

# **Landscape Character Assessment Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)**

## **Consultation Statement**

### **Introduction**

In accordance with Section 12 (a) of The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 this 'Consultation Statement' has been prepared to set out the consultation procedures undertaken in preparing the Landscape Character Assessment Supplementary Planning Document (SPD). This statement covers the following:

1. How consultation was undertaken and who was consulted about the SPD
2. A summary of the main issues raised by people who responded to the consultation.
3. How the issues raised have been considered and addressed in finalising the SPD

### **1. How consultation was undertaken and who was consulted about the SPD**

Public consultation was undertaken on this SPD from **6<sup>th</sup> December 2023 to 16<sup>th</sup> February 2024**, a period of 10 weeks which was 4 weeks longer than the statutory requirement.

Consultation was promoted via:

- the South Gloucestershire Council's website <https://beta.southglos.gov.uk/planning-policy-guidance>
- Local media and social media on South Gloucestershire Council's Facebook page
- Email/ letter sent to everyone on the South Gloucestershire Council's Local Plan database.

Consultees (including statutory consultees) were invited to respond either using the online consultation system via the council's website, by letter or email.

Accordingly, a fully compliant public consultation exercise has taken place which fulfilled the council policies and consultation duties.

The SPD's primary audience is expected to be developers and their appointed technical landscape specialists, statutory consultees, members of the public and Council officers. By preparing the SPD the Council is using its regulatory controls and powers available through the statutory planning system, to assist deliver its corporate objective to support nature recovery.

### **2. A summary of the main issues raised by people who responded to the consultation**

A total of 23 no. respondents commented on the SPD and related annexes (Visually Important Hillside & Strategic Viewpoints) which comprised volume house builders and their representatives, National Trust, adjoining local planning authorities, members of the public and local parish and town councils.

The main comments received from each stakeholder group in response to the document can be summarised as:

**Volume house builders and the representatives:**

- Description of urban edge/fringe of Bristol in the vicinity of Warmley and Longwell Green; and recent development growth in Kingswood, Warmley and Bridgegate in LCA 14, and Oldland Common in LCA 12 has been updated as appropriate to reflect the latest known baseline situation.
- General management prescription for protecting rural setting of Cotswold National Landscape is retained as unchanged as it is not intended to relate to a specific area.
- Important hedgerow information omitted from plan as addressed in separate strategic GI corridor mapping project.
- Extent of visually important hillside footprints reviewed and refined against latest OS mapping.
- Protection of VIH and SVP dealt with separately by proposed update of Policy CS2 as part of new Local Plan.

**National Trust**

- View from Horton Roman Camp assessed as being of local importance.

**Adjacent LPAs**

- Several welcomed update of LCA SPD

**Local town and parish councils**

- Requested update to description of landscape characteristics for LCA10 and LCA13.
- Requested update to description of development within LCAs 19-21.
- Queried whether Severn Estuary and the Coastal Zone could be given the same protection as the Cotswolds National Landscape.
- Requested various hillsides around Winterbourne, Falfield be considered as VIH candidates.
- Requested additional views around Winterbourne and Falfield be considered as SVP candidates

**Members of the public**

- Queried mapping and extent of Tockington Hill, Wickwar Ridge,
- Requested additional views around Avon Valley, Almondsbury, Tockington, and between Dyrham/Abson and Pucklechurch be considered as SVP candidates.

**3. How the issues raised have been considered and addressed in finalising the SPD**

A detailed response to all comments received is set out within the supporting three schedules (i.e. covering the main LCA SPD document, and Annex 1: Visually Important Hillsides, and Annex 2: Strategic Viewpoints). These are summarised below in relation to each stakeholder group.

**Volume housebuilders and their representatives**

- Description of urban edge/fringe of Bristol in the vicinity of Warmley and Longwell Green; and recent development growth in Kingswood, Warmley and

Bridgegate in LCA 14, and Oldland Common in LCA 12 has been updated as appropriate to reflect the latest known baseline situation.

- General management prescription for protecting rural setting of Cotswold National Landscape is retained as unchanged as it is not intended to relate to a specific area.
- Important hedgerow information omitted from plan as addressed in separate strategic GI corridor mapping project.
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- Protection of VIH and SVP dealt with separately by proposed update of Policy CS2 as part of new Local Plan

#### **Local town and parish councils**

- Description of landscape characteristics for LCA10 and LCA13 updated as appropriate to reflect 'landscape scale' application of the refreshed document.
- Description of development within LCAs 19-21 updated as appropriate to reflect latest known baseline situation.
- Severn Estuary and the Coastal Zone is covered by ecological rather than landscape designation legislation and is considered elsewhere as part of LNRS and ecological guidance.
- Some sections of hillsides around Winterbourne met VIH criteria and nominated as such; Falfield hillsides assessed as being of local importance.
- 1No. additional viewpoint at Winterbourne met SVP criteria; potential viewpoints around Falfield assessed against the criteria as being of local rather than strategic importance.

#### **National Trust**

- View from Horton Roman Camp assessed as being of local importance

#### **Members of the public**

- Mapping of VIHs around Tockington Hill and Wickwar reviewed, and extents updated.
- Additional views around Avon Valley, Almondsbury, Tockington, and between Dyrham/Abson and Pucklechurch assessed against the criteria as being of local rather than strategic importance

A report summarising the key issues raised, officer responses to the detailed comments and recommendation that the updated SPD be adopted was considered by the South Gloucestershire Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Environment and Strategic Infrastructure. This was made as a decision effective from 30<sup>th</sup> April 2025 and is available to view at <http://modern.gov/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?ID=1672>

#### **Conclusions**

A fully compliant public consultation exercise has taken place which has fulfilled the Council's policies and consultation duties. The Council has appropriately reviewed and considered the comments received through public consultation. The SPD embellishes the council's existing adopted Development Plan policies, providing additional technical guidance to support existing Local Plan policies to ensure that the Landscape Character Types and their component Landscape Character Areas are appropriately considered throughout the development process.

A detailed response to all comments received is set out within the supporting three schedules (i.e. covering the main LCA SPD document, and Annex 1: Visually Important Hillside, and Annex 2: Strategic Viewpoints). These are summarised in relation to each stakeholder group.

June 2025