

South Gloucestershire Landscape Character Assessment

Annex II: Strategic Viewpoints

South Gloucestershire Council

Final Draft Report for Adoption Chapter 4

Prepared by LUC

September 2024



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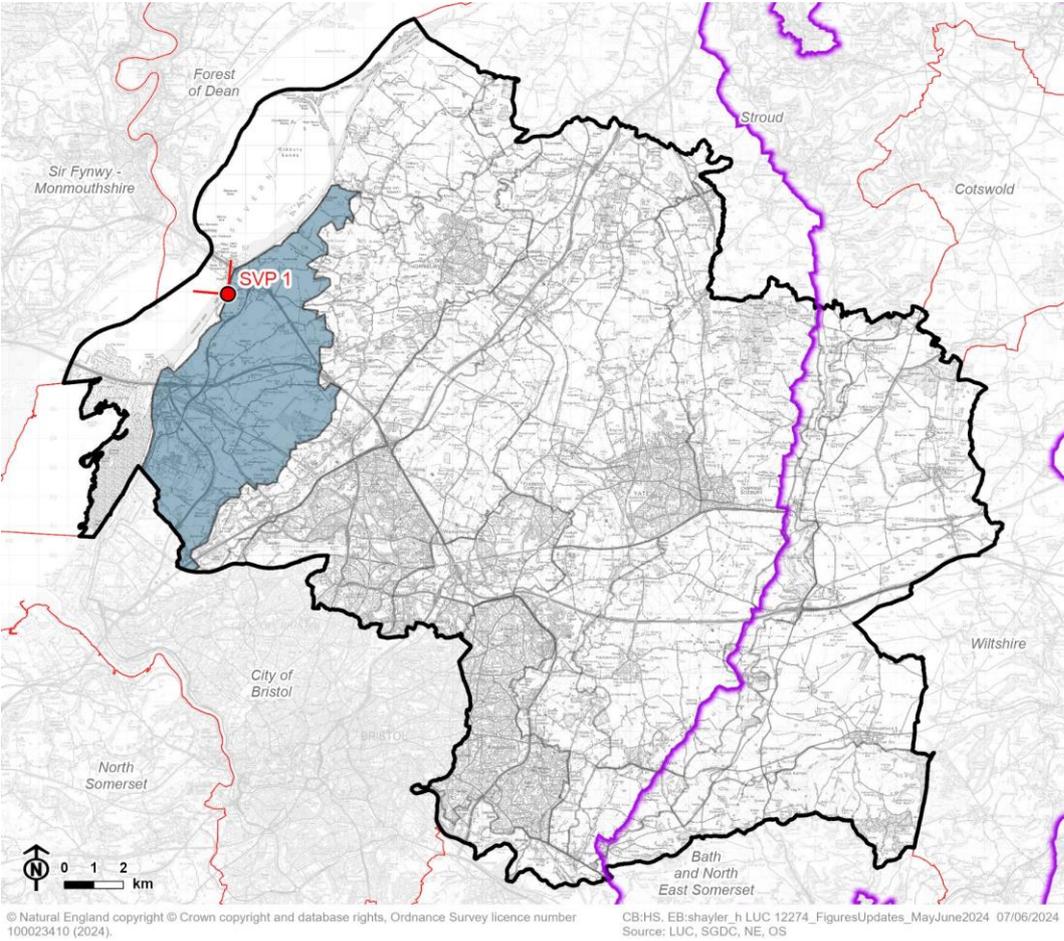
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Chapter 4

Strategic Viewpoint 1: Old Passage

Figure 4.1: Location of Strategic Viewpoint 1 and landscape character context



- Council boundary
- Neighbouring local authority
- Cotswolds National Landscape (AONB) boundary
- LCA 20: Piling Levels
- Strategic viewpoint and angle

Figure 4.2: Detailed map of the location of Strategic Viewpoint 1



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-  Council boundary
-  Cotswolds National Landscape (AONB) boundary
-  Strategic viewpoint and angle



Viewpoint Information

Grid reference: ST 56368 88963

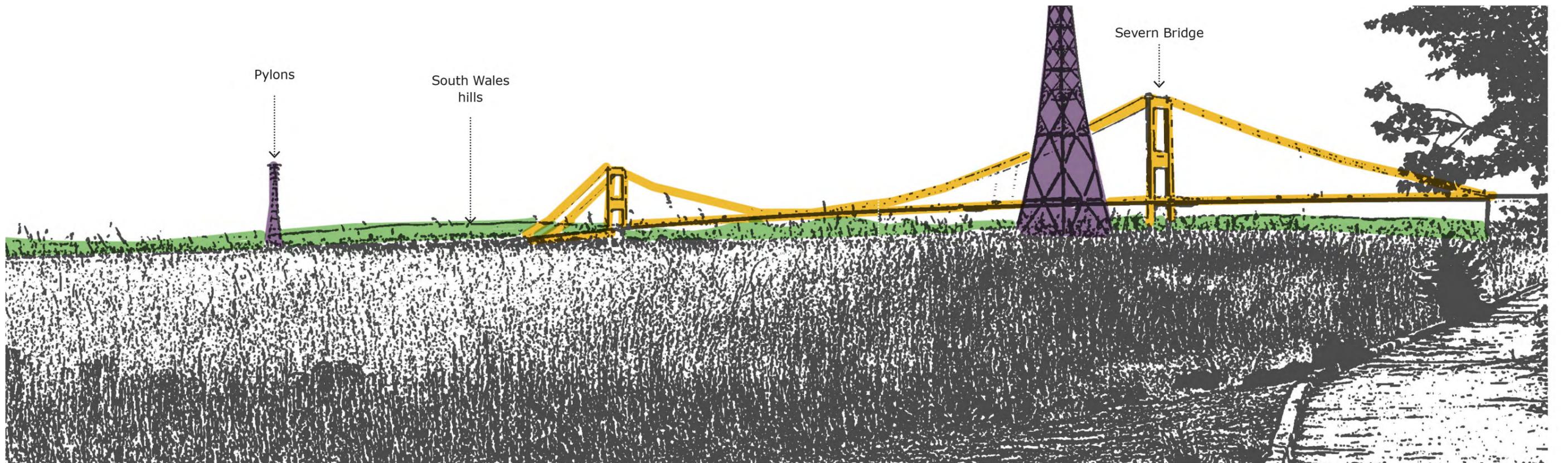
View location: Aust Wharf Road, Old Passage.

View direction: View north, west and south-west across LCA 21: Severn Shoreline and Estuary.

Relationship with Visually Important Hillside (VIH): The viewpoint is not located along or looks towards a VIH.

Experienced by: Residents on Aust Wharf Road/ Passage Road, recreational users of The Severn Way long distance footpath and other public rights of way (including footpaths OAU/34/10 and OAU/51/10), and transient views for cyclists along National Cycle Network Route 4.

Figure 4.3: View Composition of Strategic Viewpoint 1



 Key landscape feature

 Landmark / historic feature

 Detractive feature

Figure 4.4: Full Panoramic Photograph of Strategic Viewpoint 1



Strategic Viewpoint 1: Old Passage



Strategic Viewpoint 1 (continued)

Characteristics

Popularity, access and facilities

- The viewpoint location is noted in LCA 20: Pilning Levels which identifies the “*panoramic views across the adjacent landscape and across along the estuary, including of the Severn Bridges*” afforded from The Severn Way footpath.
- The viewpoint is publicly accessible, located along The Severn Way long distance footpath.
- An information board is provided as part of the ‘A Forgotten Landscape’ project to facilitate enjoyment and interpretation of the view.

Quality, value and features of the view

- The viewpoint provides open and expansive panoramic (180°) views across the Severn Estuary and its shoreline (characterised by the open and exposed landscape of the estuary and intertidal zone of bed rock, shingle, rivuletted mudflats and salt marsh). The view extends to the wooded hills of the Wye Valley and South Wales forming a prominent backdrop in views and a distinctive skyline in views west.
- The Severn Bridge (Grade I listed) is a prominent landmark feature seen within the view (located 1km to the north). The Prince of Wales Bridge is also visible (located 4.7km to the south-west), although is partially obscured by tall wetland vegetation.
- Two large pylons and pale-coloured warehouses (on the opposite shoreline) slightly detract from the overall composition of the view.

Summary

The Old Passage viewpoint is categorised as a SVP as it meets most of the criteria to some extent. It is noted in the South Gloucestershire Landscape Character Assessment as being a natural observation point from which to appreciate the landscape; it is located on a promoted footpath and cycle path and likely to attract many visitors; an information board is provided to provide interpretation of the view; and it provides a panoramic view and takes in the notable landscape features of the Severn Estuary and hills of the Wye Valley and South Wales, and the landmark features of the Severn Bridge and Prince of Wales Bridge.

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