



# **South Gloucestershire Landscape Character Assessment**

Appendices A-D

**South Gloucestershire Council**

Prepared by LUC  
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# Appendix A

## 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.

**A.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.

**A.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 1.2**)? 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 **Chapters 6-13**) 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 **Chapters 1-5**), 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 **Chapters 6-13**) 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?

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

## Appendix B

### Glossary of terms and abbreviations

**Table B.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 B 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 B 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 B.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 B 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 C

### Data sources

**Table C.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 C 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 D

# Strategic and Local Green Infrastructure Projects

**D.1** The following pages set out information about strategic and local Green Infrastructure projects and programmes within South Gloucestershire by Landscape Character Area (LCA), and outlines the Green Infrastructure / Blue-Green Infrastructure Corridors they fall within. The following list is accurate as of August 2024.

## 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 4 Cotswold Scarp

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

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

### GI Projects and Programmes (location specific)

- Limestone Link - A large-scale programme to enhance the ecological connectivity of the Cotswolds Scarp between Lower Woods and Bath. . The 'South Gloucestershire Cotswold Scarp' component of this programme is currently at concept stage (as of August 2024).
- Tackling Transport Severance – Safe Passages for Nature over the M4. To implement wildlife tunnels or green bridges to address severance issues within the Cotswolds National Landscape caused by the M4. An example location is around the woodland and grassland strategic network at Tormarton.

## 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)

### 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.
- Limestone Link - Lower Woods Link: 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.
- Limestone Link - 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.
- Little Avon - A catchment-scale programme to improve the ecological status, health, and resilience of the Little Avon River catchment.

## 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-Biton (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.
- Thriving Waters - A catchment-scale programme to improve the ecological status, health, and resilience of the neighbouring Siston Brook and River Boyd water catchments.
- 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 (at concept stage as of August 2024).

## 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)

## GI Projects and Programmes (location specific)

- Little Avon - A catchment-scale programme to improve the ecological status, health, and resilience of the Little Avon River catchment.

## 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-Biton (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)

## 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 10 Earthcott 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)

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

## GI Projects and Programmes (location specific)

- Limestone Link - South Gloucestershire Cotswold Scarp programme. To enhance the ecological connectivity of the Cotswolds Scarp between Lower Woods and Bath. Currently at concept stage (as of August 2024).
- Thriving Waters - A catchment-scale programme to improve the ecological status, health, and resilience of the neighbouring Siston Brook and River Boyd water catchments.

## Landscape Character Area 12 Westerleigh Vale and Oldland Ridge

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

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

## 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.
- Thriving Waters - A catchment-scale programme to improve the ecological status, health, and resilience of the neighbouring Siston Brook and River Boyd water catchments.

- 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-Biton (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-Biton (Westerleigh Vale/Oldland Ridge/East Fringe)
- Corridor F: Hanham Green-Hanham Abbots-Biton (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.
- Grimsbury Community Farm (Within Common Connections programme area) - A council owned and managed community farm, providing a key public open space resource and facilities, farming education, skills and training and a showcase for sustainable land management, nature restoration and climate change adaption.
- 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-Biton (Avon Valley)

## GI Projects and Programmes (location specific)

- WaterSpace Connected [See reference 5] – A partnership programme of work to improve the green spaces and rights of way along the River Avon corridor between Bath and Bristol.

## 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.
- Tackling Transport Severance – Safe passage for nature over the M5 – A project to implement strategically placed wildlife crossing points across the M5, including wildlife tunnels and green bridges. An example location being explored is around Thornbury (as of August 2024).

## 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)

## GI Projects and Programmes (location specific)

- Severn Vision **[See reference 6]**: 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.
- Linking the Levels - A landscape-scale nature recovery partnership programme which aims to restore, create, and connect habitat for nature and climate resilience across the Lower Severn Vale, Levels and Shore of South Gloucestershire. The project builds on the legacy of the 'Forgotten Landscape Project' and vision for the 'String of Pearls' wetlands programme.



- Tackling Transport Severance – Safe passage for nature over the M5 – A project to implement strategically placed wildlife crossing points across the M5, including wildlife tunnels and green bridges. An example location being explored is around Thornbury (as of August 2024).

## 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)

### GI Projects and Programmes (location specific)

- 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.
- Linking the Levels - A landscape scale nature recovery partnership programme which aims to restore, create, and connect habitat for nature and climate resilience across the Lower Severn Vale, Levels and Shore of South Gloucestershire. The project builds on the legacy of the 'Forgotten Landscape Project' and vision for the 'String of Pearls' wetlands programme. It will focus on improving internationally important habitat for wild fowl and wading birds, and support critically endangered species such as the European eel, water vole, glow worm and white-clawed crayfish. Key sites include Aust wetlands (SGC owned), Oldbury Settlement lagoon (Nuclear Restoration Service) and Littleton Brickpits (Avon Wildlife Trust).

## 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)

### GI Projects and Programmes (location specific)

- Avonmouth and Severnside Enterprise area (ASEA) Ecology Mitigation and Flood Defence project **[See reference 7]**: To improve flood defence, wetland habitat and public access across the Severnside area.
- Linking the Levels - A landscape scale nature recovery partnership programme which aims to restore, create, and connect habitat for nature and climate resilience across the Lower Severn Vale, Levels and Shore of South Gloucestershire. The project builds on the legacy of the 'Forgotten Landscape Project' and vision for the 'String of Pearls' wetlands programme. It will focus on improving internationally important habitat for wild fowl and wading birds, and support critically endangered species such as the European eel, water vole, glow worm and white-clawed crayfish. Key sites include Aust wetlands (SGC owned), Oldbury Settlement lagoon (Nuclear Restoration Service) and Littleton Brickpits (Avon Wildlife Trust).
- 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)

### GI Projects and Programmes (location specific)

- Linking the Levels - A landscape scale nature recovery partnership programme which aims to restore, create, and connect habitat for nature and climate resilience across the Lower Severn Vale, Levels and Shore of South Gloucestershire. The project builds on the legacy of the 'Forgotten Landscape Project' and vision for the 'String of Pearls' wetlands programme. It will focus on improving internationally important habitat for wild fowl and wading birds, and support critically endangered species such as the European eel, water vole, glow worm and white-clawed crayfish. Key sites include Aust wetlands (SGC owned), Oldbury Settlement lagoon (Nuclear Restoration Service) and Littleton Brickpits (Avon Wildlife Trust).
- 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.
- Avonmouth and Severnside Enterprise area (ASEA) Ecology Mitigation and Flood Defence project - To improve flood defence, wetland habitat and public access across the Severnside area.

## Network and community scale programmes

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

### Tree canopy project – tree planting programme to double tree cover by 2030

**D.3** A regional programme to create capacity and capability to double tree cover and deliver outcomes for nature recovery, climate adaptation and resilience, landscape character and amenity in South Gloucestershire through a programme of tree planting on council and third-party land. This will include tree planting on council land and highway verges, co-ordination of tree planting projects, offset/mitigation/ sponsorship planting, and hedgerow restoration. First projects are to be used for case studies and showcase work to engage potential tree planting investors leveraging future income. The programme also aims to promote best practice for management of existing trees and woodlands.

**D.4** Refer to The Forest of Avon Plan [\[See reference 8\]](#) which has specific aims for each landscape character area.

### Nature Recovery Network

**D.5** Working with partners locally and regionally through the West of England Nature Partnership to achieve a bigger, better, more and connected ecological network across South Gloucestershire.

**D.6** Refer to the West of England Nature Partnership (WENP) Nature Recovery Network online map [\[See reference 9\]](#) for specific strategies.

## South Gloucestershire Council Wildways Project

**D.7** A programme aiming to ‘close gaps’ in the Nature recovery Network, linking clusters of locally-designated sites that could be better connected for wildlife through land purchase, land management agreements or small-scale nature connectivity enhancements like hedgerow restoration, tree planting or wildlife corridor creation. This is not centred on SGC owned land, but on any suitably located clusters of privately owned designated sites. So far three projects have been identified and worked up in the concept stage.

## Highway verges for nature

**D.8** Changes to the management of highway verges and council owned green spaces (as set out the South Gloucestershire Green Infrastructure Strategy: Greener Places (2021) [\[See reference 10\]](#).

## Tackling Transport Severance

**D.9** A network-scale programme to identify and tackle habitat severance caused by transport infrastructure. Includes scoping priorities for retrofit of safe passage tunnels, green routes across bridges, dark skies, highway run off mitigation to prepare a portfolio of agreed, costed retrofit projects for seeking funding. Also to identify, develop and embed best practice for new infrastructure design aligned with corporate commitments and latest statutory requirements regarding biodiversity. Local projects include ‘safe passages for nature over the M4’ and ‘safe passages for nature over the M5’.

## Local Nature Action Plans (LNAP)

**D.10** 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) [\[See reference 11\]](#). 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 nature's recovery.

### Local Climate and Nature Action Plans (LCNAP)

**D.11** South Gloucestershire Council Biodiversity team have also published guidance to help town and parish councils to prepare and deliver Local Climate and Nature Action Plans (LCNAP) [\[See reference 12\]](#). LCNAPs support and complement the South Gloucestershire Biodiversity Action Plan and Climate and Nature Emergency Action Plan. As of August 2024, over 20 LCNAPs have been prepared.

# References

- 1 South Gloucestershire Council: River Frome Reconnected web page. Available at: <https://beta.southglos.gov.uk/river-frome-reconnected/>
- 2 Hawkesbury Common website. Available at: <http://www.hawkesburycommon.co.uk/>
- 3 West of England Combined Authorities: Common Connections Outline Business Case (2021) Available at: <https://www.westofengland-ca.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Common-Connections-Outline-Business-Case.pdf>
- 4 South Gloucestershire Council Kingswood Park web page. Available at: <https://www.southglos.gov.uk/leisure-and-culture/parks-and-open-spaces/kingswood-park/>
- 5 Bath and North East Somerset Council :WaterSpace Study. Available at: <https://www.bathnes.gov.uk/waterspace-study>
- 6 Severn Vision Partnership project website. Available at: <https://severnvision.org/>
- 7 ASEA Ecology Mitigation and Flood Defence Project website. Available at: <https://www.asea-flood-ecology.co.uk/>
- 8 The Forest of Avon Trust, The Forest of Avon Plan: A Tree and Woodland Strategy for the West of England. Available at: <https://forestofavontrust.org/forest-of-avon-plan/>
- 9 West of England Nature Partnership Nature Recovery Network website. Available at: <https://wenp.org.uk/nature-recovery-network/#>
- 10 South Gloucestershire Council Green Infrastructure Strategy: Greener Places. Available at: [https://beta.southglos.gov.uk/static/b838462276bde81cfe08ec0fab47fdc0/Green Infrastructure Strategy 2021 full document.pdf](https://beta.southglos.gov.uk/static/b838462276bde81cfe08ec0fab47fdc0/Green%20Infrastructure%20Strategy%202021%20full%20document.pdf)
- 11 South Gloucestershire Local Nature Action Plans website. Available at: <https://beta.southglos.gov.uk/local-nature-action-plans>

## References

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- 12** South Gloucestershire Local Climate and Nature Action Plan Guidance.  
Available at:  
<https://beta.southglos.gov.uk/static/d466e89cca955e64abfb9762d7780dba/Local-Climate-and-Nature-Action-Plan-toolkit.pdf>



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# South Gloucestershire Landscape Character Assessment

## Annex I: Visually Important Hillsides

### South Gloucestershire Council

**Final Draft Report for Adoption**

Prepared by LUC

September 2024



Version	Status	Prepared	Checked	Approved	Date
1	Draft Method and Pilot	E White	K Davies	K Davies	24.02.2023
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5	Final Draft (updated following New Local Plan Phase 3 consultation)	E White	E White	K Davies	20.06.2024
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Visually Important Hillsides: Guidance Notes for New Development

# Chapter 1

## Introduction

**1.1** A key characteristic of the South Gloucestershire landscape are the hills, ridges, pronounced scarps, and valley sides which may provide an important backdrop in views, or form focal features and points of reference in the landscape. Collectively, these features are known as visually important hillsides (VIHs), which need to be protected so that their function within the landscape is retained and not diminished by inappropriate forms of development.

**1.2** VIHs vary in character to include distinct hillside landforms (e.g. Hanham Hills), outward facing scarps to plateau areas (e.g. Cotswold Scarp delineating the western edge of the Cotswold National Landscape), prominent valley sides (e.g. northern valley side of the River Avon), and in some locations may define two sides of a broad ridgeline (e.g. ridgeline lying between the western facing slope known as the Wickwar Ridge and eastward facing slope known as the Churchend Ridge).

**1.3** The South Gloucestershire Core Strategy 2006-2027 (adopted 11<sup>th</sup> December 2013) identified VIH as strategic green infrastructure (GI) assets on its 'Key – Strategic Green Infrastructure Network' Diagram (Figure 1) supporting Policy CS2: Green Infrastructure. The VIHs were also described and illustrated within the 2014 adopted South Gloucestershire Landscape Character Assessment Supplementary Planning Document (SPD). In 2022 the Strategic Green Infrastructure Corridor Mapping Project considered VIHs and other GI assets to give spatial expression to South Gloucestershire's strategic Green Infrastructure corridor network. As part of this corridor project, and the updated Landscape Character Assessment SPD, the boundaries of the VIHs were spatially defined on OS mapping.

**1.4** This report forms Annex I of the refreshed and updated 2023 South Gloucestershire Landscape Character Assessment SPD. It contains an analysis



of both previously identified VIHs, together with those identified through the Stage 3 Local Plan consultation process (December 2023 to February 2024) and provides the justification as to why they are categorised as being visually important, or as local hillsides. The hillsides have been tested against the criteria set out in **Chapter 2**, which relate to the topics of Distinctiveness and Identity; Visual Prominence; and Character and Value. Following the New Local Plan Phase 3 consultation, some of the VIH boundaries were refined to better reflect their appearance and function within the landscape, new VIH features identified where they met the criteria, and the assessment criteria slightly modified to make clearer how VIHs are defined in relation to their distinctiveness and identity.

**1.5** All the VIHs previously identified within the CS2 Diagram, and 2014 Landscape Character Assessment SPD are considered to either meet all or most of the criteria. Where several distinct landform features do not meet the assessment criteria they have been identified as local hillsides (e.g. Mount Hill/Cock Road Ridge).

**1.6** The VIHs have been grouped together where they form related landform features, as shown on **Figure 3.1**. A full profile for each VIH is contained within **Chapters 4 - 18**.

**1.7** Guidance notes have been provided in **Appendix A**, that provide a checklist of issues that new development proposals will need to take into consideration to ensure that the prominence and distinctive appearance of VIHs, and their relationship to the surrounding landscape and townscape, is protected.

# Chapter 2

## Criteria

**2.1** This chapter sets out the criteria that each potential visually important hillside (VIH) has been assessed against, under three topic headings. For a hillside to be categorised as visually important, it has to meet all or most of the criteria depending upon its context within the landscape of South Gloucestershire.

### Distinctiveness and identity

- VIH forms a readily identifiable as a natural landform feature on OS mapping (e.g. more closely spaced contour lines, steeper gradient slopes, representing an appreciable difference in landform height, summit marked by a triangulation pillar, promoted viewpoint, or hillfort).

VIH exhibits a noticeable change in slope gradient from the surrounding topography, with this gradient typically being some 10-12% or steeper, and the upper slope edge being some 20m to 25m higher than the level of the surrounding topography. In some locations, the lower slopes of a VIH may become less steep as they transition into the surrounding landform, but still form an integral and distinctive part of its landform profile.

- Distinctive feature with a strong sense of identity (e.g. noted in the South Gloucestershire Landscape Character Assessment SPD, or Conservation Area appraisals).

### Visual prominence

- Prominent/pronounced hillside, plateau edge, scarp, or valley side in views across the landscape (as noted in the Landscape Character Assessment SPD).

- Visible from several public vantage points and/ or a key feature in views from a Strategic Viewpoint (see South Gloucestershire Landscape Character Assessment SPD Annex II).

## Character and value

- High visual/sensory/perceptual value (as noted in the Landscape Character Assessment SPD).
- Contributes to the setting of Conservation Areas and/ or the character of Registered Parks and Gardens (RPGs).
- Character and appearance of the VIH are largely unspoilt by visual detractors such as inappropriate forms of development, manmade structures, or land use (analysed through mapping and verified on site).
- Elevated landform of VIH provides the opportunity for views across the landscape of South Gloucestershire, and a sense of prospect (e.g. the location of a Strategic Viewpoint).
- Has a role in the landscape e.g. forms a visual backdrop, provides a visual watershed, contains / defines character areas, provides visual separation between settlements.

## Chapter 3

# Analysis of Visually Important Hillsides

**3.1** There are fifteen groupings of Visually Important Hillsides (VIHs) within South Gloucestershire, identified according to the criteria described in **Chapter 2**. These are set out below, and their location is shown on **Figure 3.1** in relation to their associated landscape character area(s). A list of the full landscape character area (LCA) names is set out in **Table 3.1**, with each area being described in the main landscape character assessment report.

**Table 3.1: Landscape Character Types and Landscape Character Areas**

Plateau and Scarp LCT	
LCA 1	Badminton Plateau
LCA 2	Marshfield Plateau
LCA 3	Ashwicke Ridges
LCA 4	Cotswold Scarp
Shallow Ridge LCT	
LCA 5	Wickwar Ridge & Vale
LCA 6	Pucklechurch Ridge & Boyd Valley
Parkland Vale LCT	
LCA 7	Falfield Vale
Shallow Vale LCT	
LCA 8	Yate Vale
LCA 9	Tytherington Plain
LCA 10	Earthcott Vale

<b>Enclosed Valleys LCT</b>	
LCA 11	Golden Valley
LCA 16	Avon Valley
<b>Broad Valleys LCT</b>	
LCA 12	Westerleigh Vale & Oldland Ridge
LCA 13	Frome Valley
LCA 14	Kingswood
LCA 15	Patchway, Filton and the Stokes
<b>Undulating Ridge LCT</b>	
LCA 17	Rudgeway Ridge & Tytherington Ridge
LCA 18	Severn Ridges
<b>Estuary, Shoreline and Levels LCT</b>	
LCA 19	Oldbury Levels
LCA 20	Pilning Levels
LCA 21	Severn Shoreline & Estuary

**3.2** A full profile for each VIH is contained within **Chapters 4 to 18**, providing clear justification against the criteria. A typical view towards each VIH is also provided to illustrate its character and presence within the landscape of South Gloucestershire. Such views may vary depending upon the location of the viewer and length and variation of a given VIH.

**3.3** The VIHs are as follows:

- **Ashwicke Ridges** (including Henley Hill, Nimlet Hill, and Hanging Hill). This VIH defines the boundaries of LCA 3: Ashwicke Ridges which it is located fully within. It forms a southerly extension to the Cotswold Scarp VIH and adjoins the Oldland Ridge and Cotswold Lower Slope VIH in the west.

- **Cotswold Scarp** (including Hawkesbury Knoll, Broad Hill, Birch Hill, wooded slopes of Dodington Park and Dyrham Park, Tog Hill and Freezing Hill). This VIH defines the boundaries of LCA 4: Cotswold Scarp which it is located mostly within, apart from a small area straddling the south-western corner of LCA 2: Marshfield Plateau at Tog Hill. It adjoins the Ashwicke Ridges VIH in the south.
- **Wickwar Ridge** (including Bury Hill) which defines parts of the western and eastern boundaries of LCA 5: Wickwar Ridge and Vale and LCA 8: Yate Vale respectively, as well as delineating the western slope of the broad ridge upon which Wickwar is located.
- **Churchend Ridge** (including Charfield Hill) which is located mostly within LCA 5: Wickwar Ridge and Vale, with a small part extending into LCA 7: Falfield Vale in the north. It adjoins the Wick's/Butcher's Hill and Baden Hill VIH at Tortworth in the north-west, and delineates the eastern slope of the broad ridge upon which Wickwar is located.
- **Pucklechurch Ridge** (including Shortwood Hill, Siston Hill, Claypit Hill, Westerleigh Hill, Coxgrove Hill and Holbrook Common) which defines parts of the western and eastern boundaries of LCA 6: Pucklechurch Ridge and Boyd Valley and LCA 12: Westerleigh Vale and Oldland Ridge respectively. It adjoins the Oldland Ridge and Cotswold Lower Slopes VIH in the south at Wick.
- **Wick's/Butcher's Hill and Baden Hill** (including Abbots-side Hill and outlying slopes between Howcroft Cottages and the Little Avon River) which is located mostly within LCA 7: Falfield Vale, apart from a small part in the south that extends into LCA 17: Rudgeway and Tytherington Ridge. It adjoins the Churchend Ridge VIH at Tortworth in the north-east, and the Severn Ridges VIH in the west at Buckover.
- **Eastwood Park Spur** (including outlying Sundays Hill) which is located mostly within LCA 7: Falfield Vale, apart from its western extent which straddles the edge of LCA 18: Seven Ridges.
- **Oldland Ridge and Cotswold Lower Slopes** (including Beach Hill, Cann Break, Bitton Hill, Barrow Hill, Mount Pleasant and Mill Hill) which is located mostly within LCA 11: Golden Valley and straddles the boundary of LCA 12: Westerleigh Vale and Oldland Ridge in the west. Small areas

extend into LCA 6: Pucklechurch Ridge and Boyd Valley in the north and LCA 3: Ashwicke Ridges in the south. The western part (Oldland Ridge) adjoins the Pucklechurch Ridge VIH in the north at Wick, and the eastern part (Cotswold Lower Slopes) adjoins Ashwicke Ridges VIH in the south-east.

- **Bury Hill and Winterbourne Hill** which is located fully within LCA 13: Frome Valley.
- **Sims' Hill** which is located fully within LCA 13: Frome Valley.
- **River Frome** (steeper valley sides) which is located fully within LCA 13: Frome Valley.
- **Hanham Hills** which is located fully within LCA 16: Avon Valley. It adjoins the River Avon VIH in the south.
- **River Avon** (steep northern side) which is located fully within LCA 16: Avon Valley. It forms a southerly extension of the Hanham Hills VIH.
- **Upper Hill** which is located fully within LCA 18: Seven Ridges and forms a continuation of the prominent ridgeline to the east within Stroud District.
- **Severn Ridges** (including Fowler's Hill, Titters Hill, Henley Hill, Tockington Hill, Spaniorum Hill and Milbury Heath, and the outlying hills at Cow Hill, St Arilda's Church, Catherine's Hill, Eastcombe Hill, Awkley Hill, Ingst and Aust cliff edge). This VIH defines the boundaries of LCA 18: Seven Ridges, with the outlying hill at Ingst within LCA 18: Pilning Levels, and the edge of this landscape character area partly defined by Aust Cliff. The Severn Ridges VIH adjoins the Wick's / Butcher's Hill and Baden Hill VIH in the north-east at Buckover.

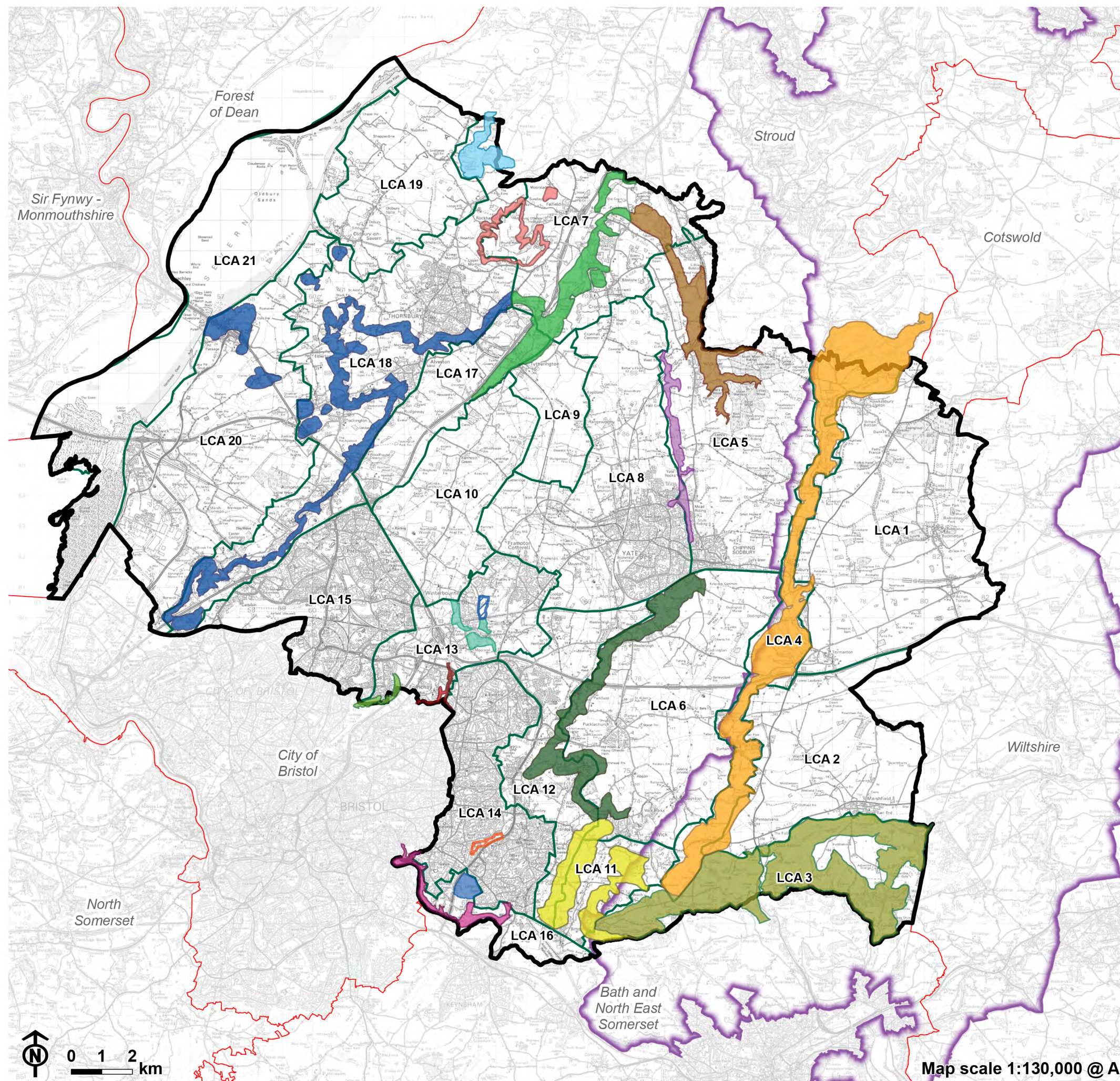
**3.4** A further two areas are identified as Local Hillsides (LHs) which represent landforms that are considered to be locally important, but do not meet sufficient criteria to be considered a VIH. The LHs are set out below and their location is shown on **Figure 3.1**.

**3.5** The LHs are as follows:

- **LH 1: Mount Hill/ Cock Road Ridge** – a small local ridge rising up from the northern edge of the A4174, which is located fully within LCA 14: Kingswood. It is readily identifiable as a natural landform feature on OS mapping with a noticeable change in slope gradient from the surrounding topography, and is seen in views within and beyond the district. However, its distinctiveness and prominence as a hillside is somewhat diminished by its small scale, and the built environment of Bristol surrounding it. The dense coverage of woodland overlaying the hillside disguises the true form of its slope, which appears as a typical wooded road embankment. It is not a key feature in views from a Strategic Viewpoint.
- **LH 2: North of Huckford Viaduct** – a small local ridge on the eastern edge of Winterbourne, descending towards the River Frome in the east, and extending north from the edge of the Huckford Viaduct. It is located fully within LCA 13: Frome Valley, and its southern edge adjoins the Bury Hill and Winterbourne Hill VIH. It is somewhat identifiable as a natural landform feature on OS mapping, although away from the northern edge of the viaduct, the distance between consecutive contour lines start to increase with the gradient becoming shallower. It is recognised as a valley side but is not particularly prominent, especially when seen in context of the steeper landforms that make up the Bury Hill and Winterbourne Hill VIH. It provides the opportunity for views across the landscape, with the strategic viewpoint at Flax Pits Pond, Hicks Common Road (SVP 30) but is not a key feature in views from other strategic viewpoints.



**Figure 3.1: Location of Visually Important Hillside and Local Hillside**



- Council boundary
- Neighbouring local authority
- Landscape Character Area
- Cotswolds National Landscape (AONB) boundary
- Visually Important Hillside**
  - Ashwicke Ridges
  - Bury Hill and Winterbourne Hill
  - Churchend Ridge
  - Cotswold Scarp
  - Eastwood Park Spur
  - Hanham Hills
  - Oldland Ridge and Cotswold Lower Slope
  - Pucklechurch Ridge
  - River Avon Valley
  - River Frome
  - Severn Ridges
  - Sims Hill
  - Upper Hill
  - Wicks/Butchers Hill and Baden Hill
  - Wickwar Ridge
- Local Hillside**
  - Mount Hill/ Cock Road Ridge
  - North of Huckford Viaduct



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# South Gloucestershire Landscape Character Assessment

## Annex II: Strategic Viewpoints

### South Gloucestershire Council

#### **Final Draft Report for Adoption**

Prepared by LUC

September 2024



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1	Draft Method and Pilot	E White L Jewitt	K Davies	K Davies	03.04.2023
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South Gloucestershire Landscape Character Assessment

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# Chapter 1

## Introduction

**1.1** The landscape of South Gloucestershire is diverse in character due to its underlying geology, associated landforms, and varying vegetation cover and settlement pattern. In the west, lies the estuary and the flat, low-lying levels, contained to the east by the pronounced slopes of the Severn Ridges. Gently rolling agricultural 'vales' and broad valleys characterise the central landscape of the district, before the shallow ridges extend to the east, providing a transition to the prominent escarpment and plateau of the Cotswolds National Landscape (CNL). This results in a visually varied landscape, with open, elevated ridgelines affording long views across South Gloucestershire and beyond, in contrast to the enclosed valleys and wooded farmland where hillsides and mature vegetation provide containment. It is important that the most valuable views within South Gloucestershire are identified and protected, and that the notable landscape features, landmarks and scenic qualities that make up their composition, are retained and not diminished by inappropriate forms of development or land use change.

**1.2** The eastern area of South Gloucestershire is of particular landscape value, reflected by its inclusion within the CNL; a nationally designated landscape protected for its distinctive character and scenic qualities. Views to, from and within the CNL (including the wide-open views experienced from the Cotswold Scarp) are identified as a special quality of the landscape in the CNL Management Plan (2023-2025) [\[See reference 1\]](#).

**1.3** Notable vistas within the landscape were first identified within the 2014 South Gloucestershire Landscape Character Assessment SPD, noted as being important to the scenic beauty of the CNL and the setting of Conservation Areas for example, as well as being valued by local communities. Since then, there has been further recognition of important views, including through the 'A Forgotten Landscape' project; a landscape-scale project funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund Landscape Partnership Scheme between March 2015 and October 2018. This aimed to conserve, enhance and promote the natural and

cultural heritage of the Lower Severn Vale Levels landscape. The project included the installation of a series of interpretation points, toposcopes, and benches at key locations and viewpoints within the landscape, as well as the development of a series of circular walking routes using the existing rights of way network. Further information, including the location of these features, can be found on the project website [\[See reference 2\]](#).

**1.4** In 2022 the Strategic Green Infrastructure Corridor Mapping Project identified strategic viewpoints and the views from them as important green infrastructure assets. Therefore, South Gloucestershire Council compiled a list of potential strategic viewpoints based on:

- views identified in the 2014 Landscape Character Assessment SPD;
- views previously identified for other projects such as ‘A Forgotten Landscape’;
- viewpoints where a toposcope or interpretation features are present, or the viewpoints were identified on OS mapping; and
- local knowledge of the council’s team of landscape officers.

**1.5** This report forms Annex II of the refreshed and updated 2025 South Gloucestershire Landscape Character Assessment SPD, Final Draft for Adoption. It contains an analysis of the viewpoints previously identified, and provides the justification as to why they are considered to be important and therefore categorised as being Strategic Viewpoints. The viewpoints have been tested against the criteria set out in **Chapter 2**, which relates to the topics of Popularity, Access and Facilities; Relationship with the Cotswold National Landscape (CNL); and the Quality, Value and Features of the View.

**1.6** Following the New Local Plan Phase 3 consultation (which ran from 6 December 2023 to 16 February 2024) several responses were put forwards from Parish Councils and other interested parties, requesting additional viewpoints be considered. These viewpoints were reviewed against the assessment criteria, and identified as being of either strategic or local importance. The location of strategic and local viewpoints is shown on **Figure 3.1**.

## Chapter 2

### Criteria

**2.1** The following chapter sets out the criteria that has been used to assess whether a viewpoint and associated view is of strategic or local importance. For a viewpoint to be categorised as a 'Strategic Viewpoint', it has to meet all or most of the criteria. Viewpoints that do not meet enough of the criteria are considered as 'Local Viewpoints' (see **Appendix A** for further detail on Local Viewpoints).

### Popularity, access and facilities

- Popular, well known, or recorded viewpoints (e.g. symbolised on OS mapping, placemark on Google Maps, mentioned in publications such as Conservation Area appraisals).
- Viewpoints noted in the South Gloucestershire Landscape Character Assessment SPD (Adopted 2014) as being natural observation points from which to appreciate the landscape.
- Publicly accessible viewpoints that are likely to attract many visitors (e.g. accessible from public rights of way, promoted footpaths, cycle routes, open access land).
- Viewpoints where facilities for the enjoyment of the view have been provided (e.g. benches, picnic areas, litter bins, parking).
- Viewpoints marked on the ground by a toposcope or similar interpretation feature/signage (e.g. interpretation boards).

## Relationship with the Cotswolds National Landscape (CNL)

- Viewpoints that allow appreciation of, or provide notable views looking out from the CNL (formerly known as the Cotswold Area of Natural Beauty (AONB)), a nationally designated area for its distinctive landscape character and scenic beauty.
- Viewpoints referred to within the CNL Management Plan (2023-2025).

## Quality, value and features of the view

- Provides a visually impressive, scenic vista that takes in notable landscape features (e.g. distinctive landforms, the Severn Estuary).
- Elevated viewpoint that facilitates a panoramic view (e.g. 180-360°) or broad prospect/appreciation of the surrounding landscape.
- Provides a view of a landmark/historic feature (e.g. notable church towers, the Severn Bridge, the Prince of Wales Bridge), or key historic elements within a Conservation Area.
- Designed viewpoint with historic or cultural heritage associations (e.g. to afford a view across/out from within a registered historic parkland or ancient hillfort).

## Chapter 3

# Analysis of Strategic Viewpoints

**3.1** Thirty one Strategic Viewpoints (SVPs) have been identified within South Gloucestershire, based on the assessment criteria described in **Chapter 2**. These SVPs are listed below and their location is shown on **Figure 3.1** in relation to their associated landscape character area(s). A list of the full landscape character area (LCA) names is set out in **Table 3.1**, with each area being described in the main landscape character assessment report.

**Table 3.1: Landscape Character Types and Landscape Character Areas**

LCA	Plateau and Scarp LCT
LCA 1	Badminton Plateau
LCA 2	Marshfield Plateau
LCA 3	Ashwicke Ridges
LCA 4	Cotswold Scarp
LCA	Shallow Ridge LCT
LCA 5	Wickwar Ridge & Vale
LCA 6	Pucklechurch Ridge & Boyd Valley
LCA	Parkland Vale LCT
LCA 7	Falfield Vale
LCA	Shallow Vale LCT
LCA 8	Yate Vale
LCA 9	Tytherington Plain
LCA 10	Earthcott Vale

<b>LCA</b>	<b>Enclosed Valleys LCT</b>
LCA 11	Golden Valley
LCA 16	Avon Valley
<b>LCA</b>	<b>Broad Valleys LCT</b>
LCA 12	Westerleigh Vale & Oldland Ridge
LCA 13	Frome Valley
LCA 14	Kingswood
LCA 15	Patchway, Filton and the Stokes
<b>LCA</b>	<b>Undulating Ridge LCT</b>
LCA 17	Rudgeway Ridge & Tytherington Ridge
LCA 18	Severn Ridges
<b>LCA</b>	<b>Estuary, Shoreline and Levels LCT</b>
LCA 19	Oldbury Levels
LCA 20	Pilning Levels
LCA 21	Severn Shoreline & Estuary

**3.2** A full profile for each SVP is contained within **Chapters 4 to 34** providing clear justification against the criteria, with supporting diagrams and photography. The central focus of each strategic view is provided to illustrate the 'view composition'. However, it should be noted that the available strategic view may be wider from a given viewpoint, and therefore the full panorama is also included within the profiles. In a few locations, the selected SVP is representative of a series of sequential views that may be appreciated from along a given footpath route, for example.

**3.3** The SVPs are as follows:

- **SVP 1: Old Passage**
- **SVP 2: Churchend**



- **SVP 3: Almondsbury Scenic Viewpoint**
- **SVP 4: Old Down**
- **SVP 5: Whitewall Lane (Buckover)**
- **SVP 6: St Michael's Church (Hill Court)**
- **SVP 7a and 7b: Spaniorum Hill**
- **SVP 8: Church Lane (Winterbourne)**
- **SVP 9: Sodbury Common**
- **SVP 10: Community Forest Path (Siston)**
- **SVP 11: Westerleigh Hill**
- **SVP 12: Hanging Hill**
- **SVP 13: Little Sodbury Hillfort**
- **SVP 14: St John's Church (Old Sodbury)**
- **SVP 15: Saint Arilda's Church (Oldbury-on-Severn)**
- **SVP 16: Tog Hill**
- **SVP 17: Dyrham Park**
- **SVP 18: Freezing Hill**
- **SVP 19a and 19b: Hanham Hills**
- **SVP 20: Bristol and Bath Railway Path (Avon Riverside Station)**
- **SVP 21: Wickwar Ridge**
- **SVP 22: St James' Church (Abson)**
- **SVP 23: Woodwell Meadows (Littleton-upon-Severn)**
- **SVP 24: Stoke Park**
- **SVP 25: East End (Marshfield)**
- **SVP 26: Cold Ashton**
- **SVP 27: Shortwood Hill (Pucklechurch)**

- **SVP 28: Severn View Viewpoint**
- **SVP 29: Mount Hill (Hanham)**
- **SVP 30: Flax Pits Pond, Hicks Common Road**
- **SVP 31: Avon Valley Panorama**

**3.4** A further 21 viewpoint locations are identified as Local Viewpoints (LVPs) which represent views that are considered to be locally important, but do not meet enough of the criteria to be considered strategically important. The LVPs are listed below and their location is shown on **Figure 3.1**. The scoping exercise explaining the reason for their exclusion as a Strategic Viewpoint is contained within **Appendix A**.

**3.5** The LVPs are as follows:

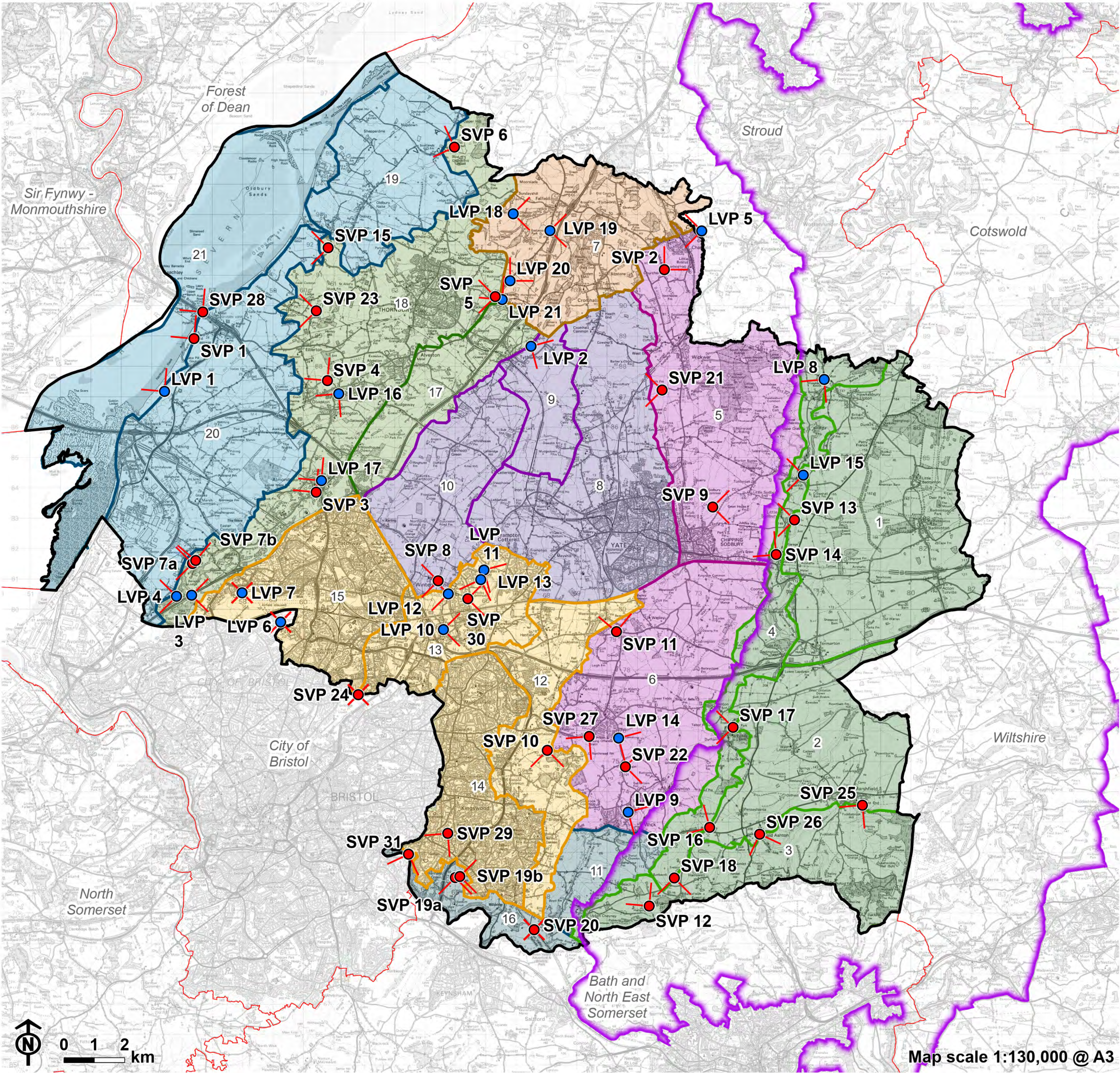
- **LVP 1: Severn Way (Northwick)** – a view from the Severn Way long distance footpath along the sea wall embankment towards the Severn Bridges, Severn Estuary and South Wales.
- **LVP 2: Baden Hill (Tytherington)** – a view south and east from Baden Hill, Tytherington.
- **LVP 3: M5 overbridge /gateway at Haw Wood** - a view from the M5 overbridge /gateway at Haw Wood east across Filton and towards the Cotswolds National Landscape.
- **LVP 4: Berwick Lodge Farm** – a view from the woodland edge north of the M5 at Hallen looking west and south-west over the Severn Estuary and Avonmouth.
- **LVP 5: Elbury Hill** – a view from Elbury Hill west over Charfield and Tortworth.
- **LVP 6: Filton Golf Course** – a view from Filton golf course looking north and west.
- **LVP 7: Earth Sculpture (Cribbs Causeway)** – a view from the earth sculpture south of Lysander Road at Cribbs Causeway.

- **LVP 8: Somerset Monument** – a view west, north and south from the Somerset Monument, Hawkesbury Upton.
- **LVP 9: Wick Rocks** – a view east and south-east across Wick Quarry towards the Cotswold Scarp.
- **LVP 10: Whiteshill Common** – a view from Whiteshill Common (south-west of Winterbourne) looking east.
- **LVP 11: Beaver Close, Winterbourne** – a view from Beaver Close in Winterbourne looking south-east.
- **LVP 12: View from Winterbourne Hill** – a view from Winterbourne Hill road near The George and Dragon Pub, looking west.
- **LVP 13: Cloisters Road, Winterbourne** – a view from Cloisters Road in Winterbourne looking south-west.
- **LVP 14: Redford Lane, Pucklechurch** – a view from the junction at Abson Road/Redford Lane/Back Lane on the south-eastern edge of Pucklechurch, looking east and south-east.
- **LVP 15: Horton Camp Hillfort** – a view from Horton Camp Hillfort looking west from the Cotswold Scarp across the adjacent vale landscape and beyond. Note similar views are afforded from SVP 13: Little Sodbury Hillfort.
- **LVP 16: Tockington Hill** – a view from the old deer park on Tockington Hill looking west and south-west along the Severn Ridge and towards the Severn Estuary.
- **LVP 17: The Scop, Almondsbury** – a view from The Scop Field in Almondsbury looking west and north-west towards the Severn Estuary.
- **LVP 18: Footpath west of Falfield** – a view from a public footpath to the south of Sundayshill Lane, looking east across Falfield Vale and towards the Cotswold Scarp.
- **LVP 19: A38 south of Falfield** – a view from the A38 south of Falfield, looking east towards the Cotswold Scarp.

- **LVP 20: A38 near Buckover** – a view from the A38 north of Buckover looking north, north-west, and north-east across the vale landscape and towards the Cotswold Scarp to the north-east.
- **LVP 21: Cuttsheath Road, Milbury Heath** – a view from a bench on Cuttsheath Road, Milbury Heath looking north-west across Falfield Vale towards the Severn Estuary.



Figure 3.1: Location of Strategic Viewpoints and Local Viewpoints





# References

- 1 Cotswolds National Landscape Management Plan (2023-2025). Available at: <https://www.cotswoldsaonb.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/2023-25-CNL-Management-Plan-Adopted-Subject-to-SEA-HRA.pdf>
- 2 A Forgotten Landscape Interpretation points and benches information. (No date). Available online at: [Interpretation Points and Benches - A Forgotten Landscape](#)

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