footpath ZCK/6A/1



VP2. View looking south from footpath ZCK/6A/1



VP3. View looking southwest from footpath ZCK/6A/1



VP4. View looking northwest from footpath ZCK/6A/1

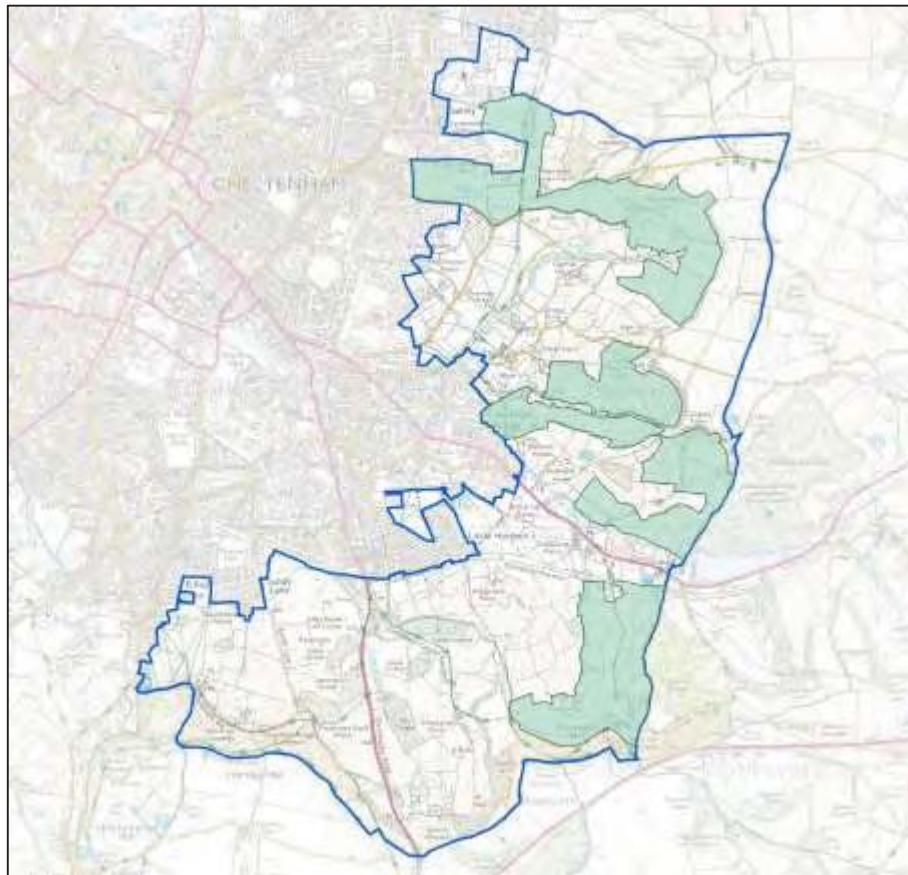


VP5. View looking northwest from footpath ZCK/6A/1



VP6. View looking southeast from footpath ZCK/6A/1

7. PASTURE SLOPES



The pasture slopes character type is located along the rising slopes from the urban edge of Cheltenham to the west of the study area, upwards to the east of the study area, where the slopes rise to meet the escarpment character type.

Land cover comprises principally pasture, in varying degrees of condition. Boundaries are generally in good condition and principally comprise hedgerows (some well maintained and some outgrown) and post and rail fencing.

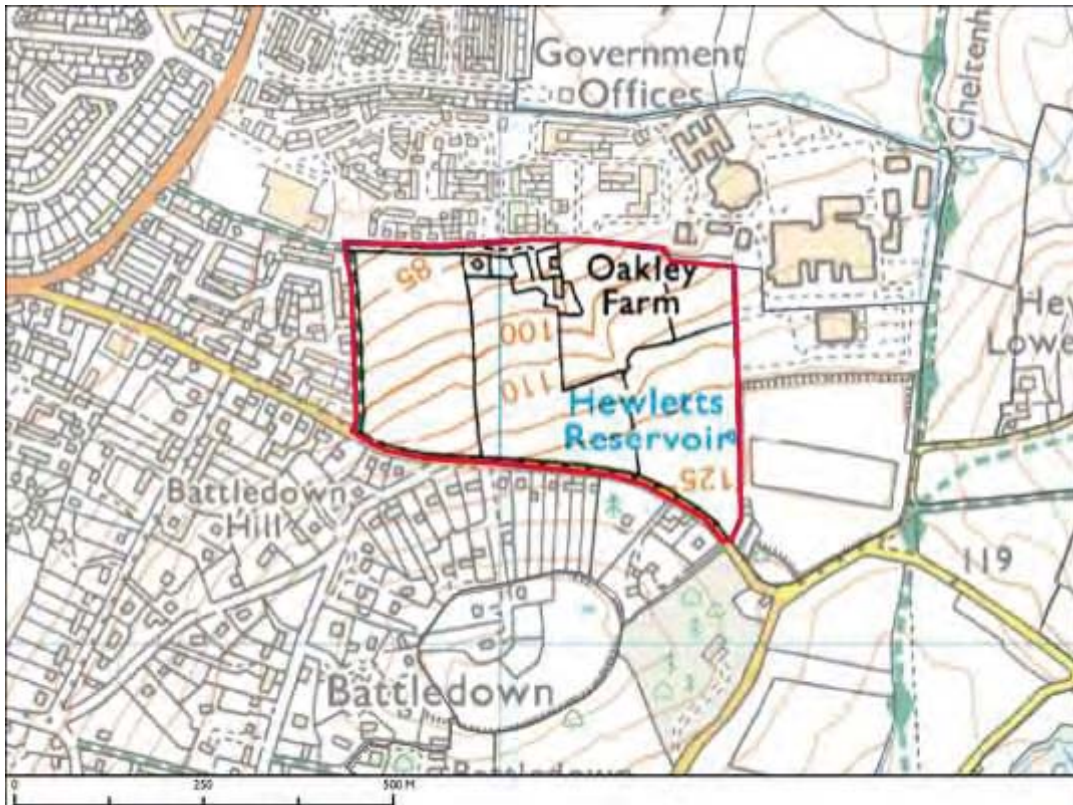
Settlement is very sparse throughout this character type, principally due to the sloping topography. A small number of individual farmstead properties occur.

Roads within this character type are not common, although those that do exist align generally on an east to west orientation. However local footpaths including the Cheltenham Circular Trail are a common feature.

Landscape Character Type: Pasture Slopes
Landscape Character Area: Oakley Farm Pasture Slopes
Site Ref: LCA 7.1

SITE ANALYSIS

Site Location Plan:



Landscape Issues:

Physical Influences:

Sloping topography with small to medium scale landscape

Land Cover:

Pastoral farmland including mature hedgerow boundaries

Influence of human activity:

Residential built development to the north, west and south

Aesthetic and perceptual aspects:

Wide, expansive open views to the north, medium to high tranquillity given the influence of the adjacent landscape character

Summary of individual elements:

Medium quality elements including hedgerow and post and rail boundaries

Quality and Condition:

Generally high quality pasture with mature parkland setting trees and well maintained hedgerow boundaries

Overall character of the landscape:

Open, small to medium scale landscape.

Designations:

- Cotswolds AONB

Landscape Character Appraisal:

A sloping landscape with open and expansive views particularly looking out to the northwest, north and northeast. Comprising principally of pastoral land use with small to medium scale fields.

Boundaries are formed by mature, well maintained hedgerows in the main, however post and wire fencing is also evident to the western boundary of the area.

Visual Issues Appraisal:

Views from the site looking northwest, north and northeast are long distance and open, looking across Cheltenham and the escarpment slopes of the Cotswolds AONB to the northeast.

Views are generally uninterrupted with the exception of intermittent mature boundary trees within boundary hedgerows.

Residential development to the south of the area sits atop elevated topography and as such allows expansive views across the landscape character area. To the north of the area, more recent housing development exists, which looks directly across the northwest corner of the area. To the northeast of the area, a parcel of land previously used as Government Offices is in the process of being demolished, with planning permission granted for the construction of further residential properties, which will overlook the landscape character area.

Key Visual Receptors:

- Residents along northern boundary of site (along Pillowell Close and Brockweir Road)
- Residents along western boundary of site (along Wessex Drive)
- Residents along the southern boundary of the area (along Harp Hill)
- Footpath users along the path that runs the western boundary of the area (ZCH/86/1)
-

Visual Sensitivity:

As summarised above, the views looking from the area are expansive and panoramic, resulting in an overall visual sensitivity of **High**.

Landscape Character Sensitivity:

As summarised in the landscape character appraisal, the small to medium scale of the landscape character area, high levels of well maintained boundary vegetation, sloping topography and views into the area from adjacent residential properties and Harp Hill, the overall landscape sensitivity is assessed as **High**.

Landscape Value:

The landscape character area falls within the designated area known as the Cotswolds AONB, which is a national designation. With the numerous footpaths that exist across the character area, the area has moderate recreational value. With the sloping topography of the landscape the land is particularly visible from residential properties to the south of the area. The visual connections with the escarpment slopes to the northeast of the area are valuable perceptual aspects. The quality of the landscape elements are moderate, with predominantly hedgerow boundaries in good condition. Given the LCA falls within a nationally recognised AONB designation, and taking into consideration the visibility of the site and the generally good condition, the overall value of the landscape character area is assessed as **High**.

Landscape Capacity:

Visual Sensitivity	Landscape Character Sensitivity	Overall Landscape Sensitivity	Landscape Value	Overall Landscape Constraint	Resulting Landscape Capacity
High	High	HIGH	High	MAJOR OVERALL	LOW OVERALL

Please refer to section 2 of the main report for the description of the methodology used.

Further references:

National Landscape Character Areas:
NCA 106: Severn and Avon Vales

Cotswolds AONB Landscape Character Assessment:
LCT: 2. Escarpment
LCA: 2D – Cooper's Hill to Winchcombe

PHOTO SHEET FOR SITE LCA 7.1 – Oakley Farm Pasture Slopes



VP1. View looking southwest from north of area.



VP2. View looking north from south of area



VP3. View looking northeast from southeast of area

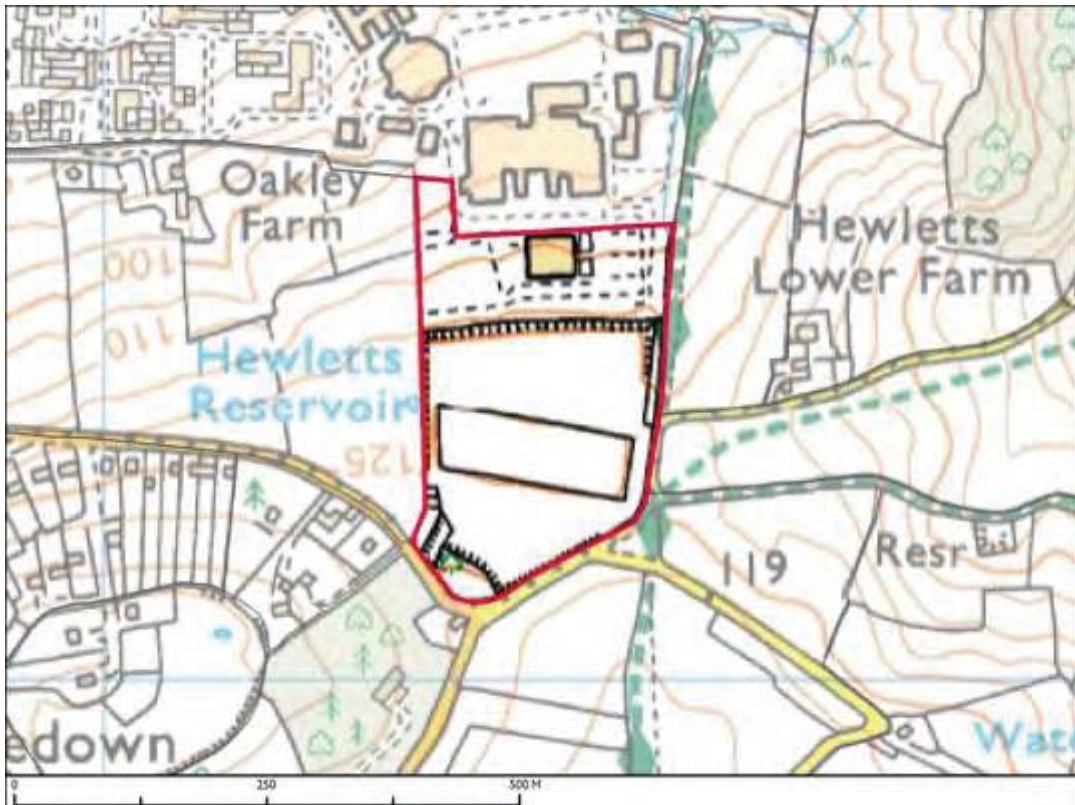


VP4. View looking east along Harp Hill from south of area

Landscape Character Type: Pasture Slopes
Landscape Character Area: Hewlett's Reservoir
Site Ref: LCA 7.2

SITE ANALYSIS

Site Location Plan:



Landscape Issues:

Physical Influences:

Flat and medium scale topography

Land Cover:

Pasture land associated with Hewlett's Reservoir

Influence of human activity:

Demolition works associated with the Government Offices currently underway to the north of the area. Residential properties to south of area

Aesthetic and perceptual aspects:

Wide, expansive open views to the north, moderate to high tranquillity given the influence of the adjacent rural landscape character

Quality and Condition:

Generally moderate quality. Security boundary fencing and associated disruption from adjacent demolitions result in a diminished quality to the east of the area

Overall character of the landscape:

Open, small to medium scale landscape character.

Designations:

- Cotswolds AONB

Landscape Character Appraisal:

A predominantly flat site, currently under use as a Reservoir. Grass slopes follow the embankment lines associated with the reservoir and combination of brick walls, security chain link fencing and wall with railing forms the boundary to the area. A small area of deciduous woodland lies to the south of the site.

Visual Issues Appraisal:

The area is generally very well contained and views into it are restricted particularly to the east through embankment landform and security fencing. Views into the area are possible from the southwest, looking in from Harp Hill road. However moving along the road to the east, views into the area are restricted and screened by the intervening woodland block in the south of the area. One public right of way exists in proximity to the area, running along the east boundary (footpath ZCH/85/1). However views into the area are screened by embankment landform. It is anticipated that the views from the area out to the surrounding landscape would be restricted to the south by the woodland block, filtered and screened by security fencing looking towards the north. However, given the elevated nature of the area, views would be expansive and panoramic looking across the escarpment slopes of the AONB to the northeast and Cheltenham to the northwest, should the security fencing not screen the view.

Key Visual Receptors:

- Footpath users along the footpath to the east boundary (ZCH/85/1)
- Road users along Aggs Hill to the south.

Visual Sensitivity:

As summarised above, the views looking from the area are expansive and long distance, resulting in an overall visual sensitivity of **High**.

Landscape Character Sensitivity:

Although the area is located within the Cotswolds AONB designation, given the current land use as a reservoir and the inaccessibility to the site by publically accessible routes, the landscape sensitivity of the landscape character area is assessed as **Medium**.

Landscape Value:

The landscape character area falls within the area falls within the designated area known as the Cotswolds AONB, which is a national designation as represents a high value landscape. There are few visual receptors in proximity to the area and the area has limited recreational value. However the land use as a reservoir has inherent value in it and as such the overall landscape value is assessed as **High**.

Landscape Capacity:

Visual Sensitivity	Landscape Character Sensitivity	Overall Landscape Sensitivity	Landscape Value	Overall Landscape Constraint	Resulting Landscape Capacity
High	Medium	HIGH	High	MAJOR OVERALL	LOW OVERALL

Please refer to section 2 of the main report for the description of the methodology used.

Further references:

National Landscape Character Areas:
NCA 106: Severn and Avon Vales

Cotswolds AONB Landscape Character Assessment:
LCT: 2. Escarpment
LCA: 2D – Cooper’s Hill to Winchcombe

PHOTO SHEET FOR SITE LCA 7.2 – Hewlett’s Reservoir Pasture Slopes



VP1. View looking east, northeast from south of area



VP2. View looking north from south of area



VP3. View looking north, northeast from south of area



VP4. View looking northeast from south of area



VP5. View looking north, northeast from SE of area



VP6. View looking southwest from southeast corner of area



VP7. View looking east along southern boundary of area

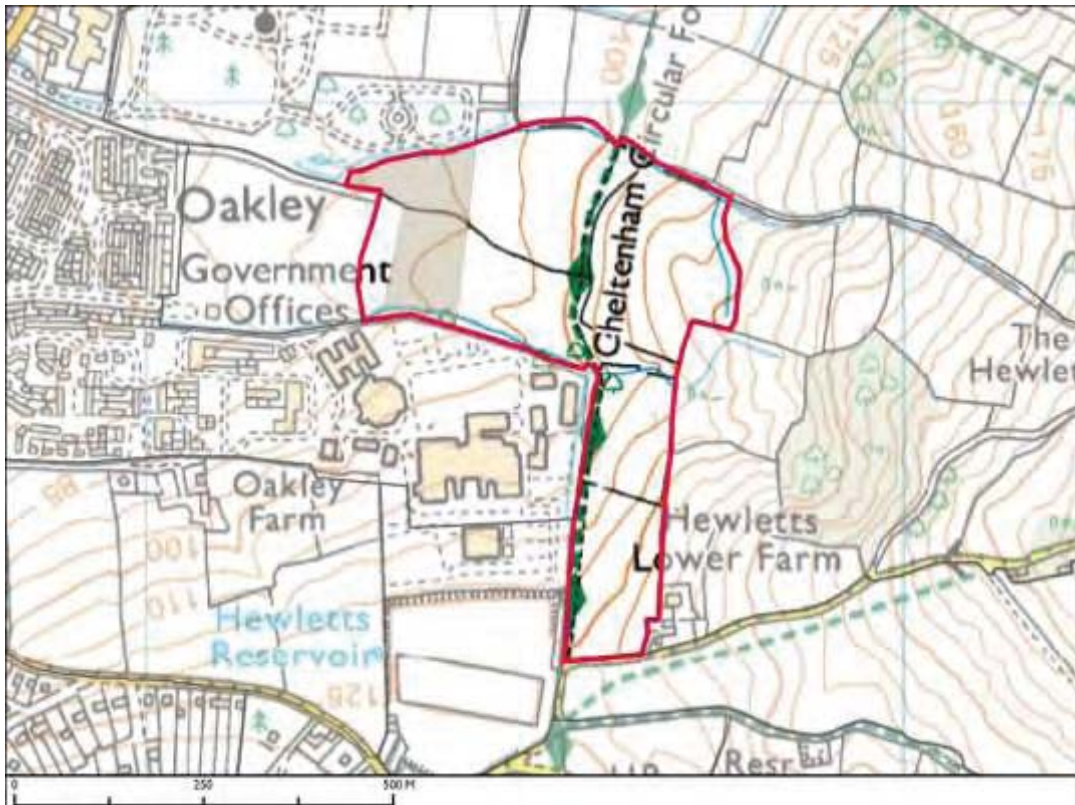


VP8. View looking southeast from southwest corner of area

Landscape Character Type: Pasture Slopes
Landscape Character Area: Oakley Pasture Slopes
Site Ref: LCA 7.3

SITE ANALYSIS

Site Location Plan:



Landscape Issues:

Physical Influences:

Gently sloping medium scale landform

Land Cover:

Pastoral farmland and scrub including mature well vegetated hedgerow and tree boundaries

Influence of human activity:

Bouncers Lane Cemetery to the northwest, Playing Fields to the west, demolition of Government offices to the southwest

Aesthetic and perceptual aspects:

Elevated views to the west, looking over Cheltenham urban edge, views to the east towards the escarpment slopes

Summary of individual elements:

Medium quality well maintained elements including footpaths and hedgerow boundaries

Quality and Condition:

Moderate quality with well vegetated boundaries and open scrub and pasture land

Overall character of the landscape:

Open, medium large scale pastoral character.

Designations:

- Cotswolds AONB
- Local Green Space

Landscape Character Appraisal:

A gently sloping area, rising more steeply towards the east, up towards the escarpment slopes to the east. Comprising principally pastoral and scrub land use, the boundaries to the area and the field parcels within it are well vegetated with mature outgrown hedgerows and trees.

The area is well used by dog walkers as represented by the Local Green Space designation.

The Cheltenham Circular Footpath runs through the area on a generally north to south orientation.

Visual Issues Appraisal:

Views from the site looking west are contained in places by the mature outgrown boundary vegetation, however where gaps in the vegetation allow, wide elevated views looking across the landscape to the west take in views across the urban edge of Cheltenham.

Views to the east look towards the rising slopes of the escarpment slopes, restricting views. Views along the slopes to the northeast allow further distance views, looking across the slopes and the numerous woodland blocks and copses that exist across the slopes.

Key Visual Receptors:

- Footpath users along the Cheltenham Circular Way
- Residents along the eastern edge of Cheltenham, east of Hale's Road

Visual Sensitivity:

As summarised above, the views looking from the area are expansive and long distance, resulting in an overall visual sensitivity of **High**.

Landscape Character Sensitivity:

As summarised in the landscape character appraisal, the medium scale landscape, high levels of mature boundary vegetation, sloping topography and views into and out of the area from the Cheltenham Circular Way, residential properties to the west of the area and from the Oakley Playing Fields, the overall landscape sensitivity is assessed as **Medium**.

Landscape Value:

The landscape character area falls within the area falls partially within the designated area known as the Cotswolds AONB, which is a national designation and represents a high value landscape. With the elevated and sloping nature of the landscape character area, the visibility of the area increases further to the east. Mature hedgerows and trees that form the boundaries to the field parcels within the landscape character area screen views in places from the lower western elevations of the slopes. The area is regularly used by walkers, particularly on the Cheltenham Circular Way and the area is further designated as a Local Green Space, reflecting this use. The overall landscape value is assessed as **High**, with higher value assigned further east in the area.

Landscape Capacity:

Visual Sensitivity	Landscape Character Sensitivity	Overall Landscape Sensitivity	Landscape Value	Overall Landscape Constraint	Resulting Landscape Capacity
High	Medium	HIGH	High	MAJOR OVERALL	LOW OVERALL

7.3 has been assessed as having a major overall landscape constraint and a low overall landscape capacity. However, through professional judgement, it is considered that some development within this character area could be permissible and therefore, planning principles for this character area have been developed.

Please refer to section 2 of the main report for the description of the methodology used.

Further References:

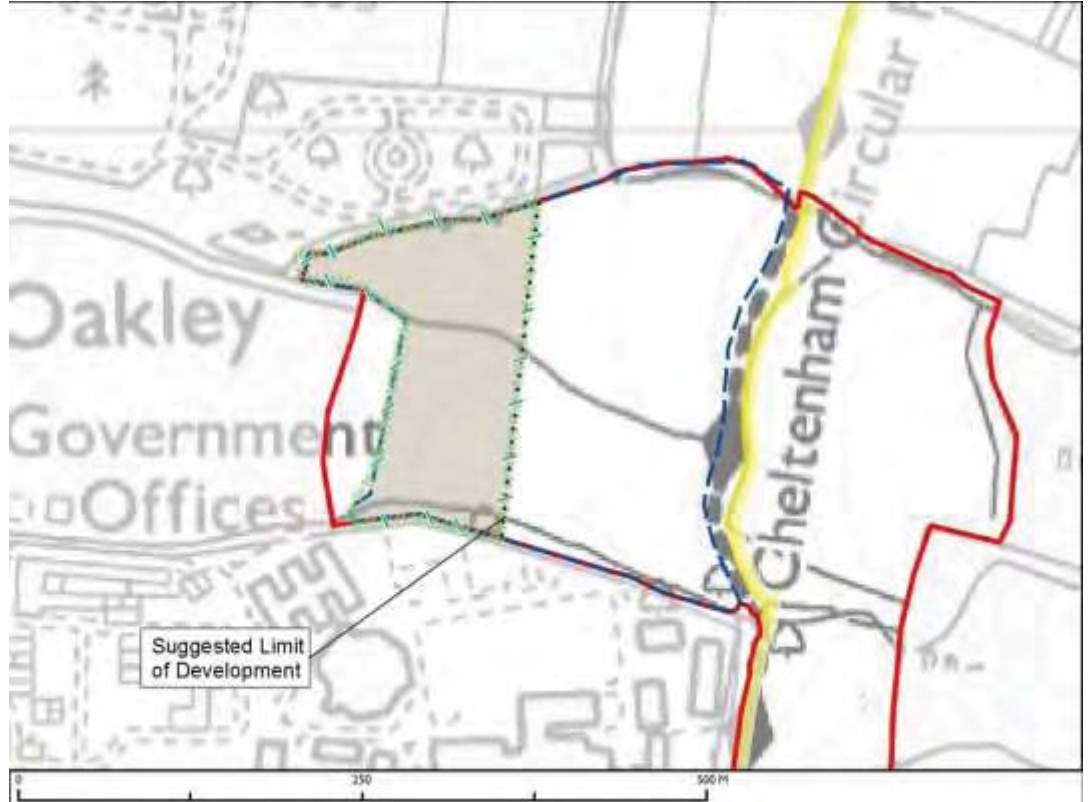
National Landscape Character Areas:
NCA 106: Severn and Avon Vales

Cotswolds AONB Landscape Character Assessment:
LCT: 2. Escarpment
LCA: 2D – Cooper's Hill to Winchcombe

Landscape Character Type: Pasture Slopes
Landscape Character Area: Oakley Pasture Slopes
Site Ref: LCA 7.3

PLANNING PRINCIPLES

Landscape Principles Plan:



Principles for development:

The surrounding settled residential context and lack of commercial or industrial development indicates that if development were to be considered in this location, residential development would be the most appropriate.

Given the increased visibility of the area further to the east and the increased value to the land in the east attributed due to the Cotswolds AONB designation. Should development be considered in the landscape character area, the area to the west of the landscape character area is visually more contained and has more mitigation potential than the area to the east. The eastern edge to this parcel of land is offset at a suitable distance from the National Trail, fits in with the landform / contours / topography and would include mature trees within its boundary edge.

Provision of well-established and thoughtful boundary planting would be recommended, particularly to the western boundary of the area to ensure long distance views looking out of and into the site from visual receptors on the eastern urban edge of Cheltenham are not compromised.

Site Integration:

The existing structure of field boundaries is strong and it is recommended this is improved upon through further structure planting with hedgerow and tree planting.

PHOTO SHEET FOR SITE LCA 7.3 – Oakley Pasture Slopes



VP1. View looking north from southwest of area



VP2. View looking northeast from southwest of area



VP3. View looking east from southwest corner of area



VP4. View looking south from west of area



VP5. View looking north from west of area



VP6. View looking northeast from west of area



VP7. View looking west from centre of area



VP8. View looking southeast from south of area

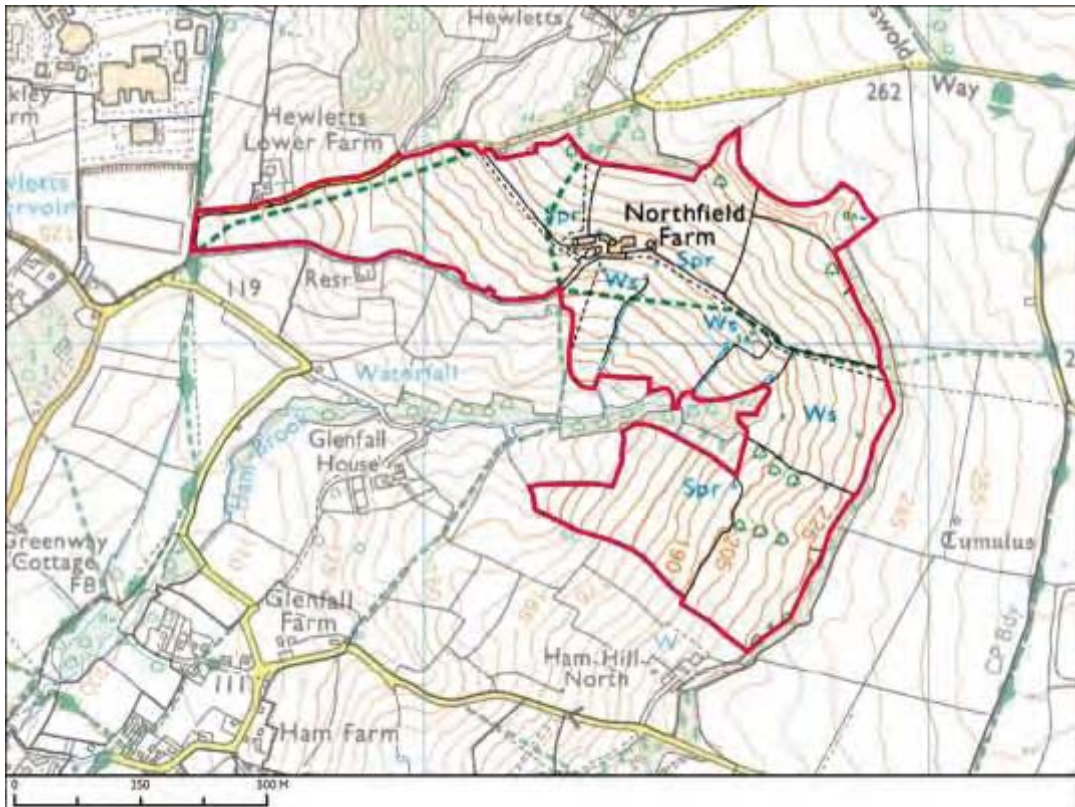
Landscape Character Type: Pasture Slopes

Landscape Character Area: Northfield Farm Pasture Slopes

Site Ref: LCA 7.4

SITE ANALYSIS

Site Location Plan:



Landscape Issues:

Physical Influences:

Elevated and undulating landform that slopes down to the west

Land Cover:

Medium to large scale pastoral farmland with post and rail and hedgerow boundaries

Influence of human activity:

Farmed landscape with little other influence of human activity aside from the property of Northfield Farm

Aesthetic and perceptual aspects:

Wide, expansive open views to the west, medium to high tranquillity

Summary of individual elements:

High quality well maintained elements including footpath trails, gorse and escarpment moor

Quality and Condition:

Very distinctive, of high quality and very good condition

Overall character of the landscape:

Open, medium to large scale pastoral character

Designations:

- Cotswolds AONB

Landscape Character Appraisal:

An open, and sloping pastoral landscape with well-defined boundaries formed by principally with post and wire fencing and hedgerows. Medium to large scale, the area is largely unsettled, with only one farmhouse located on the slopes (Northfield Farm). Mature individual trees exist throughout the fields and represent a characteristic of the landscape character area.

Visual Issues Appraisal:

Views from the site looking west are long distance and open, looking towards and across the built form of Cheltenham and to the landscape beyond. To the south and southwest, open and panoramic views take in the elevated and undulating escarpment slopes of the Cotswolds AONB. Views to the north are contained by mature woodland that follows the route of the Aggs Hill road oriented east to west leading up the slopes.

Key Visual Receptors:

- Footpath users throughout the area (ZCK/8/4; ZCK/12/1 and ASM/91/1)
- Residents of Northfield Farm
- Road users along Aggs Hill road

Visual Sensitivity:

As summarised above, the views looking from the area are expansive and panoramic, resulting in an overall visual sensitivity of **High**.

Landscape Character Sensitivity:

The area is located within the Cotswolds AONB and comprises open pastoral farmed slopes, leading down to the west to the urban edge of Cheltenham. The area is encompassed by surrounding rural landscape character areas and boundaries throughout the character area are defined with high quality drystone walls and hedgerow boundaries. Overall, the sensitivity of the landscape is considered to be **High**.

Landscape Value:

The landscape character area falls within the designated area known as the Cotswolds AONB, which is a national designation and represents a high value landscape. Visual receptors in the area comprise principally recreational viewers with numerous footpaths and little settlement in the area aside from Northfield Farm which is a Listed building. Views to the west are open, long distance and panoramic taking in high quality views. Taking these attributes into account, the value of the landscape character area is assessed as **High**.

Landscape Capacity:

Visual Sensitivity	Landscape Character Sensitivity	Overall Landscape Sensitivity	Landscape Value	Overall Landscape Constraint	Resulting Landscape Capacity
High	High	HIGH	High	MAJOR OVERALL	LOW OVERALL

Please refer to section 2 of the main report for the description of the methodology used.

Further references:

National Landscape Character Areas:
NCA 106: Severn and Avon Vales

Cotswolds AONB Landscape Character Assessment:
LCT: 2. Escarpment
LCA: 2D – Cooper’s Hill to Winchcombe

PHOTO SHEET FOR SITE LCA 7.4 – Northfield Farm Pasture Slopes



VP1. View looking south from north of area



VP2. View looking southwest from north of area



VP3. View looking southwest, west from north of the area



VP4. View looking west from north of the area



VP5. View looking southwest, west from north of area



VP6. View looking east from west of area



VP7. View looking southeast from west of area



VP8. View looking south from west of area

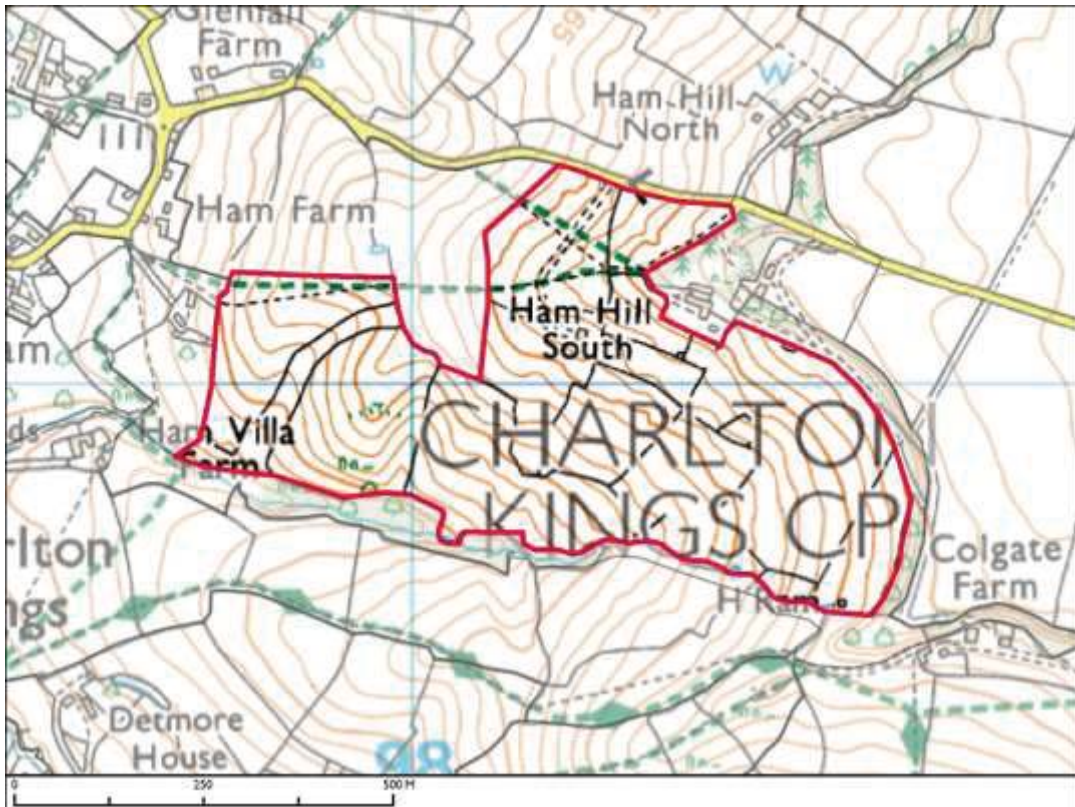
Landscape Character Type: Pasture Slopes

Landscape Character Area: Ham Hill South Pasture Slopes

Site Ref: LCA 7.5

SITE ANALYSIS

Site Location Plan:



Landscape Issues:

Physical Influences:

Elevated and undulating landform that slopes to the west

Land Cover:

Medium scale pastoral farmland with post and rail and hedgerow boundaries

Influence of human activity:

Farmed landscape with little other influence of human activity

Aesthetic and perceptual aspects:

Wide, expansive open views to the west, medium to high tranquillity

Summary of individual elements:

High quality well maintained elements including footpaths and hedgerow boundaries

Quality and Condition:

Very distinctive, of high quality and very good condition

Overall character of the landscape:

Open, large scale pastoral character.

Designations:

- Cotswolds AONB

Landscape Character Appraisal:

An open, sloping and undulating pastoral landscape with well-defined boundaries formed by principally with post and rail fences and hedgerows. Medium scale, the area is largely unsettled, with no properties within the area itself. Mature individual trees exist throughout the fields and represent a characteristic of the landscape character area.

Visual Issues Appraisal:

Views from the site looking west are long distance and open, looking towards and across the built form of Cheltenham and to the landscape beyond. To the south and southwest, open and panoramic views take in the elevated and undulating escarpment slopes of the Cotswolds AONB. Views to the north are contained by mature woodland that follows the route of the Aggs Hill road oriented east to west leading up the slopes.

Key Visual Receptors:

- Footpath users throughout the area (ZCK/21/1; ZCK/22/1 and ZCK/12/2)
- Residents of Ham Hill North
- Road users along Ham Road

Visual Sensitivity:

As summarised above, the views looking from the area are expansive and panoramic, resulting in an overall visual sensitivity of **High**.

Landscape Character Sensitivity:

The area is located within the Cotswolds AONB and comprises open pastoral farmed slopes, leading down to the west to the urban edge of Cheltenham. The area is encompassed by surrounding rural landscape character areas and boundaries throughout the character area are defined with high quality drystone walls and hedgerow boundaries. Overall, the sensitivity of the landscape is considered to be **High**.

Landscape Value:

The landscape character area falls within the designated area known as the Cotswolds AONB, which is a national designation and represents a high value landscape. Visual receptors in the area comprise principally recreational viewers with numerous footpaths and little settlement in the area aside from Ham Hill South. Views to the west are open, long distance and panoramic taking in high quality views. Taking these attributes into account, the value of the landscape character area is assessed as **High**.

Landscape Capacity:

Visual Sensitivity	Landscape Character Sensitivity	Overall Landscape Sensitivity	Landscape Value	Overall Landscape Constraint	Resulting Landscape Capacity
High	High	HIGH	High	MAJOR OVERALL	LOW OVERALL

Please refer to section 2 of the main report for the description of the methodology used.

Further references:

National Landscape Character Areas:
NCA 106: Severn and Avon Vales

Cotswolds AONB Landscape Character Assessment:
LCT: 2. Escarpment
LCA: 2D – Cooper’s Hill to Winchcombe

PHOTO SHEET FOR SITE LCA 7.5 – Ham Hill Pasture Slopes



VP1. View looking southwest from northwest of area



VP2. View looking west from northwest of area



VP3. View looking west from north of area



VP4. View looking south from east of area



VP5. View looking north from east of area



VP6. View looking east from east of area

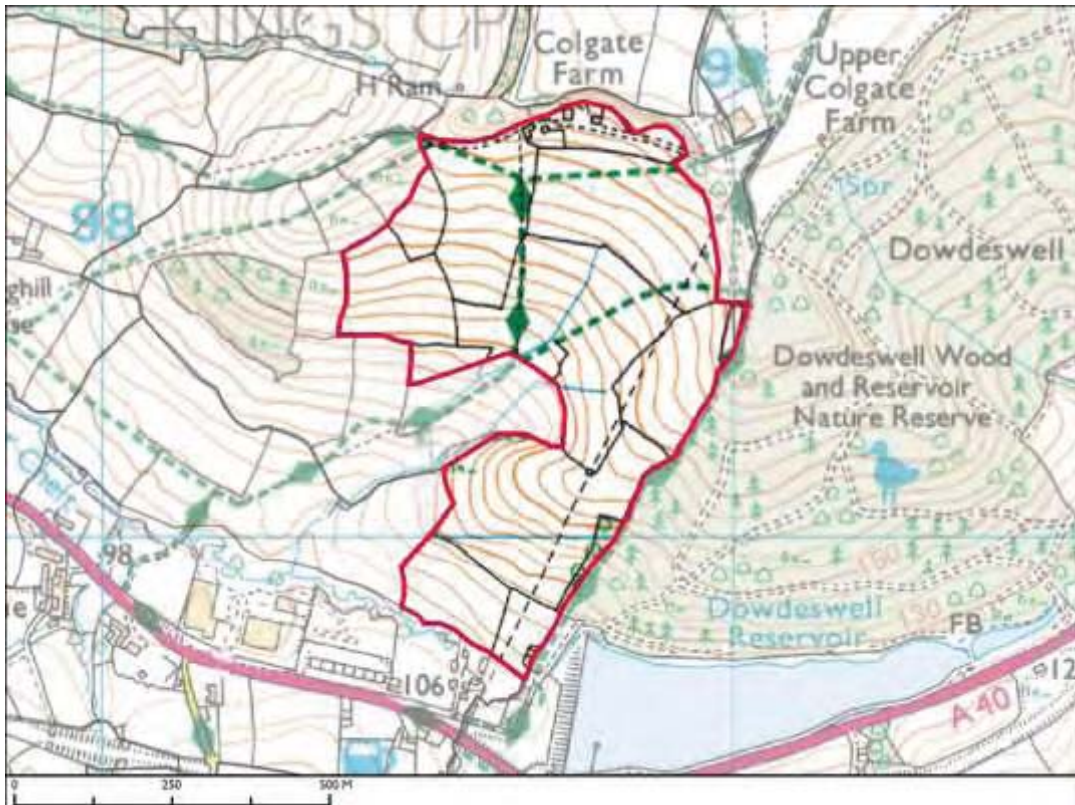
Landscape Character Type: Pasture Slopes

Landscape Character Area: Dowdeswell Woods Pasture Slopes

Site Ref: LCA 7.6

SITE ANALYSIS

Site Location Plan:



Landscape Issues:

Physical Influences:

Elevated and undulating landform that slopes to the west

Land Cover:

Small to medium scale pastoral farmland with post and rail, hedgerow and woodland boundaries

Influence of human activity:

Farmed landscape with little other influence of human activity

Aesthetic and perceptual aspects:

Wide, expansive open views to the southwest, moderate to high tranquillity

Summary of individual elements:

High quality well maintained elements including footpath trails and hedgerows

Quality and Condition:

Very distinctive, of high quality and very good condition

Overall character of the landscape:

Open, small to medium scale pastoral character.

Designations:

- Cotswolds AONB

Landscape Character Appraisal:

An open, sloping and undulating pastoral landscape with well-defined boundaries formed by principally with post and rail fencing, hedgerows and woodland associated with Dowdeswell Wood to the east. Small to medium scale, the area is largely unsettled, with only one farmhouse located on the slopes (Colgate Farm).

Visual Issues Appraisal:

Views from the site looking southwest are long distance and open, looking towards and across the built form of Cheltenham and to the landscape beyond. To the south and southwest, open and panoramic views take in the elevated and undulating escarpment slopes of the Cotswolds AONB. Views to the north are contained by mature woodland and rising topography.

Key Visual Receptors:

- Footpath users throughout the area (ZCK/20/3, ZCK/20/4, ZCK/16/1 and ZCK/15/1)
- Residents of Colgate Farm

Visual Sensitivity:

As summarised above, the views looking from the area are expansive and panoramic, resulting in an overall visual sensitivity of **High**.

Landscape Character Sensitivity:

The area is located within the Cotswolds AONB and comprises open pastoral farmed slopes, leading down to the southwest to the urban edge of Cheltenham. The area is encompassed by surrounding rural landscape character areas and boundaries throughout the character area are defined with post and rail fencing and hedgerow boundaries. Overall, the sensitivity of the landscape is considered to be **High**.

Landscape Value:

The landscape character area falls within the designated area known as the Cotswolds AONB, which is a national designation and represents a high value landscape. Visual receptors in the area comprise principally recreational viewers with numerous footpaths and no settlement within the landscape character area itself. Views to the west are open, long distance and panoramic taking in high quality views. Taking these attributes into account, the value of the landscape character area is assessed as **High**.

Landscape Capacity:

Visual Sensitivity	Landscape Character Sensitivity	Overall Landscape Sensitivity	Landscape Value	Overall Landscape Constraint	Resulting Landscape Capacity
High	High	HIGH	High	MAJOR OVERALL	LOW OVERALL

Please refer to section 2 of the main report for the description of the methodology used.

Further references:

National Landscape Character Areas:
NCA 106: Severn and Avon Vales

Cotswolds AONB Landscape Character Assessment:
LCT: 2. Escarpment
LCA: 2D – Cooper’s Hill to Winchcombe

PHOTO SHEET FOR SITE LCA 7.6 – Dowdeswell Woods Pasture Slopes



VP1. View looking east from centre of area



VP2. View looking southeast from centre of area



VP3. View looking south, southeast from centre of area



VP4. View looking southeast from northeast of area



VP5. View looking southwest from northeast of area



VP6. View looking west from northeast of area

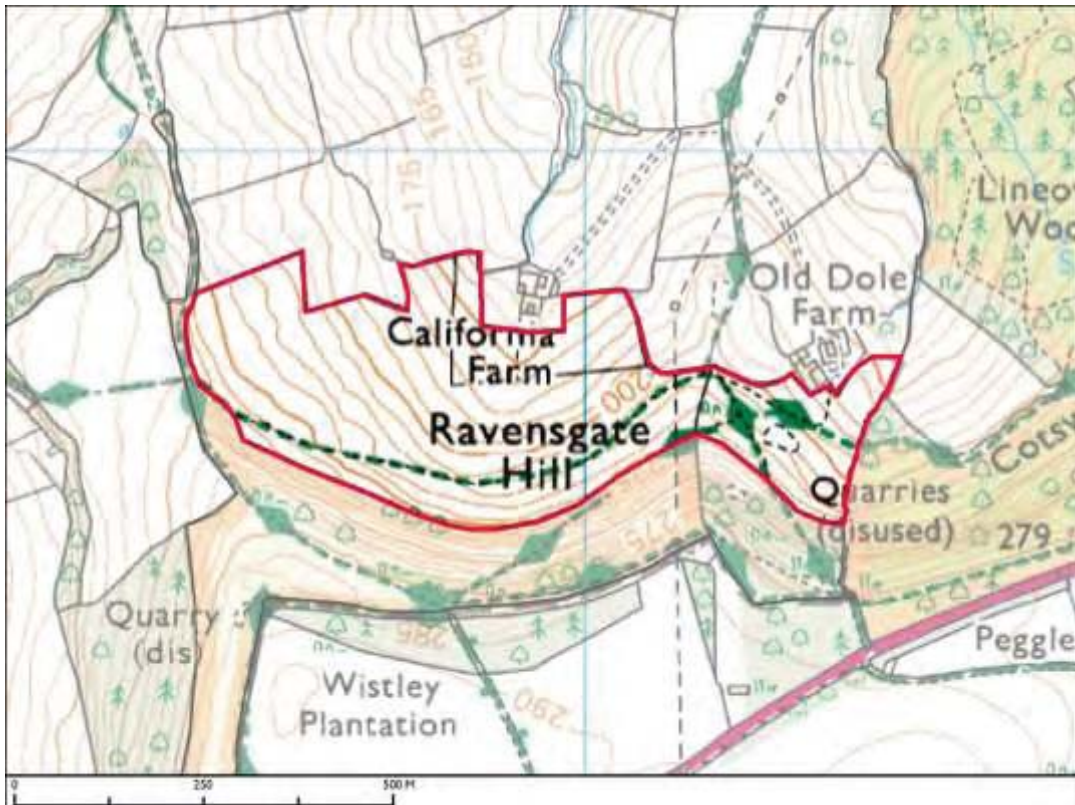
Landscape Character Type: Pasture Slopes

Landscape Character Area: Ravensgate Hill Pasture Slopes

Site Ref: LCA 7.7

SITE ANALYSIS

Site Location Plan:



Landscape Issues:

Physical Influences:

Elevated and undulating landform that slopes down to the north

Land Cover:

Medium to large scale arable farmland with post and rail and hedgerow boundaries

Influence of human activity:

Farmed landscape with little other influence of human activity

Aesthetic and perceptual aspects:

Wide, expansive open views to the north, moderate to high tranquillity

Summary of individual elements:

High quality well maintained elements including footpaths, post and rail fences and hedgerows

Quality and Condition:

Very distinctive, of high quality and very good condition

Overall character of the landscape:

Open, medium to large scale pastoral character.

Designations:

- Cotswolds AONB

Landscape Character Appraisal:

An open, sloping and undulating pastoral landscape with well-defined boundaries formed by principally with post and rail fencing and hedgerows. Medium to large scale, the area is largely unsettled. A number of footpaths bisect the area including The Cotswold Way National Trail.

Visual Issues Appraisal:

Views from the site looking north and northeast are long distance and open, looking towards and across the built form of Cheltenham and to the landscape beyond. To the south and southwest, open and panoramic views take in the elevated and undulating escarpment slopes of the Cotswolds AONB.

Key Visual Receptors:

- Footpath users throughout the area (ZCK/53/6, ZCK/61/1 and KDO/24/1)
- Residents of California Farm
- Footpath users along the Cheltenham Way to the south of the area

Visual Sensitivity:

As summarised above, the views looking from the area are expansive and panoramic, resulting in an overall visual sensitivity of **High**.

Landscape Character Sensitivity:

The area is located within the Cotswolds AONB and comprises open pastoral farmed slopes, leading down to the west to the urban edge of Cheltenham. The area is encompassed by surrounding rural landscape character areas and boundaries throughout the character area are defined with post and rail fencing and hedgerow boundaries. Overall, the sensitivity of the landscape is considered to be **High**.

Landscape Value:

The landscape character area falls within the designated area known as the Cotswolds AONB, which is a national designation and represents a high value landscape. Visual receptors in the area comprise principally recreational viewers with numerous footpaths and little settlement in the area. Views to the north are open, medium to long distance and elevated taking in high quality views. Taking these attributes into account, the value of the landscape character area is assessed as **High**.

Landscape Capacity:

Visual Sensitivity	Landscape Character Sensitivity	Overall Landscape Sensitivity	Landscape Value	Overall Landscape Constraint	Resulting Landscape Capacity
High	High	HIGH	High	MAJOR OVERALL	LOW OVERALL

Please refer to section 2 of the main report for the description of the methodology used.

Further references:

National Landscape Character Areas:
NCA 106: Severn and Avon Vales

Cotswolds AONB Landscape Character Assessment:
LCT: 2. Escarpment
LCA: 2D – Cooper’s Hill to Winchcombe

PHOTO SHEET FOR SITE LCA 7.7 – Ravensgate Hill Pasture Slopes



VP1. View looking west from south of area



VP2. View looking northwest from south of area



VP3. View looking north from south of area



VP4. View looking northeast from south of area



VP5. View looking east from south of area

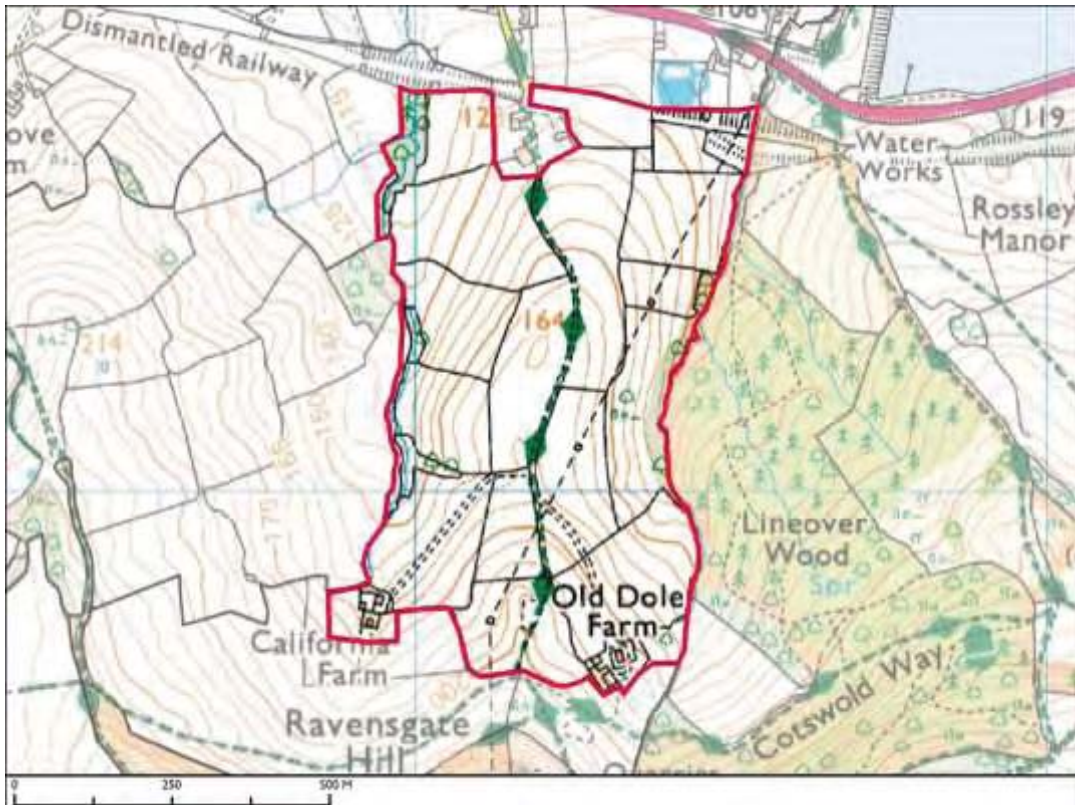
Landscape Character Type: Pasture Slopes

Landscape Character Area: Lineover Wood Pasture Slopes

Site Ref: LCA 7.8

SITE ANALYSIS

Site Location Plan:



Landscape Issues:

Physical Influences:

Elevated and undulating landform that slopes to the west

Land Cover:

Medium to large scale pastoral farmland with post and rail and hedgerow boundaries

Influence of human activity:

Farmed landscape with little other influence of human activity aside from two farming properties (Old Dole Farm and California Farm)

Aesthetic and perceptual aspects:

Wide, expansive open views to the north and northwest, medium to high tranquillity

Summary of individual elements:

High quality well maintained elements including footpath, post and rail fencing and hedgerows

Quality and Condition:

Very distinctive, of high quality and very good condition

Overall character of the landscape:

Open, medium to large scale pastoral character.

Designations:

- Cotswolds AONB

Landscape Character Appraisal:

An open, sloping and undulating pastoral landscape with well-defined boundaries formed principally with post and rail fencing and hedgerows. Medium to large scale, the area is largely unsettled, with only two farmhouses located on the slopes (Old Dole Farm and California Farm). Small copses of deciduous tree exist throughout the area. A pylon line bisects the landscape on a northeast to south orientation.

Visual Issues Appraisal:

Views from the site looking north are long distance and open, looking towards the sloping landscape beyond. To the north and northeast, open and panoramic views take in the elevated and undulating escarpment slopes of the Cotswolds AONB.

Key Visual Receptors:

- Footpath users throughout the area (ZCK/62/1)
- Residents of Old Dole Farm and California Farm

Visual Sensitivity:

As summarised above, the views looking from the area are expansive and panoramic, resulting in an overall visual sensitivity of **High**.

Landscape Character Sensitivity:

The area is located within the Cotswolds AONB and comprises open pastoral farmed slopes, leading down to the west to the urban edge of Cheltenham. The area is encompassed by surrounding rural landscape character areas and boundaries throughout the character area are defined with high quality drystone walls and hedgerow boundaries. Overall, the sensitivity of the landscape is considered to be **High**.

Landscape Value:

The landscape character area falls within the designated area known as the Cotswolds AONB, which is a national designation and represents a high value landscape. Visual receptors in the area comprise principally recreational viewers with a footpath running through the centre of the area and little settlement in the area aside from Dole Farm and California Farm. Views to the north are open, long distance and panoramic taking in high quality views. Taking these attributes into account, the value of the landscape character area is assessed as **High**.

Landscape Capacity:

Visual Sensitivity	Landscape Character Sensitivity	Overall Landscape Sensitivity	Landscape Value	Overall Landscape Constraint	Resulting Landscape Capacity
High	High	HIGH	High	MAJOR OVERALL	LOW OVERALL

Please refer to section 2 of the main report for the description of the methodology used.

Further references:

National Landscape Character Areas:
NCA 106: Severn and Avon Vales

Cotswolds AONB Landscape Character Assessment:
LCT: 2. Escarpment
LCA: 2D – Cooper's Hill to Winchcombe

PHOTO SHEET FOR SITE LCA 7.8 – Lineover Wood Pasture Slopes



VP1. View looking east from north of the area



VP2. View looking north from footpath ZCK/62/1



VP3. View looking southeast from footpath ZCK/62/1



VP4. View looking south from footpath ZCK/62/1



VP5. View looking southwest from footpath ZCK/62/1



VP6. View looking west from footpath ZCK/62/1

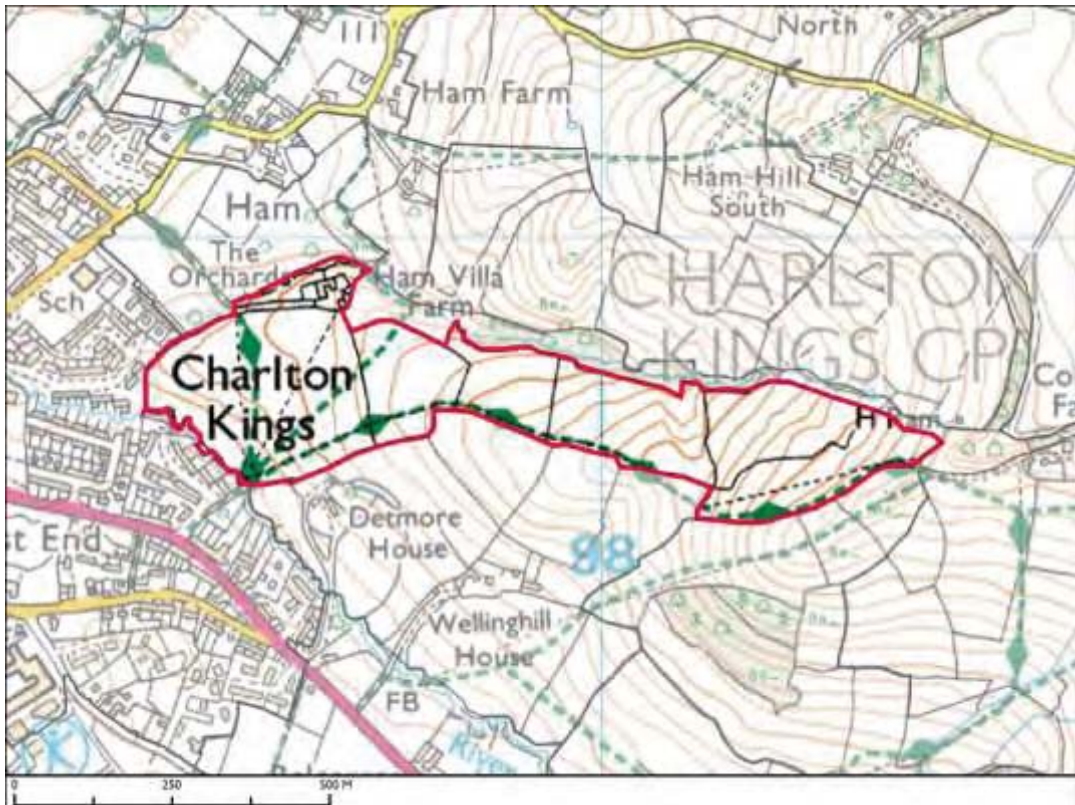
Landscape Character Type: Pasture Slopes

Landscape Character Area: Charlton Kings Pasture Slopes

Site Ref: LCA 7.9

SITE ANALYSIS

Site Location Plan:



Landscape Issues:

Physical Influences:

Sloping and open, medium scale topography

Land Cover:

Pasture farmland with post and wire and mature outgrown and gappy hedgerow boundaries

Influence of human activity:

Residential built development to the west and south

Aesthetic and perceptual aspects:

Wide views to the south and southeast, medium tranquillity given the influence of the adjacent rural landscape character to the east

Summary of individual elements:

Medium quality elements including footpath and outgrown and gappy hedgerows and post and wire fencing

Distinctive landscape character types:

Distinctive and becoming more rare, given the pressure placed on the landscape by development.

Overall character of the landscape:

Open, medium scale pasture and arable character.

Designations:

- Cotswolds AONB

Landscape Character Appraisal:

A generally sloping and open landscape with wide views and medium distance skylines particularly to the south. Comprising principally of agricultural land use with pasture field uses, including some small to medium scale pastoral fields associated with domestic use to the west. River Chelt and associated riparian woodland to the west of the area and small stream to north of site with associated riparian vegetation.

Ham Villa Farm is located within the area and introduces a somewhat degraded character to the vicinity of the property due to numerous agricultural related detritus. However, the property is well screened from the remainder of the area with a combination of mature vegetation and topography.

Field boundaries generally comprise post and wire fencing with mature, outgrown hedgerows, which has gaps in places.

Visual Issues Appraisal:

Views from the site looking southeast are long distance and open, looking towards the rising slopes of Ham Hill South and Ravensgate Hill. Views looking west are elevated and look across the rooftops of residential development on the urban edge of Cheltenham. Views looking north look towards a pasture field on rising topography with intervening mature vegetation which allows glimpsed views beyond, but more generally restricts views. Views looking east are restricted by rising topography. Views looking into the site area available from residents to the west of the site, particularly along Chase Avenue, where the elevated nature of the landscape character area results in it being very visible from these properties. Numerous footpaths exist within the landscape character area itself and surrounding it, resulting in accessibility of views from local footpath users.

Key Visual Receptors:

- Residents along western boundary of site (Chase Avenue)
- Residents along northwest boundary of site (Hartlebury Way)
- Footpath users along local footpaths within the site (ZCK/24/2, SCK/23/1, ZCK/20/1)

Visual Sensitivity:

As summarised above, the views looking from the area are elevated, looking across the urban edge of Cheltenham. With a number of footpaths within the area and views from adjacent residential properties with open views looking into the area, the overall visual sensitivity is assessed as **High**.

Landscape Character Sensitivity:

As summarised in the landscape character appraisal, the small to medium scale of the landscape character area, high levels of mature boundary vegetation, sloping topography and views into the area from adjacent residential properties, the overall landscape sensitivity is assessed as **Medium**.

Landscape Value:

The landscape character area falls within the designated area known as the Cotswolds AONB, which is a national designation. With the numerous footpaths that exist across the character area, the area has moderate recreational value. With the sloping topography of the landscape the land is particularly visible from residential properties to the west of the area. The visual connections with the escarpment slopes to the east of the area are valuable perceptual aspects. The quality of the landscape elements are moderate (low in places however with moderate visual screening), with predominantly mature outgrown hedgerow boundaries with some post and wire fences present. Given the LCA falls within a nationally recognised AONB designation, and taking into consideration the visibility of the site, the overall value of the landscape character area is assessed as **High**.

Landscape Capacity:

Visual Sensitivity	Landscape Character Sensitivity	Overall Landscape Sensitivity	Landscape Value	Overall Landscape Constraint	Resulting Landscape Capacity
High	Medium	HIGH	High	MAJOR OVERALL	LOW OVERALL

Please refer to section 2 of the main report for the description of the methodology used.

Further references:

National Landscape Character Areas:
NCA 106: Severn and Avon Vales

Cotswolds AONB Landscape Character Assessment:
LCT: 2. Escarpment
LCA: 2D – Cooper’s Hill to Winchcombe

PHOTO SHEET FOR SITE LCA 7.9 – Charlton Kings Pasture Slopes



VP1. View looking south from footpath ZCK/24/2



VP2. View looking southwest from footpath ZCK/24/2



VP 3. View looking west from footpath ZCK/24/2



VP 4. View looking northwest from footpath ZCK/24/2



VP 5. View looking southeast from footpath ZCK/23/1



VP 6. View looking southwest from footpath ZCK/23/1

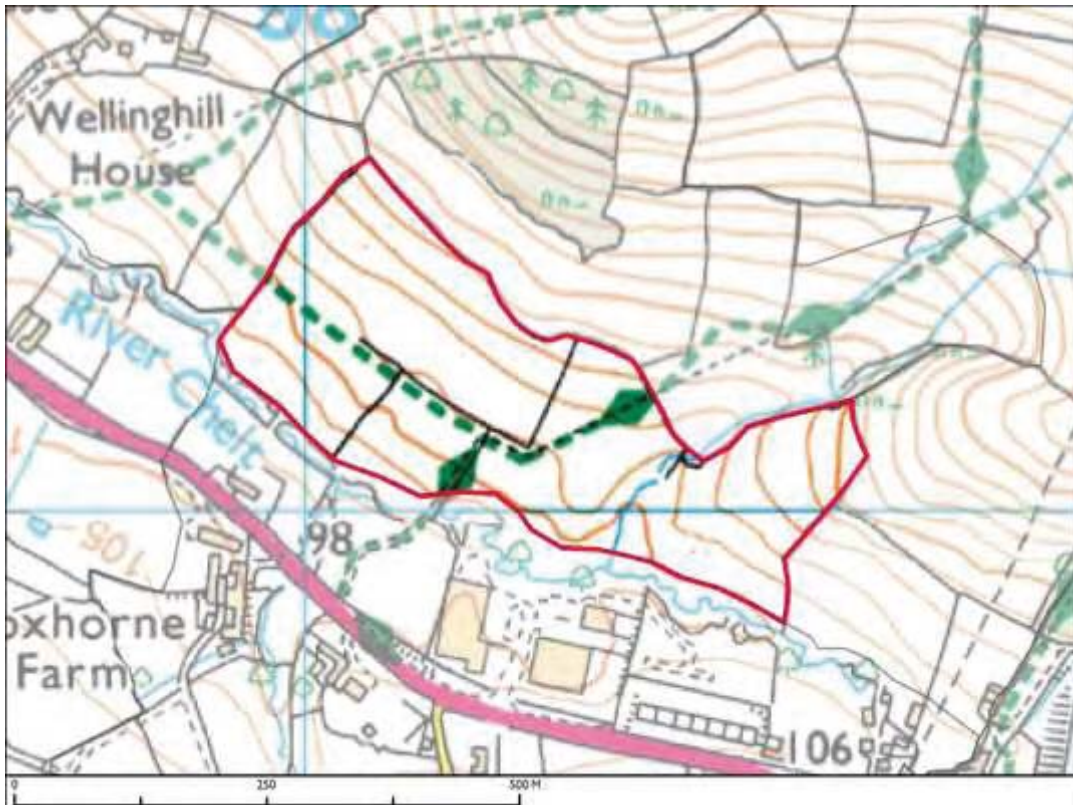
Landscape Character Type: Pasture Slopes

Landscape Character Area: Wellinghill House Pasture Slopes

Site Ref: LCA 7.10

SITE ANALYSIS

Site Location Plan:



Landscape Issues:

Physical Influences:

Sloping and open, medium scale topography

Land Cover:

Small to medium scale pasture farmland with well maintained hedgerow boundaries

Influence of human activity:

Some residential and commercial development to the south of the area

Aesthetic and perceptual aspects:

Wide, expansive open views to the south, medium to high tranquillity given the influence of the adjacent rural landscape character

Summary of individual elements:

Medium quality elements including footpaths and hedgerows

Distinctive landscape character types:

Very distinctive and becoming more rare, given the pressure placed on the landscape by development.

Overall character of the landscape:

Open, large scale arable character.

Designations:

- Cotswolds AONB

Landscape Character Appraisal:

A generally sloping and open landscape with wide views and medium distance skylines particularly to the south. Comprising principally agricultural land use with improved pasture and arable field uses. River Chelt and associated riparian woodland to the south of the area.

Field boundaries generally comprise mature well maintained hedgerows with some intermittent trees.

Visual Issues Appraisal:

Views from the site looking south and southeast are long distance and open, looking towards the rising slopes of Ravensgate Hill. Views looking west are elevated and look across pasture and woodland landscape on sloping topography. Views looking north look towards an elevated mature deciduous woodland which contains views beyond.

Views looking into the area available from residents to the south of the site, particularly along the A40. A number of footpaths exist within the landscape character area itself and surrounding it, resulting in accessibility of views from local footpath users.

Key Visual Receptors:

- Residents along the A40, particularly on the rising slopes to the south (The Bungalow and Redwood)
- Footpath users (ZCK/16/3, ZCK/17/1 and ZCK/16/2)
- Road users along the A40

Visual Sensitivity:

As summarised above, the views looking from the area look towards the escarpment slopes of the Cotswolds AONB to the south of the area, resulting in an overall visual sensitivity of **High**.

Landscape Character Sensitivity:

As summarised in the landscape character appraisal, the small to medium scale of the landscape character area, high levels of well maintained boundary vegetation, sloping topography and views into the area from adjacent residential properties to the south, the overall landscape sensitivity is assessed as **High**.

Landscape Value:

The landscape character area falls within the designated area known as the Cotswolds AONB, which is a national designation. With the footpaths that exist across the character area, the area has moderate recreational value. The sloping topography of the landscape results in the land is particularly visible from residential properties to the south of the area. The visual connections with the escarpment slopes to the northeast and south of the area are valuable perceptual aspects. The quality of the landscape elements are moderate, with predominantly hedgerow boundaries in good condition. Given the LCA falls within a nationally recognised AONB designation, and taking into consideration the visibility of the site and the generally good condition, the overall value of the landscape character area is assessed as **High**.

Landscape Capacity:

Visual Sensitivity	Landscape Character Sensitivity	Overall Landscape Sensitivity	Landscape Value	Overall Landscape Constraint	Resulting Landscape Capacity
High	High	HIGH	High	MAJOR OVERALL	LOW OVERALL

Please refer to section 2 of the main report for the description of the methodology used.

Further references:

National Landscape Character Areas:
NCA 106: Severn and Avon Vales

Cotswolds AONB Landscape Character Assessment:
LCT: 2. Escarpment
LCA: 2D – Cooper’s Hill to Winchcombe

PHOTO SHEET FOR SITE LCA 7.10 – Wellinghill House Pasture Slopes



VP1. View looking north from footpath ZCK/18/3



VP2. View looking northeast from footpath ZCK/18/3



VP3. View looking south from footpath ZCK/17/1



VP4. View looking southwest from footpath ZCK/17/1

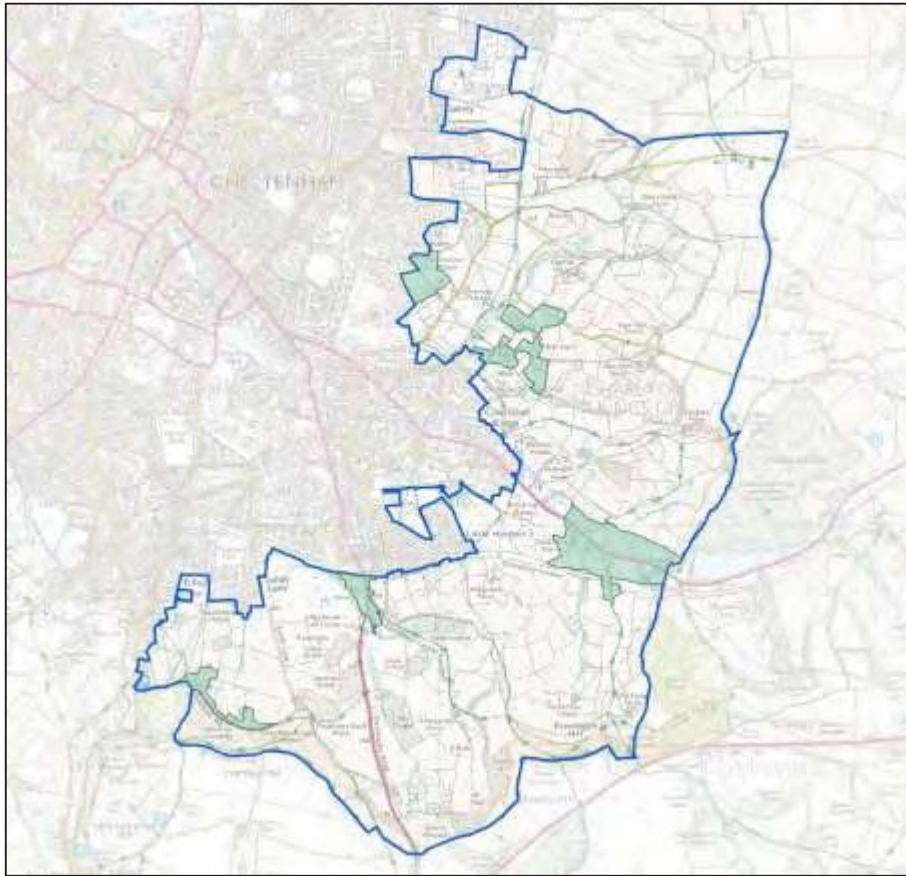


VP5. View looking west from footpath ZCK/17/1



VP6. View looking west from footpath ZCK/17/1

8. SETTLED LOWLANDS



The settled lowlands character type is located both throughout the study area, principally closer to the urban edge of Cheltenham. The land on which the type is located is more generally flatter topography enabling the settlement of it, however it is sloping in places.

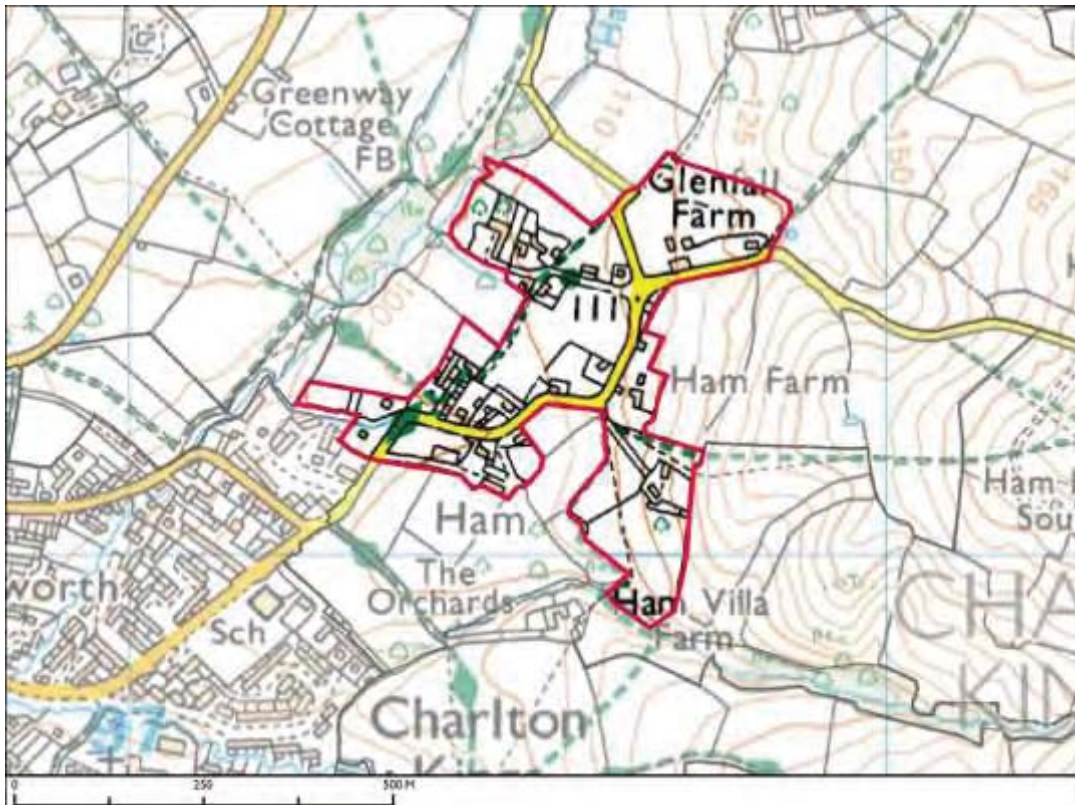
Land cover comprises a combination of ornamental planting associated with the property curtilages and

Settlement is commonplace throughout this character type and generally comprises detached properties with associated garden spaces and mature garden vegetation.

Landscape Character Type: Settled Lowlands
Landscape Character Area: Ham Settled Lowlands
Site Ref: LCA 8.1

SITE ANALYSIS

Site Location Plan:



Landscape Issues:

Physical Influences:

Sloping and rolling topography

Land Cover:

Pastoral landscape, well vegetated along the boundaries

Influence of human activity:

Residential built development to the west and south.

Aesthetic and perceptual aspects:

Views are contained by topography and vegetation, with medium to high tranquillity

Summary of individual elements:

Medium quality well maintained elements including footpaths, post and rail fencing and hedgerows

Quality and Condition:

Very distinctive and becoming more rare, given the pressure placed on the landscape by development

Overall character of the landscape:

Enclosed, small to medium scale settled pastoral character.

Designations:

- Cotswolds AONB

Landscape Character Appraisal:

An open, sloping and undulating pastoral landscape with well-defined boundaries formed by principally with post and rail fencing and hedgerows. Small to medium scale, the area is settled with detached properties with large associated curtilages.

Visual Issues Appraisal:

Views from the site looking south are filtered by intervening vegetation and medium distance, looking towards the rising slopes of Ham Hill. Views to the north, east and west are short distance and contained by mature well treed and vegetated boundaries and residential development.

Footpath users and residents of the properties within the area will have open views looking throughout the area.

Key Visual Receptors:

- Footpath users throughout the area (ZCK/13/1)
- Residents of properties along Ham Road including Ham Farm and Glenfall Farm
- Road users along Ham Road

Visual Sensitivity:

As summarised above, the views within the area are generally contained by mature vegetation and topography, however local views by footpath users and residents within the area are available throughout the area. As such, the overall landscape sensitivity of the area is assessed as **High**.

Landscape Character Sensitivity:

The area is located within the Cotswolds AONB and comprises enclosed pastoral farmed slopes. The area is encompassed by surrounding rural, settled landscape character areas and boundaries throughout the character area are defined with high quality hedgerow boundaries and post and rail fencing. Overall, the sensitivity of the landscape is considered to be **High**.

Landscape Value:

The landscape character area falls within the designated area known as the Cotswolds AONB, which is a national designation and represents a high value landscape. Visual receptors in the area comprise principally residents of properties and recreational viewers on footpaths through the area. Filtered views to the east are available looking towards the elevated escarpment slopes associated with Ham Hill. Taking these attributes into account, the value of the landscape character area is assessed as **High**.

Landscape Capacity:

Visual Sensitivity	Landscape Character Sensitivity	Overall Landscape Sensitivity	Landscape Value	Overall Landscape Constraint	Resulting Landscape Capacity
High	High	HIGH	High	MAJOR OVERALL	LOW OVERALL

Please refer to section 2 of the main report for the description of the methodology used.

Further references:

National Landscape Character Areas:
NCA 106: Severn and Avon Vales

Cotswolds AONB Landscape Character Assessment:
LCT: 2. Escarpment
LCA: 2D – Cooper’s Hill to Winchcombe

PHOTO SHEET FOR SITE LCA 8.1 – Ham Settled Lowlands



VP1. View looking southwest from centre of area



VP2. View looking southeast from north of area



VP3. View looking southeast from centre of area

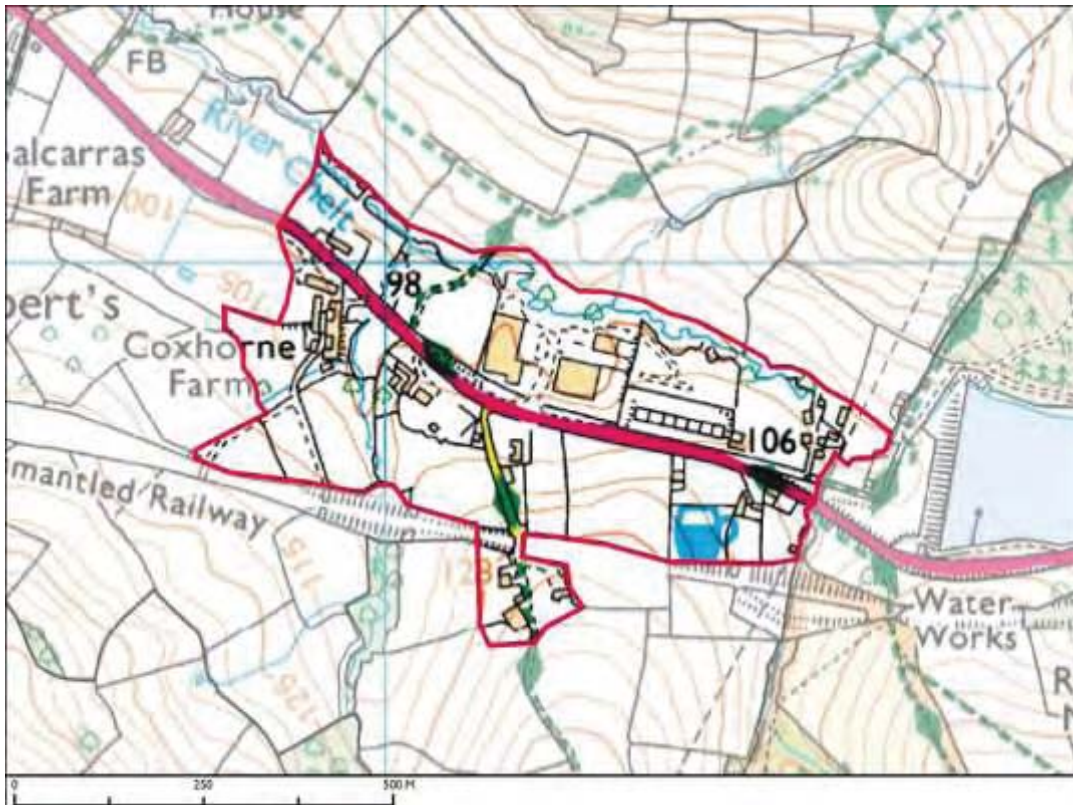


VP4. View looking northwest from centre of area

Landscape Character Type: Settled Lowlands
Landscape Character Area: Coxhome Farm Settled Lowlands
Site Ref: LCA 8.2

SITE ANALYSIS

Site Location Plan:



Landscape Issues:

Physical Influences:

Sloping and rolling topography

Land Cover:

Pastoral landscape, well vegetated along the boundaries

Influence of human activity:

Residential built development to the north and south.

Aesthetic and perceptual aspects:

Views are contained by topography and vegetation, including the busy London Road through the centre of the area, with medium overall tranquillity

Summary of individual elements:

Medium quality elements including footpaths, roads, residential and commercial properties and a pylon line to the east of the area.

Summary of Condition:

The overall condition of the area is good, however declines slightly in the vicinity of the busy London Road and associated with the commercial development to the north of the road

Overall character of the landscape:

Enclosed, small to medium scale settled pastoral character.

Designations:

- Cotswolds AONB

Landscape Character Appraisal:

An open, sloping and undulating pastoral landscape with well-defined boundaries formed principally with post and rail fencing and hedgerows. Small to medium scale, the area is settled with detached properties with large associated curtilages.

Visual Issues Appraisal:

Views from the site looking south are filtered by intervening vegetation and medium distance, looking towards the rising slopes of Ham Hill South to the north and of Wistley Hill to the south. Views to the east and west are short distance and contained by mature well treed and vegetated boundaries and residential development.

Key Visual Receptors:

- Footpath users throughout the area (ZCK/62/1)
- Residents of properties along London Road including Coxhome Farm
- Road users along London Road

Visual Sensitivity:

As summarised above, the views looking from the area are a combination of medium distance looking towards the adjacent hills of Ham Hill South and Wistley Hill to the north and south respectively, and short distance, contained by the mature vegetation associated with the built development, resulting in an overall visual sensitivity of **Medium**.

Landscape Character Sensitivity:

The area is located within the Cotswolds AONB and comprises enclosed pastoral farmed slopes. The area is encompassed by surrounding rural, settled landscape character areas and boundaries throughout the character area are defined with high quality hedgerow boundaries and post and rail fencing. Overall, the sensitivity of the landscape is considered to be **Medium**.

Landscape Value:

The landscape character area falls within the designated area known as the Cotswolds AONB, which is a national designation and represents a high value landscape. Visual receptors in the area comprise principally residents of the properties in the area and recreational viewers on footpaths through the area. Filtered views to the south are available looking towards the elevated escarpment slopes associated with Wistley Hill. Taking these attributes into account, the value of the landscape character area is assessed as **High**.

Landscape Capacity:

Visual Sensitivity	Landscape Character Sensitivity	Overall Landscape Sensitivity	Landscape Value	Overall Landscape Constraint	Resulting Landscape Capacity
Medium	Medium	MEDIUM	High	MAJOR OVERALL	LOW OVERALL

Please refer to section 2 of the main report for the description of the methodology used.

Further references:

National Landscape Character Areas:
NCA 106: Severn and Avon Vales

Cotswolds AONB Landscape Character Assessment:
LCT: 2. Escarpment
LCA: 2D – Cooper’s Hill to Winchcombe

PHOTO SHEET FOR SITE LCA 8.2 – Coxhome Farm Settled Lowlands



VP1. View looking west, northwest from east of area



VP2. View looking east, southeast from east of area



VP3. View looking southeast from centre of area



VP4. View looking east from centre of area



VP5. View looking north from centre of area

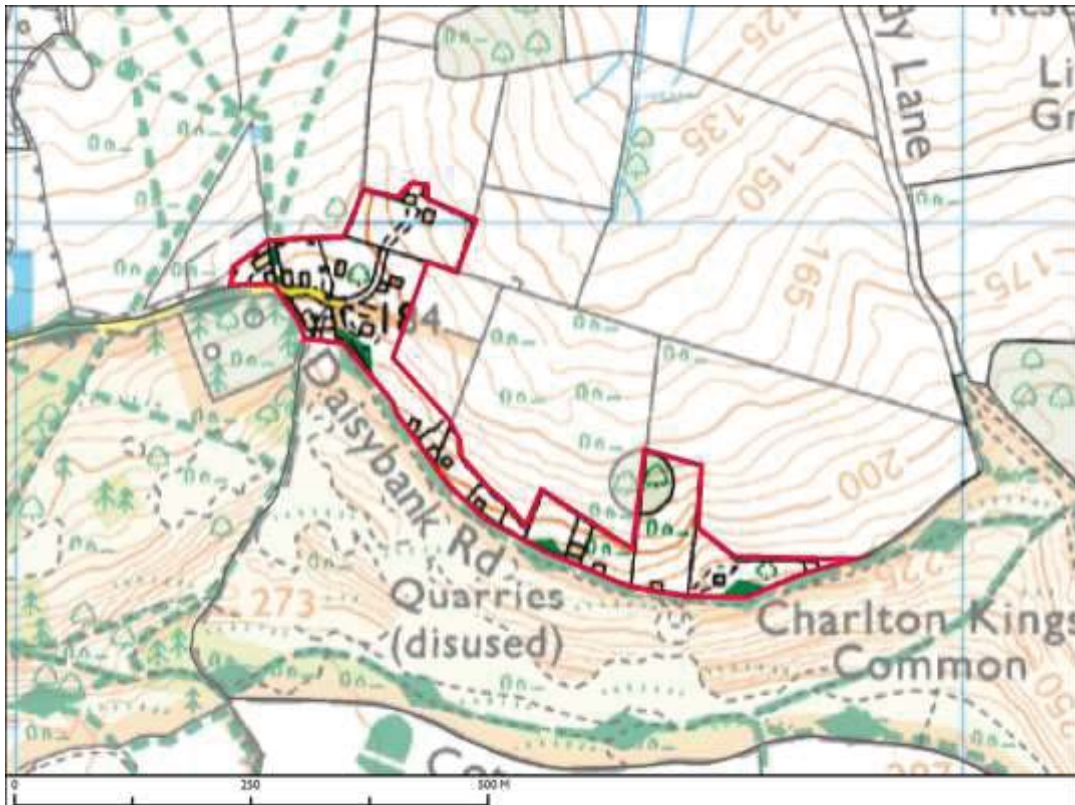


VP6. View looking north, northeast from west of area

Landscape Character Type: Settled Lowlands
Landscape Character Area: Daisybank Settled Lowlands
Site Ref: LCA 8.3

SITE ANALYSIS

Site Location Plan:



Landscape Issues:

Physical Influences:

Sloping and rolling topography

Land Cover:

Pastoral landscape, well vegetated along the boundaries

Influence of human activity:

Residential built development to the west and south.

Aesthetic and perceptual aspects:

Views are contained by topography and vegetation, with moderate to high tranquillity

Summary of individual elements:

Medium quality elements including footpath trails and residential boundary treatments

Quality and Condition:

Very distinctive and becoming more rare, given the pressure placed on the landscape by development.

Overall character of the landscape:

Enclosed, small to medium scale pastoral character.

Designations:

- Cotswolds AONB

Landscape Character Appraisal:

An open, sloping and undulating pastoral landscape with well-defined boundaries formed by principally with post and rail fencing and hedgerows. Small to medium scale, the area is settled with detached properties with large associated curtilages.

Visual Issues Appraisal:

Views from the site looking north are elevated, open and long distance looking across the pastoral landscape towards the southern edge of the built form of Cheltenham. Views to the northeast are long distance look towards the rising slopes of the Cotswolds AONB hills to the east of the area.

Key Visual Receptors:

- Footpath users throughout the area (ZCK/56/2)
- Residents of properties along Daisybank Road
- Road users along Daisybank Road
- Footpath users along the Cotswold Way to the south of the area

Visual Sensitivity:

As summarised above, the views looking from the area are expansive and panoramic, resulting in an overall visual sensitivity of **High**.

Landscape Character Sensitivity:

The area is located within the Cotswolds AONB and comprises residential properties located on Daisybank Road on the northern slopes of Hartley Hill. The area is encompassed by surrounding rural, settled landscape character areas and boundaries throughout the character area are defined with high quality hedgerow boundaries and post and rail fencing. Overall, the sensitivity of the landscape is considered to be **High**.

Landscape Value:

The landscape character area falls within the designated area known as the Cotswolds AONB, which is a national designation and represents a high value landscape. Visual receptors in the area comprise principally recreational viewers on footpaths through the area. Open elevated views to the north are available looking towards the southern urban edge of Cheltenham and towards the hill slopes to the north east. Taking these attributes into account, the value of the landscape character area is assessed as **High**.

Landscape Capacity:

Visual Sensitivity	Landscape Character Sensitivity	Overall Landscape Sensitivity	Landscape Value	Overall Landscape Constraint	Resulting Landscape Capacity
High	High	HIGH	High	MAJOR OVERALL	LOW OVERALL

Please refer to section 2 of the main report for the description of the methodology used.

Further references:

National Landscape Character Areas:
NCA 106: Severn and Avon Vales

Cotswolds AONB Landscape Character Assessment:
LCT: 2. Escarpment
LCA: 2D – Cooper’s Hill to Winchcombe

PHOTO SHEET FOR SITE LCA 8.3 – Daisybank Settled Lowlands



VP1. View looking northwest from the Cotswold Way



VP2. View looking north from the Cotswold Way



VP3. View looking north, NE from the Cotswold Way



VP4. View looking northeast from the Cotswold Way

Landscape Character Type: Settled Lowlands
Landscape Character Area: Lilley Brook Settled Lowlands
Site Ref: LCA 8.4

SITE ANALYSIS

Site Location Plan:



Landscape Issues:

Physical Influences:

Flat and sloping topography

Land Cover:

Settled landscape, well vegetated along the boundaries

Influence of human activity:

Residential built development to the west and north.

Aesthetic and perceptual aspects:

Views are contained by topography and vegetation, with medium tranquillity

Summary of individual elements:

High quality well maintained elements including footpath trails, gorse and escarpment moor

Quality and Condition:

Very distinctive and becoming more rare, given the pressure placed on the landscape by development.

Overall character of the landscape:

Enclosed, small to medium scale settled pastoral character.

Designations:

- Cotswolds AONB

Landscape Character Appraisal:

A settled and predominantly enclosed pastoral landscape with well-defined boundaries formed by principally with post and rail fencing and hedgerows. Small to medium scale, the area is settled with detached properties with large associated curtilages along with a large hotel (Cheltenham Park Hotel).

Visual Issues Appraisal:

Views from the site looking east are filtered by intervening vegetation and medium distance, looking towards the rising slopes of Wistley Hill. Views to the north, west and east are short distance and contained by mature well treed and vegetated boundaries and residential development.

Key Visual Receptors:

- Footpath users throughout the area (Cheltenham Circular Footpath)
- Residents of properties along Little Herbert's Road
- Road users along Little Herbert's Road and Cirencester Road

Visual Sensitivity:

As summarised above, the views looking from the area looking west and southwest towards the escarpment slopes of Wistley Hill and local views within the area from residents of the detached properties, road users of the Little Herbert's Road and Cirencester Road and footpath users along the Cheltenham Circular footpath, resulting in an overall visual sensitivity of **High**.

Landscape Character Sensitivity:

The area is located within the Cotswolds AONB and comprises enclosed settled pastoral farmed lowland. The area is encompassed by surrounding rural, settled landscape character areas and boundaries throughout the character area are defined with high quality hedgerow boundaries and post and rail fencing. Overall, the sensitivity of the landscape is considered to be **High**.

Landscape Value:

The landscape character area falls within the designated area known as the Cotswolds AONB, which is a national designation and represents a high value landscape. Visual receptors in the area comprise principally recreational viewers on footpaths through the area. Filtered views to the south are available looking towards the elevated escarpment slopes associated with Wistley Hill. Taking these attributes into account, the value of the landscape character area is assessed as **High**.

Landscape Capacity:

Visual Sensitivity	Landscape Character Sensitivity	Overall Landscape Sensitivity	Landscape Value	Overall Landscape Constraint	Resulting Landscape Capacity
High	High	HIGH	High	MAJOR OVERALL	LOW OVERALL

Please refer to section 2 of the main report for the description of the methodology used.

Further references:

National Landscape Character Areas:
NCA 106: Severn and Avon Vales

Cotswolds AONB Landscape Character Assessment:
LCT: 2. Escarpment
LCA: 2D – Cooper's Hill to Winchcombe

PHOTO SHEET FOR SITE LCA 8.4 – Lilley Brook Settled Lowlands



VP1. View looking west from the east of the area



VP2. View looking north along Little Herbert's Road



VP3. View looking southeast along Cirencester Road



VP4. View looking southeast along Little Herbert's Road



VP5. View looking NW towards Cheltenham Park Hotel



VP6. View looking southeast from Cirencester road

Landscape Character Type: Settled Lowlands
Landscape Character Area: Battledown Settled Lowlands
Site Ref: LCA 8.5

SITE ANALYSIS

Site Location Plan:



Landscape Issues:

Physical Influences:

Sloping and rolling topography

Land Cover:

Pastoral landscape, well vegetated along the boundaries

Influence of human activity:

Residential built development to the west and south.

Aesthetic and perceptual aspects:

Views are contained by topography and vegetation, with medium to high tranquillity

Summary of individual elements:

High quality well maintained elements including footpath trails, gorse and escarpment moor

Quality and Condition:

Medium to high quality, with majority of elements in good condition.

Overall character of the landscape:

Enclosed, small to medium scale pastoral character.

Designations:

- Cotswolds AONB

Landscape Character Appraisal:

An open, sloping and undulating pastoral landscape with well-defined boundaries formed principally by post and rail fencing and hedgerows. Small to medium scale, with detached properties with large associated curtilages. Mature individual trees exist throughout the fields and represent a characteristic of the landscape character area.

Visual Issues Appraisal:

Views from the site looking south are filtered by intervening vegetation and medium distance, looking towards the rising slopes of Ham Hill North. Views to the north, east and west are short distance and contained by mature well treed and vegetated boundaries and residential development.

Views into the area are available from the adjacent residential development to the north, the footpath through the centre of the area and road users along Greenway Lane to the south of the area.

Key Visual Receptors:

- Footpath users throughout the area (ZCK/3/1)
- Residents of properties along Ashley Road
- Road users along Greenway Lane to the south of the area

Visual Sensitivity:

As summarised above, the views looking from the area are expansive and panoramic, resulting in an overall visual sensitivity of **High**.

Landscape Character Sensitivity:

The area is located within the Cotswolds AONB and comprises enclosed pastoral farmed slopes. The area is encompassed by surrounding rural, settled landscape character areas and boundaries throughout the character area are defined with high quality hedgerow boundaries and post and rail fencing. Overall, the sensitivity of the landscape is considered to be **High**.

Landscape Value:

The landscape character area falls within the designated area known as the Cotswolds AONB, which is a national designation and represents a high value landscape. Visual receptors in the area comprise principally recreational viewers on footpaths through the area. Filtered views to the east are available looking towards the elevated escarpment slopes associated with Ham Hill North. Taking these attributes into account, the value of the landscape character area is assessed as **High**.

Landscape Capacity:

Visual Sensitivity	Landscape Character Sensitivity	Overall Landscape Sensitivity	Landscape Value	Overall Landscape Constraint	Resulting Landscape Capacity
High	High	HIGH	High	MAJOR OVERALL	LOW OVERALL

Please refer to section 2 of the main report for the description of the methodology used.

Further references:

National Landscape Character Areas:
NCA 106: Severn and Avon Vales

Cotswolds AONB Landscape Character Assessment:
LCT: 2. Escarpment
LCA: 2D – Cooper’s Hill to Winchcombe

PHOTO SHEET FOR SITE LCA 8.5 – Battledown Settled Lowlands



VP1. View looking south from north of area



VP2. View looking southwest from north of area



VP3. View looking west, northwest from north of area

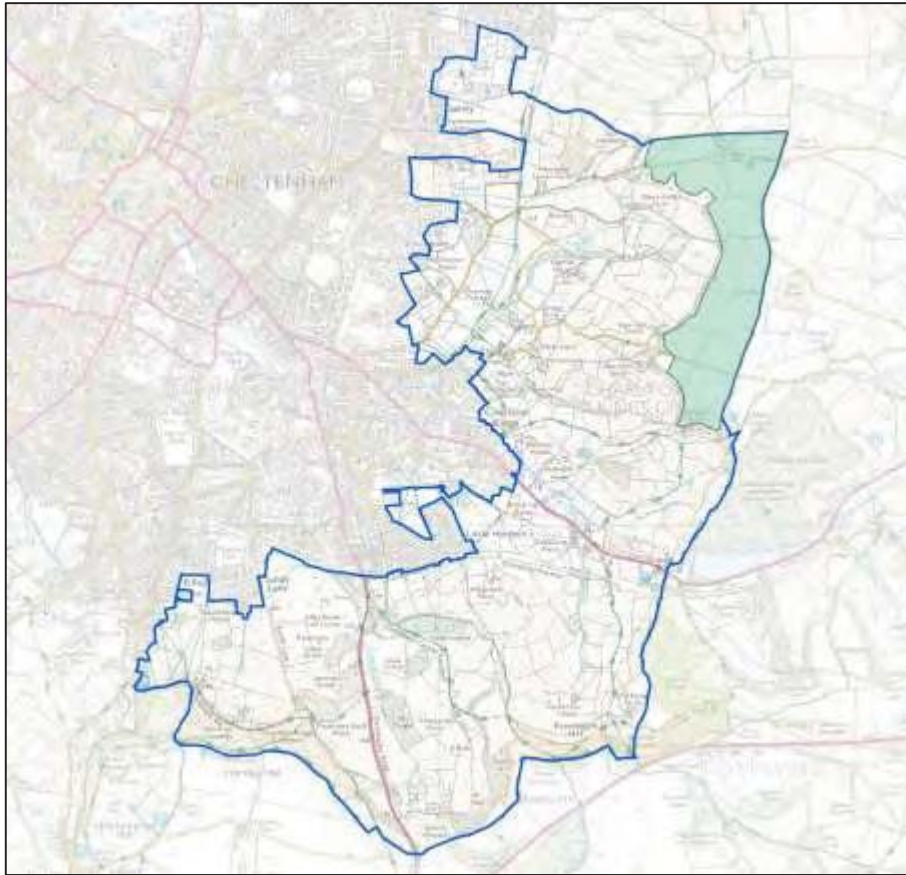


VP4. View looking east, southeast from north of area



VP5. View looking northwest from north of area

9. UPLAND FARMLAND

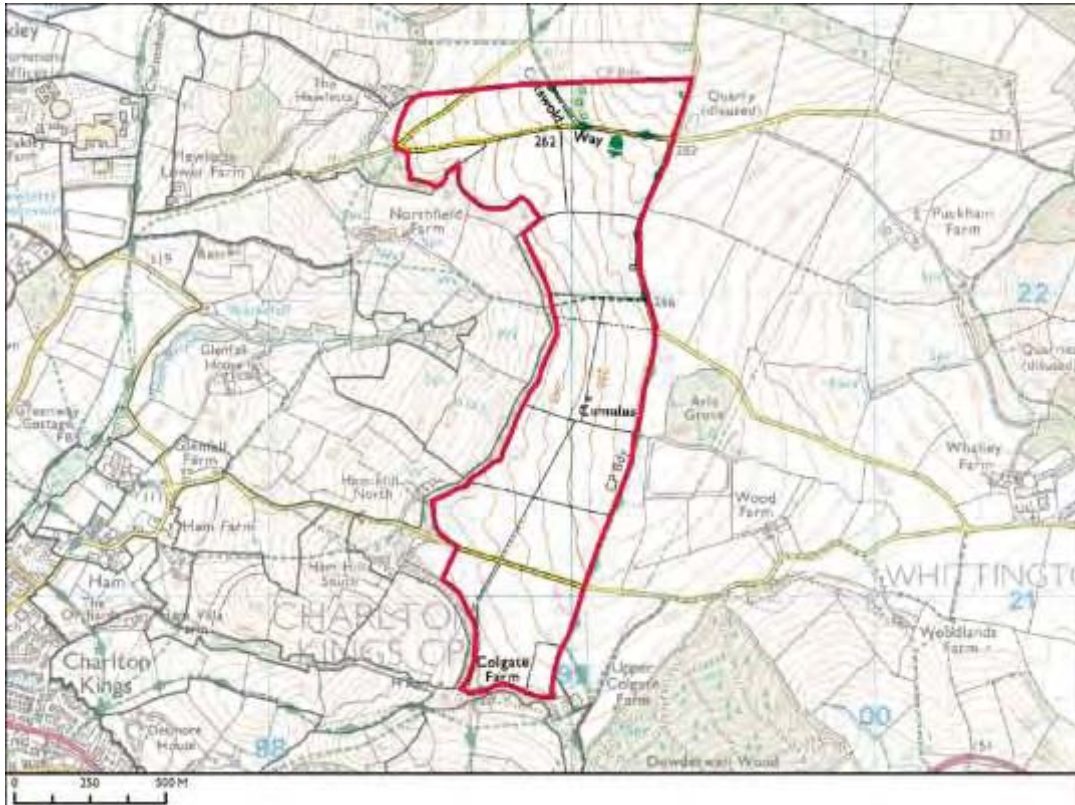


The upland farmed slopes are medium to large scale and land use principally comprises arable agricultural use. Associated with the higher elevations of the escarpment slopes character type, the topography is generally gently sloping, becoming flatter towards the east. Boundaries are formed by a combination of drystone walls and post and rail fencing. Vegetation is sparse and features predominantly as linear bands of trees along roadsides.

Landscape Character Type: Upland Farmland
Landscape Character Area: Colgate Upland Farmland
Site Ref: LCA 9.1

SITE ANALYSIS

Site Location Plan:



Landscape Issues:

Physical Influences:

Elevated and undulating landform that slopes to the west

Land Cover:

Large scale arable farmland with drystone wall, post and rail and hedgerow boundaries

Influence of human activity:

Farmed landscape with little other influence of human activity

Aesthetic and perceptual aspects:

Wide, expansive open views to the west, moderate to high tranquillity

Summary of individual elements:

High quality well maintained elements including footpath trails, drystone wall and hedgerow boundaries.

Quality and Condition:

Very distinctive, of high quality and very good condition

Overall character of the landscape:

Open, large scale pastoral character.

Designations:

- Cotswolds AONB
- Cotswold Way National Trail

Landscape Character Appraisal:

An open, sloping and undulating pastoral landscape with well-defined boundaries formed by principally with dry stone walls and hedgerows. Large scale, the area is unsettled. The Cotswold Way National Trail passes through the northeast corner of the area.

Visual Issues Appraisal:

Views from the site looking west are long distance and open, looking towards and across the built form of Cheltenham and to the landscape beyond. To the south and southwest, open and panoramic views take in the elevated and undulating escarpment slopes of the Cotswolds AONB. Views to the southwest are contained by mature woodland that follows the contours of the hill.

Key Visual Receptors:

- Footpath users throughout the area, along the Cotswold Way National Trail and footpath ZCK/8/4
- Road users along Aggs Hill road and Ham Road

Visual Sensitivity:

As summarised in the visual issues appraisal above, the views looking from the area are generally open and long distance, resulting in an overall visual sensitivity of **High**.

Landscape Character Sensitivity:

The area is located within the Cotswolds AONB and comprises open pastoral farmed slopes, leading down to the west to the urban edge of Cheltenham. The area is encompassed by surrounding rural landscape character areas and boundaries throughout the character area are defined with high quality drystone walls and hedgerow boundaries. Overall, the sensitivity of the landscape is considered to be **High**.

Landscape Value:

The landscape character area falls within the designated area known as the Cotswolds AONB, which is a national designation and represents a high value landscape. Visual receptors in the area comprise principally recreational viewers with numerous footpaths and little settlement in the area aside from Northfield Farm which is a Listed building. Views to the west are open, long distance and panoramic taking in high quality views. Taking these attributes into account, the value of the landscape character area is assessed as **High**.

Landscape Capacity:

Visual Sensitivity	Landscape Character Sensitivity	Overall Landscape Sensitivity	Landscape Value	Overall Landscape Constraint	Resulting Landscape Capacity
High	High	HIGH	High	MAJOR OVERALL	LOW OVERALL

Please refer to section 2 of the main report for the description of the methodology used.

Further references:

National Landscape Character Areas:
NCA 106: Severn and Avon Vales

Cotswolds AONB Landscape Character Assessment:

LCT: 7. High Wold
LCA: 7C – Cotswolds High Wold Plateau

PHOTO SHEET FOR SITE LCA 9.1 – Colgate Upland Farmland



VP1. View looking northeast from north of area



VP2. View looking southwest from north of area



VP3. View looking west from centre of area



VP4. View looking south along Cotswold Way National Trail

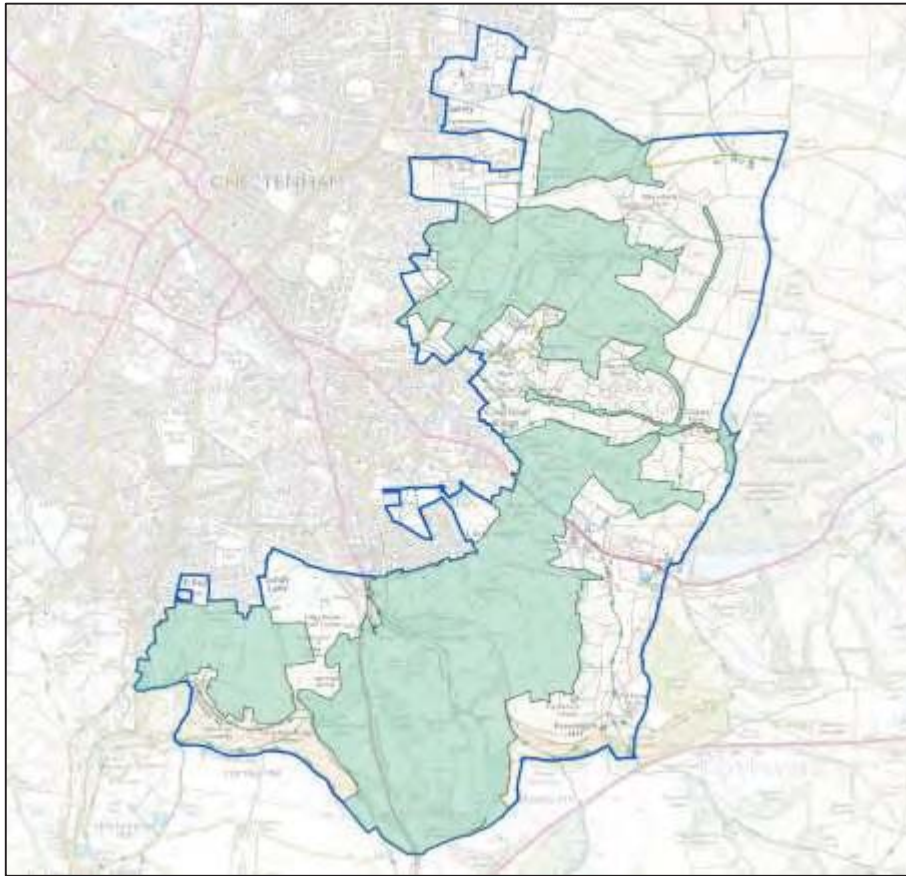


VP5. Views looking southwest from south of area



VP6. Views looking south from south of area

10. WOODED PASTURE SLOPES



The pasture slopes character type is located along the rising slopes from the urban edge of Cheltenham to the west of the study area, upwards to the east of the study area, where the slopes rise to meet the escarpment character type.

Land cover comprises principally pasture, in varying degrees of condition. Boundaries are generally in good condition and principally comprise hedgerows (some well maintained and some outgrown) and post and rail fencing. A number of small to medium sized copses of woodland exist throughout the character type, along with mature riparian vegetation alongside water courses and mature field boundaries.

Settlement is very sparse throughout this character type, principally due to the sloping topography. A small number of individual farmstead properties occur.

Roads within this character type are not common, although those that do exist align generally on an east to west orientation. However local footpaths including the Cheltenham Circular Trail are a common feature.

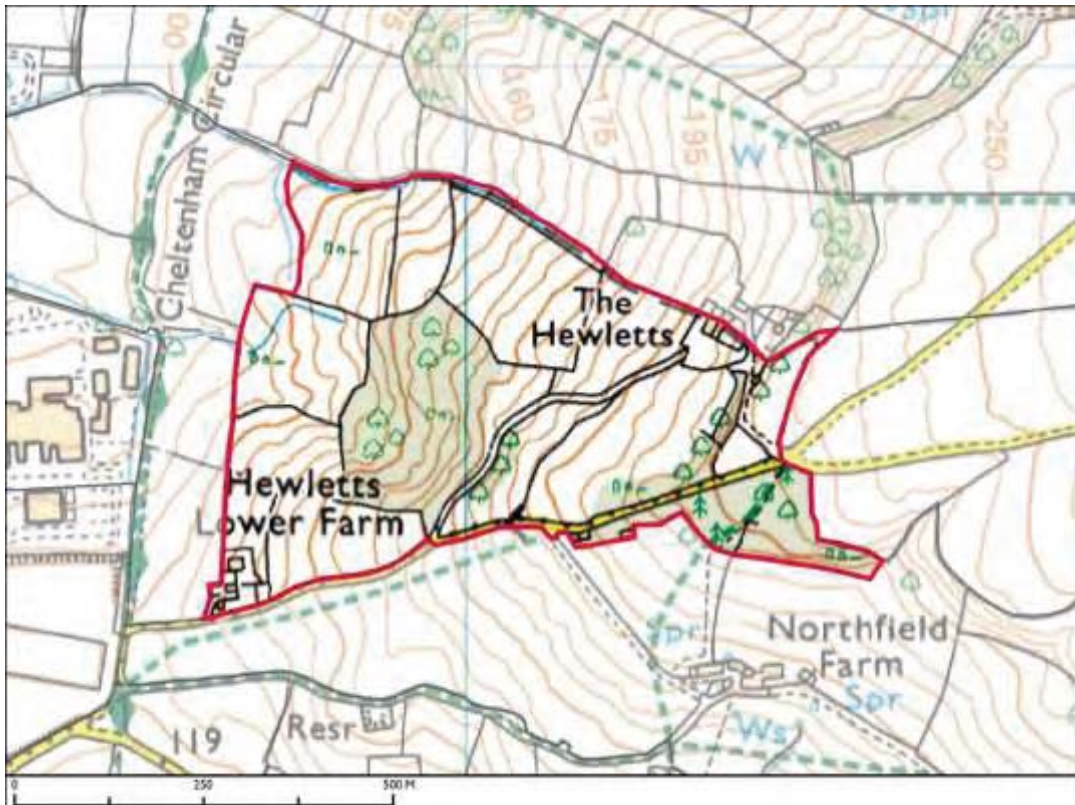
Landscape Character Type: Wooded Pasture Slopes

Landscape Character Area: The Hewlett's Wooded Pasture Slopes

Site Ref: LCA 10.1

SITE ANALYSIS

Site Location Plan:



Landscape Issues:

Physical Influences:

Gently sloping medium scale landform

Land Cover:

Pastoral farmland and scrub including mature well vegetated hedgerow and tree boundaries

Influence of human activity:

Bouncer's Lane Cemetery to the northwest, Playing Fields to the west, demolition of Government offices to the west

Aesthetic and perceptual aspects:

Elevated views to the west, looking over Cheltenham urban edge, views to the east towards the escarpment slopes

Summary of individual elements:

High quality well maintained elements including hedgerow boundaries and woodlands.

Quality and Condition:

Moderate quality with well vegetated boundaries and open scrub and pasture land

Overall character of the landscape:

Open, medium large scale pastoral character.

Designations:

- Cotswolds AONB

Landscape Character Appraisal:

A sloping area, rising more steeply towards the east, up towards the escarpment slopes to the east. Comprising principally pastoral and scrub land use, the boundaries to the area and the field parcels within it are well vegetated with mature outgrown hedgerows and trees.

The Cheltenham Circular Footpath runs to the west of the area on a generally north to south orientation.

Visual Issues Appraisal:

Views from the site looking west are contained in places by the mature outgrown boundary vegetation and woodland, however where gaps in the vegetation allow, wide elevated views looking across the landscape to the west take in views across the urban edge of Cheltenham.

Views to the east look towards the rising slopes of the escarpment slopes, restricting views. Views along the slopes to the northeast allow further distance views, looking across the slopes and the numerous woodland blocks and copses that exist across the slopes.

Key Visual Receptors:

- Footpath users along the Cheltenham Circular Way
- Residents of Hewlett's Lower farm and The Hewlett's
- Road users along Agg's Hill Road

Visual Sensitivity:

As summarised above, the views looking from the area, where vegetation allows, are open, elevated and long distance, resulting in an overall visual sensitivity of **High**.

Landscape Character Sensitivity:

As summarised in the landscape character appraisal, the medium scale landscape, high levels of mature boundary vegetation, sloping topography and views into the area from the Cheltenham Circular Way, residential properties within the area and road users along the southern boundary of the area, the overall landscape sensitivity is assessed as **Medium**.

Landscape Value:

The landscape character area falls within the area falls partially within the designated area known as the Cotswolds AONB, which is a national designation and represents a high value landscape. With the elevated and sloping nature of the landscape character area, the visibility of the area increases further to the east. Mature hedgerows and trees that form the boundaries to the field parcels within the landscape character area screen views in places from the lower western elevations of the slopes. The overall landscape value is assessed as **High**, with higher value assigned further east in the area.

Landscape Capacity:

Visual Sensitivity	Landscape Character Sensitivity	Overall Landscape Sensitivity	Landscape Value	Overall Landscape Constraint	Resulting Landscape Capacity
High	Medium	HIGH	High	MAJOR OVERALL	LOW OVERALL

Please refer to section 2 of the main report for the description of the methodology used.

Further References:

National Landscape Character Areas:
NCA 106: Severn and Avon Vales

Cotswolds AONB Landscape Character Assessment:
LCT: 2. Escarpment
LCA: 2D – Cooper's Hill to Winchcombe

PHOTO SHEET FOR SITE LCA 10.1 – The Hewlett’s Wooded Pasture Slopes



VP1. View looking northeast from southwest of area



VP2. View looking east from southwest of area



VP3. View looking southeast from west of area



VP4. View looking east, northeast from southwest of area

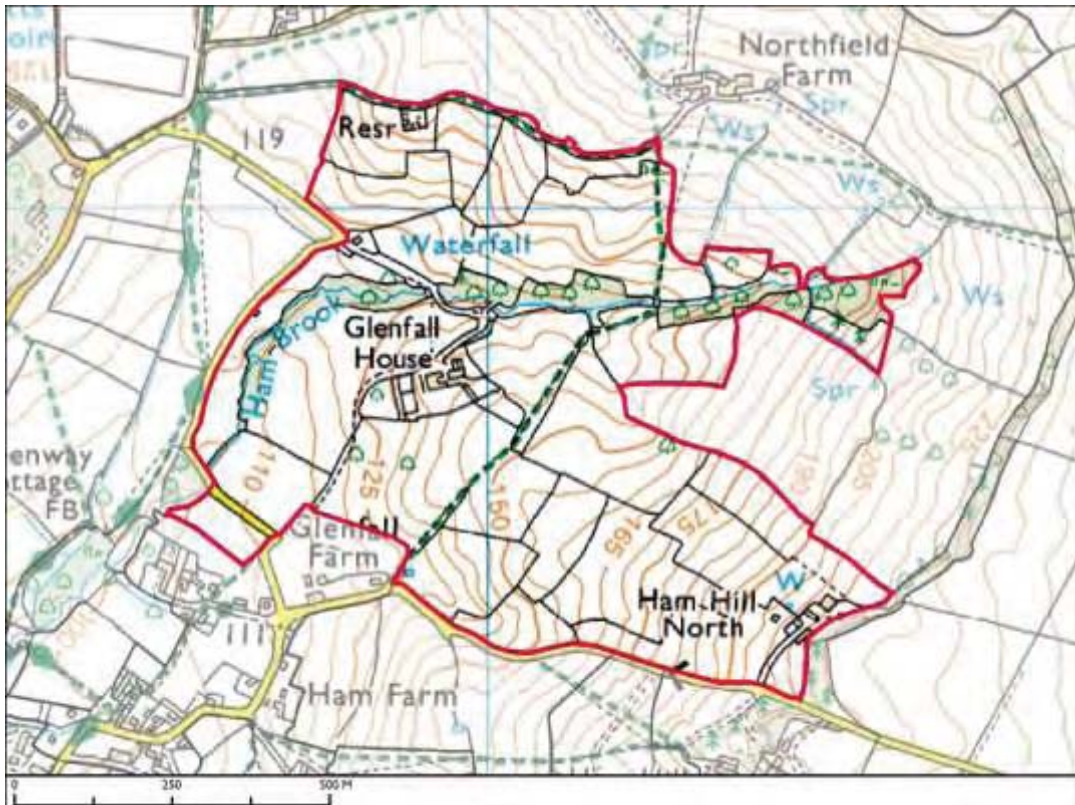
Landscape Character Type: Wooded Pasture Slopes

Landscape Character Area: Glenfall House Wooded Pasture Slopes

Site Ref: LCA 10.2

SITE ANALYSIS

Site Location Plan:



Landscape Issues:

Physical Influences:

Gently sloping medium scale landform

Land Cover:

Pastoral farmland and scrub including mature well vegetated hedgerow and tree boundaries

Influence of human activity:

Bouncer's Lane Cemetery to the northwest, Playing Fields to the west, demolition of Government offices to the southwest

Aesthetic and perceptual aspects:

Elevated views to the west, looking over Cheltenham urban edge, views to the east towards the escarpment slopes. High tranquillity

Summary of individual elements:

High quality well maintained elements including hedgerow boundaries and woodlands.

Quality and Condition:

Moderate quality with well vegetated boundaries and open scrub and pasture land

Overall character of the landscape:

Open, medium large scale pastoral character.

Designations:

- Cotswolds AONB

Landscape Character Appraisal:

A gently sloping area, rising more steeply towards the east, up towards the escarpment slopes to the east. Comprising principally pastoral and scrub land use, the boundaries to the area and the field parcels within it are well vegetated with mature outgrown hedgerows and trees.

The Cheltenham Circular Footpath runs to the west of the area on a generally north to south orientation.

Glenfall House and the associated grounds form a distinct parkland setting within the area.

Visual Issues Appraisal:

Views from the site looking west are contained in places by the mature outgrown boundary vegetation, however where gaps in the vegetation allow, wide elevated views looking across the landscape to the west take in views across the urban edge of Cheltenham.

Views to the east look towards the rising slopes of the escarpment slopes, restricting views. Views along the slopes to the northeast allow further distance views and the numerous woodland blocks and copses that exist across the slopes.

Key Visual Receptors:

- Footpath users along the Cheltenham Circular Way
- Residents along the eastern edge of Cheltenham

Visual Sensitivity:

As summarised in the visual issues appraisal above, the views looking from the area are expansive, elevated and long distance, resulting in an overall visual sensitivity of **High**.

Landscape Character Sensitivity:

As summarised in the landscape character appraisal, the medium scale landscape, high levels of mature boundary vegetation, sloping topography and views into the area from the Cheltenham Circular Way, and from residential properties to the west of the area, the overall landscape sensitivity is assessed as **Medium**.

Landscape Value:

The landscape character area falls within the area falls partially within the designated area known as the Cotswolds AONB, which is a national designation and represents a high value landscape. With the elevated and sloping nature of the landscape character area, the visibility of the area increases further to the east. Mature hedgerows and trees that form the boundaries to the field parcels within the landscape character area screen views in places from the lower western elevations of the slopes. The overall landscape value is assessed as **High**, with higher value assigned further east in the area.

Landscape Capacity:

Visual Sensitivity	Landscape Character Sensitivity	Overall Landscape Sensitivity	Landscape Value	Overall Landscape Constraint	Resulting Landscape Capacity
High	Medium	HIGH	High	MAJOR OVERALL	LOW OVERALL

Please refer to section 2 of the main report for the description of the methodology used.

Further References:

National Landscape Character Areas:
NCA 106: Severn and Avon Vales

Cotswolds AONB Landscape Character Assessment:
LCT: 2. Escarpment
LCA: 2D – Cooper’s Hill to Winchcombe

PHOTO SHEET FOR SITE LCA 10.2 – Glenfall House Wooded Pasture Slopes



VP1. View looking west, NW from southeast of area



VP2. View looking north, NE from southeast of area



VP3. View looking north from south of area



VP4. View looking west from southwest of area



VP5. View looking north from centre of area



VP6. View looking northeast from centre of area



VP7. View looking southeast from centre of area

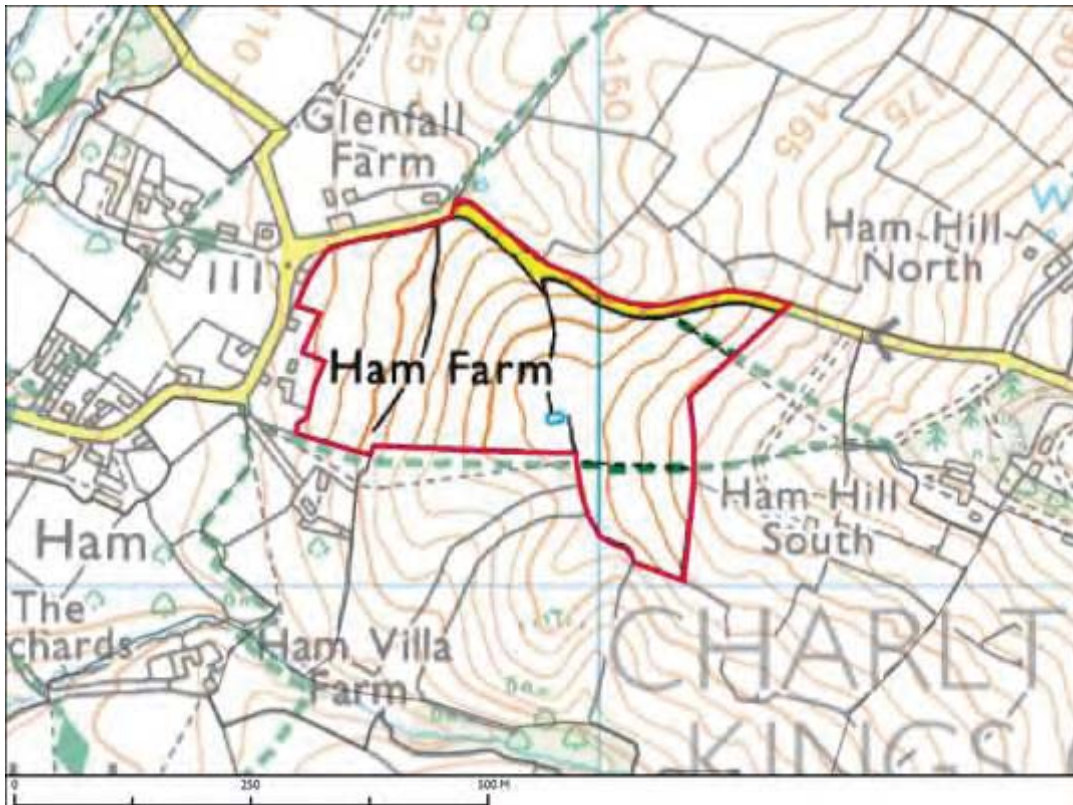


VP8. View looking north from centre of area

Landscape Character Type: Wooded Pasture Slopes
Landscape Character Area: Ham Farm Wooded Pasture Slopes
Site Ref: LCA 10.3

SITE ANALYSIS

Site Location Plan:



Landscape Issues:

Physical Influences:

Gently sloping medium scale landform

Land Cover:

Pastoral farmland including mature well vegetated hedgerow boundaries

Influence of human activity:

Ham Farm to the west, Ham Hill Road to the north

Aesthetic and perceptual aspects:

Elevated views to the west, looking over Cheltenham urban edge, views to the east towards the escarpment slopes. High levels of tranquillity

Summary of individual elements:

High quality well maintained elements including hedgerow boundaries

Quality and Condition:

Medium quality with well vegetated boundaries

Overall character of the landscape:

Open, medium scale pastoral character.

Designations:

- Cotswolds AONB

Landscape Character Appraisal:

A gently sloping area, rising more steeply towards the east, up towards the escarpment slopes to the east. Comprising principally pastoral and scrub land use, the boundaries to the area and the field parcels within it are well vegetated with mature outgrown hedgerows and trees.

Visual Issues Appraisal:

Views from the site looking west are contained in places by the mature outgrown boundary vegetation, however where gaps in the vegetation allow, wide elevated views looking across the landscape to the west take in views across the urban edge of Cheltenham.

Views to the east look towards the rising slopes of the escarpment slopes, restricting views. Views along the slopes to the northeast allow further distance views, looking across the slopes and the numerous woodland blocks and copses that exist across the slopes.

Key Visual Receptors:

- Footpath users along ZCK/21/1 and ZCK/22/1
- Residents along the eastern edge of Cheltenham, east of Hale's Road

Visual Sensitivity:

As summarised above, the views looking from the area, where vegetation allows, are open, elevated and long distance, resulting in an overall visual sensitivity of **High**.

Landscape Character Sensitivity:

As summarised in the landscape character appraisal, the medium scale landscape, high levels of mature boundary vegetation, sloping topography and views into and out of the area from the public rights of way network, residential properties to the west of the area, the overall landscape sensitivity is assessed as **Medium**.

Landscape Value:

The landscape character area falls within the area falls partially within the designated area known as the Cotswolds AONB, which is a national designation and represents a high value landscape. With the elevated and sloping nature of the landscape character area, the visibility of the area increases further to the east. Mature hedgerows and trees that form the boundaries to the field parcels within the landscape character area screen views in places from the lower western elevations of the slopes. The overall landscape value is assessed as **High**, with higher value assigned further east in the area.

Landscape Capacity:

Visual Sensitivity	Landscape Character Sensitivity	Overall Landscape Sensitivity	Landscape Value	Overall Landscape Constraint	Resulting Landscape Capacity
High	Medium	HIGH	High	MAJOR OVERALL	LOW OVERALL

Please refer to section 2 of the main report for the description of the methodology used.

Further References:

National Landscape Character Areas:
NCA 106: Severn and Avon Vales

Cotswolds AONB Landscape Character Assessment:
LCT: 2. Escarpment
LCA: 2D – Cooper's Hill to Winchcombe

PHOTO SHEET FOR SITE LCA 10.3 – Ham Farm Wooded Pasture Slopes



VP1. View looking southwest from north of area



VP2. View looking west from east of area



VP3. View looking southwest from east of area



VP4. View looking northeast from east of area



VP5. View looking northwest from north of area



VP6. View looking northwest from north of area

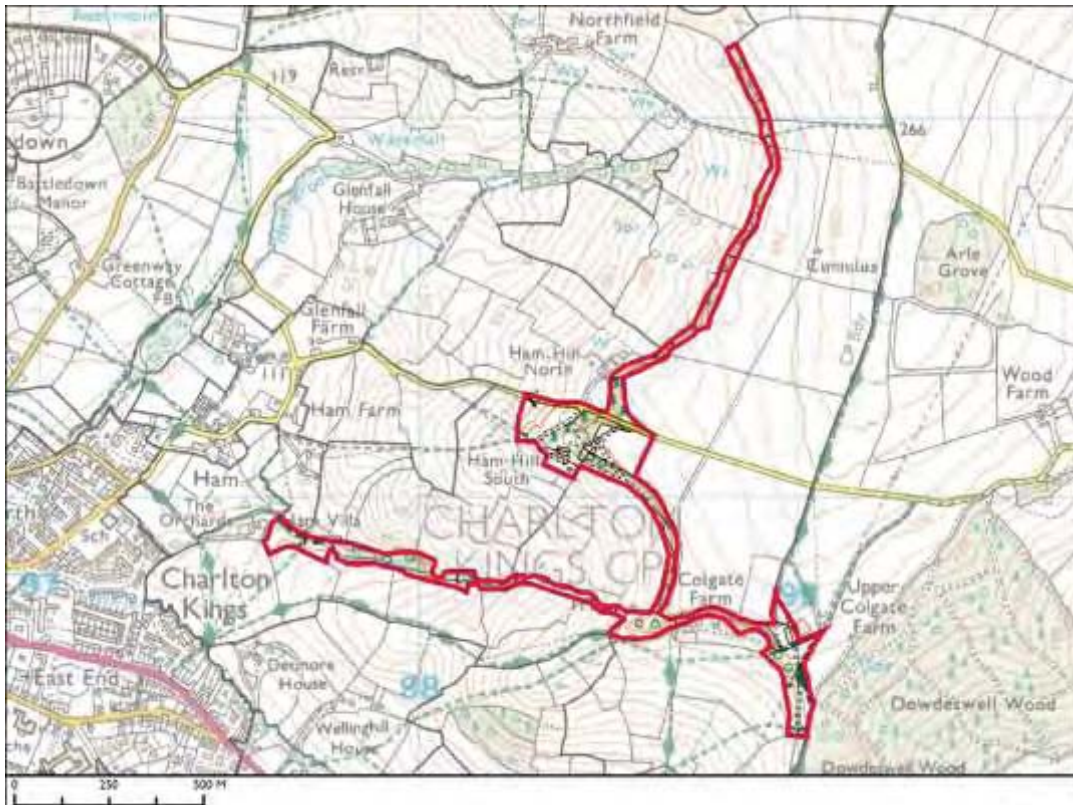
Landscape Character Type: Wooded Pasture Slopes

Landscape Character Area: Ham Hill South Wooded Pasture Slopes

Site Ref: LCA 10.4

SITE ANALYSIS

Site Location Plan:



Landscape Issues:

Physical Influences:

Gently sloping medium scale landform

Land Cover:

Pastoral farmland and scrub including mature well vegetated hedgerow and tree boundaries

Influence of human activity:

Ham Hill South and Ham Hill North, Colgate Farm and Upper Colgate Farm, Ham Hill Road

Aesthetic and perceptual aspects:

Elevated views to the west, looking over Cheltenham urban edge, views to the east towards the escarpment slopes. High tranquillity.

Summary of individual elements:

High quality well maintained elements including hedgerow boundaries and woodlands

Quality and Condition:

Moderate quality with well vegetated boundaries and open scrub and pasture land

Overall character of the landscape:

Open, medium large scale pastoral character.

Designations:

- Cotswolds AONB

Landscape Character Appraisal:

A gently sloping area, rising more steeply towards the east, up towards the escarpment slopes to the east. Comprising principally wooded pastoral and scrub land use, the boundaries to the area and the field parcels within it are well vegetated with mature outgrown hedgerows and trees.

The Cheltenham Circular Footpath runs south and east of the area on a generally north to south and east west orientation.

Visual Issues Appraisal:

Views from the site looking west are contained in places by the mature outgrown boundary vegetation, however where gaps in the vegetation allow, wide elevated views looking across the landscape to the west take in views across the urban edge of Cheltenham.

Views to the east look towards the rising slopes of the escarpment slopes, restricting views. Views along the slopes to the northeast allow further distance views, looking across the slopes and the numerous woodland blocks and copses that exist across the slopes.

Key Visual Receptors:

- Footpath users along the Cheltenham Circular Way
- Residents along the eastern edge of Cheltenham
- Road users along Ham Hill Road

Visual Sensitivity:

As summarised above, the views looking from the area, where vegetation allows, are open, elevated and long distance, resulting in an overall visual sensitivity of **High**.

Landscape Character Sensitivity:

As summarised in the landscape character appraisal, the medium scale landscape, high levels of mature boundary vegetation, sloping topography and views into the area from the Cheltenham Circular Way and residential properties within the area, the overall landscape sensitivity is assessed as **Medium**.

Landscape Value:

The landscape character area falls within the area falls partially within the designated area known as the Cotswolds AONB, which is a national designation and represents a high value landscape. With the elevated and sloping nature of the landscape character area, the visibility of the area increases further to the east. Mature hedgerows and trees that form the boundaries to the field parcels within the landscape character area screen views in places from the lower western elevations of the slopes. The overall landscape value is assessed as **High**, with higher value assigned further east in the area.

Landscape Capacity:

Visual Sensitivity	Landscape Character Sensitivity	Overall Landscape Sensitivity	Landscape Value	Overall Landscape Constraint	Resulting Landscape Capacity
High	Medium	HIGH	High	MAJOR OVERALL	LOW OVERALL

Please refer to section 2 of the main report for the description of the methodology used.

Further References:

National Landscape Character Areas:
NCA 106: Severn and Avon Vales

Cotswolds AONB Landscape Character Assessment:
LCT: 2. Escarpment
LCA: 2D – Cooper's Hill to Winchcombe

PHOTO SHEET FOR SITE LCA 10.4 – Ham Hill Wooded Pasture Slopes



VP1. View looking west from north of area



VP2. View looking south from north of area



VP3. View looking east from west of area



VP4. View looking southeast from southwest of area

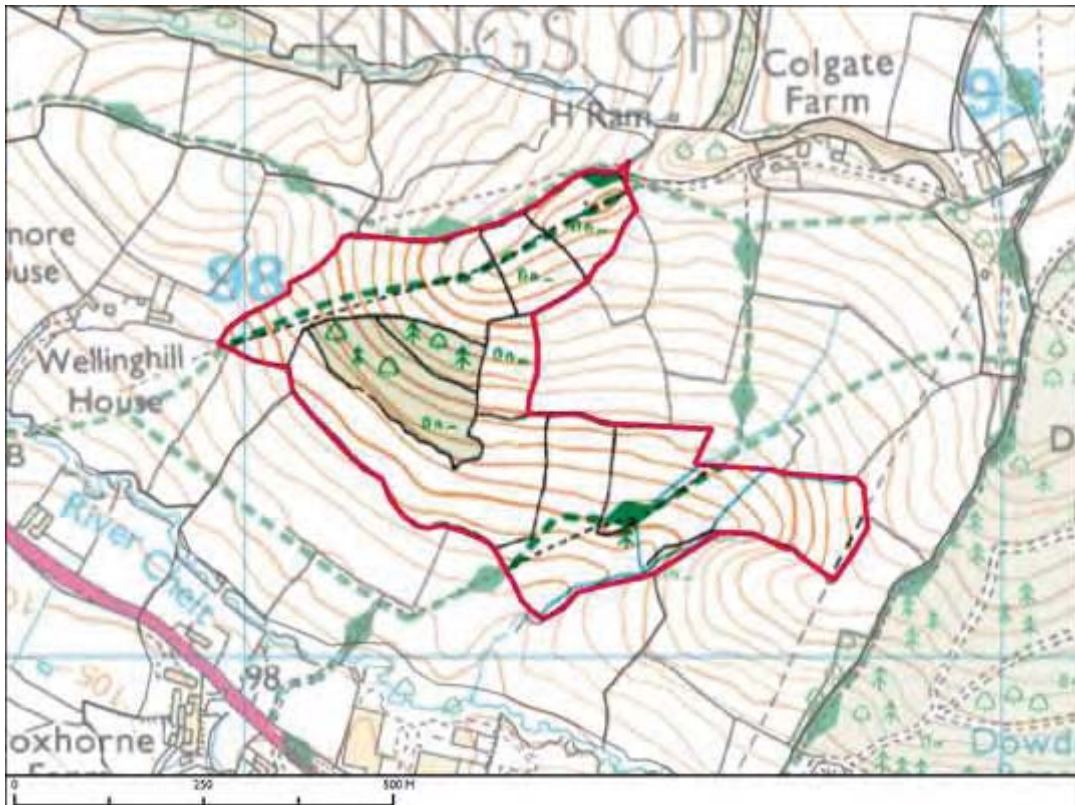


VP5. View looking east from southwest of area

Landscape Character Type: Wooded Pasture Slopes
Landscape Character Area: Colgate Wooded Pasture Slopes
Site Ref: LCA 10.5

SITE ANALYSIS

Site Location Plan:



Landscape Issues:

Physical Influences:

Gently sloping medium scale landform

Land Cover:

Pastoral farmland and scrub including mature well vegetated hedgerow and tree boundaries

Influence of human activity:

Agricultural landscape, with little other human influence present

Aesthetic and perceptual aspects:

Elevated views to the west, looking over Cheltenham urban edge, views to the east towards the escarpment slopes

Summary of individual elements:

Medium to High quality well maintained elements including hedgerow boundaries and woodland

Quality and Condition:

Medium to high condition with well vegetated boundaries and open scrub and pasture land

Overall character of the landscape:

Open, medium large scale pastoral character.

Designations:

- Cotswolds AONB

Landscape Character Appraisal:

A gently sloping area, rising more steeply towards the east, up towards the escarpment slopes to the east. Comprising principally pastoral and scrub land use, the boundaries to the area and the field parcels within it are well vegetated with mature outgrown hedgerows and trees.

The Cheltenham Circular Footpath runs through the area on a generally northeast to southwest orientation.

Visual Issues Appraisal:

Views from the site looking west are contained in places by the mature outgrown boundary vegetation, however where gaps in the vegetation allow, wide elevated views looking across the landscape to the west take in views across the urban edge of Cheltenham.

Views to the east look towards the rising slopes of the escarpment slopes, restricting views. Views along the slopes to the northeast allow further distance views, looking across the slopes and the numerous woodland blocks and copses that exist across the slopes.

Key Visual Receptors:

- Footpath users along the Cheltenham Circular Way
- Residents along the eastern edge of Cheltenham
- Footpaths ZCK/18/2, ZCK/18/1, ZCK/16/2

Visual Sensitivity:

As summarised above, the views looking from the area, where vegetation allows, are open, elevated and long distance, resulting in an overall visual sensitivity of **High**.

Landscape Character Sensitivity:

As summarised in the landscape character appraisal, the medium scale landscape, high levels of mature boundary vegetation, sloping topography and views into and out of the area from the Cheltenham Circular Way, the overall landscape sensitivity is assessed as **High**.

Landscape Value:

The landscape character area falls within the area falls partially within the designated area known as the Cotswolds AONB, which is a national designation and represents a high value landscape. With the elevated and sloping nature of the landscape character area, the visibility of the area increases further to the east. Mature hedgerows and trees that form the boundaries to the field parcels within the landscape character area screen views in places from the lower western elevations of the slopes. The area is regularly used by walkers, particularly on the Cheltenham Circular Way. The overall landscape value is assessed as **High**, with higher value assigned further east in the area.

Landscape Capacity:

Visual Sensitivity	Landscape Character Sensitivity	Overall Landscape Sensitivity	Landscape Value	Overall Landscape Constraint	Resulting Landscape Capacity
High	High	HIGH	High	MAJOR OVERALL	LOW OVERALL

Please refer to section 2 of the main report for the description of the methodology used.

Further References:

National Landscape Character Areas:
NCA 106: Severn and Avon Vales

Cotswolds AONB Landscape Character Assessment:
LCT: 2. Escarpment
LCA: 2D – Cooper’s Hill to Winchcombe

PHOTO SHEET FOR SITE LCA 10.5 – Colgate Wooded Pasture Slopes



VP1. View looking east from south of area



VP2. View looking south from centre of area



VP3. View looking east, southeast from centre of area



VP4. View looking east from centre of area



VP5. View looking northeast from north of area

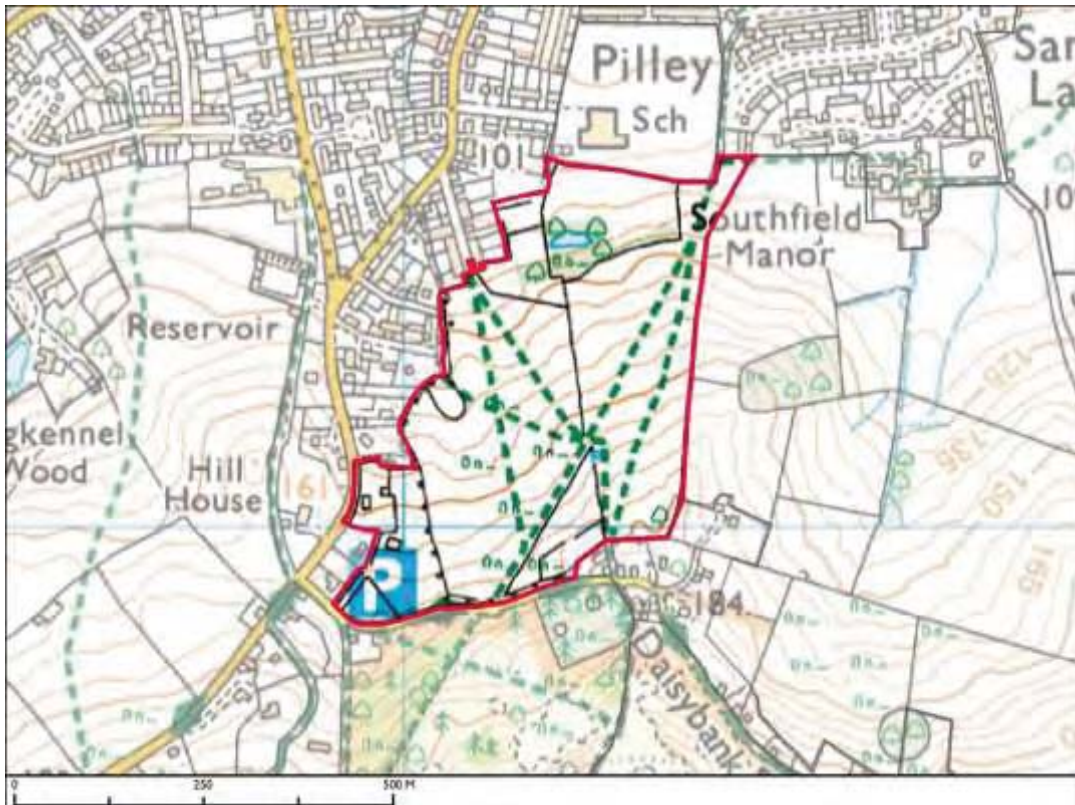


VP6. View looking south from north of area

Landscape Character Type: Wooded Pasture Slopes
Landscape Character Area: Pilley Wooded Pasture Slopes
Site Ref: LCA 10.6

SITE ANALYSIS

Site Location Plan:



Landscape Issues:

Physical Influences:

Gently sloping medium scale landform

Land Cover:

Pastoral farmland and scrub including mature well vegetated hedgerow and tree boundaries

Influence of human activity:

Pilley High School to north, Lilley Brook golf course to east

Summary of individual elements:

Medium quality elements including hedgerow boundaries

Aesthetic and perceptual aspects:

Elevated views to the north, looking over Cheltenham urban edge, views to the east towards the escarpment slopes. Medium tranquillity

Quality and Condition:

Medium condition with well vegetated outgrown boundaries and open scrub and pasture land

Overall character of the landscape:

Open, medium large scale pastoral character.

Designations:

- Cotswolds AONB

Landscape Character Appraisal:

A gently sloping area, rising more steeply towards the south, up towards the escarpment slopes to the south. Comprising principally pastoral and scrub land use, the boundaries to the area and the field parcels within it are well vegetated with mature outgrown hedgerows and trees.

The area is well used by dog walkers as represented by the Local Green Space designation.

Numerous footpaths run through the area on a number of orientations.

Visual Issues Appraisal:

Views from the site looking west and east are contained in places by the mature outgrown boundary vegetation. Wide, elevated views looking across the landscape to the north take in views across the urban edge of Cheltenham.

Views to the south look towards the rising slopes of the escarpment slopes, restricting views due to topography.

Key Visual Receptors:

- Footpath users within the area (ZCH/93/1, ZCH/93/2, ZCH/94/1, ZCH/95/2)
- Residents along the southern edge of Cheltenham in the vicinity of the Pillee area

Visual Sensitivity:

Given the sloping topography and the resulting elevated views looking across the urban edge of Cheltenham, the visual sensitivity is assessed as **High**.

Landscape Character Sensitivity:

As summarised in the landscape character appraisal, the medium scale landscape, high levels of mature boundary vegetation, sloping topography and views into and out of the area from the numerous public rights of way, residential properties to the south of the area, the overall landscape sensitivity is assessed as **Medium**.

Landscape Value:

The landscape character area falls within the area falls within the designated area known as the Cotswolds AONB, which is a national designation and represents a high value landscape. With the elevated and sloping nature of the landscape character area, the visibility of the area increases further to the south. Mature hedgerows and trees that form the boundaries to the field parcels within the landscape character area screen views in places from the lower western elevations of the slopes. The area is regularly used by walkers with numerous footpaths bisecting the area. The area is further designated as a Local Green Space, reflecting this use. The overall landscape value is assessed as **High**, with value increasing towards further towards the south of the area.

Landscape Capacity:

Visual Sensitivity	Landscape Character Sensitivity	Overall Landscape Sensitivity	Landscape Value	Overall Landscape Constraint	Resulting Landscape Capacity
High	Medium	HIGH	High	MAJOR OVERALL	LOW OVERALL

Please refer to section 2 of the main report for the description of the methodology used.

Further References:

National Landscape Character Areas:
NCA 106: Severn and Avon Vales

Cotswolds AONB Landscape Character Assessment:
LCT: 2. Escarpment
LCA: 2D – Cooper’s Hill to Winchcombe

PHOTO SHEET FOR SITE LCA 10.6 – Pilley Wooded Pasture Slopes



VP1. View looking south, southwest from south of area



VP2. View looking north from south of area



VP3. View looking north, northeast, from centre of area



VP4. View looking northeast from centre of area

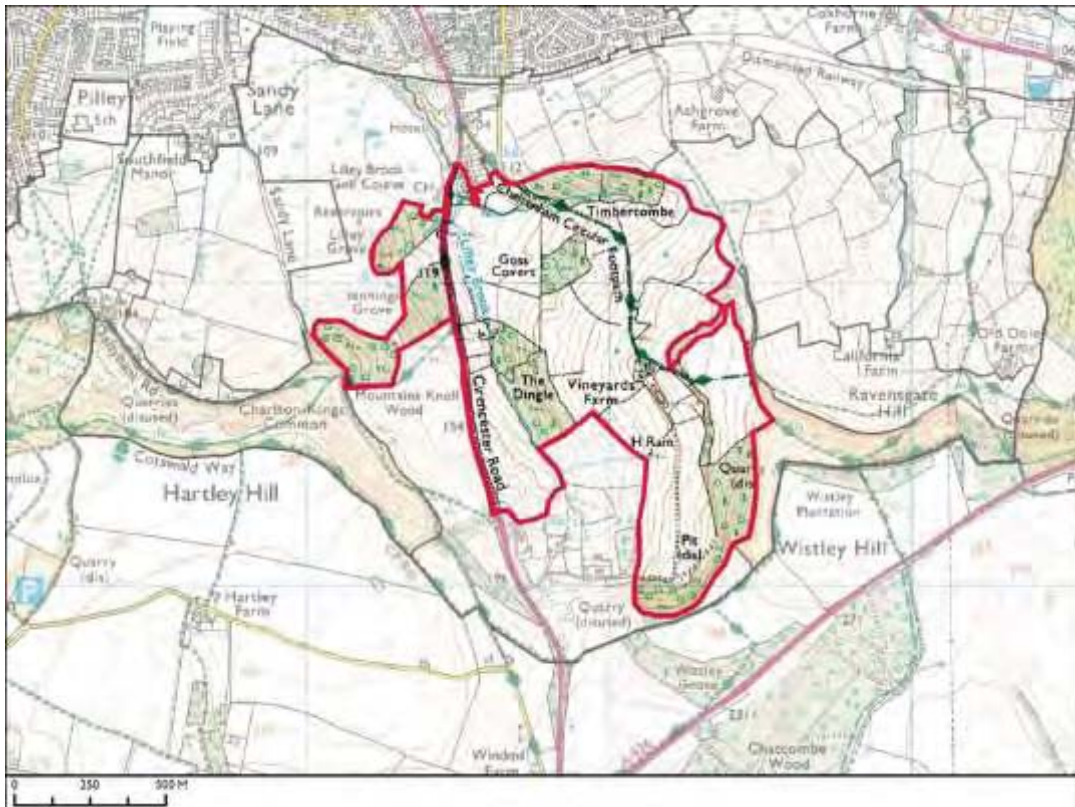
Landscape Character Type: Wooded Pasture Slopes

Landscape Character Area: Timbercombe Wooded Pasture Slopes

Site Ref: LCA 10.7

SITE ANALYSIS

Site Location Plan:



Landscape Issues:

Physical Influences:

Medium scale sloping and rolling landform

Land Cover:

Pastoral farmland and scrub including mature well vegetated hedgerow and tree boundaries

Influence of human activity:

Cheltenham urban edge to the north, disused quarry to the south

Aesthetic and perceptual aspects:

Elevated views to the north, looking over Cheltenham urban edge, views to the east, south and west towards the surrounding escarpment slopes. **High** levels of tranquillity.

Summary of individual elements:

High quality well maintained elements including hedgerow boundaries

Quality and Condition:

Medium to high condition with well vegetated boundaries and open scrub and pasture land

Overall character of the landscape:

Open, medium scale pastoral character with numerous woodland blocks.

Designations:

- Cotswolds AONB

Landscape Character Appraisal:

A gently sloping area, rising more steeply towards the south, up towards the escarpment slopes of Wistley Hill. Comprising principally pastoral and scrub land use, the boundaries to the area and the field parcels within it are well vegetated with mature outgrown hedgerows and trees.

The Cheltenham Circular Footpath runs through the area on a generally north to south orientation.

Visual Issues Appraisal:

Views from the site looking west are contained in places by the mature outgrown boundary vegetation, however where gaps in the vegetation allow, wide elevated views looking across the landscape to the west take in views across the urban edge of Cheltenham.

Views to the east look towards the rising slopes of the escarpment slopes, restricting views. Views along the slopes to the northeast allow further distance views, looking across the slopes and the numerous woodland blocks and copses that exist across the slopes.

Key Visual Receptors:

- Footpath users along the Cheltenham Circular Way
- Residents along the southern edge of Cheltenham and along Cirencester Road
- Road users along Cirencester Road

Visual Sensitivity:

As summarised above, the views looking from the area, where vegetation allows, are open, elevated and long distance, resulting in an overall visual sensitivity of **High**.

Landscape Character Sensitivity:

As summarised in the landscape character appraisal, the medium scale landscape, high levels of mature boundary vegetation, sloping topography and views into and out of the area from the Cheltenham Circular Way, residential properties to the south of the area, the overall landscape sensitivity is assessed as **High**.

Landscape Value:

The landscape character area falls within the area falls within the designated area known as the Cotswolds AONB, which is a national designation and represents a high value landscape. With the elevated and sloping nature of the landscape character area, the visibility of the area increases further to the east. Mature hedgerows and trees that form the boundaries to the field parcels within the landscape character area screen views in places from the lower western elevations of the slopes. The area is regularly used by walkers, particularly on the Cheltenham Circular Way. The overall landscape value is assessed as **High**, with higher value assigned further east in the area.

Landscape Capacity:

Visual Sensitivity	Landscape Character Sensitivity	Overall Landscape Sensitivity	Landscape Value	Overall Landscape Constraint	Resulting Landscape Capacity
High	High	HIGH	High	MAJOR OVERALL	LOW OVERALL

Please refer to section 2 of the main report for the description of the methodology used.

Further References:

National Landscape Character Areas:
NCA 106: Severn and Avon Vales

Cotswolds AONB Landscape Character Assessment:
LCT: 2. Escarpment
LCA: 2D – Cooper’s Hill to Winchcombe

PHOTO SHEET FOR SITE LCA 10.7 – Timbercombe Wooded Pasture Slopes



VP1. View looking southeast from north of area



VP2. View looking south from north of area



VP3. View looking south from centre of area



VP4. View looking southwest from centre of area



VP5. View looking southeast from centre of area



VP6. View looking southwest from centre of area

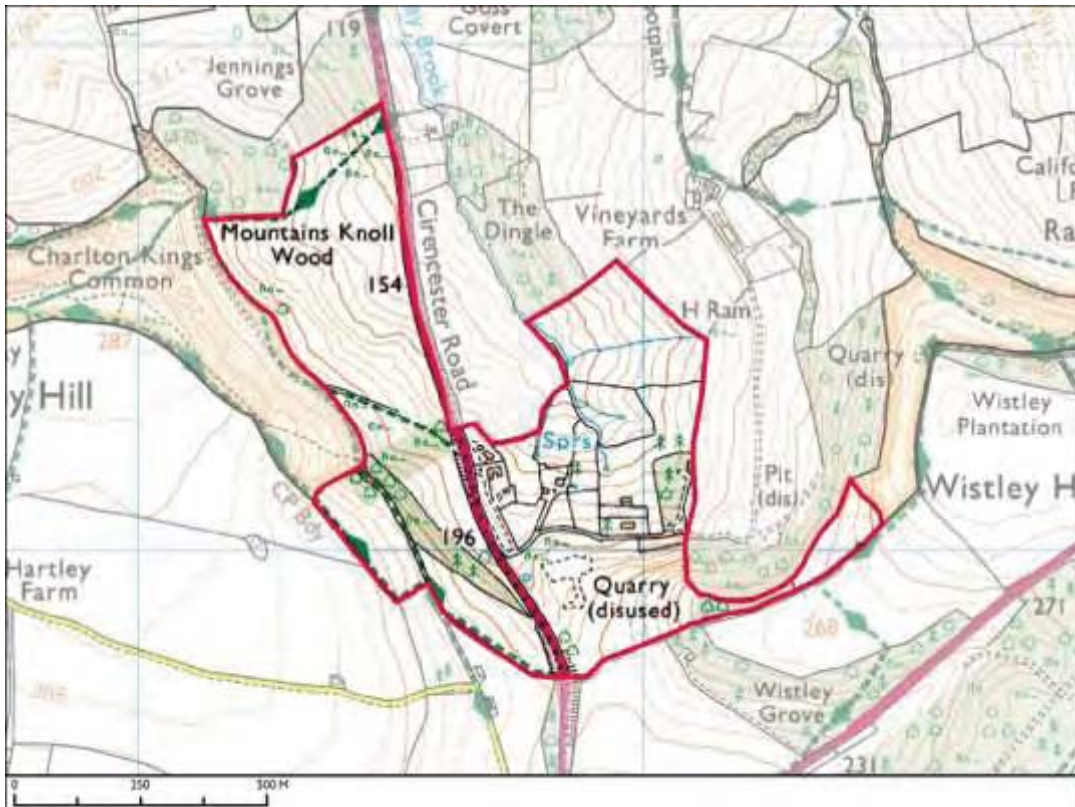
Landscape Character Type: Wooded Pasture Slopes

Landscape Character Area: Wistley Hill Wooded Pasture Slopes

Site Ref: LCA 10.8

SITE ANALYSIS

Site Location Plan:



Landscape Issues:

Physical Influences:

Gently sloping medium scale landform

Land Cover:

Pastoral farmland and scrub including mature well vegetated hedgerow and tree boundaries

Influence of human activity:

Disused Quarry

Aesthetic and perceptual aspects:

Elevated views to the north, looking over Cheltenham urban edge, views to the east towards the escarpment slopes. Medium to High tranquillity

Summary of individual elements:

High quality well maintained elements including hedgerow boundaries

Quality and Condition:

Medium to High condition with well vegetated boundaries and open scrub and pasture land

Overall character of the landscape:

Open, medium large scale pastoral character.

Designations:

- Cotswolds AONB
- Cotswold Way National Trail

Landscape Character Appraisal:

A gently sloping area, rising more steeply towards the east, up towards the escarpment slopes to the east. Comprising principally pastoral and scrub land use, the boundaries to the area and the field parcels within it are well vegetated with mature outgrown hedgerows and trees.

The Cheltenham Circular Footpath runs through the north of the area on a generally east to west orientation and the Cotswolds Way is located to the south of the area on a generally east to west orientation.

Visual Issues Appraisal:

Views from the site looking west are contained in places by the mature outgrown boundary vegetation, however where gaps in the vegetation allow, wide elevated views looking across the landscape to the west take in views across the urban edge of Cheltenham.

Views to the east look towards the rising slopes of the escarpment slopes, restricting views. Views along the slopes to the northeast allow further distance views, looking across the slopes and the numerous woodland blocks and copses that exist across the slopes.

Key Visual Receptors:

- Footpath users along the Cheltenham Circular Way and Cotswold Way
- Residents along the southern edge of Cheltenham and Cirencester Road
- Road users along Cirencester Road

Visual Sensitivity:

As summarised above, the views looking from the area, where vegetation allows, are open, elevated and long distance, resulting in an overall visual sensitivity of **High**.

Landscape Character Sensitivity:

As summarised in the landscape character appraisal, the medium scale landscape, high levels of mature boundary vegetation, sloping topography and views into and out of the area from the Cheltenham Circular Way, the overall landscape sensitivity is assessed as **High**.

Landscape Value:

The landscape character area falls within the area falls partially within the designated area known as the Cotswolds AONB, which is a national designation and represents a high value landscape. With the elevated and sloping nature of the landscape character area, the visibility of the area increases further to the east. Mature hedgerows and trees that form the boundaries to the field parcels within the landscape character area screen views in places from the lower western elevations of the slopes. The area is regularly used by walkers, particularly on the Cheltenham Circular Way and Cotswold Way. The overall landscape value is assessed as **High**, with higher value assigned further east in the area.

Landscape Capacity:

Visual Sensitivity	Landscape Character Sensitivity	Overall Landscape Sensitivity	Landscape Value	Overall Landscape Constraint	Resulting Landscape Capacity
High	High	HIGH	High	MAJOR OVERALL	LOW OVERALL

Please refer to section 2 of the main report for the description of the methodology used.

Further References:

National Landscape Character Areas:
NCA 106: Severn and Avon Vales

Cotswolds AONB Landscape Character Assessment:
LCT: 2. Escarpment
LCA: 2D – Cooper’s Hill to Winchcombe

PHOTO SHEET FOR SITE LCA 10.8 – Wistley Hill Wooded Pasture Slopes



VP1. View looking west from Cirencester road



VP2. View looking northwest from Cirencester road



VP3. View looking south along Cirencester road



VP4. View looking southeast from Cirencester road



VP5. View looking south from footpath ZCK/58/3



VP6. View looking north from footpath ZCK/58/3

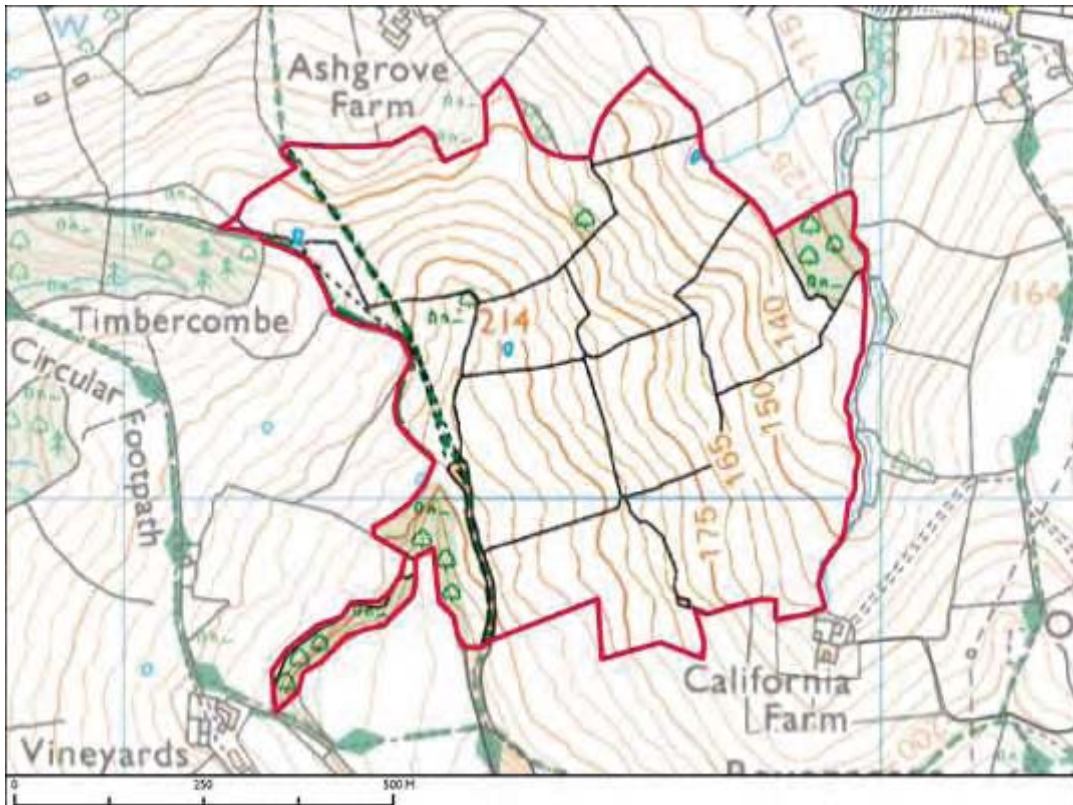
Landscape Character Type: Wooded Pasture Slopes

Landscape Character Area: Ravensgate Hill Wooded Pasture Slopes

Site Ref: LCA 10.9

SITE ANALYSIS

Site Location Plan:



Landscape Issues:

Physical Influences:

Gently sloping medium scale landform

Land Cover:

Pastoral farmland and scrub including mature well vegetated hedgerow and tree boundaries

Influence of human activity:

Limited influence of human activity

Aesthetic and perceptual aspects:

Elevated views to the west, looking over Cheltenham urban edge, views to the east towards the escarpment slopes. High levels of tranquillity.

Summary of individual elements:

High quality well maintained elements including hedgerow boundaries

Quality and Condition:

Moderate quality with well vegetated boundaries and open scrub and pasture land

Overall character of the landscape:

Open, medium large scale pastoral character.

Designations:

- Cotswolds AONB

Landscape Character Appraisal:

A gently sloping area, rising more steeply towards the west, up towards the escarpment slopes associated with Wistley Hill. Comprising principally pastoral and scrub land use, the boundaries to the area and the field parcels within it are well vegetated with mature outgrown hedgerows and trees. The Cheltenham Circular Footpath runs to the southwest of the area.

Visual Issues Appraisal:

Views from the site looking west are predominantly contained by the rising topography, however views to the north east are open, elevated and long distance.

Views to the south look towards the rising slopes of the escarpment slopes, restricting views. Views along the slopes to the northeast allow further distance views, looking across the slopes and the numerous woodland blocks and copses that exist.

Key Visual Receptors:

- Footpath users along the Cheltenham Circular Way and footpath ZCK/53/4
- Residents along the southern edge of Cheltenham

Visual Sensitivity:

As summarised above, the views looking from the area, where topography allows, are open, elevated and long distance, resulting in an overall visual sensitivity of **High**.

Landscape Character Sensitivity:

As summarised in the landscape character appraisal, the medium scale landscape, high levels of mature boundary vegetation, sloping topography and views into and out of the area from the Cheltenham Circular Way, the overall landscape sensitivity is assessed as **High**.

Landscape Value:

The landscape character area falls within the area falls partially within the designated area known as the Cotswolds AONB, which is a national designation and represents a high value landscape. With the elevated and sloping nature of the landscape character area, the visibility of the area increases further to the east. Mature hedgerows and trees that form the boundaries to the field parcels within the landscape character area screen views in places from the lower eastern elevations of the slopes. The overall landscape value is assessed as **High**, with higher value assigned further west in the area associated with the rising topography.

Landscape Capacity:

Visual Sensitivity	Landscape Character Sensitivity	Overall Landscape Sensitivity	Landscape Value	Overall Landscape Constraint	Resulting Landscape Capacity
High	High	HIGH	High	MAJOR OVERALL	LOW OVERALL

Please refer to section 2 of the main report for the description of the methodology used.

Further References:

National Landscape Character Areas:
NCA 106: Severn and Avon Vales

Cotswolds AONB Landscape Character Assessment:
LCT: 2. Escarpment
LCA: 2D – Cooper’s Hill to Winchcombe

PHOTO SHEET FOR SITE LCA 10.9 – Ravensgate Hill Wooded Pasture Slopes



VP1. View looking northwest from footpath ZCK/53/4



VP2. View looking north from footpath ZCK/53/4



VP3. View looking east from footpath ZCK/53/4



VP4. View looking south from footpath ZCK/53/4



VP5. View looking southwest from footpath ZCK/53/4



VP6. View looking west from footpath ZCK/53/4

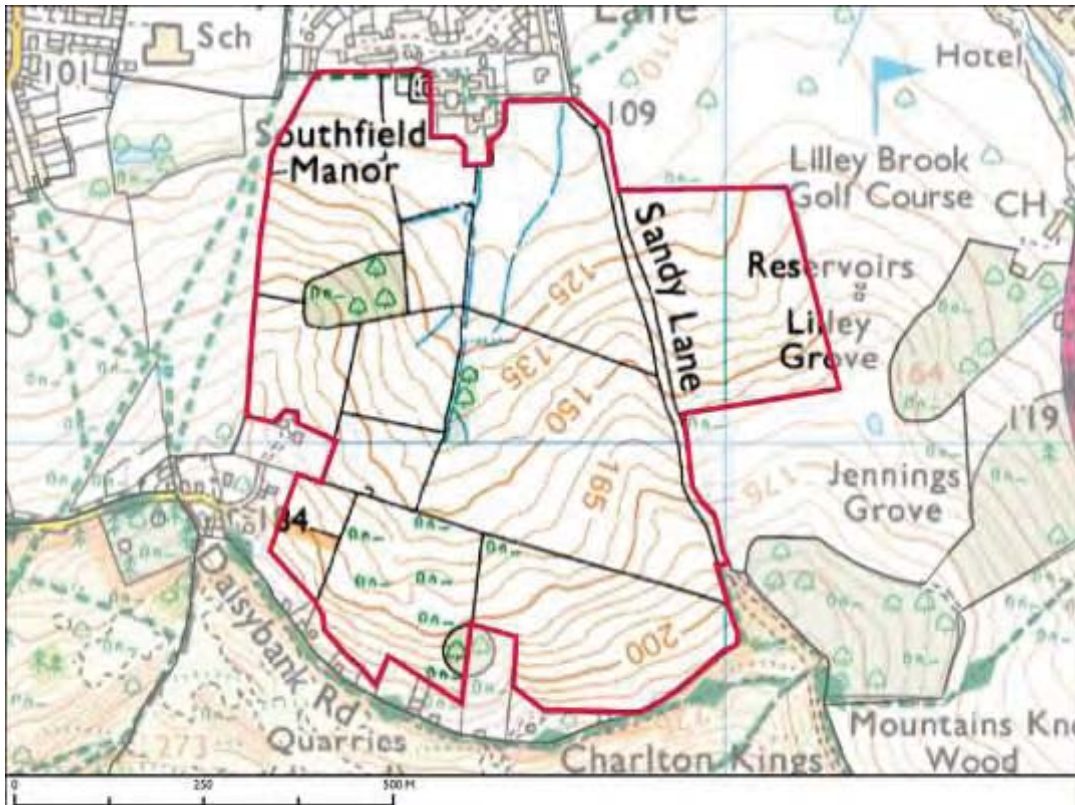
Landscape Character Type: Wooded Pasture Slopes

Landscape Character Area: Southfield Manor Wooded Pasture Slopes

Site Ref: LCA 10.10

SITE ANALYSIS

Site Location Plan:



Landscape Issues:

Physical Influences:

Gently sloping medium scale landform

Land Cover:

Pastoral farmland and scrub including mature well vegetated hedgerow and tree boundaries

Influence of human activity:

Limited human influence aside from farming landscape

Aesthetic and perceptual aspects:

Elevated views to the north, looking over Cheltenham urban edge, views to the east towards the escarpment slopes. High tranquillity

Summary of individual elements:

High quality well maintained elements including hedgerow boundaries

Quality and Condition:

Moderate quality with well vegetated boundaries and open scrub and pasture land

Overall character of the landscape:

Open, medium large scale pastoral character.

Designations:

- Cotswolds AONB

Landscape Character Appraisal:

A gently sloping area, rising more steeply towards the east, up towards the escarpment slopes to the east. Comprising principally pastoral and scrub land use, the boundaries to the area and the field parcels within it are well vegetated with mature outgrown hedgerows and trees.

The Cotswold Way National Trail runs to the south of the area.

Visual Issues Appraisal:

Overall the area has limited access with no roads or public footpaths present within the area itself. Views from the site looking south are restricted by the steeply rising topography, resulting in wide elevated views looking across the landscape to the north, taking in views across the urban edge of south Cheltenham.

Views to the east look towards the rising slopes of the escarpment slopes, restricting views. Views along the slopes to the northeast allow further distance views, looking across the slopes and the numerous woodland blocks and copses that exist.

Key Visual Receptors:

- Footpath users along the Cotswold Way
- Residents along the southern edge of Cheltenham

Visual Sensitivity:

As summarised above, the views looking from the area, where vegetation and topography allow, are elevated and medium to long distance, particularly when looking north towards the urban edges of Cheltenham, resulting in an overall visual sensitivity of **High**.

Landscape Character Sensitivity:

As summarised in the landscape character appraisal, the medium scale landscape, high levels of mature boundary vegetation, sloping topography and views into and out of the area from the Public Rights of Way, residential properties to the north of the area, the overall landscape sensitivity is assessed as **High**.

Landscape Value:

The landscape character area falls within the area falls within the designated area known as the Cotswolds AONB, which is a national designation and represents a high value landscape. With the elevated and sloping nature of the landscape character area, the visibility of the area increases further to the south. Mature hedgerows and trees that form the boundaries to the field parcels within the landscape character area screen views in places from the lower northern elevations of the slopes. The overall landscape value is assessed as **High**, with higher value assigned further south in the area.

Landscape Capacity:

Visual Sensitivity	Landscape Character Sensitivity	Overall Landscape Sensitivity	Landscape Value	Overall Landscape Constraint	Resulting Landscape Capacity
High	High	HIGH	High	MAJOR OVERALL	LOW OVERALL

Please refer to section 2 of the main report for the description of the methodology used.

Further References:

National Landscape Character Areas:
NCA 106: Severn and Avon Vales

Cotswolds AONB Landscape Character Assessment:
LCT: 2. Escarpment
LCA: 2D – Cooper’s Hill to Winchcombe

PHOTO SHEET FOR SITE LCA 10.10 – Southfield Manor Wooded Pasture Slopes



VP1. View looking south from north of area



VP2. View looking southwest from north of area



VP3. View south from north of area



VP4. View looking south from north of area



VP5. View looking southwest from centre of area

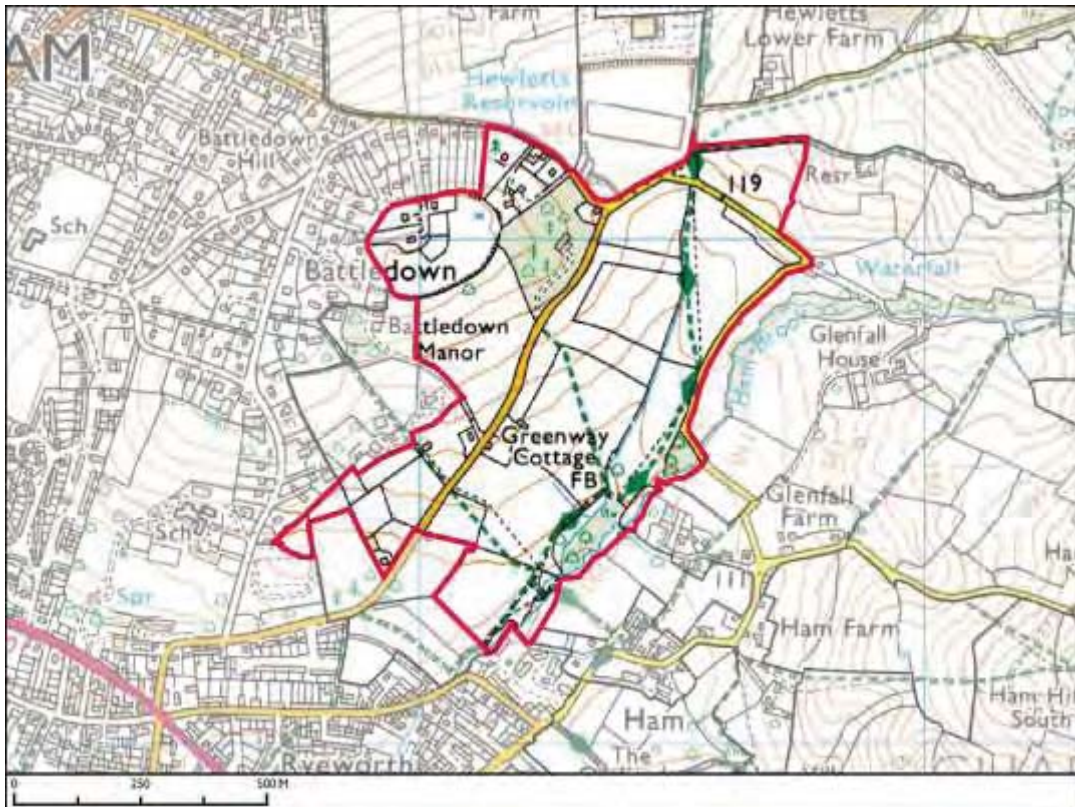


VP6. View looking west from centre of area

Landscape Character Type: Wooded Pasture Slopes
Landscape Character Area: Greenway Wooded Pasture Slopes
Site Ref: LCA 10.11

SITE ANALYSIS

Site Location Plan:



Landscape Issues:

Physical Influences:

Sloping small to medium scale topography

Land Cover:

Pasture farmland with mature, well vegetated boundaries and small woodland to the north

Influence of human activity:

Residential built development to the west and south

Aesthetic and perceptual aspects:

Contained views due to the varied topography and well vegetated boundaries. Medium levels of tranquillity due to the road through the centre of the area.

Summary of individual elements:

Medium to High quality well maintained elements including footpaths, post and rail fencing and hedgerow boundaries

Quality and Condition:

Generally medium condition. Moderate levels of hedgerow management evident.

Overall character of the landscape:

Gently sloping, small to medium scale pastoral character.

Designations:

- Cotswolds AONB

Landscape Character Appraisal:

A generally sloping and small to medium scale landscape with comprising principally agricultural land use with mature, well vegetated boundaries. The boundary to the north is defined by mature trees and vegetation in particular, a small woodland block in the north corner.

To the west, residential properties associated with Battledown and the historic landscape associated with Battledown Manor.

Visual Issues Appraisal:

Views from the site looking east are open and medium distance, looking towards the elevated and wooded escarpment slopes within the Cotswolds AONB.

Views to the north, west and south are generally contained by the mature well vegetated boundaries to the site.

Local footpath users have visibility into the area from the numerous footpaths throughout the area.

Key Visual Receptors:

- Residents to the west of the area associated with Battledown
- Local footpath users along footpaths ZCK/6/1, ZCK/4/1, ZCK/5/1 and ZCK/6/2 throughout the area

Visual Sensitivity:

As summarised above, the views looking from the area, where vegetation allows, are open and medium distance, particularly when looking southeast towards the scarp slopes, resulting in an overall visual sensitivity of **High**.

Landscape Character Sensitivity:

As summarised in the landscape character appraisal, the small to medium scale of the landscape character area, high levels of well maintained boundary vegetation, sloping topography and views into the area from adjacent residential properties, the overall landscape sensitivity is assessed as **High**.

Landscape value:

The landscape character area falls within the designated area known as the Cotswolds AONB, which is a national designation. With the numerous footpaths that exist across the character area, the area has moderate recreational value. The visual connections with the escarpment slopes to the east of the area are valuable perceptual aspects. The quality of the landscape elements are moderate, with predominantly hedgerow boundaries in good condition. Given the LCA falls within a nationally recognised AONB designation, and taking into consideration the visibility of the site and the generally good condition, the overall value of the landscape character area is assessed as **High**.

Landscape Capacity:

Visual Sensitivity	Landscape Character Sensitivity	Overall Landscape Sensitivity	Landscape Value	Overall Landscape Constraint	Resulting Landscape Capacity
High	High	HIGH	High	MAJOR OVERALL	LOW OVERALL

Please refer to section 2 of the main report for the description of the methodology used.

Further references:

National Landscape Character Areas:
NCA 106: Severn and Avon Vales

Cotswolds AONB Landscape Character Assessment:
LCT: 2. Escarpment
LCA: 2D – Cooper’s Hill to Winchcombe

PHOTO SHEET FOR SITE LCA 10.11 – Greenway Wooded Pasture Slopes



VP1. View looking south from footpath ZCK/4/1



VP2. View looking southeast from footpath ZCK/4/1



VP3. View looking southwest from south of area



VP4. View looking northeast from south of area



VP5. View looking northwest from south of area

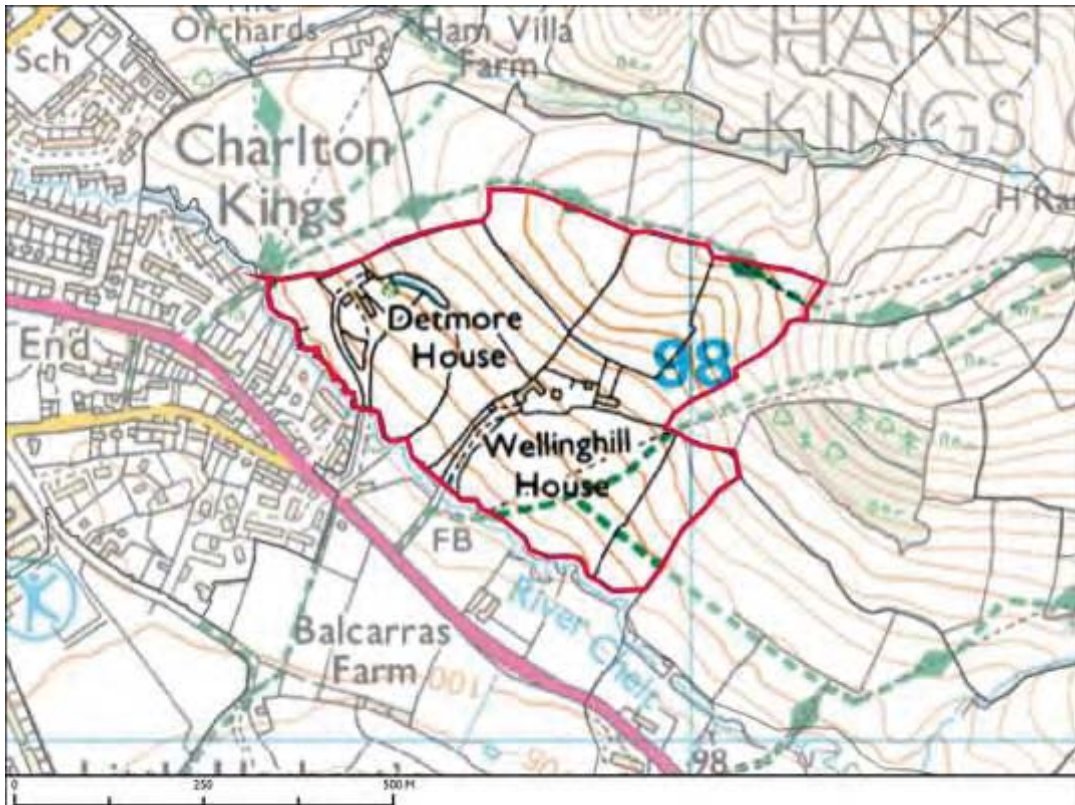


VP6. View looking northwest towards Greenway Cottage

Landscape Character Type: Wooded Pasture Slopes
Landscape Character Area: Wellinghill Wooded Pasture Slopes
Site Ref: LCA 10.12

SITE ANALYSIS

Site Location Plan:



Landscape Issues:

Physical Influences:

Sloping small to medium scale topography

Land Cover:

Pasture farmland with mature, well vegetated boundaries

Influence of human activity:

Residential built development to the west

Aesthetic and perceptual aspects:

Contained views to the east due to rising topography, more open and medium distance views to the west. Medium tranquillity.

Summary of individual elements:

Medium quality well maintained elements including hedgerow boundaries

Quality and Condition:

Generally medium condition.

Overall character of the landscape:

Sloping, small to medium scale arable and pastoral character.

Designations:

- Cotswolds AONB

Landscape Character Appraisal:

A generally sloping and small to medium scale landscape with comprising principally agricultural land use with mature, well vegetated boundaries, particularly to the southwest of the area where the River Chelt forms the boundary.

To the west, residential properties associated with Charlton Kings area of Cheltenham.

Visual Issues Appraisal:

Views from the site looking west are open and medium distance, looking towards the elevated and wooded escarpment slopes within the Cotswolds AONB.

Views to the north and east are generally contained by the rising topography.

Local footpath users have visibility into the area from the numerous footpaths particularly north of the area, and footpaths within the area, particularly to the south.

Key Visual Receptors:

- Residents within the area in Detmore House and Wellinghill House
- Residents to the west of the area associated with Charlton Kings
- Local footpath users along footpaths ZCK/18/3, ZCK/18/2 and ZCK/17/1 throughout the area

Visual Sensitivity:

As summarised above, the views looking from the area, where vegetation allows, are open, elevated and medium to long distance, resulting in an overall visual sensitivity of **High**.

Landscape Character Sensitivity:

As summarised in the landscape character appraisal, the small to medium scale of the landscape character area, high levels of boundary vegetation, sloping topography and views into the area from adjacent residential properties, the overall landscape sensitivity is assessed as **Medium**.

Landscape value:

The landscape character area falls within the designated area known as the Cotswolds AONB, which is a national designation. With the footpaths that exist within the character area, the area has moderate recreational value. With the sloping topography of the landscape the land is particularly visible from residential properties to the west of the area. The visual connections with the escarpment slopes to the southwest of the area are valuable perceptual aspects. The quality of the landscape elements are medium, with predominantly hedgerow boundaries in moderate condition. Given the LCA falls within a nationally recognised AONB designation, and taking into consideration the visibility of the site and the generally moderate to good condition, the overall value of the landscape character area is assessed as **High**.

Landscape Capacity:

Visual Sensitivity	Landscape Character Sensitivity	Overall Landscape Sensitivity	Landscape Value	Overall Landscape Constraint	Resulting Landscape Capacity
High	Medium	HIGH	High	MAJOR OVERALL	LOW OVERALL

Please refer to section 2 of the main report for the description of the methodology used.

Further references:

National Landscape Character Areas:
NCA 106: Severn and Avon Vales

Cotswolds AONB Landscape Character Assessment:
LCT: 2. Escarpment
LCA: 2D – Cooper's Hill to Winchcombe

PHOTO SHEET FOR SITE LCA 10.12 – Wellinghill Wooded Pasture Slopes



VP1. View looking northeast from south of area



VP2. View looking east, northeast from south of area



VP3. View looking northeast from footpath ZCK/18/3



VP4. View looking east from footpath ZCK/18/3



VP5. View looking northeast from footpath ZCK/18/2



VP6. View looking north from footpath ZCK/18/2

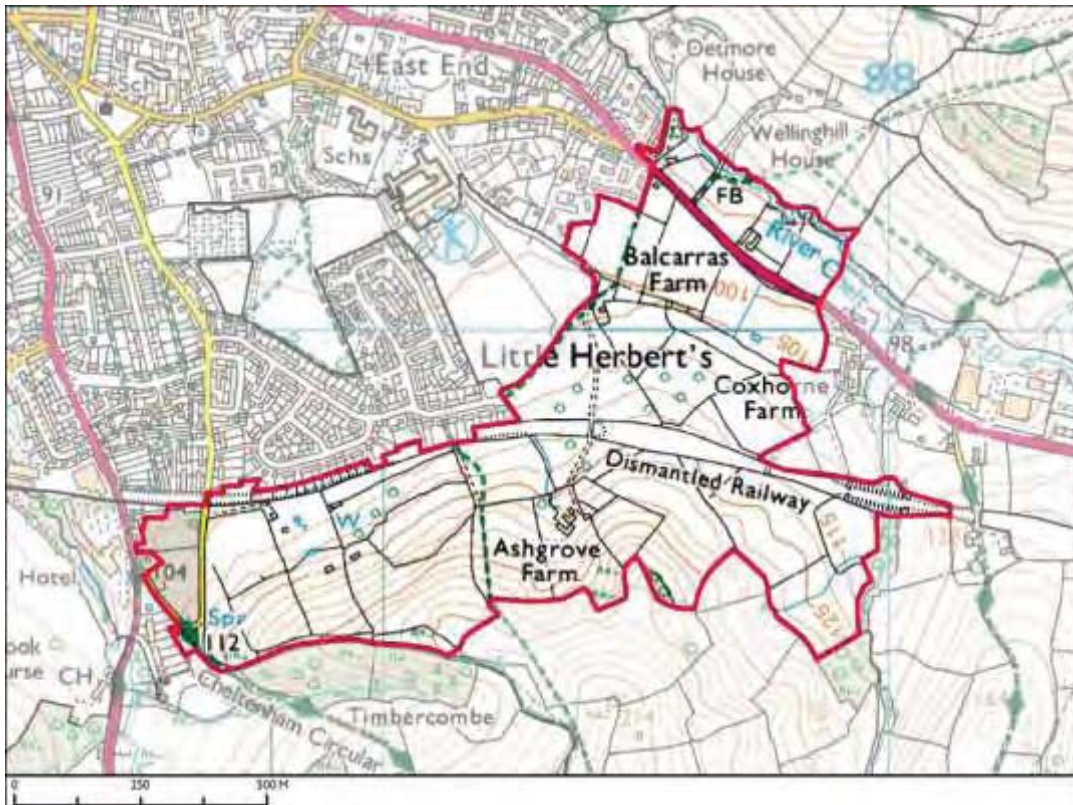
Landscape Character Type: Wooded Pasture Slopes

Landscape Character Area: Little Herbert's Wooded Pasture Slopes

Site Ref: LCA 10.13

SITE ANALYSIS

Site Location Plan:



Landscape Issues:

Physical Influences:

Sloping small to medium scale topography

Land Cover:

Pasture farmland with mature, well vegetated boundaries and small woodland to the north

Influence of human activity:

Residential built development to the west and north

Aesthetic and perceptual aspects:

Combination of contained views due to the varied topography and well vegetated boundaries and landscape, open in places where vegetation allows. Medium to High tranquillity.

Summary of individual elements:

High quality well maintained elements including hedgerow boundaries

Quality and Condition:

Generally moderate condition

Overall character of the landscape:

Sloping, small to medium scale arable and pastoral character.

Designations:

- Cotswolds AONB

Landscape Character Appraisal:

A generally sloping and small to medium scale landscape with comprising principally agricultural land use with mature, well vegetated boundaries. The boundary to the north is defined by mature trees and vegetation in particular, a small woodland block in the southwest corner. A number of individual examples of mature tree stock throughout the area contribute to the character. To the north, residential development associated with the urban edges of Cheltenham.

Visual Issues Appraisal:

Views from the site looking south are restricted by the rising topography associated with the scarp slopes to the south.

Views to the north of the area are contained to some extent by existing vegetation, however views become more open and long distance towards the south of the area associated with the rising topography, looking north across the urban edge of Cheltenham.

Local footpath users have visibility into the area from the Cheltenham Circular footpath to the west of the area and from footpath ZCK/53/4 and footpath ZCK/25/2 which run through the area.

Key Visual Receptors:

- Residents to the north of the area associated with Little Herbert's
- Footpath users along the Cheltenham Circular Way
- Local footpath users along footpaths ZCK/53/4 and ZCK/25/2 throughout the area

Visual Sensitivity:

As summarised above, the views looking from the area are a combination of contained towards the north of the area and, where vegetation allows, open, elevated and medium to long distance towards the south of the area, resulting in an overall visual sensitivity of **Medium**.

Landscape Character Sensitivity:

As summarised in the landscape character appraisal, the small to medium scale of the landscape character area, high levels of well maintained boundary vegetation, sloping topography and views into the area from adjacent residential properties, the overall landscape sensitivity is assessed as **High**.

Landscape Value:

The landscape character area falls within the designated area known as the Cotswolds AONB, which is a national designation. With the footpaths that exist within and nearby the character area, the area has moderate recreational value. With the sloping topography of the landscape the land is particularly visible from residential properties to the north of the area. The visual connections with the escarpment slopes to the south of the area are valuable perceptual aspects. The quality of the landscape elements are moderate, with predominantly hedgerow boundaries in good condition. Given the LCA falls within a nationally recognised AONB designation, and taking into consideration the visibility of the site and the generally good condition, the overall value of the landscape character area is assessed as **High**.

Landscape Capacity:

Visual Sensitivity	Landscape Character Sensitivity	Overall Landscape Sensitivity	Landscape Value	Overall Landscape Constraint	Resulting Landscape Capacity
Medium	High	HIGH	High	MAJOR OVERALL	LOW OVERALL

10.13 has been assessed as having a major overall landscape constraint and a low overall landscape capacity. However, through professional judgement, it is considered that some development within this character area could be permissible and therefore, planning principles for this character area have been developed.

Please refer to section 2 of the main report for the description of the methodology used.

Further references:

National Landscape Character Areas:
NCA 106: Severn and Avon Vales

Cotswolds AONB Landscape Character Assessment:
LCT: 2. Escarpment
LCA: 2D – Cooper's Hill to Winchcombe

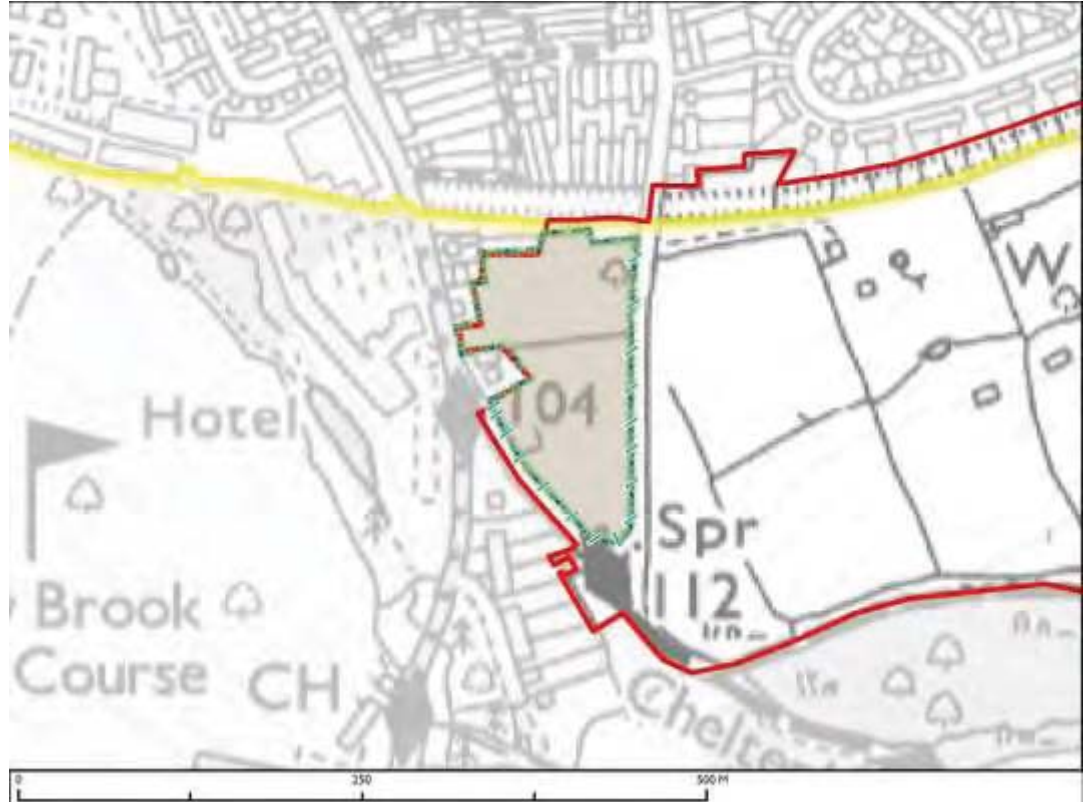
Landscape Character Type: Wooded Farmed Slopes

Landscape Character Area: Little Herbert's Wooded Pasture Slopes

Site Ref: LCA 10.13

PLANNING PRINCIPLES

Landscape Principles Plan:



Principles for development:

The surrounding settled residential context, and lack of commercial or industrial development indicates that if development were to be considered in this location, residential development would be the most appropriate.

Given the flat topography of the northwest corner of the landscape character area and the slight visual containment this affords, the existing boundary vegetation and the local context of residential housing, it is considered that should development be considered here, this location would be the most visually contained and have some mitigation potential.

Provision of well-established and thoughtful boundary planting would be essential, particularly to the south and east of the area to ensure long distance views into the site are not compromised.

Site Integration:

Fields and boundaries are comprised of a combination of timber post and rail fencing and mature hedgerow vegetation.

Improvement to the existing fencing infrastructure and gapping up of existing hedgerow and planted boundaries is recommended.

PHOTO SHEET FOR SITE LCA 10.13 – Little Herbert’s Wooded Pasture Slopes



VP1. View looking north from north of area



VP2. View looking east from centre of area



VP3. View looking southwest from centre of area



VP4. View looking south from north of area



VP5. View looking southwest from north of area



VP6. View looking northeast from northeast corner of area

APPENDIX A

EXAMPLE FIELD SHEET

LANDSCAPE ASSESSMENT – FIELD SURVEY SHEET

VIEW POINT NO: _____ **DATE:** _____ **GRID REF:** _____ **HEIGHT:** _____ **PHOTO:** _____
LOCATION: _____ **CHARACTER AREA:** _____ **WEATHER:** _____
GEOLOGY: _____ **SOILS:** _____

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF VIEW POINT LOCATION:

OBJECTIVE ASSESSMENT:

Landform	Geog. Plateau Hummocky	Narrow Valley Sloping Scarp	Broad Valley Undulating Ridge Step	Hollow Rolling Vertical	Flat Outcrops	Terrace Hills
Line	Horizon and X-section		Notes			
Landcover	Peat Bog Improved	Marsh Meadow	Moor Cereal Crops	Serubland Root Crops	Rough Grassland Forestry	Semi-improved

NOTES:

Woodland	DECIDUOUS Plantation	CONIFEROUS Plantation	MIXED Plantation	INDIVIDUAL TREES	NOTES
	Woodland Shelterbelt Clumps %	Woodland Shelterbelt Clumps %	Woodland Shelterbelt Clumps %	Deciduous Coniferous Along boundaries Scattered within fields %	
Farming/agric	Arable Open	Pasture Enclosure	Intensive Livestock Common Land	Rough Grazing	
Field Size	Small	Medium	Large	Very Large	
Designed space	School play field Car park	Public park	Private park	Golf Course Camp/caravans	Airfield
Recreation	Walking Off road motor vehicles	Cycling	Fishing	Horse riding Shooting	Organised sport

NOTES:

NOTES:

NOTES:

Boundaries

CONDITION	%
Walls	
Walls with fences	
Hedges	
Hedges with trees	
Hedges with fences	
Post & rail fences	
Post & wire fences	

NOTES:

Settlement Type	Form	Name and Dominant Building Materials
Farmstead	Nucleated/Scattered/Linear	
Individual residential		
Hamlet		
Village		
Town		

NOTES:

Buildings	Old Residential Business Park	New Residential Retail Park	Industrial Bams	Commercial Temporary Building	Local Shops
Farm Buildings Leisure Building					

NOTES:

Heritage Cathedral Monuments of Ritual Church Castle Country House Prehistoric Ritual Coppice
Hydrology Dry Valley Reservoir Drainage Ditch Stream Dam River Ford Pond Lake
Features Footpath Street Lamps Track Telegraph Poles Lane Pylons Minor Road Communications Masts Major Road Quarries Railway

NOTES:

NOTES:

NOTES:

SUBJECTIVE ASSESSMENT:

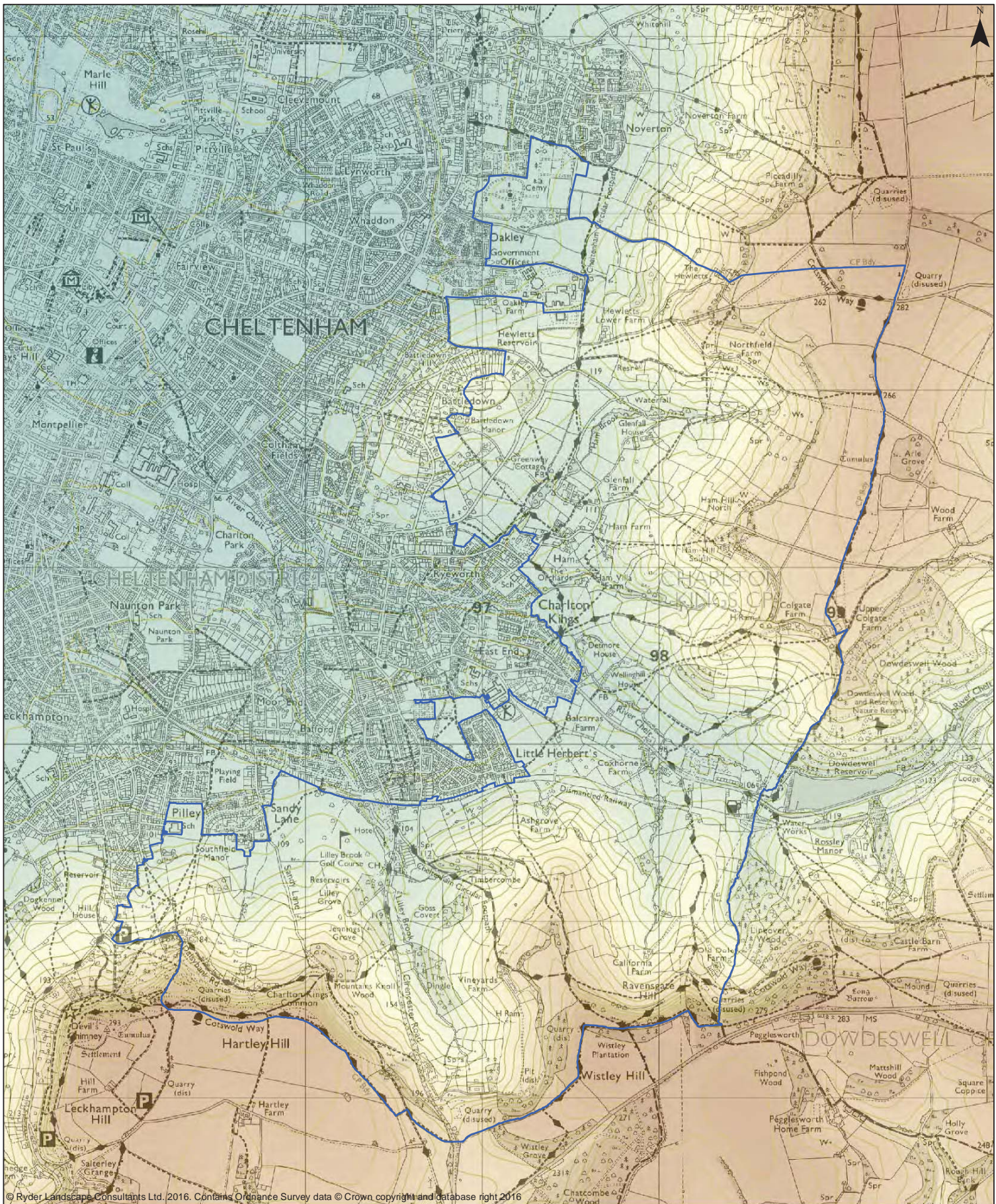
Scale	Intimate	Small	Moderate	Large	Vast
Enclosure	Confined	Enclosed	Semi-Enclosed	Open	Exposed
Diversity	Uniform	Simple	Diverse	Complex	
Colour	Monochrome	Muted	Colourful	Garish	
Balance	Harmonious	Balanced	Discordant	Chaotic	
Accessibility	Wild	Remote	Easily Accessible		
Pattern	Random	Organised	Regular	Formal	
Visual Dynamic	Extensive	Dispersed	Channelled		
Management	Derelet	Neglected	Tended	Manicured	
Quality of Light	Bright	Shaded	Dark		
Tree Cover					

Detractors Offensive Smoke Pollution Unpleasant Industrial Noise Depressing Intrusive Lighting Bland Intermittent Traffic Noise Constant Traffic Noise
Stimulus Pleasant Interesting Attractive Beautiful Invigorating Stunning
OTHER: _____
OTHER: _____

Additional Comments:

APPENDIX B

FIGURES



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Client: **Cheltenham Borough Council**

Project: **Cheltenham Borough Council Landscape Character and Sensitivity Assessment of Cotswolds AONB**

Drawing Title: **Figure 01 Topography**

RYDER
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www.ryderlandscape.co.uk Company Registration no: 6065464

Key

- Study Area
- Contour

Topography

Metres above AOD

330

0

Drawing Scale: 1:20,000 Sheet Size: A3

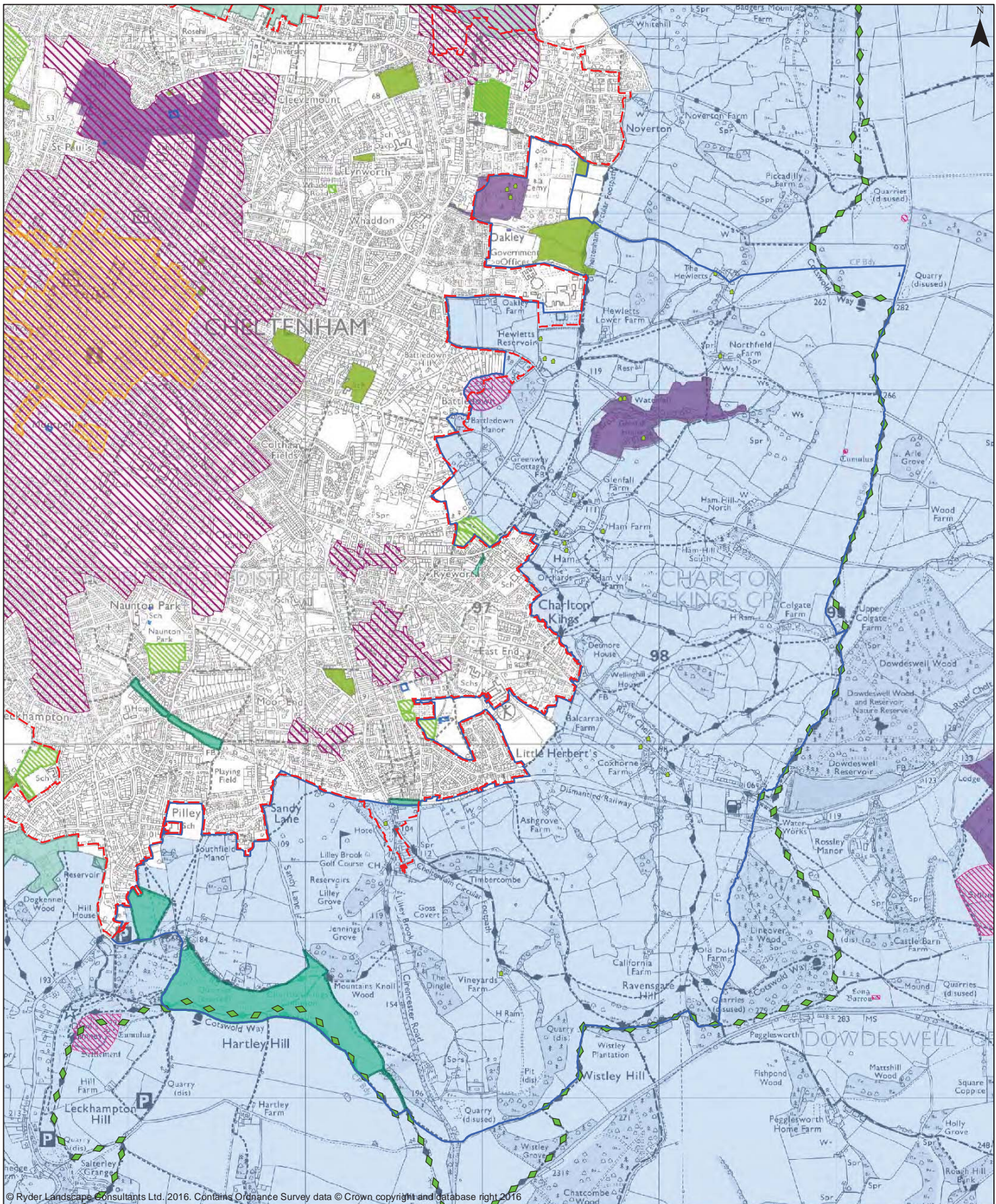
Scale Bar: 0 0.5 1 km

Drawn By: LM Date: 15.04.2015

Checked By: CM Date: 16.04.2015

Drawing No. 15200_01_TOPO Revision 0

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Client: **Cheltenham Borough Council**

Project: **Cheltenham Borough Council Landscape Character and Sensitivity Assessment of Cotswolds AONB**

Drawing Title: **Figure 02 Statutory and Local Designations**

RYDER
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Meyer House 42 City Road, Chester CH1 3AE
TEL: 01244 400664 EMAIL: info@ryderlandscape.co.uk
www.ryderlandscape.co.uk Company Registration no: 6065464

Key

- Study Area
- PUA
- Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
- Green Belt
- Local Green Space
- Local Nature Reserve
- Non-Statutory Nature Reserve
- Conservation Area
- Core Commercial Area
- Youth Adult Play Area
- Allotments
- Site of Special Scientific Interest
- Ancient Woodland Inventory
- Grade II Listed Building
- Registered Park and Garden
- Scheduled Ancient Monument

Drawing Scale: **1:20,000** Sheet Size: **A3**

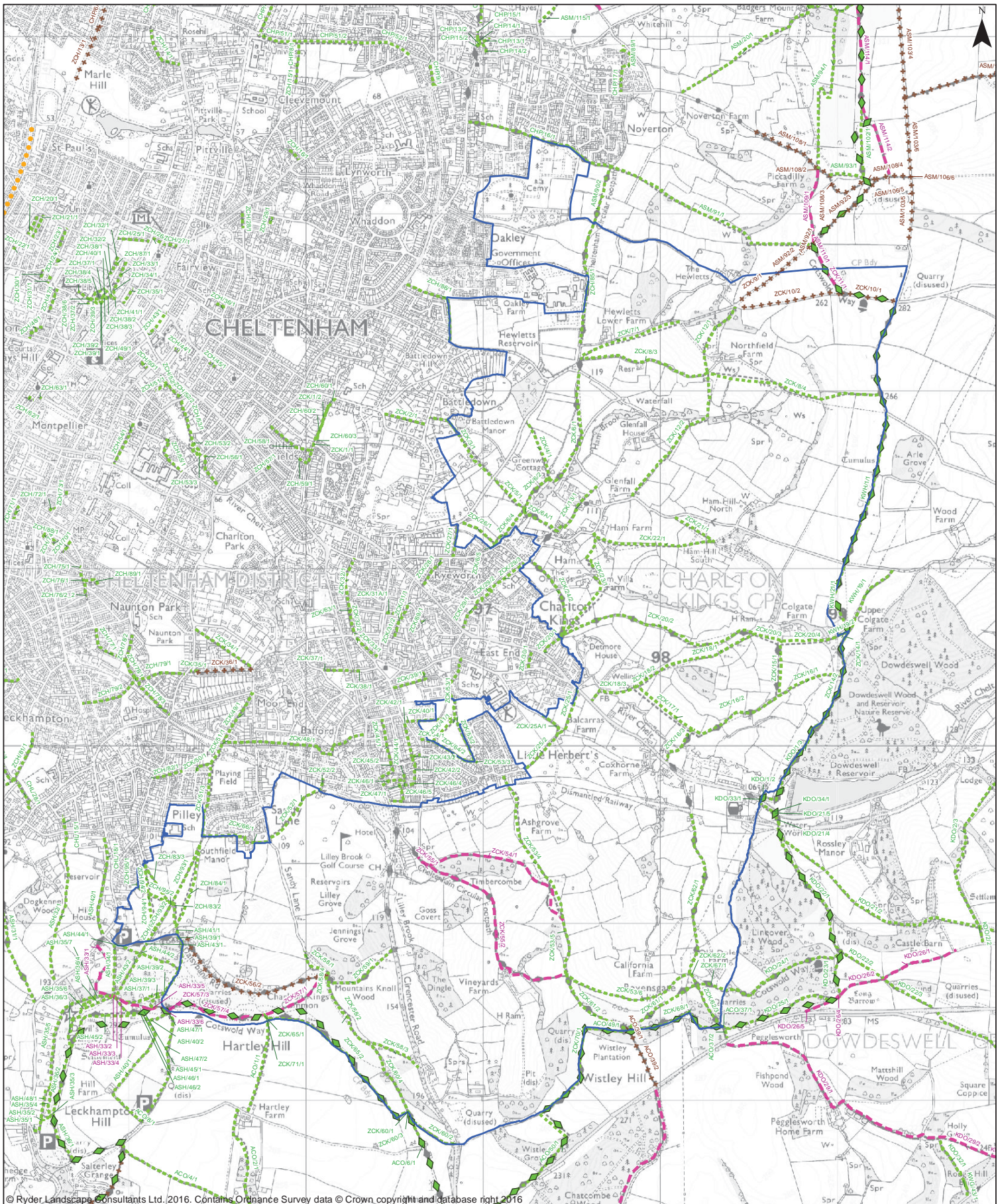
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Drawing No: **15200_02_DESIG** Revision: **0**

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Client: **Cheltenham Borough Council**

Project: **Cheltenham Borough Council Landscape Character and Sensitivity Assessment of Cotswolds AONB**

Drawing Title: **Figure 03 Public Rights of Way and Recreational Routes**

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Key

Study Area	National Trail	Footpath
Cycle Route	Bridleway	Restricted Byway
Study Area	Public Rights of Way	Footpath

Drawing Scale: **1:20,000** Sheet Size: **A3**

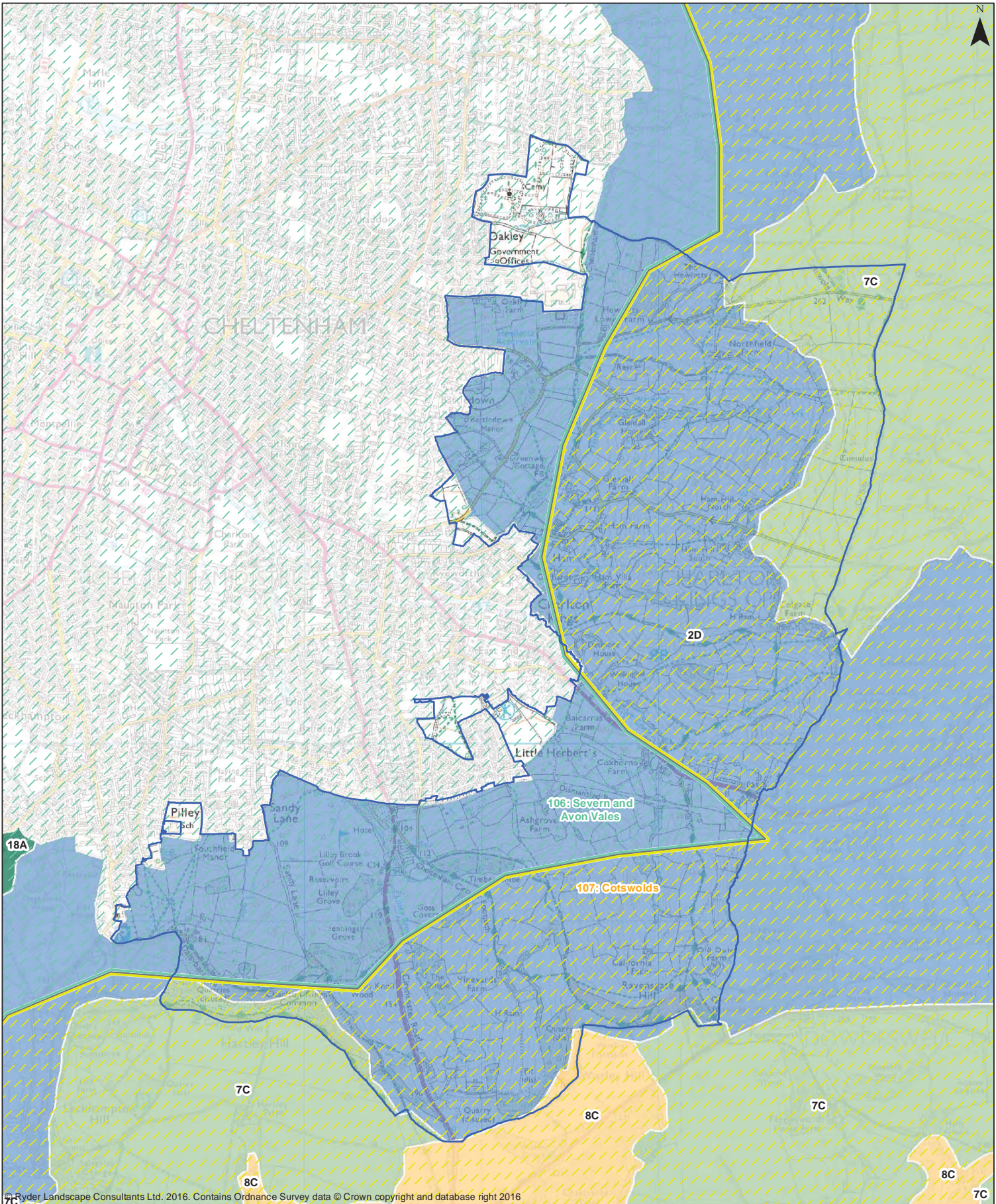
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Client: **Cheltenham Borough Council**

Project: **Cheltenham Borough Council Landscape Character and Sensitivity Assessment of Cotswolds AONB**

Drawing Title: **Figure 04 Existing Landscape Character**

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www.ryderlandscape.co.uk Company Registration no: 6065464

Key

Study Area	National Landscape Character Areas	AONB Landscape Character Types
	106: Severn and Avon Vales	2 - Escarpment
	107: Cotswolds	7 - High Wold
		8 - High Wold Valley
		18 - Settled Unwooded Vale

Drawing Scale: 1:20,000 Sheet Size: A3

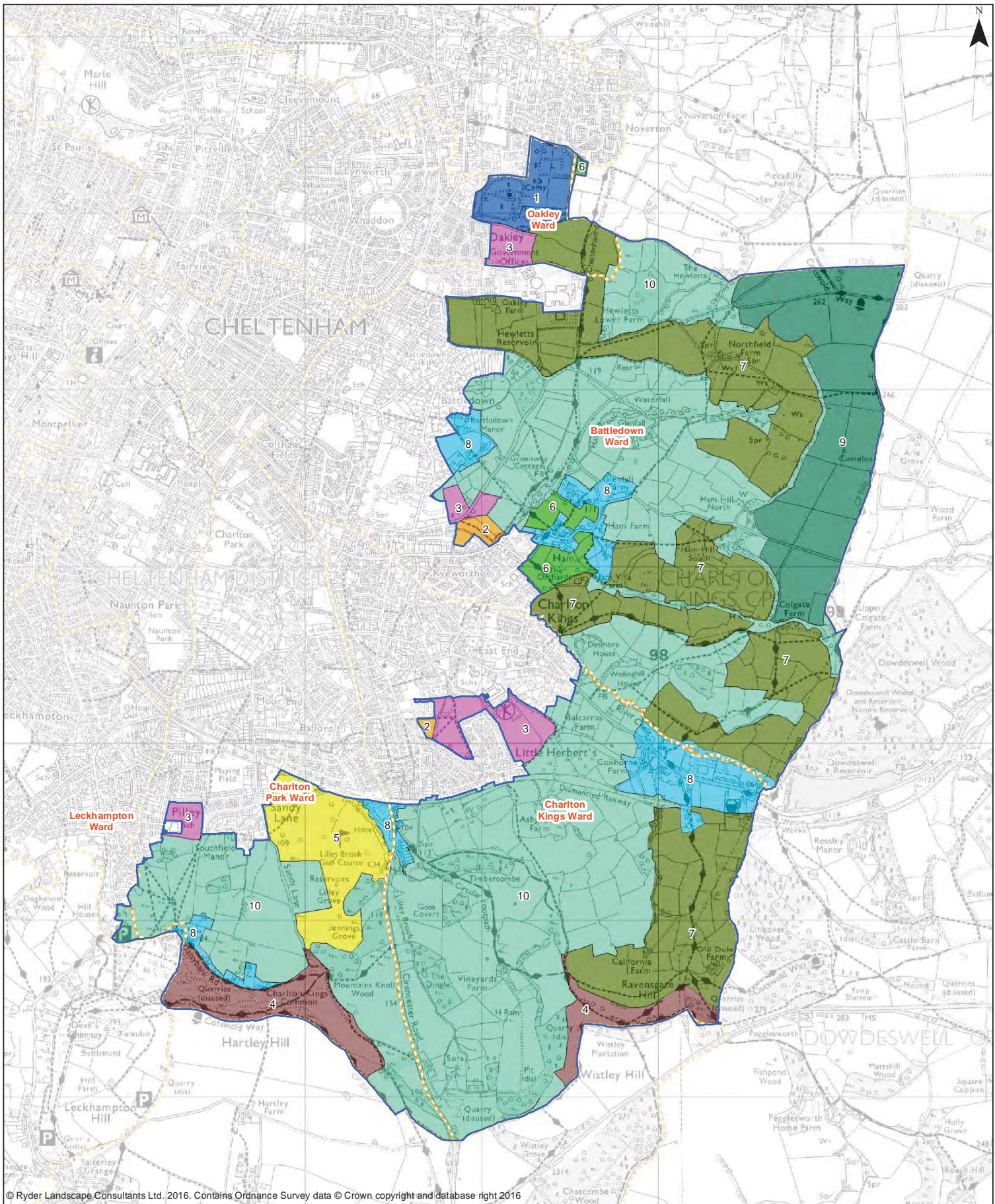
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Drawing No: 15200_04_LCA_AONB Revision: 0

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Client: **Cheltenham Borough Council**

Project: **Cheltenham Borough Council Landscape Character and Sensitivity Assessment of Cotswolds AONB**

Drawing Title: **Figure 05 Assessment Landscape Character Types and Ward Boundaries**

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Key

Study Area (Blue outline) Ward Boundary (Dashed orange line)

Landscape Charcter Types

1 - Cemetery	6 - Lower Pasture
2 - Community Allotments	7 - Pasture Slopes
3 - Community Open Space	8 - Settled Lowland
4 - Escarpment	9 - Upland Farmland
5 - Golf Course	10 - Wooded Pasture Slopes

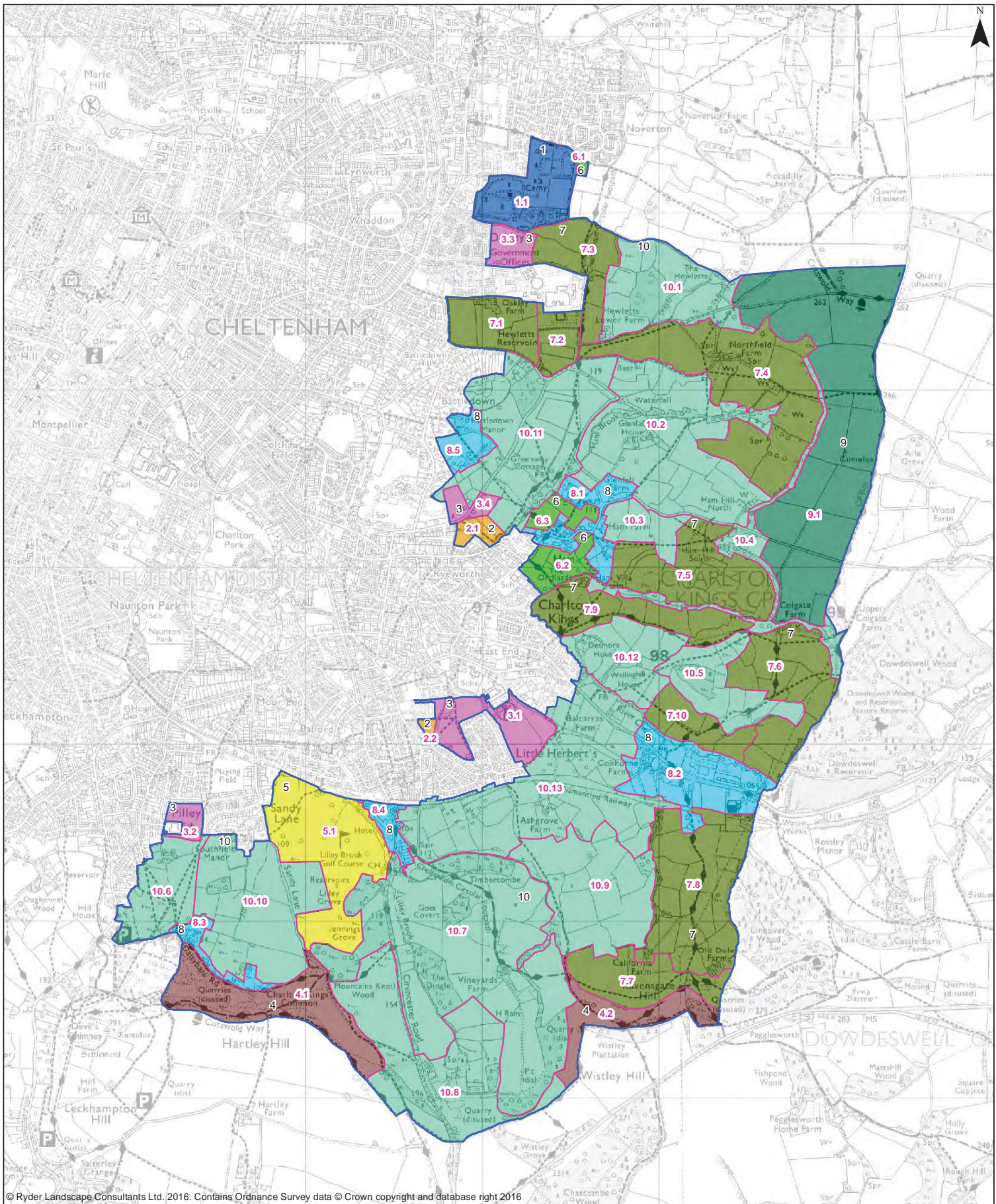
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Scale Bar: 0 0.5 1 km

Drawn By: **LM** Date: **15.04.2015**
Checked By: **CM** Date: **16.04.2015**

Drawing No: **15200_05_LCT-WARD_001** Revision: **1**

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Client: **Cheltenham Borough Council**

Project: **Cheltenham Borough Council Landscape Character and Sensitivity Assessment of Cotswolds AONB**

Drawing Title: **Figure 06 Assessment Landscape Character Types and Areas**

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Key

- Study Area
- Landscape Character Areas

Landscape Character Types

 1 - Cemetery	 6 - Lower Pasture
 2 - Community Allotments	 7 - Pasture Slopes
 3 - Community Open Space	 8 - Settled Lowland
 4 - Escarpment	 9 - Upland Farmland
 5 - Golf Course	 10 - Wooded Pasture Slopes

Drawing Scale: **1:20,000** Sheet Size: **A3**

Scale Bar:

Drawn By: **LM** Date: **15.04.2015**

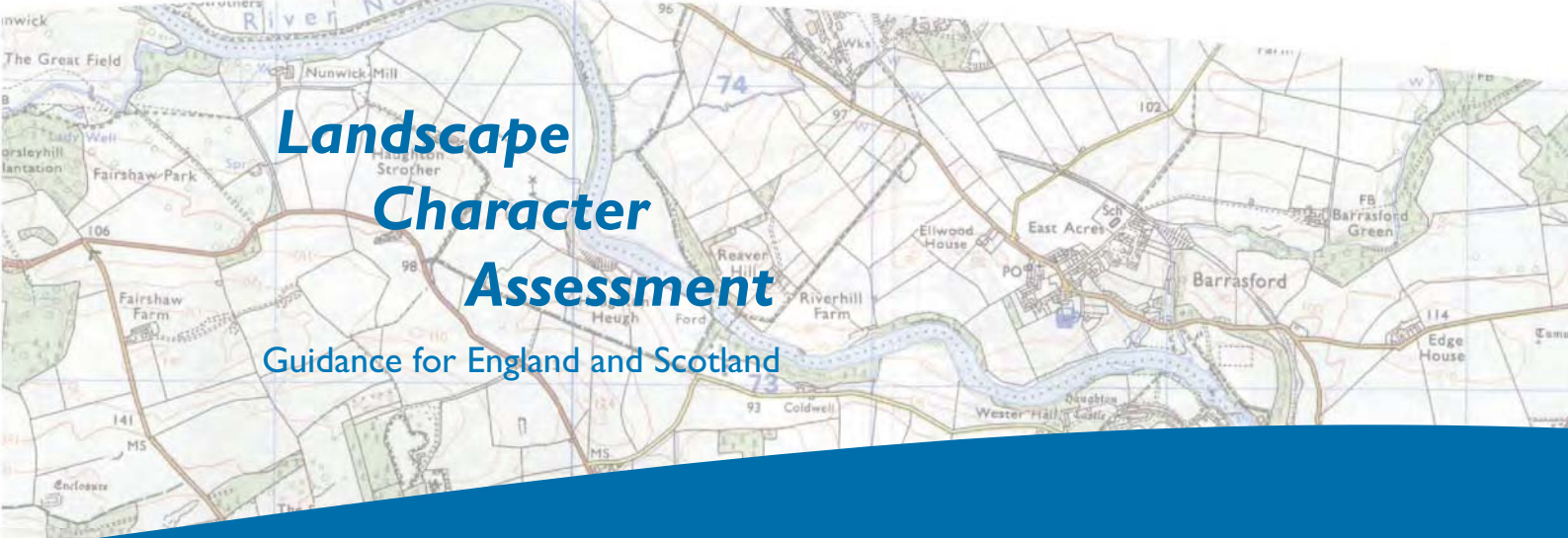
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Drawing No: **15200_06_LCT_LCA_001** Revision: **1**

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APPENDIX C

TOPIC PAPER 6 - Techniques and criteria for judging capacity and sensitivity (Scottish Natural Heritage/The Countryside Agency 2002)



**Landscape
Character
Assessment**
Guidance for England and Scotland

**TOPIC PAPER 6:
Techniques and Criteria
for Judging Capacity and Sensitivity**

An exploration of current thinking about landscape sensitivity and landscape capacity, to stimulate debate and encourage the development of common approaches.

I. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Countryside Agency has recently published a report [1] that looks forward to the way that the countryside might evolve up to the year 2020. It makes it clear that change in English rural landscapes is inevitable in the next 20 years, as a result of a variety of social and economic forces, including food production, housing needs, transport issues, and energy requirements. At the same time the Agency published the results of a public opinion survey suggesting that 91% of English people want to keep the countryside exactly as it is today. Clearly the two are not compatible and hard decisions are inevitably required about how the many different demands that society makes on the land can be accommodated while also retaining the aspects of the environment that we place such high value on. Although there have been no exactly parallel studies of future landscapes in Scotland and of attitudes to them, the recent report on change in Scotland's rural environment [2] shows that similar issues also arise there. Indeed Scotland has been at the forefront of efforts to consider the capacity of Scotland's landscapes to accommodate change of various types.

1.2 In both England and Scotland, Landscape Character Assessment is being widely employed as a tool to help guide decisions about the allocation and management of land for different types of development. It is being used particularly to contribute to sensitivity or capacity studies dealing with the ability of the landscape to accommodate new housing, wind turbines and other forms of renewable energy, and new woodlands and forests, as well as locally significant types of development such as, for example, aquaculture schemes in Scotland. Work of this type inevitably involves consideration of the sensitivity of different types and areas of landscape and of their capacity to accommodate change and development of particular types. If carried out effectively, Landscape Character Assessment can, in these circumstances, make an important contribution to finding solutions that allow essential development to take place while at the same time helping to maintain the diverse character and valued qualities of the countryside. Making decisions based on sensitivity and capacity is a difficult and challenging area of work and also one that is developing rapidly as more and more studies of this type are carried out. The terms themselves are difficult to define accurately in a way that would be widely accepted.

1.3 This Topic Paper provides an overview of current thinking about landscape sensitivity and landscape capacity in terms of both the concepts involved and the practical techniques that are being used. It is not intended to provide a definitive method for assessing sensitivity and capacity but rather to help those involved in such work by setting out some of the key principles, clarifying some of the issues, helping with definitions of key terms and providing examples of the approaches that are currently being used. In this way the intention is to encourage greater transparency in the thinking applied to these issues and to promote consistency and rigour in such work. The content of the paper is based on a workshop involving a small group of practitioners involved in work of this type and review of a small selection of recent studies. It was not the intention, and nor were the resources available, to carry out a comprehensive review of published reports or work in progress in this area, or a wide ranging consultation exercise.

2. WHAT EXISTING GUIDANCE DOCUMENTS SAY ABOUT SENSITIVITY AND CAPACITY

2.1 The topic of landscape sensitivity and capacity proved one of the most difficult to deal with in the main Landscape Character Assessment (LCA) guidance. This was due to both the new and rapidly developing nature of much of this work and also to the great variation in the approaches being applied and the terminology being used. In addition there were some concerns about the need for compatibility with the definitions of sensitivity being developed in the separate 'Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment' [3] which was due to be published at the same time. As a result the published version of the LCA guidance omitted specific reference to landscape sensitivity and instead contained only a few short paragraphs on the topic of landscape capacity on the basis that the issues would be dealt with more fully in a later Topic Paper. For convenience, the current wording of the LCA guidance is summarised in Box 1.

Box 1: What the existing guidance says about capacity

"Landscape capacity refers to the degree to which a particular landscape character type or area is able to accommodate change without significant effects on its character, or overall change of landscape character type. Capacity is likely to vary according to the type and nature of change being proposed"

"Many Landscape Character Assessments will be used to help in decisions about the ability of an area to accommodate change, either as a result of new development or some other form of land use change, such as the introduction of new features, or major change in land cover such as new woodland planting. In these circumstances judgement must be based on an understanding of the ability of the landscape to accommodate change without significant effects on its character. Criteria for what constitutes significant change need to be identified in planning policies or landscape strategies, and will usually be informed by potential effects on character and/or particular features and elements"

Carys Swanwick and Land Use Consultants. Landscape Character Assessment Guidance. Countryside Agency and Scottish Natural Heritage. 2002.

2.2 The published Guidelines on Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment [3] tackle the subject of sensitivity at some length, but do not deal specifically with the topic of landscape capacity. It is, however, clear that there is much common ground between the thinking that is emerging on landscape sensitivity and capacity in Landscape Character Assessment work and the approach that is taken in Britain to Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment. It is therefore particularly important to understand the links between the two and to try, as far as possible, to achieve consistency in the approaches used and particularly in the terms and definitions used. On the other hand it must also be recognised that LCA and LVIA are not the same processes and there must also be clarity about the differences between them.

3. CONCEPTS OF SENSITIVITY AND CAPACITY

3.1 The terms sensitivity and capacity are often used more or less interchangeably. Others treat them as opposites, in the sense that low sensitivity is taken to mean high capacity and vice versa. Indeed the earlier versions of the Landscape Character Assessment guidance used the term sensitivity in the definition given above but this was changed to capacity in the published version to avoid confusion with the guidance on landscape and visual impact assessment. However, as experience of the issues involved has developed, it has become clearer that the two are not the same and are not necessarily directly related. A clearer distinction therefore needs to be drawn between them. Definitions vary among those actively engaged in this work and opinions vary about the acceptability and utility of different definitions. The box below contains just two examples of current ideas of sensitivity, in the words of the authors.

Box 2 : Examples of definitions of landscape sensitivity in current use

"Landscape sensitivity... relates to the stability of character, the degree to which that character is robust enough to continue and to be able to recuperate from loss or damage. A landscape with a character of high sensitivity is one that, once lost, would be difficult to restore; a character that, if valued, must be afforded particular care and consideration in order for it to survive."

The model for analysing landscape character sensitivity is based on the following assumptions:

- i) Within each landscape type certain attributes may play a more significant role than others in defining the character of that landscape.
- ii) Within each landscape type, certain attributes may be more vulnerable to change than others.
- iii) Within each landscape type, the degree to which different attributes are replaceable, or may be restored, may vary.

- iv) The condition of the landscape - the degree to which the described character of a particular landscape type is actually present 'on the ground' - will vary within a given area of that landscape type.

By being able to appreciate and assess the significance, vulnerability and replaceability of different attributes, the relative stability or resilience of the various attributes within given landscape types can be assessed. Then, taking into account condition, or representation of character, the sensitivity of a particular area of landscape can be determined.

Chris Bray. Worcestershire County Council. Unpublished paper on a County Wide Assessment of Landscape Sensitivity. 2003.

Landscape sensitivity... is a property of a thing that can be described and assessed. It signifies something about the behaviour of a system subjected to pressures or stimuli. One system, when stimulated might be robust and insensitive to the pressure, whilst another may be easily perturbed. The system might also be thought of in a dynamic way - the pressure could send the system off into a new state or the system might be resilient and bounce back rapidly and be relatively insensitive to disturbance. Sensitivity is related here to landscape character and how vulnerable this is to change. In this project change relates to wind energy development and any findings on landscape sensitivity are restricted to this (landscapes may have different sensitivities to other forms of change or development). Landscapes which are highly sensitive are at risk of having their key characteristics fundamentally altered by development, leading to a change to a different landscape character i.e. one with a different set of key characteristics. Sensitivity is assessed by considering the physical characteristics and the perceptual characteristics of landscapes in the light of particular forms of development.

John Benson et al. University of Newcastle. Landscape Capacity Study for Wind Energy Development in the Western Isles. Report commissioned by Scottish Natural Heritage for the Western Isles Alternative Renewable Energy Project. 2003

3.2 These two examples highlight one of the main debates about landscape sensitivity, namely whether it is realistic to consider landscapes to be inherently sensitive or whether they can only be sensitive to a specific external pressure. This paper argues that both are valid and useful in different circumstances. Looking at the way that the word sensitivity is used in other contexts, for example in describing the character of people, it is common and seems quite acceptable to describe someone as 'a sensitive person', without necessarily specifying what they are sensitive to. Landscape can quite reasonably be treated in the same way.

3.3 There is a greater degree of agreement about definitions of capacity with broad acceptance that it is concerned with the amount of change or pressure that can be accommodated. There is therefore a quantitative dimension to it and it needs to reflect the idea of the limits to acceptable change. The main debate here is about whether aspects of landscape value should or should not be incorporated into considerations of capacity. In general there appears to be some acceptance that it should, although some argue that this is a retrograde step and could lead to an over reliance on existing designations, which is widely recognised as an overly simplistic approach. There is also some disagreement about where visual aspects should be considered, whether as a component of landscape sensitivity, or wholly as a contributor to landscape capacity, or both.

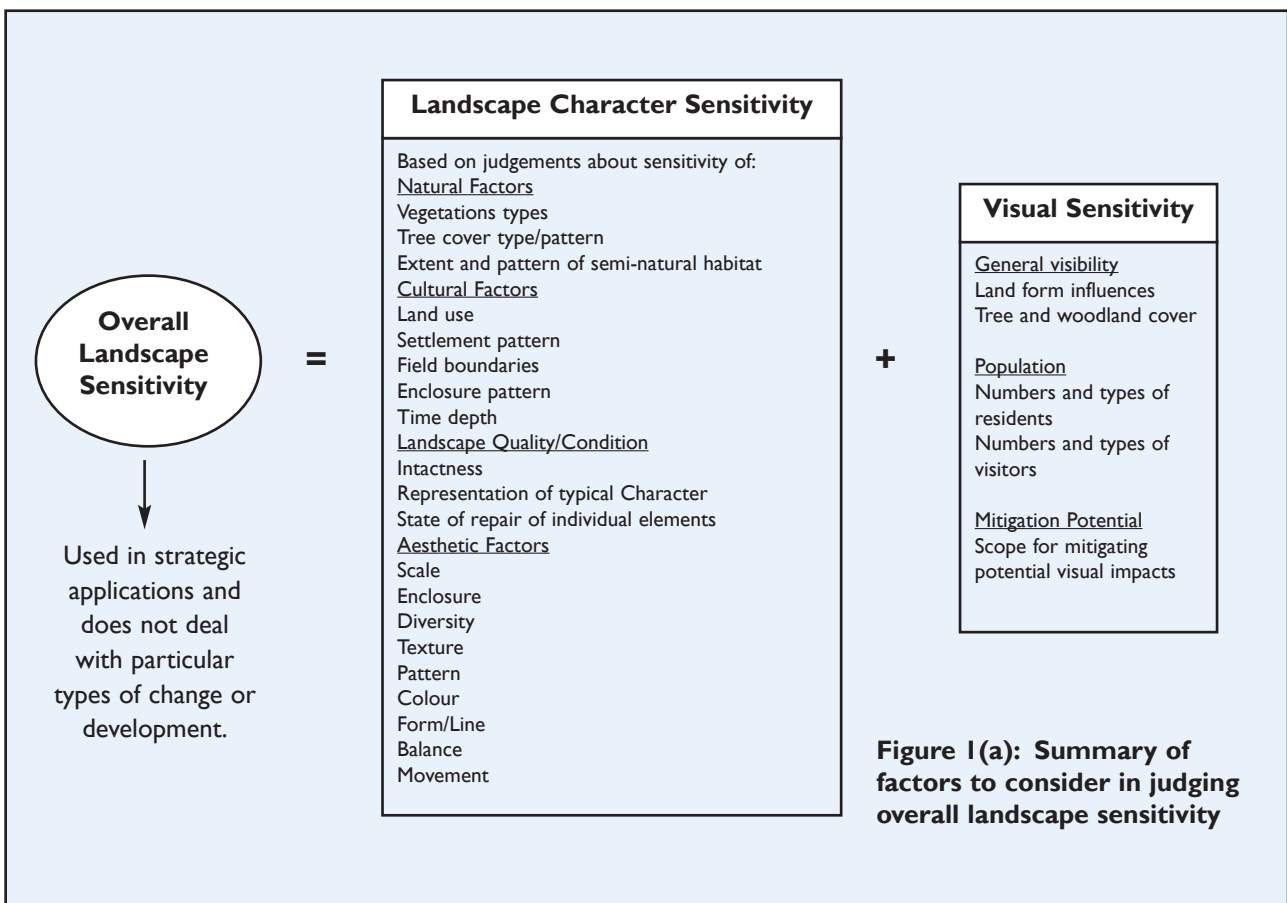
3.4 In this paper an attempt has been made to weigh up the different arguments and as a result it is suggested that three terms can usefully be adopted as shown below. Further details of the definition and use of these terms are in the later sections of this paper.

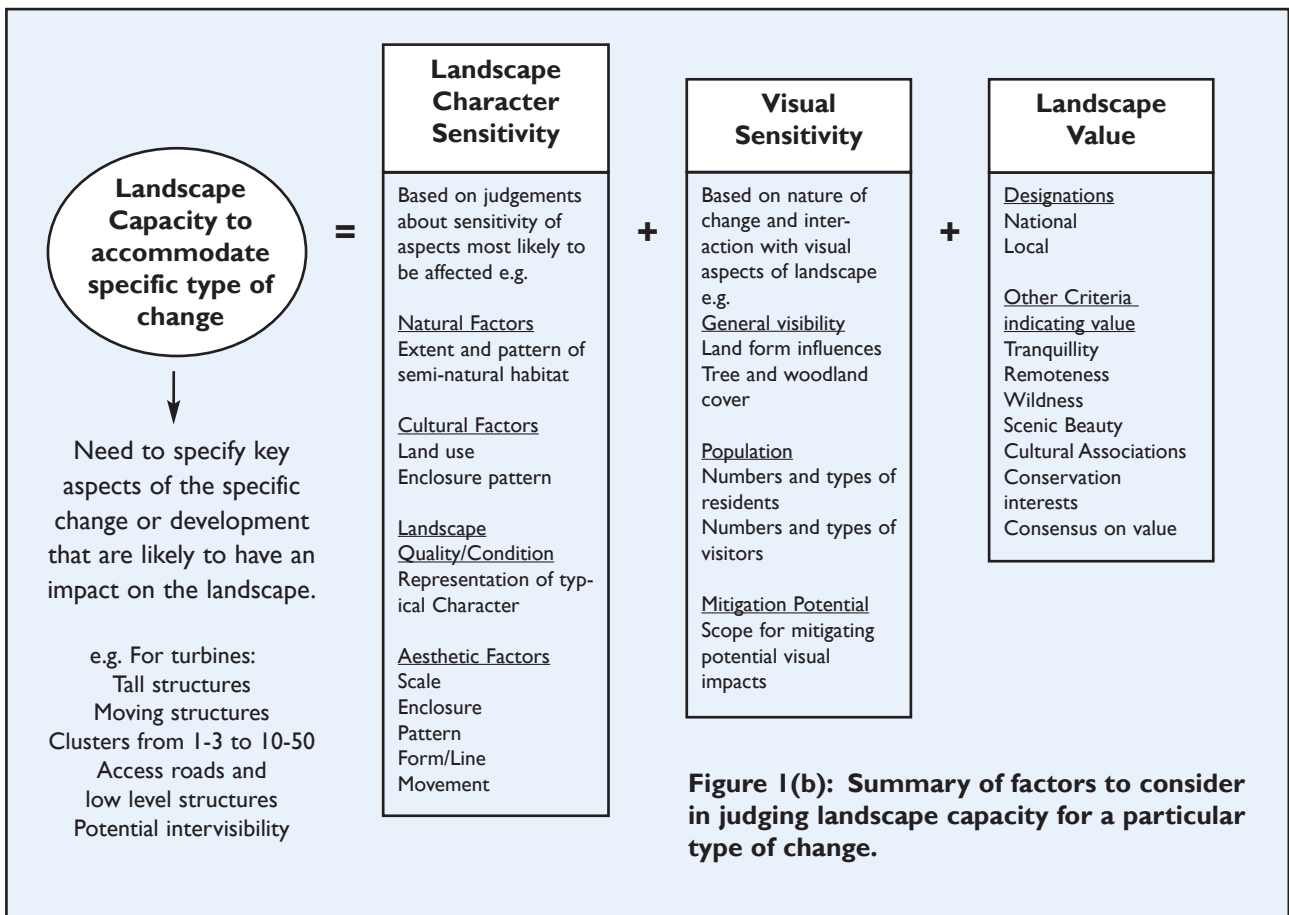
- i) **Overall landscape sensitivity:** This term should be used to refer primarily to the inherent sensitivity of the landscape itself, irrespective of the type of change that may be under consideration. It is likely to be most relevant in work at the strategic level, for example in preparation of regional and sub-regional spatial strategies.

Relating it to the definitions used in Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, landscape sensitivity can be defined as embracing a combination of:

- the sensitivity of the landscape resource (in terms of both its character as a whole and the individual elements contributing to character);
 - the visual sensitivity of the landscape, assessed in terms of a combination of factors such as views, visibility, the number and nature of people perceiving the landscape and the scope to mitigate visual impact.
- ii) **Landscape sensitivity to a specific type of change:** This term should be used where it is necessary to assess the sensitivity of the landscape to a particular type of change or development. It should be defined in terms of the interactions between the landscape itself, the way that it is perceived and the particular nature of the type of change or development in question.
- iii) **Landscape capacity:** This term should be used to describe the ability of a landscape to accommodate different amounts of change or development of a specific type. This should reflect:
- the inherent sensitivity of the landscape itself, but more specifically its sensitivity to the particular type of development in question, as in (i) and (ii). This means that capacity will reflect both the sensitivity of the landscape resource and its visual sensitivity;
 - the value attached to the landscape or to specific elements in it.

The meanings of these terms and the types of factors that need to be considered in each case are summarised in Figure 1 (a) and (b).





3.5 The implication of this is that capacity studies must be specific to a particular type of change or development. At a strategic level, for example in work relating to regional and sub-regional spatial strategies, this means that it might be appropriate to produce a single map of general landscape sensitivity. Maps of landscape capacity, however, need to be specific so that, for example, a map showing an assessment of wind turbine capacity could be produced but would almost certainly be different from a map showing capacity for housing development or for new woodland and forestry planting. Some capacity studies are very specific in their purpose, seeking for example to assess capacity to accommodate a 1000 home settlement at a particular density of development.

4. JUDGING OVERALL LANDSCAPE SENSITIVITY

4.1 In making judgements about the overall landscape sensitivity of different landscape types or areas, without reference to any specific change or type of development (for example in work relating to regional and sub-regional spatial strategies), careful consideration needs to be given to two aspects:

- Judging the sensitivity of the landscape as a whole, in terms of its overall character, its quality and condition, the aesthetic aspects of its character, and also the sensitivity of individual elements contributing to the landscape. This can be usefully referred to as **landscape character sensitivity**;
- Judging the **visual sensitivity** of the landscape, in terms of its general visibility and the potential scope to mitigate the visual effects of any change that might take place. Visibility will be a function particularly of the landform of a particular type of landscape and of the presence of potentially screening land cover, especially trees and woodland. It will also be a reflection of the numbers of people who are likely to perceive the landscape and any changes that occur in it, whether they are residents or visitors.

Landscape character sensitivity

4.2 Judging landscape character sensitivity requires professional judgement about the degree to which the landscape in question is robust, in that it is able to accommodate change without adverse impacts on character. This means

making decisions about whether or not significant characteristic elements of the landscape will be liable to loss through disturbance, whether or not they could easily be restored, and whether important aesthetic aspects of character will be liable to change. Equally, consideration must be given to the addition of new elements, which may also have a significant influence on character. These decisions need clear and consistent thought about three factors:

- the individual elements that contribute to character, their significance and their vulnerability to change;
- the overall quality and condition of the landscape in terms of its intactness, representation of typical character and condition or state of repair of individual elements contributing to character;
- the aesthetic aspects of landscape character, noting that in Scotland these are usually referred to as the 'landscape experience' or the 'scenic qualities' of the landscape. As indicated in the LCA Guidance, aesthetic factors/scenic qualities can still be "recorded in a rational, rigorous and standardised, if not wholly objective way". They include for example the scale, level of enclosure, diversity, colour, form, line, pattern and texture of the landscape. All of these aesthetic dimensions of landscape character may have significance for judgements about sensitivity. They are also distinct from the perceptual aspects of landscape character, which are much more subjective and where responses to them will be more personal and coloured by the experience and the preferences of the individual. These are also important dimensions of character and influence the ability of landscapes to accommodate change but they are best dealt with as part of the consideration of value to be incorporated in the final step of assessing capacity, as discussed in **Section 7**.

4.3 Different methods have been used to judge landscape character sensitivity in recent work. Each has its merits and it is not the role of this topic paper to advocate one approach or another. There is also much common ground between them and they are not therefore alternatives but rather different explorations of a similar approach. A common feature of these approaches in England is the analysis of landscape character in terms of firstly the natural and ecological, and secondly the cultural attributes of the landscape. Landscape sensitivity is in these cases equated broadly with ideas of ecological and cultural sensitivity and deliberately does not embrace either aesthetic aspects of character or visual sensitivity. Three recent examples illustrating this approach are summarised in Boxes 3 and 4.

4.4 There are few if any examples of studies of overall landscape sensitivity that incorporate assessment of the aesthetic dimensions of landscape character, although it would be technically possible to do this. Such considerations are more likely to be found in studies of sensitivity to particular forms of change or development and are discussed in **Section 5**.

Box 3: An approach based on ecological and cultural sensitivity

The Countryside Agency's work on traffic impacts on the landscape required a desk based rather than a field assessment using Staffordshire as the test area. The main concern was with the impact of the road network on landscape character. The Countryside Agency's National Landscape Character Types, and the Land Description Units (LDUs) on which they are based, both derived from the National Landscape Typology, were used as reporting units. The attribute maps from the national typology also provided much of the source data for the analysis. In this work landscape sensitivity is defined as the degree to which the character of the landscape is likely to be adversely affected or changed by traffic levels and network use. It is considered to consist of a combination of ecological sensitivity and cultural sensitivity where:

- **ecological sensitivity** is based on identification of areas where there are ecologically significant habitats likely to be at risk, reflecting combinations of agricultural potential, related to ground type, together with agricultural use and woodland pattern;
- **cultural sensitivity** is based on identification of areas where culturally significant elements of the landscape will be at risk, reflecting a combination of settlement pattern, land cover and the origins of the landscape in terms of whether it is 'planned' or 'organic'.

These two aspects of sensitivity are mapped using GIS and combined into an overall sensitivity matrix. Data on

the road hierarchy and road 'windy-ness' was then combined with the sensitivity classes to give an overall assessment. This desk study proves successful in highlighting areas of concern that could then be examined in more detail if required.

Babtie Group and Mark Diacono. Assessing Traffic Impacts on the Countryside. Unpublished Report to the Countryside Agency. 2003.

Box 4 : Approaches based on vulnerability, tolerance and resilience to change

Work carried out recently for structure plan purposes by Herefordshire and Worcestershire County Councils working in partnership, focuses on landscape character sensitivity rather than visual sensitivity. The work is at the detailed level of Land Description Units (the constituent parts or building blocks of Landscape Character Types and Areas). These studies also focus on individual landscape indicators and attributes - meaning the factors that contribute to character, grouped together under the headings of ground vegetation, land use, field boundaries, tree cover character, tree cover pattern, enclosure pattern, settlement pattern, spatial character and additional characteristic features, such as parkland or rivers.

These studies use a combination of several different aspects of the character of the landscape to reach an assessment of overall sensitivity, based on analysis of these attributes. The definitions of the component parts can be summarised as follows:

Vulnerability: This is a measure of the significance of the attributes that define character, in relation to the likelihood of their loss or demise. This combines assessment of the significance of an attribute with assessment of its functionality and of the likelihood of future change based on apparent trends.

Tolerance: This can be defined as the degree to which change is likely to cause irreparable damage to the essential components that contribute to landscape character. It is a measure of the impacts on character of the loss of attributes, reflecting the timescale needed for their contribution to character to be restored. This combines assessment of the replaceability of individual attributes with their overall significance in the landscape and also takes account of the potential for future change based on apparent trends.

Resilience: This combines tolerance with vulnerability to change. It is a measure of the endurance of landscape character, representing the likelihood of change in relation to the degree to which the landscape is able to tolerate that change.

Sensitivity: Relates to the resilience of a particular area of landscape to its condition.

Each of these aspects of sensitivity is assessed from a combination of desk and fieldwork. The assessments of each factor are then progressively combined in pairs using matrices, until the final assessment of individual areas emerges. In general three point numerical scores are used to combine the various aspects in pairs.

The published Herefordshire work focuses on landscape resilience, which is mapped for landscape types and forms the key summary map in the published Supplementary Planning Guidance document, leaving a final assessment of sensitivity to a more detailed stage based on individual land cover parcels, which is the fine grain at which condition has been assessed in this work. The Worcestershire work is not yet published but will take a similar approach once the County survey of condition has been completed.

Worcestershire County Council. Unpublished paper on a County Wide Assessment of Landscape Sensitivity. 2003.
Herefordshire Council. Landscape Character Assessment. Supplementary Planning Guidance. 2002.

Visual sensitivity

4.5 In a comprehensive study of landscape sensitivity account would ideally also be taken of the visual sensitivity of the landscape. This requires careful thinking about the way that people see the landscape. This depends on:

- the probability of change in the landscape being highly visible, based particularly on the nature of the landform and the extent of tree cover both of which have a major bearing on visibility;
- the numbers of people likely to perceive any changes and their reasons for being in the landscape, for example as residents, as residents staying in the area, as travellers passing through, as visitors engaged in recreation or as people working there;
- the likelihood that change could be mitigated, without the mitigation measures in themselves having an adverse effect (for example, planting trees to screen development in an open, upland landscape could have as great an effect as the development itself).

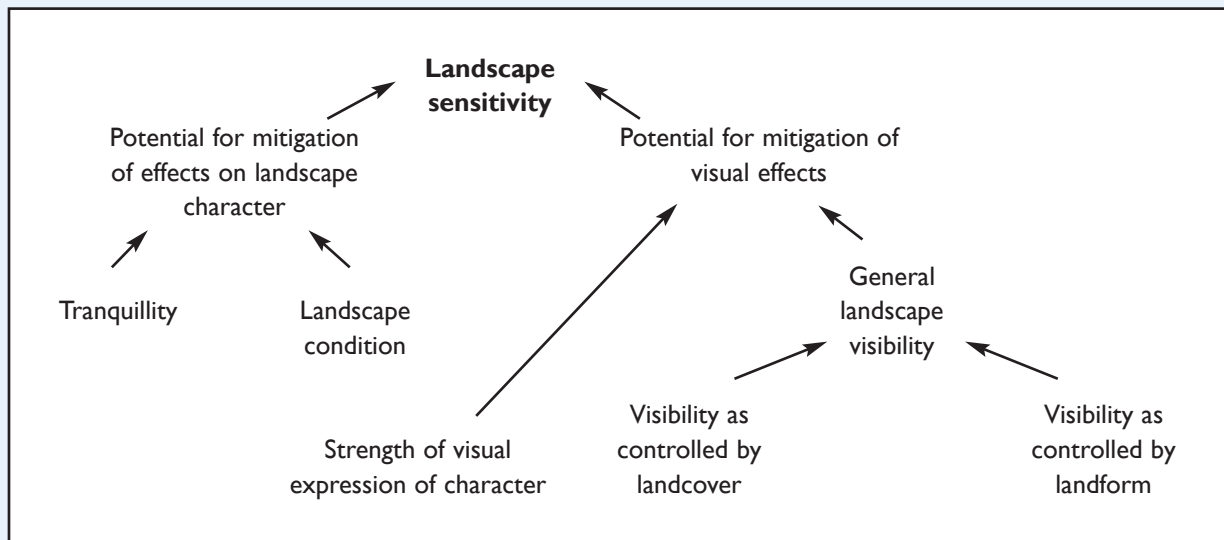
4.6 In practice visual sensitivity can be difficult to judge without reference to a specific form of change or development and that is no doubt why there are few examples of strategic assessments that incorporate this dimension. Herefordshire and Worcestershire initially intended to incorporate such considerations into their strategic work but abandoned the attempt on the basis that it was more realistically considered for specific proposed developments or change. Work by Staffordshire County Council does, however, provide a working example of an approach that combines judgements about landscape character sensitivity (as outlined above) with consideration of the issue of visual sensitivity. It is summarised in **Box 5**.

Box 5: Staffordshire County - An approach that combines landscape character sensitivity and visual sensitivity

Work carried out by Staffordshire County Council, published as Supplementary Planning Guidance to the Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent Structure Plan, approaches landscape sensitivity by working at the Land Description Unit level and addressing the three aspects of landscape character listed below. In this work the first stage in addressing landscape sensitivity is to consider the quality (as defined in the LCA guidance, meaning condition and expression of typical character in specific areas) of individual areas of landscape in relation to their character. This is achieved by asking a series of questions about the three aspects of character:

- **Visual aspects**, dealing with the spatial distribution, pattern and condition of landscape elements. The questions cover: the presence of characteristic features for the landscape type; the absence of incongruous features for the type; and the visual and functional condition of the elements contributing to character of that particular type.
- **Cultural aspects**, which are determined by the history of human activity and are reflected in the patterns of settlement, land use, field enclosure and communications. The questions cover: demonstration of a clear and consistent pattern of landscape elements resulting from a particular course of historical development contributing to character; and the extent to which the area exhibits chronological continuity or 'time depth' in the landscape.
- **Ecological aspects**, relating to the pattern and extent of survival of the typical semi-natural vegetation and related fauna. The questions cover the presence and frequency of semi-natural vegetation characteristic of the landscape type; and the degree of fragmentation and the pattern of the semi-natural habitats.

The Staffordshire approach notes the strong relationship between the quality and sensitivity of the landscape in that one of the effects of disturbance can be the removal of characteristic landscape features. In dealing with the potential impacts of change on landscape character it asks how likely it is that significant features or characteristics of the landscape that contribute to its quality will be lost through disturbance. It also asks whether perception of landscape quality will be adversely affected.



The Staffordshire example is one of the few cases where landscape character sensitivity and visual sensitivity have been combined in an integrated approach. In terms of visual impact this work asks two questions:

- How likely is it that the effects of a given amount of disturbance will be visible?
- What is the potential for negating or minimising adverse visual impacts of disturbance through mitigation and compensation measures?

The idea of general visibility is used and is defined in terms of the likelihood that a given feature, randomly located, will be visible from a given viewpoint, also randomly located. It was determined in this case by theoretical and field based analysis of landform and tree and woodland cover and the way that they interact.

All these different factors, relating to both landscape character sensitivity and visual sensitivity are then combined by judging each on a 5 level scale and combining them sequentially, in map form, through the use of GIS, to produce a final map of landscape sensitivity.

Staffordshire County Council 1999. Planning for Landscape Change. Supplementary Planning Guidance to the Stoke on Trent and Staffordshire Structure Plan. 1996-2011

5. JUDGING LANDSCAPE SENSITIVITY TO A SPECIFIC TYPE OF CHANGE

5.1 In many studies judgements must be made about the ability of the landscape to accommodate particular types of change or development. This is where sensitivity and capacity are most often used interchangeably but it is suggested that, in line with the definitions set out above, sensitivity is the most appropriate word to use. When judging how sensitive a landscape is to some specified type of change it is essential to think in an integrated way about:

- The exact form and nature of the change that is proposed to take place;
- The particular aspects of the landscape likely to be affected by the change, including aspects of both landscape character sensitivity and visual sensitivity, as described in **Section 4**.

5.2 Understanding the nature of the agent of change is like specifying or describing the development project in an Environmental Impact Assessment, except that it is a generic rather than a project-specific form of change. The focus must be on identifying key aspects of the change that are likely to affect the landscape.

5.3 Defining the particular aspects of the character of the landscape that are likely to be affected by a particular type of change (landscape character sensitivity) means careful analysis of the potential interactions. These might include: impacts upon particular aspects of landscape character including landform, land cover, enclosure and settlement pattern; and impacts on aesthetic aspects such as the scale, pattern, movement and complexity of the landscape. In Scotland, for example, the wide range of capacity studies that have been carried out, although varying in their approach, usually incorporate consideration of the key physical, natural and cultural characteristics of the landscape, but also take into account the aesthetic/scenic dimensions of the landscape in judgements about the ability of different landscapes to accommodate change. So, for example, the Stirling Landscape Character Assessment, which includes consideration of a locational strategy for new development, includes criteria related to the 'landscape experience'. It considers that scale, openness, diversity, form and or line, and pattern are the most relevant aspects for this task (see **Box 6** in Section 7 for fuller examples).

5.4 Similarly the visual sensitivity of the landscape with respect to the specific type of change or development needs to be assessed. This means that the potential visibility of the development must be considered, together with the number of people of different types who are likely to see it and the scope to modify visual impacts by various appropriate forms of mitigation measures.

5.5 An overall assessment of sensitivity to the specific form of change or development requires that the four sets of considerations summarised above should be brought together so that the sensitivity of individual types or areas of landscape to that particular form of development can be judged and mapped. They are:

- impacts upon particular aspects of landscape character including landform, land cover, enclosure and settlement pattern;
- impacts on aesthetic aspects such as the scale, pattern, movement and complexity of the landscape;
- potential visibility of the development and the number of people of different types who are likely to see it;
- scope to modify visual impacts by various appropriate forms of mitigation measures.

In most cases, this is likely to be a precursor to further judgements about capacity. Studies specifically of sensitivity to a particular type of development, without proceeding to an assessment of capacity, are not likely to be common.

5.6 The outcome of a study of landscape sensitivity to a specific type of change or development would usually be a map of different categories of sensitivity, usually with either three (for example low, medium and high) or five (for example very low, low, medium, high, very high) categories of sensitivity. Such a map provides an overview of areas where there is relatively low sensitivity to the particular type of change or development but does not indicate whether and to what extent such change or development would be acceptable in these areas. This requires consideration of other factors and is best tackled through a landscape capacity study.

BOX 5: South West Region Renewable Energy Strategy - an example of using landscape sensitivity to forms of renewable energy development to inform draft targets

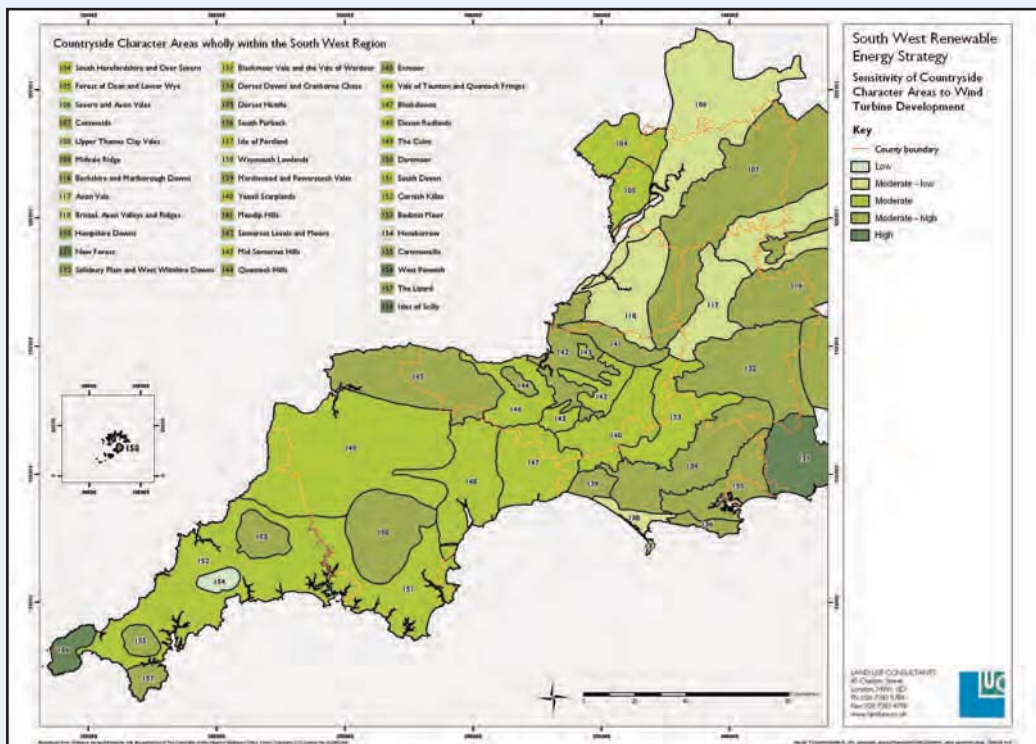
This is a consultant's study, carried out by Land Use Consultants for the Government Office for the South West. It focussed on providing information on the sensitivity of different landscape character areas to wind turbines but also assessed whether a similar approach could be used for biomass crops. Key features of this work, which is still in progress, are:

- It is a strategic study of landscape sensitivity to a specific type of change/development. The Countryside Character Area framework is adopted as suited to the needs of regional scale work, though there has also been subsequent discussion of the scope to use the new National Landscape Typology to provide a more refined level of assessment.
- A range of attributes contributing to landscape character are identified as likely to indicate suitability to accommodate wind turbines. Scale and form of the landscape, landscape pattern, settlement pattern and

transport network relate to the elements and attributes giving character to the landscape; skylines and inter-visibility relate to the visual sensitivity of the landscape; sense of enclosure, sense of tranquillity and remoteness relate to perceptual aspects and value; while sensitive/rare landscape features relates to aspects of landscape value. These distinctions are not referred to in the study where all are referred to simply as 'landscape attributes'.

- A shorter list of attributes is considered to indicate suitability of a landscape to accommodate biomass crops. They are: landscape pattern, land cover/land use, sense of enclosure and settlement pattern/transport network.
- Using these attributes, a series of sensitivity classes are defined in relation to both wind turbines and biomass crops. In each case a five level verbal scale of sensitivity is used - low, moderate/low, moderate, moderate/high and high.
- For each level of sensitivity the influence of the landscape attributes in relation to that type of development is summarised. For example, landscapes judged to be of low sensitivity to wind turbines are "likely to have strong landform, a strong sense of enclosure that reduces visual sensitivity, to be already affected by man made features, to have reduced tranquillity, little inter-visibility with adjacent landscapes and a low density of sensitive landscape features. Similarly, for biomass crops, areas of high sensitivity are defined as those where monocultures of biomass crops would prejudice landscape pattern, where transport infra structure is dominated by narrow rural lanes (or is absent), and where buildings are uncharacteristic of the landscape (e.g. moorland). The scale of possible wind turbine development is considered, predominantly in relation to landform scale, though it is acknowledged that at more detailed levels of assessment other factors such as landscape pattern and enclosure will also be relevant.

Overall the assessment of landscape sensitivity is considered to provide just one 'layer' of information relevant to the process of regional target setting. The study is clearly based on professional judgement within a clear and reasonably transparent framework. There is no explicit scoring or use of matrices but rather a common sense approach to combining the nature of the landscape with the nature of the development to derive sensitivity classes.



Land Use Consultants. South West Renewable Energy Strategy: Using Landscape Sensitivity to set Draft Targets for Wind Energy. Unpublished report to the Government Office for the South West. 2003.

6. JUDGING LANDSCAPE CAPACITY

6.1 Turning a sensitivity study into an assessment of capacity to accommodate a particular type of change means taking a further step. The assessment of the sensitivity of different types or areas of landscape to the type of change in question must be combined with an assessment of the more subjective, experiential or perceptual aspects of the landscape and of the value attached to the landscape. There are, perhaps inevitably, some reservations amongst practitioners about the incorporation of value in work on landscape sensitivity and capacity because this is seen as the return to the now largely discredited thinking about landscape evaluation. It cannot be denied, however, that society does value certain landscapes for a variety of different reasons and this has, in some way, to be reflected in decision making about capacity to accept change.

6.2 As the Landscape Character Assessment guidance indicates (**Paragraph 9.5**), value may be formally recognised through the application of some form of national landscape designation. Where this is the case the implications of the designation need to be taken into account. This means, in particular, understanding what aspects of the landscape led to its designation and how these might be affected by the proposed change. The consultation draft of Planning Policy Statement 7, which is due to replace Planning Policy Guidance Note 7, requires that Local Planning Authorities no longer refer to local landscape designations in Development Plans. Local landscape designations are proposed to be replaced by criteria-based policies, underpinned by robust Landscape Character Assessments.

6.3 The absence of designation does not mean that landscapes are not valued by different communities of interest. This means that in such cases other indicators of value will need to be considered to help in thinking about capacity. Judgements about value in such cases may be based on two main approaches. One is to address value by means of the Quality of Life Assessment approach, seeking to address the question of 'What Matters and Why?' (see Topic Paper 2 - 'Links to Other Sustainability Tools'). In this approach value will be judged in an integrated way, with considerations of landscape and sense of place set alongside other matters such as biodiversity, historic and cultural aspects, access and broader social, economic and environmental benefits.

6.4 Alternatively judgements can be made in terms of the relative value attached to different landscapes by a range of different communities of interest. This can be based on the range of criteria set out in the Landscape Character Assessment guidance (**Paragraphs 7.8 and 7.22**). These include landscape quality and condition; perceptual aspects such as scenic beauty, tranquillity, rurality, remoteness or wildness; special cultural associations; the presence and influence of other conservation interests. There may also be a long established consensus about the importance of particular areas. Weighing up all these factors may allow the relative value of particular landscapes to be assessed as an input to judgements about capacity.

6.5 Reaching conclusions about capacity means making a judgement about the amount of change of a particular type that can be accommodated without having unacceptable adverse effects on the character of the landscape, or the way that it is perceived, and without compromising the values attached to it. This step must clearly recognise that a valued landscape, whether nationally designated or not, does not automatically, and by definition, have high sensitivity. Similarly and as already argued in Section 3, landscapes with high sensitivity do not automatically have no, or low capacity to accommodate change, and landscapes of low sensitivity do not automatically have high capacity to accept change. Capacity is all a question of the interaction between the sensitivity of the landscape, the type and amount of change, and the way that the landscape is valued.

6.6 It is entirely possible for a valued landscape to be relatively insensitive to the particular type of development in question because of both the characteristics of the landscape itself and the nature of the development. It may also be the case that the reasons why value is attached to the landscape are not compromised by the particular form of change. Such a landscape may therefore have some capacity to accommodate change, especially if the appropriate, and hopefully standard, steps are taken in terms of siting, layout and design of the change or development in question. For example, a capacity study may show that a certain specified amount of appropriately located and well-designed housing may be quite acceptable even in a highly valued and moderately sensitive landscape. This is why capacity is such a complex issue and why most capacity studies need to be accompanied by guidelines about the ways in which certain types of change or development can best be accommodated without unacceptable adverse effects.

6.7 Clearly at this stage of making judgements about capacity there can be considerable benefit in involving a wide range of stakeholders in the discussions since there is likely to be a strong political dimension to such judgements. On the other hand clear and transparent arguments are vital if decisions are to be well founded and this is where well constructed professional judgements about both sensitivity and capacity are extremely important.

6.8 In Scotland a wide range of capacity studies have been carried out to look at the ability of different areas to accept development of different types. They have covered housing and built development in general, as well as wind turbines and aquaculture. The detailed approach taken varies as the studies have been carried out by different individuals or consultancies working to different briefs for different clients. Box 6 contains a summary of the approach taken in a recent example.

BOX 6 : Stirling Landscape Capacity Assessment for Housing and Small-scale Industrial, Retail and Business Development

Carried out by David Tyldesley Associates for Scottish Natural Heritage and Stirling Council in 1999, this study seeks to ensure that development around Stirling is directed towards those landscapes which can best accommodate it. The work developed an approach pioneered at St Andrews in 1996 and also ran in parallel with a settlement capacity evaluation in the neighbouring area of Clackmannanshire. The Stirling study assessed 15 specific locations of settlements and their settings and three larger general areas of search. The purpose of the study was to define: settlements and areas of high landscape sensitivity judged to have little capacity to accommodate growth; settlements and areas judged to be able to accommodate minor growth and settlements or areas judged to be suitable for major settlement expansion or new settlement. The work assumed that the buildings in question would be well-designed and would use traditional building techniques and materials. It also assumed that it would include a strong framework of structural landscape treatment including ground modelling where appropriate and tree planting of appropriate scale, area, design and species composition to ensure that the development achieves a good fit in the landscape. This study embraces both sensitivity and capacity, as defined in this Topic Paper, although they are not separately considered. The assessment is clearly made with respect to particular specified forms of development. The assessment is based on five criteria which are applied to the landscape types previously identified in a Landscape Character Assessment. The five criteria address aspects of Landscape Character Sensitivity, Visual Sensitivity and Landscape Value, as discussed in this topic paper. The criteria are derived from the key characteristics and features of the landscape character types and can be grouped as follows in relation to the structure of this Topic paper:

Related to Landscape Character Sensitivity

Effects on the Landscape Resource: examines the effects of development on the key physical features and characteristics and judges whether that development of the kind described could be accommodated and whether the character of the landscape would be sustained, enhanced or diminished. Only the important characteristics relevant to the type of development are assessed.

Effects on the landscape experience: assesses the potential effects of development on aspects of landscape experience relating to scale, openness, diversity, form and/or line and pattern and makes an overall assessment of whether these aspects would be affected positively or negatively.

Related to Visual Sensitivity

Visual effects: considers possible visual effects of the forms of development on: views and approaches to the settlements from the principal approach roads; possible effects on strategically significant outward views from the settlements; potential effects on distinctive skylines; and potential effects on visually conspicuous locations such as open, flat ground or open, high or rising ground.

Mitigation: considers whether the development would require long-term mitigation to reduce the effects of the development. It also considers how feasible any desirable mitigation would be and whether the mitigation itself would be appropriate.

Related to Landscape Value

Other Important Effects: considers whether the development would affect the integrity of an important designed landscape or its setting and whether the development would affect the amenity of other important cultural or historical elements or features of the landscape, including their settings.

The criteria under these five categories are applied systematically to each settlement and area of search in terms of the different landscape character types that occur. Professional judgments are made and for each criteria a three point graphical scale is used to express the findings. An overview is taken of the judgments for each of the criteria for each landscape type, and an overview assessment is made of the whole. The three point scale applied to each criteria covers: no impact or positive enhancement; neutral or average effect; and significant negative effect or diminishing of landscape character. An overall judgment is then made based on the profile of the area/settlements and relevant landscape type based on a table of judgments under each criteria.

David Tyldesley Associates. Stirling Landscape Character Assessment. Report for Scottish Natural Heritage and Stirling Council. 1999

7. RECORDING AND PRESENTING INFORMATION

7.1 Approaches to judging sensitivity and capacity can be made at different levels of detail. Much depends on the time and resources available and on the problem to be addressed. For example, capacity studies for housing may need a finer grain of assessment because of the particular nature of the development. Where time and resources are limited quick assessments are needed and it is likely that overall judgements will need to be made about the whole of a landscape type or area without necessarily making individual assessments of the constituent aspects of sensitivity or capacity. Consultants working to tight timescales and with limited budgets often carry out short sharp studies of this type. In such cases it is rarely possible to assess each of the relevant factors individually in great detail and the emphasis is often on overall judgement of sensitivity. It is nevertheless still extremely important that the thinking that underpins these judgements is clear and consistent, that records of the field judgements are kept in a consistent form and that the decisions reached can be explained easily to an audience of non-experts.

7.2 Local authorities carrying out such work in house are likely to work in a different way and may sometimes have longer periods of time for desk study, survey and analysis. Permanent staff can be more fully involved in such studies and have a greater opportunity to become familiar with and to understand their landscapes and to develop real ownership of the work. In these cases it may be possible to take a much more detailed and transparent step-by-step approach to assembling the judgements that ultimately leads to an overall assessment of landscape sensitivity or capacity. The Staffordshire, Worcestershire and Herefordshire studies, for example, provide demonstrations of what can be achieved by officers working on assessing their own areas, often over a reasonably long period of time.

7.3 Whoever carries them out, all assessments of sensitivity and capacity inevitably rely primarily on professional judgements, although wherever practically possible they should also include input from stakeholders. The temptation to suggest objectivity in such professional judgements, by resorting to quantitative methods of recording them is generally to be avoided. Nevertheless dealing with such a wide range of factors, as outlined in the paragraphs above, does usually require some sort of codification of the judgements that are made at each stage as well as a way of combining layers of judgements together to arrive at a final conclusion.

7.4 The first step is to decide on the factors or criteria that are to be used in making the judgement and to prepare a clear summary of what they are and what they mean. The second step is to design record sheets that

allow the different judgements that need to be made to be recorded clearly, whether they are to be based on desk study or field survey. The time and resources available will influence the level of detail of this record sheet and the level of detail required of the work. Ideally separate records should be made of each component aspect of the final judgement. So for example in the case of a comprehensive capacity study for a particular type of change or development, a record should be made of the judgements made about:

- i) **the Landscape Character Sensitivity** of each landscape type or area to that type of change, which will reflect the sensitivity of individual aspects of landscape character including landform, land cover, enclosure form and pattern, tree cover, settlement form and pattern, and other characteristic elements, and the aesthetic aspects of landscape character, including for example, its scale, complexity, and diversity;
- ii) **the Visual Sensitivity** to that type of change, which will reflect, for each landscape type or area; general visibility, influenced by landform and tree and woodland cover, the presence and size of populations of different types, and potential for mitigation of visual impacts, without the mitigation in itself causing unacceptable effects.
- iii) the **Value** attached to each landscape, which will reflect:
 - national designations based on landscape value;
 - other judgements about value based either on a 'Quality of Life Assessment', or on consideration of a range of appropriate criteria relating to landscape value.

7.5 These different aspects need to be judged on a simple verbal scale, either of three points - high, medium or low, or of five points - for example very high, high, medium/average, low and very low, or equivalents. A three point scale is much easier to use but a five point scale allows greater differentiation between areas. These scales can easily be translated into shades or colours for graphic display and are well suited to use as layers within a GIS of the type now widely employed in landscape character work.

7.6 The question remains of how layers of information can then be combined to arrive at a final assessment of either sensitivity or capacity, depending on which is required. There are three possible methods: firstly the construction of an overall profile combined into an overall assessment of sensitivity and capacity; secondly the cumulative assessment of sensitivity and capacity by sequential combination of judgements; and thirdly a scoring approach. They are briefly outlined below.

An overall profile

7.7 In the first approach individual assessments are made of the constituent aspects of sensitivity or capacity using a three or five point verbal scale, as outlined above. The amount of detailed assessment that goes into the judgements of each of these factors will depend on the time and resources available and the overall approach taken. These assessments are arranged in a table or matrix to provide a profile of that particular landscape type or area. An overview is then taken of the distribution of the assessments of each aspect and this is used to make an informed judgement about the overall assessment of sensitivity or capacity. **Figure 2** gives a hypothetical example:

Figure 2: Building up the overall profile

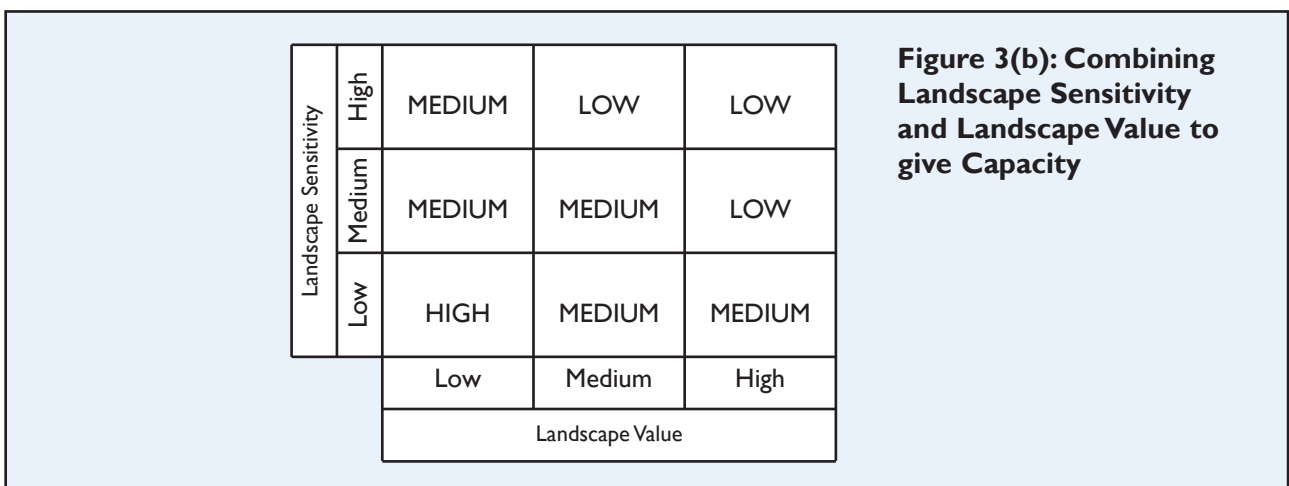
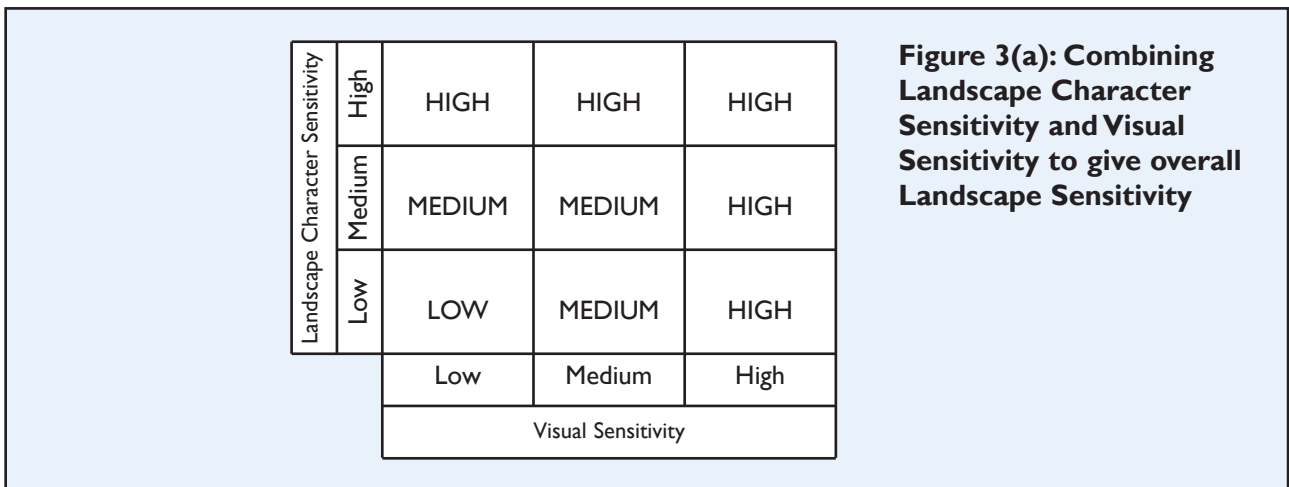
Landscape Type/Area	Landscape Character Sensitivity	Sensitivity of Individual Elements	Sensitivity of Aesthetic Aspects	Visual Sensitivity	LANDSCAPE SENSITIVITY	Value of Landscape	LANDSCAPE CAPACITY
Type 1	High	Medium	Medium	High	HIGH	Low	MEDIUM
Type 2	Low	Medium	Low	Low	LOW	Low	HIGH
Type 3	High	High	High	Medium	HIGH	High	LOW
etc							

Cumulative assessment

7.8 In the second approach individual assessments are similarly made but in this case the more detailed lower-level assessments are combined in pairs sequentially until an overall assessment is reached. The number of layers combined in this way depends upon the level of detailed information collected in the survey. This must of course be done for each landscape type or area being assessed. Based on the framework and definitions set out in this paper some simplified and purely illustrative possible combinations (and there are of course others) might be:

- Sensitivity of ecological components + Sensitivity of cultural components = Landscape character sensitivity
- General visibility (related to land form and land cover) + Level and significance of populations = Visual sensitivity
- Landscape character sensitivity + Visual sensitivity = Overall landscape sensitivity
- Presence of designations + Overall assessment of value against criteria = Landscape value
- Overall landscape sensitivity + Landscape value = Landscape capacity

7.9 The difficulties with this approach are that it may be somewhat cumbersome and time consuming to apply, especially for large areas, and that decisions must be made about how the individual assessments are to be combined. So, for example, while two HIGHS clearly give a HIGH in the matrix, what about a HIGH and a MEDIUM? Is the highest level used in which case the answer is also HIGH, or is a judgement made on the combinations? There is no single answer but again the emphasis must be on transparency. **Figure 3** illustrates this process for two hypothetical combinations. Both could also be shown with a five point scale, as discussed above, to give a more refined assessment.



Scoring

7.10 In this type of approach the word scales must be combined in a consistent way with appropriate rules applied as to how the combined layers are further classified. This may require that they are converted into numerical equivalents for ease of manipulation. Shown graphically, these 'scores' will take the form of different colours or shades, which is generally preferable to presenting the numerical figures themselves. There are certainly examples of work that do take a scoring approach to the layers of information in the assessment, although they may not appear in the final published material.

7.11 While scoring overcomes the difficulty of how individual assessments of each aspect are combined (for example by multiplication within matrices and by adding different matrices) and makes the process transparent, it does lead to a greater emphasis on quantitative aspects of such work. If overemphasised as an end in itself rather than as a means to an end, numerical representation may run the risk of generating adverse reactions because it suggests something other than professional judgement and can suggest a spurious scientific rigour in the process. It was, after all, the overly quantitative nature of landscape evaluation in the 1970s that led to a move away from that approach.

The role of Geographic Information Systems

7.12 Today most sensitivity and capacity studies, whichever approach they take, are likely to rely on Geographic Information Systems (GIS) to manipulate the layers of information. This brings several advantages and notably:

- Consistency of approach, in that appropriate matrices or algorithms can be defined once and then applied consistently throughout a study;
- Transparency, in that it is easy to interrogate the base datasets used and also to visualise and communicate intermediate stages of the process if required;
- Efficiency and effectiveness in the handling of data, allowing explorations of the information and alternative approaches to combining it which would simply not be achievable in a manual paper based exercise.

8. CURRENT PRACTICE AND ISSUES IN ASSESSING SENSITIVITY AND CAPACITY

8.1 There is a wide range of work, either in progress or completed, which tackles the issues of landscape sensitivity and capacity. Most of it is quite complex and difficult to summarise meaningfully in a short paper like this and there are few if any examples as yet which demonstrate all the principles set out here. Where possible examples have been included in the boxes in the text to illustrate particular aspects of such work, including examples of overall landscape sensitivity studies carried out by local authorities, studies to assess sensitivity to particular types of change or development and capacity studies aimed, for example, at exploring wind turbines or housing, among other types of development. It is hoped that more examples may be available in future and may be included on the Countryside Character Network website (www.ccnetwork.org.uk).

Transparency and Presentation

8.2 It is clear from examination of the strategic studies of overall landscape sensitivity, such as those conducted by Herefordshire, Worcestershire and Staffordshire, that they are enormously detailed and very transparent in describing the approach to analysis and judgements. It is also apparent that they are very detailed and demanding of time and resources, and also quite complex because of the desire to explain each step in the process. However, even experienced practitioners who have not been involved in this work may struggle to understand fully the terminology used, the subtleties of the definitions and the judgements that are made at every level of the assessment, as well as the way that the different factors are combined. They may also disagree with some of those definitions - replaceability, for example, is in itself a very complex term open to different interpretations, especially when used in relation to ecological habitats. A lay audience could well be completely baffled by the complexity of the whole process. So although the arguments are logical, consistent and fully explained this can in itself open up potentially important areas of misunderstanding or debate.

8.3 On the other hand some of the consultants' studies of sensitivity and capacity are often short on transparency and rely on professional judgements, the basis of which is often not clear. It could be argued that there has to be a trade-off between complete transparency in the methods used and the accessibility of the findings to a non-specialist

audience. Reasoning must always be documented as clearly as possible and the reader of any document should be able to see where and how decisions have been made. Different content and presentation techniques may be needed to tailor the findings of studies for particular audiences. Officers of Worcestershire County Council, for example, intend ultimately to produce the findings of their overall sensitivity analysis in a more accessible form for a wider audience. The complexities in the full explanation of the method are considered necessary to provide the essential degree of transparency and justification but it is recognised that this is only likely to be suited to a specialist audience.

Continuing debates and questions

8.4 Whatever the approach adopted there are likely to be continuing debates on several questions. The main ones that require further exploration as experience grows are:

- a) Is it reasonable to make assessments of overall landscape sensitivity without considering sensitivity to a specific type of change? In what circumstances will this approach work?
- b) To what extent should considerations of 'value', as discussed in Section 6 of this paper, be taken into account in landscape capacity studies? This paper argues that they should be, provided that these considerations are clearly thought through and appropriately incorporated in the judgements that are made. Simply relying on designations is to be avoided as this is an oversimplification of complex issues but the issue remains of whether there is agreement about the way that value can be defined. At present it seems that this approach to defining capacity, by combining sensitivity and aspects of value, is reasonably well accepted in Scotland, particularly in recent wind farm capacity studies, but less so in England.
- c) How can transparency about the approach to making judgements be achieved without the explanations becoming unnecessarily complex and inaccessible?
- d) To what extent is quantification of assessments of sensitivity or capacity either necessary or desirable, as discussed in Paragraph 7.11? Both quantification and consideration of value suffer from the spectre of the 1970s approaches to landscape evaluation which hangs over them. This needs to be recognised when deciding on and presenting an appropriate approach, in order to avoid unnecessary arguments about its suitability.

Future developments

8.6 This Topic Paper is not intended to be a definitive statement about issues of landscape sensitivity and capacity. Nor is it the intention to recommend or promote a single method. This is a rapidly developing field in which practitioners are actively exploring different approaches in different circumstances. The Topic Paper may be amended in future as experience accumulates and the strengths and weaknesses of different approaches become more apparent as they are applied in practice. In the meantime comments on the content of the Topic Paper are invited to assist in this evolutionary process. The discussion forum on the Countryside Character Network website should be used for this purpose if you want to share your views with the wider practitioner community. Alternatively you can send your views by post to the coordinators of the network. Web site address and network contact details are provided in the 'Further Information' section.

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[3] Landscape Institute and Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (2002) *Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment*. Spon Press, London.

USEFUL WEBSITES

Countryside Character Network
www.ccnetwork.org.uk

Landscape Character Assessment Guidance (available on line)
www.countryside.gov.uk/LivingLandscapes/countryside_character
 or www.snh.org.uk/strategy/LCA



The full *Landscape Character Assessment: Guidance for England and Scotland* and related topic papers can be viewed and downloaded from www.countryside.gov.uk/LivingLandscapes/countryside_character and www.snh.org.uk/strategy/LCA

Free copies of the guidance are also available from:

Countryside Agency Publications
 Tel: 0870 1206466
 Fax: 0870 1206467
 Email: countryside@twoten.press.net

Scottish Natural Heritage
 Tel: 0131 446 2400
 Fax: 0131 446 2405
 Email: carolyn.dunnett@snh.gov.uk

APPENDIX D

COTSWOLDS AONB MANAGEMENT PLAN AND COTSWOLDS AONB LANDSCAPE STRATEGY GUIDANCE EXTRACTS:

COTSWOLDS AONB MANAGEMENT PLAN

DEVELOPMENT AND TRANSPORT SECTION

COTSWOLDS AONB MANAGEMENT PLAN – VERSION REFERENCED

2. ESCARPMENT
7. HIGH WOLD
8. HIGH WOLD VALLEY

COTSWOLDS AONB MANAGEMENT PLAN – VERSION 4 MARCH 2016

2. ESCARPMENT
7. HIGH WOLD
8. HIGH WOLD VALLEY

Development and Transport

Towns, villages and individual buildings and their settings form a vital element of the character of the Cotswolds, particularly because of the widespread use of limestone and the area's distinctive architecture. The planning and design of development, both within the AONB and around it, is of crucial importance in maintaining the landscape and scenic beauty of the area. Decision making is the responsibility of the local planning authorities within the context of the National Planning Policy Framework, Local Plans/Core Strategies and Neighbourhood Plans.

Accessibility to and through the Cotswolds has risen because of motorways and other high speed roads through, and close to, the AONB. This much-enhanced road network has resulted in both positive and negative consequences. Negatively, much of the traffic now uses the AONB as a "short cut" between surrounding motorways which serve the major cities. Positively, the routes provide accessibility for tourists, who contribute circa £1 billion to the local economy. Transport planning and management is the responsibility of the highways authorities in the context of National Transport Policy and Local Transport Plans.

Four railway lines serve the Cotswolds AONB area providing good access to all parts of the UK. All of these rail services are potentially more attractive to short-to-medium distance commuters as fuel costs rise.

With regard to public transport, perceptions of problems discouraging wider use include the frequency of services, long journey times, reliability, uncoordinated connections between different modes of transport, people's access to the network, and standards of comfort and service.

Significant Achievements 2008-13

Cotswolds AONB Management Plan 2008-13 endorsed by 14 local planning authorities as a material consideration for strategic planning and decision making.

Conservation Board recognised as statutory consultee for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects and National Planning Statements.

Comprehensive HGV weight limits introduced in the Gloucestershire part of AONB.

Position Statements issued on a range of planning and land management topics to provide detailed guidance, including Affordable Housing, Renewable Energy, Miscanthus, and Road Verge Management.

132 new affordable homes provided (Cotswold District Council).

Signage audit and sign rationalisation, Fosse Way (A429) (Gloucestershire County Council)

85% of significant planning applications determined in accordance with Board advice.

50,000 "Explore the Cotswolds by public transport" guides and timetables issued per annum.

Key issues

- There is a need to manage development pressures and landuse changes, both within and contiguous with the boundaries of the AONB, with sensitivity in order to maintain a balance in promoting economic and social viability whilst retaining traditional Cotswold character. The Board has issued Position Statements on Housing and Development⁴⁵; and Employment⁴⁶ in the Cotswolds AONB.
- The importance of providing affordable housing throughout the Cotswolds is recognised as vital to ensure that balanced communities can survive and prosper. The Board is particularly concerned that those who care for the landscape of the AONB have an opportunity to live within it. The Board has issued a Position Statement on Affordable Housing in the AONB⁴⁷. Consideration has also been given to the specific housing needs of Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople.
- Market towns and larger villages appear relatively thriving. However, there is considerable concern in smaller communities regarding loss of local facilities and services leading to social isolation. The Localism Act and provision for Neighbourhood Planning provides an opportunity for local people to actively engage in the development of their community.
- Nearly 1 in 8 of the households living in the Cotswolds AONB is without a car⁴⁸ and many other people do not have access to a car during the day. This means they are heavily dependent on the frequency and quality of public and/or community transport and on local shops and facilities which are vulnerable to closure.
- The AONB retains traditional agricultural buildings that have not, as yet, been converted for other uses. Conversions need to be carefully appraised so that the buildings' distinctive character and setting are retained and adverse impacts on important nature conservation interests, such as bats, are avoided.
- Noise and activity arising from developments in the countryside, together with lighting, can have an adverse impact on tranquil and dark sky areas. The Board has issued a Position Statement on Tranquillity and Dark Skies in the Cotswolds AONB.⁴⁹
- Equine-related activities provide valuable farm diversification opportunities. The Board has issued a Position Statement on the Keeping of Horses in the AONB.⁵⁰
- Tourism is an important element of the economy of the AONB. It is inevitable that there will be a continuing need for new sustainable tourist-related developments within the AONB during the life span of this Management Plan. The Board has published a Sustainable Tourism Strategy which deals with this issue in detail.⁵¹
- Modern telecommunications, including access to high-speed broadband, are vitally important to a successful rural economy. The Board has issued a Position Statement on Telecommunications in the Cotswolds AONB.⁵²
- The AONB and its surroundings may well attract proposals for developments of significant scale, such as wind turbines. These could have significant adverse effects on the AONB landscape. The Board has issued Position Statements on renewable energy⁵³ and development outside the AONB⁵⁴ acknowledging the wider positive benefits of proposals which conserve and enhance the AONB.

45. To be updated following adoption of the 2013-18 Management Plan

46. To be updated following adoption of the 2013-18 Management Plan

47. To be updated following adoption of the 2013-18 Management Plan

48. Census 2001, updated by estimate. CACI (2012)

49. www.cotswoldsaonb.org.uk/positionstatements

50. www.cotswoldsaonb.org.uk/keepingofhorsespositionstatement

51. www.cotswoldsaonb.org.uk/sustainabletourism

52. To be updated following adoption of Management Plan 2013-18

53. To be updated following adoption of Management Plan 2013-18

54. To be updated following adoption of Management Plan 2013-18

- Within the Cotswolds AONB there are various rural 'brownfield sites' (i.e. previously developed land and buildings), including ex-MOD properties and redundant airfields. Whilst the re-use of such sites may bring economic benefits, the impact of large-scale residential or industrial use on the character of the AONB and the biodiversity it may hold needs to be carefully assessed.
- The Fosse Way (A429) and the A40 are long-established through-routes within the AONB. Major new roads, including the A417, have also been built through the AONB to serve long-distance movement. Traffic management, including lower speed limits, is required to deal with congestion on some of these routes, poor air quality and traffic 'rat-running' along minor roads and through villages to and from these routes. The Board has issued a Position Statement⁵⁵ and guidance on road verge management.
- The use of minor roads, by lorries and other large vehicles, causes problems for residents and visitors and can impact on the landscape. The highway authorities have introduced lorry routing schemes, including weight, width, height and length restrictions.
- The character of minor roads can be harmed by attempts to slow traffic by over-engineered traffic calming solutions that fail to respond to local character and distinctiveness. The Board is encouraging highway authorities to undertake clutter audits, to remove unnecessary signage, and to use discretion as permitted by national guidance⁵⁶. The Board's Transport Protocol and Highway Maintenance Guidance, agreed with the highway authorities, ensure that the design and materials of traffic management schemes and their impact on the special qualities of the AONB are fully considered.
- Increasing traffic volumes mean that cycling and horse riding is not always safe on some roads. This is particularly evident on major through-routes, in congested villages and on minor roads that are used as 'rat runs' by residents, commercial traffic and visitors. Low-cost speed reduction schemes may be appropriate in these circumstances.
- Increasing demand for air transport is leading to expansion of controlled air space over the AONB, with a reduction of tranquillity caused by increased visual intrusion and noise.

Objectives

CEO6: *By 2014 national and local development management and transport authorities and agencies have policies and guidance to make decisions which conserve and enhance the special qualities of the AONB, maintain local distinctiveness, provide services and support a buoyant rural economy.*

55. www.cotswoldsaonb.org.uk/managementofroadsideverges

56. <http://assets.dft.gov.uk/publications/signing-the-way/signing-the-way.pdf>

Policies

DTP1: All Local Plan documents, neighbourhood planning, and planning decision-making processes should have regard to the statutory AONB Management Plan, and Position Statements, Landscape Strategies and Guidance issued by the Board, as well as the following criteria in determining the acceptability of a proposed development in the Cotswolds AONB. Development should:

- be compatible with the distinctive character of the location as described by the relevant landscape character assessment, strategy and guidelines;
- incorporate designs and landscaping consistent with the above, respecting the local settlement pattern and building style;
- be designed to respect local building styles and materials;
- incorporate appropriate sustainability elements and designs;
- have regard to the impact on tranquillity, including dark skies;
- not have an adverse impact on local community amenities and services as well as access to these;
- protect, and where possible enhance, landscape and biodiversity;
- be in accordance with a more sustainable pattern of development, reducing dependence on car travel.

DTP2: Only development meeting these criteria, which supports the local economy, improves access to local services and increases the opportunity for people to live and work in their local community will be promoted in Local Plans, unless required for some clearly identified national interest.

DTP3: The special qualities of the AONB are fully respected in the planning, design, provision and management of all types of transport⁵⁷ and associated infrastructure to address road safety and congestion issues.

DTP4: Affordable housing is provided to meet identified local needs.

DTP5: The current level of local services and access to those services by all is maintained where possible to support sustainable communities.

DTP6: Issues of importance for the management of the AONB landscape are fully reflected in strategies and plans produced by other agencies.

DTP7: Opportunities are taken to promote walking, cycling and public transport, pilot innovative schemes and provide an alternative to private car use where possible.

Achieving Objective CEO6 will contribute significantly to securing the objectives to comply with the duty of the Board to foster the social and economic well-being of people living in the AONB.

57. Transport includes walking, cycling and horse riding as well as road and rail transport.

Delivery Mechanisms

- National Planning Policies, Local plans/Core Strategies including the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) , neighbourhood planning, Local Transport Plans
- Position Statements and design guidance produced by the Board, agencies and local authorities
- Affordable housing programmes developed by local authorities, and social housing providers.

Monitoring indicator

Development

- Number of affordable homes constructed/year
- Change in % of adopted Local Plans, Minerals Local Plans and Waste Local Plans with reference to AONB Management Plan in policy or supporting text
- Availability and scope of design guidance
- Change in % of settlements with Parish Plans, Neighbourhood Plans or Village Design schemes.

Tranquillity and Dark Skies

- Change in % of AONB recorded as 'most tranquil'
- Change in % of AONB least affected by light pollution.



2. Escarpment



Character Areas

- 2A Bath to Beach Farm
- 2B Beach Farm to Hillesley
- 2C Uley to Cooper's Hill
- 2D Cooper's Hill to Winchcombe
- 2E Winchcombe to Dover's Hill
- 2F Dover's Hill to Mickleton
- 2G Edge Hill

Key Features

- **Steep exposed and elevated west facing escarpment slope, partly cloaked in semi-natural broadleaved woodland** forming a dramatic relief feature visible from the Forest of Dean and Malverns and a backdrop to neighbouring lowlands.

- **Rock outcrops often mark the site of former quarries** and offer valuable opportunities to view geological formations.

- **Generally poor soils and steep sloping relief of the escarpment not suited to arable farming, and primarily used for pasture or woodland**, which are the dominant land uses.

- **Limited areas of Registered Common Land on upper scarp slopes merging into the more extensive areas on the High Wold** represent an important landscape resource often of nationally important nature conservation and cultural heritage value.

- **Strong sense of elevation with dramatic panoramic views over the Severn Vale to the Forest of Dean and beyond into Wales, the Malverns and the Shropshire Hills** from open areas on the upper escarpment. This contrasts with the more intimate landscapes at lower elevations.

- **Continuity of escarpment face interrupted by a series of major valleys and embayments** creating dramatic relief features and local interest.

- **Gentler landform on lower slopes below the spring line** dissected by numerous streams and characterised by hummocky areas of former landslip, ridge and furrow and areas of arable farming blurring the transition with the surrounding vale.

- **Calcareous grasslands located on steeper escarpment slopes**, often found in close association with areas of ancient, broadleaved woodland and together forming nationally important habitats.

- **Summit of the escarpment slopes often marked by dramatic linear beech hangers**. These are often viewed as a silhouette against the skyline from the vale below.

- **Woodlands, hedgerows, scrub and isolated trees give the impression of a well wooded landscape**. Escarpment woodlands are often narrow and either trace steeper relief or mark the course of streams and gullies that are cut into the escarpment face, and together with hedgerows create important wildlife corridors.

- **Settlement generally confined to lower, shallower slopes, in sheltered locations and adjacent to spring lines**, with linear settlements bordering streams and roads on the lower escarpment slopes and isolated farms and dwellings in sheltered positions mid way up the escarpment.

- **A number of large towns and cities located at, or in the vicinity of the foot of the escarpment**. The scarp forms a rural backdrop to urban development and limits eastward expansion.



2. Escarpment



- **Roads and tracks surrounded by dense vegetation and occupying holloways**, run parallel to streams and link the High Wold to the Vale. Many are likely to follow the course of ancient and possibly prehistoric tracks. Occasional principal roads descending the escarpment form locally prominent features.
- **Numerous prehistoric sites and follies are located on promontories and elevated sections of the escarpment** indicating their symbolic and strategic importance. Their high visibility and wide panoramic viewing opportunities also make them popular to visitors and tourists.

Landscape Sensitivity

The escarpment is a distinctive and dramatic landscape. The combination of its elevation, and the steep slopes rising from the lowlands, make it a highly visible feature and is therefore very sensitive to change, particularly where this would introduce built elements within the otherwise agricultural landscapes, or interrupt the balance of rough grassland, species rich calcareous grassland and broadleaved woodland on the upper escarpment slopes.

The undulating lower escarpment slopes, at the junction of the vale, are visually less prominent than the upper escarpment slopes and generally more widely settled. These are therefore generally less sensitive to change.

2. Escarpment



Local Forces For Change	Potential Landscape Implications	Outline Landscape Strategies and Guide lines	Potential Indicators for Monitoring Landscape Change	Potential Opportunities for Stakeholder Involvement
<p>Expansion and infilling of existing settlements fringing the lower slopes of the escarpment.</p> <p>Expansion of neighbouring towns and cities onto or towards the base of the scarp</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Erosion of distinctive form, scale and character of settlements. Erosion of the setting of the AONB Encroachment of built development onto lower escarpment slopes. Upgrading of rural lanes and holloways in areas of new development and the introduction of suburbanising features such as mini roundabouts, street lighting and kerbs, traffic calming at village entrances. Degradation of the view from the scarp across the adjoining vale and from the vale looking at the scarp. Urban fringe impacts such as fly tipping and dumping of vehicles 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conserve pattern of settlements fringing the lower slopes and their existing relationship to landform. Conserve the distinctive orientation of linear villages on lower escarpment slopes. Ensure a buffer zone to the AONB is established parallel to the base of the scarp. Promote extension of the greenbelt to the south east and south of Gloucester and north of Bishop's Cleeve Conserve the rural character of the road network, and in particular holloways climbing the escarpment. Create new woodlands that link to existing woodlands on lower escarpment slopes to counteract the impact of intrusive or degraded urban edges. Control the proliferation of suburban building styles and materials Restore existing stone, old brick and half-timbered buildings within settlements in preference to new built development. Existing buildings should be carefully conserved and where converted to new uses buildings must retain their historic integrity and functional character. Sound conservation advice and principles must be sought and implemented 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of new residential and commercial developments permitted on the lower escarpment slopes. Location and number of redundant buildings. Number of developments that detract or enhance landscape character Extent of road 'improvement' schemes and suburban road infrastructure details 	<p>Parish Council/Local Interest Groups: <i>Undertake a photographic survey of key views of, and settlements/ dwellings within the escarpment.</i></p> <p><i>Survey of redundant buildings</i></p> <p>LA LDF/Development Plan policies</p> <p>SPD Design Guidance</p> <p>LA/AONB Quality Design Award</p> <p>Local Transport Plans</p> <p>Forestry Commission - EWGS</p>

2. Escarpment



Local Forces For Change	Potential Landscape Implications	Outline Landscape Strategies and Guide lines	Potential Indicators for Monitoring Landscape Change	Potential Opportunities for Stakeholder Involvement
<p>Isolated development such as new single dwellings on the mid escarpment slopes that might compromise rural landscape character and dispersed settlement patterns, including farm buildings converted to residential use.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visual intrusions introduced to the landscape • Upgrading of minor roads and lanes and holloways in areas of new development and introduction of suburbanising features such as street lighting. • Introduction of 'lit' elements to characteristically dark escarpment slope landscapes. • Erosion of distinctive dispersed settlement character on the escarpment slopes. • Suburbanisation of agricultural landscape by the introduction of gardens e.g ornamental garden plants and boundary features, parking areas and conversion of tracks to manicured drives and gateways • Proliferation of stables and 'white tape' field boundaries for horses and ponies • Loss of tranquility and sense of seclusion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoid development that may restrict or obscure views to the upper escarpment slopes and distinctive features such as folly towers and hillforts. • New development to reflect local architectural styles. • Promote 'green' infrastructure in any major extensions to Gloucester and Cheltenham 		
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conserve the distinctive rural and dispersed settlement pattern. • Restore existing stone farm buildings and structures in preference to new built development. • Existing buildings should be carefully conserved and where converted to new uses buildings must retain their historic integrity and functional character. Sound conservation advice and principles must be sought and implemented • Maintain the sense of openness and consider the impact of built development on views to and from the escarpment slopes. • Control the proliferation of suburban building styles and materials. • Oppose new housing not for agricultural employment use in open countryside • Respect traditional position of agricultural buildings and their relationship to the surrounding land. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of historic traditional buildings converted and/or restored to residential use. • Number of lit dwellings on the escarpment • Number of new isolated developments • Extent of road 'improvement' schemes and suburban road infrastructure details 	<p><i>Parish Council/Local Interest Groups:</i> <i>Undertake a photographic survey of key views of, and settlements/dwellings within the escarpment.</i></p> <p><i>LA LDF/Development Plan policies/Design Guidance</i> <i>Parish Plans and Village design Statements</i> <i>EH Guidance</i></p>

2. Escarpment



Local Forces For Change	Potential Landscape Implications	Outline Landscape Strategies and Guide lines	Potential Indicators for Monitoring Landscape Change	Potential Opportunities for Stakeholder Involvement
<p>Deterioration in condition of vernacular farm buildings</p> <p>Conversion of traditional farm buildings to new uses</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Erosion of distinctive features and loss of Cotswold character. Loss of locally historic features and erosion of the integrity of the historic landscape Loss and erosion of Farmstead Character and how the buildings relate to the surrounding agricultural landuse Decline in quality of landscape 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conserve vernacular farm buildings for their own sake and/or by developing other options for their use whilst retaining their agricultural character Where converted to new uses buildings must retain their historic integrity and functional character. Sound conservation advice and principles must be sought and implemented Raise awareness of grant availability for building restoration. Respect traditional position of agricultural buildings and their relationship to the surrounding land. Promote examples of good practice 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of vernacular farm buildings at risk Number of vernacular farm buildings conserved. 	<p>Landowners</p> <p>Natural England via Environmental Stewardship, English Heritage and Local Authorities</p>
<p>Proliferation of equestrian establishments</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proliferation of stables and other visual clutter such as ribbon fences, jumps, horse boxes, shelters and lighting associated with 'horsiculture'. Creation of paddocks by sub-dividing fields using post and rail fence or ribbon fences Deterioration in pasture quality and over grazing Pressure to provide new housing for staff and owners Excessive use of local roads and paths by horses 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discourage horse paddocks in visually prominent roadside and valley side locations. Oppose change of use for the 'keeping of horses' in visually prominent locations. Encourage sensitive design and location of new equestrian facilities. Encourage the use of olive green tape, less posts etc Produce guidance on good practice Oppose over concentration of equestrian ventures in one area Ensure all new ventures provide accommodation within new stable buildings. Oppose new housing for owners 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of horse paddocks. Number adopting good practice e.g olive green tape etc Number of equestrian ventures in an area. Numbers of horses on roads/bridleways 	<p>LA LDF/Development Plan policies</p> <p>Development Control</p> <p>Conservation Board Guidance</p> <p>BHS/Pony clubs</p>

2. Escarpment



Local Forces For Change	Potential Landscape Implications	Outline Landscape Strategies and Guide lines	Potential Indicators for Monitoring Landscape Change	Potential Opportunities for Stakeholder Involvement
<p>Major road construction and improvement schemes on escarpment slopes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intrusive features on highly visible sections of the escarpment, and at gateways into the AONB • Loss of woodland and other sensitive habitats • Potential impact of additional road signage and lighting • Loss of tranquility and excessive noise • Light and air pollution • Impact of road signs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Object to major road building schemes • Implement traffic management schemes including speed reduction • Ensure careful and sensitive design of road proposals and associated infrastructure on escarpment slopes. • Minimise loss of woodlands and other sensitive habitats • Funding from Highway Agency or highway authorities for mitigation measures to be a pre-condition e.g noise screening, quiet surfacing etc. • Consider the potential for exposing geological features and their long term management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extent of loss of woodland and other important habitats to accommodate road alignment. 	<p>Collaboration between County and District LAs/Planning and County Highways LAs for principal roads; Highways Agency for trunk roads;</p>

2. Escarpment



Local Forces For Change	Potential Landscape Implications	Outline Landscape Strategies and Guide lines	Potential Indicators for Monitoring Landscape Change	Potential Opportunities for Stakeholder Involvement
<p>Introduction of vertical elements such as communication masts, wind turbines, electricity pylons and large road signs on and adjacent to the escarpment</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction of visually intrusive 'urban' features to rural landscapes • Loss of open character and 'natural' appearance • Introduction of unnatural movement and loss of tranquillity • Breaking up of escarpment skyline 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conserve the open, remote character by objecting to the development of vertical elements on the skyline or where these would adversely affect views along the escarpment or from the neighbouring vales and Cotswolds LCTs • Ensure the development of vertical elements in neighbouring areas beyond the AONB do not adversely affect views to and from the escarpment and across the adjacent LCTs • Ensure alternative options have been fully considered • Minimise impact by locating new communication masts on existing structures or by using existing masts • Set masts against trees • Bury cables underground • Consider other renewable energy technologies • Seek to minimise size and number of roadsigns 	<p>Number of masts, turbines etc</p>	<p>LAs/LDF/Development plan policies</p> <p>Highway Authorities</p> <p>Highways Agency</p>

2. Escarpment



Local Forces For Change	Potential Landscape Implications	Outline Landscape Strategies and Guide lines	Potential Indicators for Monitoring Landscape Change	Potential Opportunities for Stakeholder Involvement
<p>Road upgrading and improvements, especially of minor country roads, as a result of development or general improvement schemes.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction of suburban features such as mini roundabouts, kerbs and traffic calming measures. • Use of inappropriate materials • Loss of roadside hedges and walls • Loss of verge/roadside habitat 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conserve the rural character of the local road network. • Object to the upgrading of tracks or creation of roads on the escarpment, particularly on the mid and upper slopes, especially where a lack of roads is characteristic • Promote use of design and materials appropriate to local character. • Produce guidance on design and suitable materials. • Promote use of 'shared space' for traffic calming measures in villages. • Seek opportunities to conserve and enhance roadside boundaries and habitats. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Length of road upgraded or improved. • Number of 'shared space' schemes • Loss of roadside boundaries/habitat • Number of schemes that comply/enhance local distinctiveness. 	<p>Highways Agency</p> <p>Highway Authorities</p> <p>Planning Authorities</p> <p>Parish Councils</p>
<p>Excessive traffic on minor local roads and lanes.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pressure to improve roads by widening and straightening. • Loss of tranquillity and danger to walkers/riders and other non automotive users. • Damage to verges and roadside boundaries by HGVs and agricultural vehicles 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote traffic restriction measures such as lorry routing maps. • Promote shared space and road design to slow and minimise traffic impact 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Level of traffic on minor roads/lanes • Number of traffic restrictions 	<p>LA Development Plan/LDF policies</p> <p>Highway Authorities</p> <p>The Traffic Commissioners</p> <p>NFU & CLA</p>
<p>Development of scrub and trees on roadside verges</p> <p>Mowing of verges at inappropriate times</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loss of views from the public highway • Loss of roadside grassland habitat • Damage to hedges and walls 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify key views from roads • Manage/remove verge scrub and trees • Reintroduce appropriate verge management and mowing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of key views opened up • Length of verge cleared 	<p>Highway Authorities</p> <p>Highways Agency</p> <p>Parish Councils</p>

2. Escarpment



Local Forces For Change	Potential Landscape Implications	Outline Landscape Strategies and Guide lines	Potential Indicators for Monitoring Landscape Change	Potential Opportunities for Stakeholder Involvement
<p>Intensification of dairy farms on the lower escarpment slopes.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Degradation and loss of hedgerows and increased use of post and wire fencing. Intensification of operations leading to farm amalgamation and the construction of large dairy sheds that obscure views of the escarpment when viewed from the vale and dominate views of the lowlands when viewed from the upper escarpment slopes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote the conservation and restoration of hedgerows. Those marking ancient boundaries should be regarded as a priority. Conserve the open, remote character of the landscape in views to and from the escarpment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Length of degraded hedgerows and post and wire fences in sample area(s). Numbers of large dairy sheds. Take up of Environmental Stewardship agreements, which includes provision for hedgerow restoration, as well as various LA grant schemes. 	<p>Parish Council/Local Interest Groups: <i>Undertake a photographic survey of key views to and from the escarpment.</i></p> <p>FWAG/NFU/CLA guidance</p> <p>Environmental Stewardship and remaining Countryside Stewardship schemes, and Cotswolds ESA schemes for substantial section of escarpment.</p>
<p>Agricultural intensification, diversification and farm amalgamation.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eutrophication of water courses from farm run off. Increased conversion of pasture to arable land. Damage to and loss of archaeological sites and field monuments from conversion of pasture to arable and from intensification of grazing. New agricultural buildings Move towards arable production on small mixed farms resulting in the removal or degradation of hedgerows and/ or loss of former pasture. Conversion of farm outbuildings and field barns to recreational or business uses Loss of Farmstead character 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage small-scale mixed farming and encourage woodland and boundary management. Monitor river nutrient levels. Object to proposals to convert pasture to arable particularly where archaeological sites/field monuments may be lost or damaged. Encourage low intensity grazing or restrict access by livestock where archaeological sites/field monuments may be lost or damaged Conserve areas of permanent pasture. Ensure that new farm buildings do not have an adverse visual impact on the wider landscape Seek to conserve traditional farm buildings. Respect traditional position of agricultural buildings and their relationship to the surrounding land. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Area of permanent pasture. Area of ancient woodland. Area of species rich grassland. Number of traditional brick and stone barns. Number of archaeological sites/field monuments lost or damaged 	<p>FWAG/NFU/CLA guidance.</p> <p>Natural England/FWAG/ Environmental Stewardship and remaining Countryside Stewardship agreements.</p> <p>English Heritage and LA Archaeologists</p>

2. Escarpment



Local Forces For Change	Potential Landscape Implications	Outline Landscape Strategies and Guide lines	Potential Indicators for Monitoring Landscape Change	Potential Opportunities for Stakeholder Involvement
<p>Planting of energy crops such as Miscanthus; short rotation coppice and short rotation forestry</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loss or seasonal interruption of views particularly from roads and public rights of way. • Loss of remaining permanent pasture • Damage to archaeological sites and historic landscapes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure energy crops are not planted where they would restrict or intrude into views, particularly open views across the landscape and on skyline sites. • Do not plant on semi-natural habitats, permanent pasture or on sites with national or local BAP species that could be affected in a negative way. • Do not plant on sites where archaeological sites could be damaged or where significant historic landscapes would be adversely affected or on sites where features of geological or geomorphological importance would be obscured. • Produce guidance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Area of energy crop planted • Number of sites impacting on BAP species • Number of archaeological sites and areas of historic landscape affected. • Number of geological and geomorphological sites affected 	<p><i>FWAG/NFU/CLA guidance</i> <i>DEFRA Guidelines</i></p> <p><i>County archaeologists, Wildlife Trusts, Geoconservation Trusts and RIGS Groups</i></p>

2. Escarpment



Local Forces For Change	Potential Landscape Implications	Outline Landscape Strategies and Guide lines	Potential Indicators for Monitoring Landscape Change	Potential Opportunities for Stakeholder Involvement
<p>Inappropriate or inconsistent management, or neglect of existing woodlands, including hanger woodlands, compounded by multiplicity of ownership.</p> <p>Inappropriate planting of new woodlands in terms of site, shape, scale and species composition.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loss of open character of some sections of the escarpment • Decline and loss of woodland habitats and wildlife corridors. • Poor management endangering long-term continuity of woodlands, especially ancient woodlands and significant alteration to the character of individual stretches of the escarpment. • Decline in the continuity and strength of character of the beech hangers. • Planting of new woodland in inappropriate locations leading to a decline in views to distinctive topographic and geological features • Loss of permanent pasture • Loss of views from the escarpment • Changes in composition of woodlands with potential increase in extent of coniferous plantations. • Mosaic of new woodlands of inappropriate shape and scale forming prominent features on the escarpment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conserve and enhance areas of existing woodland, with priority given to ancient woodlands. Consideration should be given to preserving their irregular forms, relationship to landform and interlocking patterns with hedgerows. • Restore PAWS • Conserve woodlands along gullies and streams. • Ensure that new woodland planting does not detract from views to and from the escarpment. • Ensure new woodlands respond to the scale and form of existing escarpment woodlands • Ensure woodland creation does not result in the loss of permanent pasture or unimproved grassland • Discourage the planting of extensive areas of conifers and encourage the replacement of conifer with native species. • Raise awareness of woodland owners by producing information and guidance • Identify key viewpoints 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Areas of ancient broadleaved woodland. • Numbers of WGS/EWGS woodland management agreements entered into. • Numbers of WT management schemes entered into. • Number of viewpoints lost or under threat 	<p>Parish Councils: Parish maps of broadleaved woodland cover.</p> <p>NE/Ancient woodland and FC Inventory</p> <p>FC/EWGS and WT for management of existing woodland, with potential focus on enhanced grants/initiative for management of beech hangers.</p> <p>Woodland Strategy for the Cotswolds to provide Design Guidance</p> <p>Woodland Industry</p> <p>Guidance via Agents</p>

2. Escarpment



Local Forces For Change	Potential Landscape Implications	Outline Landscape Strategies and Guide lines	Potential Indicators for Monitoring Landscape Change	Potential Opportunities for Stakeholder Involvement
<p>Loss of traditional horticulture/ agriculture</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loss of traditional orchards and local varieties of fruit • Introduction of field film and polytunnels/ glasshouses into the neighbouring vale and their impact on views from the escarpment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify and protect existing traditional orchards and new potential sites for traditional orchards • Identify historical sites of orchards and promote their restoration • Promote the appropriate management of existing traditional orchards and the planting of locally distinctive varieties • Consider scale and siting of polytunnels etc 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loss or gain of traditional orchards. • Number of traditional orchards with management plans 	<p>LA Development Control Volunteer surveys Natural England - Environmental Stewardship FWAG/NFU/CLA guidance</p>
<p>Increased use of polytunnels, glasshouses and field film in the adjacent vale.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impact on views from the escarpment across the vale. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider the scale and siting of polytunnels etc 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scale and number of locations visible from the escarpment 	<p>Local Authority Development Control Advice and guidance from NFU and CLA</p>
<p>Decline in grazing stock on upper escarpment slopes and areas of common land Abandonment of grassland</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scrub encroachment and loss of species rich grassland due to invasion of dominant grass species. • Development of secondary woodland • Loss of open character of some sections of the escarpment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conserve areas of open pasture and common. • Consider traditional management regimes to limit scrub encroachment on areas of semi natural grassland. • Re-introduction of grazing on semi-natural grasslands/improvement of existing grazing regimes. • Produce guidance on scrub management • Identify key viewpoints 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Area of scrub on upper escarpment slopes and common land. • Area of species rich grassland. • Area of semi-natural grassland under appropriate management 	<p>FWAG/NFU/CLA guidance Natural England- Environmental Stewardship and remaining Countryside Stewardship and Cotswolds ESA agreements. Local land owners AONB project - aerial photography</p>

2. Escarpment



Local Forces For Change	Potential Landscape Implications	Outline Landscape Strategies and Guide lines	Potential Indicators for Monitoring Landscape Change	Potential Opportunities for Stakeholder Involvement
<p>Lack of appropriate management in disused quarries</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loss of limestone flora due to the development of scrub and secondary woodland. • Loss of bat roosts • Loss of geological exposures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify disused quarries important for biodiversity and/or geology • Encourage appropriate management by providing advice and guidance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of disused quarries in appropriate management 	<p>FWAG Wildlife Trusts Geology Trusts and RIGS Groups</p>

2. Escarpment



Local Forces For Change	Potential Landscape Implications	Outline Landscape Strategies and Guide lines	Potential Indicators for Monitoring Landscape Change	Potential Opportunities for Stakeholder Involvement
<p>Loss of hedged field boundaries as a result of field amalgamation or neglect</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Degradation of small to medium scale hedgerow enclosed field patterns which are evident on escarpment slopes. Loss of elements of the historic environment including historic field patterns reflecting earlier agricultural systems 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conserve hedgerows and hedgerow trees and promote hedgerow planting to infill gappy hedges and replace post and wire fencing. Retain small to medium scale field patterns on escarpment slopes. Priority should be given to species rich hedges, hedges that form part of ancient boundary patterns and areas where hedgerow patterns are a highly visible feature and contribute to local landscape character. Ensure new hedges and dry stone walls reflect the surrounding traditional field boundary patterns Encourage hedgerow trees where appropriate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Length of hedgerows and post and wire fences in sample area(s). Take up of Environmental Stewardship agreements, which includes provision for hedgerow and dry stone wall restoration, as well as various LA grant schemes. 	<p>NE/Local Wildlife Trusts: Map and monitor species-rich, and ancient hedgerows.</p> <p>FWAG/NFU/CLA guidance</p> <p>Natural England/FWAG/ Environmental Stewardship and remaining Countryside Stewardship and Cotswolds ESA agreements for substantial section of escarpment.</p>
<p>Increased leisure time resulting in tourism pressure at accessible escarpment vantage points and popular circular walks commencing from car park areas.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Degradation of the landscape as a result of littering, path erosion, car parking and use of off road vehicles. Adverse effect on species rich grassland communities. Positive implications through income generation and raising awareness and support 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduce measures to limit/manage access to degraded areas of the landscape. Reinstate areas of degraded landscape. Encourage the use of formal paths rather than allowing desire lines to develop. Limit/exclude motorcycles and mountain bikes from areas of historic and biodiversity interest. Minimise car journeys to escarpment vantage points by offering adequate public transport services. Resist the development of tourism facilities on the scarp 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extent and condition of areas of degraded landscape as a result of visitor pressure. Visitor numbers to principal areas and sites Number of popular locations/sites with management plans 	<p>Visitor management co-ordinated by LAs/Tourism Strategy</p> <p>BTCV initiatives guided by LAs/NE /EH</p> <p>Monitoring and management by Local Interest Groups eg Friends Of Leckhampton Hill and Charlton Kings Common and Painswick Beacon Conservation Group</p> <p>Local Visitor Payback Schemes</p>

2. Escarpment



Local Forces For Change	Potential Landscape Implications	Outline Landscape Strategies and Guide lines	Potential Indicators for Monitoring Landscape Change	Potential Opportunities for Stakeholder Involvement
<p>Damage to field monuments and archaeological sites and the historic environment from farming operations, tree root damage, woodland management operations and tree planting and recreational activity.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Damage to important archaeological sites and important landscape features. • Loss of traditional field patterns • Loss of traditional field boundaries, particularly dry stone walls and hedgerows. • Loss of locally distinctive features • Damage caused by livestock • Damage caused by recreational activity • Encroachment of scrub onto archaeological features 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inform landowners of important archaeological sites • Protect all upstanding archaeological sites and consider the impact of development on their landscape setting. • Restore the wider setting of key monuments to ensure that they do not read as islands amidst a sea of arable farming. • Raise awareness of the historic environment and of the SMR as a source of information • Provide guidance on managing the historic environment to farmers and land owners • Retain traditional field patterns and field boundaries • Ensure tree planting does not take place on archaeological features. • Control scrub and manage existing trees on archaeological features to minimise damage for example by root damage or wind-blow. • Minimise or prevent damage to the historic environment by recreational activity by working with landowners to prepare site management plans and if necessary limit access. • Repair badly eroded features such as earthworks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evidence of damage to archaeological features • Number of archaeological features under suitable management. • Number of sites with management plans • Take up of ES schemes which include measures to conserve the historic environment 	<p>EH/LA Co Archaeologist</p> <p>FWAG/NFU /CLA re guidance to farmers</p> <p>LA LDF/Development Plan policies</p> <p>Natural England & Environmental Stewardship.</p> <p>Remaining Countryside Stewardship and ESA agreements</p> <p>FC & EWGS</p>
<p>Loss of and damage to geological and geomorphological features due to tree growth, erosion and change of land use</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loss of sites that provide an understanding of the Cotswold landscape • Loss of visible features such as outcrops, gulls and areas of landslip, particularly rotational slip. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify important geological features and ensure they are conserved and appropriately managed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of geological features in good condition. 	<p>RIGS Groups/Geoconservation Trusts</p> <p>Universities/study groups</p> <p>Natural England/FWAG/CLA Environmental Stewardship</p>

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Character Areas

- 7A *Nymphsfield and Kingscote Plateau & Minchinhampton Common*
- 7B *Bisley Plateau*
- 7C *Cotswolds High Wold Plateau*
- 7D *Rissington Plateau and Milton Downs*
- 7E *Rollright and Chastleton Plateau*
- 7F *Over Norton Plateau*
- 7G *Edge Hill Ironstone Plateau*



Key Features

- **Broad, elevated, gently undulating plateau** dissected by a network of dry valleys with distinctive convex profile valley sides.
- **Expansive long distance views** across the open plateau and to distant hills beyond the Severn Vale.
- **Elevated areas of plateau surrounded by deeply incised valleys** perceived as part of the High Wold, due to inter-visibility of neighbouring elevated landscapes.
- **Predominantly arable land use with some improved pasture/ grass leys, and very limited permanent pasture mainly confined to valley bottoms** provides seasonal variations in colour and texture.
- **Large scale, regular fields mainly enclosed by dry stone walls, together with hedgerows with very occasional hedgerow trees, and post and wire fencing** create a patchwork effect across wide areas of the landscape.
- **Small to moderate size geometric farm woodlands, many comprising small coniferous and broadleaved plantations and shelterbelts, and plantations bordering roads** provide shelter across areas of otherwise open landscape.
- **Settlement limited to small villages and hamlets, generally within valleys, and isolated farmsteads and individual dwellings** gives many areas a remote character.

- **Network of mainly linear roads following ridge tops, and linking settlements** give the landscape a distinct grain.
- **Evidence of long period of occupation of the landscape**, with many Neolithic and Bronze Age barrows and Iron Age hillforts
- **Seasonal rotation of arable cropping patterns and improved grassland** interrupts otherwise homogenous and simple land cover.
- **Remnants of once more extensive commons survive** highly valued for their nature conservation interest and cultural heritage value.
- **Occasional active and disused limestone quarries located across the High Wold** often valued as wildlife resources.
- **Prominent telecommunication masts and power lines** gain visual prominence as vertical elements in otherwise vast sweeping landscapes.
- **Use of locally quarried stone for both dry stone walls and houses, frequently constructed in distinctive local vernacular**, engenders a harmonious relationship between built elements and their surroundings.

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Landscape Sensitivity

Despite its predominantly agricultural character, the wide, elevated, gently undulating plateau landscape retains a strong sense of remoteness contributing to its high sensitivity. Wide panoramic views, a high degree of inter-visibility, and limited woodland cover also add to the sensitivity of the High Wold landscape to tall vertical elements, such as telecommunication masts and wind turbines.

The High Wold contains a large number of prehistoric monuments including funerary monuments dating to the Neolithic and Bronze Age and defensive enclosures dating to the Iron Age. These are an important component of the landscape and highly sensitive to developments that may affect their landscape setting and material remains.

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Local Forces For Change	Potential Landscape Implications	Outline Landscape Strategies and Guide lines	Potential Indicators for Monitoring Landscape Change	Potential Opportunities for Stakeholder Involvement
<p>Isolated development such as new single dwellings that might compromise rural landscape character and dispersed settlement patterns, including farm buildings converted to residential use.</p> <p>Impact of managing land for equestrian uses</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visual intrusions introduced to the landscape • Upgrading of minor roads and lanes in areas of new development and introduction of suburbanising features such as street lighting. • Introduction of 'lit' elements to characteristically dark landscapes. • Suburbanisation of agricultural landscape by the introduction of gardens e.g. ornamental garden plants and boundary features, parking areas and conversion of tracks to manicured drives and gateways • Proliferation of stables and 'white tape' field boundaries for horses and ponies • Construction of isolated stables and accommodation for staff/owner • Loss of tranquillity. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conserve the distinctive rural and dispersed settlement pattern. • Restore existing stone farm buildings and structures in preference to new built development. When restored or converted to new uses, buildings must retain their historic integrity and functional character. Sound conservation advice and principles must be sought and implemented. • Maintain the sense of openness and consider the impact of built development on views to and from and across the high wold. • Control the proliferation of suburban building styles and materials. • Oppose new housing not for agricultural employment use in open countryside • Respect traditional position of agricultural buildings and their relationship to the surrounding land. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of historic traditional buildings converted and/or restored to residential use. • Number of lit dwellings in the open landscape. • Number of new isolated developments • Extent of road 'improvement' schemes and suburban road infrastructure details 	<p><i>Parish Council/Local Interest Groups:</i></p> <p><i>Undertake a photographic survey of key views of, and settlements/dwellings within the High Wold.</i></p> <p><i>Parish Plans and village design statements</i></p> <p><i>LA Development Plan policies/ Design Guidance</i></p> <p><i>EH Guidance</i></p>

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Local Forces For Change	Potential Landscape Implications	Outline Landscape Strategies and Guide lines	Potential Indicators for Monitoring Landscape Change	Potential Opportunities for Stakeholder Involvement
<p>Deterioration in condition of vernacular farm buildings</p> <p>Conversion of traditional farm buildings to new uses</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Erosion of distinctive features and loss of Cotswold character. Loss of locally historic features and erosion of the integrity of the historic landscape Loss and erosion of Farmstead Character and how the buildings relate to the surrounding agricultural landuse Decline in quality of landscape 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conserve vernacular farm buildings for their own sake and/or by developing other options for their use whilst retaining their agricultural character Where converted to new uses buildings must retain their historic integrity and functional character. Sound conservation advice and principles must be sought and implemented Raise awareness of grant availability for building restoration. Respect traditional position of agricultural buildings and their relationship to the surrounding land. Promote examples of good practice 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of vernacular farm buildings at risk Number of vernacular farm buildings conserved. 	<p>Landowners</p> <p>Natural England via Environmental Stewardship,</p> <p>English Heritage and Local Authorities</p>
<p>Expansion of settlements within the High Wold</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Erosion of distinctive radial and linear settlement patterns. Intrusion of expanded settlement fringes into the landscape. Potential loss of archaeological remains and historic features. Proliferation of suburban building styles/materials and the introduction of ornamental garden plants and boundary features. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preserve archaeological and historical features and deposits. Ensure that new development does not adversely affect settlement character and form. Ensure new built development is visually integrated with the rural landscape setting and does not interrupt the setting of existing villages or views . 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Area of settlement growth Number of planning applications 	<p>LA Development Plan policies</p> <p>EA management and 'Local Contribution' initiatives</p>

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Local Forces For Change	Potential Landscape Implications	Outline Landscape Strategies and Guide lines	Potential Indicators for Monitoring Landscape Change	Potential Opportunities for Stakeholder Involvement
<p>Proliferation of equestrian establishments</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proliferation of stables and other visual clutter such as ribbon fences, jumps, horse boxes, shelters and lighting associated with 'horsiculture'. • Creation of paddocks by sub-dividing fields using post and rail fence or ribbon fences • Deterioration in pasture quality and over grazing • Pressure to provide new housing for staff and owners • Excessive use of local roads and paths by horses 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discourage horse paddocks in visually prominent roadside and valley side locations. • Oppose change of use for the 'keeping of horses' in visually prominent locations. • Encourage sensitive design and location of new equestrian facilities. • Encourage the use of olive green tape, less posts etc • Produce guidance on good practice • Oppose over concentration of equestrian ventures in one area • Ensure all new ventures provide accommodation within new stable buildings. • Oppose new housing for owners 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of horse paddocks. • Number adopting good practice e.g olive green tape etc • Number of equestrian ventures in an area. • Numbers of horses on roads/bridleways 	<p>LA LDF/Development Plan policies</p> <p>Development Control</p> <p>Conservation Board Guidance</p> <p>BHS/Pony clubs</p>

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Local Forces For Change	Potential Landscape Implications	Outline Landscape Strategies and Guide lines	Potential Indicators for Monitoring Landscape Change	Potential Opportunities for Stakeholder Involvement
<p>Introduction of vertical elements such as communication masts, wind turbines, electricity pylons and large roadsigns particularly on prominent hill top, valley rim and escarpment edge locations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction of visually intrusive 'urban' features to rural landscapes • Loss of open character • Introduction of unnatural movement and loss of tranquillity • Breaking up of the Cotswold skyline 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conserve the open, remote character by objecting to the development of vertical elements on the skyline or where these would adversely affect views across and to the High Wold. Ensure the development of vertical elements in neighbouring LCTs and areas beyond the AONB do not adversely affect views to, from and across the High Wold. • Ensure alternative options have been fully considered • Minimise impact by locating new communication masts on existing structures or by using existing masts. • Set masts etc against trees • Bury cables underground • Consider other renewable energy technologies • Seek to minimise the size and number of roadsigns 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of masts, turbines etc 	<p>LAs/LDF/Development plan policies</p> <p>Highway Authorities, Highways Agency</p>

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Local Forces For Change	Potential Landscape Implications	Outline Landscape Strategies and Guide lines	Potential Indicators for Monitoring Landscape Change	Potential Opportunities for Stakeholder Involvement
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New large scale quarries and expansion of existing quarrying operations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Loss of habitats. Visual impact of quarry and quarry traffic and disturbance of sense of tranquility and rural landscape character. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote policy that aggregates are produced only as a by-product of building stone Apply the presumption against new large scale quarrying, particularly for aggregates. Support small scale quarrying operations for walling and building stone paying regard to their impact on local landscape character, heritage and nature conservation interests. Achieve a re-allocation by Mineral Authorities of apportionment of mineral production to outside of the AONB Promote 'local stone for local use' Resist after use for in-fill or recycling material from outside the Cotswolds. Explore alternative after use such as for biodiversity and geoconservation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Loss of habitats/features arising from quarrying operations. Creation of habitat as an after use Number of geological features retained 	<p>LA Development Plan policies</p> <p>OPA/Quarry companies</p> <p>LWT surveys</p> <p>Geoconservation Trusts/RIGS Groups</p>
<p>Waste disposal</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Degradation of landscape character and wildlife habitats. Fly tipping in former quarry sites Loss of geological features Loss of tranquility 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect former quarries from fly tipping. Waste Plan - proximity principle 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inventory of local quarries or 'delves' and condition. Evidence of fly tipping 	<p>Parish Council/Local Interest Group survey</p> <p>LA LDF/Development Plan policies</p> <p>LA Waste plan</p>

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Local Forces For Change	Potential Landscape Implications	Outline Landscape Strategies and Guide lines	Potential Indicators for Monitoring Landscape Change	Potential Opportunities for Stakeholder Involvement
<p>Major road construction and improvement schemes.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Intrusive features on the highly visible High Wold. Loss of woodland and other sensitive habitats Potential impact of additional road signage and lighting Loss of tranquility and excessive noise Light and air pollution Impact of road signs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Object to major road building schemes Implement traffic management schemes including speed reduction Ensure careful and sensitive design of road proposals and associated infrastructure. Minimise loss of woodlands and other sensitive habitats Funding from highways authorities or Highways Agency for mitigation measures to be a pre-condition e.g noise screening, quiet surfacing etc. Consider the potential for exposing geological features and their long term management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extent of loss of woodland and other important habitats to accommodate road alignment. Number of visibly intrusive features associated with roads 	<p><i>Collaboration between County and District LAs/Planning and County Highways LAs for principal roads;</i> <i>Highways Agency for trunk roads;</i></p>
<p>Road upgrading and improvements, especially of minor country roads, as a result of development or general improvement schemes.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduction of suburban features such as mini roundabouts, kerbs and traffic calming measures. Use of inappropriate materials Loss of roadside hedges and walls Loss of verge/roadside habitat 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conserve the rural character of the local road network. Object to the upgrading of tracks or creation of roads especially where a lack of roads is characteristic Promote use of design and materials appropriate to local character. Produce guidance on design and suitable materials. Promote use of 'shared space' for traffic calming measures in villages. Seek opportunities to conserve and enhance roadside boundaries and habitats. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Length of road upgraded or improved. Number of 'shared space' schemes Loss of roadside boundaries/habitat Number of schemes that comply/enhance local distinctiveness. 	<p><i>Highways Agency</i> <i>Highway Authorities</i> <i>Planning Authorities</i> <i>Parish Councils</i></p>

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Local Forces For Change	Potential Landscape Implications	Outline Landscape Strategies and Guide lines	Potential Indicators for Monitoring Landscape Change	Potential Opportunities for Stakeholder Involvement
<p>Excessive traffic on minor local roads and lanes.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pressure to improve roads by widening and straightening. • Loss of tranquillity and danger to walkers/riders and other non automotive users. • Damage to verges and roadside boundaries by HGVs and agricultural vehicles 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote traffic restriction measures such as lorry routing maps. • Promote shared space and road design to slow and minimise traffic impact 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Level of traffic on minor roads/lanes • Number of traffic restrictions 	<p>LA Development Plan/LDF policies Highway Authorities</p> <p>The Traffic Commissioners NFU & CLA</p>
<p>Development of scrub and trees on roadside verges</p> <p>Mowing of verges at inappropriate times</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loss of views from the public highway • Loss of roadside grassland habitat • Damage to dry stone walls and hedges 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify key views from roads • Manage/remove verge scrub and trees • Reintroduce appropriate verge management and mowing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of key views opened up • Length of verge cleared 	<p>Highway Authorities Highways Agency Parish Councils</p>

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Local Forces For Change	Potential Landscape Implications	Outline Landscape Strategies and Guide lines	Potential Indicators for Monitoring Landscape Change	Potential Opportunities for Stakeholder Involvement
<p>Agricultural intensification and diversification in particular the construction of new industrial scale agricultural 'sheds' conversion of grassland to arable, the removal of semi-natural vegetation cover and the poor maintenance and subsequent loss of field boundaries.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Field amalgamation and loss of hedgerows and dry stone walls leading to the loss of distinctive field patterns. Decline in maintenance of stone walls leading to a locally degraded or neglected landscape character. Conversion of permanent pasture to arable Damage to and loss of archaeological sites and field monuments from conversion of pasture to arable and from intensification of grazing. Increased use of post and wire fences. Construction of large scale industrial style agricultural 'shed' on the skyline or in prominent locations. Conversion of farm outbuildings and field barns to recreational or business uses Loss of Farmstead character 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage the protection of traditional field patterns and encourage hedgerow and stone wall restoration. Ensure that new farm buildings do not have an adverse visual impact on the wider landscape Provide advice to farmers on siting of new buildings Seek to conserve traditional farm buildings. Respect traditional position of agricultural buildings and their relationship to the surrounding land. Conserve areas of permanent pasture Object to proposals to convert pasture to arable particularly where archaeological sites/field monuments may be lost or damaged 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Length and condition of hedgerows. Length and condition of stone walls. 	<p>FWAG/NFU/CLA guidance</p> <p>Natural England - Environmental Stewardship agreements</p> <p>Cross compliance and EIA for semi-natural habitats</p> <p>Remaining Countryside Stewardship and Cotswolds ESA agreements</p>

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Local Forces For Change	Potential Landscape Implications	Outline Landscape Strategies and Guide lines	Potential Indicators for Monitoring Landscape Change	Potential Opportunities for Stakeholder Involvement
<p>Planting of energy crops such as Miscanthus, short rotation coppice and short rotation forestry</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Loss or seasonal interruption of views particularly from roads and public rights of way. Loss of remaining permanent pasture Damage to archaeological sites and historic landscapes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure energy crops are not planted where they would restrict or intrude into views, particularly open views across the landscape and on skyline sites. Do not plant on semi-natural habitats, permanent pasture or on sites with national or local BAP species that could be affected in a negative way. Do not plant on sites where archaeological sites could be damaged or where significant historic landscapes would be adversely affected or on sites where features of geological or geomorphological importance would be obscured. Produce guidance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Area of energy crop planted Number of sites impacting on BAP species Number of archaeological sites and areas of historic landscape affected. Number of geological and geomorphological sites affected 	<p>FWAG/NFU/CLA guidance DEFRA Guidelines</p> <p>County archaeologists, Wildlife Trusts, Geoconservation Trusts and RIGS Groups</p>
<p>Decline in grazing stock on areas of common land</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scrub encroachment and loss of species rich grassland due to invasion of dominant grass species. Loss of open character 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conserve areas of open pasture and common land by increased grazing and management. Encourage traditional management regimes to control scrub encroachment on areas of common land. Re-introduction of grazing on semi-natural grasslands/improvement of existing grazing regimes. Produce guidance on scrub management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Area of scrub. Area of species rich grassland. Area of semi-natural grassland under appropriate management Monitor implementation of CAONB Grassland Strategy 	<p>FWAG/NFU/CLA guidance</p> <p>Natural England</p> <p>The National Trust</p> <p>Wildlife Trusts</p>

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Local Forces For Change	Potential Landscape Implications	Outline Landscape Strategies and Guide lines	Potential Indicators for Monitoring Landscape Change	Potential Opportunities for Stakeholder Involvement
<p>Maturation of enclosure age pine and beech corner copses, roadside shelterbelts and farm copses.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Loss of characteristic feature of the High Wold landscape. Introduction of non-characteristic tree species and general erosion of the High Wold's open character. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage opportunities to manage and re-plant enclosure age tree belts using traditional species. Identify areas of AONB where shelterbelts are part of the inherent character and use to target Environmental Stewardship. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of characteristic corner copses in good condition. Length of characteristic roadside shelterbelts. 	<p>PC Survey/inventory</p> <p>FC/EWGS and WT for creation of appropriate new and management of existing woodland</p> <p>Natural England & Environmental Stewardship</p>
<p>Establishment of further areas of 'ad hoc' woodland planting of coniferous shelterbelts and geometric farm copses.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased woodland cover diminishing the open character of the High Wold. Dense coniferous woodlands limiting long distance views and inter-visibility of detached areas of High Wold. Loss of permanent pasture Loss of views across, to and from the High Wold 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discourage 'ad-hoc' planting through appropriate agricultural support mechanisms Limit new farm woodland and shelterbelt planting. Promote the felling of inappropriate coniferous plantations and replanting of farm woodlands and shelterbelts on enclosure age woodland footprints using suitable species. Ensure that new woodland planting does not detract from views across, to and from the High Wold. Ensure new woodlands respond to the scale and form of existing High Wold woodlands; Ensure woodland creation does not result in the loss of permanent pasture or unimproved grassland Discourage the planting of extensive areas of conifers and encourage the replacement of conifer with native species, particularly on PAWS Raise awareness of woodland owners by producing information and guidance Identify key viewpoints 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of farm copses and shelterbelts. Areas of ancient broadleaved woodland. Numbers of EWGS woodland management agreements entered into. Number of viewpoints lost or under threat 	<p>PC Survey/inventory</p> <p>FC/EWGS and WT for creation of appropriate new and management of existing woodland</p>

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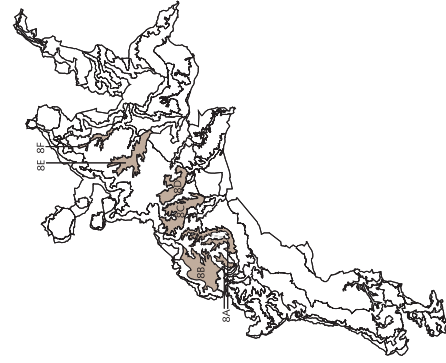
Local Forces For Change	Potential Landscape Implications	Outline Landscape Strategies and Guide lines	Potential Indicators for Monitoring Landscape Change	Potential Opportunities for Stakeholder Involvement
<p>Damage to field monuments and archaeological sites and the historic environment from farming operations, tree root damage, woodland management operations and tree planting and recreational activity.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Damage to important archaeological sites and important landscape features. • Loss of traditional field patterns • Loss of traditional field boundaries, particularly dry stone walls and hedgerows. • Loss of locally distinctive features • Damage caused by livestock • Damage caused by recreational activity • Encroachment of scrub onto archaeological features 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inform landowners of important archaeological sites • Protect all upstanding archaeological sites and consider the impact of development on their landscape setting. • Restore the wider setting of key monuments to ensure that they do not read as islands amidst a sea of arable farming. • Raise awareness of the historic environment and of the SMR as a source of information • Provide guidance on managing the historic environment to farmers and land owners • Retain traditional field patterns and field boundaries • Ensure tree planting does not take place on archaeological features. • Control scrub and manage existing trees on archaeological features to minimise damage for example by root damage or wind-blow. • Minimise or prevent damage to the historic environment by recreational activity by working with landowners to prepare site management plans and if necessary limit access. • Repair badly eroded features such as earthworks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evidence of damage to archaeological features • Number of archaeological features under suitable management. • Number of sites with management plans • Take up of ES schemes which include measures to conserve the historic environment 	<p>EH/LA Co Archaeologist</p> <p>FWAG/NFU/CLA re guidance to farmers</p> <p>LA LDF/Development Plan policies</p> <p>Natural England & Environmental Stewardship.</p> <p>Remaining Countryside Stewardship and ESA agreements</p> <p>FC & EWGS</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loss of and damage to geological and geomorphological features due to tree growth, erosion and change of land use 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loss of sites that provide an understanding of the Cotswold landscape • Loss of visible features such as dry valley systems 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify important geological features and ensure they are conserved and appropriately managed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of geological features in good condition. 	<p>RIGS Groups/Geoconservation Trusts</p> <p>Universities/study groups</p> <p>Natural England/FWAG/CLA Environmental Stewardship</p>

8. High Wold Valley



Character Areas

- 8A *Toadsmoor, Holy Brook, and Upper Frome Valleys*
- 8B *Painswick and Slad Valleys*
- 8C *Upper Churn Valley*
- 8D *Upper Coln Valley*
- 8E *Upper Windrush Valley*
- 8F *Upper Dikler Valley*



Key Features

- **Predominantly dry or ephemeral flow headwater valleys with generally broad valley form and shallow slope profiles** forming a rolling gently dissected landform.
- **Incised valley form below heads of valleys with often steep, convoluted valley sides dissected by minor watercourses and distinctive convex profile at transition with the High Wold** and forming dramatic landscape features and contrast to the open landscapes characteristic of the neighbouring High Wold.
- **Sections with pronounced valley form meanders with distinctive interlocking spurs, disproportionate to size of rivers and streams** indicative of valley formation and conditions prevalent during the glacial periods.
- **Extensive areas of predominantly broadleaved woodland cloaking sections of the valley sides, particularly across the steeper sections**, create visual containment and add to the secluded, secretive character of many stretches of the valleys.
- **Areas of open pastoral farmland extend between the wooded slopes, and along valley bottoms, together with pockets of arable land, particularly on the shallower slopes** indicative of a well-settled and long farmed landscape.
- **Pasture predominantly comprises improved grassland, together with occasional remnants of unimproved and calcareous grasslands** of nationally important nature conservation value.

- **Intermittent stone villages occupying secluded locations in valley bottoms, often in association with a bridging point**, indicate a long history of settlement in the valleys.
- **Occasional farmsteads and isolated buildings within the more open valley sections** link to farmed areas on the adjacent High Wold.
- **Occasional private parklands and gardens associated with country houses** add to the wooded and historic character of the valleys.
- **Limited road network within valleys generally confined to a single valley bottom road, or routes that cross the valley** maintain a quiet, secluded and rural character in the valleys.
- **Deeply incised and inaccessible wooded slopes** extend across some valley sections, and provide important habitats for wildlife.

8. High Wold Valley



Painswick and Slad Valleys

- **Wider and complex valley form to Painswick Valley and its tributaries, but with steep and convoluted slopes, separated by intermediate ridges that project into the main valley form.**
- **Rich pastoral and secluded rural character** with intermittent consolidated areas of arable land.
- **Sheltered, visually contained and intimate setting of remote upper reaches of valleys.**
- **Significant areas of registered common land and ancient semi-natural woodland in the upper reaches of the Painswick and Slad Valleys** marking the transition with the High Wold and the upper slopes of the Escarpment.

Landscape Sensitivity

The High Wold Valleys are sensitive to developments that might interrupt the sense of seclusion within them and their rural, pastoral character. In addition, the confined landform and steep slopes within the valleys, together with many areas of nature conservation interest together form a further constraint to development. Such areas include riparian and riverine habitats along watercourses at the base of the valleys, areas of ancient broadleaved woodland, and calcareous grassland on steep landform beyond the limits of grazing stock. The valleys are therefore particularly sensitive to direct change brought about by development, and also by intensification of agricultural activities leading to overgrazing or fertiliser run-off.

The town of Painswick, occupying a spur of land separating two valleys is highly visible and an important component of the wider landscape. Therefore the settlement is sensitive to further development on its fringes. The wider valley is also sensitive due to its rural character. Of particular sensitivity are the ancient semi-natural woodlands and areas of Registered Common Land supporting calcareous grassland in the upper reaches of the Painswick and Slad Valleys. These areas are of national importance for their nature conservation value, and designated as NNRs and SSSI.

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8. High Wold Valley



Local Forces For Change	Potential Landscape Implications	Outline Landscape Strategies and Guide lines	Potential Indicators for Monitoring Landscape Change	Potential Opportunities for Stakeholder Involvement
<p>Expansion of valley settlements</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Erosion of the rural character of the valleys and the landscape setting of historic villages. Expansion of valley settlements onto the highly visible valley sides, Increase in light pollution Loss of village patterns and development of 'rural sprawl' Degradation of views across and along the valley Upgrading of minor roads and lanes associated with new development and the introduction of suburbanising features such as mini roundabouts, street lighting and kerbs and traffic calming at village entrances Erosion of distinctive settlement patterns and loss of small fields and network of narrow lanes associated with houses fringing the valley villages. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limit expansion of villages Ensure built development respects rural landscape character. Conserve the distinctive rural character of valley settlements and the rural road network of narrow dry stone walled lanes. Avoid developments incorporating standardised development layout, suburban style lighting, construction details and materials that cumulatively can lead to the erosion of peaceful landscape character. Avoid development that may restrict or obscure views across or along the valleys Restore existing stone buildings within settlements in preference to new built development. Existing buildings should be carefully conserved and where converted to new uses buildings must retain their historic integrity and functional character. Sound conservation advice and principles must be sought and implemented Promote the use of local stone and building styles in the construction of new buildings and extensions to existing dwellings Retain village character and settlement patterns Conserve and restore traditional dry stone wall boundary features on valley slopes bordering settlements Ensure new developments are well integrated into their surroundings with native woodland planting and trees. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inventory of evidence of inappropriate development Number of new residential developments using locally distinctive materials. Extent of road 'improvement' schemes and suburban road infrastructure details 	<p>LA LDF/Development Plan policies</p> <p>Village Design Statements</p> <p>LA Conservation/Heritage officers; EH</p> <p>Monitoring and management by Local Interest Groups eg Painswick Beacon Conservation Group</p>

8. High Wold Valley



Local Forces For Change	Potential Landscape Implications	Outline Landscape Strategies and Guide lines	Potential Indicators for Monitoring Landscape Change	Potential Opportunities for Stakeholder Involvement
<p>Isolated development such as new single dwellings that might compromise rural landscape character and settlement patterns, particularly on valley sides.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visual intrusions introduced to the landscape • Upgrading of minor roads and lanes in areas of new development and introduction of suburbanising features such as street lighting. • Introduction of 'lit' elements to characteristically dark landscapes. • Suburbanisation of agricultural landscape by the introduction of gardens e.g. ornamental garden plants and boundary features, parking areas and conversion of tracks to manicured drives and gateways • Loss of green space between built up areas on the valley slopes that often provide a green backdrop to settlements in the valley • Proliferation of stables and 'white tape' field boundaries for horses and ponies • Loss of tranquillity. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conserve the distinctive rural and dispersed settlement pattern. • Restore existing stone farm buildings and structures in preference to new built development. Where converted to new uses buildings must retain their historic integrity and functional character. Sound conservation advice and principles must be sought and implemented • Prevent the use of suburban building styles and materials. • Oppose new housing not for agricultural employment use in open countryside • Respect traditional position of agricultural buildings and their relationship to the surrounding land. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of isolated dwellings built. • Number of vernacular stone buildings converted and/or restored to residential use. 	<p><i>Parish Council/Local Interest Groups:</i> <i>Undertake a photographic survey of key views of, and settlements/ dwellings within the escarpment.</i></p> <p><i>Parish Plans and village design statements</i></p> <p><i>LA LDF/Development Plan policies/Design Guidance</i></p> <p><i>EH Guidance</i></p>

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8. High Wold Valley



Local Forces For Change	Potential Landscape Implications	Outline Landscape Strategies and Guide lines	Potential Indicators for Monitoring Landscape Change	Potential Opportunities for Stakeholder Involvement
<p>Conversion of redundant farm buildings and mills to desirable residential properties.</p> <p>Conversion of traditional farm buildings to new uses</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduction of the remote character of the valleys and introduction of suburban features such as ornamental gardens. Erosion of distinctive features and loss of Cotswold character. Loss of locally historic features and erosion of the integrity of the historic landscape Loss and erosion of Farmstead Character and how the building relates to the surrounding agricultural landuse Decline in quality of landscape 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider opportunities for the conversion of mills and barns to new visitor uses and rural industries. Capacity of the local road network needs to be taken into consideration Stabilise historic buildings and undertake localised scrub and woodland clearance to enhance their landscape setting and increase the contribution they make to landscape character. Conserve mill races, mill ponds, leats and meadows which relate to mill sites whilst recognising and enhancing their nature conservation value. Conserve vernacular farm buildings for their own sake and/or by developing other options for their use whilst retaining their agricultural character Existing buildings should be carefully conserved and where converted to new uses buildings must retain their historic integrity and functional character. Sound conservation advice and principles must be sought and implemented Respect traditional position of agricultural buildings and their relationship to the surrounding land. Promote examples of good practice 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inventory of mills and barns, and other historic features. Number of traditional buildings converted and/or restored to residential use 	<p>LA LDF/Development Plan policies</p> <p>LA Conservation/Heritage Officers/EH</p> <p>Natural England- Environmental Stewardship agreements</p>

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8. High Wold Valley



Local Forces For Change	Potential Landscape Implications	Outline Landscape Strategies and Guide lines	Potential Indicators for Monitoring Landscape Change	Potential Opportunities for Stakeholder Involvement
<p>Introduction of vertical elements such as communication masts, wind turbines, electricity pylons and large road signs particularly on valley rims and heads</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction of visually intrusive 'urban' features to rural landscapes • Introduction of unnatural movement and loss of tranquillity • Breaking up of valley rim skylines 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conserve character by objecting to the development of vertical elements where these would adversely affect views along the valleys and from valley sides and on valley rims • Ensure development of vertical elements in neighbouring LCTs do not adversely affect views from, across or along the valleys • Ensure alternative options have been fully considered • Minimise impact by locating new communication masts on existing structures or by using existing masts. • Set masts etc against trees • Bury cables underground • Consider other renewable energy technologies • Seek to minimise size and number of road signs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of masts, turbines etc 	<p><i>LAs/LDF/Development plan policies</i></p>
<p>Proliferation of equestrian establishments</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proliferation of stables and other visual clutter such as ribbon fences, jumps, horse boxes, shelters and lighting associated with 'horiculture'. • Creation of paddocks by sub-dividing fields using post and rail fence or ribbon fences • Deterioration in pasture quality and over grazing • Pressure to provide new housing for staff and owners • Excessive use of local roads and paths by horses 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discourage horse paddocks in visually prominent roadside and valley side locations. • Oppose change of use for the 'keeping of horses' in visually prominent locations. • Encourage sensitive design and location of new equestrian facilities. • Encourage the use of olive green tape, less posts etc • Produce guidance on good practice • Oppose over concentration of equestrian ventures in one area • Ensure all new ventures provide accommodation within new stable buildings. Oppose new housing for owners 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of horse paddocks. • Number using good practice e.g olive green tape etc • Number of equestrian ventures in an area. • Numbers of horses on roads/bridleways 	<p><i>LA LDF/Development Plan policies</i> <i>LA Planning Enforcement Development Control</i> <i>Conservation Board Guidance</i> <i>BHS/Pony clubs</i></p>

8. High Wold Valley



Local Forces For Change	Potential Landscape Implications	Outline Landscape Strategies and Guide lines	Potential Indicators for Monitoring Landscape Change	Potential Opportunities for Stakeholder Involvement
<p>Road upgrading and improvements, especially of minor country roads, as a result of development or general improvement schemes.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction of suburban features such as mini roundabouts, kerbs and traffic calming measures. • Use of inappropriate materials • Loss of roadside hedges and walls • Loss of verge/roadside habitat 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conserve the rural character of the local road network • Promote use of design and materials appropriate to local character. • Produce guidance on design and suitable materials. • Promote use of 'shared space' for traffic calming measures in villages. • Seek opportunities to conserve and enhance roadside boundaries and habitats. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Length of road upgraded or improved. • Number of 'shared space' schemes • Loss of roadside boundaries/habitat • Number of schemes that comply/enhance local distinctiveness. 	<p><i>Highways Agency</i></p> <p><i>Highway Authorities</i></p> <p><i>Planning Authorities</i></p> <p><i>Parish Councils</i></p>
<p>Excessive traffic on minor local roads and lanes.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pressure to improve roads by widening and straightening and improving sightlines. • Loss of tranquillity and danger to walkers/riders and other non automotive users. • Damage to verges and roadside boundaries by HGVs and agricultural vehicles 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote traffic restriction measures such as lorry routing maps. • Promote shared space and road design to slow and minimise traffic impact 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Level of traffic on minor roads/lanes • Number of traffic restrictions 	<p><i>LA Development Plan/LDF policies</i></p> <p><i>Highway Authorities</i></p> <p><i>The Traffic Commissioners</i></p> <p><i>NFU & CLA</i></p>
<p>Development of scrub and trees on roadside verges</p> <p>Mowing of verges at inappropriate times</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loss of views from the public highway • Loss of roadside grassland habitat • Damage to hedges and walls 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify key views from roads • Manage/remove verge scrub and trees • Reintroduce appropriate verge management and mowing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of key views opened up • Length of verge cleared 	<p><i>Highway Authorities</i></p> <p><i>Highways Agency</i></p> <p><i>Parish Councils</i></p>

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8. High Wold Valley



Local Forces For Change	Potential Landscape Implications	Outline Landscape Strategies and Guide lines	Potential Indicators for Monitoring Landscape Change	Potential Opportunities for Stakeholder Involvement
<p>Agricultural intensification, diversification and farm amalgamation.</p> <p>Conversion of permanent pasture to arable.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eutrophication of water courses from farm run off. Loss of dry stone walls, species rich hedgerows and field patterns on the valley sides. Loss of permanent pasture Increased conversion of pasture to arable land. Damage to and loss of archaeological sites and field monuments from conversion of pasture to arable and from intensification of grazing. New agricultural buildings Move towards arable production on small mixed farms resulting in the removal or degradation of hedgerows and/ or loss of former pasture. Conversion of farm outbuildings and field barns to recreational or business uses Loss of Farmstead character 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage small-scale mixed farming and encourage woodland and boundary management. Monitor river nutrient levels. Conserve herb-rich meadows and areas of permanent pasture Object to proposals to convert pasture to arable particularly where archaeological sites/field monuments may be lost or damaged. Encourage low intensity grazing or restrict access by livestock where archaeological sites/field monuments may be lost or damaged Ensure that new farm buildings do not have an adverse visual impact on the wider landscape Seek to conserve traditional farm buildings. Respect traditional position of agricultural buildings and their relationship to the surrounding land. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Area of permanent pasture. Area of ancient woodland. Area of species rich grassland. Number of traditional brick and stone barns. Number archaeological sites/field monuments lost or damaged 	<p>FWAG/NFU/CLA guidance.</p> <p>Natural England/FWAG/ Environmental Stewardship and remaining Countryside Stewardship agreements.</p> <p>English Heritage and LA Archaeologists</p>

8. High Wold Valley



Local Forces For Change	Potential Landscape Implications	Outline Landscape Strategies and Guide lines	Potential Indicators for Monitoring Landscape Change	Potential Opportunities for Stakeholder Involvement
<p>Planting of energy crops such as Miscanthus, short rotation coppice and short rotation forestry</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Loss or seasonal interruption of views particularly from roads and public rights of way. Loss of remaining permanent pasture Damage to archaeological sites and historic landscapes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure energy crops are not planted where they would restrict or intrude into views, particularly open views across the landscape and on skyline sites. Do not plant on semi-natural habitats, permanent pasture or on sites with national or local BAP species that could be affected in a negative way. Do not plant on sites where archaeological sites could be damaged or where significant historic landscapes would be adversely affected or on sites where features of geological or geomorphological importance would be obscured. Produce guidance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Area of energy crop planted Number of sites impacting on BAP species Number of archaeological sites and areas of historic landscape affected. Number of geological and geomorphological sites affected 	<p>FWAG/NFU/CLA guidance DEFRA Guidelines</p> <p>County archaeologists, Wildlife Trusts, Geoconservation Trusts and RIGS Groups</p>
<p>Decline of important semi-natural and ancient woodland due to neglect and over grazing of stock limiting natural regeneration.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Loss of woodland and associated habitat. Decline in the wooded character of the valleys. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exclude grazing or manage grazing as appropriate. Initiate schemes for the phased removal of invasive non-native species. Conserve and manage ancient semi-natural woodlands. Restore PAWS Conserve grassland habitats found in close proximity to areas of broadleaved woodland. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Area of semi-natural broadleaved woodland. 	<p>LA/Ecology Officers</p> <p>FC/England Woodland Grant Scheme</p> <p>Natural England/Environmental Stewardship</p>

8. High Wold Valley



Local Forces For Change	Potential Landscape Implications	Outline Landscape Strategies and Guide lines	Potential Indicators for Monitoring Landscape Change	Potential Opportunities for Stakeholder Involvement
<p>Establishment of areas of ad hoc woodland creation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Loss of permanent pasture Loss of character Loss or restriction of views across and along the High Wold valleys 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conserve views Plant new woodland or allow natural woodland regeneration on valley sides and surrounding new development, but not on areas of permanent pasture or unimproved grasslands. Identify key viewpoints 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Viewpoints retained Area of permanent pasture Area of new woodland 	<p>LA Landscape Officers</p> <p>FC/England Woodland Grant Scheme</p> <p>Natural England/ Environmental Stewardship</p>
<p>Decline in grazing stock particularly on unimproved limestone grassland</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scrub encroachment and loss of species rich grassland due to invasion of dominant grass species. Development of secondary woodland 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conserve areas of open pasture and common. Consider traditional management regimes to limit scrub encroachment on areas of semi natural grassland. Re-introduction of grazing on semi-natural grasslands/improvement of existing grazing regimes. Produce guidance on scrub management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Area of scrub Area of species rich grassland. Area of semi-natural grassland under appropriate management Area of permanent pasture 	<p>FWAG/NFU/CLA guidance</p> <p>Natural England - Environmental Stewardship and current Countryside Stewardship schemes and Cotswolds ESA agreements</p> <p>Local land owners</p> <p>AONB project - aerial photography</p>
<p>Intensive grazing of stretches of riverbank up to the waters edge.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Loss of riparian habitat. Bank instability leading to increased erosion and further bank instability and widening of river channels. Loss of breeding habitat for some bird species. Loss of habitat for invertebrates and mammals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage low intensity grazing along valley bottom meadows and traditional farming methods. Manage riparian habitats to avoid erosion due to over grazing. Avoid engineered solutions to water management along degraded stretches of riverbank. Encourage the use of temporary fencing where required 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Area of valley bottom meadows Presence of indicator plant, bird, invertebrate and mammal populations 	<p>EA</p> <p>Natural England/FWAG/ Environmental Stewardship and remaining Countryside Stewardship and ESA agreements.</p>

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8. High Wold Valley



Local Forces For Change	Potential Landscape Implications	Outline Landscape Strategies and Guide lines	Potential Indicators for Monitoring Landscape Change	Potential Opportunities for Stakeholder Involvement
<p>Changes in land use and management within historic parks and gardens</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weakening of the integrity of designed landscapes, parks and gardens • Loss of or damage to elements of designed landscapes, parks and gardens. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conserve and enhance historic parks and gardens, including their setting • Develop and implement management plans • Restore lost elements of historic parks and gardens to restore the integrity of the designed landscape as a whole. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of intact and remnant designed landscapes. • Number of management plans • Number of restored landscapes/features 	<p><i>English Heritage</i> <i>Historic Garden/Parkland societies</i> <i>The National Trust</i> <i>LA LDF/Development Plan policies</i></p>
<p>Climate change</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential to lead to an increase in the severity and frequency of storm surges and flooding of valley meadows. • Changes in woody plant species • Construction of flood defences 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect unstable river banks to avoid erosion through storm surges only if necessary, otherwise maintain the natural character of the river and promote measures that naturally enhance the capacity of the river such as braiding and its surrounding wet meadows. • Ensure any flood defence construction takes account of landscape character and local distinctiveness. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor habitats and species associated with river and riverside habitats for signs of change. • Frequency of flood events • Decline in woody plant species. • Changes in crops grown 	<p><i>EA/management and 'Local Contribution' initiatives</i> <i>LA Ecologist/LWT/IBAP & HAP</i></p>
<p>Fencing off of river corridors</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • River edge becomes overgrown with rank vegetation due to a loss of grazing leading to loss of riparian habitat. • Imposition of fence line along valley bottom. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage low intensity grazing along floodplain and valley bottom meadows. • Encourage use of temporary fencing where required. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Area of rank growth along river edge. 	<p><i>FWAG/NFU/CLA guidance</i> <i>Natural England/Environmental Stewardship and current Countryside Stewardship/ESA agreements</i> <i>EA management and 'Local Contribution' initiatives</i></p>
<p>Water abstraction</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduced river flows/dry rivers • Die-off of riverside trees such as willow • Loss of wetland habitat • Limited selection of crop type 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce or stop abstraction • Support river flows/water recirculation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Length of reduced flow/dry river • Length of riverside habitat lost 	<p><i>EA - CAMS and abstraction licensing</i> <i>Wessex Water Low Flows Project</i></p>

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8. High Wold Valley



Local Forces For Change	Potential Landscape Implications	Outline Landscape Strategies and Guide lines	Potential Indicators for Monitoring Landscape Change	Potential Opportunities for Stakeholder Involvement
<p>Damage to field monuments and archaeological sites and the historic environment from, farming operations, tree root damage, woodland management operations and tree planting and recreational activity.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Damage to important archaeological sites and important landscape features. • Loss of traditional field patterns • Loss of traditional field boundaries, particularly dry stone walls and hedgerows. • Loss of locally distinctive features • Damage caused by livestock • Damage caused by recreational activity • Encroachment of scrub onto archaeological features 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inform landowners of important archaeological sites • Protect all upstanding archaeological sites and consider the impact of development on their landscape setting. • Restore the wider setting of key monuments to ensure that they do not read as islands amidst a sea of arable farming. • Raise awareness of the historic environment and of the SMR as a source of information • Provide guidance on managing the historic environment to farmers and land owners • Retain traditional field patterns and field boundaries • Ensure tree planting does not take place on archaeological features. • Control scrub and manage existing trees on archaeological features to minimise damage for example by root damage or wind-blow. • Minimise or prevent damage to the historic environment by recreational activity by working with landowners to prepare site management plans and if necessary limit access. • Repair badly eroded features such as earthworks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evidence of damage to archaeological features • Number of archaeological features under suitable management. • Number of sites with management plans • Take up of Environmental Stewardship schemes which include measures to conserve the historic environment 	<p>EH/LA Co Archaeologist</p> <p>FWAG/NFU/CLA re guidance to farmers</p> <p>LA LDF/Development Plan policies</p> <p>Natural England & Environmental Stewardship.</p> <p>Remaining Countryside Stewardship and ESA agreements</p> <p>FC & EWGS</p>
<p>Loss of and damage to geological and geomorphological features due to tree growth, erosion and change of land use</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loss of sites that provide an understanding of the Cotswold landscape • Loss of visible features such as valley bulges and land slips. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify important geological features and ensure they are conserved and appropriately managed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of geological features in good condition. 	<p>RIGS Groups/Geoconservation Trusts</p> <p>Universities/study groups</p> <p>Natural England/FWAG/CLA Environmental Stewardship</p>



2. Escarpment

Character Areas

2A Bath to Beach Farm

2B Beach Farm to Hillesley

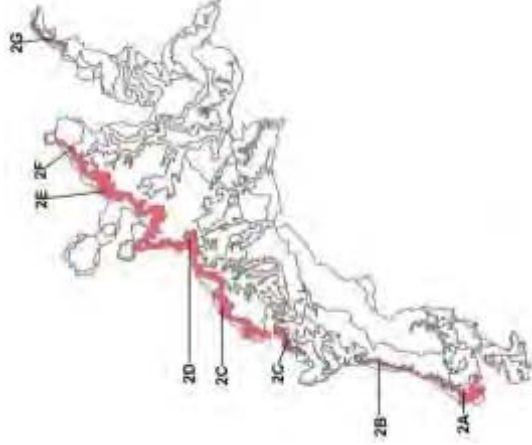
2C Uley to Cooper's Hill

2D Cooper's Hill to Winchcombe

2E Winchcombe to Dover's Hill

2F Dover's Hill to Mickleton

2G Edge Hill



Key Features

- **Steep exposed and elevated west facing escarpment slope, partly cloaked in semi-natural broadleaved woodland** forming a dramatic relief feature visible from the Forest of Dean and Malverns and a backdrop to neighbouring lowlands.
- **Rock outcrops often mark the site of former quarries** and offer valuable opportunities to view geological formations.
- **Generally poor soils and steep sloping relief of the escarpment not suited to arable farming, and primarily used for pasture or woodland**, which are the dominant land uses.
- **Limited areas of Registered Common Land on upper scarp slopes merging into the more extensive areas on the High Wold** represent an important landscape resource often of nationally important nature conservation and cultural heritage value.
- **Strong sense of elevation with dramatic panoramic views over the Severn Vale to the Forest of Dean and beyond into Wales, the Malverns and the Shropshire Hills** from open areas on the upper escarpment. This contrasts with the more intimate landscapes at lower elevations.
- **Continuity of escarpment face interrupted by a series of major valleys and embayments** creating dramatic relief features and local interest.
- **Gentler landform on lower slopes below the spring line** dissected by numerous streams and characterised by hummocky areas of former landslip, ridge and furrow and areas of arable farming blurring the transition with the surrounding vale.

- **Calcareous grasslands located on steeper escarpment slopes**, often found in close association with areas of ancient semi-natural broadleaved woodland and together forming nationally important habitats.
- **Summit of the escarpment slopes often marked by dramatic linear beech hangers**. These are often viewed as a silhouette against the skyline from the vale below.
- **Woodlands, hedgerows, scrub and isolated trees give the impression of a well wooded landscape**. Escarpment woodlands are often narrow and either trace steeper relief or mark the course of streams and gullies that are cut into the escarpment face, and together with hedgerows create important wildlife corridors.
- **Settlement generally confined to lower, shallower slopes, in sheltered locations and adjacent to spring lines**, with linear settlements bordering streams and roads on the lower escarpment slopes and isolated farms and dwellings in sheltered positions mid way up the escarpment.
- **A number of large towns and cities located at, or in the vicinity of the foot of the escarpment**. The scarp forms a rural backdrop to urban development and limits eastward expansion.
- **Roads and tracks surrounded by dense vegetation and occupying holloways**, run parallel to streams and link the High Wold to the Vale. Many are likely to follow the course of ancient and possibly prehistoric tracks. Occasional principal roads descending the escarpment form locally prominent features.
- **Numerous prehistoric sites and follies are located on promontories and elevated sections of the escarpment** indicating their symbolic and strategic importance. Their high visibility and wide panoramic viewing opportunities also make them popular to visitors and tourists.

2. Escarpment

Summary description

Stretching 52 miles in an almost unbroken line and often cloaked in semi-natural broadleaved woodland, the Escarpment comprises an exposed west-facing slope with a distinct sense of elevation and dramatic views to the west. The continuity of the scarp is interrupted by a series of major valleys and embayments, and rock outcrops often marking the sites of former quarries.

A mosaic of woodland, hedgerows, scrub and isolated trees, and particularly the dramatic beech hangers, give the impression of a well wooded landscape, although the area is also well-suited to pasture and grassland.

Settlements are generally confined to the gentler slopes and in sheltered locations adjacent to spring lines. Roads and tracks rise up the slope, often surrounded by dense vegetation and occupying hollow ways. Numerous prehistoric sites, and follies such as Broadway Tower, sit on promontories and other elevated sections.

Landscape Sensitivity

The escarpment is a distinctive and dramatic landscape. The combination of its elevation, and the steep slopes rising from the lowlands, make it a highly visible feature and is therefore very sensitive to change, particularly where this would introduce built elements within the otherwise agricultural landscapes, or interrupt the balance of rough grassland, species rich calcareous grassland and broadleaved woodland on the upper escarpment slopes.

The undulating lower escarpment slopes, at the junction of the vale, are visually less prominent than the upper escarpment slopes and generally more widely settled.





2. Escarpment

	Local Forces For Change New Development	Potential Landscape Implications	Landscape Strategies and Guidelines
2.1	<p>Expansion and infilling of settlements onto or towards the lower slopes of the Escarpment, including Bath (LCA 2A) and Cheltenham (LCA 2D).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encroachment of built development onto escarpment slopes intruding into the landscape. • Erosion of distinctive form, scale and character of smaller settlements along the base of the Scarp and on lower slopes including their relationship to the landscape and springline. • Loss of characteristic small scale settlements and hamlets due to settlement growth and coalescence. • Proliferation of suburban building styles, housing estate layout and materials and the introduction of ornamental garden plants and boundary features. • Spread of lit elements up the Escarpment slope. • Potential for glint from buildings, particularly on hillsides. • Erosion of the setting of the AONB • Upgrading of rural lanes and holloways in areas of new development and the introduction of suburbanising features such as mini roundabouts, street lighting, highway fencing and kerbs, traffic calming at village entrances. • Degradation of the view from the scarp across the adjoining vale and from the vale looking at the scarp. • Urban fringe impacts such as fly tipping and dumping of vehicles • Loss of archaeological and historical features, field patterns and landscapes. • Interruption, weakening or loss of the historic character of settlements and the historic context in how they have expanded, especially the importance of the relationship between the historic core of the settlement and surviving historic features such as churchyards, manor houses, burgage plots, historic farms, pre-enclosure paddocks and closes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain to open, dramatic and sparsely settled character of the Escarpment. • Avoid development that will intrude negatively into the landscape and cannot be successfully mitigated against, for example, extensions to settlements onto the escarpment • Conserve pattern of settlements fringing the lower slopes and their existing relationship to landform. • Ensure that new development does not adversely affect settlement character and form • Conserve the distinctive orientation of linear villages on lower escarpment slopes and the relationship of settlements to the Escarpment and springline • Control the proliferation of suburban building styles and materials • Avoid developments incorporating standardised development layout, suburban style lighting, construction details and materials that cumulatively can lead to the erosion of peaceful rural landscape character. • Avoid cramming development right up to the boundaries resulting in hard suburban style edge to the settlement. • Restore existing stone, old brick and half-timbered buildings within settlements in preference to new built development. • Promote the use of local stone and building styles in the construction of new buildings and extensions to existing dwellings. (New buildings should, at least, respect local vernacular style). • Existing buildings should be carefully conserved and where converted to new uses buildings must retain their historic integrity and functional character. • Sound conservation advice and principles must be sought and implemented • Adopt measures to minimise and where possible reduce light pollution. • Promote initiatives that remove heritage assets from 'at risk' status in the Heritage at Risk Register. • Avoid development that may restrict or obscure views to the upper escarpment slopes and distinctive features such as folly towers and hillforts. • Conserve the rural character of the road network, and in particular hollow-ways climbing the escarpment. • Avoid proposals that result in the loss of archaeological and historical features or that impact on the relationship of the settlement and its links with surviving historical features. • Ensure the historic character and context are included in Neighbourhood Plans • Identify key viewpoints to and from the escarpment • Create new woodlands that link to existing woodlands on lower escarpment slopes to counteract the impact of intrusive or degraded urban edges.



2. Escarpment

	Local Forces For Change	Potential Landscape Implications	Landscape Strategies and Guidelines
2.2	<p>Isolated development such as new single dwellings on the mid escarpment slopes that might compromise rural landscape character including farm buildings converted to residential use.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visual intrusions introduced to the landscape • Upgrading of minor roads and lanes and holloways in areas of new development and introduction of suburbanising features such as street lighting. • Introduction of 'lit' elements to characteristically dark escarpment slope landscapes. • Potential for glint from buildings. • Erosion of distinctive dispersed settlement character on the escarpment slopes. • Suburbanisation and domestication of agricultural landscape by the introduction of gardens e.g ornamental garden plants and boundary features, garden sheds, gateways, parking areas and conversion of tracks to manicured drives and ornamental gateways • Appearance and proliferation of stables and 'white tape' field boundaries for horses and ponies – see section 2.6. below • Loss of tranquillity and sense of seclusion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plant trees and hedges within and around new development to reduce impact on the landscape ideally in advance of the development taking place. • Retain existing trees, hedges etc as part of the scheme. • Promote and link to the escarpment 'green' infrastructure in any major extensions to Gloucester and Cheltenham • Ensure development proposals safeguard and provide new links and enhancements to the Public Rights of Way network. • Consider the impact on local Public Rights of Way as settlements expand and take into account any required improvements • Avoid development that will intrude negatively into the landscape and cannot be successfully mitigated against. • Protect the undeveloped, unlit character of much of the escarpment. • Oppose new housing on the Escarpment (unless special circumstances apply in accordance with Paragraph 55 of the NPPF and development conspires and enhances the AONB as required by the CRoW Act 2000 • Conserve the distinctive rural and dispersed settlement pattern. • Restore existing stone farm buildings and structures in preference to new built development. • Existing buildings should be carefully conserved and where converted to new uses buildings must retain their historic integrity and functional character. • Sound conservation advice and principles must be sought and implemented • Maintain the sense of openness and consider the impact of development proposals on views to and from the escarpment slopes, including the impact of cumulative development. • Control the proliferation of suburban building styles and materials. • Landscaping schemes accompanying development should encourage the planting of appropriately sized native trees, shrubs and traditional fruit varieties, whilst discouraging large alien tree species such as eucalypts and conifers and inappropriate forms and cultivars of native species, particularly on fringes of open countryside • Respect traditional position of agricultural buildings and their relationship to the surrounding land.
2.3	<p>Conversion of traditional farm buildings to new uses Deterioration in condition of vernacular farm buildings</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Erosion of distinctive features and loss of Cotswold character. • Domestication or industrialisation of existing agricultural vernacular and character • Loss of locally historic features and erosion of the integrity of the historic landscape • Loss of historic features/character of distinctive buildings if converted to uses requiring inappropriate interventions to historic fabric and form. • Introduction or expansion of lit elements on the Escarpment • Loss and erosion of Farmstead Character and how the buildings relate to the 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conserve vernacular farm buildings for their own sake and/or by developing other options for their use whilst retaining their agricultural character • Where converted to new uses buildings must retain their historic integrity and functional character. Sound conservation advice and principles must be sought and implemented • Avoid inappropriate new uses that necessitate excessive loss of original historic features, or introduce elements that expand domestication or industrialisation • Landscaping schemes accompanying conversion of farm buildings should



2. Escarpment

	Local Forces For Change	Potential Landscape Implications	Landscape Strategies and Guidelines
2.4	Solar Farms on or in the setting of the Escarpment	<p>surrounding landscape and agricultural landuse</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decline in quality of landscape <p>Industrialisation of the rural landscape</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Change of character due to colour and texture and heliographic glint Loss of seasonal change in the landscape Loss of characteristic pastoral landscape Damage to and loss of landscape features such as Ridge and Furrow, Strip Lynchets, trees, walls and hedgerows. Concealment of geomorphological or archaeological features Impact of supporting infrastructure such as buildings and cables, roadways, security fencing, CCTV masts and lighting. Decline in quality of landscape 	<p>encourage the planting of appropriately sized native trees, shrubs and traditional fruit varieties, whilst discouraging large alien tree species such as eucalypts and conifers and inappropriate forms and cultivars of native species, particularly on fringes of open countryside</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discourage the conversion of farm buildings to a function with a limited life span and seek to prevent follow-on conversions e.g. for housing. Respect traditional position of agricultural buildings and their relationship to the surrounding land. Stabilise historic buildings and undertake localised scrub and woodland clearance to enhance their landscape setting and increase the contribution they make to landscape character. Promote examples of good practice <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prevent proposals for solar farms that will impact negatively on landscape character and/or intrude into views to and/or from the Escarpment Avoid proposals that will result in the loss or harm to landscape features such as Strip Lynchets, hedgerows and walls Ensure a comprehensive LVIA is undertaken (including potential cumulative effects) Ensure a glint/glare assessment is undertaken to determine the heliographic impact on receptors. Reduce landscape impact with appropriate screening Bury cables underground and seek opportunities to bury existing power lines Keep supporting infrastructure to a minimum and ensure it is in keeping with landscape character Ensure removal and restoration on temporary construction access. Avoid the inclusion of any security lighting proposals Seek appropriate landscape enhancement to field boundaries and margins within solar farm development proposals. Promote the use of roof space for photovoltaic panels particularly on modern farm buildings
2.5	Introduction of vertical elements such as communication masts, wind turbines, electricity pylons and large road signs on and adjacent to the escarpment	<p>Introduction of visually intrusive 'urban' or industrial features to the dramatic escarpment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Loss of open character and 'natural' appearance Introduction of unnatural movement and loss of tranquility Intrusion on the setting of scheduled monuments, listed buildings and designed landscapes Breaking up of escarpment skyline Impact on views to, from and along the escarpment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conserve the open, remote character by objecting to the development of vertical elements on the skyline or where these would adversely affect views along the escarpment or from the neighbouring vales and Cotswolds LCTs Ensure the development of vertical elements in neighbouring areas beyond the AONB do not adversely affect views to, from and along the escarpment and across the adjacent LCTs Ensure alternative options have been fully considered Minimise impact by locating new communication masts on existing structures or by using existing masts Set masts against trees Bury cables underground and seek opportunities to bury existing cabling



2. Escarpment

	Local Forces For Change	Potential Landscape Implications	Landscape Strategies and Guidelines
2.6	Establishment or expansion of equestrian establishments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proliferation of stables and other visual clutter such as ribbon fences, jumps, horse boxes, shelters, manège and lighting associated with 'horiculture'. • Creation of paddocks by sub-dividing fields using non-characteristic field boundary treatments such as post and rail fence or ribbon fences • Erosion of the dramatic, often open landscape character of the Escarpment • Deterioration in pasture quality and over grazing • Pressure to provide new housing for staff and owners • Creation of surfaced tracks, new and enlarged field entrances and parking areas for cars and horse boxes etc. • Excessive use of local roads and paths by horses • Increase in vehicle movements and roadside parking • Damage to road verges. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoid use of visually prominent urban security fencing and CCTV masts. • Consider other renewable energy and communication technologies • Ensure full assessment of heritage setting impacts and appropriate measures undertaken • Seek to minimise size and number of roadsigns
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where possible, existing buildings should be utilised and new stables and other structures kept to a minimum.. • Ensure all new ventures provide accommodation within new stable buildings and proposals for separate isolated housing should be resisted • New structures should be carefully sited and designed to minimize their impact on the landscape. Wherever possible they should be located close to existing buildings. They should be constructed from appropriate vernacular materials and should follow the form of the landscape, avoiding prominent skyline sites and slopes • Jumps, temporary fences and other equipment should be well maintained and removed when not in use. • Any lighting should be designed to minimise light pollution, e.g. low level and directed downwards and fitted with timers. • The creation of horse paddocks in visually prominent locations such as roadside and valley side locations should be avoided. • Oppose change of use for the 'keeping of horses' in visually prominent locations. • A concentration of horse paddocks and associated structures in any one area can have a cumulative harmful impact on landscape character and should be avoided • Where pastures need to be subdivided into smaller paddocks, temporary electric fencing is better than more permanent structures and offers greater flexibility in pasture management. Post and rail should be avoided. • Encourage the use of olive green tape, wider spacing of fence posts etc • Historic field boundaries, such as hedges, walls and fences should be maintained or extended, and new boundaries should match the local vernacular wherever possible. • Ensure authorisation is obtained from the highway authority for new gates or stiles on public rights of way. • In some instances, hedges and dry stone walls may need protection by fencing to prevent damage • Jumps, temporary fences and other equipment should be well maintained and removed when not in use. • Existing gates and access points should be retained if possible, and new gates should match the local vernacular. • Historic features, including ridge and furrow pastures, stone troughs and stone stiles, should be protected from damage by equestrian uses.



2. Escarpment

	Local Forces For Change	Potential Landscape Implications	Landscape Strategies and Guidelines
2.7	Major road construction and improvement schemes on escarpment slopes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intrusive features on highly visible sections of the escarpment, and at gateways into the AONB • Introduction or increased movement in the landscape • Urbanising effect • Potential impact of additional road signage and lighting • Loss of tranquility and excessive noise • Light and air pollution • Impact of road signs • Loss of archaeological features and impact on the setting of heritage assets. • Loss of woodland and other sensitive habitats 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote Board guidance on good practice • Avoid major road building schemes • Implement traffic management schemes including speed reduction • Ensure any scheme brings substantial net benefits for the landscape and is designed to conserve and enhance character of the landscape • Ensure comprehensive EIA and L VIA are undertaken and their recommendations implemented. • Ensure careful and sensitive design of road proposals and associated infrastructure on escarpment crest and slopes • Keep lighting to an absolute minimum and use 'Dark Sky friendly' lighting • Seek to prevent rat-running on local roads, restoring and enhancing the character and amenity of local settlements and road network. • Restore redundant lengths of highway to agriculture or suitable habitat • Where bridges or other structures are unavoidable and visually prominent, their siting and design should be well integrated into landform and be of lasting architectural quality. • Avoid over-engineering links to the local road network. • Ensure landscaping design is fully in keeping with local character and land form • Seek opportunities for habitat creation, particularly unimproved grassland, on verges, embankments and areas of land isolated by new road and their long term management • Minimise loss of woodlands and other sensitive habitats: avoid loss of ancient woodland as an irreplaceable semi-natural habitat • Funding from Highway Agency or highway authorities for mitigation measures to be a pre-condition e.g noise screening, quiet surfacing, land bridge etc. • Consider the potential for exposing geological features and their long term management
2.8	Road upgrading and improvements, especially of minor country roads, as a result of development or general improvement schemes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction of suburban features such as mini roundabouts, lighting, kerbs and traffic calming measures. • Use of inappropriate materials (e.g. standard highway fences and barriers) • Loss of roadside hedges and walls • Loss of verge/roadside habitat 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refer to DMRB Vol 10 for general environmental design guidance. • Conserve the rural character of the local road network • Avoid the upgrading of tracks or creation of roads on the escarpment, particularly on the mid and upper slopes, especially where a lack of roads is characteristic • Resist the construction of 'village gateways', particularly those which are inappropriate and out of character • Minimise the use of road markings, permanent signage and lighting, siting them with care and ensuring that they are in keeping with their surroundings wherever possible whilst fulfilling road safety requirements. • Avoid making over-large and inappropriate entrances and keep visibility splays to a minimum



2. Escarpment

	Local Forces For Change	Potential Landscape Implications	Landscape Strategies and Guidelines
2.9	Excessive traffic and/or speed on minor local roads and lanes. Increase in size of vehicles using country lanes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pressure to improve roads by widening and straightening. • Loss of tranquility and danger to walkers/riders and other non-motorised users. • Damage to verges and roadside boundaries by vehicles 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote use of design and materials appropriate to local character. • Produce guidance on design and suitable materials. • Promote use of 'shared space' for traffic calming measures in villages. • Seek opportunities to conserve and enhance roadside boundaries and habitats and their long-term management. • Promote road verge protection and management • Promote traffic restriction measures such as lorry routing maps. • Maintain or reinstate rural character within settlements by promoting shared space and road design to slow and minimise traffic impact • Apply national guidance on rural speed restrictions in sensitive areas (DfT Circular 01/2013 especially Para 128) • Ensure traffic management measures reflect the character and materials of the area. • Encourage use of public transport, car sharing etc • Encourage cycling on safe routes • Promote road verge protection and management
2.10	Land use Agricultural intensification, diversification and farm amalgamation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction of large scale industrial style agricultural 'sheds', silos and AD plants in prominent locations obscuring views of the Escarpment when viewed from the vale and dominate views of the lowlands when viewed from the upper escarpment slopes • Introduction of industrial elements on the Escarpment • Conversion of farm outbuildings and field barns to recreational or business uses • Removal of semi-natural vegetation and poor maintenance of and subsequent loss of field boundaries • Contamination of water courses and aquifer particularly from nitrates and phosphates. • Increased conversion of pasture to arable land, mainly on the lower slopes. • Woodland creation on permanent pasture. • Degradation and loss of hedgerows and increased use of post and wire fencing. • Abandonment of permanent pasture on the Escarpment and resulting spread of scrub and secondary woodland on otherwise open slopes. • Damage to and loss of archaeological sites and field monuments from conversion of pasture to arable and from intensification of grazing. • Move towards arable production on small mixed farms resulting in the removal or degradation of hedgerows and/ or loss of former pasture. • Loss of Farmstead character • Introduction or expansion of lit elements in the characteristically dark landscape 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conserve the open, dramatic and often remote character of the Escarpment and views to, along and from it. • Ensure that new farm buildings including silos and AD plants etc do not have an adverse visual impact on the wider landscape and views • Maintain the appearance and characteristic of isolated farmsteads and oppose proposals that will become dominant in the landscape • Provide advice to farmers on the siting of new buildings, lighting, colour etc. • Encourage the mitigation of existing large agricultural buildings e.g by limited tree planting. • Encourage the installation of PV on the roofs of new agricultural buildings, avoiding risk of glint/glare. • Seek to conserve traditional farm buildings. • Respect traditional position of agricultural buildings and their relationship to the surrounding land. • Conserve characteristically dark stretches of the Escarpment • Encourage small-scale mixed farming and encourage woodland and boundary management. • Monitor river nutrient levels. • Avoid the conversion of pasture to arable particularly where archaeological sites/field monuments may be lost or damaged. leads to fragmentation of grassland or potential contamination of water courses/aquifer



2. Escarpment

	Local Forces For Change	Potential Landscape Implications	Landscape Strategies and Guidelines
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased damage to roads, road verges, dry stone walls and hedges from large machinery Pressure to upgrade lanes or create new access tracks on the Escarpment Increased width of gateways into fields 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage low intensity grazing or restrict access by livestock where archaeological sites/ field monuments may be lost or damaged Encourage means and methods of reducing cultivation damage to archaeological sites and monuments (including reversion to grassland, minimal-tillage, direct drilling and other damage reduction methods). Conserve areas of permanent pasture. Promote the conservation and restoration of hedgerows. Those marking ancient boundaries should be regarded as a priority. Ensure any woodland creation is in keeping with landscape character – see section
2.11	Increased use of polytunnels, glasshouses and field film in the adjacent vale.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Impact on views from the escarpment across the vale. Introduction of unnatural, often shiny, materials leading to an industrialised appearance Impact of light pollution 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider the scale and siting of polytunnels etc When not in use, remove field film and polytunnels or roll polytunnel plastic up to reduce impact.
2.12	Loss of traditional horticulture/ agriculture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Loss of traditional orchards and local varieties of fruit Introduction of field film and polytunnels/ glasshouses into the neighbouring vale and their impact on views from the escarpment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify and protect existing traditional orchards and new potential sites for traditional orchards Identify historical sites of orchards and promote their restoration Promote the appropriate management of existing traditional orchards and the planting of locally distinctive varieties Consider scale and siting of polytunnels etc
2.13	Planting of energy crops such as Miscanthus, short rotation coppice and short rotation forestry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Loss or seasonal interruption of views particularly from roads and public rights of way. Loss of and fragmentation permanent pasture Change in colour and texture of the escarpment Damage to Archaeological sites, historic landscapes, geological and geomorphological features damaged or obscured Winter cropping resulting in 'scars' on the escarpment from the appearance of bare ground and vehicle tracks. Appearance of tracks on the escarpment slopes for access and crop extraction. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure energy crops are not planted where they would restrict or intrude into views, particularly open views across the landscape and on skyline sites. Do not plant on semi-natural habitats, permanent pasture or on sites with national or local BAP species that could be affected in a negative way. Do not plant on sites where archaeological sites could be damaged or where significant historic landscapes would be adversely affected or on sites where features of geological or geomorphological importance would be obscured. Promote Cotswolds Conservation Board guidance
2.14	Decline in grazing stock on escarpment slopes and areas of common land Abandonment of grassland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scrub encroachment and loss of permanent pasture and species rich grassland due to invasion of dominant grass species. Development of secondary woodland Loss of characteristic of grazing animals on the Escarpment Loss of open character of some sections of the escarpment Change in colour and texture in the landscape due to rank vegetation and scrub. Tendency for 'abandoned land' to be targeted for conversion into arable or woodland or for development Archaeological and geological sites obscured or damaged 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conserve areas of open pasture and common. Encourage traditional management regimes to limit scrub encroachment on areas of semi natural grassland. Re-introduction of grazing on semi-natural grasslands/improvement of existing grazing regimes. Produce guidance on scrub management Identify key viewpoints
2.15	Separation of farmhouse/agricultural housing from the working farm for sale	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Loss of integrity, cohesion and character of historic farmsteads and associated farmland. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Only permit new uses of traditional farm buildings that are appropriate to



2. Escarpment

	Local Forces For Change	Potential Landscape Implications	Landscape Strategies and Guidelines
	<p>with a plot of land.</p> <p>Sub-division of farmland for 'lifestyle' plots</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Loss of agricultural context Suburbanisation of agricultural landscape by the introduction of gardens e.g ornamental garden plants and boundary features, parking areas, lighting, and conversion of tracks to manicured drives and ornamental gateways Shelterbelt planting for privacy screening Appearance and proliferation of stables and 'white tape' field boundaries for horses and ponies Sub-division of fields using post and rail fences Pressure for housing on plots of land 	<p>retain their historic character and features.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use planning conditions to restrict subdivision of fields, construction of stables etc. Consider use of Article 4 Direction. Avoid isolated development, particularly in areas of dark skies countryside Oppose new housing not for agricultural employment use in open countryside Respect traditional position of agricultural buildings and their relationship to the surrounding land
3.16	Flood management and alleviation measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Construction of 'hard' flood defences Tree planting for flood management inappropriate to landscape character 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Retain and manage Escarpment watercourses in their naturalistic form.. Consider Rural Sustainable Drainage interventions such as in-stream woody barriers to slow peak water flow particularly within woodland. Seek to influence surrounding land management such as de-compaction of pastures and contour ploughing, wide margins etc on the adjacent High Wold and High Wold Dip-slope.. Ensure flood defences integrate into the landscape by using appropriate mitigation measures, landscaping and materials Seek opportunities for tree planting for flood management in-keeping with landscape and woodland character - see Creation of Woodland section 3.22 below
2.17	<p>Development of scrub and trees on roadside verges</p> <p>Mowing of verges at inappropriate times</p> <p>New and upgraded verge crossings at entrances</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Loss of views from the public highway Loss of roadside grassland habitat Damage to hedges and walls and other features Creation of 'lawns' on the roadside due to regular mowing for tidiness leading to a homogenised and sub-urban appearance Incremental change through introduction of urban elements eroding rural character; raised kerbs, unsympathetic surfacing, upgraded entrances, creation of fenced visibility splays etc from rural roads 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify key views from roads Manage/remove verge scrub and trees, particularly where views can be restored or where there are benefits for biodiversity Reintroduce appropriate verge management and mowing Promote best practice management of verges Ensure highway authority planning conditions respect and are appropriate to rural character and situation
2.18	Lack of appropriate management in disused quarries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Loss of limestone flora due to the development of scrub and secondary woodland. Loss of bat roosts and nesting sites for birds Loss of geological exposures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify disused quarries important for biodiversity and/or geology Encourage appropriate management by providing advice and guidance
2.19	Visitor pressure at escarpment vantage points and circular walks commencing from car park areas.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Degradation of the landscape as a result of littering, path erosion, car parking and use of off road vehicles. Adverse effect on species rich grassland communities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduce measures to limit/manage access to degraded areas of the landscape. Reinstate areas of degraded landscape. Encourage the use of formal paths rather than allowing desire lines to develop. Limit/exclude motorcycles and mountain bikes from areas of historic and biodiversity interest.



2. Escarpment

	Local Forces For Change	Potential Landscape Implications	Landscape Strategies and Guidelines
2.20	Damage to field monuments and archaeological sites and the historic environment from farming operations, livestock, tree root damage, burrowing animals, woodland management operations and tree planting and recreational activity.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Damage to important archaeological sites and important landscape features including earthworks and lynchets • Loss of traditional field patterns and integrity of the wider historic landscape. • Loss of traditional field boundaries, particularly hedgerows and dry stone walls where they occur on the escarpment. • Loss of locally distinctive features • Encroachment of scrub onto archaeological features 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimise car journeys to escarpment vantage points by offering adequate public transport services. • Resist the development of tourism facilities on the escarpment • Inform landowners of important archaeological sites • Protect all outstanding archaeological sites and consider the impact of changing land use/development on their landscape setting. • Manage/remove burrowing animals. • Restore the wider setting of key monuments • Raise awareness of the historic environment and of the SMR as a source of information • Provide guidance on managing the historic environment to farmers and land owners • Retain traditional field patterns and field boundaries • Ensure tree planting does not take place on archaeological features. • Control scrub and manage existing trees on archaeological features to minimise damage for example by root damage or wind-blow. • Minimise or prevent damage to the historic environment by recreational activity by working with landowners to prepare site management plans and if necessary limit access. • Repair badly eroded features such as earthworks and dry stone walls. • Avoid the planting of new hedgerows or the development of volunteer hedgerows adjacent to dry stone walls • Identify important geological features and ensure they are conserved and appropriately managed.
2.21	Loss of and damage to geological and geomorphological features due to tree growth, erosion and change of land use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loss of sites that provide an understanding of the Cotswold landscape • Loss of Visible features such as outcrops, gulls and areas of landslip, particularly rotational slip obscured or lost. 	
2.22	<p>Woodland and trees</p> <p>Creation of woodland</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loss of open character of some sections of the escarpment • Dilution of the visual impact of the characteristic Escarpment 'Hanging Woodlands' • Loss of views from and along the escarpment • Weakening of the characteristic mosaic of woodland and grassland particularly in LC's 2C and 2D (Winchcombe to Uley) • Loss and fragmentation of permanent pasture, breaking the virtually intact corridor of grassland along the escarpment. • Mosaic of new woodlands of inappropriate shape and scale forming prominent non-characteristic features on the escarpment • Loss of Historic Landscape Character through inappropriate siting and/or species. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extend and link existing woodland in preference to creating new 'stand-alone' blocks • Ensure that new woodland planting does not limit or obscure views from and along the escarpment. • Ensure new woodlands respond to the scale and form of existing escarpment woodlands. • Select species characteristic of the ancient semi-natural woodland on the Escarpment. • Ensure woodland creation does not result in the loss of permanent pasture or unimproved grassland • Ensure the grassland corridor along the escarpment remains intact. • Ensure new woodland maximises its open space with grassland to replicate and expand the woodland/grassland mosaic in LC's 2C and 2D.



2. Escarpment

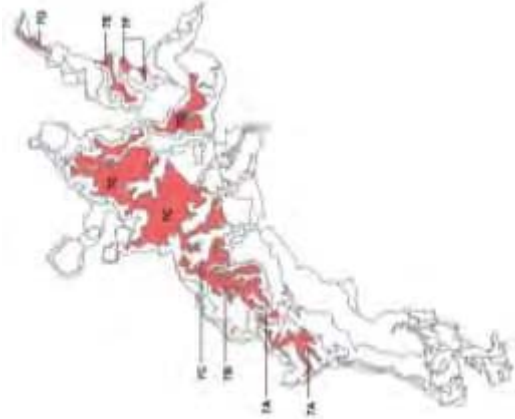
	Local Forces For Change	Potential Landscape Implications	Landscape Strategies and Guidelines
2.23	Inappropriate or inconsistent management, or neglect of existing woodlands, including hanger woodlands.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decline and loss of woodland habitats and wildlife corridors. Poor management endangering long-term continuity of woodlands, especially ancient woodlands and significant alteration to the character of individual stretches of the escarpment. Decline in the continuity and strength of character of the beech hangers. Changes in composition of woodlands with potential increase in extent of coniferous plantations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discourage the planting of conifers and encourage the use of native broadleaves especially when extending or linking the beech woodlands. Encourage the replacement of conifer with native species, particularly on PAWS. Seek EIA determination if necessary. For shelterbelts and plantations associated with designed landscapes, select species characteristic of historic designed landscape in the area. Raise awareness of woodland owners by producing information and guidance Identify key viewpoints Ensure adequate deer management and squirrel control Conserve and enhance areas of existing woodland, with priority given to ancient woodlands. Promote Constant Cover woodland management Retain areas of grassland within woodlands to conserve and enhance the important mosaic of woodland and grassland (LCTs 2C and 2D) Retain the irregular form of woodland and its relationship to landform and interlocking patterns with hedgerows. Restore PAWS to broadleaved woodland Felling coupes should be designed to take account of their visual impact Conserve woodlands along gullies and streams. Seek opportunities to install 'woody barriers' in streams for flood management.
2.24	Impact of tree disease such as Chalara Dieback of ash.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Change of colour and texture of woodland canopy as trees die Thinning of woodland canopy, particularly on the skyline Loss of single, sometimes veteran, trees in the landscape Re-stocking with species not native to the Cotswolds 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote Woodland Management Plans to minimise the impact of disease and manage change Recommend alternative species to ash that reflect the appearance and structure of Cotswold woodland Consider different provenance of ash that may be disease resistant Establish a programme to plant replacement trees in the landscape outside of woodlands e.g. hedgerow trees, parkland and wood pasture.



7. High Wold

Character Areas

- 7A Nymphsfield and Kingscote Plateau & Minchinhampton Common
- 7B Bisley Plateau
- 7C Cotswolds High Wold Plateau
- 7D Rissington Plateau and Milton Downs
- 7E Rollright and Chastleton Plateau
- 7F Over Norton Plateau
- 7G Edge Hill Ironstone Plateau



Key Features

- **Broad, elevated, gently undulating plateau** dissected by a network of dry valleys with distinctive convex profile valley sides.
 - **Expansive long distance views** across the open plateau and to distant hills beyond the Severn Vale.
 - **Elevated areas of plateau surrounded by deeply incised valleys** perceived as part of the High Wold, due to inter-visibility of neighbouring elevated landscapes.
 - **Predominantly arable land use with some improved pasture/grass leys, and very limited permanent pasture mainly confined to valley bottoms** provides seasonal variations in colour and texture.
 - **Large scale, regular fields mainly enclosed by dry stone walls, together with hedgerows with very occasional hedgerow trees, and post and wire fencing** create a patchwork effect across wide areas of the landscape.
 - **Small to moderate size geometric farm woodlands, many comprising small coniferous and broadleaved plantations and shelterbelts, and plantations bordering roads** provide shelter across areas of otherwise open landscape.
 - **Settlement limited to small villages and hamlets, generally within valleys, and isolated farmsteads and individual dwellings** gives many areas a remote character.
- **Low density of settlement** resulting in a sense of tranquility and areas of dark skies.
 - **Network of mainly linear roads following ridge tops, and linking settlements** give the landscape a distinct grain.
 - **Evidence of long period of occupation of the landscape**, with many Neolithic and Bronze Age barrows and Iron Age hillforts
 - **Seasonal rotation of arable cropping patterns and improved grassland** interrupts otherwise homogenous and simple land cover.
 - **Remnants of once more extensive commons survive** highly valued for their nature conservation interest and cultural heritage value.
 - **Occasional active and disused limestone quarries located across the High Wold** often valued as wildlife resources.
 - **Prominent telecommunication masts and power lines** gain visual prominence as vertical elements in otherwise vast sweeping landscapes.
 - **Use of locally quarried stone for both dry stone walls and houses, frequently constructed in distinctive local vernacular**, engenders a harmonious relationship between built elements and their surroundings.

7. High Wold

Summary description

The High Wold comprises a broad, elevated, gently undulating plateau dissected by a network of dry valleys with distinctive convex profiles. It is an expansive, large-scale landscape with long views and an impression of cohesion that belies its fragmentation.

Land use is predominantly arable, with a limited amount of permanent and improved pasture. Fields are large and regular. Dry stone walls dominate the landscape with occasional hedgerows, some of which have propagated along the lines of walls. Small plantations and shelterbelts form a part of this geometric pattern.

Although there is much evidence of occupation since ancient times, settlement is sparse and generally limited to small villages, hamlets and isolated farmsteads, linked by roads following the ridge tops. The one exception is the town of Stow-on-the-Wold sitting at 230m above sea level on a tongue of High Wold. Active and disused limestone quarries occasionally interrupt the landscape.

Landscape Sensitivity

Despite its predominantly agricultural character, the wide, elevated, gently undulating plateau landscape retains a strong sense of remoteness and tranquility contributing to its high sensitivity. Wide panoramic views, a high degree of inter-visibility, and limited woodland cover also add to the sensitivity of the High Wold landscape to development, particularly tall vertical elements, such as telecommunication masts and wind turbines and to woodland creation and shelterbelt planting.

The High Wold contains a large number of prehistoric monuments including funerary monuments dating to the Neolithic and Bronze Age and defensive enclosures dating to the Iron Age. These are an important component of the landscape and highly sensitive to developments that may affect their landscape setting and material remains.



7. High Wold





7. High Wold

	<i>Local Forces For Change</i>	<i>Potential Landscape Implications</i>	<i>Landscape Strategies and Guidelines</i>
7.1	<p>New Development</p> <p>Expansion of settlements within and on to the High Wold</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Intrusion of expanded settlement fringes into the landscape Erosion of distinctive radial and linear settlement patterns. Loss/dilution of organic growth patterns of settlements including the relationship between the historic core and adjacent historic fields, paddocks and closes. Loss of characteristic small scale settlements and hamlets due to settlement growth and coalescence. Proliferation of suburban building styles, housing estate layout and materials and the introduction of ornamental garden plants and boundary features. Erosion of characteristically dark skies Upgrading of minor roads and lanes associated with new development and the introduction of suburbanising features such as mini roundabouts, street lighting, highway fencing and kerbs and traffic calming at village entrances Introduction and accumulation of lit areas Spread of urban fringe impacts such as fly tipping and dumping of cars Potential loss of archaeological remains and historic features. Loss of archaeological and historical features, field patterns and landscapes. Interruption, weakening or loss of the historic character of settlements and the historic context in how they have expanded, especially the importance of the relationship between the historic core of the settlement and surviving historic features such as churchyards, manor houses, burgage plots, historic farms, pre-enclosure paddocks and closes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain the open, sparsely settled character of the High Wold by limiting new development to existing settlements. Avoid development that will intrude negatively into the landscape and cannot be successfully mitigated against, for example, extensions to settlements on visible hillsides. Ensure that new development does not adversely affect settlement character and form. Ensure new built development is visually integrated with the rural landscape setting and does not interrupt the setting of existing villages or views . Control the proliferation of suburban building styles and materials Avoid developments incorporating standardised development layout, suburban style lighting, construction details and materials that cumulatively can lead to the erosion of peaceful rural landscape character. Layout of development should respect local built character and avoid cramming up to boundaries resulting in hard suburban style edge to the settlement. Promote the use of local stone and building styles in the construction of new buildings and extensions to existing dwellings. (New buildings should, at least, respect local vernacular style). Retain existing trees, hedges etc as part of the scheme. Ensure new development is integrated into its surroundings. Break up harsh edges of new development with appropriate and adequate tree planting ideally in advance of the development taking place. Ensure the density of new development reflects its location relative to the 'core' of the settlement and its proximity to the surrounding rural landscape Adopt measures to minimise and where possible reduce light pollution. Promote initiatives that remove heritage assets from 'at risk' status in the Heritage at Risk Register. Preserve archaeological and historical features and deposits. Avoid proposals that result in the loss of archaeological and historical features or that impact on the relationship of the settlement and its links with surviving historical features. Ensure the historic character and context are included in Neighbourhood Plans Ensure development proposals safeguard and provide new links and enhancements to the Public Rights of Way network. Consider the impact on local Public Rights of Way as settlements expand and take into account any required improvements



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	<i>Local Forces For Change</i>	<i>Potential Landscape Implications</i>	<i>Landscape Strategies and Guidelines</i>
7.2	<p>Isolated development such as new single dwellings that might compromise rural landscape character and dispersed settlement patterns, including farm buildings converted to residential use.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visual intrusions introduced to the landscape • Erosion of the sparse settlement pattern of the high wold • Introduction of 'lit' elements to characteristically dark landscapes • Loss of tranquillity and sense of seclusion • Introduction of 'lit' elements to characteristically dark landscapes. • Upgrading of minor roads and lanes in areas of new development and introduction of suburbanising features such as gateways, kerbs and street lighting. • Suburbanisation and domestication of agricultural landscape by the introduction of gardens e.g ornamental garden plants and boundary features, garden sheds, parking areas, lighting and conversion of tracks to manicured drives and ornamental gateways • Appearance and proliferation of stables and 'white tape' field boundaries for horses and ponies. See below 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoid isolated development that will intrude negatively into the landscape and cannot be successfully mitigated against. • Conserve areas of dark skies. • Oppose new housing on the High Wold (unless special circumstances apply in accordance with Paragraph 55 of the NPPF and development consents and enhances the AONB as required by the CRoW Act 2000) • Conserve the distinctive rural and dispersed settlement pattern. • Restore existing stone farm buildings and structures in preference to new built development. • When restored or converted to new uses, buildings must retain their historic integrity and functional character. Sound conservation advice and principles must be sought and implemented. • Maintain the sense of openness and consider the impact of built development on views to and from the High Wold, including the impact of cumulative development • Control the proliferation of suburban building styles and materials. • Landscaping schemes accompanying development should encourage the planting of appropriately sized native trees, shrubs and traditional fruit varieties, whilst discouraging large alien tree species such as eucalypts and conifers and inappropriate cultivars of native species, particularly on fringes of open countryside. • Respect traditional position of agricultural buildings and their relationship to the surrounding land.
7.3	<p>Conversion of traditional farm buildings to new uses Deterioration in condition of vernacular farm buildings</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Erosion of distinctive features and loss of Cotswold character. • Domestication or industrialisation of existing agricultural vernacular and character • Suburbanisation of the agricultural landscape by the introduction of gardens e.g. ornamental garden plants and boundary features, parking areas, lighting and conversion of tracks to manicured drives and ornamental gateways • Loss of locally historic features and erosion of the integrity of the historic landscape • Loss of historic features/character of distinctive buildings if converted to uses requiring inappropriate interventions to historic fabric and form. • Loss and erosion of Farmsstead Character and how the buildings relate to the surrounding agricultural landuse and landscape • Decline in quality of landscape 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conserve vernacular farm buildings for their own sake and/or by developing other options for their use whilst retaining their agricultural character • Where converted to new uses buildings must retain their historic integrity and functional character. Sound conservation advice and principles must be sought and implemented • Avoid inappropriate new uses that necessitate excessive loss of original historic features, or introduce elements that expand domestication or industrialisation • Landscaping schemes accompanying conversion of farm buildings should encourage the planting of appropriately sized native trees, shrubs and traditional fruit varieties, whilst discouraging large alien tree species such as eucalypts and conifers and inappropriate cultivars of native species, particularly on fringes of open countryside • Discourage the conversion of farm buildings to a function with a limited life



7. High Wold

	<i>Local Forces For Change</i>	<i>Potential Landscape Implications</i>	<i>Landscape Strategies and Guidelines</i>
7.4	Solar Farms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Industrialisation of the rural landscape Change of character due to colour and texture and heliographic glint Loss of seasonal change in the landscape Loss of characteristic agricultural landscape Damage to and loss of landscape features such as Ridge and Furrow, Strip Lynchets, trees and dry stone walls. Impact of supporting infrastructure such as buildings, cables, roadways, security fencing, CCTV masts and lighting Concealment of geomorphological or archaeological features Decline in quality of landscape 	<p>span and seek to prevent follow-on conversions e.g. for housing.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Respect traditional position of agricultural buildings and their relationship to the surrounding land. Stabilise historic buildings and undertake localised scrub and woodland clearance to enhance their landscape setting and increase the contribution they make to landscape character. Promote examples of good practice
Development pressures on decommissioned airfields. Re-use of decommissioned airfields for large scale residential development or industrial uses including solar farms.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Loss of open character of the High Wold Intrusion of development into the landscape. Introduction of 'lit' elements to characteristically dark landscapes Degradation of views to, from and across the High Wold Dip-slope introduction of suburbanising features such as mini roundabouts, street lighting, kerbs and traffic calming measures Loss of historical and cultural significance Dereliction/loss of buildings and features that represent monuments of 20th century conflict. Loss of habitat Noise and light pollution Increased traffic 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prevent proposals for solar farms that will impact negatively on landscape character and/or intrude into views Ensure a comprehensive LVIA is undertaken (including potential cumulative effects) Avoid proposals that will result in the loss or harm to landscape features such as Strip Lynchets, hedgerows and walls Ensure a glint/glare assessment is undertaken to determine the heliographic impact on receptors. Reduce landscape impact with appropriate screening Bury cables underground and seek opportunities to bury existing overhead cables Keep supporting infrastructure to a minimum and ensure it is in keeping with landscape character. Ensure removal and restoration on temporary construction access. Avoid the inclusion of any security lighting proposals Seek appropriate landscape enhancement to field boundaries and margins within solar farm development proposals. Promote the use of roof space for photovoltaic panels particularly on modern farm buildings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect the open character of the High Wold Dipslope and avoid development that will intrude negatively into the landscape Avoid developments incorporating standardised development layout, suburban style lighting, construction details and materials that cumulatively can lead to the erosion of peaceful landscape character. Ensure comprehensive EIA and GLVIA are undertaken Promote the use of local stone and building styles in the construction of new buildings and extensions to existing dwellings. Ensure new development is integrated into its surroundings and does not interrupt the setting of existing settlements. Break up harsh edges of new development with appropriate and adequate tree planting ideally in advance of the development taking place. Encourage the planting of appropriately sized native trees, shrubs and traditional fruit varieties, whilst discouraging large alien tree species such as eucalypts and conifers.



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	<i>Local Forces For Change</i>	<i>Potential Landscape Implications</i>	<i>Landscape Strategies and Guidelines</i>
7.5	New large scale quarries and expansion of existing quarrying operations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visual impact of quarry and quarry traffic • Loss of tranquility due to noise, movement, lighting and dust. • Loss of habitats and archaeological sites 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare Development Brief or masterplan incorporating and based on a full contextual appraisal • Conserve features of historic interest. • Ensure the historical and cultural significance of the airfield is retained and avoid their erosion through piecemeal development. • Prepare a Biodiversity Action Plan for each airfield and seek the retention of open grassland and improve its biodiversity • Promote use of existing buildings for commercial uses consistent with AONB.
7.6	Licensed Waste disposal such as land-fill and waste recycling operations including composting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Degradation of landscape character and wildlife habitats. • Loss of tranquility due to noise, dust and vehicle movements • Unpleasant smells from composting • Loss of biodiversity and geological features 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote policy that aggregates are produced only as a by-product of building stone • Apply the presumption against new large scale quarrying, particularly for aggregates. • Support small scale quarrying operations for walling and building stone paying regard to their impact on local landscape character, heritage and nature conservation interests. • Promote 'local stone for local use' • Ensure Quarry Restoration Plans respect landscape character and tranquillity of the High Wold. • Seek opportunities for retention and access to geological and geomorphological features • Minimise loss of archaeological remains • Support restoration plans that restore to agriculture, biodiversity and/or quiet recreation • Resist after use for in-fill or recycling material from outside the Cotswolds.
7.6	Licensed Waste disposal such as land-fill and waste recycling operations including composting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Degradation of landscape character and wildlife habitats. • Loss of tranquility due to noise, dust and vehicle movements • Unpleasant smells from composting • Loss of biodiversity and geological features 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoid strategic waste disposal proposals within or adjacent to the AONB. • Avoid importing waste into the AONB • Ensure small scale local waste disposal operations continue to operate with minimal impact • Support proposals for local waste recycling that do not impact on landscape character or tranquillity and reduce vehicle movement, especially distance travelled



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	Local Forces For Change	Potential Landscape Implications	Landscape Strategies and Guidelines
7.7	Licensed spreading of waste on agricultural land	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Change in colour in the landscape. Unpleasant smells Potential impact on watercourses or aquifer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Avoid spreading waste across or adjacent to public rights of way, in close proximity to settlements or where it may impact on biodiversity or water courses. Avoid storage (e.g. sewage waste heaps) adjacent to public rights of way and roads Ensure swift incorporation
7.8	Illegal waste disposal/fly tipping	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unightly intrusion into the landscape Loss of biodiversity Blocking of gateways, laybys and areas of road verge by fly tipping Pollution of watercourses and aquifer Loose waste material blowing around and catching on hedges, trees etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect former quarries from fly tipping Seek swift removal of fly tipping Prosecute landowners who allow or turn a 'blind eye' to unlicensed waste disposal Remove blown material from hedges, trees and road verges.
7.9	Introduction of vertical elements such as communication masts, wind turbines, drilling rigs, electricity pylons and large roadsigns particularly on prominent hill top, valley rim and escarpment edge locations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduction of visually intrusive 'urban' or industrial features to the rural open and expansive high wold landscape Introduction of unnatural movement and loss of tranquillity and sense of remoteness. Intrusion of lit elements to a characteristically dark landscape Intrusion on the setting of scheduled monuments, listed buildings and designed landscapes Breaking up of the skyline Loss of open character 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conserve the open, remote character by objecting to the development of vertical elements on the skyline or where these would adversely affect views across and to the High Wold Ensure the development of vertical elements in neighbouring LCTs and areas beyond the AONB do not adversely affect views to, from and across the High Wold. Ensure alternative options have been fully considered Minimise impact by locating new communication masts on existing structures or by using existing masts. Set masts etc against trees Bury cables underground and seek opportunities to bury existing overhead cables. Avoid use of visually prominent urban security fencing and CCTV masts. Consider other renewable energy or communication technologies Ensure full assessment of heritage setting impacts and appropriate measures undertaken Seek to minimise the size and number of roadsigns
7.10	Establishment or expansion of equestrian establishments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proliferation of stables and other visual clutter such as ribbon fences, jumps, horse boxes, shelters, manège and lighting associated with 'horsiculture'. Creation of paddocks by sub-dividing fields using non characteristic field boundary treatments such as post and rail fence or ribbon fences Erosion of the rural landscape Deterioration in pasture quality and over grazing Pressure to provide new housing for staff and owners Creation of surfaced tracks, new and enlarged field entrances and parking areas for cars and horse boxes etc. Excessive use of local roads and paths by horses 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where possible, existing buildings should be utilised and new stables and other structures kept to a minimum. Ensure all new ventures provide accommodation within new stable buildings and proposals for separate isolated housing should be resisted New structures should be carefully sited and designed to minimize their impact on the landscape. Wherever possible they should be located close to existing buildings. They should be constructed from appropriate vernacular materials and should follow the form of the landscape, avoiding prominent skyline sites and slopes Jumps, temporary fences and other equipment should be well maintained and removed when not in use. Any lighting should be designed to minimise light pollution, e.g. low level and directed downwards and fitted with timers.



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Local Forces For Change	Potential Landscape Implications	Landscape Strategies and Guidelines
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase in vehicle movements and roadside parking Damage to road verges. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The creation of horse paddocks in visually prominent locations such as roadside and valley side locations should be avoided. Oppose change of use for the 'keeping of horses' in visually prominent locations. A concentration of horse paddocks and associated structures in any one area can have a cumulative harmful impact on landscape character and should be avoided Where pastures need to be subdivided into smaller paddocks, temporary electric fencing is preferred to permanent structures and offers greater flexibility in pasture management. Post and rail should be avoided. Encourage the use of olive green tape, wider spacing of fence posts etc Historic field boundaries, such as hedges, walls and fences should be maintained or extended, and new boundaries should match the local vernacular wherever possible. Ensure authorisation is obtained from the highway authority for new gates or stiles on public rights of way. In some instances, hedges and dry stone walls may need protection by fencing to prevent damage Jumps, temporary fences and other equipment should be well maintained and removed when not in use. Existing gates and access points should be retained if possible, and new gates should match the local vernacular. Historic features, including ridge and furrow pastures, stone troughs and stone stiles, should be protected from damage by equestrian uses. Promote Board guidance on good practice
7.11 Major road construction and improvement schemes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Intrusive features on the highly visible open landscape of the High Wold. Increased movement in the landscape Urbanising effect Potential impact of additional road signage and lighting Loss of tranquility and excessive noise Light and air pollution Impact of road signs in the open landscape of the High Wold Loss of archaeological features and impact on the setting of heritage assets. Loss of woodland and other sensitive habitats 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Avoid major road building schemes Implement traffic management schemes including speed reduction Ensure any scheme brings substantial net benefits for the landscape and is designed to conserve and enhance character of the landscape Ensure comprehensive EIA and LVIA are undertaken and their recommendations implemented. Ensure careful and sensitive design of road proposals and associated infrastructure. Keep lighting to an absolute minimum and use 'Dark Sky friendly' lighting Seek to prevent rat-running on local roads, restoring and enhancing the character and amenity of local settlements and road network. Restore redundant lengths of highway to agriculture or suitable habitat Where bridges or other structures are unavoidable and visually prominent, their siting and design should be well integrated into landform and be of lasting architectural quality. Avoid over-engineering links to the local road network. Ensure landscaping design is fully in keeping with local character and land form Minimise loss of woodlands and other sensitive habitats; avoid loss of semi-

7. High Wold

	<i>Local Forces For Change</i>	<i>Potential Landscape Implications</i>	<i>Landscape Strategies and Guidelines</i>
7.12	Road upgrading and improvements, especially of minor country roads, as a result of development or general improvement schemes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction of suburban features such as mini roundabouts, lighting, kerbs and traffic calming measures. • Use of inappropriate materials (e.g. standard highway fences and barriers) • Increased traffic movement • Loss of roadside hedges and walls • Loss of verge/roadside habitat 	<p>natural ancient woodland as an irreplaceable resource</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seek opportunities for habitat creation, particularly unimproved grassland, on verges and embankments and their long term management • Funding from highways authorities or Highways England for mitigation measures to be a pre-condition e.g. noise screening, quiet surfacing etc. • Consider the potential for exposing geological features and their long term management • Refer to DMRB Vol 10 for general environmental design guidance. • Conserve the character of the local road network. • Object to the upgrading of tracks or creation of roads especially where a lack of roads is characteristic • Resist the construction of 'village gateways' particularly those which are inappropriate and out of character. • Minimise the use of road markings, permanent signage and lighting, siting them with care and ensuring that they are in keeping with their surroundings wherever possible whilst fulfilling road safety requirements. • Avoid making over-large and inappropriate entrances and keep visibility splays to a minimum • Promote use of design and materials appropriate to local character. • Produce guidance on design and suitable materials. • Promote use of 'shared space' for traffic calming measures in villages. • Seek opportunities to conserve and enhance roadside boundaries and habitats and their long term management. • Promote road verge protection and management
7.13	Excessive traffic and/or speed on minor local roads and lanes and verge parking. Increase in size of vehicle using country lanes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pressure to improve roads by widening and straightening. • Loss of tranquility and danger to walkers/riders and other non-motorised users. • Damage to verges and roadside boundaries by HGVs and agricultural vehicles 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote traffic restriction measures such as lorry routing maps. • Maintain or reinstate rural character within towns and villages by promoting shared space and road design to slow and minimise traffic impact • Apply national guidance on rural speed restrictions in sensitive areas (DfT Circular 01/2013 especially Para 128) • Ensure traffic management measures reflect the character and materials of the area. • Encourage use of public transport, car sharing etc • Encourage cycling on safe routes • Promote road verge protection and management
Land use			
7.14	Agricultural intensification and diversification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Field amalgamation and loss of hedgerows and dry stone walls leading to the loss of distinctive field patterns. • Loss of arable reversion back to cultivation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that new farm buildings including silos and AD plants etc do not have an adverse visual impact on the wider landscape. • Maintain the appearance and characteristic of isolated farmsteads and

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	<i>Local Forces For Change</i>	<i>Potential Landscape Implications</i>	<i>Landscape Strategies and Guidelines</i>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Removal of semi-natural vegetation cover and the poor maintenance and subsequent loss of field boundaries. Loss of habitat Decline in maintenance of stone walls leading to a locally degraded or neglected landscape character. Conversion of permanent pasture to arable or woodland Damage to and loss of archaeological sites and field monuments from conversion of pasture to arable and from intensification of grazing. Ongoing loss of archaeological sites and monuments from long-term cultivation and erosion. Increased use of post and wire fences. Construction of large scale industrial style agricultural 'sheds', silos, AD plants etc on the skyline or in prominent locations. Introduction of industrial elements to the agricultural landscape Conversion of farm outbuildings and field barns to recreational or business uses Loss of Farmstead character Introduction or expansion of lit elements in the characteristically dark landscape Increased damage to roads, road verges, dry stone walls and hedges from large machinery Increased width of gateways into fields 	<p>oppose proposals that will become dominant in the landscape</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage the mitigation of existing large agricultural buildings e.g by limited tree planting. Encourage the installation of PV on the roofs of new agricultural buildings, avoiding risk of glint/glare. Conserve characteristically dark skies Provide advice to farmers on siting of new buildings, lighting, colour etc Seek to conserve traditional farm buildings where necessary through appropriate new uses that retain historic character and features. Respect traditional position of agricultural buildings and their relationship to the surrounding land. Conserve areas of permanent pasture Encourage the protection of traditional field patterns. Retain and restore dry stone walls particularly adjacent to roads and public rights of way and in the vicinity of settlements Encourage means and methods of reducing cultivation damage to archaeological sites and monuments (including reversion to grassland, tillage, direct drilling and other damage reduction methods). Oppose proposals to convert pasture to arable particularly where archaeological sites/field monuments may be lost or damaged. Ensure any woodland creation is in keeping with landscape character – see section 7.23
7.15	Planting of energy crops such as Miscanthus, short rotation coppice and short rotation forestry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Loss or seasonal interruption of views particularly from roads and public rights of way. Loss of remaining permanent pasture Archaeological sites, historic landscapes, geological and geomorphological sites damaged or obscured 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure energy crops are not planted where they would restrict or intrude into views, particularly open views across the landscape and on skyline sites. Do not plant on semi-natural habitats, permanent pasture or on sites with national and local BAP species that could be affected in a negative way. Do not plant on sites where archaeological sites could be damaged or obscured or where significant historic landscapes would be adversely affected or on sites where features of geological or geomorphological importance would be obscured. Promote Cotswolds Conservation Board guidance
7.16	Changes in land use and management within historic parks and gardens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weakening of the integrity of designed landscapes, parks and gardens Loss of or damage to elements of designed landscapes, parks and gardens. Insertion of inappropriate new elements that diminish rather than enhance historic design characteristics Intrusion on setting of designed landscapes – especially designed vistas and other important views of or out from the area. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conserve and enhance historic parks and gardens, including their setting Develop and implement management plans Restore lost elements of historic parks and gardens to restore the integrity of the designed landscape as a whole. Avoid development that damages the extent, features, character or setting of historic designed landscapes.

7. High Wold



	Local Forces For Change	Potential Landscape Implications	Landscape Strategies and Guidelines
7.17	Loss of dry stone walls due to abandonment, development of volunteer hedges, replacement with hedges or fences or removal to build/restore a wall elsewhere.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Loss of a key feature characteristic of the Cotswolds and high wold in particular. Change in landscape character through the replacement of dry stone walls with hedges and fences. Weakening/loss of field patterns, particularly those that reflect the pre-enclosure open field system Loss of features in the walls such as stone sills 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage the retention and maintenance of dry stone walls. Ensure dry stone wall retention and maintenance are included in agri-environment schemes Provide guidance on Delves – small scale on-farm quarries for walling stone Seek opportunities for dry stone wall construction and repair through planning mitigation Where possible use stone that reflects the colour, thickness etc of local stone walls Prevent the formation of volunteer hedges
7.18	Decline in grazing stock on areas of permanent pasture and common land	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Loss of characteristic of grazing animals in the landscape Scrub encroachment and loss of species rich grassland due to invasion of dominant grass species. Loss of open character Change in colour and texture in the landscape due to rank vegetation and scrub. Tendency for 'abandoned land' to be targeted for conversion into arable or woodland or for development. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Retain and conserve areas of open pasture and common land Encourage traditional management regimes to control scrub encroachment on areas of common land. Re-introduction of grazing on semi-natural grasslands/improvement of existing grazing regimes. Produce guidance on scrub management
7.19	Separation of farmhouse/agricultural housing from the working farm for sale with a plot of land. Sub-division of farmland for 'lifestyle' plots	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Loss of integrity, cohesion and character of historic farmsteads and associated farmland. Loss of agricultural context Suburbanisation of agricultural landscape by the introduction of gardens e.g ornamental garden plants and boundary features, parking areas, lighting and conversion of tracks to manicured drives and ornamental gateways Shelterbelt planting for privacy screening Appearance and proliferation of stables and 'white tape' field boundaries for horses and ponies Sub-division of fields using post and rail fences Pressure for housing on plots of land 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Only permit new uses of traditional farm buildings that are appropriate to retain their historic character and features. Use planning conditions to restrict subdivision of fields, construction of stables etc. Consider use of Article 4 Direction. Avoid isolated development, particularly in areas of dark skies Oppose new housing not for agricultural employment use in open countryside Respect traditional position of agricultural buildings and their relationship to the surrounding land
7.20	Development of scrub and trees on roadside verges Mowing of verges at inappropriate times	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Loss of views from the public highway Loss of roadside grassland habitat Damage to dry stone walls and hedges and other features Creation of 'lawns' on the roadside due to regular mowing for tidiness leading to a homogenised and sub-urban appearance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify key views from roads Manage/remove verge scrub and trees, particularly where views can be restored or where there are benefits for biodiversity. Reintroduce appropriate verge management and mowing Promote best practice management of verges.
7.21	Lack of appropriate management in disused quarries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Loss of limestone flora due to the development of scrub and secondary woodland. Loss of bat roosts and nesting sites for birds Loss of geological exposures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify disused quarries important for biodiversity and/or geology Encourage appropriate management by providing advice and guidance



7. High Wold

	<i>Local Forces For Change</i>	<i>Potential Landscape Implications</i>	<i>Landscape Strategies and Guidelines</i>
7.22	Damage to field monuments and archaeological sites and the historic environment from farming operations, livestock, tree root damage, burrowing animals, woodland management operations and tree planting and recreational activity.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Damage to important archaeological sites and important landscape features. • Loss of traditional field boundaries, particularly dry stone walls and hedgerows. • Loss of traditional field patterns and integrity of the wider historic landscape • Loss of locally distinctive features • Encroachment of scrub onto archaeological features 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inform landowners of important archaeological sites • Protect all upstanding archaeological sites and consider the impact of development on their landscape setting. • Manage/remove burrowing animals • Restore the wider setting of key monuments to ensure that they do not read as islands amidst a sea of arable farming. • Raise awareness of the historic environment and of the SMR as a source of information • Provide guidance on managing the historic environment to farmers and land owners • Retain traditional field patterns and field boundaries • Ensure tree planting does not take place on archaeological features. • Control scrub and manage existing trees on archaeological features to minimise damage for example by root damage or wind-blow. • Minimise or prevent damage to the historic environment by recreational activity by working with landowners to prepare site management plans and if necessary limit access. • Repair badly eroded features such as earthworks and dry stone walls. • Avoid planting new hedgerows or the development of volunteer hedges adjacent to dry stone walls.
	Loss of and damage to geological and geomorphological features due to tree growth, erosion and change of land use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loss of sites that provide an understanding of the Cotswold landscape • Loss of visible features such as dry valley systems 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify important geological features and ensure they are conserved and appropriately managed.
	Woodland and trees		
7.23	Creation of woodland and geometric farm copses and shelterbelts. Creation of 'shelterbelts' to provide seclusion for private dwellings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased woodland cover diminishing the open character of the High Wold. • Woodlands limiting long distance views and inter-visibility of detached areas of High Wold. • Loss of views across, to and from the High Wold • Cumulative impact of woodland creation leading to a change in landscape character. • Increased sense of inclosure of the landscape, particularly from the public highway 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retain the expansive, open character of the High Wold • Discourage 'ad-hoc' planting through appropriate agricultural support mechanisms • Seek EIA determination if necessary • Limit new farm woodland and shelterbelt planting. • Extend or link existing woodland in preference to new 'stand-alone' plantations • Have regard to the cumulative impact of woodland creation and tree planting on the open character of the High Wold.



7. High Wold

	Local Forces For Change	Potential Landscape Implications	Landscape Strategies and Guidelines
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loss of permanent pasture • Loss of Historic Landscape Character through inappropriate siting and/or species 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Select species characteristic of ancient semi-natural woodland in the area. • Promote the felling of inappropriate coniferous plantations and replanting of farm woodlands and shelterbelts on enclosure age woodland footprints using suitable species. • Ensure that new woodland planting does not limit or obscure views to and from and across the High Wold • Ensure new woodlands respond to the scale and form of existing High Wold woodlands; • Locate new woodland and copses in historically characteristic topographical locations including their relationship to farmsteads and settlements. • For shelterbelts and plantations associated with designed landscapes, select species characteristic of historic designed landscape planting in the area. • Ensure woodland creation does not result in the loss of permanent pasture or unimproved grassland • Discourage conifer planting (unless a nurse) and encourage the use of native broadleaves or species that reflect local broadleaved woodland • Encourage the replacement of conifer with native species, particularly on PAWS • Raise awareness of woodland owners by producing information and guidance • Identify key viewpoints • Ensure adequate deer management and squirrel control
7.24	<p>Maturation and decline of enclosure-age pine and beech corner copses, roadside shelterbelts and farm copses.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decline and potential loss of characteristic feature of the High Wold landscape. • Introduction of non-characteristic tree species and general erosion of the High Wold's open character. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage opportunities to manage and re-plant enclosure age tree belts using traditional species. • Identify areas of AONB where shelterbelts are part of the inherent character and use to target agri-environment funding..
7.25	<p>Impact of tree disease such as Chalara Dieback of ash.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Change of colour and texture of woodland canopy as trees die • Thinning of woodland canopy • Loss of single, sometimes veteran, trees in the landscape • Re-stocking with species not native to the Cotswolds 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote Woodland Management Plans to minimise the impact of disease and manage change • Recommend alternative species to ash that reflect the appearance and structure of Cotswold woodland • Consider different provenance of ash that may be disease resistant • Establish a programme to plant replacement trees in the landscape outside of woodlands eg parkland.



8. High Wold Valley

Character Areas

8A *Toadsmoor, Holy Brook, and Upper Frome Valleys*

8B *Painswick and Slad Valleys*

8C *Upper Churn Valley*

8D *Upper Coln Valley*

8E *Upper Windrush Valley*

8F *Upper Dikler Valley*



Key Features

- **Predominantly dry or ephemeral flow headwater valleys with generally broad valley form and shallow slope profiles** forming a rolling gently dissected landform.
- **Incised valley form below heads of valleys with often steep, convoluted valley sides dissected by minor watercourses and distinctive convex profile at transition with the High Wold** and forming dramatic landscape features and contrast to the open landscapes characteristic of the neighbouring High Wold.
- **Sections with pronounced valley form meanders with distinctive interlocking spurs, disproportionate to size of rivers and streams** indicative of valley formation and conditions prevalent during the glacial periods.
- **Extensive areas of predominantly broadleaved woodland cloaking sections of the valley sides, particularly across the steeper sections**, create visual containment and add to the secluded, secretive character of many stretches of the valleys.
- **Areas of open pastoral farmland extend between the wooded slopes, and along valley bottoms, together with pockets of arable land, particularly on the shallower slopes** indicative of a well-settled and long farmed landscape.
- **Pasture predominantly comprises improved grassland, together with occasional remnants of unimproved and calcareous grasslands** of nationally important nature conservation value
- **Intermittent stone villages occupying secluded locations in valley bottoms, often in association with a bridging point**, indicate a long history of settlement in the valleys.

- **Occasional farmsteads and isolated buildings within the more open valley sections** link to farmed areas on the adjacent High Wold.
- **Occasional private parklands and gardens associated with country houses** add to the wooded and historic character of the valleys.
- **Limited road network within valleys generally confined to a single valley bottom road, or routes that cross the valley** maintain a quiet, secluded and rural character in the valleys.
- **Deeply incised and inaccessible wooded slopes** extend across some valley sections, and provide important habitats for wildlife.

Painswick and Slad Valleys

- **Wider and complex valley form to Painswick Valley and its tributaries, but with steep and convoluted slopes, separated by intermediate ridges that project into the main valley form.**
- **Rich pastoral and secluded rural character** with intermittent consolidated areas of arable land.
- **Sheltered, visually contained and intimate setting of remote upper reaches of valleys.**
- **Significant areas of registered common land and ancient semi-natural woodland in the upper reaches of the Painswick and Slad Valleys** marking the transition with the High Wold and the upper slopes of the Escarpment.

8. High Wold Valley

Summary description

Two types of valley dissect the High Wold. Broad, shallow headwater valleys carry some rivers south-east towards the Thames, with some sections forming interlocking meanders.

Extensive areas of predominantly broadleaved woodland cloak the valley sides, between which, are areas of open land of mainly grassland pasture with pockets of arable that also extend along the valley floors. The valleys are sheltered and visually contained, giving a general impression of intimacy.

Villages occupy secluded locations in the valley bottoms or sides. Farmsteads can be found in the more open section, often linked to farms in the High Wold. Communication routes are generally confined to a single road that runs along the bottom of each valley, with other routes cutting across. The richly pastoral Painswick and Slad valleys are wider and more complex, with intermediate ridges intercepting the main valley form.

Landscape Sensitivity

The High Wold Valleys are sensitive to developments that might interrupt the sense of seclusion within them and their rural, pastoral character. In addition, the confined landform and steep slopes within the valleys, together with many areas of nature conservation interest together form a further constraint to development. Such areas include riparian and riverine habitats along watercourses at the base of the valleys, areas of ancient broadleaved woodland, and calcareous grassland on steep landform beyond the limits of grazing stock. The valleys are therefore particularly sensitive to direct change brought about by development, and also by intensification of agricultural activities leading to overgrazing or fertiliser run-off.

The town of Painswick, occupying a spur of land separating two valleys is highly visible and an important component of the wider landscape. Therefore the settlement is sensitive to further development on its fringes. The wider valley is also sensitive due to its rural character. Of particular sensitivity are the ancient semi-natural woodlands and areas of Registered Common Land supporting calcareous grassland in the upper reaches of the Painswick and Slad Valleys. These areas are of national importance for their nature conservation value, and designated as NNRs and SSSI.





8. High Wold Valley

	Local Forces For Change	Potential Landscape Implications	Landscape Strategies and Guidelines
8.1	<p>New development</p> <p>Expansion of valley settlements</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Erosion of the rural character of the valleys and the landscape setting of historic villages. Intrusion of expanded settlements onto the highly visible valley sides. Increase in light pollution Loss of village patterns and development of 'rural sprawl' due to settlement growth and coalescence. Degradation of views across and along the valley Upgrading of minor roads and lanes associated with new development and the introduction of suburbanising features such as mini roundabouts, street lighting, highway fencing and kerbs and traffic calming at village entrances Erosion of distinctive settlement patterns and loss of small fields and network of narrow lanes associated with houses fringing the valley villages. Loss/dilution of organic growth patterns of settlements including the relationship between the historic core and adjacent historic fields, paddocks and closes. Loss of archaeological and historical features, field patterns and landscapes. Interruption, weakening or loss of the historic character of settlements and the historic context in how have expanded, especially the importance of the relationship between the historic core of the settlement and surviving historic features such as churchyards, manor houses, burgage plots, historic farms, pre-enclosure paddocks and closes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Avoid development that will intrude negatively into the landscape and cannot be successfully mitigated, for example, extensions to settlements on visible hillsides Limit expansion of villages Ensure built development respects and integrates with the rural landscape character and does not interrupt the setting of settlements. Retain village character and settlement patterns Conserve the distinctive rural character of valley settlements and the rural road network of narrow dry stone walled lanes. Avoid developments incorporating standardised development layout, suburban style lighting, construction details and materials that cumulatively can lead to the erosion of peaceful landscape character. Avoid development that may restrict or obscure views across or along the valleys Layout of development should respect local built character and avoid cramming up to boundaries resulting in hard suburban style edge to the settlement. Restore existing stone buildings within settlements in preference to new built development. Existing buildings should be carefully conserved and where converted to new uses buildings must retain their historic integrity and functional character. Sound conservation advice and principles must be sought and implemented Adopt measures to minimise and where possible reduce light pollution Promote the use of local stone and building styles in the construction of new buildings and extensions to existing dwellings. (New buildings should, at least, respect local vernacular style). Conserve and restore traditional dry stone wall boundary features within settlements and on valley slopes bordering settlements Ensure new development is integrated into its surroundings. Break up harsh edges of new development with appropriate and adequate tree planting ideally in advance of the development taking place. Ensure the density of new development reflects its location relative to the 'core' of the settlement and its proximity to the surrounding rural landscape Avoid proposals that result in the loss of archaeological and historical features or that impact on the relationship of the settlement and its links with surviving historical features. Promote initiatives that remove heritage assets from 'at risk' status in the Heritage at Risk Register. Ensure local authority design guidelines provide full coverage of historic

8. High Wold Valley



	Local Forces For Change	Potential Landscape Implications	Landscape Strategies and Guidelines
8.2	Isolated development such as new single dwellings that might compromise rural landscape character and settlement patterns, particularly on valley sides, including farm buildings converted to residential use.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Visual intrusions introduced to the landscape Upgrading of minor roads and lanes in areas of new development and introduction of suburbanising features such as gateways, kerbs and street lighting. Introduction of 'lit' elements to characteristically dark landscapes. Suburbanisation and domestication of the agricultural landscape by the introduction of gardens e.g ornamental garden plants and boundary features, parking areas, lighting and conversion of tracks to manicured drives and ornamental gateways Landscaping schemes accompanying development in a rural setting should encourage the planting of appropriately sized native trees, shrubs and traditional fruit varieties, whilst discouraging large alien tree species such as eucalypts and conifers. Loss of green space between built up areas on the valley slopes that often provide a green backdrop to settlements in the valley Proliferation of stables and 'white tape' field boundaries for horses and ponies – see 8.5 below Loss of tranquillity. 	<p>character issues and clear practical guidance on achieving high quality design that respects and enhances local character.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote use of and application of heritage aspects of design guidelines. Ensure the historic character and context are included in Neighbourhood Plans Ensure development proposals safeguard and provide new links and enhancements to the Public Rights of Way network. Consider the impact on local Public Rights of Way as settlements expand and take into account any required improvements Conserve the distinctive rural and dispersed settlement pattern. Avoid isolated development, that will intrude negatively into the landscape and cannot be successfully mitigated against. Oppose new housing in the countryside (unless special circumstances apply in accordance with Paragraph 55 of the NPPF and development consents and enhances the AONB as required by the CRoW Act 2000 Conserve areas of dark skies and dark valley slopes Restore existing stone farm buildings and structures in preference to new built development. Where restored or converted to new uses buildings must retain their historic integrity and functional character. Sound conservation advice and principles must be sought and implemented Prevent the use of suburban building styles and materials. Landscaping schemes accompanying development should encourage the planting of appropriately sized native trees, shrubs and traditional fruit varieties, whilst discouraging large alien species such as eucalypts and conifers and inappropriate cultivars of native species, particularly on fringes of open countryside. Respect traditional position of agricultural buildings and their relationship to the surrounding land.
8.3	Conversion of traditional farm buildings and mills to new uses Deterioration in condition of vernacular farm and mill buildings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduction of the remote character of the valleys Erosion of distinctive features in the landscape and loss of Cotswold character. Domestication or industrialisation of existing agricultural vernacular and character Suburbanisation of the agricultural landscape by the introduction of gardens e.g. ornamental garden plants and boundary features, parking areas, lighting and conversion of tracks to manicured drives and ornamental gateways Loss of locally historic features and erosion of the integrity of the historic landscape Loss of historic features/character of distinctive buildings if converted to 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conserve vernacular farm buildings for their own sake and/or by developing other options for their use whilst retaining their agricultural character Existing buildings should be carefully conserved and where converted to new uses buildings must retain their historic integrity and functional character. Sound conservation advice and principles must be sought and implemented Consider opportunities for the conversion of mills and barns to new visitor uses and rural industries. Capacity of the local road network needs to be taken into consideration Avoid inappropriate new uses that necessitate excessive loss of original historic features or introduce elements that expand domestication or



8. High Wold Valley

	Local Forces For Change	Potential Landscape Implications	Landscape Strategies and Guidelines
8.4	Solar Farms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Industrialisation of the rural landscape Change of character due to colour and texture and heliographic glint Loss of seasonal change in the landscape Loss of characteristic agricultural landscape Loss of habitat Impact of supporting infrastructure such as buildings, cables, roadways, security fencing, CCTV masts and lighting Damage to and loss of landscape features such as Ridge and Furrow, Strip Lynchets, trees and dry stone walls Concealment of geomorphological or archaeological features Adverse impact on the setting of heritage assets Decline in landscape quality 	<p>Industrialisation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conserve mill races, mill ponds, leats and meadows which relate to mill sites whilst recognising and enhancing their nature conservation value. Landscaping schemes accompanying conversion of farm buildings should encourage the planting of appropriately sized native trees, shrubs and traditional fruit varieties, whilst discouraging large alien tree species such as eucalypts and conifers and inappropriate cultivars of native species, particularly on fringes of open countryside Discourage the conversion of farm buildings to a function with a limited life span and seek to prevent follow-on conversions e.g. for housing. Stabilise historic buildings and undertake localised scrub and woodland clearance to enhance their landscape setting and increase the contribution they make to landscape character. Respect traditional position of agricultural buildings and their relationship to the surrounding land. Promote examples of good practice <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prevent proposals for solar farms that will impact negatively on landscape character and/or intrude into views. Ensure a comprehensive LVA is undertaken (including potential cumulative effects) Ensure a glint/glare assessment is undertaken to determine the heliographic impact on receptors. Reduce landscape impact with appropriate screening Bury cables underground and seek opportunities to bury existing overhead cables. Keep supporting infrastructure to a minimum and ensure it is in keeping with landscape character. Ensure removal and restoration on temporary construction access. Avoid the inclusion of any security lighting proposals Seek appropriate landscape enhancement to field boundaries and margins within solar farm development proposals. Promote the use of roof space for photovoltaic panels particularly on modern farm buildings Avoid proposals that will result in the loss or harm to landscape features such as Strip Lynchets, hedgerows and walls
8.5	Introduction of vertical elements such as communication masts, wind turbines, drilling rigs, electricity pylons and large road signs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduction of visually intrusive 'urban' or industrial features to rural landscapes Introduction of unnatural movement and loss of tranquility Breaking up of valley rim skylines 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conserve character by opposing the development of vertical elements where these would adversely affect views along the valleys and from valley sides and on valley rims Ensure development of vertical elements in neighbouring Landscape Types



8. High Wold Valley

	Local Forces For Change	Potential Landscape Implications	Landscape Strategies and Guidelines
	particularly on valley rims and heads	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction of lit elements into dark landscape • Intrusion on the setting of scheduled monuments, listed buildings and designed landscapes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • do not adversely affect views from, across or along the valleys • Ensure alternative options have been fully considered • Minimise impact by locating new communication masts on existing structures or by using existing masts. • Set masts etc against trees • Bury cables underground and seek opportunities to bury existing overhead cables • Avoid use of visually prominent urban security fencing and CCTV masts • Consider other renewable energy or communication technologies • Seek to minimise size and number of road signs • Ensure full assessment of heritage setting impacts and appropriate measures undertaken
8.6	Licensed Waste disposal such as land-fill and waste recycling operations including composting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Degradation of landscape character and wildlife habitats. • Loss of tranquillity due to noise, dust and vehicle movements • Unpleasant smells from composting • Loss of biodiversity and geological features 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoid strategic waste disposal proposals within or adjacent to the AONB. • Avoid importing waste into the AONB • Ensure small scale local waste disposal operations continue to operate with minimal impact • Support proposals for local waste recycling that do not impact on landscape character or tranquillity and reduce vehicle movement, especially distance travelled
8.7	Licensed spreading of waste on agricultural land	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Change in colour in the landscape. • Unpleasant smells • Potential impact on watercourses or aquifer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoid spreading waste across or adjacent to public rights of way, in close proximity to settlements or where it may impact on biodiversity or water courses. • Avoid storage (e.g. sewage waste heaps) adjacent to public rights of way and roads • Ensure swift incorporation
8.8	Illegal waste disposal/fly tipping	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unightly intrusion into the landscape • Loss of biodiversity • Blocking of gateways, laybys and areas of road verge by fly tipping • Pollution of watercourses and aquifer • Loose waste material blowing around and catching on hedges, trees etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect former quarries from fly tipping • Seek swift removal of fly tipping • Prosecute landowners who allow or turn a 'blind eye' to unlicensed waste disposal • Remove blown material from hedges, trees and road verges.
8.9	Establishment or expansion of equestrian establishments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proliferation of stables and other visual clutter such as ribbon fences, jumps, horse boxes, shelters, manège and lighting associated with 'horsiculture'. • Creation of paddocks by sub-dividing fields using non characteristic field boundary treatments such as post and rail fence or ribbon fences • Erosion of the rural landscape. • Deterioration in pasture quality and over grazing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where possible, existing buildings should be utilised and new stables and other structures kept to a minimum • Ensure all new ventures provide accommodation within new stable buildings and proposals for separate isolated housing should be resisted • New structures should be carefully sited and designed to minimize their impact on the landscape. They should be located close to existing buildings, be constructed from appropriate vernacular materials and should follow the



8. High Wold Valley

	Local Forces For Change	Potential Landscape Implications	Landscape Strategies and Guidelines
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pressure to provide new housing for staff and owners • Creation of surfaced tracks, new and enlarged field entrances and parking areas for cars and horse boxes etc. • Increase in vehicle movements and roadside parking • Damage to road verges • Excessive use of local roads and paths by horses 	<p>form of the landscape, avoiding prominent skyline sites and slopes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jumps, temporary fences and other equipment should be well maintained and removed when not in use. • Any lighting should be designed to minimise light pollution, e.g. low level and directed downwards and fitted with timers. • The creation of horse paddocks in visually prominent locations such as roadside and valley side locations should be avoided. • Oppose change of use for the 'keeping of horses' in visually prominent locations. • A concentration of horse paddocks and associated structures in any one area can have a cumulative harmful impact on landscape character and should be avoided • Historical field boundaries such as dry stone walls and hedges should be maintained and extended. • New field boundaries should reflect the local vernacular wherever possible. • Avoid the use of post and rail fencing. • Ensure authorisation is obtained from the highway authority for new gates or stiles on public rights of way • Where pastures need to be subdivided into smaller paddocks, temporary electric fencing is better than more permanent structures and offers greater flexibility in pasture management. Use olive green tape and wider spacing of posts to reduce the impact on the landscape. • In some instances, hedges and dry stone walls may need protection by fencing to prevent damage • Jumps, temporary fences and other equipment should be well maintained and removed when not in use. • Existing gates and access points should be retained if possible, and new gates should match the local vernacular. • Historic features, including ridge and furrow pastures, stone troughs and stone stiles, should be protected from damage by equestrian uses. • Promote Board guidance on good practice
8.10	Road upgrading and improvements, especially of minor country roads, as a result of development or general improvement schemes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction of suburban features such as mini roundabouts, lighting, kerbs and traffic calming measures. • Use of inappropriate materials (e.g. standard highway fences and barriers) • Increased traffic movement • Loss of roadside hedges and walls • Loss of verge/roadside habitat 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refer to DMRB Vol 10 for general environmental design guidance. • Conserve the rural character of the local road network • Promote use of design and materials appropriate to local character. • Produce guidance on design and suitable materials. • Resist the construction of 'village gateways', particularly those which are inappropriate and out of character. • Minimise the use of road markings, permanent signage and lighting, siting them with care and ensuring that they are in keeping with their surroundings



8. High Wold Valley

	Local Forces For Change	Potential Landscape Implications	Landscape Strategies and Guidelines
8.11	Excessive traffic and/or speed on minor local roads and lanes and verge parking. Increase in size of vehicle using lanes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pressure to improve roads by widening and straightening and improving sightlines. Loss of tranquillity Danger to walkers/riders and other non-motorised users. Damage to verges and roadside boundaries by HGVs and agricultural vehicles 	<p>whenever possible whilst fulfilling road safety requirements.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Avoid making over-large and inappropriate entrances and keep visibility splays to a minimum. Promote use of 'shared space' for traffic calming measures in villages. Seek opportunities to conserve and enhance roadside boundaries and habitats and secure their long-term management. Promote traffic restriction measures such as lorry routing maps. Maintain or reinstate rural character within towns and villages by promoting shared space and road design to slow and minimise traffic impact. Apply national guidance on rural speed restrictions in sensitive areas (DfT Circular 01/2013 especially Para 128) Ensure traffic management measures reflect the character and materials of the area. Encourage use of public transport, car sharing etc Encourage cycling on safe routes Promote road verge protection and management
8.12	<p>Land use</p> <p>Agricultural intensification, diversification and farm amalgamation.</p> <p>Conversion of permanent pasture to arable.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eutrophication of water courses from farm run off. Loss of dry stone walls, species rich hedgerows and field patterns on the valley sides. Removal of semi-natural vegetation cover and the poor maintenance and subsequent loss of field boundaries Loss of habitat Loss of permanent pasture Increased conversion of pasture to arable land. Damage to and loss of archaeological sites and field monuments from conversion of pasture to arable and from intensification of grazing. Ongoing loss of archaeological sites and monuments from long-term cultivation and erosion. New agricultural buildings Move towards arable production on small mixed farms resulting in the removal or degradation of hedgerows and/ or loss of former pasture. Conversion of farm outbuildings and field barns to recreational or business uses Loss of Farmstead character Increased damage to roads, road verges, dry stone walls and hedges from large machinery Increased width of gateways into fields 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure that new farm buildings including silos, AD plants etc do not have an adverse visual impact on the wider landscape including views along or across the valleys. Encourage the mitigation of existing large agricultural buildings e.g. limited tree planting Provide advice to farmers on the siting of new buildings, lighting, colour etc Encourage the installation of PV on the roofs of new agricultural buildings, avoiding risk of glint/glare. Seek to conserve traditional farm buildings, where necessary through appropriate new uses that retain historic character and features Respect traditional position of agricultural buildings and their relationship to the surrounding land. Encourage the protection of traditional field patterns and encourage hedgerow and dry stone wall restoration. Retain and restore dry stone walls particularly adjacent to roads and in the vicinity of settlements Encourage small-scale mixed farming and encourage woodland and boundary management. Monitor river nutrient levels. Conserve herb-rich meadows and areas of permanent pasture Encourage means and methods of reducing cultivation damage to

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	Local Forces For Change	Potential Landscape Implications	Landscape Strategies and Guidelines
8.13	Changes in land use and management within historic parks and gardens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weakening of the integrity of designed landscapes, parks and gardens • Loss of or damage to elements of designed landscapes, parks and gardens. • Insertion of inappropriate new elements that diminish rather than enhance historic design characteristics • Intrusion on setting of designed landscapes – especially designed vistas and other important views of or out from the area. 	<p>archaeological sites and monuments (including reversion to grassland, min-tillage, direct drilling and other damage reduction methods).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oppose proposals to convert pasture to arable particularly where archaeological sites/field monuments may be lost or damaged. • Encourage low intensity grazing or restrict access by livestock where archaeological sites/field monuments may be lost or damaged • Conserve and enhance historic parks and gardens, including their setting • Develop and implement management plans • Restore lost elements of historic parks and gardens to restore the integrity of the designed landscape as a whole. • Avoid development that damages the extent, features, character or setting of historic designed landscapes.
8.14	Loss of dry stone walls due to abandonment, development of volunteer hedges, replacement with hedges or fences or removal to build/restore a wall elsewhere.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loss of a key feature characteristic of the Cotswolds and high wold landscapes in particular. • Change in landscape character through the replacement of dry stone walls with hedges and fences. • Weakening/loss of field patterns, particularly those that reflect the pre-enclosure open field system • Loss of features in the walls such as stone stiles • Loss of key characteristic of 18th – 19th century field patterns that dominate the area. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage the retention and maintenance of dry stone walls. • Ensure dry stone wall retention and maintenance are included in agri-environment schemes • Provide guidance on Delves – small scale on-farm quarries for walling stone • Seek opportunities for dry stone wall construction and repair through planning mitigation • Where possible use stone that reflects the local style of dry stone wall including colour and thickness • Prevent the formation of volunteer hedges
8.15	Planting of energy crops such as Miscanthus, short rotation coppice and short rotation forestry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loss or seasonal interruption of views particularly from roads and public rights of way. • Loss of remaining permanent pasture • Damage to archaeological sites and historic landscapes • Archaeological sites, historic landscapes, geological and geomorphological sites damaged or obscured 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure energy crops are not planted where they would restrict or intrude into views, particularly open views across the landscape and on skyline sites. • Do not plant on semi-natural habitats, permanent pasture or on sites with national or local BAP species that could be affected in a negative way. • Do not plant on sites where archaeological sites could be damaged or obscured or where significant historic landscapes would be adversely affected or on sites where features of geological or geomorphological importance would be obscured. • Promote Cotswolds Conservation Board Guidance
8.16	Decline in grazing stock particularly on unimproved limestone grassland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loss of characteristic of grazing animals in the landscape • Scrub encroachment and loss of species rich grassland due to invasion of dominant grass species. • Development of secondary woodland • Change in colour and texture in the landscape due to rank vegetation and scrub. • Tendency for 'abandoned land' to be targeted for conversion into arable or 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conserve areas of open pasture and common. • Consider traditional management regimes to limit scrub encroachment on areas of semi natural grassland. • Re-introduction of grazing on semi-natural grasslands/improvement of existing grazing regimes. • Produce guidance on scrub management



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	Local Forces For Change	Potential Landscape Implications	Landscape Strategies and Guidelines
8.17	<p>Separation of farmhouse/agricultural housing from the working farm for sale with a plot of land.</p> <p>Sub-division of farmland for 'lifestyle' plots</p>	<p>woodland or for development.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Loss of integrity, cohesion and character of historic farmsteads and associated farmland. Loss of agricultural context Suburbanisation of agricultural landscape by the introduction of gardens e.g ornamental garden plants and boundary features, parking areas, lighting and conversion of tracks to manicured drives and ornamental gateways Shelterbelt planting for privacy screening Appearance and proliferation of stables and 'white tape' field boundaries for horses and ponies Sub-division of fields using post and rail fences Pressure for housing on plots of land 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Only permit new uses of traditional farm buildings that are appropriate to retain their historic character and features. Use planning conditions to restrict subdivision of fields, construction of stables etc. Consider use of Article 4 Direction. Avoid isolated development, particularly in areas of dark skies Oppose new housing not for agricultural employment use in open countryside Respect traditional position of agricultural buildings and their relationship to the surrounding land
8.18	<p>Development of scrub and trees on roadside verges</p> <p>Mowing of verges at inappropriate times</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Loss of views from the public highway Loss of roadside grassland habitat Damage to hedges, dry stone walls and other features Creation of 'lawns' on the roadside due to regular mowing for tidiness leading to suburbanisation and a homogenised appearance. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify key views from roads Manage/remove verge scrub and trees Reintroduce appropriate verge management and mowing Promote best practice management of verges
8.19	Flood management and alleviation measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Construction of 'hard' flood defences Tree planting for flood management inappropriate to landscape character - see 8.24 below. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Retain and manage watercourses in their naturalistic form. Seek opportunities to restore natural meanders etc, removing engineered channels, culverts etc to restore a functioning watercourse and floodplain. Consider Rural Sustainable Drainage interventions to slow peak water flow particularly within woodland. Seek to influence surrounding land management such as contour ploughing, wide margins, de-compaction of soils and pasture etc. Seek opportunities for temporary flood water storage on farmland Ensure flood defences integrate into the landscape by using appropriate mitigation measures, landscaping and materials For tree planting see Creation of Woodland section below
8.20	Fencing of river corridors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> River edge becomes overgrown with rank vegetation due to a loss of grazing leading to loss of riparian habitat. Imposition of fence line along valley bottom. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage low intensity grazing along floodplain and valley bottom meadows. Encourage use of temporary fencing where possible.
8.21	Water abstraction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduced river flows/dry rivers Die-off of riverside trees such as willow Loss of wetland habitat Limited selection of crop type 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce or stop abstraction Support river flows/water recirculation
8.22	Damage to field monuments and archaeological sites and the historic environment from, farming operations, livestock, tree	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Damage to important archaeological sites and important landscape features. Loss of traditional field patterns Loss of traditional field patterns and integrity of the wider historic landscape 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inform landowners of important archaeological sites Protect all upstanding archaeological sites and consider the impact of development on their landscape setting. Manage/remove burrowing animals



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	Local Forces For Change	Potential Landscape Implications	Landscape Strategies and Guidelines
	<p>root damage, burrowing animals, woodland management operations and tree planting and recreational activity.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Loss of traditional field boundaries, particularly dry stone walls and hedgerows. Loss of locally distinctive features Damage caused by livestock Damage caused by recreational activity Encroachment of scrub onto archaeological features 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Restore the wider setting of key monuments to ensure that they do not read as islands amidst a sea of arable farming. Raise awareness of the historic environment and of the county and unitary authority Historic Environment Records as a source of information Provide and disseminate guidance on managing the historic environment to farmers and land owners Retain traditional field patterns, field boundaries and ridge and furrow Ensure tree planting does not take place on archaeological features. Control scrub and manage existing trees on archaeological features to minimise damage for example by root damage or wind-blow. Minimise or prevent damage to the historic environment by recreational activity by working with landowners to prepare site management plans and if necessary limit access. Repair badly eroded features such as earthworks and dry stone walls Avoid planting new hedgerows or the development of volunteer hedges adjacent to dry stone walls. Identify important geological features and ensure they are conserved and appropriately managed
8.23	<p>Loss of and damage to geological and geomorphological features due to tree growth, erosion and change of land use</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Loss of sites that provide an understanding of the Cotswold landscape Loss of visible features such as valley bulges and land slips. 	
Woodland and trees			
8.24	<p>Creation of woodland</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Loss of permanent pasture Loss of character Loss or restriction of views across and along the High Wold valleys Increased sense of inclosure of the landscape, particularly from the public highway Loss of Historic Landscape Character through inappropriate siting and/or species. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conserve views, particularly along and across the valleys Extend and link existing woodland Plant new woodland or allow natural woodland regeneration on valley sides and surrounding new development, but not on areas of permanent pasture or unimproved grasslands. Seek EIA determination if necessary Select species characteristic of ancient semi-natural woodland in the area. Identify key viewpoints Locate new woodland and copses in historically characteristic topographical locations including their relationship to farmsteads and settlements. For shelterbelts and plantations associated with designed landscapes, select species characteristic of historic designed landscape planting in the area. Exclude grazing or manage grazing as appropriate. Initiate schemes for the phased removal of invasive non-native species. Conserve and manage ancient semi-natural woodlands. Re-establish traditional woodland management/woodland products.
8.25	<p>Decline of important semi-natural and ancient woodland due to neglect and over grazing of stock limiting natural regeneration.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Loss of woodland and associated habitat. Decline in the wooded character of the valleys. Loss of historic landscape character of traditionally managed woodland 	



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	Local Forces For Change	Potential Landscape Implications	Landscape Strategies and Guidelines
8.26	Impact of tree disease such as Chalara Dieback of ash.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Change of colour and texture of woodland canopy as trees die • Thinning of woodland canopy • Loss of single, sometimes veteran, trees in the landscape • Re-stocking with species not native to the Cotswolds 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop contribution of traditional woodland products such as coppice to renewable energy • Restore PAWS • Conserve grassland habitats found in close proximity to areas of broadleaved woodland.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote Woodland Management Plans to minimise the impact of disease and manage change • Recommend alternative species to ash that reflect the appearance and structure of Cotswold woodland • Consider different provenance of ash that may be disease resistant • Establish a programme to plant replacement trees in the landscape outside of woodlands e.g. parkland 	