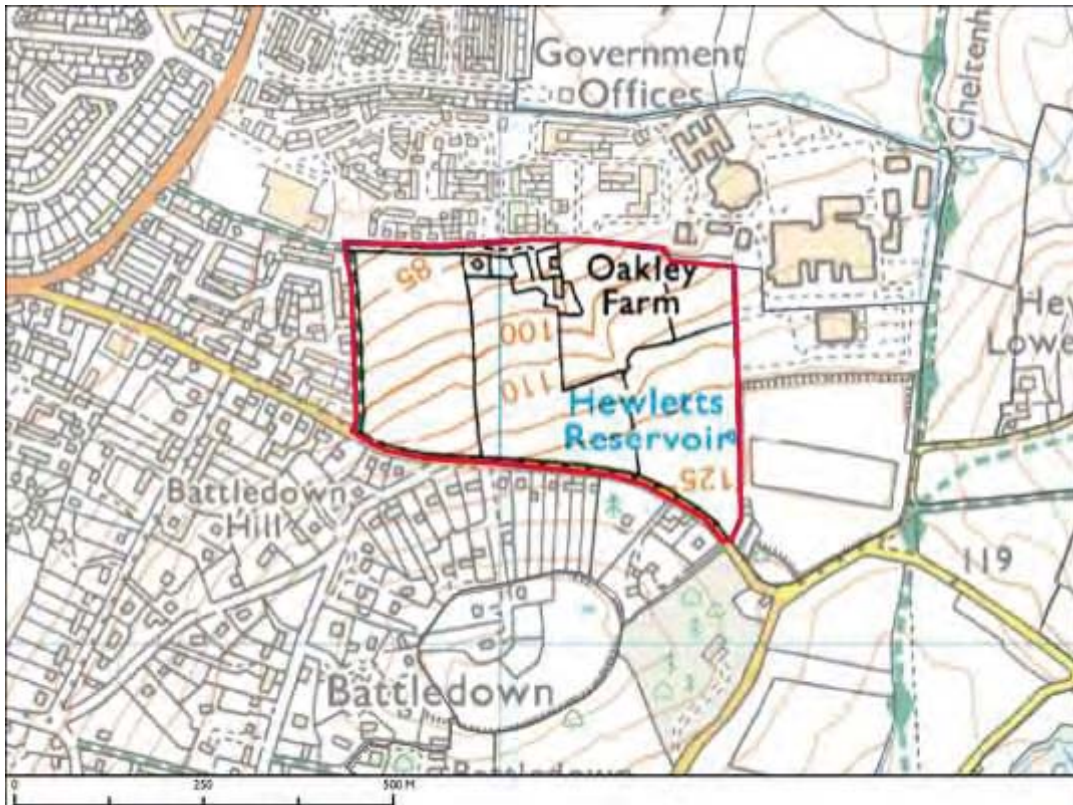


Landscape Character Type: Pasture Slopes
Landscape Character Area: Oakley Farm Pasture Slopes
Site Ref: LCA 7.1

SITE ANALYSIS

Site Location Plan:



Landscape Issues:

Physical Influences:

Sloping topography with small to medium scale landscape

Land Cover:

Pastoral farmland including mature hedgerow boundaries

Influence of human activity:

Residential built development to the north, west and south

Aesthetic and perceptual aspects:

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

Summary of individual elements:

Medium quality elements including hedgerow and post and rail boundaries

Quality and Condition:

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

Overall character of the landscape:

Open, small to medium scale landscape.

Designations:

- Cotswolds AONB

Landscape Character Appraisal:

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

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

Visual Issues Appraisal:

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

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

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

Key Visual Receptors:

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

Visual Sensitivity:

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

Landscape Character Sensitivity:

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

Landscape Value:

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

Landscape Capacity:

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

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

Further references:

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

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

PHOTO SHEET FOR SITE LCA 7.1 – Oakley Farm Pasture Slopes



VP1. View looking southwest from north of area.



VP2. View looking north from south of area



VP3. View looking northeast from southeast of area



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