

South Gloucestershire Landscape Character Assessment

Appendices B-E

South Gloucestershire Council

Prepared by LUC November 2023

Appendix B

User Guide

This User Guide is designed for applicants and developers to follow when considering a development proposal outside of settlements, and for Development Managers within South Gloucestershire Council reviewing applications, to ensure landscape character is considered.

- **B.1** Applicants should follow the steps set out below before submitting a planning application in order to ensure that key characteristics, key landscape qualities and sensitivities and guidelines are considered at an early stage and taken into account in the planning and design of the development.
- **B.2** Development proposals must demonstrate, as part of a planning application, how landscape character has influenced their siting, scale, and design. Proposals which are likely to have a significant impact on the landscape and/or visual amenity will require a Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) to be undertaken. For proposals which are not likely to result in significant effects on the landscape and/or visual amenity an informal landscape assessment can be undertaken.

Step 1: What type of change is proposed? Review the general principles for landscape and development management in **Chapter 4** of the Landscape Character Assessment.

Step 1b: Is the proposal within, or close to the edge of, the Cotswolds National Landscape (CNL)? If yes, the CNL's Landscape Character Assessment and Management Plan should also be consulted.

Step 2: Which Landscape Character Type (LCT) and Landscape Character Area (LCA) is the proposal in (refer to **Figure 5.1**)? If the proposal is close to the edge of two or more LCAs all relevant profiles will need to be consulted.

Step 3: Will any of the key characteristics in the LCA profiles (in **Appendix A**) be affected by the proposal? If so, which ones and how?

Step 4: Will any of the key landscape qualities & sensitivities be affected by the proposal? If so, which ones and how?

Step 5: Will the proposal conflict with the management guidelines? Can the proposal and mitigation help implement the guidelines and contribute to objectives for conservation, enhancement, or restoration? If so, which ones and how?

Step 6: If the answer is yes to any of the steps 3, 4 and 5, can the proposal be altered in any way to avoid adverse effects on key characteristics, key landscape qualities & sensitivities, or guidelines? If not, can adverse effects be reduced or offset? How?

Step 7: Use the Landscape Character Assessment and any other related guidance (set out in **Chapter 1**), to inform the design process, address green/ green-blue infrastructure proposals and biodiversity net gain to achieve an optimum design proposal for planning consideration.

Checklist

Referring to the relevant LCT profile (in **Appendix A**) and the general principles of development management (**Chapter 4**), have you considered the following general prompts?

- Does the proposal reinforce and enhance local distinctiveness and local landscape and/or settlement character?
- Does the proposal enhance the sense of place through careful design (including consideration of siting, massing, scale, and materials)?
- Do proposals for new buildings respond to the existing topography?
- Does the choice of materials and colours for new buildings and structures reflect the landscape around them, as well as traditional building styles?
- Does the proposal protect and enhance key views within, to and from LCAs, including views to and from the CNL?
- Does the proposal protect and enhance key views into, out of, and across settlements?
- Does the proposal retain existing vegetation and enhance with new planting?
- Does the proposal use existing roads and tracks for site access? Do new roads and tracks fit in with the landscape character and complement the pattern of existing road networks?
- Does the proposal improve access to the public rights of way network and/or open access land?
- Does the proposal include aspects of green/ green-blue infrastructure, integrated with biodiversity enhancement and high quality public open space where suitable?
- Does the proposal minimise effects on tranquillity relating to light pollution/dark skies?

Appendix B User Guide

■ Have cumulative effects (including in-combination effects) with other existing or planned developments been considered?

Appendix C

Glossary of terms and abbreviations

Table C.1: Glossary

Term	Definition
AOD	Above Ordnance Datum (sea level).
Ancient woodland	Woodland evidenced to have had continuous woodland cover since at least 1600 AD and has only been cleared for underwood or timber production. It is an extremely valuable ecological resource, with an exceptionally high diversity of flora and fauna.
Arable	Land used for growing crops.
Biodiversity	The measure of the variety of organisms present in different ecosystems.
Common/ common land	An area of open land for public use
Conservation Area	A designated area of special architectural or historic interest.
Coppice	An area of woodland in which the trees or shrubs are periodically cut back to ground level to stimulate growth and provide firewood or timber.
Copse	A small group of trees.
CNL	Cotswolds National Landscape - a designated Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB); a statutory national landscape designation.

Appendix C Glossary of terms and abbreviations

Term	Definition
Grassland	Land used for grazing. Grassland can be improved (by management practices) semi-improved (modified by management practices and have a range of species less diverse than unimproved grasslands), or unimproved (not treated with fertiliser, herbicide or intensively grazed and consequently species diversity is high).
Landscape character	A distinct pattern or combination of elements that occurs consistently in a particular landscape.
Listed Building	A building, object or structure that has been judged to be of national importance in terms of architectural or historic interest.
LNR	Local Nature Reserve.
Lynchet	Ancient field patterns comprising earth terraces sloping agricultural land, arising from long term agricultural use. Also known as strip lynchets.
Pastoral	Land used for grazing livestock, typically sheep or cattle.
PRoW	Public Right of Way.
RIGS	Regionally Important Geological Site
RPG	Registered Park and Garden.
Scheduled Monument	Nationally important archaeological sites or historic buildings, given protection against unauthorised change.
SNCI	Site of Nature Conservation Interest, locally designated for substantive nature conservation and geological value.

Appendix C Glossary of terms and abbreviations

Term	Definition
SSSI	Site of Special Scientific Interest.
Time depth	The time period expressed in the landscape, or the extent to which the landscape reflects a certain time period (a landscape with greater time depth will comprise older elements than a landscape with lesser time depth).
Topography	Combinations of slope and elevation that produce the shape and form of the land surface.

Table C.2: Regional terms

Term	Definition
Gryps	linear shallow bank landform comprising raised strips and dug out channels, similar to ridge and furrow. Created for field drainage.
Pill	The narrow tidal reach of a waterway. A term recorded to be strongly associated with the Severn Estuary and Bristol Channel.
Putchers	Traditional funnel-shaped basket traps used for fishing, often made from local hazel and willow.
Putcher ranks	A row of wooden stakes extending into the estuary, made for holding putcher baskets.
Rhines/Rhynes	Drainage ditches typically found in wetland areas an early method of draining wet, marshy land in order to use it for pasture.
Trenches	Linear clearings providing route-ways through woodland.

Appendix C Glossary of terms and abbreviations

Term	Definition
Warth	A regional term for the salt marshes found along the edge of the Severn Estuary.
Withy beds	An area where willow is grown for coppicing.

Appendix D

Data sources

Table D.1: Data sources

Data	Source
Administrative boundaries	Ordnance Survey and South Gloucestershire council
Agricultural Land Classification	Natural England
Ancient Woodland	Natural England
Base OS Mapping at 1:25k and 1:50k	Ordnance Survey and South Gloucestershire council
Bedrock and superficial geology	British Geological Survey
Common land	Natural England
Conservation area	Natural England
Cotswolds National Landscape boundary	Natural England
Grassland, wetland, and woodland strategic network	West of England Nature Partnership
Important hedgerow	South Gloucestershire Council
Listed buildings	Historic England
Local cycle routes and PRoW	South Gloucestershire Council
Local nature reserve	Natural England
National Character Areas	Natural England
National Cycle Network	Sustrans
National Forest Inventory	Forestry Commission
National Nature Reserve	Natural England

Appendix D Data sources

Data	Source
Night blight	CPRE
Priority habitat	Natural England
Ramsar	Natural England
Recent developments	South Gloucestershire Council
Regionally Important Geological Site	Natural England
Registered parks and gardens	Historic England
Scheduled Monument	Historic England
Site of Nature Conservation Interest	South Gloucestershire Council
Site of Special Scientific Interest	Natural England
South Gloucestershire Landscape Character Areas	South Gloucestershire Council
Special Area of Conservation	Natural England
Special Protection Area	Natural England
Tranquillity	CPRE
Watercourses	Ordnance Survey

Appendix E

Strategic and Local Green Infrastructure Projects

E.1 The following pages set out information about strategic and local Green Infrastructure projects and programmes within South Gloucestershire and the Landscape Character Areas (LCAs), and the Green Infrastructure / Blue-Green Infrastructure Corridors (from the 2023 South Gloucestershire Strategic Green Infrastructure Corridor Mapping Project) they fall within.

Green Infrastructure projects and programmes by Landscape Character Area

Landscape Character Area 1 Badminton Plateau

Green Infrastructure (GI) / Blue-Green Infrastructure (BGI) Corridor

Corridor E: Hawkesbury-Old Sodbury-Upton Cheyney (Cotswold Scarp)

GI Projects and Programmes (location specific)

Not applicable.

Landscape Character Area 2 Marshfield Plateau

Green Infrastructure (GI) / Blue-Green Infrastructure (BGI) Corridor

■ Corridor E: Hawkesbury-Old Sodbury-Upton Cheyney (Cotswold Scarp)

GI Projects and Programmes (location specific)

Not applicable.

Landscape Character Area 3 Ashwicke Ridges

Green Infrastructure (GI) / Blue-Green Infrastructure (BGI) Corridor

■ Corridor E: Hawkesbury-Old Sodbury-Upton Cheyney (Cotswold Scarp)

GI Projects and Programmes (location specific)

River Frome Reconnected [See reference 1] - To restore and improve the health and resilience of the Bristol Frome River and its catchment, and make sure the river can be accessed and enjoyed by all.

Landscape Character Area 5 Wickwar Ridge & Vale

Green Infrastructure (GI) / Blue-Green Infrastructure (BGI) Corridor

- Corridor B: Charfield-Alveston-Hallen (Western Scarp/Severn Ridges)
- Corridor C: Winterbourne-Kendleshire-Yate (River Frome Corridor)
- Corridor D: Wickwar-Westerleigh-Bitton (Westerleigh Vale/Oldland Ridge/East Fringe)
- Corridor E: Hawkesbury-Old Sodbury-Upton Cheyney (Cotswold Scarp)
- Corridor G: Wickwar-Iron Acton (Ladden Valley)
- Corridor I: Huntingford-Charfield-Wickwar (Little Avon River Corridor)

- River Frome Reconnected: To restore and improve the health and resilience of the Bristol Frome River and its catchment, and make sure the river can be accessed and enjoyed by all.
- Lower Woods & Vale: To create additional buffer habitats around Lower Woods and improve woodland links to Cotswold woodlands. Lower Woods is the most extensive area of ancient woodland in the West of England.
- Hawkesbury and Inglestone Common [See reference 2]: Higher Tier Countryside Stewardship Scheme, also including Assley and Hareley Commons, which facilitates ongoing management for the benefit of all users, together with habitat enhancement.

Landscape Character Area 6 Pucklechurch Ridge and Boyd Valley

Green Infrastructure (GI) / Blue-Green Infrastructure (BGI) Corridor

- Corridor C: Winterbourne-Kendleshire-Yate (River Frome Corridor)
- Corridor D: Wickwar-Westerleigh-Bitton (Westerleigh Vale/Oldland Ridge/East Fringe)
- Corridor E: Hawkesbury-Old Sodbury-Upton Cheyney (Cotswold Scarp)
- Corridor H: Hinton-Doynton-Bitton (Boyd Valley)

GI Projects and Programmes (location specific)

- Common Connections [See reference 3]: To restore and connect habitat including linking registered common land, unimproved grasslands, woodlands, and associated habitats along the South Gloucestershire/East Bristol urban fringe.
- River Frome Reconnected: To restore and improve the health and resilience of the Bristol Frome River and its catchment, and make sure the river can be accessed and enjoyed by all.

Landscape Character Area 7 Falfield Vale

Green Infrastructure (GI) / Blue-Green Infrastructure (BGI) Corridor

- Corridor B: Charfield-Alveston-Hallen (Western Scarp/Severn Ridges)
- Corridor I: Huntingford-Charfield-Wickwar (Little Avon River Corridor)

Not applicable.

Landscape Character Area 8 Yate Vale

Green Infrastructure (GI) / Blue-Green Infrastructure (BGI) Corridor

- Corridor C: Winterbourne-Kendleshire-Yate (River Frome Corridor)
- Corridor D: Wickwar-Westerleigh-Bitton (Westerleigh Vale/Oldland Ridge/East Fringe)
- Corridor G: Wickwar-Iron Acton (Ladden Valley)

GI Projects and Programmes (location specific)

River Frome Reconnected: To restore and improve the health and resilience of the Bristol Frome River and its catchment, and make sure the river can be accessed and enjoyed by all.

Landscape Character Area 9 Tytherington Plain

Green Infrastructure (GI) / Blue-Green Infrastructure (BGI) Corridor

Corridor G: Wickwar-Iron Acton (Ladden Valley)

River Frome Reconnected: To restore and improve the health and resilience of the Bristol Frome River and its catchment, and make sure the river can be accessed and enjoyed by all.

Landscape Character Area 10 Earthcott Vale

Green Infrastructure (GI) / Blue-Green Infrastructure (BGI) Corridor

- Corridor C: Winterbourne-Kendleshire-Yate (River Frome Corridor)
- Corridor G: Wickwar-Iron Acton (Ladden Valley)

GI Projects and Programmes (location specific)

■ River Frome Reconnected: To restore and improve the health and resilience of the Bristol Frome River and its catchment, and make sure the river can be accessed and enjoyed by all.

Landscape Character Area 11 Golden Valley

Green Infrastructure (GI) / Blue-Green Infrastructure (BGI) Corridor

- Corridor E: Hawkesbury-Old Sodbury-Upton Cheyney (Cotswold Scarp)
- Corridor H: Hinton-Doynton-Bitton (Boyd Valley)

Not applicable.

Landscape Character Area 12 Westerleigh Vale and Oldland Ridge

Green Infrastructure (GI) / Blue-Green Infrastructure (BGI) Corridor

 Corridor D: Wickwar-Westerleigh-Bitton (Westerleigh Vale/Oldland Ridge/East Fringe)

- Common Connections: To restore and connect habitat including linking registered common land, unimproved grasslands, woodlands, and associated habitats along the South Gloucestershire/East Bristol urban fringe.
- River Frome Reconnected: To restore and improve the health and resilience of the Bristol Frome River and its catchment, and make sure the river can be accessed and enjoyed by all.
- Yate spur shared use path: To connect Yate with the Bristol and Bath Railway Path, by providing a continuous off carriageway 'green corridor' for commuting, leisure, and recreation.

Landscape Character Area 13 Frome Valley

Green Infrastructure (GI) / Blue-Green Infrastructure (BGI) Corridor

- Corridor C: Winterbourne-Kendleshire-Yate (River Frome Corridor)
- Corridor D: Wickwar-Westerleigh-Bitton (Westerleigh Vale/Oldland Ridge/East Fringe)

GI Projects and Programmes (location specific)

River Frome Reconnected: To restore and improve the health and resilience of the Bristol Frome River and its catchment, and make sure the river can be accessed and enjoyed by all.

Landscape Character Area 14 Kingswood

Green Infrastructure (GI) / Blue-Green Infrastructure (BGI) Corridor

- Corridor D: Wickwar-Westerleigh-Bitton (Westerleigh Vale/Oldland Ridge/East Fringe)
- Corridor F: Hanham Green-Hanham Abbots-Bitton (Avon Valley)

GI Projects and Programmes (location specific)

Common Connections: To restore and connect habitat including linking registered common land, unimproved grasslands, woodlands, and associated habitats along the South Gloucestershire/East Bristol urban fringe.

- River Frome Reconnected: To restore and improve the health and resilience of the Bristol Frome River and its catchment, and make sure the river can be accessed and enjoyed by all.
- Kingswood Park [See reference 4]: To restore and enhance the heritage, landscape, and facilities of Kingswood Park to create an accessible green space which is resilient to the changing climate and where people can come together. The project will also link to the Kingswood Town Centre regeneration programme, making Kingswood a better place to live, work and visit.

Landscape Character Area 15 Patchway, Filton and the Stokes

Green Infrastructure (GI) / Blue-Green Infrastructure (BGI) Corridor

Not applicable.

GI Projects and Programmes (location specific)

River Frome Reconnected: To restore and improve the health and resilience of the Bristol Frome River and its catchment, and make sure the river can be accessed and enjoyed by all

Landscape Character Area 16 Avon Valley

Green Infrastructure (GI) / Blue-Green Infrastructure (BGI) Corridor

Corridor F: Hanham Green-Hanham Abbots-Bitton (Avon Valley)

■ Water Space [See reference 5]: Partnership programme of work to improve the green spaces and rights of way along the River Avon.

Landscape Character Area 17 Rudgeway Ridge and Tytherington Ridge

Green Infrastructure (GI) / Blue-Green Infrastructure (BGI) Corridor

Corridor B: Charfield-Alveston-Hallen (Western Scarp/Severn Ridges)

GI Projects and Programmes (location specific)

River Frome Reconnected: To restore and improve the health and resilience of the Bristol Frome River and its catchment, and make sure the river can be accessed and enjoyed by all.

Landscape Character Area 18 Severn Ridges

Green Infrastructure (GI) / Blue-Green Infrastructure (BGI) Corridor

- Corridor A: Shepperdine-Oldbury on Severn-Severn Beach (Severn Estuary and Levels)
- Corridor B: Charfield-Alveston-Hallen (Western Scarp/Severn Ridges)

- A Forgotten Landscape project [See reference 6]: A good example of the council and their partners successfully working together to protect, conserve, enhance and celebrate local heritage, culture, and landscapes.
- Severn Vision [See reference 7]: A partnership of several organisations working to restore and enhance the Severn Estuary and its biodiversity, landscapes, and ecosystem as a whole, on balance with managing thresholds for sustainable use.

Landscape Character Area 19 Oldbury Levels

Green Infrastructure (GI) / Blue-Green Infrastructure (BGI) Corridor

 Corridor A: Shepperdine-Oldbury on Severn-Severn Beach (Severn Estuary and Levels)

- A Forgotten Landscape project: A good example of the council and their partners successfully working together to protect, conserve, enhance and celebrate local heritage, culture, and landscapes.
- Severn Vision: A partnership of several organisations working to restore and enhance the Severn Estuary and its biodiversity, landscapes, and ecosystem as a whole, on balance with managing thresholds for sustainable use.

Landscape Character Area 20 Pilning Levels

Green Infrastructure (GI) / Blue-Green Infrastructure (BGI) Corridor

 Corridor A: Shepperdine-Oldbury on Severn-Severn Beach (Severn Estuary and Levels)

- Avonmouth and Severnside Enterprise area (ASEA) Ecology Mitigation and Flood Defence project [See reference 8]: To improve flood defence, wetland habitat and public access across the Severnside area.
- String of Pearls: To connect and restore wetland habitat of the protected Ramsar area of the low-lying vales and coast of the Severn Estuary to support resilience to the changing climate in this area and improve biodiversity and public access.
- A Forgotten Landscape project: A good example of the council and their partners successfully working together to protect, conserve, enhance and celebrate local heritage, culture, and landscapes.
- Severn Vision: A partnership of several organisations working to restore and enhance the Severn Estuary and its biodiversity, landscapes, and ecosystem as a whole, on balance with managing thresholds for sustainable use.

Landscape Character Area 21 Severn Shoreline and Estuary

Green Infrastructure (GI) / Blue-Green Infrastructure (BGI) Corridor

 Corridor A: Shepperdine-Oldbury on Severn-Severn Beach (Severn Estuary and Levels)

- String of Pearls: To connect and restore wetland habitat of the protected Ramsar area of the low-lying vales and coast of the Severn Estuary to support resilience to the changing climate in this area and improve biodiversity and public access.
- A Forgotten Landscape project: A good example of the council and their partners successfully working together to protect, conserve, enhance and celebrate local heritage, culture, and landscapes.
- Severn Vision: A partnership of several organisations working to restore and enhance the Severn Estuary and its biodiversity, landscapes, and ecosystem as a whole, on balance with managing thresholds for sustainable use.

Network and community scale programmes

E.2 The following lists the network and community scale programmes occurring across South Gloucestershire:

Tree planting programme to double tree cover by 2030

E.3 Create capacity and capability to double tree cover (plus replacement planting due to Ash dieback losses) in South Gloucestershire through a programme of tree planting on council and third-party land. Programme of tree planting on council land and highway verges. Co-ordination of tree planting projects, offset/mitigation/ sponsorship planting, and hedgerow restoration. First projects to be used for case studies and showcase work to engage potential tree planting investors levering future income.

E.4 Refer to The Forest of Avon Plan [See reference 9] which has specific aims by character area.

Nature Recovery Network

E.5 Working with our partners locally and regionally through the West of England Nature Partnership to achieve a bigger, better, more and connected ecological network across our area.

E.6 Refer to the West of England Nature Partnership (WENP) Nature Recovery Network online map [See reference 10] for specific strategies.

Highway verges for Nature

E.7 Changes to the management of highway verges and council owned green spaces (as set out the South Gloucestershire Green Infrastructure Strategy: Greener Places (2021) [See reference 11]

Local Nature Action Plans

E.8 South Gloucestershire Council is working to address the ecological crisis on a strategic scale through various partnerships. To ensure town and parish councils are suitably supported to contribute to nature recovery, they are encouraged to deliver their own Local Nature Action Plan (LNAP) [See reference 12]. The LNAPs complement and support the existing South Gloucestershire Biodiversity Action Plan and the individual town and parish biodiversity action plans. The LNAPs are for town and parish councils to declare what they will do to help natures recovery.

References

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- 10 West of England Nature Partnership Nature Recovery Network https://wenp.org.uk/nature-recovery-network/#
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 https://green_Infrastructure_Strategy_2021_full_document.pdf
- 12 https://beta.southglos.gov.uk/local-nature-action-plans

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