



### 3.1 Introduction

The Cotswolds landscape, designated as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty from 1966, forms the best-known section of the outcrop of Oolitic limestone that stretches across England from Lyme Bay in Dorset to the North Sea, in North Yorkshire and Lincolnshire. The Cotswolds landscape attracts many visitors both from this country as well as from around the world, in response to its perception as a rural idyll.

Many of the features associated with this cherished landscape evoke strong images, particularly the dramatic escarpment and expansive high wolds, the network of limestone walls, beech woods clothing the escarpment, and secluded valleys and valley bottom meadows. The built environment is also very evocative ranging from the charm of the many picturesque villages and historic small towns to the individual houses, churches and mansions, and historic landscaped parks. Together these create a strong perception of harmony throughout the area. Despite this unifying pattern of common elements, however, a great variety of landscapes can be observed, each displaying distinctive patterns of landform, vegetation, and landscape elements.

The initial findings of the landscape character assessment have identified a total of 19 Landscape Character Types. The steep escarpment located on the western and northern perimeters of the Cotswolds is perhaps the most striking type, from which there are exhilarating and extensive views across the wide plains of the Vales of Berkeley, Gloucester to the west, and Evesham and Feldon to the north. The dramatic scenery of the escarpment creates a backdrop to the larger settlements of Bath and Stroud that nestle within deeply incised valleys that extend into the heart of the escarpment, and where steep valley sides and ridge crests are often accentuated by dense woodland. Beyond the escarpment in the west and north are outlying hills comprising remnants of the former alignment of the scarp edge, and now isolated by the progressive eastern retreat of the escarpment. Gently dipping away to the south-east the land forms a broad plateau of high wolds, dissected by a series of river valleys. The numerous Cotswolds valleys all have their own unique character; many have an intimate scale, and a secluded and 'secret' character. To the south-east of the high wold there is a progressive transition across the dip-slope to the lower lying dip-slope lowland where valleys are generally broader than on the high wold, and often form subtle undulations in the landscape. In the north-eastern part of the AONB the influences of the older Lias Group rocks are more evident. The sense of elevation is still apparent but

this is a softer, rolling, and often complex landform arising from the effect of geological faults and folding determining a succession of rock outcrops. The escarpment at Edge Hill is a prominent feature, but unlike the main Cotswolds escarpment, this is formed by the iron-rich Marlstone Rock Formation. Within this Ironstone region of the Cotswolds AONB, the characteristic warm-brown colour of the building stone within the villages, as well as the soils, is particularly notable. Although contrasting with the familiar Oolitic limestone terrain associated with the main part of the Cotswolds, the sense of unity and local distinctiveness is very apparent.

This assessment provides a detailed review of the AONB's landscape and recognises that **all** landscapes matter, not just those that are particularly well known or evoke strong images. The assessment acknowledges that each landscape character type and landscape character area has a distinct, recognisable and consistent pattern of elements that makes it different from another. Character makes each part of the landscape distinct and gives each its particular sense of place, regardless of perceptions of quality or value. The assessment provides a new descriptive map of the AONB that draws attention to the contrasts in landscape character that are so often taken for granted.

### 3.2 Landscape Character Types and Landscape Character Areas

The *Cotswolds AONB Landscape Character Assessment* uses as a framework the Countryside Agency's *Character Map of England* and the draft *National Landscape Typology for England* (Figure 2). Descriptions of relevant Countryside Character Areas and National Landscape Types are presented in Appendix 4. For the area of the AONB within Gloucestershire, the *Draft County Landscape Typology* was also used. This recent study comprised a desk based assessment of landscape types for the entire county based on the *National Landscape Typology for England*. Reference has also been made to earlier landscape

character assessments carried out within the AONB, and in neighbouring county and district authorities and study areas. These are listed in the Section 5: *References* and illustrated in *Figure 3* and *Figure 4*. A comprehensive review of the Partnership Landscape Character Assessments that include part of the AONB, and those commissioned for the AONB only, is provided in a separate report to the AONB Partnership. (See Section 1.5 of this report).

The 'Landscape Character Assessment Guidance', 2002 published by the Countryside Agency and Scottish Natural Heritage sets out the spatial hierarchy for the assessment process with a top down cascade from the National Typology down to local level. As described above, this assessment has been based on a refinement of the latest data available for the National Typology, and through detailed desk and field study, has identified landscape character types based on a more detailed refinement of the National Types. These equate to the 'local authority scale' of assessment referred to in the Guidance. Within this network of landscape types, the landscape character areas identified across the AONB represent the geographically specific representation of the types. There is an opportunity for future studies to take the assessment to a more detailed local scale. For example, separate landform and land use facets may be identified within each of the types eg valley sides and valley bottoms within each of the valley landscape character types. These in turn would be identified by a local name to reflect the geographical location and local identity. As a further clarification of the landscape assessment methodology employed, a flow diagram is presented in Appendix 4.

Building upon this solid framework and methodology, the Cotswolds AONB Landscape Character Assessment has identified 19 landscape character types and 68 landscape character areas. These are listed in Table 3.1 and their distribution across the AONB is shown on *Figure 8*, confined to types only. *Figure 9*, comprising a more detailed map at 1:100,000, indicates both landscape types and areas, and is provided on CD at the back of this report.

Following this introduction, each of the generic landscape types is described. The key characteristics are summarised followed by a review of landscape character, and the physical and human influences that have shaped the landscape and contributed to its character. A description of the unique landscape character areas that occur within each landscape character type, and a summary of the principal features that are particular to each follow this.

### 3.3 Landscape Character Type and Area Boundary Determination

The boundaries of the landscape character types and areas have been mapped to 1:50,000 scale, using the range of data sets that were made available at this scale, and subsequently verified and refined in the field. Reference to 1:25,000 scale maps were also made as an integral part of the desk and field studies, to provide a more informed and detailed analysis of mapped features, and the pattern of field sizes and types in particular. The boundary lines are primarily defined by contours where these correlate with a well-defined landform, mark a change in slope profile or a general height above Ordnance Datum, or correlate with a change in the underlying geology where this has a significant surface expression. Within the principal discipline of geology, landform and land use, the boundaries are also drawn to contour lines and thereafter follow the perimeter of areas of woodlands, and roads, tracks and occasionally footpaths, where these form a well-defined landscape feature.

Changes in landscape character rarely follow clearly defined lines on the ground, and as a consequence many of the boundaries may be considered as transitional. This is particularly evident in the transition between the High Wold, High Wold Dip-Slope, and Dip-Slope Lowland. While other types are more clearly defined, such as the escarpment, even this distinctive morphological unit still demonstrates transitional characteristics, particularly at the base of the escarpment where rotational slipping, and slumping has resulted in hummocky ground at the junction between the Lias Group rocks and the overlying Oolitic Limestone.

Despite the transitional nature of landscape character, it is considered that the provision of a definitive line provides an essential reference point from which to commence the determination of specific outputs from the LCA. Throughout the study, therefore, the boundaries to landscape character types and areas are all definitive, based on the determining features associated with geology, landform and land use. In recognition of transitional nature of landscape character, however, the definitive lines represent the centre line of the transition. To provide a consistent level of control across the AONB, the centre line of transitional boundaries between types, and individual character areas, have been drawn to contour lines where landform change is a principal determinant of landscape character, together with identifiable features, notably roads, footpaths, and woodland edges.

Where the assessment of a particular site or area is undertaken that falls close to, or within 0.5 km of a boundary line, it is recommended that the characteristics, descriptions and management strategies for each of these adjacent landscape types / areas are taken into

consideration. This is particularly important in the evaluation and guidance of management requirements, as well as in the response to consultations, and the development of landscape and environmental projects.

**Table 3.1**  
**Landscape Character Types and Landscape Character Areas**

LANDSCAPE CHARACTER TYPE	LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREAS
<b>1 Escarpment Outliers</b>	1A Cam Long Down, Peaked Down and Downham Hills 1B Langley Hill 1C Oxenton and Dixton Hills 1D Dumbleton and Alderton Hills 1E Bredon Hill 1F Meon and Ebrington Hills 1G Brailes Hill and Castle Hill
<b>2 Escarpment</b>	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
<b>3 Rolling Hills and Valleys</b>	3A Ozleworth Bottom and Lower Kilcott 3B Stinchcombe and North Nibley
<b>4 Enclosed Limestone Valley</b>	4A Cam and Wellow Brook Valleys 4B Bathampton and Limpley Stoke 4C Lam Brook and St Catherine's Brook Valleys 4D Lower By Brook Valley 4E Perrymead Slopes
<b>5 Settled Valley</b>	5A Nailsworth 5B Frome Golden Valley and Stroud
<b>6 Ironstone Hills and Valleys</b>	6A Whichford Hills and Valleys 6B Ratley Hills and Valleys
<b>7 High Wold</b>	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

<b>8 High Wold Valley</b>	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
<b>9 High Wold Dip-Slope</b>	9A Sulis Manor Plateau 9B Bathampton and Claverton Down 9C Lansdown 9D Cotswolds High Wold Dip-Slope 9E Wychwood Forest 9F West Enstone Uplands
<b>10 High Wold Dip-Slope Valley</b>	10A Middle Churn Valley 10B Middle Coln Valley 10C Upper / Middle Leach Valley
<b>11 Dip-Slope Lowland</b>	11A South and Mid Cotswolds Lowlands 11B Stonesfield Lowlands
<b>12 Dip-Slope Lowland Valley</b>	12A Upper By Brook Valley 12B Lower Coln Valley 12C Lower Leach Valley
<b>13 Low Limestone Plateau</b>	13A Paulton and Peasedown St John Ridge 13B Hinton Charterhouse Plateau
<b>14 Cornbrash Lowlands</b>	14A Biddestone Lowland Farmland 14B West Malmesbury Lowland Farmland
<b>15 Farmed Slopes</b>	15A Vale of Bourton Farmed Slopes 15B Vale of Moreton Farmed Slopes
<b>16 Broad Floodplain Valley</b>	16A Lower Windrush Valley 16B Lower Evenlode Valley
<b>17 Pastoral Lowland Vale</b>	17A Vale of Bourton 17B Vale of Moreton
<b>18 Settled Unwooded Vale</b>	18A Vale of Gloucester Fringe
<b>19 Unwooded Vale</b>	19A Avon Valley 19B Boyd Valley 19C Wickwar Vale 19D Vale of Evesham Fringe 19E Vale of Feldon Fringe

## 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 Characteristics

- Steep exposed and elevated west facing scarp slope, partly cloaked in semi natural broadleaved woodland;
- generally poor soils and steep sloping relief of the escarpment not suited to arable farming, and primarily used for pasture or woodland;
- limited areas of Registered Common Land on upper scarp slopes merging into the more extensive areas on the High Wold;
- distinct 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;

- continuity of escarpment face interrupted by a series of major valleys and embayments;
- gentler landform on lower slopes below the spring line;
- calcareous grasslands located on steeper scarp slopes;
- summit of the scarp slope marked by dramatic linear beech hangers;
- rock outcrops often mark the site of former quarries, except within the southern section of the escarpment;
- woodlands, hedgerows, scrub and isolated trees give the impression of a well treed landscape;
- small scale settlement generally confined to lower, shallower slopes of the escarpment, in sheltered locations, and adjacent to spring lines;
- many large towns and cities located at varying distances from, or in the vicinity of the foot of the escarpment;
- roads and tracks surrounded by dense vegetation and occupying holloways;
- numerous prehistoric sites, and more recent monuments and follies, are located on promontories and elevated sections of the escarpment; and
- intermittent historic parks and designed landscapes provide distinctive features on escarpment.

### Landscape Character

The Cotswold escarpment is a narrow landscape type, rarely exceeding more than 1 km (0.6 mile) in width. It forms a dramatic and prominent landscape feature running in a virtually unbroken line for 84 kilometres (52 miles) from Mickleton in the north, south westwards to Bath and often appears as a wooded backdrop to undulating landscapes of the vale in the foreground. Breaches do occur, however, where major rivers have carved substantial valleys through the escarpment, notably the Frome as it flows out from the Stroud Valleys, and the Bristol Avon and its tributaries to the south in the vicinity of Bath. Between Hillesley and Uley, the escarpment has been breached by numerous streams and rivers and is less defined than elsewhere, forming a complex succession of Rolling Hills and Valleys. As a result, this section of the escarpment has been classified as a separate Landscape Character Type (3). The escarpment affords excellent views westwards, and from some areas on the upper escarpment slopes, the course of the Severn can be traced in the Vale below. Fine views of Gloucester, Evesham, Bath, Bristol and Cheltenham are also possible from key viewpoints on the escarpment. The Cotswold Way follows the summit of the escarpment, between Chipping Campden and Bath.

The escarpment is a well-known landscape feature, forming a 'wall' to the Vale below, and is best viewed in its entirety from the uplands of the Forest of Dean. From here it can be seen to rise sharply from the undulating landscapes of the Vale where solid geology is overlain by thick Quaternary deposits. The escarpment serves to define the western limits of the outcrop of the Middle Jurassic Limestone that forms the bulk of the elevated landform of the Cotswolds.

For much of its length the escarpment forms an abrupt face of Middle Jurassic Oolitic Limestone and overlying older Lias Group clay strata, and rises in a concave profile to where it meets the High Wold and High Wold Dip-Slope. South of Hawkesbury the escarpment is less than 100 m high, but below at Cleeve Common it reaches almost 320 m AOD, the highest point in the Cotswolds. The summit of the escarpment is often marked by a narrow belt of trees or beech hangers, which when viewed from the vale, occupy the skyline and form a dramatic silhouette.

The Inferior Oolite is the main scarp-forming rock in the north, whilst in the south this becomes thinner with Great Oolite forming the highest relief. The upper slopes of the escarpment are outward looking, steep, exposed and elevated, although embayments and combes give these upper slopes a dissected appearance. The upper slopes are also often marked with former and active quarry sites, and areas of exposed rock also occur, creating dramatic

landscape features. Beyond the more open areas characterised by rough grassland, scrub and calcareous grasslands, and small, hedged and sometimes walled, improved pastures are evident.

At the base of the escarpment slope older Lias Group shales, sandstones, mudstones and siltstones of the Lower Jurassic are exposed. These are soft and easily weathered and as a result have slumped or been eroded to form hummocky ground. These areas of slippage blur the transition from scarp slope to undulating vale. The lower slopes are also dissected by numerous gullies formed by fast, narrow streams flowing into the Vale. The course of many streams and gullies may be traced on the escarpment, as they are bordered by narrow belts of broadleaved woodland. These landscapes are better suited to agriculture and have been divided up into moderately sized fields. Improved pasture dominates although where conditions are suitable arable fields are also conspicuous. The lower slopes are generally softer and more intimate, with hedgerows, hummocky landform and woodlands providing shelter and limiting long distance views.

The presence of the Lias Group Marlstone Rock Formation has resulted in the formation of distinctive terraces and secondary escarpments, as at Stinchcombe. The Marlstone Rock terrace marks the spring line, and as a result numerous small settlements and farms have been established along it, together with dispersed development on the lower hillsides. Settlement is limited on the upper reaches of the escarpment due to landform constraints. Where present, villages and hamlets tend to be small, dispersed and linear and are often closely associated with preserved areas of ridge and furrow on the hillsides. These villages border east-west orientated roads, many of which may be ancient, and link ancient summer pastures on the high wold to winter pastures in the vale. Although linear settlements predominate on the escarpment, hamlets that have either a radial, organic or planned form also occur. Farmsteads and individual dwellings are also evident on the escarpment.

### Physical Influences

Rocks forming the escarpment mainly comprise of the Lower Jurassic Lias Group and the Middle Jurassic Inferior Oolite series. The junction between the Lias Group and Oolitic Limestones is particularly well displayed at Leckhampton Hill. The Lias Group (sandstones, mudstones and clays, siltstones, shales and ferruginous limestones) represent the oldest rocks in the AONB and outcrop at the base of the Cotswolds escarpment and form extensive exposures along the escarpment north of Stroud. Soils derived from the Lias Group clays mudstones are heavy, cold and frequently water-logged and as a consequence agriculture at the base of the scarp slope is often limited to pasture.

Above the mudstones of the Blue Lias and Charmouth Mudstone Formations sits the Marlstone Rock Formation. This ferruginous sandy limestone is generally harder than the rocks above and below it and can be observed forming an often wooded terrace along the escarpment such as exists between Wotton-under-Edge and Dursley, and from Cheltenham to Chipping Campden. The Marlstone Rock marks the spring line that is evident along almost the entire length of the escarpment. Here, the Marlstone Rock and the Bridport Sand Formation above it, form a reservoir holding the water that seeps in from the surface. The water held in these strata is forced out as springs as it reaches the impermeable layers of Lias Group clay below. These often form fast flowing narrow 'anti dip streams' that flow into the vale and onward into the Severn. Interestingly many of the springs issuing from the Marlstone Rock are a rusty brown colour and have a high iron content. The Marlstone Rock is also responsible for creating the distinctive escarpment at Edge Hill.

The sequence of limestone formations within the Inferior Oolite Group generally forms the upper levels of the escarpment north of Stroud where it can be seen extending onto the High Wold and capping promontories such as Nottingham Hill and Haresfield Beacon. South of Stroud, these rocks form the bulk of the escarpment slopes along with the younger Great Oolite Group limestones.

The morphology of the escarpment is a consequence of the regional dip of the rocks, the steep west facing slopes forming the prominent strike face, and exposure of the succession of Lower and Middle Jurassic strata described above. Progressive erosion of the escarpment has resulted in its eastward retreat, with a series of outliers and fragmented and convoluted sections arising from the differential resistance of the rock units. The action of rivers and streams has also created the indented profile of the escarpment with rivers such as the Cam and numerous tributary streams forming impressive combs, embayments and promontories. Elsewhere, the line of the escarpment has been breached by major valleys such as the Frome, at Stroud.

Land cover on the steeper scarp slopes consist predominantly of grassland and broadleaved woodland. Much of the grasslands are unimproved and extensively un-managed, although improved grassland and occasional arable fields are present on flatter areas of Marlstone Rock or on landslips and at the base of the scarp at the junction with the vale. The scarp top is often unenclosed or is divided up into large enclosures. Typically, common land or rough grazing is prevalent and this may be seen rolling up over onto the high wold. In places the upper slopes / plateau transition has been cultivated, which interrupts the broad sweep of traditional grasslands. On the middle scarp

slopes small to medium sized pasture fields predominate. These are defined by a strong pattern of hedges, punctuated by hedgerow trees, which follow landform. Fields become larger and more regular at the base of the slope where they blur into the geometric Enclosure fields typical of the vale. Here, significantly more arable and intensive grassland for dairying is evident.

Scattered scrub occurs on the steepest upper slopes where it may often be seen fringing long established woodlands in gullies. Whilst this gives the landscape an unmanaged appearance, it can enhance the biodiversity interest of grasslands offering nesting and feeding sites for a range of invertebrate and bird species. Woodland ranges from beech hangers at the top of the scarp on the steepest slopes and thinnest soils, to ash and oak woods on lower slopes. A high proportion of escarpment woodlands has been identified as being ancient woodland. The beech hangers are a distinctive landscape feature and often make a dramatic silhouette against the skyline when viewed from the vale below. These beech woods are also of nature conservation value. For example the area of ancient beech woodland and unimproved grassland along the top of the escarpment between Birdlip and Painswick has been designated as a SSSI on account of the woodlands being amongst the most diverse and species rich of their type. These can often be observed forming a close relationship with unimproved grasslands on the steeper slopes and contribute to the landscape's semi-natural character. Whilst extensive woodlands are evident along some stretches of the escarpment, elsewhere a distinctly unwooded character is evident adding to the visual diversity of this landscape.

The steep slopes and thin soils, particularly on the upper scarp slopes, have protected grasslands from improvement. Two principal types exist: unimproved Jurassic limestone grassland and unimproved neutral grassland. These grassland sites are of national importance, based on their diverse flora and invertebrate fauna although diminished grazing threatens them with invasions of scrub and Tor grass. Wet grasslands also occur, particularly adjacent to springs on impermeable pockets of Fuller's Earth.

### Human Influences

The escarpment landscape has been exploited for its dramatic form and wide viewing opportunities since Prehistoric times. The numerous Neolithic long barrows and Bronze Age round barrows that line the upper fringes of the scarp attest to this and were probably sited here to mark the western limits of territories that extended deep into the Cotswolds. The symbolic power of such a dramatic landscape feature was further exploited in the Iron Age when numerous hillforts and ditched enclosures



were established along it. It is obvious that the steep slopes and wide panoramic views were strategically important for defence. Most hillforts are univallate and had considerable defensive structures consisting of a ditch and stone wall, possibly surmounted by a pallsade. Others were multivallate, notably Kimsbury on Painswick Beacon. Nevertheless, many sites only had minimal defences, and their siting on promontories and dramatic edge locations must also therefore have had some symbolic resonance, possibly to reflect the power and prestige of the community that built them.

Throughout prehistory the escarpment was obviously a symbolic frontier, but not a physical barrier, however. It is not unreasonable to assume that many of the hollow ways, preserved in the course of modern roads and tracks that climb the scarp, are remnants of ancient routes linking resources and communities in the vale to those on the uplands of the High Wold. One can be more certain that these routes were used in the medieval period to allow the free movement of sheep between summer pastures on the plateau of winter pastures in the vale. This practice is known as transhumance and was largely abandoned by the 14th century. Roads and tracks traversing the escarpment link more heavily trafficked roads that mark the upper and lower boundaries of the slope.

Beyond these dramatic and evocative landscape monuments, the escarpment displays little evidence of settlement, and exploitation beyond agricultural and forestry/silvicultural usage. By far the most obvious evidence of activity is in the form of field patterns such as the lynchets that run along the slope and form grassy terraces and Celtic field systems on Cleeve Common. Later field systems are marked by hedges and reflect enclosure of former common pastures. Field patterns also indicate that significant areas were assarted. Many fields are therefore irregular in shape although more regular Parliamentary enclosures are prevalent at the base of the scarp where they extend into the vale. Here, ridge and furrow fields are also evident and mark the former open fields that may date back as far as the Saxon period. On the upper scarp slopes remnants of once larger areas of common land survive. These may be the remains of landscapes that have been open and grazed since the Neolithic but were first recorded as common land in the Domesday survey and sometimes in Saxon charters.

Stone quarrying has also been an important agent in shaping the escarpment landscape and contributing to the appearance and prosperity of the wider Cotswolds. The varying colour and characteristics of the Cotswolds stone along the escarpment has had a major influence on this landscape type, through its use for dwellings, roofs, walls

and field boundaries. Other materials have also been extracted. For example Lias Group mudstones and clays, found at the base of the scarp slope, at the junction with the neighbouring vale make excellent bricks and were quarried at numerous sites, particularly in the Stour basin within the Vale of Moreton. The clay was also extracted to line mill pools that occupied the industrial sites that were strung out along many of the valleys draining the High Wold.

On the upper slopes the creamy buff coloured Oolite, and in particular the Freestone, has been extensively quarried and indeed these areas are often pockmarked by former and active quarry workings. Elsewhere, Fuller's Earth was extracted, for example at Minchinhampton. The mudstone horizon within this Formation provides an important clay layer, which was used as an agent for cleansing wool and felting cloth in the fulling mills that were established.

The steep scarp slopes are generally devoid of large-scale settlement although isolated farmsteads and small linear hamlets may be found nestled in sheltered locations adjacent to roads climbing the plateau. These are often surrounded by small to medium scale fields and closely associated with small deciduous woodlands. On the lower slopes, and on the Marlstone Rock terrace, larger dispersed linear villages and hamlets are sited. These often take advantage of sheltered locations, and the close proximity of a spring. Combes offer sheltered locations for larger settlements such as Winchcombe, while smaller villages and hamlets tend to be located mid-combe. The more heavily wooded north facing slopes are thinly settled<sup>20</sup>.

A small number of designed parklands are sited along the escarpment, their location and layout usually designed to exploit the dramatic landscape and extensive views out across the vale. Dyrham Park, Dodington House and Radway Grange are all notable examples. Many are associated with towers and obelisks that form prominent local landmarks.

A number of open and public access sites are located along the escarpment. Examples include Tog Hill, Coaley Park, Painswick Beacon, Barrow Wake, Crickley Hill, Leckhampton Hill and Cleeve Common. These offer opportunities to access some of the most dramatic viewpoints along the escarpment.

<sup>20</sup> William Dreghorn (1967) *Geology Explained in the Severn Vale and Cotswolds*



### Character Areas

#### 2A

##### Bath to Beach Farm

The escarpment between Beach Farm and Bath is high and wide, and much indented with combs and gullies, adding significantly to landscape character. At Upton Cheyney the scarp slope rises gently from 40 m AOD to 235 m AOD providing a well-defined backdrop to landscapes in the Vale to the west. Steep slopes are also evident, particularly below Kelston Round Hill and Beckford's Tower where they rise dramatically from the outer limits of Bath.

The gentle slopes have allowed more intensive agriculture and much of the scarp has been cleared of woodland in favour of improved grassland. Small copses and woodlands do survive, however, particularly on steep slopes and lining gullies draining the slopes westwards into the vale. On westward facing slopes, fields are often moderately sized. Above Upper Weston, however, fields are extensive, with hedged boundaries following strong landform features. Less intensive practices here have allowed for the survival of extensive areas of calcareous grassland.

Significant local landscape features are Kelston Round Hill, a wooded knoll to the east of Kelston and Beckford's Tower, an impressive stone monument on the southern edge of Lansdown Hill which was built in 1827 for William Beckford to provide a retreat in which he could study and enjoy the commanding views of Bath from the Tower's Belvedere.



#### 2B

##### Beach Farm to Hillesley

The escarpment between Beach Farm and Hillesley is narrow, gentle and low when compared to stretches of escarpment elsewhere in the AONB. It varies in height above the vale from just 50 m AOD in the north to 90 m AOD in the south, east of Wick. As a result, landcover is more typically improved pasture, with moderately sized fields enclosed with a network of neat hawthorn hedges.

Woodlands, although sparse, do contribute to local landscape character. Typically these ancient broadleaved woodlands are very narrow and occupy the upper scarp slopes, areas of steep landform and the course of brooks draining westwards into the Vale. Larger areas of woodland survive in parkland, however, as at Dodington and Dyrham, where parkland trees also make a significant contribution to landscape character.



As is typical, hillforts line the edge of the escarpment, the most notable being Little Sodbury, and at Hinton Hill where the course of the modern road through the site may mark the line of the ancient trackway linking the fort to the vale below.

Settlement is largely sited in the vale. However, the shallow nature of the slopes has allowed villages and hamlets to extend up the scarp some distance, generally comprising spring line villages and hamlets, and in the form of scattered roadside developments. The M4 is a significant feature. Despite occupying deep cuttings close to Springs Farm, it introduces noise and movement to this otherwise quiet rural landscape.

2C

#### Uley to Cooper's Hill



The escarpment between Uley and Stroud, and beyond the Frome Valley breach to Cooper's Hill is similar to the Cooper's Hill to Winchcombe character area to the north in that they share similar landform and landcover characteristics. Between the section from Stroud northwards to Cooper's Hill, the form of the escarpment is interesting, as it is narrow and not associated with High Wold or High Wold Dip-Slope. Instead, east of the escarpment top, the land falls into the Painswick Valley, the narrow watershed between the two being marked by the course of a winding country lane. At Cud Hill this watershed is almost breached.

As is typical of the escarpment, ancient broadleaved woodland marks the upper slopes and is often found in matrix with calcareous grassland as at Haresfield Beacon, Scottsuar Hill, and Huddinknoll Hill south of Stroud. The lower slopes have been divided up into a neat patchwork of regular fields. Hedgerows here are often overgrown and contain many mature hedgerow trees. Over much of



the area they combine with upper slope woodlands to contribute to the sense of a well-wooded landscape when viewed from the vale.

Many barrows and hillforts border the upper scarp slopes. Perhaps the most impressive monuments are the Iron Age hillforts at Uley Bury and Painswick Hill. The latter monument is close to Gloucester and is a popular local attraction. At these sites the escarpment effectively creates their defensive characteristics, strengthened by massive ramparts. A number of impressive viewpoints, much visited by ramblers and tourists are located along this stretch of the escarpment. At Cud Hill a small folly has been constructed from where dramatic views to Robinswood Hill and Gloucester Cathedral are possible, as well as views south eastwards into the Wash Brook Valley, a tributary of the Painswick Valley.

Despite the proximity of large urban centres, the landscape retains a strong rural character. However, Gloucester and Stroud do have a marked local influence. Indeed Stroud, Stonehouse and Leonard Stanley occupy the significant



breach created by the Frome as it emerges through the escarpment on its way to the Severn. These settlements are notable for their terraces of brick and stone houses and mills which are indicative of the area's industrial past

### 2D

#### Cooper's Hill to Winchcombe

This stretch of the escarpment forms a dramatic backdrop to the towns of Gloucester, Cheltenham and Bishop's Cleeve and limits their eastward expansion. The height of the escarpment gradually increases in a northerly direction. Thus at Cooper's Hill it rises from 100 m AOD to just over 200 m AOD. At the northern section, the escarpment rises from 80 m AOD to over 300 m AOD and forms the highest stretch of the Cotswolds escarpment. In the north of the character area the line of the escarpment terminates at Nottingham Hill, south west of Langley Hill.

Woodland cover is less extensive than in the neighbouring Winchcombe to Broadway character area and is limited to narrow bands of broadleaved woodland at the scarp summit. There are fewer ancient woodlands also, indicating more extensive clearance possibly as a result of the pressure exerted on woodlands in this location by the large urban population of Cheltenham. An exception is Dowdeswell Wood, a large area of ancient woodland associated with parkland at Dowdeswell Court, and the large woodland complexes at Witcombe between Cooper's Hill and Birdlip. Land use is characterised by large unenclosed areas of rough grassland on upper slopes and improved pasture in moderately sized hedged enclosures bordering the vale. Significant areas of calcareous grassland also exist. These are often on the upper slopes and form a close relationship to areas of existing broadleaved and felled woodland such as at Cold Slad, Barrow Wake and Leckhampton Hill. Large areas also survive on the upper slopes of the escarpment on Nottingham Hill and Cleeve Hill, where they mark the edge of extensively grazed common land.



As elsewhere on the escarpment, numerous important archaeological sites border the upper slopes, the most notable being those on Crickley Hill, Cleeve Common and Nottingham Hill. Despite this perhaps the most well known local landmark is the Devil's Chimney. This is a rock pinnacle formed of Lower Freestone that was left by 17th and 18th century quarrymen in the quarry at Leckhampton Hill and is visible from Cheltenham. Quarrying has been a significant influence on the local landscape and much of the Freestone quarried in the area helped build Regency Cheltenham. Despite the close proximity of large urban centres, settlement on the escarpment slopes is sparse and limited to scattered linear settlements bordering the many roads that link Cheltenham to villages on the High Wold, and Oxford further to the east.

### 2E

#### Winchcombe to Dover's Hill

The escarpment between Winchcombe and Dover's Hill is broad and relatively high, rising from approximately 100 m AOD to over 200 m AOD in places. There are many spurs, combs and embayments leading to a dramatic and varied landscape. The most significant embayment is that above Winchcombe which is thought to have been formed due to erosion along a line of weakness. The River Isbourne and the Beesmoor Brook and their tributaries drain the embayment northwards, through the town of Winchcombe, into the Avon.

Woodlands cloak much of the landscape, ancient broadleaved woods being the most dominant. Many are sizeable and stretch along the escarpment top, down to the mid and lower slopes, often along the line of brooks and gullies. Between these woodlands on the upper slopes, large unenclosed expanses of rough grassland predominate. On lower slopes, improved pastures, bounded by overgrown hedges reinforced with post and wire fencing is the most dominant land use. Calcareous grassland is not extensive. However, a large area at Horn



Hill Bank Farm above Stanway is notable as this occupies a large woodland clearing. Orchards are also conspicuous on the lower slopes. Orchards were at one time more numerous here and in the vale below.

The upper escarpment slopes / High Wold transition are marked by numerous archaeological sites including Belas Knap, the Snowsill Chambered Tomb and Beckbury Camp. All were sited in dramatic locations and to take advantage of wide views over the Vale of Evesham. Below Beckbury Camp are a series of well-preserved lynchets. Other historical sites include the Roman Villa at Spoonley Farm and the Grade I Medieval deer park at Stanway House, developed as a formal landscape in the late 17th and 18th centuries.

Broadway Tower is located on the summit of the escarpment above the town of Broadway, the second highest point in the Cotswolds. This is an important local landmark, built in 1797 by the 6th Earl of Coventry, George William, for his wife. The story associated with its construction is that she wanted an impressive tower on which she could place a beacon that could be seen from her house near Worcester, the hilltop having long been used as a beacon point. Broadway Tower is one of England's outstanding viewpoints and it is possible to survey an area that includes as many as thirteen counties.

The escarpment is sparsely settled, although the village of Broadway extends some way up the lower slopes.

## 2F

### Dover's Hill to Mickleton

The short stretch of escarpment north of Dover's Hill comprises a spur of high ground separating the Vale of Moreton from the Vale of Evesham. The slopes here are shallow and gentler than elsewhere and are generally well wooded. Ancient woodlands are a noticeable feature of the crest of the slope where they form narrow skyline features. Improved pasture predominates although arable fields may be seen on the lower slopes extending into the vale. Neat hedgerows divide the landscape into a patchwork of regular fields that climb up the gentle slopes. Kiftsgate Court, a registered garden is a notable feature of the landscape and represents a 20th century plant and shrub garden surrounding a late 19th century house.

Dover's Hill is perhaps most well known as the site of the 'Cotswold's Olympicks', which were established by Robert Dover in the 17th century and located in a natural amphitheatre on the escarpment. The games were given Royal assent by James I and featured events such as shin-kicking and sword play. The games ended in 1851 when the common was enclosed although another explanation is that that the games were stopped due to public disorder caused by navvies who were constructing the nearby railway. The Dover's Hill Olympicks were revived for the Festival of Britain in 1951 and have been held annually since 1963.





### 2G Edge Hill

A distinctive stretch of escarpment is located at Edge Hill, in the north-eastern section of the AONB, to the east of the Vale of Moreton. Here the scarp slopes are generally steep but not high, rising from 140 m AOD to approximately 200 m AOD. Unlike the main Cotswold escarpment, which is capped by the Jurassic Inferior and Great Oolite limestones, the Edge Hill scarp is formed from Lias Group rocks capped by the harder ferruginous limestone of the Marlstone Rock Formation. It has also been an important local source of building stone, the high iron content in the Marlstone Rock giving the buildings in the area a distinctive warm brown colour. Interestingly the colour of the 'Ironstone' has led to local people referring to the part of the Vale of Feldon beneath Edge Hill, as "The Vale of the Red Horse". The name relates to the figure of a horse that was cut into the hillside above Tysoe, possibly during the Anglo Saxon period. The earliest recorded reference to a figure dates to 1607, although sketches of the horse made at various times suggest that the figure became overgrown and subsequently re-cut with an evolving outline over many generations. Indeed up until 1800 the landowner imposed a feudal obligation on the local peasantry to scour the horse each Palm Sunday. The horse no longer survives although it is preserved in local folklore, and the name of the vale.

The lower slopes are broad, gently sloping and agriculturally improved, becoming less improved and more extensively grazed on the steeper upper slopes where gappy hedges enclose large irregular fields. Rough grassland occupies the scarp crest. Beech woods, typical of the crest of the escarpment elsewhere in the AONB, are not found in this character area. This is due to the nature of the underlying geology creating a less base rich soil than the Oolitic limestones found on the escarpment slopes to the south and eastwest. Despite this, isolated trees are evident along hedge lines and often mark the crest of the scarp. In contrast to these open sections of the escarpment, large mixed woodlands are located along the upper steep slopes between Edgehill Farm and Radway Grange.

The lower slopes are generally improved and form a patchwork of regular hedged fields. Many retain traces of ridge and furrow. There is very little settlement on the escarpment, farms and villages such as Radway and Warmington tending to be located at the foot of the scarp.

The escarpment overlooks the site of the Civil War Battle of Edge Hill (1642), the event commemorated by the octagonal Radway Tower, located at the summit of the escarpment, and now part of the Castle Inn. It was built as a sham castle in the 18th century on the spot where King Charles raised his standard and is a prominent landscape feature when viewed from the vale below. The Tower also forms part of the setting of Radway Grange, an early 18th century landscape garden adjacent to a Gothic house, located in the village of Radway at the foot of the escarpment.

## 2. Escarpment

### Character Areas

2A Bath to Beach Farm

2B Beach Farm to Hillesley

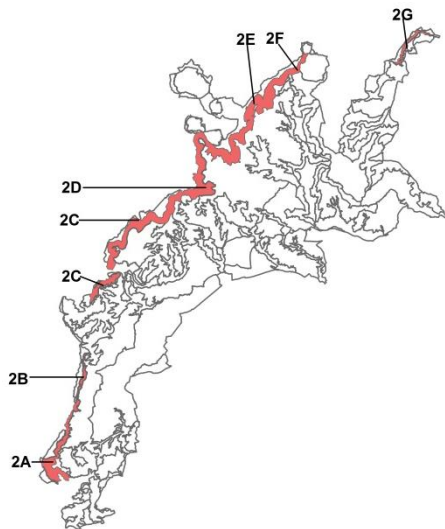
2C Uley to Cooper's Hill

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 principa 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	Potential Landscape Implications	Landscape Strategies and Guidelines
	<b>New Development</b>		
2.1	Development, expansion and infilling of settlements including residential, industrial and leisure onto or towards the lower slopes of the Escarpment, including Bath (LCA 2A) and Cheltenham (LCA 2D).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encroachment of built development onto escarpment slopes intruding into the landscape.</li> <li>• 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 spring line.</li> <li>• Loss of characteristic small scale settlements and hamlets due to settlement growth and coalescence.</li> <li>• Proliferation of suburban building styles, housing estate layout and materials and the introduction of ornamental garden plants and boundary features.</li> <li>• Spread of lit elements up the Escarpment slope.</li> <li>• Potential for glint from buildings, particularly on hillsides.</li> <li>• Erosion of the setting of the AONB</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• Degradation of the view from the scarp across the adjoining vale and from the vale looking at the scarp.</li> <li>• Urban fringe impacts such as fly tipping and dumping of vehicles</li> <li>• Loss of archaeological and historical features, field patterns and landscapes.</li> <li>• 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</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintain to open, dramatic and sparsely settled character of the Escarpment.</li> <li>• Avoid development that will intrude negatively into the landscape and cannot be successfully mitigated, for example, extensions to settlements onto the escarpment</li> <li>• Conserve pattern of settlements fringing the lower slopes and their existing relationship to landform.</li> <li>• Ensure new development is proportionate and does not overwhelm the existing settlement</li> <li>• Ensure that new development does not adversely affect settlement character and form</li> <li>• Conserve the distinctive orientation of linear villages on lower escarpment slopes and the relationship of settlements to the Escarpment and spring line</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• Avoid cramming development right up to the boundaries resulting in hard suburban style edge to the settlement</li> <li>• Control the proliferation of suburban building styles and materials</li> <li>• Restore existing stone, old brick and half-timbered buildings within settlements in preference to new built development.</li> <li>• 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).</li> <li>• 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</li> <li>• Adopt measures to minimise and where possible reduce light pollution.</li> <li>• Promote initiatives that remove heritage assets from 'at risk' status in the Heritage at Risk Register.</li> <li>• Avoid development that may restrict or obscure views to the upper escarpment slopes and distinctive features such as folly towers and hillforts.</li> <li>• Conserve the rural character of the road network, and in particular holloways climbing the escarpment.</li> </ul>

## 2. Escarpment

	Local Forces For Change	Potential Landscape Implications	Landscape Strategies and Guidelines
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• Ensure the historic character and context are included in Neighbourhood Plans</li> <li>• Identify key viewpoints to and from the escarpment</li> <li>• Create new woodlands that link to existing woodlands on lower escarpment slopes to counteract the impact of intrusive or degraded urban edges.</li> <li>• Plant trees and hedges within and around new development to reduce impact on the landscape ideally in advance of the development taking place.</li> <li>• Retain existing trees, hedges etc as part of the scheme.</li> <li>• Promote and link to the escarpment 'green' infrastructure in any major extensions to Gloucester and Cheltenham</li> <li>• Ensure development proposals safeguard and provide new links and enhancements to the Public Rights of Way network.</li> <li>• Consider the impact on local Public Rights of Way as settlements expand and take into account any required improvements</li> </ul>
2.2	Isolated development such as new single dwellings and conversion of farm buildings on the mid escarpment slopes that might compromise rural landscape character including farm buildings converted to residential use.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Visual intrusions introduced to the landscape</li> <li>• Upgrading of minor roads and lanes and holloways in areas of new development and introduction of suburbanising features such as street lighting.</li> <li>• Introduction of 'lit' elements to characteristically dark escarpment slope landscapes.</li> <li>• Potential for glint from buildings.</li> <li>• Erosion of distinctive dispersed settlement character on the escarpment slopes.</li> <li>• 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</li> <li>• Appearance of 'mini parklands' out of context with the surrounding landscape</li> <li>• Appearance and proliferation of stables and 'white tape' field boundaries for horses and ponies – see section 2.6. below</li> <li>• Loss of tranquillity and sense of seclusion</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Avoid development that will intrude negatively into the landscape and cannot be successfully mitigated.</li> <li>• Protect the undeveloped, unlit character of much of the escarpment.</li> <li>• Oppose new housing on the Escarpment (unless special circumstances apply in accordance with Paragraph 55 of the NPPF and development conserves and enhances the AONB as required by the CRoW Act 2000</li> <li>• Avoid conversion of isolated farm buildings.</li> <li>• Conserve the distinctive rural and dispersed settlement pattern.</li> <li>• Restore existing stone farm buildings and structures in preference to new built development.</li> <li>• 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</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• Control the proliferation of suburban building styles and materials.</li> <li>• Landscaping schemes accompanying development should encourage the planting of appropriately sized native trees, shrubs and traditional fruit</li> </ul>

## 2. Escarpment

	Local Forces For Change	Potential Landscape Implications	Landscape Strategies and Guidelines
			<p>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"> <li>• Respect traditional position of agricultural buildings and their relationship to the surrounding land.</li> </ul>
2.3	<p>Conversion of traditional farm buildings to new uses</p> <p>Deterioration in condition of vernacular farm buildings</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Erosion of distinctive features and loss of Cotswold character.</li> <li>• Domestication or industrialisation of existing agricultural vernacular and character</li> <li>• Loss of locally historic features and erosion of the integrity of the historic landscape</li> <li>• Loss of historic features/character of distinctive buildings if converted to uses requiring inappropriate interventions to historic fabric and form.</li> <li>• Introduction or expansion of lit elements on the Escarpment</li> <li>• Loss and erosion of Farmstead Character and how the buildings relate to the surrounding landscape and agricultural land use</li> <li>• Decline in quality of landscape</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conserve vernacular farm buildings for their own sake and/or by developing other options for their use whilst retaining their agricultural character</li> <li>• Where converted to new uses buildings must retain their historic integrity and functional character. Sound conservation advice and principles must be sought and implemented</li> <li>• New uses should not prejudice the effective operation of the farm enterprise.</li> <li>• Avoid inappropriate new uses that necessitate excessive loss of original historic features, or introduce elements that expand domestication or industrialisation</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• Respect traditional position of agricultural buildings and their relationship to the surrounding land.</li> <li>• Stabilise historic buildings and undertake localised scrub and woodland clearance to enhance their landscape setting and increase the contribution they make to landscape character.</li> <li>• Ensure best practice is followed for the protection of species associated with farm buildings e.g. bats</li> <li>• Promote examples of good practice</li> </ul>
2.4	Solar Farms on or in the setting of the Escarpment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Industrialisation of the rural landscape</li> <li>• Change of character due to colour and texture and heliographic glint</li> <li>• Loss of seasonal change in the landscape</li> <li>• Loss of characteristic pastoral landscape</li> <li>• Damage to and loss of landscape features such as Ridge and Furrow, Strip Lynchets, trees, walls and hedgerows.</li> <li>• Concealment of geomorphological or archaeological features</li> <li>• Impact of supporting infrastructure such as buildings and cables, roadways, security fencing, CCTV masts and lighting.</li> <li>• Decline in quality of landscape</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prevent proposals for solar farms that will impact negatively on landscape character and/or intrude into views to and/or from the Escarpment</li> <li>• Avoid proposals that will result in the loss or harm to landscape features such as Strip Lynchets, hedgerows and walls</li> <li>• Ensure a comprehensive LVIA is undertaken (including potential cumulative effects)</li> <li>• Ensure a glint/glare assessment is undertaken to determine the heliographic impact on receptors.</li> <li>• Reduce landscape impact with appropriate screening</li> <li>• Bury cables underground and seek opportunities to bury existing power lines</li> <li>• Keep supporting infrastructure to a minimum and ensure it is in keeping with landscape character</li> <li>• Ensure removal and restoration on temporary construction access.</li> </ul>

## 2. Escarpment

	Local Forces For Change	Potential Landscape Implications	Landscape Strategies and Guidelines
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Avoid the inclusion of any security lighting proposals</li> <li>• Seek appropriate landscape enhancement to field boundaries and margins within solar farm development proposals.</li> <li>• Promote the use of roof space for photovoltaic panels particularly on modern farm buildings</li> </ul>
2.5	Introduction of vertical elements such as communication masts, wind turbines, electricity pylons and large road signs on and adjacent to the escarpment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduction of visually intrusive 'urban' or industrial features to the dramatic escarpment</li> <li>• Loss of open character and 'natural' appearance</li> <li>• Introduction of unnatural movement and loss of tranquillity</li> <li>• Intrusion on the setting of scheduled monuments, listed buildings and designed landscapes</li> <li>• Breaking up of escarpment skyline</li> <li>• Impact on views to, from and along the escarpment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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</li> <li>• 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</li> <li>• Ensure alternative options have been fully considered</li> <li>• Minimise impact by locating new communication masts on existing structures or by using existing masts</li> <li>• Set masts against trees</li> <li>• Bury cables underground and seek opportunities to bury existing cabling</li> <li>• Avoid use of visually prominent urban security fencing and CCTV masts.</li> <li>• Consider other renewable energy and communication technologies</li> <li>• Ensure full assessment of heritage setting impacts and appropriate measures undertaken</li> <li>• Seek to minimise size and number of roadsigns</li> </ul>
2.6	Establishment or expansion of equestrian establishments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Proliferation of stables and other visual clutter such as ribbon fences, jumps, horse boxes, shelters, manège and lighting associated with 'horsiculture'.</li> <li>• Creation of paddocks by sub-dividing fields using non-characteristic field boundary treatments such as post and rail fence or ribbon fences</li> <li>• Erosion of the dramatic, often open landscape character of the Escarpment</li> <li>• Deterioration in pasture quality and over grazing</li> <li>• Pressure to provide new housing for staff and owners</li> <li>• Creation of surfaced tracks, new and enlarged field entrances and parking areas for cars and horse boxes etc.</li> <li>• Excessive use of local roads and paths by horses, in part due to no direct or close connections to bridleways etc.</li> <li>• Increase in vehicle movements and roadside parking</li> <li>• Damage to road verges.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The creation of horse paddocks in visually prominent locations such as roadside and valley side locations should be avoided.</li> <li>• Oppose change of use for the 'keeping of horses' in visually prominent locations.</li> <li>• 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</li> <li>• Take into account proximity to bridleways etc.</li> <li>• Where possible, existing buildings should be utilised and new stables and other structures kept to a minimum..</li> <li>• Ensure all new ventures provide accommodation within new stable buildings and proposals for separate isolated housing should be resisted</li> <li>• 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</li> </ul>

## 2. Escarpment

	Local Forces For Change	Potential Landscape Implications	Landscape Strategies and Guidelines
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jumps, temporary fences and other equipment should be well maintained and removed when not in use.</li> <li>• Any lighting should be designed to minimise light pollution, e.g. low level and directed downwards and fitted with timers.</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• Encourage the use of olive green tape, wider spacing of fence posts etc</li> <li>• Historic field boundaries, such as hedges, walls and fences should be maintained or extended, and new boundaries should match the local vernacular wherever possible.</li> <li>• Ensure authorisation is obtained from the highway authority for new gates or stiles on public rights of way.</li> <li>• In some instances, hedges and dry stone walls may need protection by fencing to prevent damage</li> <li>• Jumps, temporary fences and other equipment should be well maintained and removed when not in use.</li> <li>• Existing gates and access points should be retained if possible, and new gates should match the local vernacular.</li> <li>• Historic features, including ridge and furrow pastures, stone troughs and stone stiles, should be protected from damage by equestrian uses.</li> <li>• Promote Board guidance on good practice</li> </ul>
2.7	Major road construction and improvement schemes on escarpment slopes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Intrusive features on highly visible sections of the escarpment, and at gateways into the AONB</li> <li>• Introduction or increased movement in the landscape</li> <li>• Urbanising effect</li> <li>• Potential impact of additional road signage and lighting</li> <li>• Loss of tranquillity and excessive noise</li> <li>• Light and air pollution</li> <li>• Impact of road signs</li> <li>• Loss of archaeological features and impact on the setting of heritage assets.</li> <li>• Loss of woodland and other sensitive habitats</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Avoid major road building schemes</li> <li>• Implement traffic management schemes including speed reduction</li> <li>• Ensure any scheme brings substantial net benefits for the landscape and is designed to conserve and enhance character of the landscape</li> <li>• Ensure comprehensive EIA and LVIA are undertaken and their recommendations implemented.</li> <li>• Ensure careful and sensitive design of road proposals and associated infrastructure on escarpment crest and slopes</li> <li>• Keep lighting to an absolute minimum and use 'Dark Sky friendly' lighting</li> <li>• Seek to prevent rat-running on local roads, restoring and enhancing the character and amenity of local settlements and road network.</li> <li>• Restore redundant lengths of highway to agriculture or suitable habitat</li> <li>• 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.</li> </ul>

## 2. Escarpment

	Local Forces For Change	Potential Landscape Implications	Landscape Strategies and Guidelines
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Avoid over-engineering links to the local road network.</li> <li>• Ensure landscaping design is fully in keeping with local character and land form</li> <li>• Seek opportunities for habitat creation, particularly unimproved grassland, on verges, embankments and areas of land isolated by new road and their long term management</li> <li>• Minimise loss of woodlands and other sensitive habitats; avoid loss of ancient woodland as an irreplaceable semi-natural habitat.</li> <li>• Funding from Highway Agency or highway authorities for mitigation measures to be a pre-condition e.g noise screening, quiet surfacing, land bridge etc.</li> <li>• Consider the potential for exposing geological features and their long term management</li> </ul>
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"> <li>• Introduction of suburban features such as mini roundabouts, lighting, kerbs and traffic calming measures.</li> <li>• Use of inappropriate materials (e.g. standard highway fences and barriers)</li> <li>• Loss of roadside hedges and walls</li> <li>• Loss of verge/roadside habitat</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Refer to DMRB Vol 10 for general environmental design guidance.</li> <li>• Conserve the rural character of the local road network</li> <li>• 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</li> <li>• Resist the construction of 'village gateways', particularly those which are inappropriate and out of character</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• Avoid making over-large and inappropriate entrances and keep visibility splays to a minimum</li> <li>• Promote use of design and materials appropriate to local character.</li> <li>• Produce guidance on design and suitable materials.</li> <li>• Promote use of 'shared space' for traffic calming measures in villages.</li> <li>• Seek opportunities to conserve and enhance roadside boundaries and habitats and their long-term management.</li> <li>• Promote road verge protection and management</li> </ul>
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"> <li>• Pressure to improve roads by widening and straightening.</li> <li>• Loss of tranquillity and danger to walkers/riders and other non-motorised users.</li> <li>• Damage to verges and roadside boundaries by vehicles</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote traffic restriction measures such as lorry routing maps.</li> <li>• Maintain or reinstate rural character within settlements by promoting shared space and road design to slow and minimise traffic impact</li> <li>• Apply national guidance on rural speed restrictions in sensitive areas (DfT Circular 01/2013 especially Para 128)</li> <li>• Ensure traffic management measures reflect the character and materials of the area.</li> <li>• Encourage use of public transport, car sharing etc</li> </ul>

## 2. Escarpment

	Local Forces For Change	Potential Landscape Implications	Landscape Strategies and Guidelines
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encourage cycling on safe routes</li> <li>• Promote road verge protection and management</li> </ul>
	<b>Land use</b>		
2.10	Agricultural intensification, diversification and farm amalgamation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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</li> <li>• Introduction of industrial elements on the Escarpment</li> <li>• Conversion of farm outbuildings and field barns to recreational or business uses</li> <li>• Removal of semi-natural vegetation and poor maintenance of and subsequent loss of field boundaries</li> <li>• Contamination of water courses and aquifer particularly from nitrates and phosphates.</li> <li>• Increased conversion of pasture to arable land, mainly on the lower slopes.</li> <li>• Woodland creation on permanent pasture.</li> <li>• Degradation and loss of hedgerows and increased use of post and wire fencing.</li> <li>• Abandonment of permanent pasture on the Escarpment and resulting spread of scrub and secondary woodland on otherwise open slopes.</li> <li>• Damage to and loss of archaeological sites and field monuments from conversion of pasture to arable and from intensification of grazing.</li> <li>• Move towards arable production on small mixed farms resulting in the removal or degradation of hedgerows and/ or loss of former pasture.</li> <li>• Loss of Farmstead character</li> <li>• Introduction or expansion of lit elements in the characteristically dark landscape</li> <li>• Increased damage to roads, road verges, dry stone walls and hedges from large machinery</li> <li>• Pressure to upgrade lanes or create new access tracks on the Escarpment</li> <li>• Increased width of gateways into fields</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conserve the open, dramatic and often remote character of the Escarpment and views to, along and from it.</li> <li>• Ensure that new farm buildings including silos and AD plants etc do not have an adverse visual impact on the wider landscape and views</li> <li>• Maintain the appearance and characteristic of isolated farmsteads and oppose proposals that will become dominant in the landscape</li> <li>• Provide advice to farmers on the siting of new buildings, lighting, colour etc.</li> <li>• Encourage the mitigation of existing large agricultural buildings e.g by limited tree planting.</li> <li>• Encourage the installation of PV on the roofs of new agricultural buildings, avoiding risk of glint/glare.</li> <li>• Seek to conserve traditional farm buildings.</li> <li>• Respect traditional position of agricultural buildings and their relationship to the surrounding land.</li> <li>• Conserve characteristically dark stretches of the Escarpment</li> <li>• Encourage small-scale mixed farming and encourage woodland and boundary management.</li> <li>• Monitor river nutrient levels.</li> <li>• 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</li> <li>• Encourage low intensity grazing or restrict access by livestock where archaeological sites/ field monuments may be lost or damaged</li> <li>• 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).</li> <li>• Conserve areas of permanent pasture.</li> <li>• Protect and retain ancient/veteran trees.</li> <li>• Promote the conservation and restoration of hedgerows. Those marking ancient boundaries should be regarded as a priority.</li> <li>• Ensure any woodland creation is in keeping with landscape character – see section</li> </ul>

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	Local Forces For Change	Potential Landscape Implications	Landscape Strategies and Guidelines
2.11	Increased use of polytunnels, glasshouses and field film in the adjacent vale.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Impact on views from the escarpment across the vale.</li> <li>• Introduction of unnatural, often shiny, materials leading to an industrialised appearance</li> <li>• Impact of light pollution</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consider the scale and siting of polytunnels etc</li> <li>• When not in use, remove field film and polytunnels or roll polytunnel plastic up to reduce impact.</li> </ul>
2.12	Loss of traditional horticulture/ agriculture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Loss of traditional orchards and local varieties of fruit</li> <li>• Introduction of field film and polytunnels/ glasshouses into the neighbouring vale and their impact on views from the escarpment.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify and protect existing traditional orchards and new potential sites for traditional orchards</li> <li>• Identify historical sites of orchards and promote their restoration</li> <li>• Promote the appropriate management of existing traditional orchards and the planting of locally distinctive varieties</li> <li>• Consider scale and siting of polytunnels etc</li> </ul>
2.13	Planting of energy crops such as Miscanthus, short rotation coppice and short rotation forestry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Loss or seasonal interruption of views particularly from roads and public rights of way.</li> <li>• Loss of and fragmentation permanent pasture</li> <li>• Change in colour and texture of the escarpment</li> <li>• Damage to Archaeological sites, historic landscapes, geological and geomorphological features damaged or obscured</li> <li>• Winter cropping resulting in 'scars' on the escarpment from the appearance of bare ground and vehicle tracks.</li> <li>• Appearance of tracks on the escarpment slopes for access and crop extraction.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure energy crops are not planted where they would restrict or intrude into views, particularly open views across the landscape and on skyline sites.</li> <li>• Do not plant on semi-natural habitats, permanent pasture or on sites with Section 41 NERC Act or local BAP species that could be affected in a negative way.</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• Promote Cotswolds Conservation Board guidance</li> </ul>
2.14	Decline in grazing stock on escarpment slopes and areas of common land  Abandonment of grassland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scrub encroachment and loss of permanent pasture and species rich grassland due to invasion of dominant grass species.</li> <li>• Development of secondary woodland</li> <li>• Loss of characteristic of grazing animals on the Escarpment</li> <li>• Loss of open character of some sections of the escarpment</li> <li>• Change in colour and texture in the landscape due to rank vegetation and scrub.</li> <li>• Tendency for 'abandoned land' to be targeted for conversion into arable or woodland or for development</li> <li>• Archaeological and geological sites obscured or damaged</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conserve areas of open pasture and common.</li> <li>• Encourage traditional management regimes to limit scrub encroachment on areas of semi natural grassland.</li> <li>• Re-introduction of grazing on semi-natural grasslands/improvement of existing grazing regimes.</li> <li>• Produce guidance on scrub management</li> <li>• Identify key viewpoints</li> </ul>
2.15	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"> <li>• Loss of integrity, cohesion and character of historic farmsteads and associated farmland.</li> <li>• Loss of agricultural context</li> <li>• 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</li> <li>• Shelterbelt planting for privacy screening</li> <li>• Appearance and proliferation of stables and 'white tape' field boundaries for</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Only permit new uses of traditional farm buildings that are appropriate to retain their historic character and features.</li> <li>• Use planning conditions to restrict subdivision of fields, construction of stables etc. Consider use of Article 4 Direction.</li> <li>• Ensure separation of housing does not prejudice the effective operation of the farm enterprise</li> <li>• Avoid isolated development, particularly in areas of dark skies</li> </ul>



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	Local Forces For Change	Potential Landscape Implications	Landscape Strategies and Guidelines
		<p>horses and ponies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sub-division of fields using post and rail fences</li> <li>• Pressure for housing on plots of land</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Respect traditional position of agricultural buildings and their relationship to the surrounding land</li> </ul>
3.16	Flood management and alleviation measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Construction of 'hard' flood defences</li> <li>• Tree planting for flood management inappropriate to landscape character</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Retain and manage Escarpment watercourses in their naturalistic form..</li> <li>• Consider Rural Sustainable Drainage interventions such as in-stream woody barriers to slow peak water flow particularly within woodland.</li> <li>• 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..</li> <li>• Ensure flood defences integrate into the landscape by using appropriate mitigation measures, landscaping and materials</li> <li>• Seek opportunities for tree planting for flood management in-keeping with landscape and woodland character - see Creation of Woodland section 3.22 below</li> </ul>
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"> <li>• Loss of views from the public highway</li> <li>• Loss of roadside grassland habitat</li> <li>• Damage to hedges and walls and other features</li> <li>• Creation of 'lawns' on the roadside due to regular mowing for tidiness leading to a homogenised and sub-urban appearance</li> <li>• 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</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify key views from roads</li> <li>• Manage/remove verge scrub and trees, particularly where views can be restored or where there are benefits for biodiversity</li> <li>• Reintroduce appropriate verge management and mowing</li> <li>• Promote best practice management of verges</li> <li>• Ensure highway authority planning conditions respect and are appropriate to rural character and situation</li> </ul>
2.18	Lack of appropriate management in disused quarries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Loss of limestone flora due to the development of scrub and secondary woodland.</li> <li>• Loss of bat roosts and nesting sites for birds</li> <li>• Loss of geological exposures</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify disused quarries important for biodiversity and/or geology</li> <li>• Encourage appropriate management by providing advice and guidance</li> <li>• Seek planning conditions to ensure quarry restoration and aftercare benefit landscape and biodiversity, particularly unimproved grassland</li> </ul>
2.19	Visitor pressure at escarpment vantage points and circular walks commencing from car park areas.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Degradation of the landscape as a result of littering, path erosion, car parking and use of off road vehicles.</li> <li>• Adverse effect on species rich grassland communities.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduce measures to limit/manage access to degraded areas of the landscape.</li> <li>• Reinstate areas of degraded landscape.</li> <li>• Encourage the use of formal paths rather than allowing desire lines to develop.</li> <li>• Limit/exclude motorcycles and mountain bikes from areas of historic and biodiversity interest.</li> <li>• Minimise car journeys to escarpment vantage points by offering adequate public transport services.</li> <li>• Resist the development of tourism facilities on the escarpment</li> </ul>

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	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"> <li>• Damage to important archaeological sites and important landscape features including earthworks and lynchets</li> <li>• Loss of traditional field patterns and integrity of the wider historic landscape.</li> <li>• Loss of traditional field boundaries, particularly hedgerows and dry stone walls where they occur on the escarpment..</li> <li>• Loss of locally distinctive features</li> <li>• Encroachment of scrub onto archaeological features</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inform landowners of important archaeological sites</li> <li>• Protect all upstanding archaeological sites and consider the impact of changing land use/development on their landscape setting.</li> <li>• Manage/remove burrowing animals.</li> <li>• Restore the wider setting of key monuments</li> <li>• Raise awareness of the historic environment and of the SMR as a source of information</li> <li>• Provide guidance on managing the historic environment to farmers and land owners</li> <li>• Retain traditional field patterns and field boundaries</li> <li>• Ensure tree planting does not take place on archaeological features.</li> <li>• Control scrub and manage existing trees on archaeological features to minimise damage for example by root damage or wind-blow.</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• Repair badly eroded features such as earthworks and dry stone walls.</li> <li>• Avoid the planting of new hedgerows or the development of volunteer hedgerows adjacent to dry stone walls</li> </ul>
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"> <li>• Loss of sites that provide an understanding of the Cotswold landscape</li> <li>• Visible features such as outcrops, gulls and areas of landslip, particularly rotational slip obscured or lost.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify important geological features and ensure they are conserved and appropriately managed.</li> </ul>
<b>Woodland and trees</b>			
2.22	Creation of woodland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Loss of open character of some sections of the escarpment</li> <li>• Dilution of the visual impact of the characteristic Escarpment 'Hanging Woodlands'</li> <li>• Loss of views from and along the escarpment</li> <li>• Weakening of the characteristic mosaic of woodland and grassland particularly in LCTs 2C and 2D (Winchcombe to Uley)</li> <li>• Loss and fragmentation of permanent pasture, breaking the virtually intact corridor of grassland along the escarpment.</li> <li>• Mosaic of new woodlands of inappropriate shape and scale forming prominent non-characteristic features on the escarpment</li> <li>• Loss of Historic Landscape Character through inappropriate siting and/or species.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extend and link existing woodland in preference to creating new 'stand-alone' blocks</li> <li>• Ensure that new woodland planting does not limit or obscure views from and along the escarpment.</li> <li>• Ensure new woodlands respond to the scale and form of existing escarpment woodlands.</li> <li>• Select species characteristic of the ancient semi-natural woodland on the Escarpment.</li> <li>• Ensure woodland creation does not result in the loss of permanent pasture or unimproved grassland</li> <li>• Ensure the grassland corridor along the escarpment remains intact.</li> <li>• Ensure new woodland maximises its open space with grassland to replicate and expand the woodland/grassland mosaic in LCTs 2C and 2D.</li> <li>• Discourage the planting of conifers and encourage the use of native</li> </ul>

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	Local Forces For Change	Potential Landscape Implications	Landscape Strategies and Guidelines
			<p>broadleaves especially when extending or linking the beech woodlands.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encourage the replacement of conifer with native species, particularly on PAWS.</li> <li>• Seek EIA determination if necessary.</li> <li>• For shelterbelts and plantations associated with designed landscapes, select species characteristic of historic designed landscape in the area.</li> <li>• Raise awareness of woodland owners by producing information and guidance</li> <li>• Identify key viewpoints</li> <li>• Ensure adequate deer management and squirrel control</li> </ul>
2.23	Inappropriate or inconsistent management, or neglect of existing woodlands, including hanger woodlands,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Decline and loss of woodland habitats and wildlife corridors.</li> <li>• Poor management endangering long-term continuity of woodlands, especially ancient woodlands and significant alteration to the character of individual stretches of the escarpment.</li> <li>• Decline in the continuity and strength of character of the beech hangers.</li> <li>• Changes in composition of woodlands with potential increase in extent of coniferous plantations.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conserve and enhance areas of existing woodland, with priority given to ancient woodlands.</li> <li>• Promote Constant Cover woodland management</li> <li>• Retain areas of grassland within woodlands to conserve and enhance the important mosaic of woodland and grassland (LCTs 2C and 2D)</li> <li>• Retain the irregular form of woodland and its relationship to landform and interlocking patterns with hedgerows.</li> <li>• Restore PAWS to broadleaved woodland</li> <li>• Felling coupes should be designed to take account of their visual impact</li> <li>• Conserve woodlands along gullies and streams.</li> <li>• Seek opportunities to install 'woody barriers' in streams for flood management.</li> </ul>
2.24	Impact of tree disease such as Chalara Dieback of ash.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Change of colour and texture of woodland canopy as trees die</li> <li>• Thinning of woodland canopy, particularly on the skyline</li> <li>• Loss of single, sometimes veteran, trees in the landscape</li> <li>• Re-stocking with species not native to the Cotswolds</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote Woodland Management Plans to minimise the impact of disease and manage change</li> <li>• Recommend alternative species to ash that reflect the appearance and structure of Cotswold woodland</li> <li>• Consider different provenance of ash that may be disease resistant</li> <li>• Establish a programme to plant replacement trees in the landscape outside of woodlands e.g. hedgerow trees, parkland and wood pasture</li> <li>• Seek arboricultural advice.</li> </ul>