



2. Escarpment

| | Local Forces For Change | Potential Landscape Implications | Landscape Strategies and Guidelines |
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| | | <p>horses and ponies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sub-division of fields using post and rail fences • Pressure for housing on plots of land | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Respect traditional position of agricultural buildings and their relationship to the surrounding land |
| 3.16 | Flood management and alleviation measures | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction of 'hard' flood defences • Tree planting for flood management inappropriate to landscape character | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retain and manage Escarpment watercourses in their naturalistic form.. • Consider Rural Sustainable Drainage interventions such as in-stream woody barriers to slow peak water flow particularly within woodland. • Seek to influence surrounding land management such as de-compaction of pastures and contour ploughing, wide margins etc on the adjacent High Wold and High Wold Dip-slope.. • Ensure flood defences integrate into the landscape by using appropriate mitigation measures, landscaping and materials • Seek opportunities for tree planting for flood management in-keeping with landscape and woodland character - see Creation of Woodland section 3.22 below |
| 2.17 | <p>Development of scrub and trees on roadside verges</p> <p>Mowing of verges at inappropriate times</p> <p>New and upgraded verge crossings at entrances</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loss of views from the public highway • Loss of roadside grassland habitat • Damage to hedges and walls and other features • Creation of 'lawns' on the roadside due to regular mowing for tidiness leading to a homogenised and sub-urban appearance • Incremental change through introduction of urban elements eroding rural character; raised kerbs, unsympathetic surfacing, upgraded entrances, creation of fenced visibility splays etc from rural roads | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify key views from roads • Manage/remove verge scrub and trees, particularly where views can be restored or where there are benefits for biodiversity • Reintroduce appropriate verge management and mowing • Promote best practice management of verges • Ensure highway authority planning conditions respect and are appropriate to rural character and situation |
| 2.18 | Lack of appropriate management in disused quarries | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loss of limestone flora due to the development of scrub and secondary woodland. • Loss of bat roosts and nesting sites for birds • Loss of geological exposures | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify disused quarries important for biodiversity and/or geology • Encourage appropriate management by providing advice and guidance • Seek planning conditions to ensure quarry restoration and aftercare benefit landscape and biodiversity, particularly unimproved grassland |
| 2.19 | Visitor pressure at escarpment vantage points and circular walks commencing from car park areas. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Degradation of the landscape as a result of littering, path erosion, car parking and use of off road vehicles. • Adverse effect on species rich grassland communities. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduce measures to limit/manage access to degraded areas of the landscape. • Reinstate areas of degraded landscape. • Encourage the use of formal paths rather than allowing desire lines to develop. • Limit/exclude motorcycles and mountain bikes from areas of historic and biodiversity interest. • Minimise car journeys to escarpment vantage points by offering adequate public transport services. • Resist the development of tourism facilities on the escarpment |



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| 2.20 | Damage to field monuments and archaeological sites and the historic environment from farming operations, livestock, tree root damage, burrowing animals, woodland management operations and tree planting and recreational activity. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Damage to important archaeological sites and important landscape features including earthworks and lynchets • Loss of traditional field patterns and integrity of the wider historic landscape. • Loss of traditional field boundaries, particularly hedgerows and dry stone walls where they occur on the escarpment.. • Loss of locally distinctive features • Encroachment of scrub onto archaeological features | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inform landowners of important archaeological sites • Protect all upstanding archaeological sites and consider the impact of changing land use/development on their landscape setting. • Manage/remove burrowing animals. • Restore the wider setting of key monuments • Raise awareness of the historic environment and of the SMR as a source of information • Provide guidance on managing the historic environment to farmers and land owners • Retain traditional field patterns and field boundaries • Ensure tree planting does not take place on archaeological features. • Control scrub and manage existing trees on archaeological features to minimise damage for example by root damage or wind-blow. • Minimise or prevent damage to the historic environment by recreational activity by working with landowners to prepare site management plans and if necessary limit access. • Repair badly eroded features such as earthworks and dry stone walls. • Avoid the planting of new hedgerows or the development of volunteer hedgerows adjacent to dry stone walls |
| 2.21 | Loss of and damage to geological and geomorphological features due to tree growth, erosion and change of land use | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loss of sites that provide an understanding of the Cotswold landscape • Visible features such as outcrops, gulls and areas of landslip, particularly rotational slip obscured or lost. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify important geological features and ensure they are conserved and appropriately managed. |
| Woodland and trees | | | |
| 2.22 | Creation of woodland | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loss of open character of some sections of the escarpment • Dilution of the visual impact of the characteristic Escarpment 'Hanging Woodlands' • Loss of views from and along the escarpment • Weakening of the characteristic mosaic of woodland and grassland particularly in LCTs 2C and 2D (Winchcombe to Uley) • Loss and fragmentation of permanent pasture, breaking the virtually intact corridor of grassland along the escarpment. • Mosaic of new woodlands of inappropriate shape and scale forming prominent non-characteristic features on the escarpment • Loss of Historic Landscape Character through inappropriate siting and/or species. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extend and link existing woodland in preference to creating new 'stand-alone' blocks • Ensure that new woodland planting does not limit or obscure views from and along the escarpment. • Ensure new woodlands respond to the scale and form of existing escarpment woodlands. • Select species characteristic of the ancient semi-natural woodland on the Escarpment. • Ensure woodland creation does not result in the loss of permanent pasture or unimproved grassland • Ensure the grassland corridor along the escarpment remains intact. • Ensure new woodland maximises its open space with grassland to replicate and expand the woodland/grassland mosaic in LCTs 2C and 2D. • Discourage the planting of conifers and encourage the use of native |



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