

Cotswolds AONB Landscape Strategy and Guidelines

June 2016



Cotswolds AONB Landscape Strategy and Guidelines

Introduction

The evolution of the landscape of the Cotswolds AONB is a result of the interaction of both natural forces and the activities of mankind. Landscape is dynamic and continues to change in response to the complex interaction of influences at the global, national, regional and local level. This process of change is inevitable and necessary.

Whilst change can sometimes erode landscape character, it can also bring about positive and beneficial effects through the restoration of lost or degraded landscapes, as well as the creation of new landscapes that will enhance and enrich landscape character. The way in which we respond to change will largely determine the future character of the Cotswolds AONB landscape.

The Landscape Character Assessment and Landscape Strategy and Guidelines will provide a useful tool in the decision making process and allow the Cotswolds Conservation Board, together with a wide range of stakeholders, including local communities, to find new ways of delivering change and regeneration which conserves landscape character and promotes local distinctiveness. The aspiration is to achieve a balance between the desire to conserve, and where appropriate, re-instate the cherished landscape elements that have so long been associated with the Cotswolds, and at the same time promote and support a living, working landscape that is compatible with the principles of sustainable development.

The *Cotswolds AONB Landscape Character Assessment* provides the basis for this Landscape Strategy and Guidelines document. The character assessment describes the evolution of the landscape, and the character of the 19 landscape character types that have been identified within the AONB.

The *Landscape Strategy and Guidelines* presents a range of landscape strategies and guidelines for the 19 landscape character types to help manage change in a sustainable and positive way.

The objectives of the Landscape Strategy and Guidelines are:

- to identify the forces for change impacting on each of the 19 landscape character types and considers the implications of these changes on landscape character, with particular reference to the identified key characteristics
- to develop broad landscape strategies and guidelines to inform the decision making process and help manage change in a sustainable and positive manner;
- to provide a framework within which the Cotswolds Conservation Board and other stakeholders can review and add to the landscape strategy and guidelines, and identify opportunities for their involvement and long term delivery of the strategy;

How to use the Landscape Strategy and Guidelines

The *Cotswolds AONB Landscape Character Assessment* offers a comprehensive characterisation of the AONB's landscape that can assist in understanding and promoting the concept of local distinctiveness. The study also recognises the fundamental role that farming, forestry and other forms of development have played in fashioning the landscape and acknowledges that the landscape of the AONB owes its character as much to these influences as to those of geology, climate, flora and fauna.

By building on the findings of the character assessment, the *Cotswolds AONB Landscape Strategy and Guidelines* provides an overview of the forces for change that are influencing the landscape and has identified a series of landscape strategies and guidelines to help direct change in a positive and sustainable way. In very general terms, the *Landscape Strategy and Guidelines* should be seen as a tool to aid the planning, design and management of the AONB's diverse landscapes.

The landscape character assessment and landscape strategy reports are designed to act as a catalyst for positive landscape change by achieving the following objectives:

- to provide a description of the baseline landscape and to identify key features that contribute to local distinctiveness;
- to highlight the principal forces for change and the potential implications of change on landscape character;
- to provide guidance to help accommodate change in a positive way

The strategy, in particular, recognises the potential for landscape conservation, enhancement, restoration and creation, and on finding opportunities to strengthen distinctive character through the design and management of new and existing landscapes.

Uses of the Landscape Strategy and Guidelines

Whilst many planning and strategy documents contain clear guidance and specific policies related to landscape character, there is sometimes a lack of supporting guidance or advice on the practicalities of using information on landscape character as part of the planning and development control process.

There are often widely differing views and opinions amongst all sections of the community, on the uses, benefits, and potential applications of landscape character assessment. In addition, landscape character assessment is seen by many principally as a development control tool, the purpose of which is to resist forms of development. There is therefore a need for clear guidance on the range of potential uses and applications of the *Cotswolds AONB Landscape Character Assessment* and *Landscape Strategy* and these are considered below.

Planning

- Informing development plan policies at local level and informing policy at the national level
- Fulfilling the requirement of Paragraph 115 of the National Planning Policy Framework which makes clear that in designated landscapes, including AONBs, the conservation of the landscape and scenic beauty has great weight with respect to planning issues.
- Assisting studies of development potential, for example to help identify sites for new development.
- Informing the siting, scale and design conditions for particular forms of development such as minerals and housing.
- Contributing to landscape capacity studies relating to the supply of land for housing, minerals or other land uses.
- Providing an input to Environmental Assessment at the level of plans and policies and in association with individual development proposals.
- Providing a framework and context for the production of more local landscape character assessments and Village Design Statements

Landscape Conservation, Management and Enhancement

- Providing a basis for the preparation of landscape management strategies.
- Helping guide landscape change in positive and sustainable ways, for example programmes of woodland expansion and identifying new uses for disturbed and degraded land.
- Informing the targeting of resources for land management and agri-environment schemes and evaluating the effectiveness of funding.

Section 85, CROW Act 2000

Section 85 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 requires public bodies, including regional and local planning authorities, to have due regard to the purposes of designation in carrying out their functions. The Landscape Strategy and Guidelines will enable public bodies to deliver this duty

Implementing the Strategy

The *Landscape Character Assessment* and *Landscape Strategy and Guidelines* should be accessible to every authority and organisation involved in the planning, design and management of the AONB's landscape as it provides a common source of baseline information. Indeed by offering a common framework, the Landscape Strategy and Guidelines make it easier for an integrated approach to be adopted to manage and monitor landscape change in the AONB. The following section suggests the role and responsibilities of agencies likely to be involved in implementing the strategy and identifies how the study might be used

Government Agencies

- Help inform organisations such as Natural England, the Environment Agency, DEFRA, the Forestry Commission and Historic England in prioritising and targeting action through grants and funding initiatives.
- Support the National Character Area process and development of Strategic Environmental Opportunities by providing baseline landscape assessment data and identifying indicators for monitoring landscape change.

Cotswolds Conservation Board/Local Authorities

- Guiding and implementing the development control process including the preparation of development briefs and contributions to evidence at public inquiry.
- Consideration of landscape issues in planning policy development.
- Framework for development capacity studies and for the analysis of the landscape setting of towns and villages.
- Basis for developing more detailed local landscape character assessments and townscape assessments.
- Help improve awareness of landscape issues through promotion and interpretation.

Land Owners and Land Managers

- Help guide landowners and managers to inform decisions on land management issues and long term planning.
- Target funds to achieve optimal landscape benefits and provide a benchmark for monitoring future landscape change.

Developers

- Help promote the benefits of high quality distinctive environments as a setting for new developments and the value of reflecting local identity by using distinctive elements and features of landscape character as a model for the layout and design of new developments.

Community Groups, Parish Councils, Local Interest Groups, Voluntary Organisations

- Input to local projects and initiatives such as Neighbourhood Plans and Village Design Statements,
- Help improve pride in local distinctiveness and awareness in landscape issues generally;
- Help identify opportunities for community action;
- Assist local communities in securing funding for environmental restoration or enhancement projects.

Educational Establishments and Research Organisations

- Promoting an understanding of landscape character and the influence of landscape change.
- A basis for long-term research projects such as monitoring landscape change

Taking a Positive Approach to Change: Guiding Principles

The following section draws together the main strategies identified for each of the 19 landscape character types in the landscape strategy and guidelines.

Recognise and Enhance Local Distinctiveness

The Landscape Character Assessment identifies and records the patterns, features and elements of the various landscape character types and areas that contribute to making one landscape different from another. It is these factors that contribute to defining local distinctiveness.

The *Landscape Strategy and Guidelines* identifies both the wider and local forces for change that threaten to erode local distinctiveness and reduce the inherent variety expressed by the AONB's landscapes. The strategy aims to counteract this by offering the means by which landscape change might be managed to reinforce the contrasts in landscape character identified in the landscape character assessment. This obviously has significant implications for landscape design and management and the following underlying principles should be adopted

- Avoid a standardised approach to design by using the Landscape Character Assessment and strategy to inform the process of negotiation between planning officers and developers. For example, officers might identify specific criteria and landscape considerations that a specific development should take account of prior to approval. The success of a proposal can subsequently be assessed on the basis of these criteria and considerations.
- Planning authorities should be proactive and specify to developers how their proposals can be designed to reflect and enhance local landscape character. Officers might outline elements and characteristic features that should be considered for enhancement, restoration or conservation etc.
- Planning authorities should, where appropriate, encourage developers to use local building materials, building styles, native species and other characteristic features and elements of a particular landscape to strengthen local distinctiveness.
- Developers and agents for change should be encouraged to adopt creative solutions and identify the means by which development might be successfully integrated into the existing landscape character. Consideration should be given to the scale of development, layout and relationship to existing development and field patterns. This might apply to built development as well as new woodland planting for example.
- Planning authorities should consider the cumulative impact of small-scale changes and incremental changes as a result of one-off developments

Adopt a Positive Approach to Landscape Change

The strategy offers a key tool in the delivery of the European Landscape Convention. The European Landscape Convention (ELC) is the first international convention to focus specifically on landscape. Created by the Council of Europe, the convention promotes landscape protection, management and planning, and European co-operation on landscape issues.

Signed by the UK Government in February 2006, the ELC became binding from March 2007. It applies to all landscapes, towns and villages, as well as open countryside; the coast and inland areas; and ordinary or even degraded landscapes, as well as those that are afforded protection.

The ELC defines landscape as:

“An area, as perceived by people, whose character is the result of the action and interaction of natural and/or human factors.”
(Council of Europe 2000)

It highlights the importance of developing landscape policies dedicated to the protection, management and creation of landscapes, and establishing procedures for the general public and other stakeholders to participate in policy creation and implementation.

Natural England is leading the implementation of the ELC in England and has worked with Defra and Historic England to produce the European Landscape Convention: A Framework for Implementation in England.

This framework seeks to further strengthen the protection, management and planning of England's landscapes, by providing a structure for action plans that will be prepared by any interested partners and stakeholders. It underpins a wide range of activities which, through public engagement and stakeholder involvement, will lead to a wider understanding and appreciation of landscapes, improved knowledge and care, as well as a sense of inspiration, well-being and connection between people and place.

In taking a positive approach to landscape change, developers, planning authorities and Government agencies should consider the following:

- Use key environmental features to assist the development control process. Development, which is assessed as having potential to have a significant effect on key features, may be a candidate for refusal or require stringent planning conditions that ensure important features are not lost.
- Use the landscape strategy as a baseline for Environmental Impact Assessments of developments. The impact of development on key features and landscape character should be assessed and where impacts are found to occur, scheme modification or mitigation measures should be required to remove or reduce the impact of development.
- Priority should be given to protecting key features. Wherever possible, opportunities to introduce new features should be identified to compensate for loss or degradation elsewhere. This might include ensuring that where a particular habitat or area of planting is lost as a result of development, habitat creation or planting is undertaken at a suitable location close by.
- Ensure that change is appropriate to landscape character. Proposals should only be pursued that are appropriate for each landscape type and the features and characteristics that define local distinctiveness. Perceptual aspects such as tranquillity, remoteness and wilderness should also be considered.
- Developers should be encouraged to consider adopting creative design solutions to conserving or enhancing local landscape character. The character assessment and strategy can provide a blueprint for new development and provide a model for

creating landscape and restoring habitats. This is particularly important where brownfield sites offer no features on which new development can refer to.

- Consider the effects of small-scale development on landscape character. Incremental changes can gradually erode landscape character and local distinctiveness if the wider context of a development or land management initiative is not considered. The landscape character assessment and strategy highlights key characteristics such as distinctive field patterns, features and settlement patterns that are particularly susceptible to incremental change. However, the strategy may also identify the means by which such developments may be successfully incorporated into the landscape and indeed enhance particular characteristics

Building Bridges: A Coordinated Approach to Landscape Resources

A wide range of factors and forces for change, influence the character, condition and sensitivity of the AONB's landscape character. To counter, control and guide these forces for change, numerous strategies have been identified, many of which have implications for a diverse range of disciplines, organisations and communities. It is essential that landscape issues are tackled in an integrated way and interested parties and community groups engaged in order that their thoughts and aspirations are assessed, consensus reached and particular roles and responsibilities identified and agreed. There is also a need to share and co-ordinate information, in order to minimise costs and reduce the risk of duplication of work

The Cotswolds Conservation Board and associated Local Authorities are committed to an integrated approach and the findings of the strategy will be combined with the results from a wide range of parallel studies and initiatives.

Monitoring Landscape Change in the Future

Monitoring the rate of landscape and environmental change enables planning officers and those responsible for implementing the strategy to assess the practical effectiveness of existing policy, initiatives and management, and help modify policy and management regimes in the light of actual trends.

The information arising from a programme of monitoring rates and patterns of landscape change can be used for a variety of purposes including decision making in the development control process, and the identification of priorities and targets for funding and enhancement initiatives. The Landscape Strategy and Guidelines has been used to identify a range of indicators within the Conservation Board's State of the Cotswolds report to assist in the monitoring of landscape change whether this is deemed to be positive or negative.

It is important that the responsibilities for recording and monitoring change are established at an early stage. It is likely that a range of agencies and organisations will be required to monitor change as indicators vary from elements of the built environment, the extent of particular habitats, and the survival rate of particular heritage features. Wherever possible, communities should be engaged in the monitoring process.

Conclusion

The *Cotswolds AONB Landscape Strategy and Guidelines* sets out a series of ideas and initiatives to help ensure that change and development respects landscape character, and that key features are conserved and enhanced

The Strategy also provides the framework for further action and it is hoped that through a process of continued collaboration, and the input of parallel projects, the strategies presented here, can be translated into firm commitments which can be supported and delivered through the Cotswolds AONB Management Plan as well as through Development Plans of the Local Authorities and Agri-environment Schemes

Ultimately, the intention is that the Strategy provides a tool in the decision making process and assist the Conservation Board together with other agencies, developers and local communities, in finding new ways of delivering change and regeneration, whilst conserving and enhancing landscape character and promoting local distinctiveness

How to Use the Landscape Strategy and Guidelines for the Cotswolds AONB

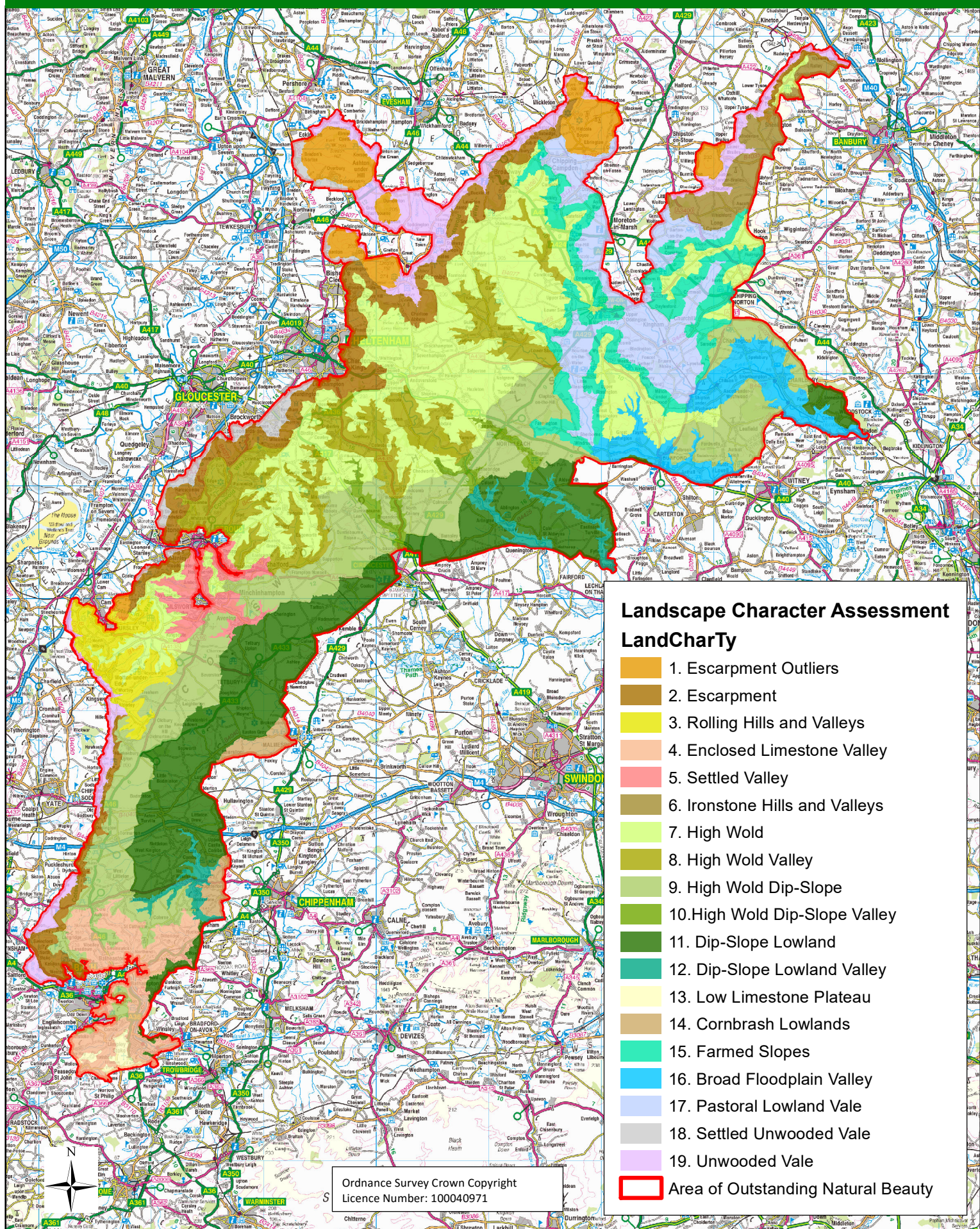
Landscape Strategies and Guidelines been identified for each of the AONB's 19 landscape character types.

Guidelines for each landscape type include consideration of the following:

- **Key Features.** These are the features of the landscape that make the most important contribution to the character of the landscape. The notes are based on the key characteristics identified in the Cotswolds AONB Landscape Character Assessment but also explain why they are important. Key features are specific and do not necessarily occur in each of the landscape types or component landscape character areas. It is anticipated that the Key Features identified for each of the landscape types will be the focus of conservation and enhancement initiatives in the future, and that their protection will normally be sought.
- **Assessment of Landscape Sensitivity and Capacity.** For each of the landscape types, a brief assessment of sensitivity to change is presented. Where relevant, a discussion of the landscape's capacity to successfully accommodate change is also discussed.
- **Local Forces for Change.** These are the forces that have been assessed as being of greatest significance in each of the nineteen landscape types. They represent a refinement of the generic forces for change that have been identified for the AONB as a whole.
- **Landscape Implications.** The same or similar forces for change may apply across a number of landscape types. However, the implications of change on each landscape may be very different as a result of their contrasting character, the nature of their key environmental features and their sensitivity or capacity to accommodate change.
- **Landscape Strategies and Guidelines.** This section presents strategies for each of the landscape types based on the key environmental features and consideration of the implications of each of the local forces for change.

Where a particular site or area falls close to the boundary line of a landscape type, it is recommended that the characteristics and strategies for each of the adjacent landscape types are taken into consideration

Cotswolds AONB Landscape Character Types



2. Escarpment

Character Areas

2A Bath to Beach Farm

2B Beach Farm to Hillesley

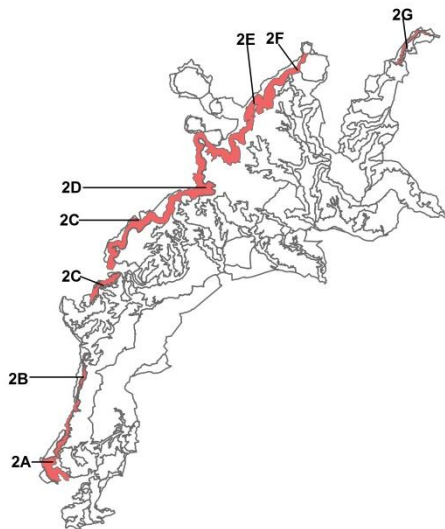
2C Uley to Cooper's Hill

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
	New Development		
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).	• Encroachment of built development onto escarpment slopes intruding into the landscape. • Erosion of distinctive form, scale and character of smaller settlements along the base of the Scarp and on lower slopes including their relationship to the landscape and spring line. • Loss of characteristic small scale settlements and hamlets due to settlement growth and coalescence. • Proliferation of suburban building styles, housing estate layout and materials and the introduction of ornamental garden plants and boundary features. • Spread of lit elements up the Escarpment slope. • Potential for glint from buildings, particularly on hillsides. • Erosion of the setting of the AONB • Upgrading of rural lanes and holloways in areas of new development and the introduction of suburbanising features such as mini roundabouts, street lighting, highway fencing and kerbs, traffic calming at village entrances. • Degradation of the view from the scarp across the adjoining vale and from the vale looking at the scarp. • Urban fringe impacts such as fly tipping and dumping of vehicles • Loss of archaeological and historical features, field patterns and landscapes. • Interruption, weakening or loss of the historic character of settlements and the historic context in how they have expanded, especially the importance of the relationship between the historic core of the settlement and surviving historic features such as churchyards, manor houses, burgage plots, historic farms, pre-enclosure paddocks and closes	• Maintain to open, dramatic and sparsely settled character of the Escarpment. • Avoid development that will intrude negatively into the landscape and cannot be successfully mitigated, for example, extensions to settlements onto the escarpment • Conserve pattern of settlements fringing the lower slopes and their existing relationship to landform. • Ensure new development is proportionate and does not overwhelm the existing settlement • Ensure that new development does not adversely affect settlement character and form • Conserve the distinctive orientation of linear villages on lower escarpment slopes and the relationship of settlements to the Escarpment and spring line • Avoid developments incorporating standardised development layout, suburban style lighting, construction details and materials that cumulatively can lead to the erosion of peaceful rural landscape character. • Avoid cramming development right up to the boundaries resulting in hard suburban style edge to the settlement • Control the proliferation of suburban building styles and materials • Restore existing stone, old brick and half-timbered buildings within settlements in preference to new built development. • Promote the use of local stone and building styles in the construction of new buildings and extensions to existing dwellings. (New buildings should, at least, respect local vernacular style). • Existing buildings should be carefully conserved and where converted to new uses buildings must retain their historic integrity and functional character. Sound conservation advice and principles must be sought and implemented • Adopt measures to minimise and where possible reduce light pollution. • Promote initiatives that remove heritage assets from 'at risk' status in the Heritage at Risk Register. • Avoid development that may restrict or obscure views to the upper escarpment slopes and distinctive features such as folly towers and hillforts. • Conserve the rural character of the road network, and in particular hollow-ways climbing the escarpment.

2. Escarpment

	Local Forces For Change	Potential Landscape Implications	Landscape Strategies and Guidelines
			• Avoid proposals that result in the loss of archaeological and historical features or that impact on the relationship of the settlement and its links with surviving historical features. • Ensure the historic character and context are included in Neighbourhood Plans • Identify key viewpoints to and from the escarpment • Create new woodlands that link to existing woodlands on lower escarpment slopes to counteract the impact of intrusive or degraded urban edges. • Plant trees and hedges within and around new development to reduce impact on the landscape ideally in advance of the development taking place. • Retain existing trees, hedges etc as part of the scheme. • Promote and link to the escarpment 'green' infrastructure in any major extensions to Gloucester and Cheltenham • Ensure development proposals safeguard and provide new links and enhancements to the Public Rights of Way network. • Consider the impact on local Public Rights of Way as settlements expand and take into account any required improvements
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.	• Visual intrusions introduced to the landscape • Upgrading of minor roads and lanes and holloways in areas of new development and introduction of suburbanising features such as street lighting. • Introduction of 'lit' elements to characteristically dark escarpment slope landscapes. • Potential for glint from buildings. • Erosion of distinctive dispersed settlement character on the escarpment slopes. • Suburbanisation and domestication of agricultural landscape by the introduction of gardens e.g ornamental garden plants and boundary features, garden sheds, gateways, parking areas and conversion of tracks to manicured drives and ornamental gateways • Appearance of 'mini parklands' out of context with the surrounding landscape • Appearance and proliferation of stables and 'white tape' field boundaries for horses and ponies – see section 2.6. below • Loss of tranquillity and sense of seclusion	• Avoid development that will intrude negatively into the landscape and cannot be successfully mitigated. • Protect the undeveloped, unlit character of much of the escarpment. • Oppose new housing on the Escarpment (unless special circumstances apply in accordance with Paragraph 55 of the NPPF and development conserves and enhances the AONB as required by the CRoW Act 2000 • Avoid conversion of isolated farm buildings. • Conserve the distinctive rural and dispersed settlement pattern. • Restore existing stone farm buildings and structures in preference to new built development. • Existing buildings should be carefully conserved and where converted to new uses buildings must retain their historic integrity and functional character. Sound conservation advice and principles must be sought and implemented • Maintain the sense of openness and consider the impact of development proposals on views to and from the escarpment slopes, including the impact of cumulative development. • Control the proliferation of suburban building styles and materials. • Landscaping schemes accompanying development should encourage the planting of appropriately sized native trees, shrubs and traditional fruit

2. Escarpment

	Local Forces For Change	Potential Landscape Implications	Landscape Strategies and Guidelines
			varieties, whilst discouraging large alien tree species such as eucalypts and conifers and inappropriate forms and cultivars of native species, particularly on fringes of open countryside • Respect traditional position of agricultural buildings and their relationship to the surrounding land.
2.3	Conversion of traditional farm buildings to new uses Deterioration in condition of vernacular farm buildings	• Erosion of distinctive features and loss of Cotswold character. • Domestication or industrialisation of existing agricultural vernacular and character • Loss of locally historic features and erosion of the integrity of the historic landscape • Loss of historic features/character of distinctive buildings if converted to uses requiring inappropriate interventions to historic fabric and form. • Introduction or expansion of lit elements on the Escarpment • Loss and erosion of Farmstead Character and how the buildings relate to the surrounding landscape and agricultural land use • Decline in quality of landscape	• Conserve vernacular farm buildings for their own sake and/or by developing other options for their use whilst retaining their agricultural character • Where converted to new uses buildings must retain their historic integrity and functional character. Sound conservation advice and principles must be sought and implemented • New uses should not prejudice the effective operation of the farm enterprise. • Avoid inappropriate new uses that necessitate excessive loss of original historic features, or introduce elements that expand domestication or industrialisation • Discourage the conversion of farm buildings to a function with a limited life span and seek to prevent follow-on conversions e.g. for housing. • Respect traditional position of agricultural buildings and their relationship to the surrounding land. • Stabilise historic buildings and undertake localised scrub and woodland clearance to enhance their landscape setting and increase the contribution they make to landscape character. • Ensure best practice is followed for the protection of species associated with farm buildings e.g. bats • Promote examples of good practice
2.4	Solar Farms on or in the setting of the Escarpment	• Industrialisation of the rural landscape • Change of character due to colour and texture and heliographic glint • Loss of seasonal change in the landscape • Loss of characteristic pastoral landscape • Damage to and loss of landscape features such as Ridge and Furrow, Strip Lynchets, trees, walls and hedgerows. • Concealment of geomorphological or archaeological features • Impact of supporting infrastructure such as buildings and cables, roadways, security fencing, CCTV masts and lighting. • Decline in quality of landscape	• Prevent proposals for solar farms that will impact negatively on landscape character and/or intrude into views to and/or from the Escarpment • Avoid proposals that will result in the loss or harm to landscape features such as Strip Lynchets, hedgerows and walls • Ensure a comprehensive LVIA is undertaken (including potential cumulative effects) • Ensure a glint/glare assessment is undertaken to determine the heliographic impact on receptors. • Reduce landscape impact with appropriate screening • Bury cables underground and seek opportunities to bury existing power lines • Keep supporting infrastructure to a minimum and ensure it is in keeping with landscape character • Ensure removal and restoration on temporary construction access.

2. Escarpment

	Local Forces For Change	Potential Landscape Implications	Landscape Strategies and Guidelines
			• Avoid the inclusion of any security lighting proposals • Seek appropriate landscape enhancement to field boundaries and margins within solar farm development proposals. • Promote the use of roof space for photovoltaic panels particularly on modern farm buildings
2.5	Introduction of vertical elements such as communication masts, wind turbines, electricity pylons and large road signs on and adjacent to the escarpment	• Introduction of visually intrusive 'urban' or industrial features to the dramatic escarpment • Loss of open character and 'natural' appearance • Introduction of unnatural movement and loss of tranquillity • Intrusion on the setting of scheduled monuments, listed buildings and designed landscapes • Breaking up of escarpment skyline • Impact on views to, from and along the escarpment	• Conserve the open, remote character by objecting to the development of vertical elements on the skyline or where these would adversely affect views along the escarpment or from the neighbouring vales and Cotswolds LCTs • Ensure the development of vertical elements in neighbouring areas beyond the AONB do not adversely affect views to, from and along the escarpment and across the adjacent LCTs • Ensure alternative options have been fully considered • Minimise impact by locating new communication masts on existing structures or by using existing masts • Set masts against trees • Bury cables underground and seek opportunities to bury existing cabling • Avoid use of visually prominent urban security fencing and CCTV masts. • Consider other renewable energy and communication technologies • Ensure full assessment of heritage setting impacts and appropriate measures undertaken • Seek to minimise size and number of road signs
2.6	Establishment or expansion of equestrian establishments	• Proliferation of stables and other visual clutter such as ribbon fences, jumps, horse boxes, shelters, manège and lighting associated with 'horsiculture'. • Creation of paddocks by sub-dividing fields using non-characteristic field boundary treatments such as post and rail fence or ribbon fences • Erosion of the dramatic, often open landscape character of the Escarpment • Deterioration in pasture quality and over grazing • Pressure to provide new housing for staff and owners • Creation of surfaced tracks, new and enlarged field entrances and parking areas for cars and horse boxes etc. • Excessive use of local roads and paths by horses, in part due to no direct or close connections to bridleways etc. • Increase in vehicle movements and roadside parking • Damage to road verges.	• The creation of horse paddocks in visually prominent locations such as a roadside and valley side locations should be avoided. • Oppose change of use for the 'keeping of horses' in visually prominent locations. • A concentration of horse paddocks and associated structures in any one area can have a cumulative harmful impact on landscape character and should be avoided • Take into account proximity to bridleways etc. • Where possible, existing buildings should be utilised and new stables and other structures kept to a minimum.. • Ensure all new ventures provide accommodation within new stable buildings and proposals for separate isolated housing should be resisted • New structures should be carefully sited and designed to minimize their impact on the landscape. Wherever possible they should be located close to existing buildings. They should be constructed from appropriate vernacular materials and should follow the form of the landscape, avoiding prominent skyline sites and slopes

2. Escarpment

	Local Forces For Change	Potential Landscape Implications	Landscape Strategies and Guidelines
			• Jumps, temporary fences and other equipment should be well maintained and removed when not in use. • Any lighting should be designed to minimise light pollution, e.g. low level and directed downwards and fitted with timers. • Where pastures need to be subdivided into smaller paddocks, temporary electric fencing is better than more permanent structures and offers greater flexibility in pasture management. Post and rail should be avoided. • Encourage the use of olive green tape, wider spacing of fence posts etc • Historic field boundaries, such as hedges, walls and fences should be maintained or extended, and new boundaries should match the local vernacular wherever possible. • Ensure authorisation is obtained from the highway authority for new gates or stiles on public rights of way. • In some instances, hedges and dry stone walls may need protection by fencing to prevent damage • Jumps, temporary fences and other equipment should be well maintained and removed when not in use. • Existing gates and access points should be retained if possible, and new gates should match the local vernacular. • Historic features, including ridge and furrow pastures, stone troughs and stone stiles, should be protected from damage by equestrian uses. • Promote Board guidance on good practice
2.7	Major road construction and improvement schemes on escarpment slopes	• Intrusive features on highly visible sections of the escarpment, and at gateways into the AONB • Introduction or increased movement in the landscape • Urbanising effect • Potential impact of additional road signage and lighting • Loss of tranquillity and excessive noise • Light and air pollution • Impact of road signs • Loss of archaeological features and impact on the setting of heritage assets. • Loss of woodland and other sensitive habitats	• Avoid major road building schemes • Implement traffic management schemes including speed reduction • Ensure any scheme brings substantial net benefits for the landscape and is designed to conserve and enhance character of the landscape • Ensure comprehensive EIA and LVIA are undertaken and their recommendations implemented. • Ensure careful and sensitive design of road proposals and associated infrastructure on escarpment crest and slopes • Keep lighting to an absolute minimum and use 'Dark Sky friendly' lighting • Seek to prevent rat-running on local roads, restoring and enhancing the character and amenity of local settlements and road network. • Restore redundant lengths of highway to agriculture or suitable habitat • Where bridges or other structures are unavoidable and visually prominent, their siting and design should be well integrated into landform and be of lasting architectural quality.

2. Escarpment

	Local Forces For Change	Potential Landscape Implications	Landscape Strategies and Guidelines
			• Avoid over-engineering links to the local road network. • Ensure landscaping design is fully in keeping with local character and land form • Seek opportunities for habitat creation, particularly unimproved grassland, on verges, embankments and areas of land isolated by new road and their long term management • Minimise loss of woodlands and other sensitive habitats; avoid loss of ancient woodland as an irreplaceable semi-natural habitat. • Funding from Highway Agency or highway authorities for mitigation measures to be a pre-condition e.g noise screening, quiet surfacing, land bridge etc. • Consider the potential for exposing geological features and their long term management
2.8	Road upgrading and improvements, especially of minor country roads, as a result of development or general improvement schemes.	• Introduction of suburban features such as mini roundabouts, lighting, kerbs and traffic calming measures. • Use of inappropriate materials (e.g. standard highway fences and barriers) • Loss of roadside hedges and walls • Loss of verge/roadside habitat	• Refer to DMRB Vol 10 for general environmental design guidance. • Conserve the rural character of the local road network • Avoid the upgrading of tracks or creation of roads on the escarpment, particularly on the mid and upper slopes, especially where a lack of roads is characteristic • Resist the construction of 'village gateways', particularly those which are inappropriate and out of character • Minimise the use of road markings, permanent signage and lighting, siting them with care and ensuring that they are in keeping with their surroundings wherever possible whilst fulfilling road safety requirements. • Avoid making over-large and inappropriate entrances and keep visibility splays to a minimum • Promote use of design and materials appropriate to local character. • Produce guidance on design and suitable materials. • Promote use of 'shared space' for traffic calming measures in villages. • Seek opportunities to conserve and enhance roadside boundaries and habitats and their long-term management. • Promote road verge protection and management
2.9	Excessive traffic and/or speed on minor local roads and lanes. Increase in size of vehicles using country lanes.	• Pressure to improve roads by widening and straightening. • Loss of tranquillity and danger to walkers/riders and other non-motorised users. • Damage to verges and roadside boundaries by vehicles	• Promote traffic restriction measures such as lorry routing maps. • Maintain or reinstate rural character within settlements by promoting shared space and road design to slow and minimise traffic impact • Apply national guidance on rural speed restrictions in sensitive areas (DfT Circular 01/2013 especially Para 128) • Ensure traffic management measures reflect the character and materials of the area. • Encourage use of public transport, car sharing etc

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	Local Forces For Change	Potential Landscape Implications	Landscape Strategies and Guidelines
			• Encourage cycling on safe routes • Promote road verge protection and management
	Land use		
2.10	Agricultural intensification, diversification and farm amalgamation.	• Construction of large scale industrial style agricultural 'sheds', silos and AD plants in prominent locations obscuring views of the Escarpment when viewed from the vale and dominate views of the lowlands when viewed from the upper escarpment slopes • Introduction of industrial elements on the Escarpment • Conversion of farm outbuildings and field barns to recreational or business uses • Removal of semi-natural vegetation and poor maintenance of and subsequent loss of field boundaries • Contamination of water courses and aquifer particularly from nitrates and phosphates. • Increased conversion of pasture to arable land, mainly on the lower slopes. • Woodland creation on permanent pasture. • Degradation and loss of hedgerows and increased use of post and wire fencing. • Abandonment of permanent pasture on the Escarpment and resulting spread of scrub and secondary woodland on otherwise open slopes. • Damage to and loss of archaeological sites and field monuments from conversion of pasture to arable and from intensification of grazing. • Move towards arable production on small mixed farms resulting in the removal or degradation of hedgerows and/ or loss of former pasture. • Loss of Farmstead character • Introduction or expansion of lit elements in the characteristically dark landscape • Increased damage to roads, road verges, dry stone walls and hedges from large machinery • Pressure to upgrade lanes or create new access tracks on the Escarpment • Increased width of gateways into fields	• Conserve the open, dramatic and often remote character of the Escarpment and views to, along and from it. • Ensure that new farm buildings including silos and AD plants etc do not have an adverse visual impact on the wider landscape and views • Maintain the appearance and characteristic of isolated farmsteads and oppose proposals that will become dominant in the landscape • Provide advice to farmers on the siting of new buildings, lighting, colour etc. • Encourage the mitigation of existing large agricultural buildings e.g by limited tree planting. • Encourage the installation of PV on the roofs of new agricultural buildings, avoiding risk of glint/glare. • Seek to conserve traditional farm buildings. • Respect traditional position of agricultural buildings and their relationship to the surrounding land. • Conserve characteristically dark stretches of the Escarpment • Encourage small-scale mixed farming and encourage woodland and boundary management. • Monitor river nutrient levels. • Avoid the conversion of pasture to arable particularly where archaeological sites/field monuments may be lost or damaged. leads to fragmentation of grassland or potential contamination of water courses/aquifer • Encourage low intensity grazing or restrict access by livestock where archaeological sites/ field monuments may be lost or damaged • Encourage means and methods of reducing cultivation damage to archaeological sites and monuments (including reversion to grassland, minimal-tillage, direct drilling and other damage reduction methods). • Conserve areas of permanent pasture. • Protect and retain ancient/veteran trees. • Promote the conservation and restoration of hedgerows. Those marking ancient boundaries should be regarded as a priority. • Ensure any woodland creation is in keeping with landscape character – see section

2. Escarpment

	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.	- Impact on views from the escarpment across the vale. - Introduction of unnatural, often shiny, materials leading to an industrialised appearance - Impact of light pollution	- Consider the scale and siting of polytunnels etc - When not in use, remove field film and polytunnels or roll polytunnel plastic up to reduce impact.
2.12	Loss of traditional horticulture/ agriculture	- Loss of traditional orchards and local varieties of fruit - Introduction of field film and polytunnels/ glasshouses into the neighbouring vale and their impact on views from the escarpment.	- Identify and protect existing traditional orchards and new potential sites for traditional orchards - Identify historical sites of orchards and promote their restoration - Promote the appropriate management of existing traditional orchards and the planting of locally distinctive varieties - Consider scale and siting of polytunnels etc
2.13	Planting of energy crops such as Miscanthus, short rotation coppice and short rotation forestry	- Loss or seasonal interruption of views particularly from roads and public rights of way. - Loss of and fragmentation permanent pasture - Change in colour and texture of the escarpment - Damage to Archaeological sites, historic landscapes, geological and geomorphological features damaged or obscured - Winter cropping resulting in 'scars' on the escarpment from the appearance of bare ground and vehicle tracks. - Appearance of tracks on the escarpment slopes for access and crop extraction.	- Ensure energy crops are not planted where they would restrict or intrude into views, particularly open views across the landscape and on skyline sites. - Do not plant on semi-natural habitats, permanent pasture or on sites with Section 41 NERC Act or local BAP species that could be affected in a negative way. - Do not plant on sites where archaeological sites could be damaged or where significant historic landscapes would be adversely affected or on sites where features of geological or geomorphological importance would be obscured. - Promote Cotswolds Conservation Board guidance
2.14	Decline in grazing stock on escarpment slopes and areas of common land Abandonment of grassland	- Scrub encroachment and loss of permanent pasture and species rich grassland due to invasion of dominant grass species. - Development of secondary woodland - Loss of characteristic of grazing animals on the Escarpment - Loss of open character of some sections of the escarpment - Change in colour and texture in the landscape due to rank vegetation and scrub. - Tendency for 'abandoned land' to be targeted for conversion into arable or woodland or for development - Archaeological and geological sites obscured or damaged	- Conserve areas of open pasture and common. - Encourage traditional management regimes to limit scrub encroachment on areas of semi natural grassland. - Re-introduction of grazing on semi-natural grasslands/improvement of existing grazing regimes. - Produce guidance on scrub management - Identify key viewpoints
2.15	Separation of farmhouse/agricultural housing from the working farm for sale with a plot of land. Sub-division of farmland for 'lifestyle' plots	- Loss of integrity, cohesion and character of historic farmsteads and associated farmland. - Loss of agricultural context - Suburbanisation of agricultural landscape by the introduction of gardens e.g ornamental garden plants and boundary features, parking areas, lighting, and conversion of tracks to manicured drives and ornamental gateways - Shelterbelt planting for privacy screening - Appearance and proliferation of stables and 'white tape' field boundaries for	- Only permit new uses of traditional farm buildings that are appropriate to retain their historic character and features. - Use planning conditions to restrict subdivision of fields, construction of stables etc. Consider use of Article 4 Direction. - Ensure separation of housing does not prejudice the effective operation of the farm enterprise - Avoid isolated development, particularly in areas of dark skies

2. Escarpment

	Local Forces For Change	Potential Landscape Implications	Landscape Strategies and Guidelines
		horses and ponies • Sub-division of fields using post and rail fences • Pressure for housing on plots of land	• Respect traditional position of agricultural buildings and their relationship to the surrounding land
3.16	Flood management and alleviation measures	• Construction of 'hard' flood defences • Tree planting for flood management inappropriate to landscape character	• 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	Development of scrub and trees on roadside verges Mowing of verges at inappropriate times New and upgraded verge crossings at entrances	• 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	• 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	• 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	• 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.	• 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.	• 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

2. Escarpment

	Local Forces For Change	Potential Landscape Implications	Landscape Strategies and Guidelines
2.20	Damage to field monuments and archaeological sites and the historic environment from farming operations, livestock, tree root damage, burrowing animals, woodland management operations and tree planting and recreational activity.	• 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	• 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 to • 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	• 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.	• Identify important geological features and ensure they are conserved and appropriately managed.
Woodland and trees			
2.22	Creation of woodland	• 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.	• 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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	Local Forces For Change	Potential Landscape Implications	Landscape Strategies and Guidelines
			broadleaves especially when extending or linking the beech woodlands. • Encourage the replacement of conifer with native species, particularly on PAWS. • Seek EIA determination if necessary. • For shelterbelts and plantations associated with designed landscapes, select species characteristic of historic designed landscape in the area. • Raise awareness of woodland owners by producing information and guidance • Identify key viewpoints • Ensure adequate deer management and squirrel control
2.23	Inappropriate or inconsistent management, or neglect of existing woodlands, including hanger woodlands,	• 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.	• 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.	• 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	• 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.

7. High Wold

Character Areas

7A Nymphsfield and Kingscote Plateau & Minchinhampton Common

7B Bisley Plateau

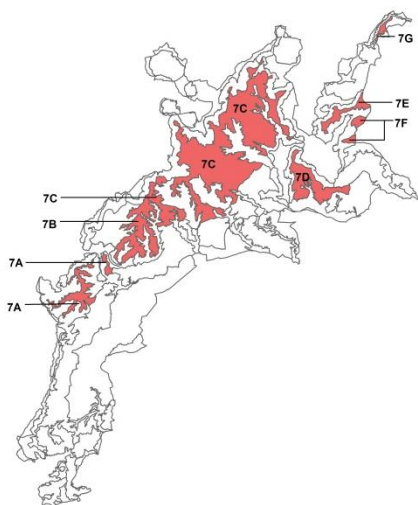
7C Cotswolds High Wold Plateau

7D Rissington Plateau and Milton Downs

7E Rollright and Chastleton Plateau

7F Over Norton Plateau

7G Edge Hill Ironstone Plateau



Key Features

- **Broad, elevated, gently undulating plateau** dissected by a network of dry valleys with distinctive convex profile valley sides.
- **Expansive long distance views** across the open plateau and to distant hills beyond the Severn Vale.
- **Elevated areas of plateau surrounded by deeply incised valleys** perceived as part of the High Wold, due to inter-visibility of neighbouring elevated landscapes.
- **Predominantly arable land use with some improved pasture/grass leys, and very limited permanent pasture mainly confined to valley bottoms** provides seasonal variations in colour and texture.
- **Large scale, regular fields mainly enclosed by dry stone walls, together with hedgerows with very occasional hedgerow trees, and post and wire fencing** create a patchwork effect across wide areas of the landscape.
- **Small to moderate size geometric farm woodlands, many comprising small coniferous and broadleaved plantations and shelterbelts, and plantations bordering roads** provide shelter across areas of otherwise open landscape.
- **Settlement limited to small villages and hamlets, generally within valleys, and isolated farmsteads and individual dwellings** gives many areas a remote character.
- **Low density of settlement resulting in a sense of tranquillity and areas of dark skies.**
- **Network of mainly linear roads following ridge tops, and linking settlements** give the landscape a distinct grain.
- **Evidence of long period of occupation of the landscape**, with many Neolithic and Bronze Age barrows and Iron Age hillforts
- **Seasonal rotation of arable cropping patterns and improved grassland** interrupts otherwise homogenous and simple land cover.
- **Remnants of once more extensive commons survive** highly valued for their nature conservation interest and cultural heritage value.
- **Occasional active and disused limestone quarries located across the High Wold** often valued as wildlife resources.
- **Prominent telecommunication masts and power lines** gain visual prominence as vertical elements in otherwise vast sweeping landscapes.
- **Use of locally quarried stone for both dry stone walls and houses, frequently constructed in distinctive local vernacular**, engenders a harmonious relationship between built elements and their surroundings.

7. High Wold

Summary description

The High Wold comprises a broad, elevated, gently undulating plateau dissected by a network of dry valleys with distinctive convex profiles. It is an expansive, large-scale landscape with long views and an impression of cohesion that belies its fragmentation.

Land use is predominantly arable, with a limited amount of permanent and improved pasture. Fields are large and regular. Dry stone walls dominate the landscape with occasional hedgerows, some of which have propagated along the lines of walls. Small plantations and shelterbelts form a part of this geometric pattern.

Although there is much evidence of occupation since ancient times, settlement is sparse and generally limited to small villages, hamlets and isolated farmsteads, linked by roads following the ridge tops. The one exception is the town of Stow-on-the-Wold sitting at 230m above sea level on a tongue of High Wold. Active and disused limestone quarries occasionally interrupt the landscape.

Landscape Sensitivity

Despite its predominantly agricultural character, the wide, elevated, gently undulating plateau landscape retains a strong sense of remoteness and tranquillity contributing to its high sensitivity. Wide panoramic views, a high degree of inter-visibility, and limited woodland cover also add to the sensitivity of the High Wold landscape to development, particularly tall vertical elements, such as telecommunication masts and wind turbines and to woodland creation and shelterbelt planting.

The High Wold contains a large number of prehistoric monuments including funerary monuments dating to the Neolithic and Bronze Age and defensive enclosures dating to the Iron Age. These are an important component of the landscape and highly sensitive to developments that may affect their landscape setting and material remains.

7. High Wold

	Local Forces For Change	Potential Landscape Implications	Landscape Strategies and Guidelines
	New Development		
7.1	Development, expansion and infilling of settlements within and on to the High Wold, including residential, industrial and leisure.	• Intrusion of expanded settlement fringes into the landscape • Erosion of distinctive radial and linear settlement patterns. • Loss/dilution of organic growth patterns of settlements including the relationship between the historic core and adjacent historic fields, paddocks and closes. • Loss of characteristic small scale settlements and hamlets due to settlement growth and coalescence. • Proliferation of suburban building styles, housing estate layout and materials and the introduction of ornamental garden plants and boundary features. • Erosion of characteristically dark skies • Upgrading of minor roads and lanes associated with new development and the introduction of suburbanising features such as mini roundabouts, street lighting, highway fencing and kerbs and traffic calming at village entrances • Introduction and accumulation of lit areas • Spread of urban fringe impacts such as fly tipping and dumping of cars • Potential loss of archaeological remains and historic features. • Loss of archaeological and historical features, field patterns and landscapes. • Interruption, weakening or loss of the historic character of settlements and the historic context in how they have expanded, especially the importance of the relationship between the historic core of the settlement and surviving historic features such as churchyards, manor houses, burgage plots, historic farms, pre-enclosure paddocks and closes	• Maintain the open, sparsely settled character of the High Wold by limiting new development to existing settlements. • Avoid development that will intrude negatively into the landscape and cannot be successfully mitigated, for example, extensions to settlements on visible hillsides. • Ensure new development is proportionate and does not overwhelm the existing settlement. • Ensure that new development does not adversely affect settlement character and form or impact on views of key features such as church towers.. • Avoid developments incorporating standardised development layout, suburban style lighting, construction details and materials that cumulatively can lead to the erosion of peaceful rural landscape character. • Layout of development should respect local built character and avoid cramming up to boundaries resulting in hard suburban style edge to the settlement • Control the proliferation of suburban building styles and materials • 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). • Ensure new built development is visually integrated with the rural landscape setting and does not interrupt the setting of existing villages or views . • Retain existing trees, hedges etc as part of the scheme. • Ensure new development is integrated into its surroundings. Break up harsh edges of new development with appropriate and adequate tree planting ideally in advance of the development taking place. • Ensure the density of new development reflects its location relative to the 'core' of the settlement and its proximity to the surrounding rural landscape • Adopt measures to minimise and where possible reduce light pollution. • Promote initiatives that remove heritage assets from 'at risk' status in the Heritage at Risk Register. • Preserve archaeological and historical features and deposits. • Avoid proposals that result in the loss of archaeological and historical features or that impact on the relationship of the settlement and its links with surviving historical features. • Ensure the historic character and context are included in Neighbourhood Plans • Ensure development proposals safeguard and provide new links and enhancements to the Public Rights of Way network. • Consider the impact on local Public Rights of Way as settlements expand

7. High Wold

	Local Forces For Change	Potential Landscape Implications	Landscape Strategies and Guidelines and take into account any required improvements
7.2	Isolated development such as new single dwellings and conversion of farm buildings that might compromise rural landscape character and dispersed settlement patterns, including farm buildings converted to residential use.	• Visual intrusions introduced to the landscape • Erosion of the sparse settlement pattern of the high wold • Introduction of 'lit' elements to characteristically dark landscapes • Loss of tranquillity and sense of seclusion • Introduction of 'lit' elements to characteristically dark landscapes. • Upgrading of minor roads and lanes in areas of new development and introduction of suburbanising features such as gateways, kerbs and street lighting. • Suburbanisation and domestication of agricultural landscape by the introduction of gardens e.g. ornamental garden plants and boundary features, garden sheds, parking areas, lighting and conversion of tracks to manicured drives and ornamental gateways • Appearance of 'mini parklands' out of context with the surrounding landscape • Appearance and proliferation of stables and 'white tape' field boundaries for horses and ponies. See below	• Avoid isolated development that will intrude negatively into the landscape and cannot be successfully mitigated. • Conserve areas of dark skies. • Oppose new housing on the High Wold (unless special circumstances apply in accordance with Paragraph 55 of the NPPF and development conserves and enhances the AONB as required by the CRoW Act 2000) • Avoid conversion of isolated farm buildings • Conserve the distinctive rural and dispersed settlement pattern. • Restore existing stone farm buildings and structures in preference to new built development. • When restored or converted to new uses, buildings must retain their historic integrity and functional character. Sound conservation advice and principles must be sought and implemented. • Maintain the sense of openness and consider the impact of built development on views to and from the High Wold, including the impact of cumulative development • Control the proliferation of suburban building styles and materials. • Landscaping schemes accompanying development should encourage the planting of appropriately sized native trees, shrubs and traditional fruit varieties, whilst discouraging large alien tree species such as eucalypts and conifers and inappropriate cultivars of native species, particularly on fringes of open countryside. • Respect traditional position of agricultural buildings and their relationship to the surrounding land.
7.3	Conversion of traditional farm buildings to new uses Deterioration in condition of vernacular farm buildings	• Erosion of distinctive features and loss of Cotswold character. • Domestication or industrialisation of existing agricultural vernacular and character • Suburbanisation of the agricultural landscape by the introduction of gardens e.g. ornamental garden plants and boundary features, parking areas, lighting and conversion of tracks to manicured drives and ornamental gateways • Loss of locally historic features and erosion of the integrity of the historic landscape • Loss of historic features/character of distinctive buildings if converted to uses requiring inappropriate interventions to historic fabric and form.	• Conserve vernacular farm buildings for their own sake and/or by developing other options for their use whilst retaining their agricultural character • Where converted to new uses buildings must retain their historic integrity and functional character. Sound conservation advice and principles must be sought and implemented • New uses should not prejudice the effective operation of the farm enterprise • Avoid inappropriate new uses that necessitate excessive loss of original historic features, or introduce elements that expand domestication or industrialisation • 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.

7. High Wold

	Local Forces For Change	Potential Landscape Implications	Landscape Strategies and Guidelines
		- Loss and erosion of Farmstead Character and how the buildings relate to the surrounding agricultural landuse and landscape - Decline in quality of landscape	- Respect traditional position of agricultural buildings and their relationship to the surrounding land. - Stabilise historic buildings and undertake localised scrub and woodland clearance to enhance their landscape setting and increase the contribution they make to landscape character. - Ensure best practice is followed for the protection of species associated with farm buildings e.g. bats - Promote examples of good practice
7.4	Solar Farms	- Industrialisation of the rural landscape - Change of character due to colour and texture and heliographic glint - Loss of seasonal change in the landscape - Loss of characteristic agricultural landscape - Damage to and loss of landscape features such as Ridge and Furrow, Strip Lynchets, trees and dry stone walls. - Impact of supporting infrastructure such as buildings, cables, roadways, security fencing, CCTV masts and lighting - Concealment of geomorphological or archaeological features - Decline in quality of landscape	- Prevent proposals for solar farms that will impact negatively on landscape character and/or intrude into views - Ensure a comprehensive LVIA is undertaken (including potential cumulative effects) - Avoid proposals that will result in the loss or harm to landscape features such as Strip Lynchets, hedgerows and walls - Ensure a glint/glare assessment is undertaken to determine the heliographic impact on receptors. - Reduce landscape impact with appropriate screening - Bury cables underground and seek opportunities to bury existing overhead cables - Keep supporting infrastructure to a minimum and ensure it is in keeping with landscape character. - Ensure removal and restoration on temporary construction access. - Avoid the inclusion of any security lighting proposals - Seek appropriate landscape enhancement to field boundaries and margins within solar farm development proposals. - Promote the use of roof space for photovoltaic panels particularly on modern farm buildings
	Development pressures on decommissioned airfields. Re-use of decommissioned airfields for large scale residential development or industrial uses including solar farms.	- Loss of open character of the High Wold - Intrusion of development into the landscape. - Introduction of 'lit' elements to characteristically dark landscapes - Degradation of views to, from and across the High Wold Dip-slope - introduction of suburbanising features such as mini roundabouts, street lighting, kerbs and traffic calming measures - Loss of historical and cultural significance - Dereliction/loss of buildings and features that represent monuments of 20th century conflict. - Loss of habitat	- Protect the open character of the High Wold and avoid development that will intrude negatively into the landscape - Avoid developments incorporating standardised development layout, suburban style lighting, construction details and materials that cumulatively can lead to the erosion of peaceful landscape character. - Ensure comprehensive EIA and GLVIA are undertaken - Promote the use of local stone and building styles in the construction of new buildings and extensions to existing dwellings. - Ensure new development is integrated into its surroundings and does not interrupt the setting of existing settlements. Break up harsh edges of new development with appropriate and adequate tree planting ideally in advance of the development taking place. - Encourage the planting of appropriately sized native trees, shrubs and

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	Local Forces For Change	Potential Landscape Implications	Landscape Strategies and Guidelines
		- Noise and light pollution - Increased traffic	traditional fruit varieties, whilst discouraging large alien tree species such as eucalypts and conifers. - Prepare Development Brief or masterplan incorporating and based on a full contextual appraisal - Conserve features of historic interest. - Ensure the historical and cultural significance of the airfield is retained and avoid their erosion through piecemeal development. - Prepare a Biodiversity Action Plan for each airfield and seek the retention of open grassland and improve its biodiversity - Promote use of existing buildings for commercial uses consistent with AONB.
7.5	New large scale quarries and expansion of existing quarrying operations.	- Visual impact of quarry and quarry traffic - Loss of tranquillity due to noise, movement, lighting and dust. - Loss of habitats and archaeological sites	- Promote policy that aggregates are produced only as a by-product of building stone - Apply the presumption against new large scale quarrying, particularly for aggregates. - Support small scale quarrying operations for walling and building stone paying regard to their impact on local landscape character, heritage and nature conservation interests. - Promote 'local stone for local use' - Ensure Quarry Restoration Plans respect landscape character and tranquillity of the High Wold. - Seek opportunities for retention and access to geological and geomorphological features - Minimise loss of archaeological remains - Support restoration plans that restore to agriculture, biodiversity and/or quiet recreation - Resist after use for in-fill or recycling material from outside the Cotswolds.
7.6	Licensed Waste disposal such as land-fill and waste recycling operations including composting	- Degradation of landscape character and wildlife habitats. - Loss of tranquillity due to noise, dust and vehicle movements - Unpleasant smells from composting - Loss of biodiversity and geological features	- Avoid strategic waste disposal proposals within or adjacent to the AONB. - Avoid importing waste into the AONB - Ensure small scale local waste disposal operations continue to operate with minimal impact - Support proposals for local waste recycling that do not impact on landscape character or tranquillity and reduce vehicle movement, especially distance travelled

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	Local Forces For Change	Potential Landscape Implications	Landscape Strategies and Guidelines
7.7	Licensed spreading of waste on agricultural land	- Change in colour in the landscape. - Unpleasant smells - Potential impact on watercourses or aquifer	- Avoid spreading waste across or adjacent to public rights of way, in close proximity to settlements or where it may impact on biodiversity or water courses. - Avoid storage (e.g. sewage waste heaps) adjacent to public rights of way and roads - Ensure swift incorporation
7.8	Illegal waste disposal/fly tipping	- Unsightly intrusion into the landscape - Loss of biodiversity - Blocking of gateways, laybys and areas of road verge by fly tipping - Pollution of watercourses and aquifer - Loose waste material blowing around and catching on hedges, trees etc.	- Protect former quarries from fly tipping - Seek swift removal of fly tipping - Prosecute landowners who allow or turn a 'blind eye' to unlicensed waste disposal - Remove blown material from hedges, trees and road verges.
7.9	Introduction of vertical elements such as communication masts, wind turbines, drilling rigs, electricity pylons and large roadsigns particularly on prominent hill top, valley rim and escarpment edge locations	- Introduction of visually intrusive 'urban' or industrial features to the rural open and expansive high wold landscape - Introduction of unnatural movement and loss of tranquillity and sense of remoteness. - Introduction of lit elements to a characteristically dark landscape - Intrusion on the setting of scheduled monuments, listed buildings and designed landscapes - Breaking up of the skyline - Loss of open character	- Conserve the open, remote character by objecting to the development of vertical elements on the skyline or where these would adversely affect views across and to the High Wold - Ensure the development of vertical elements in neighbouring LCTs and areas beyond the AONB do not adversely affect views to, from and across the High Wold. - Ensure alternative options have been fully considered - Minimise impact by locating new communication masts on existing structures or by using existing masts. - Set masts etc against trees - Bury cables underground and seek opportunities to bury existing overhead cables. - Avoid use of visually prominent urban security fencing and CCTV masts. - Consider other renewable energy or communication technologies - Ensure full assessment of heritage setting impacts and appropriate measures undertaken - Seek to minimise the size and number of roadsigns
7.10	Establishment or expansion of equestrian establishments	- Proliferation of stables and other visual clutter such as ribbon fences, jumps, horse boxes, shelters, manège and lighting associated with 'horsiculture'. - Creation of paddocks by sub-dividing fields using non characteristic field boundary treatments such as post and rail fence or ribbon fences - Erosion of the rural landscape - Deterioration in pasture quality and over grazing - Pressure to provide new housing for staff and owners - Creation of surfaced tracks, new and enlarged field entrances and parking areas for cars and horse boxes etc. - Excessive use of local roads and paths by horses, in part due to no direct or close connections to bridleways etc.	- Where possible, existing buildings should be utilised and new stables and other structures kept to a minimum. - Ensure all new ventures provide accommodation within new stable buildings and proposals for separate isolated housing should be resisted - New structures should be carefully sited and designed to minimize their impact on the landscape. Wherever possible they should be located close to existing buildings. They should be constructed from appropriate vernacular materials and should follow the form of the landscape, avoiding prominent skyline sites and slopes - The creation of horse paddocks in visually prominent locations such as roadside and hill side locations should be avoided. - Oppose change of use for the 'keeping of horses' in visually prominent

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	Local Forces For Change	Potential Landscape Implications	Landscape Strategies and Guidelines
		• Increase in vehicle movements and roadside parking • Damage to road verges.	locations. • A concentration of horse paddocks and associated structures in any one area can have a cumulative harmful impact on landscape character and should be avoided • Take into account proximity of bridleways etc. • Jumps, temporary fences and other equipment should be well maintained and removed when not in use. • Any lighting should be designed to minimise light pollution, e.g. low level and directed downwards and fitted with timers. • Where pastures need to be subdivided into smaller paddocks, temporary electric fencing is preferred to permanent structures and offers greater flexibility in pasture management. Post and rail should be avoided. • Encourage the use of olive green tape, wider spacing of fence posts etc • Historic field boundaries, such as hedges, walls and fences should be maintained or extended, and new boundaries should match the local vernacular wherever possible. • Ensure authorisation is obtained from the highway authority for new gates or stiles on public rights of way. • In some instances, hedges and dry stone walls may need protection by fencing to prevent damage • Jumps, temporary fences and other equipment should be well maintained and removed when not in use. • Existing gates and access points should be retained if possible, and new gates should match the local vernacular. • Historic features, including ridge and furrow pastures, stone troughs and stone stiles, should be protected from damage by equestrian uses. • Promote Board guidance on good practice
7.11	Major road construction and improvement schemes.	• Intrusive features on the highly visible open landscape of the High Wold. • Increased movement in the landscape • Urbanising effect • Potential impact of additional road signage and lighting • Loss of tranquillity and excessive noise • Light and air pollution • Impact of road signs in the open landscape of the High Wold • Loss of archaeological features and impact on the setting of heritage assets. • Loss of woodland and other sensitive habitats	• Avoid major road building schemes • Implement traffic management schemes including speed reduction • Ensure any scheme brings substantial net benefits for the landscape and is designed to conserve and enhance character of the landscape • Ensure comprehensive EIA and LVIA are undertaken and their recommendations implemented. • Ensure careful and sensitive design of road proposals and associated infrastructure. • Keep lighting to an absolute minimum and use 'Dark Sky friendly' lighting • Seek to prevent rat-running on local roads, restoring and enhancing the character and amenity of local settlements and road network. • Restore redundant lengths of highway to agriculture or suitable habitat

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	Local Forces For Change	Potential Landscape Implications	Landscape Strategies and Guidelines
			- Where bridges or other structures are unavoidable and visually prominent, their siting and design should be well integrated into landform and be of lasting architectural quality. - Avoid over-engineering links to the local road network. - Ensure landscaping design is fully in keeping with local character and land form - Minimise loss of woodlands and other sensitive habitats; avoid loss of semi-natural ancient woodland as an irreplaceable resource - Seek opportunities for habitat creation, particularly unimproved grassland, on verges and embankments and their long term management - Funding from highways authorities or Highways England for mitigation measures to be a pre-condition e.g noise screening, quiet surfacing etc. - Consider the potential for exposing geological features and their long term management
7.12	Road upgrading and improvements, especially of minor country roads, as a result of development or general improvement schemes.	- Introduction of suburban features such as mini roundabouts, lighting, kerbs and traffic calming measures. - Use of inappropriate materials (e.g. standard highway fences and barriers) - Increased traffic movement - Loss of roadside hedges and walls - Loss of verge/roadside habitat	- Refer to DMRB Vol 10 for general environmental design guidance. - Conserve the character of the local road network. - Object to the upgrading of tracks or creation of roads especially where a lack of roads is characteristic - Resist the construction of 'village gateways' particularly those which are inappropriate and out of character. - Minimise the use of road markings, permanent signage and lighting, siting them with care and ensuring that they are in keeping with their surroundings wherever possible whilst fulfilling road safety requirements. - Avoid making over-large and inappropriate entrances and keep visibility splays to a minimum - Promote use of design and materials appropriate to local character. - Produce guidance on design and suitable materials. - Promote use of 'shared space' for traffic calming measures in villages. - Seek opportunities to conserve and enhance roadside boundaries and habitats and their long term management. - Promote road verge protection and management
7.13	Excessive traffic and/or speed on minor local roads and lanes and verge parking. Increase in size of vehicle using country lanes	- Pressure to improve roads by widening and straightening. - Loss of tranquillity and danger to walkers/riders and other non-motorised users. - Damage to verges and roadside boundaries by HGVs and agricultural vehicles	- Promote traffic restriction measures such as lorry routing maps. - Maintain or reinstate rural character within towns and villages by promoting shared space and road design to slow and minimise traffic impact - Apply national guidance on rural speed restrictions in sensitive areas (DfT Circular 01/2013 especially Para 128) - Ensure traffic management measures reflect the character and materials of the area. - Encourage use of public transport, car sharing etc - Encourage cycling on safe routes

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	Local Forces For Change	Potential Landscape Implications	Landscape Strategies and Guidelines
			Promote road verge protection and management
	Land use		
7.14	Agricultural intensification and diversification	- Field amalgamation and loss of hedgerows and dry stone walls leading to the loss of distinctive field patterns. - Loss of arable reversion back to cultivation. - Removal of semi-natural vegetation cover and the poor maintenance and subsequent loss of field boundaries. - Loss of habitat - Decline in maintenance of stone walls leading to a locally degraded or neglected landscape character. - Conversion of permanent pasture to arable or woodland - Damage to and loss of archaeological sites and field monuments from conversion of pasture to arable and from intensification of grazing. - Ongoing loss of archaeological sites and monuments from long-term cultivation and erosion. - Increased use of post and wire fences. - Construction of large scale industrial style agricultural 'sheds', silos, AD plants etc on the skyline or in prominent locations. - Introduction of industrial elements to the agricultural landscape - Conversion of farm outbuildings and field barns to recreational or business uses - Loss of Farmstead character - Introduction or expansion of lit elements in the characteristically dark landscape - Increased damage to roads, road verges, dry stone walls and hedges from large machinery - Increased width of gateways into fields	- Ensure that new farm buildings including silos and AD plants etc do not have an adverse visual impact on the wider landscape. - Maintain the appearance and characteristic of isolated farmsteads and oppose proposals that will become dominant in the landscape - Encourage the mitigation of existing large agricultural buildings e.g by limited tree planting. - Encourage the installation of PV on the roofs of new agricultural buildings, avoiding risk of glint/glare. - Conserve characteristically dark skies - Provide advice to farmers on siting of new buildings, lighting, colour etc - Seek to conserve traditional farm buildings where necessary through appropriate new uses that retain historic character and features. - Respect traditional position of agricultural buildings and their relationship to the surrounding land. - Conserve areas of permanent pasture - Encourage the protection of traditional field patterns. - Retain and restore dry stone walls particularly adjacent to roads and public rights of way and in the vicinity of settlements - Encourage means and methods of reducing cultivation damage to archaeological sites and monuments (including reversion to grassland, min-tillage, direct drilling and other damage reduction methods). - Oppose proposals to convert pasture to arable particularly where archaeological sites/field monuments may be lost or damaged. - Ensure any woodland creation is in keeping with landscape character – see section 7.23
7.15	Planting of energy crops such as Miscanthus, short rotation coppice and short rotation forestry	- Loss or seasonal interruption of views particularly from roads and public rights of way. - Increased sense of enclosure - Loss of remaining permanent pasture - Archaeological sites, historic landscapes, geological and geomorphological sites damaged or obscured	- Ensure energy crops are not planted where they would restrict or intrude into views, particularly open views across the landscape and on skyline sites. - Do not plant on semi-natural habitats, permanent pasture or on sites with Section 41, NERC Act and local BAP species that could be affected in a negative way. - Do not plant on sites where archaeological sites could be damaged or obscured or where significant historic landscapes would be adversely affected or on sites where features of geological or geomorphological importance would be obscured. - Promote Cotswolds Conservation Board guidance

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	Local Forces For Change	Potential Landscape Implications	Landscape Strategies and Guidelines
7.16	Changes in land use and management within historic parks and gardens	• Weakening of the integrity of designed landscapes, parks and gardens • Loss of or damage to elements of designed landscapes, parks and gardens. • Insertion of inappropriate new elements that diminish rather than enhance historic design characteristics • Intrusion on setting of designed landscapes – especially designed vistas and other important views of or out from the area.	• Conserve and enhance historic parks and gardens, including their setting • Develop and implement management plans • Restore lost elements of historic parks and gardens to restore the integrity of the designed landscape as a whole. • Avoid development that damages the extent, features, character or setting of historic designed landscapes.
7.17	Loss of dry stone walls due to abandonment, development of volunteer hedges, replacement with hedges or fences or removal to build/restore a wall elsewhere.	• Loss of a key feature characteristic of the Cotswolds and high wold in particular. • Change in landscape character through the replacement of dry stone walls with hedges and fences. • Weakening/loss of field patterns, particularly those that reflect the pre-enclosure open field system • Loss of features in the walls such as stone stiles	• Encourage the retention and maintenance of dry stone walls. • Ensure dry stone wall retention and maintenance are included in agri-environment schemes • Provide guidance on Delves – small scale on-farm quarries for walling stone • Seek opportunities for dry stone wall construction and repair through planning mitigation • Where possible use stone that reflects the colour, thickness etc of local stone walls • Prevent the formation of volunteer hedges
7.18	Decline in grazing stock on areas of permanent pasture and common land	• Loss of characteristic of grazing animals in the landscape • Scrub encroachment and loss of species rich grassland due to invasion of dominant grass species. • Loss of open character • Change in colour and texture in the landscape due to rank vegetation and scrub. • Tendency for 'abandoned land' to be targeted for conversion into arable or woodland or for development.	• Retain and conserve areas of open pasture and common land • Encourage traditional management regimes to control scrub encroachment on areas of common land. • Re-introduction of grazing on semi-natural grasslands/improvement of existing grazing regimes. • Produce guidance on scrub management
7.19	Separation of farmhouse/agricultural housing from the working farm for sale with a plot of land. Sub-division of farmland for 'lifestyle' plots	• Loss of integrity, cohesion and character of historic farmsteads and associated farmland. • Loss of agricultural context • Suburbanisation of agricultural landscape by the introduction of gardens e.g ornamental garden plants and boundary features, parking areas, lighting and conversion of tracks to manicured drives and ornamental gateways • Shelterbelt planting for privacy screening • Appearance and proliferation of stables and 'white tape' field boundaries for horses and ponies • Sub-division of fields using post and rail fences • Pressure for housing on plots of land	• Only permit new uses of traditional farm buildings that are appropriate to retain their historic character and features. • Use planning conditions to restrict subdivision of fields, construction of stables etc. Consider use of Article 4 Direction. • Ensure separation of housing does not prejudice the effective operation of the farm enterprise • Avoid isolated development, particularly in areas of dark skies • Respect traditional position of agricultural buildings and their relationship to the surrounding land

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	Local Forces For Change	Potential Landscape Implications	Landscape Strategies and Guidelines
7.20	Development of scrub and trees on roadside verges Mowing of verges at inappropriate times	- Loss of views from the public highway - Loss of roadside grassland habitat - Damage to dry stone walls and hedges and other features - Creation of 'lawns' on the roadside due to regular mowing for tidiness leading to a homogenised and sub-urban appearance	- Identify key views from roads - Manage/remove verge scrub and trees, particularly where views can be restored or where there are benefits for biodiversity. - Reintroduce appropriate verge management and mowing - Promote best practice management of verges.
7.21	Lack of appropriate management in disused quarries	- 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	- 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
7.22	Damage to field monuments and archaeological sites and the historic environment from farming operations, livestock, tree root damage, burrowing animals, woodland management operations and tree planting and recreational activity.	- Damage to important archaeological sites and important landscape features. - Loss of traditional field boundaries, particularly dry stone walls and hedgerows. - Loss of traditional field patterns and integrity of the wider historic landscape - Loss of locally distinctive features - Encroachment of scrub onto archaeological features	- Inform landowners of important archaeological sites - Protect all upstanding archaeological sites and consider the impact of development on their landscape setting. - Manage/remove burrowing animals - Restore the wider setting of key monuments to ensure that they do not read as islands amidst a sea of arable farming. - Raise awareness of the historic environment and of the SMR as a source of information - Provide guidance on managing the historic environment to farmers and land owners - Retain traditional field patterns and field boundaries - Ensure tree planting does not take place on archaeological features. - Control scrub and manage existing trees on archaeological features to minimise damage for example by root damage or wind-blow. - Minimise or prevent damage to the historic environment by recreational activity by working with landowners to prepare site management plans and if necessary limit access. - Repair badly eroded features such as earthworks and dry stone walls. - Avoid planting new hedgerows or the development of volunteer hedges adjacent to dry stone walls.
	Loss of and damage to geological and geomorphological features due to tree growth, erosion and change of land use	- Loss of sites that provide an understanding of the Cotswold landscape - Loss of visible features such as dry valley systems	Identify important geological features and ensure they are conserved and appropriately managed.

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	Local Forces For Change	Potential Landscape Implications	Landscape Strategies and Guidelines
	Woodland and trees		
7.23	Creation of woodland and geometric farm copses and shelterbelts. Creation of 'shelterbelts' to provide seclusion for private dwellings	- Increased woodland cover diminishing the open character of the High Wold. - Woodlands limiting long distance views and inter-visibility of detached areas of High Wold. - Loss of views across, to and from the High Wold - Cumulative impact of woodland creation leading to a change in landscape character. - Increased sense of inclosure of the landscape, particularly from the public highway - Loss of permanent pasture - Loss of Historic Landscape Character through inappropriate siting and/or species	- Retain the expansive, open character of the High Wold - Discourage 'ad-hoc' planting through appropriate agricultural support mechanisms - Seek EIA determination if necessary - Limit new farm woodland and shelterbelt planting. - Extend or link existing woodland in preference to new 'stand-alone' plantations - Have regard to the cumulative impact of woodland creation and tree planting on the open character of the High Wold. - Select species characteristic of ancient semi-natural woodland in the area. - Promote the felling of inappropriate coniferous plantations and replanting of farm woodlands and shelterbelts on enclosure age woodland footprints using suitable species. - Ensure that new woodland planting does not limit or obscure views to and from and across the High Wold - Ensure new woodlands respond to the scale and form of existing High Wold woodlands; - Locate new woodland and copses in historically characteristic topographical locations including their relationship to farmsteads and settlements. - For shelterbelts and plantations associated with designed landscapes, select species characteristic of historic designed landscape planting in the area. - Ensure woodland creation does not result in the loss of permanent pasture or unimproved grassland - Discourage conifer planting (unless a nurse) and encourage the use of native broadleaves or species that reflect local broadleaved woodland - Encourage the replacement of conifer with native species, particularly on PAWS - Raise awareness of woodland owners by producing information and guidance - Identify key viewpoints - Ensure adequate deer management and squirrel control
7.24	Maturation and decline of enclosure-age pine and beech corner copses, roadside shelterbelts and farm copses.	- Decline and potential loss of characteristic feature of the High Wold landscape. - Introduction of non-characteristic tree species and general erosion of the High Wold's open character.	- Encourage opportunities to manage and re-plant enclosure age tree belts using traditional species. - Identify areas of AONB where shelterbelts are part of the inherent character and use to target agri-environment funding..
7.25	Impact of tree disease such as Chalara Dieback of ash.	- Change of colour and texture of woodland canopy as trees die - Thinning of woodland canopy - Loss of single, sometimes veteran, trees in the landscape - Re-stocking with species not native to the Cotswolds	- 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

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	Local Forces For Change	Potential Landscape Implications	Landscape Strategies and Guidelines
			• Consider different provenance of ash that may be disease resistant • Establish a programme to plant replacement trees in the landscape outside of woodlands eg parkland. • Seek arboricultural advice