

South Gloucestershire Landscape Character Assessment

Annex II: Strategic Viewpoints

South Gloucestershire Council

Draft report

Prepared by LUC

November 2023



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Chapter 1

Introduction

1.1 The landscape of South Gloucestershire is diverse. 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 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.

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 identified within the 2014 South Gloucestershire Landscape Character Assessment SPD, noted as being important to local people. Since then, there has been further recognition of important views, including through the 'A Forgotten Landscape' project. This was a landscape-scale project funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund Landscape Partnership Scheme between March 2015 and October 2018. It aimed to conserve, enhance and promote the natural and cultural heritage of the Lower Severn Vale Levels landscape through restoration of habitats and cultural heritage features, as well as improving community engagement and recreational access to the area. 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 considered a large number of viewpoints, which were provided by South Gloucestershire Council. This original list was compiled 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; and
- local knowledge from landscape officers at South Gloucestershire Council.

1.5 This report forms Annex II of the updated 2023 South Gloucestershire Landscape Character Assessment SPD. 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 criteria 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.

Chapter 2

Criteria

2.1 The following chapter sets out the criteria that has been considered. 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 **Chapter 3** for further detail). A scoping exercise was initially undertaken for all viewpoints to determine those that are to be carried forwards as Strategic 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 documents).
- Viewpoints noted in the South Gloucestershire Landscape Character Assessment (2023) 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 – an AONB designated 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, historic settlements within Conservation Areas, the Severn Bridge, the Prince of Wales Bridge).
- 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 There are 29 Strategic Viewpoints (SVPs) 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).

3.2 A full profile for each SVP is contained within this chapter, providing clear justification against the criteria, and photography has been included. 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 so the full panorama is also included within the profiles.

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: View across Yate Vale and Rangeworthy
- 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)

3.4 A further nine 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 a Strategic Viewpoint. The LVPs are set out below and their location is shown on **Figure 3.1**. The scoping exercise undertaken for these viewpoints which sets out the reason for their exclusion as a Strategic Viewpoint is contained within **Appendix A**.

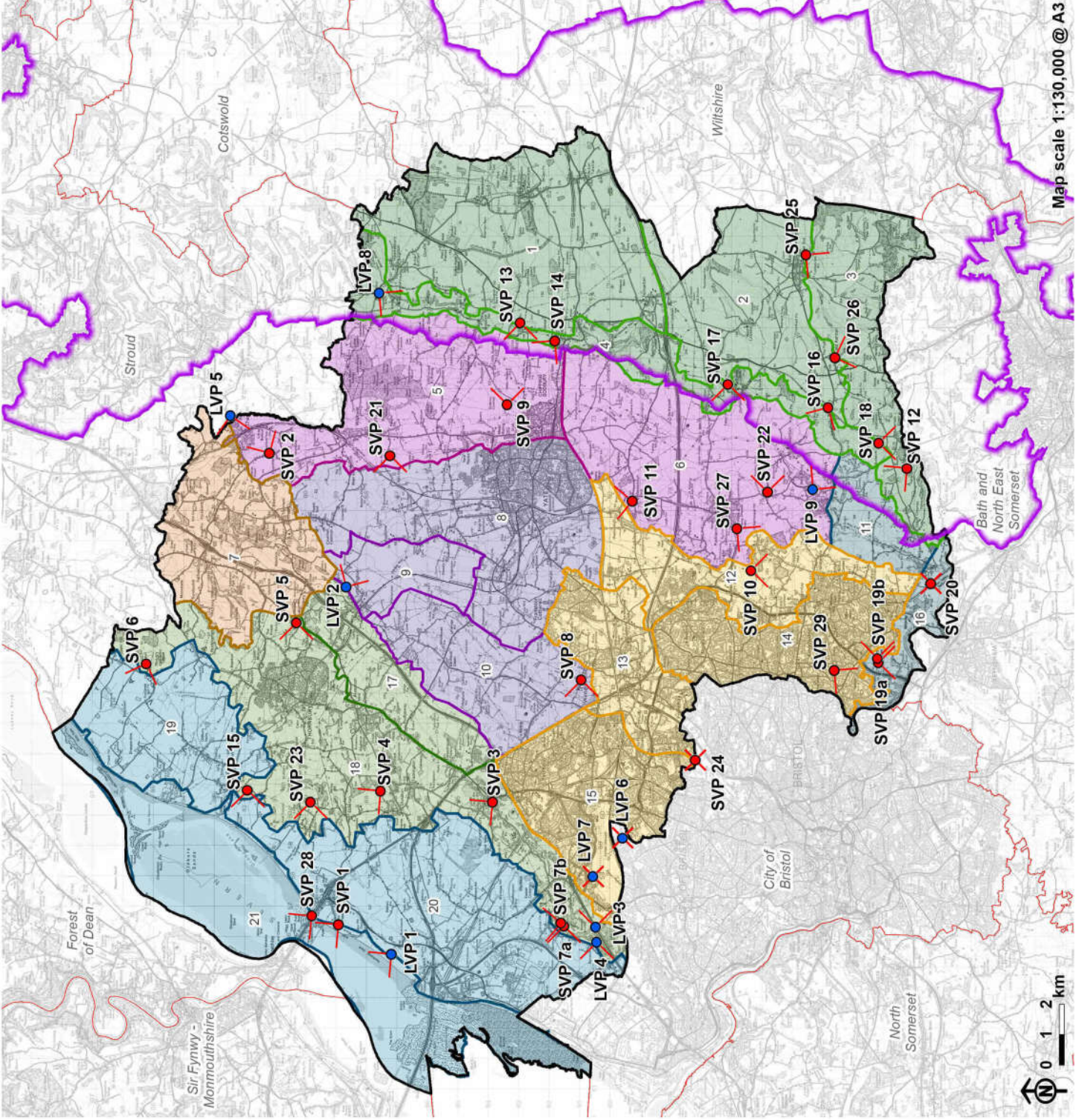
3.5 The LVPs are as follows:

- **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.

3.6 The remainder of this chapter contains the profile for each of the SVPs.

Figure 3.1: Location of Strategic Viewpoints and Local Viewpoints

- Council boundary
 - Neighbouring local authority
 - Cotswolds National Landscape (AONB) boundary
 - Strategic viewpoint and angle
 - Local viewpoint and angle
- South Gloucestershire LCT/LCA**
- Plateau and Scarp
 1. Badminton Plateau
 2. Marshfield Plateau
 3. Ashwicke Ridges
 4. Cotswold Scarp
 5. Shallow Ridge
 6. Wickwar Ridge and Vale
 - Parkland Vale
 7. Falfield Vale
 8. Shallow Vale
 9. Yate Vale
 - Tytherington Plain
 10. Earthcott Vale
 - Enclosed Valleys
 11. Golden Valley
 - Avon Valley
 16. Avon Valley
 - Broad Valleys
 12. Westerleigh Vale and Oldland Ridge
 13. Frome Valley
 14. Kingswood
 - Patchway and Filton
 15. Patchway and Filton
 - Undulating Ridge
 17. Rudgeway and Tytherington Ridge
 - Severn Ridges
 18. Severn Ridges
 - Estuary, Shoreline and Levels
 19. Oldbury Levels
 20. Piling Levels
 21. Severn Shoreline and Estuary



Map scale 1:130,000 @ A3

Strategic Viewpoint 1

Old Passage

Figure 3.2: Location of Strategic Viewpoint 1 and landscape character context

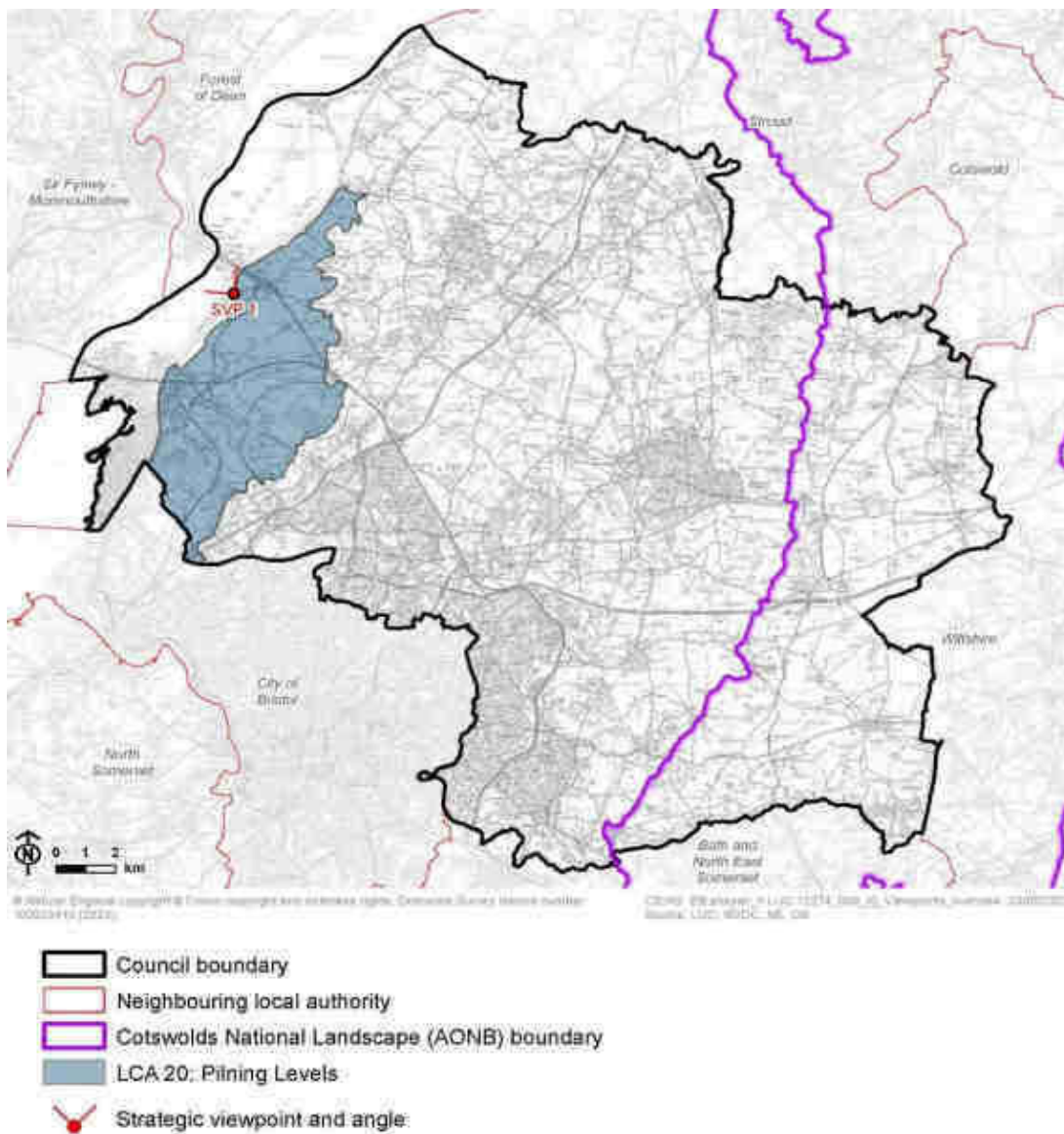
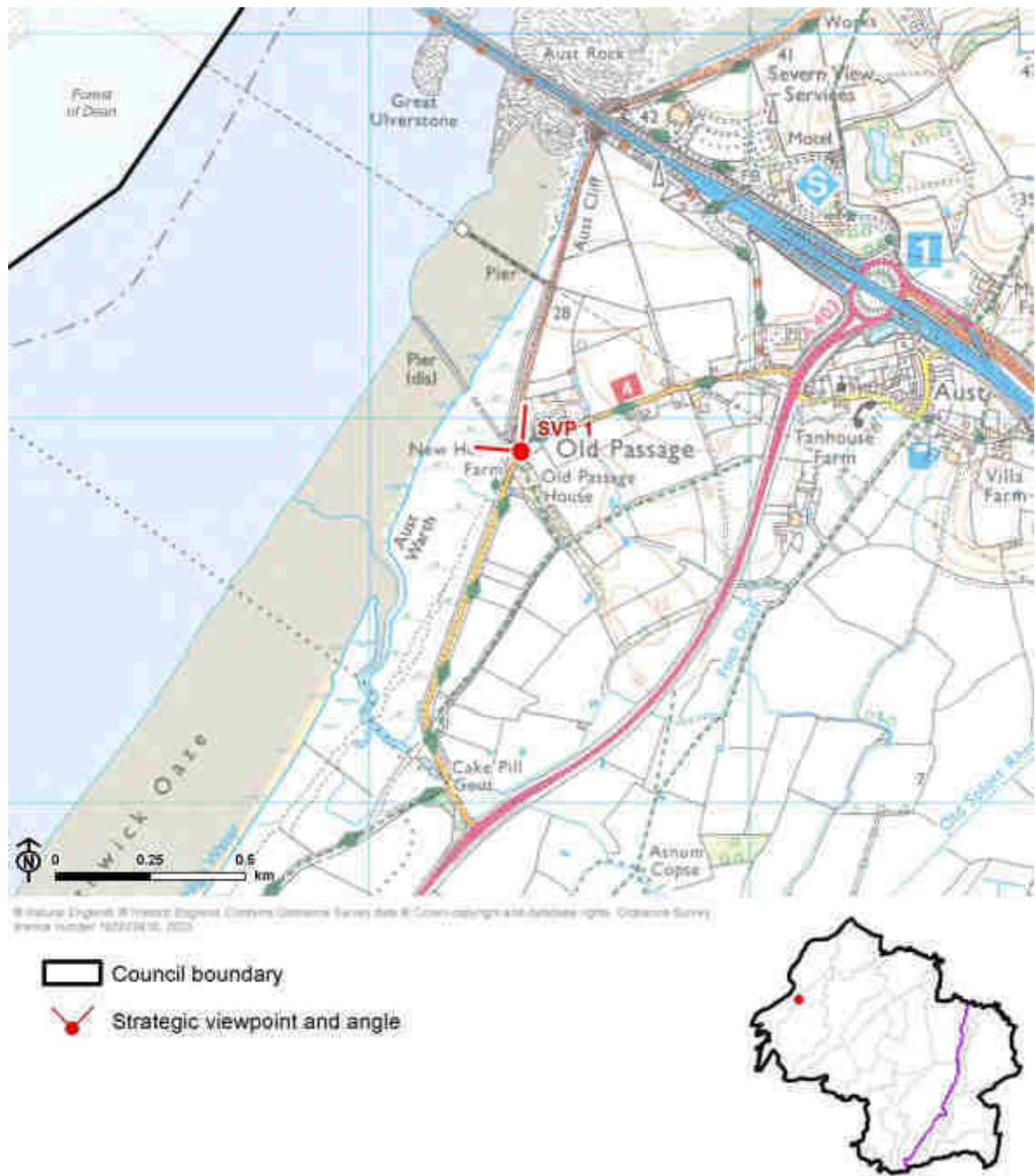


Figure 3.3: Detailed map of the location of Strategic Viewpoint 1



Viewpoint Information

Grid reference: ST 56368 88963

View location: Aust Wharf Road, Old Passage.

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

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 3.4: View Composition of Strategic Viewpoint 1

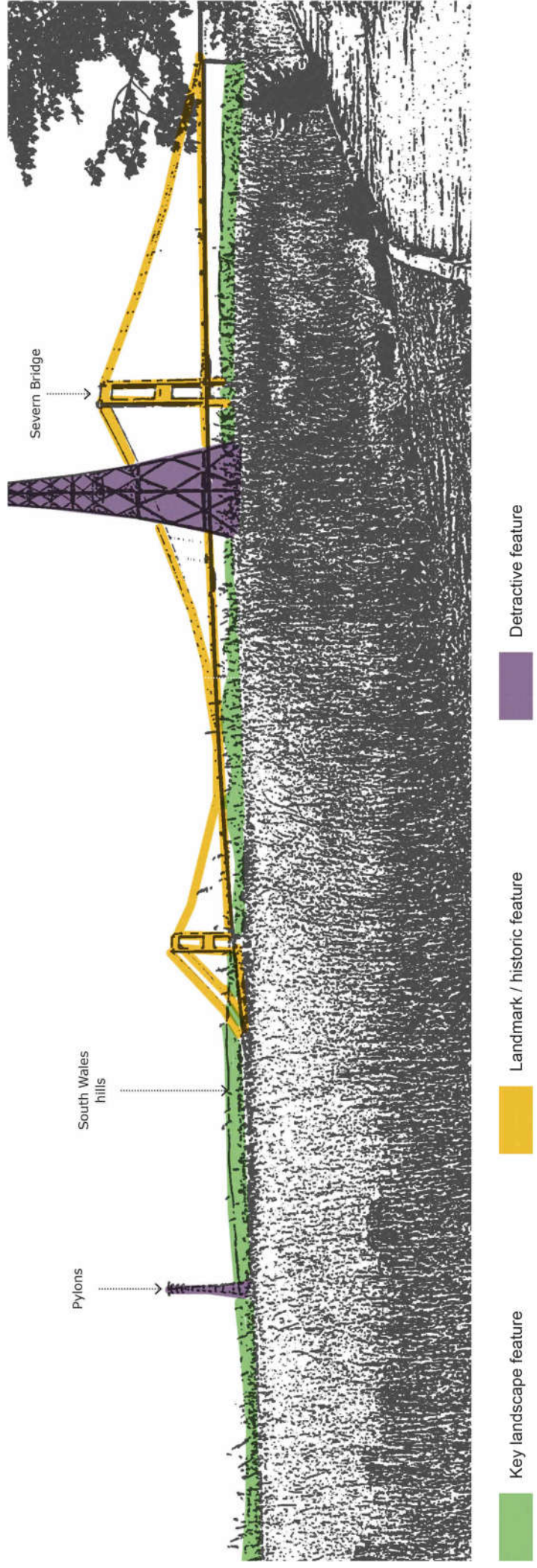
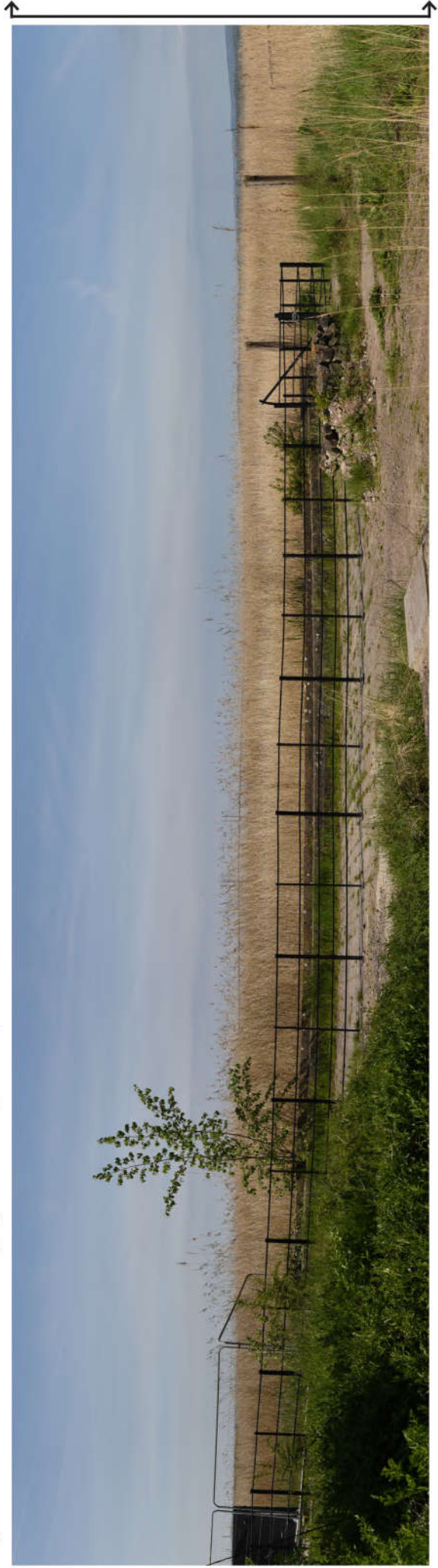
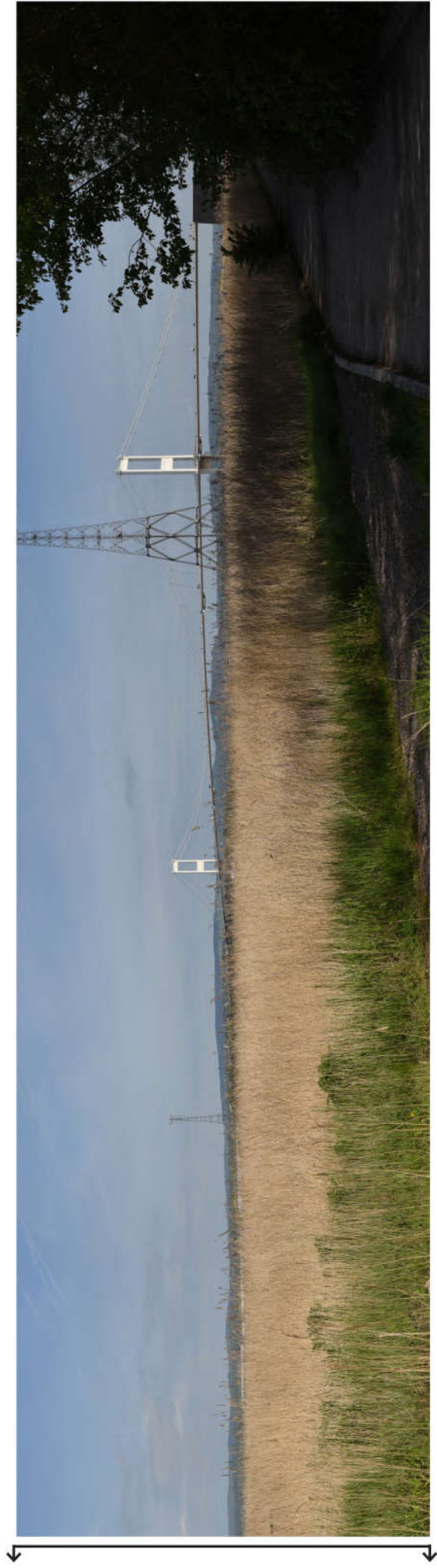


Figure 3.5: Full Panoramic Photograph of Strategic Viewpoint 1



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.

Strategic Viewpoint 2

Churchend

Figure 3.6: Location of Strategic Viewpoint 2 and landscape character context

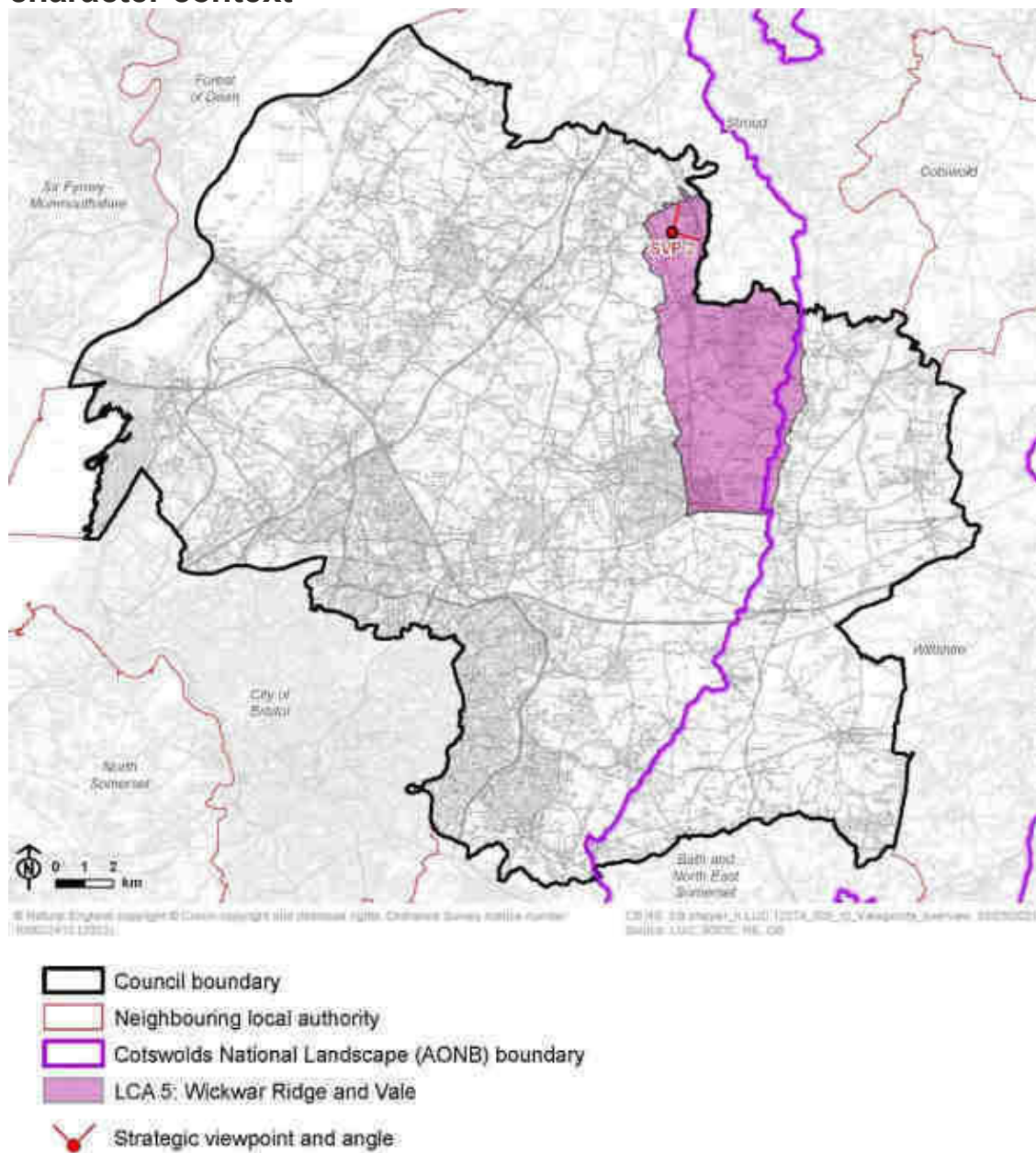


Figure 3.7: Detailed map of the location of Strategic Viewpoint 2



Viewpoint Information

Grid reference: ST 71870 91179

View location: Public footpath OCH/20/10, adjacent to the burial ground of St James' Church in Churchend.

View direction: View north, east and south-east across the Wickwar Ridge and Vale (LCA 5) and Little Avon Valley, towards the Cotswold Scarp (LCA 4).

Relationship with Visually Important Hillside (VIH): The viewpoint is located on the Churchend Ridge VIH and provides views towards the Cotswold Scarp VIH.

Experienced by: Residents and pedestrians along Churchend Lane, visitors to the church and burial ground, recreational users of nearby public footpaths (including OCH/20/10) and transient views for cyclists and motorists travelling along Churchend Lane.

Figure 3.8: View Composition of Strategic Viewpoint 2

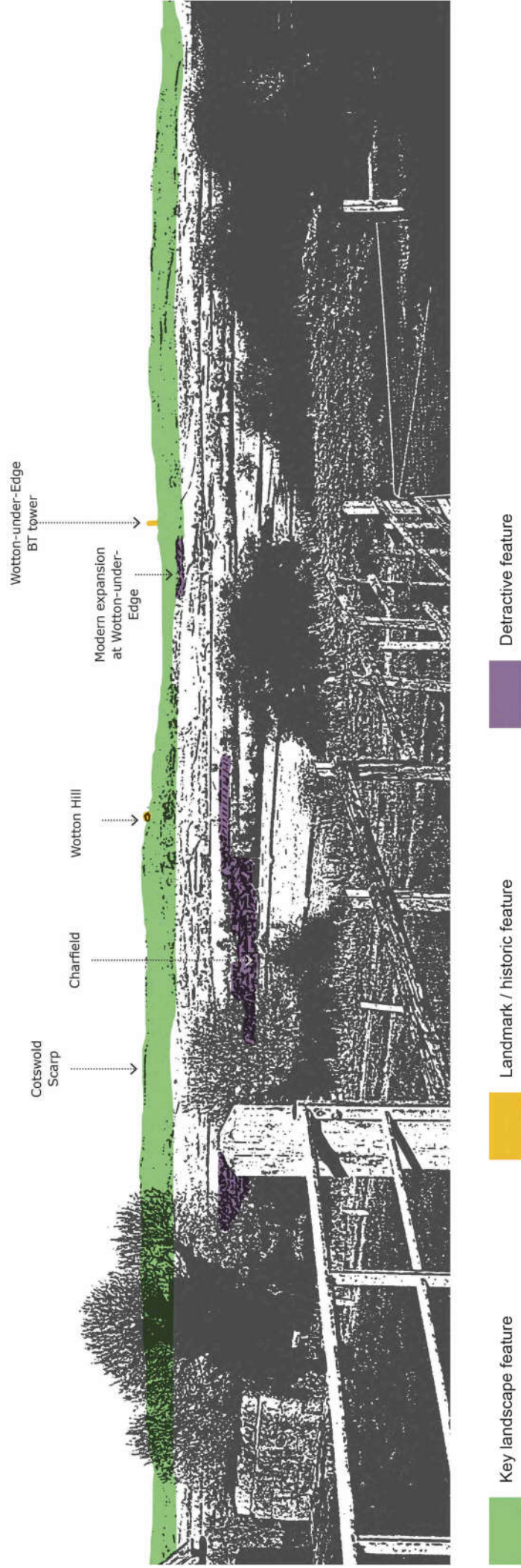
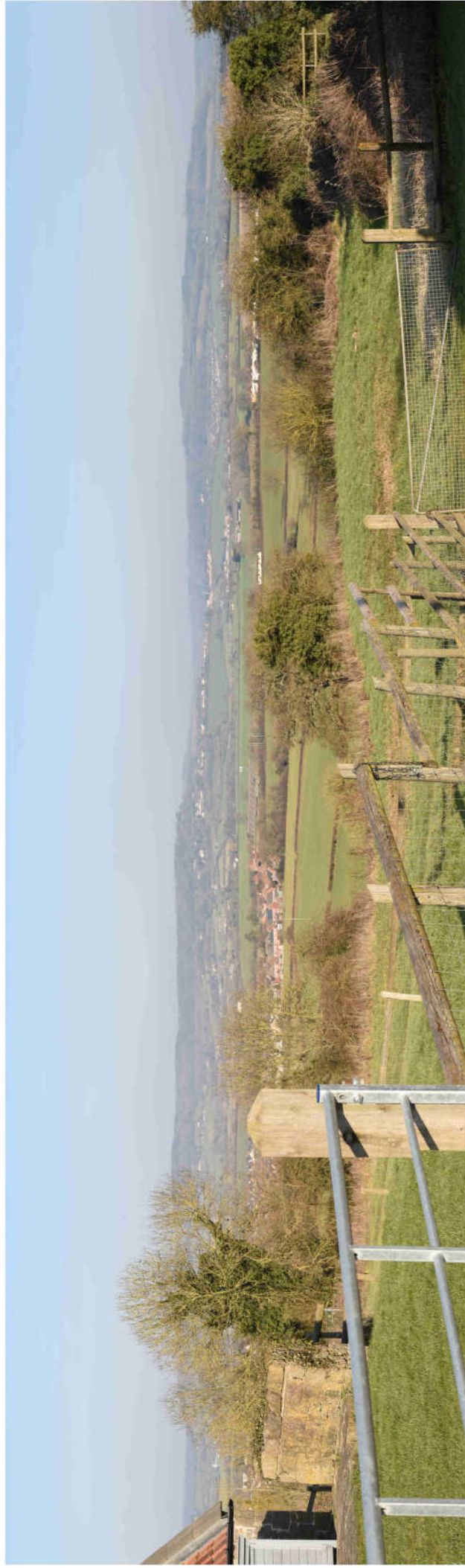
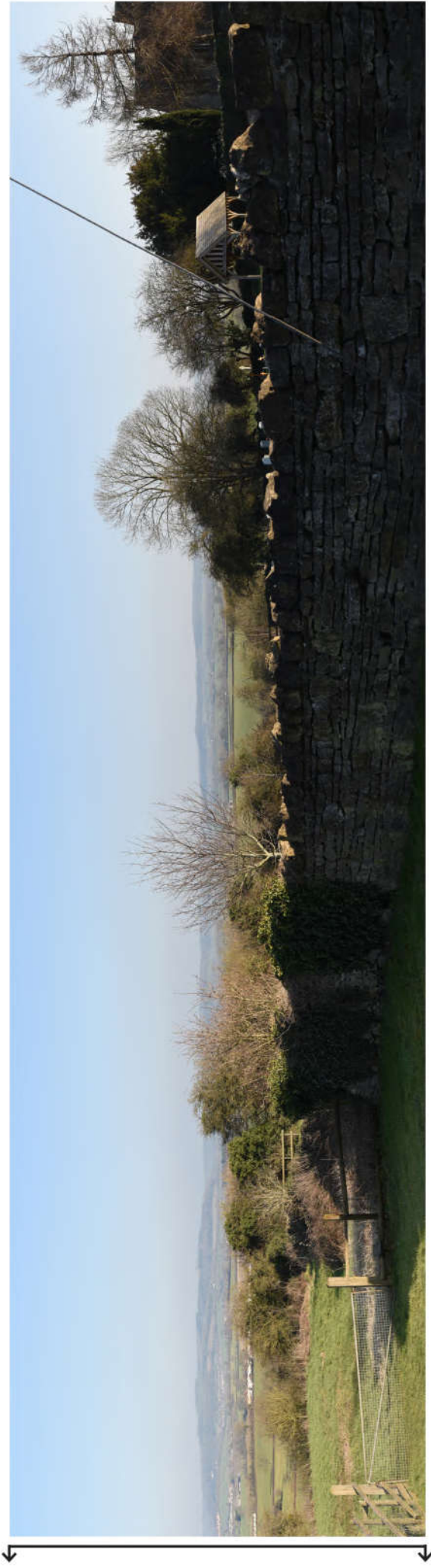


Figure 3.9: Full Panoramic Photograph of Strategic Viewpoint 2



Strategic Viewpoint 2: Churchend



Strategic Viewpoint 2 (continued)

Characteristics

Popularity, access and facilities

- The viewpoint location is noted in LCA 5: Wickwar Ridge and Vale, which states that *"Relatively open views north-east are afforded more widely from the Churchend Ridge, overlooking the Little Avon Valley with skyline features at Wotton-under-Edge and the Cotswold Scarp (both beyond the LCA) seen beyond"*.
- The viewpoint is publicly accessible, located on footpath OCH/20/10 which runs east off Churchend Lane, adjacent to the burial ground of St James' Church.
- A small lay-by opposite the viewpoint is provided to facilitate enjoyment of the view.

Relationship with the Cotswolds National Landscape (CNL)

- The viewpoint is not within the CNL but provides views of the Cotswold Scarp to the north and east including Wotton Hill with its distinctive clump of trees, and Little Tor Hill which provide notable landscape features.
- Views of the Cotswold Scarp are considered to be a special quality of the designated landscape, as set out in the CNL Management Plan.

Quality, value and features of the view

- A slightly elevated viewpoint located on the Churchend Ridge VIH (on the edge of the Little Avon Valley) that provides a wide view north, east, and south-east across the shallow ridge landscape (characterised by rural fields defined by a strong hedgerow framework and dispersed settlement),

with the distinctive landform of the Cotswold Scarp forming a prominent backdrop in views.

- Traditional stone-built farmhouses and the Grade I listed St James' Church nearby provide notable features in the foreground (vegetation within the burial ground of the church partially screens near-distance views in the summer months). The historic settlement of Wotton-under-Edge (Conservation Area) is visible on the hillside to the north (within Stroud District).
- The Wotton-under-Edge BT Tower forms a vertical landmark feature on the skyline in views to the north-east (located approximately 7.9km from the viewpoint).
- Modern residential development in Charfield to the north-east, slightly detracts from the overall composition of the view.

Summary

The Churchend 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 public footpath and parking is available to facilitate enjoyment of the view; it allows an appreciation of the Cotswolds National Landscape; and it provides a broad view that takes in the notable landscape features of the Little Avon Valley and Cotswold Scarp, and the landmark features of St James' Church and Wotton-under-Edge BT Tower.

Strategic Viewpoint 3

Almondsbury Scenic Viewpoint

Figure 3.10: Location of Strategic Viewpoint 3 and landscape character context

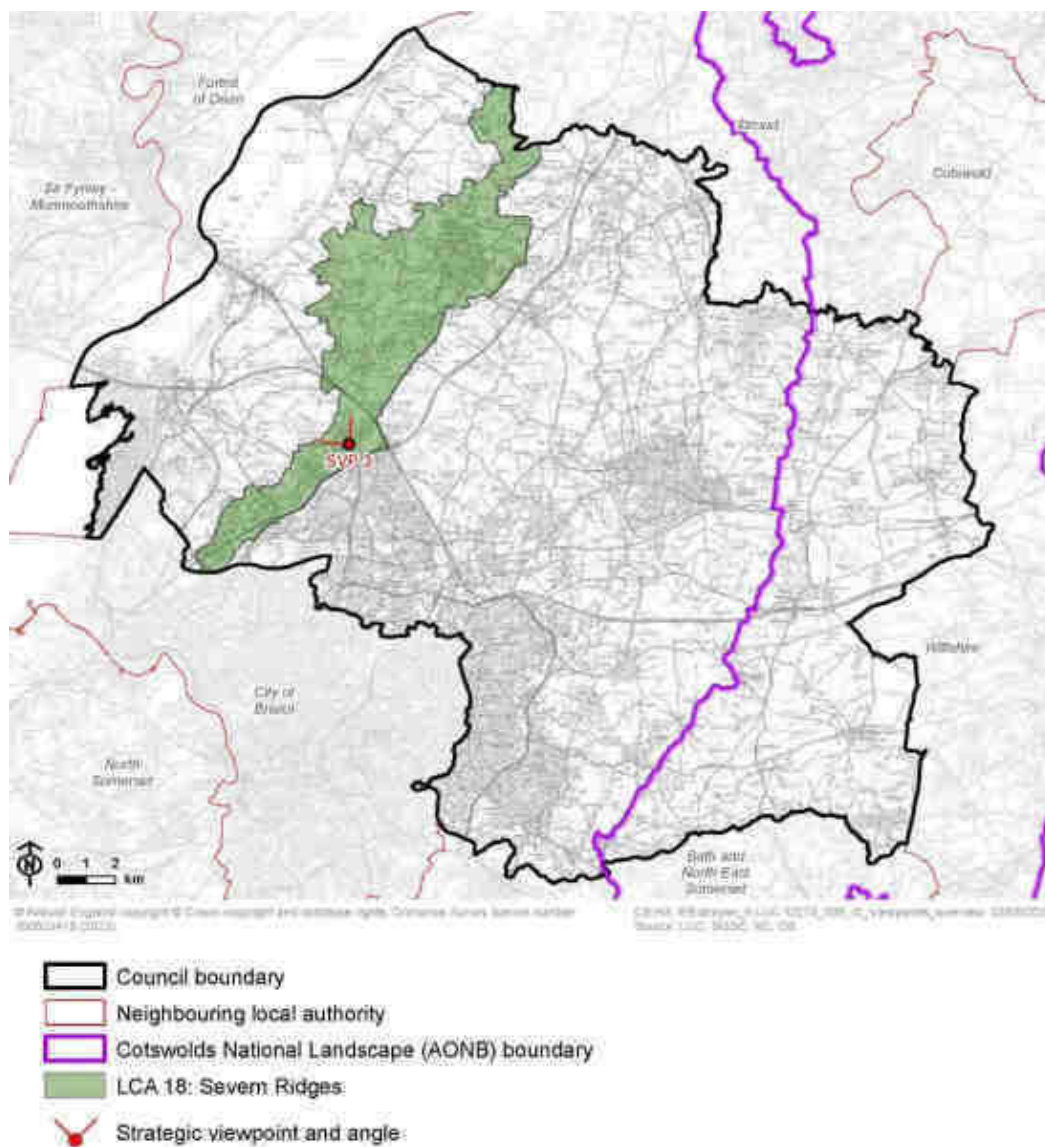
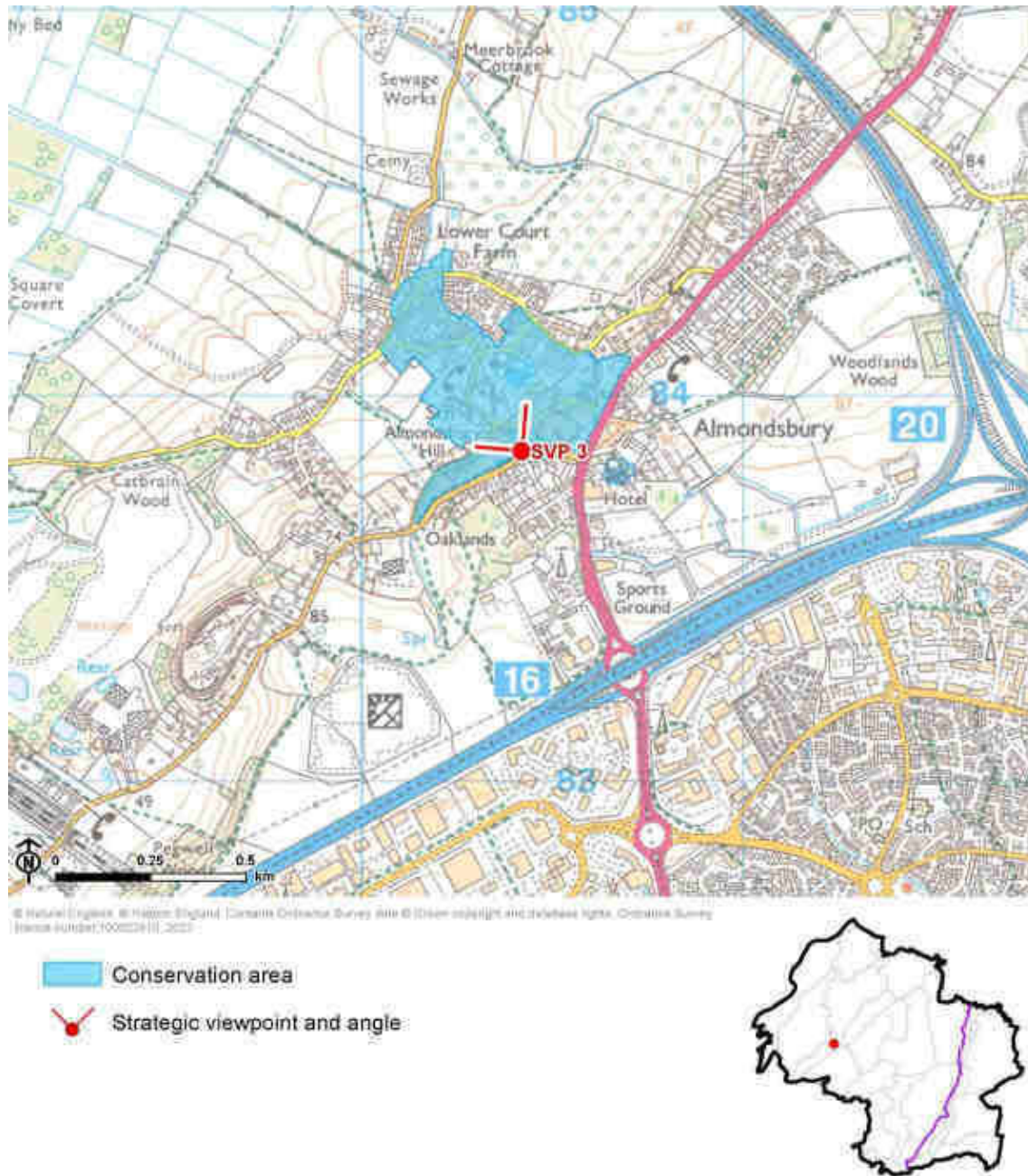


Figure 3.11: Detailed map of the location of Strategic Viewpoint 3



Viewpoint Information

Grid reference: ST 60441 83860

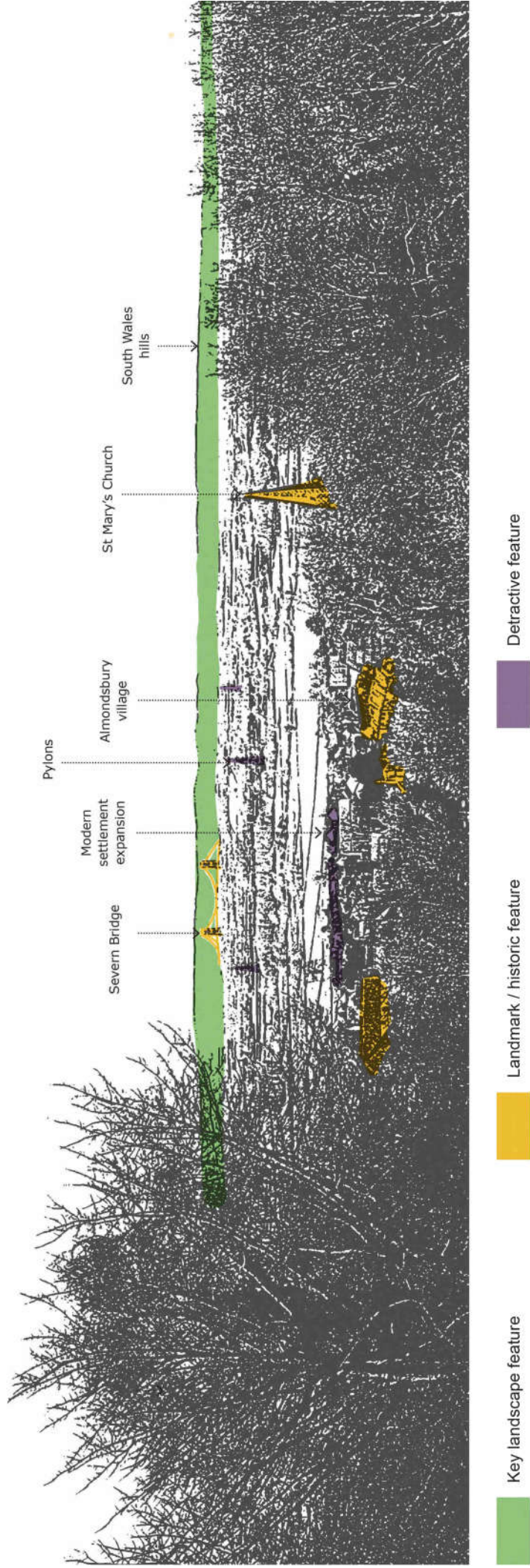
View location: Almondsbury scenic viewpoint at Over Lane.

View direction: View north-west and west over the Pilning Levels (LCA 20) and towards the Severn Shoreline and Estuary (LCA 21).

Relationship with Visually Important Hillside (VIH): Viewpoint is located along the Severn Ridges VIH.

Experienced by: Residents and pedestrians along Over Lane, recreational users of the open access land on Almondsbury Hill and public footpaths (OAY/14 and OAY/16) and transient views for cyclists and motorists travelling along Over Lane.

Figure 3.12: View Composition of Strategic Viewpoint 3



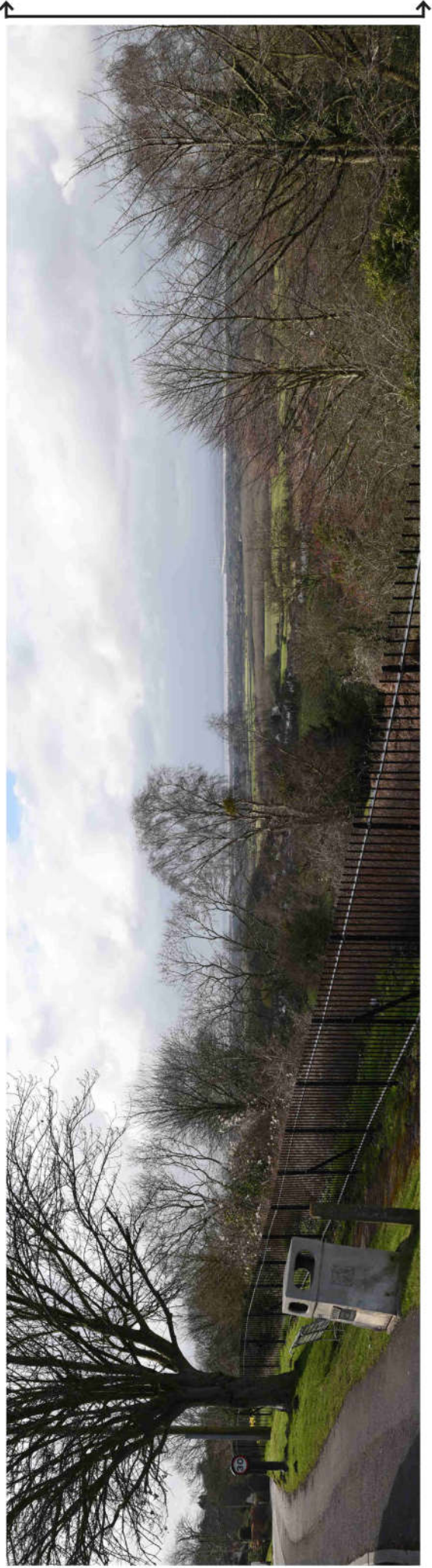
Key landscape feature

Landmark / historic feature

Landmark / historic feature

Detractive feature

Figure 3.13: Full Panoramic Photograph of Strategic Viewpoint 3



Strategic Viewpoint 3: Almondsbury Scenic Viewpoint



Strategic Viewpoint 3 (continued)

Characteristics

Popularity, access and facilities

- The viewpoint location is symbolised as a promoted viewpoint on OS mapping and is marked on Google Maps as 'Severn Valley Scenic Point' and is likely to attract many visitors as a result.
- The viewpoint is referenced within the Lower Almondsbury Conservation Area appraisal [See reference 3] which states that, "*Spectacular views across the Severn Estuary are afforded on the descent from new to old Almondsbury*" and "*The top of this hill provides a superb vantage point with views across the Severn where both bridges are clearly visible*".
- Views from this viewpoint are representative of those described in LCA 18: Severn Ridges, which notes that "*the scarp provides frequent expansive views west over the flat, low-lying Levels, towards the Severn Estuary and across to South Wales and the Forest of Dean*".
- The viewpoint is publicly accessible, located along footpath OAY/16 which runs parallel with the pavement along Over Lane, and located on open access land (which covers the small area of woodland and grassland on Almondsbury Hill).
- Benches, litter bins and a small lay-by are provided at the viewpoint to facilitate enjoyment of the view.
- A toposcope is located 120m to the north-east of the viewpoint, on Almondsbury Tump.

Quality, value and features of the view

- An elevated viewpoint on the edge of the Severn Ridge VIH that provides a panoramic view (180°) over the surrounding lower-lying 'levels' landscape (characterised by flat, small and regular fields, and blocks of woodland), extending to the Severn Estuary and to the hills of South

Wales beyond which provide a distinctive backdrop. The woodland on the scarp slope partially encloses the view when in leaf, with the view becoming more open in the winter months.

- The Severn Bridge (Grade I listed) and Prince of Wales Bridge form notable landmark features seen within the view (located 7.5km and 7km from the viewpoint, respectively).
- Located within the Lower Almondsbury Conservation Area, this viewpoint provides views of the historic settlement of Almondsbury village nestled at the foot of the scarp slope, and the distinctive diamond-patterned lead spire of The Church of St Mary (Grade I listed) is visible through trees.
- Some modern expansion to the north of the village of Almondsbury slightly detracts from the overall composition of the view.

Summary

The Almondsbury Scenic Viewpoint is categorised as a SVP as it meets most of the criteria to some extent. It is a popular, well known and recorded viewpoint and likely to attract many visitors; 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 public footpath with benches, litter bins, parking and a toposcope facilitating enjoyment and interpretation of the view; and it provides a panoramic view that takes in the notable landscape features of the levels, Severn Estuary and hills of South Wales, the historic settlement of Almondsbury, and the landmark features of The Church of St Mary, the Severn Bridge and the Prince of Wales Bridge.

Strategic Viewpoint 4

Old Down

Figure 3.14: Location of Strategic Viewpoint 4 and landscape character context

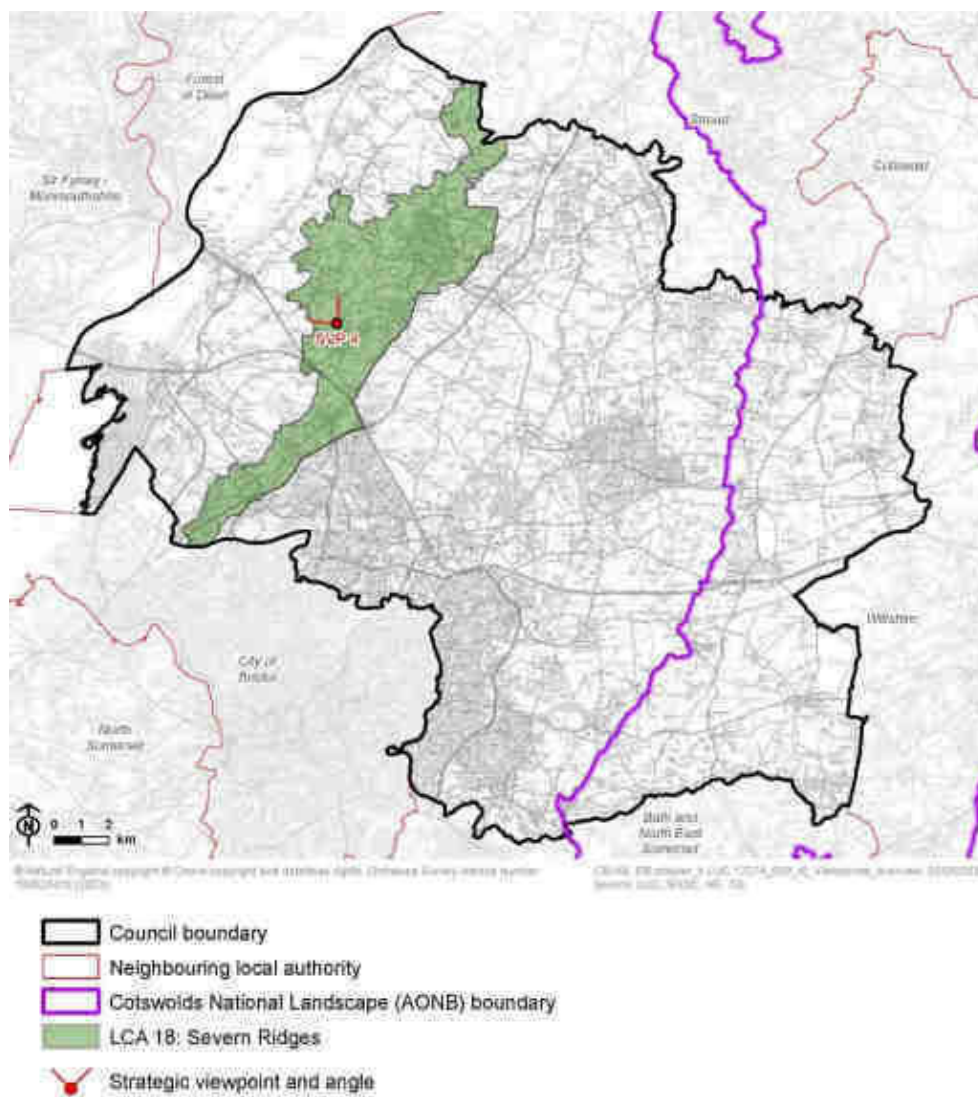
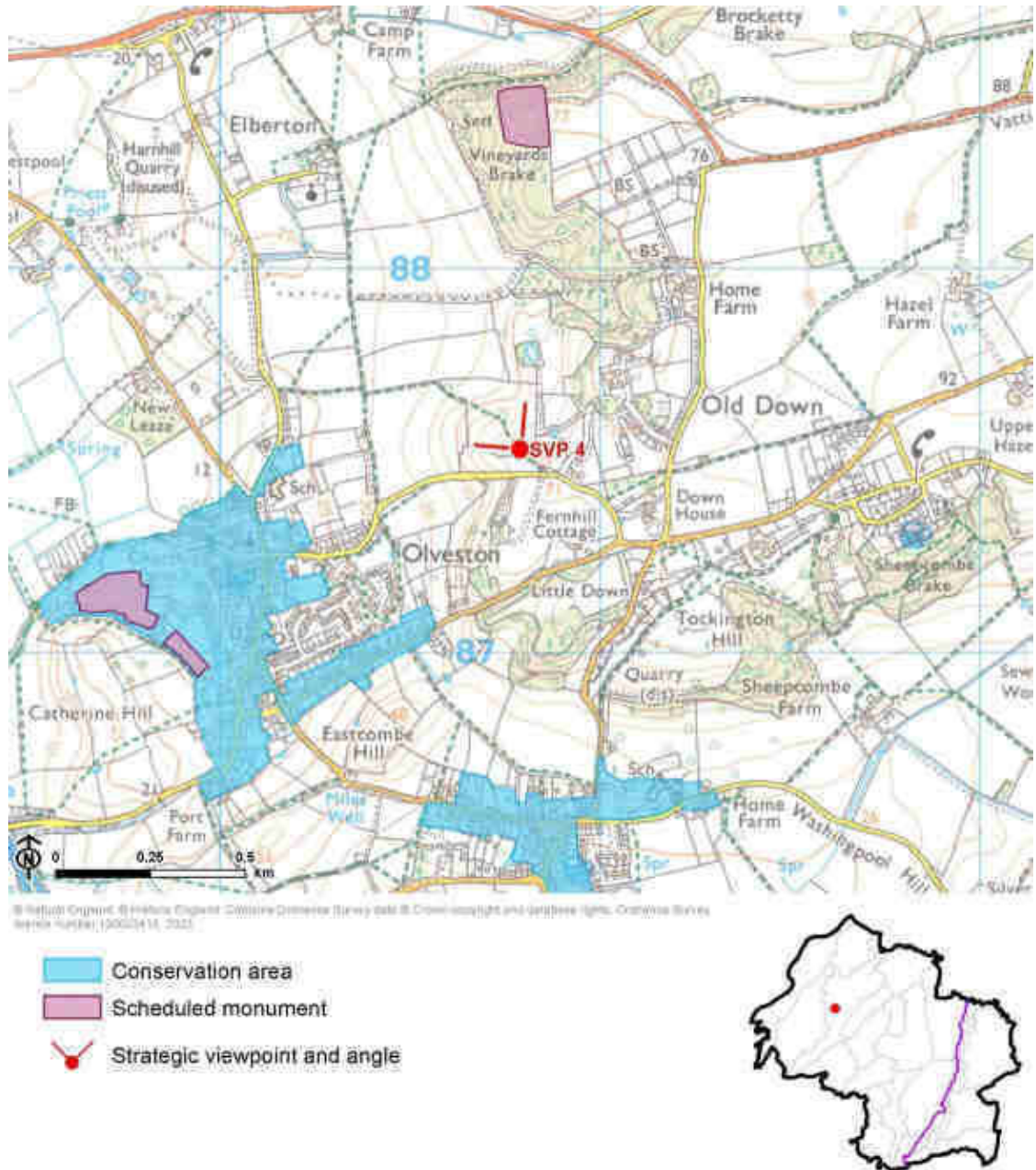


Figure 3.15: Detailed map of the location of Strategic Viewpoint 4



Viewpoint Information

Grid reference: ST 60807 87533

View location: Public footpath OOL/33/30 off Vicarage Lane, Old Down.

View direction: View north and west across the Pilning Levels (LCA 20) towards the Severn Shoreline and Estuary (LCA 21).

Relationship with Visually Important Hillside (VIH): The viewpoint is located on the Severn Ridges VIH.

Experienced by: Recreational users of public footpath OOL/33/30 and transient views for pedestrians, cyclists and motorists travelling west on Vicarage Lane towards Olveston.

Figure 3.16: View Composition of Strategic Viewpoint 4

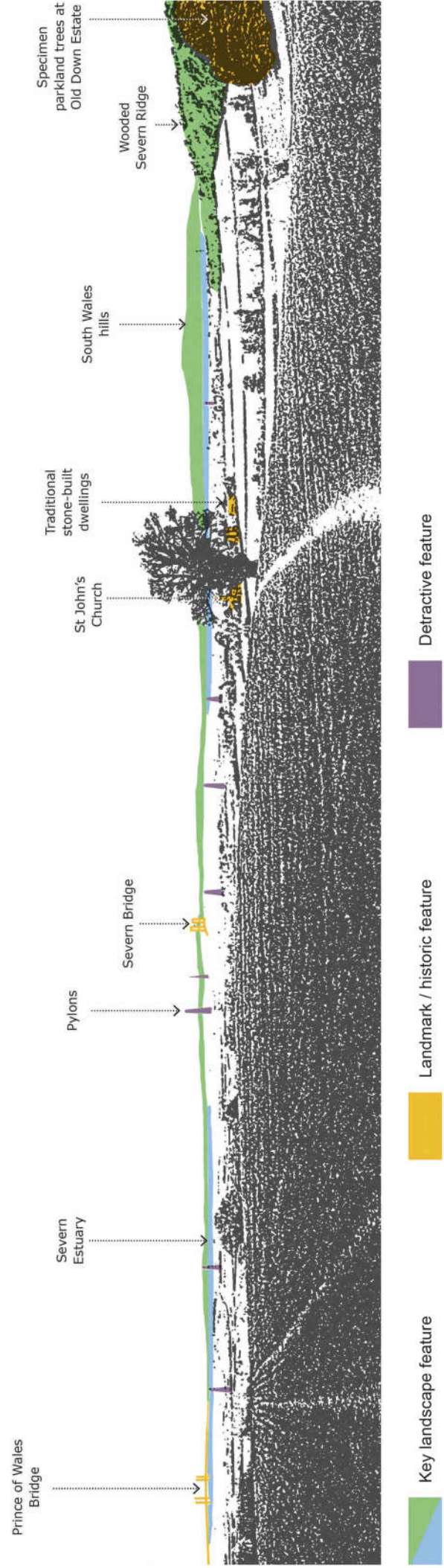
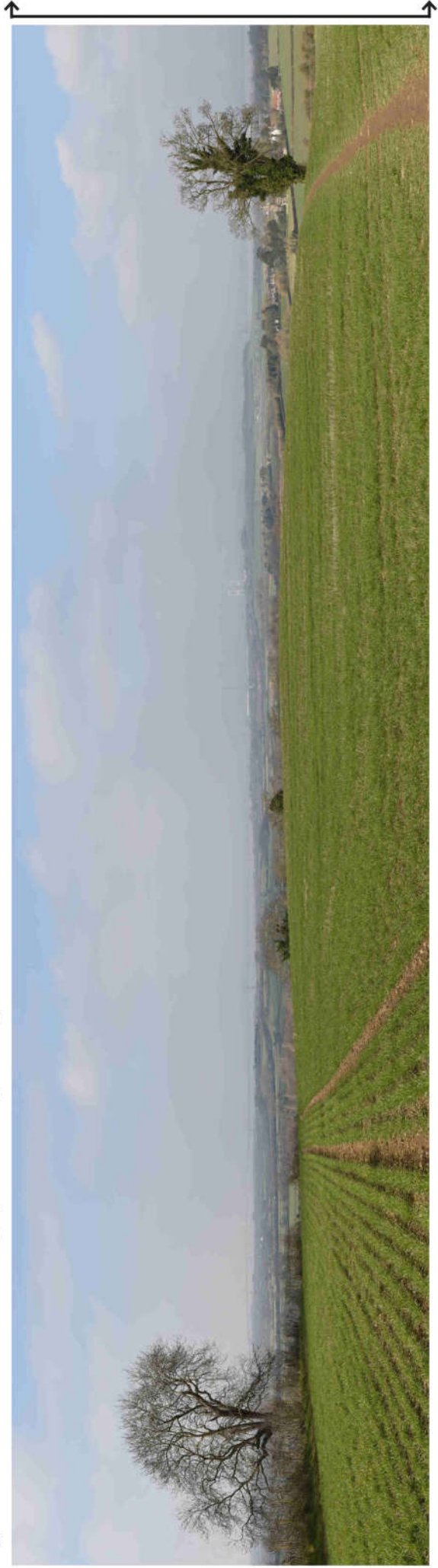
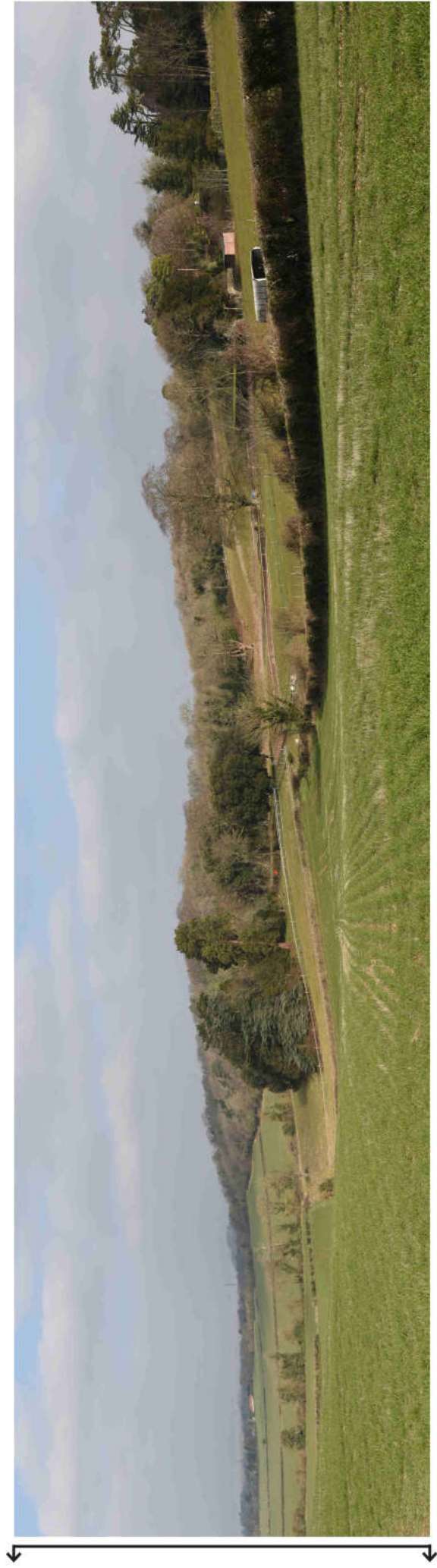


Figure 3.17: Full Panoramic Photograph of Strategic Viewpoint 4



Strategic Viewpoint 4: Old Down



Strategic Viewpoint 4 (continued)

Characteristics

Popularity, access and facilities

- Views from this viewpoint are representative of those described in LCA 18: Severn Ridges, which notes that *“the scarp provides frequent expansive views west over the adjacent flat, low-lying Levels, towards the Severn Estuary and across to South Wales and the Forest of Dean”*.
- The viewpoint is publicly accessible, located on public footpath OOL/33/30.
- A small litter bin is provided adjacent to the footpath on Vicarage Road, suggesting that this is a popular and well-used route.

Quality, value and features of the view

- An elevated viewpoint located along the Severn Ridges VIH, from which the land slopes northwards and westwards allowing a panoramic view (270°) north, west and south-west over the surrounding low-lying 'levels' landscape (characterised by flat, small and regular fields, and blocks of woodland), towards the Severn Estuary, with the distinctive wooded hills of the Wye Valley and South Wales forming a prominent backdrop in views.
- The view to the north extends along the wooded slopes of the Severn Ridges VIH which form a notable landscape feature, and includes specimen trees associated with the Old Down Estate (locally listed) which exert a designed parkland character.
- Both the Severn Bridge (Grade I listed) and The Prince of Wales Bridge form landmark features within the view (located 5km and 7km from the viewpoint, respectively).
- The spire of St John's Church in Elberton (Grade II* listed), surrounded by a small cluster of traditional stone dwellings, forms a focal point in the foreground, located 0.9km to the north-west of the viewpoint.

- Pylon lines cross the levels near the edge of the estuary in views to the west and slightly detracts from the overall composition of the view, along with large commercial buildings near Northwick and the M48 (with associated gantries).

Summary

The Old Down 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 public footpath with a litter bin provided suggesting that it attracts many visitors; and it provides a panoramic view that takes in the notable landscape features of the levels, the wooded slopes of the Severn Ridges, the Severn Estuary and the hills of the Wye Valley and South Wales, and the landmark features of St John's Church, the Severn Bridge and the Prince of Wales Bridge.

Strategic Viewpoint 5

Whitewall Lane (Buckover)

Figure 3.18: Location of Strategic Viewpoint 5 and landscape character context

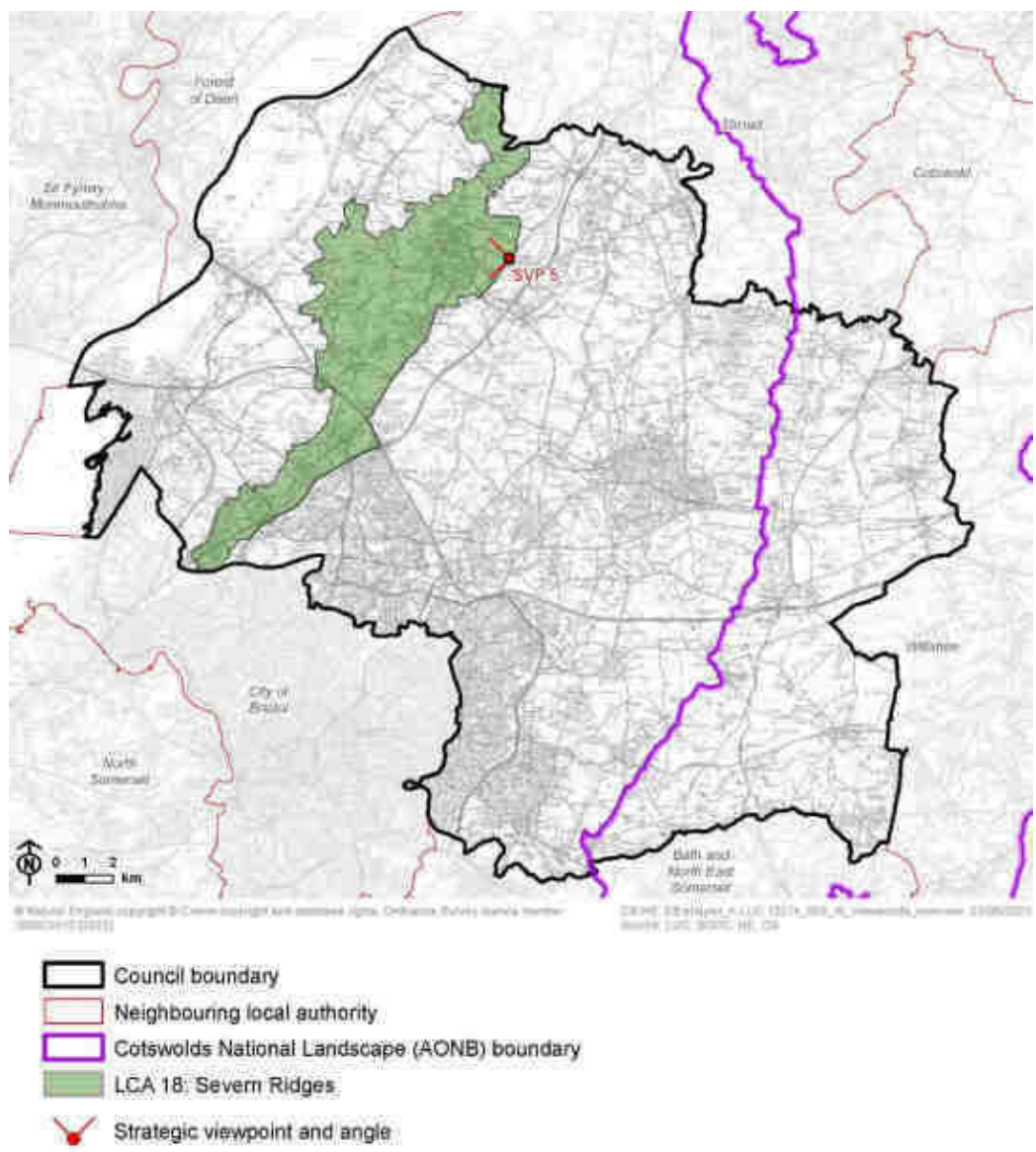


Figure 3.19: Detailed map of the location of Strategic Viewpoint 5



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 Strategic viewpoint and angle



Viewpoint Information

Grid reference: ST 66300 90302

View location: Whitewall Lane/A38 junction at Buckover, east of Thornbury.

View direction: View north, west, and south-west across the Thornbury 'bowl' landform and the Severn Ridges (LCA 18), and towards the Oldbury Levels (LCA 19) and Severn Shoreline and Estuary (LCA 21).

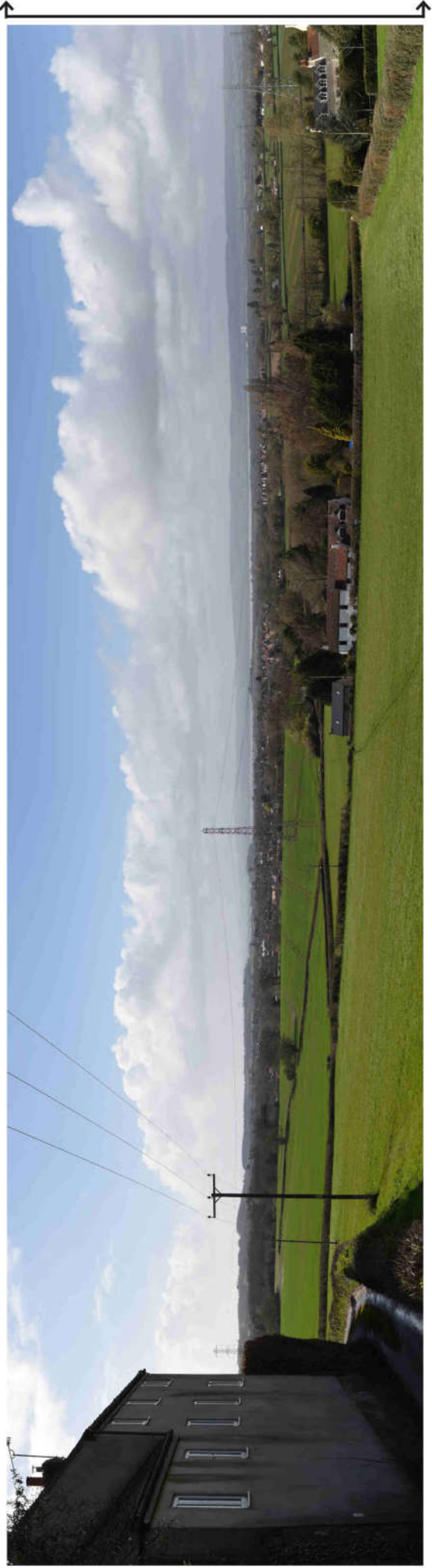
Relationship with Visually Important Hillside (VIH): The viewpoint is located along the Severn Ridges VIH.

Experienced by: Residents and pedestrians at the top of Whitewall Lane and along the A38 at Buckover, recreational users of public footpath OTH/93/20, and transient views for motorists and cyclists travelling west on Whitewall Lane and along the A38 at Buckover.

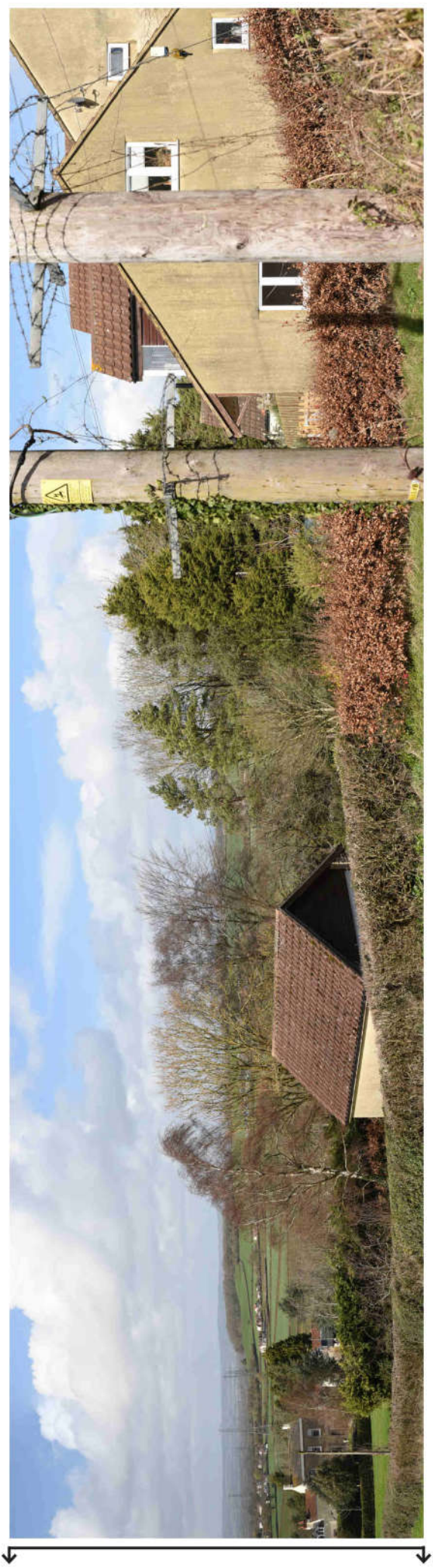
Figure 3.20: View Composition of Strategic Viewpoint 5



Figure 3.21: Full Panoramic Photograph of Strategic Viewpoint 5



Strategic Viewpoint 5: Whitewall Lane, Thornbury



Strategic Viewpoint 5 (continued)

Characteristics

Popularity, access and facilities

- Views from this viewpoint are representative of those described in LCA 18: Severn Ridges, which notes that *“the scarp provides frequent expansive views west over the adjacent flat, low-lying Levels, towards the Severn Estuary and across to South Wales and the Forest of Dean”*.
- The viewpoint is publicly accessible located adjacent to public footpath OTH/93/20 and close to the pavement that runs alongside the A38 at Buckover.

Quality, value and features of the view

- An elevated viewpoint on the edge of the Severn Ridges VIH that provides sweeping panoramic views (180°) illustrating the relationship between Thornbury within its ‘bowl’ landform setting, and the transition between the Severn Ridges to the lower-lying ‘levels’ landscape (characterised by flat, small and regular fields, blocks of woodland, dispersed settlement and pylons). The view extends towards the Severn Estuary, with the distinctive wooded hills of the Wye Valley and South Wales forming a prominent backdrop in views.
- The viewpoint’s elevated vantage point provides expansive views over the surrounding rural landscape and scattered farmsteads contribute to the rural character and provide visual features in near and middle-distance views. Fowlers Hill and Titters Hill are notable landscape features which contain the view to the west and wrap around the edge of Thornbury. The wooded hillside of Longmans Grove, part of the Eastwood Park Spur VIH, can be seen in views to the north, gently rising up from the levels.
- The tower of St Mary’s Church (Grade I listed) located within the historic core of Thornbury Conservation Area 3km to the west, forms a landmark feature. Oldbury Power Station (located on the edge of the estuary 6km away), also forms a distinctive landmark feature in the view to the north-west. The Grade I listed church tower of St Arilda’s Church is located on the top of a pronounced outlying hill 6km away, although its prominence is limited by surrounding vegetation.

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- The towers of the Severn Bridge form a distant landmark feature on the skyline (over 10km away) in views to the south-west.
- Several pylon lines that cross the landscape and along with the recent housing development on the edge of Thornbury, slightly detract from the overall composition of the view.

Summary

The Whitewall Lane (Buckover) 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 adjacent to a public footpath; and it provides a panoramic view that demonstrates the relationship between Thornbury within its 'bowl' landform setting, takes in the notable landscape features of the levels, the hills of the Severn Ridges and Eastwood Park Spur, the Severn Estuary and the hills of the Wye Valley and South Wales, and the landmark features of St Mary's Church, Oldbury Power Station and the Severn Bridge.

Strategic Viewpoint 6

St Michael's Church (Hill Court)

Figure 3.22: Location of Strategic Viewpoint 6 and landscape character context

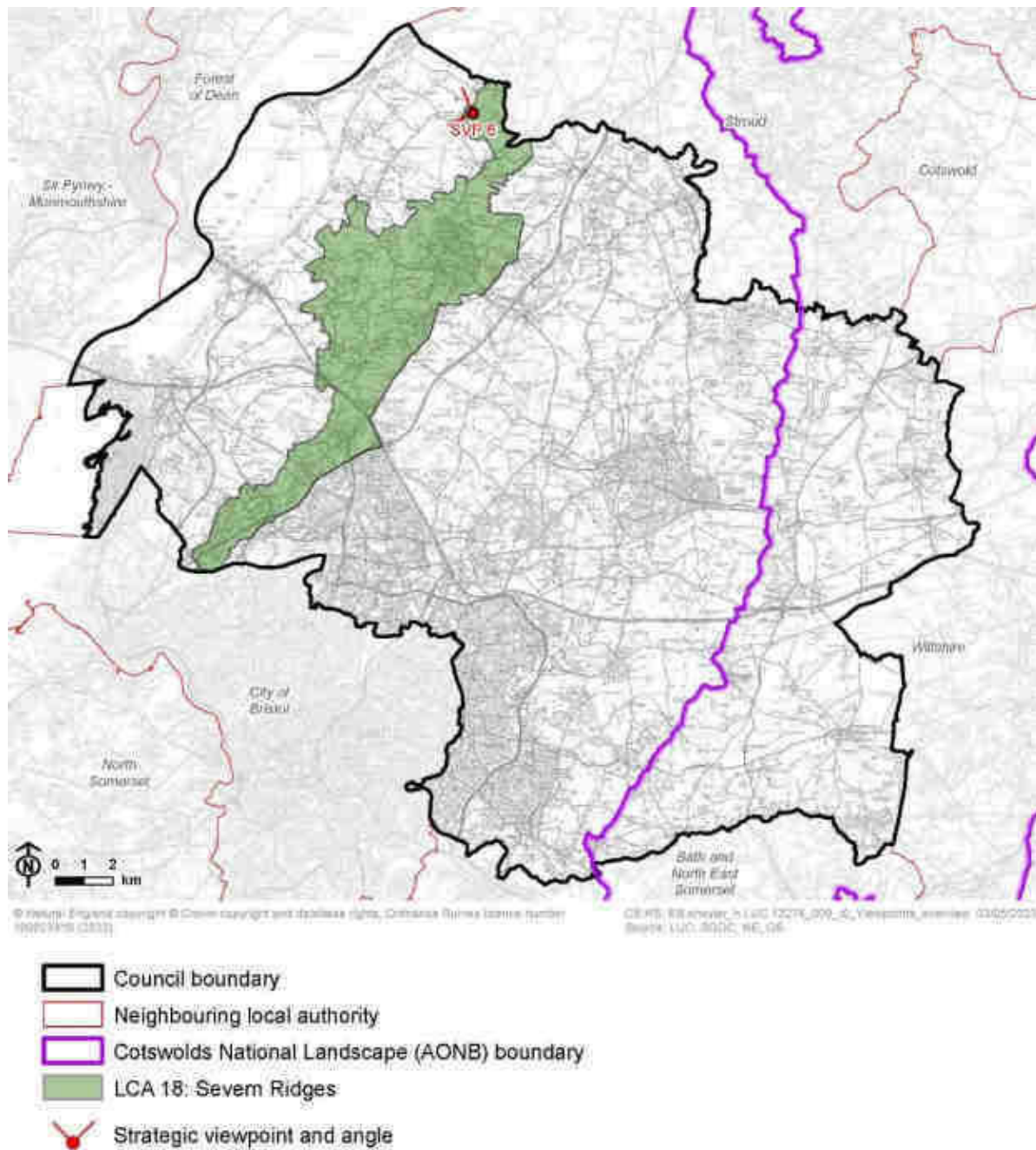
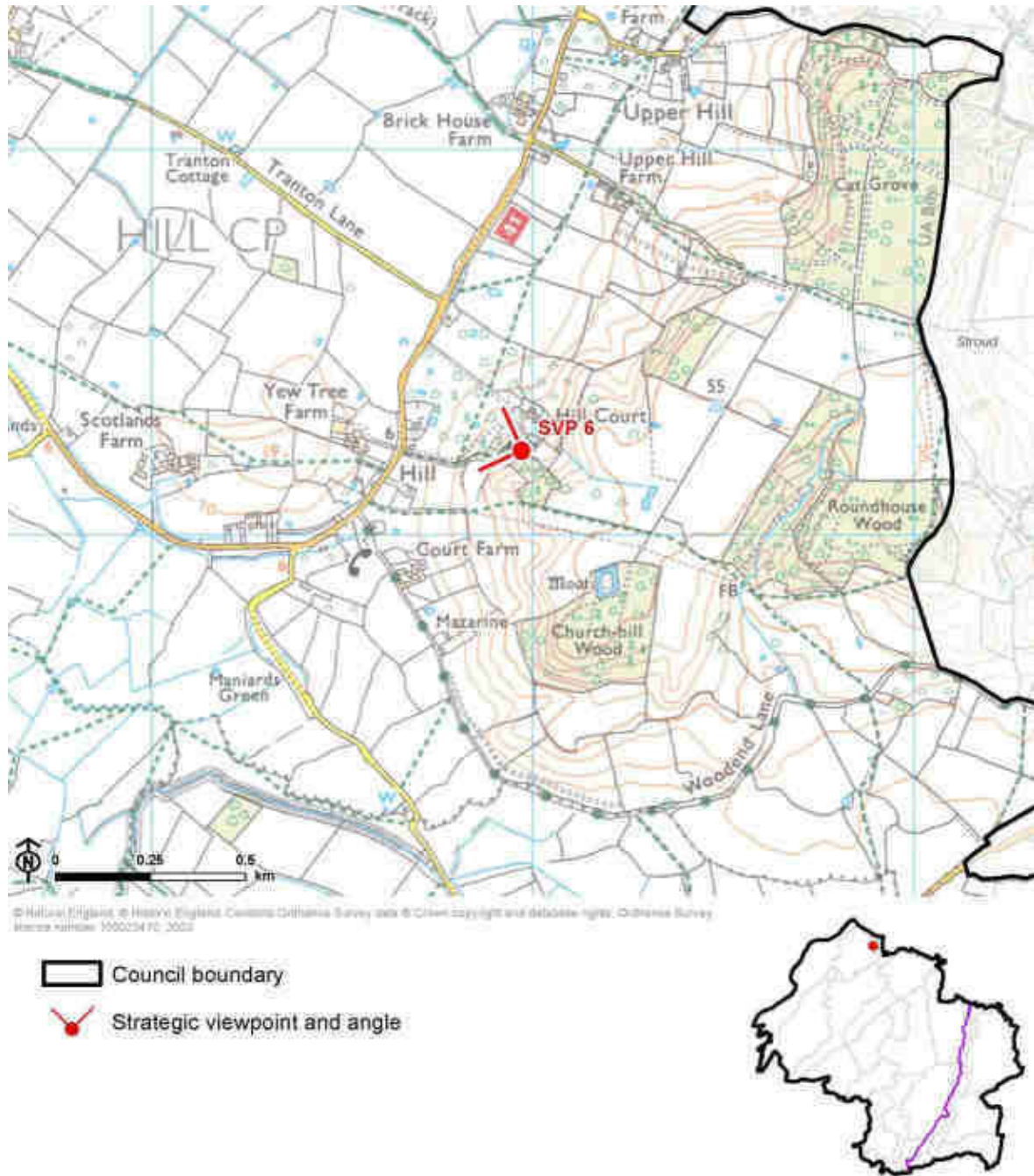


Figure 3.23: Detailed map of the location of Strategic Viewpoint 6



Viewpoint Information

Grid reference: ST 64928 95181

View location: St Michael's Church, Hill Court, Hill.

View direction: View west and south-west across the Oldbury Levels (LCA 19) and towards the Severn Shoreline and Estuary (LCA 21).

Relationship with Visually Important Hillside (VIH): Viewpoint is located along the Upper Hill VIH.

Experienced by: Visitors to St Michael's Church and recreational users of public footpath OHL/12/20.

Figure 3.24: View Composition of Strategic Viewpoint 6

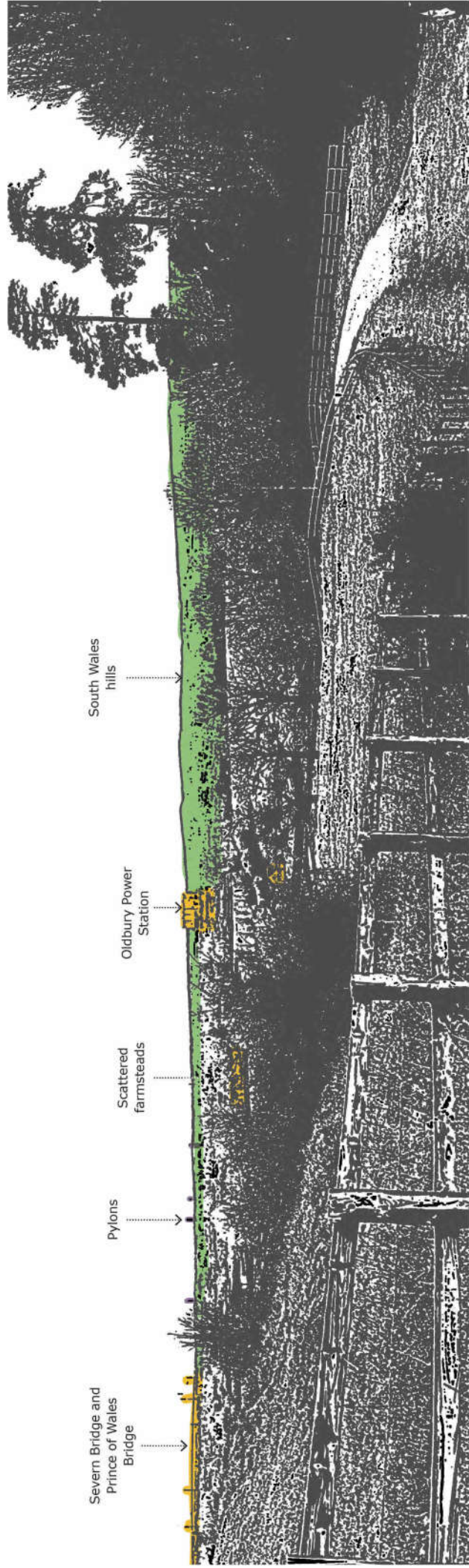
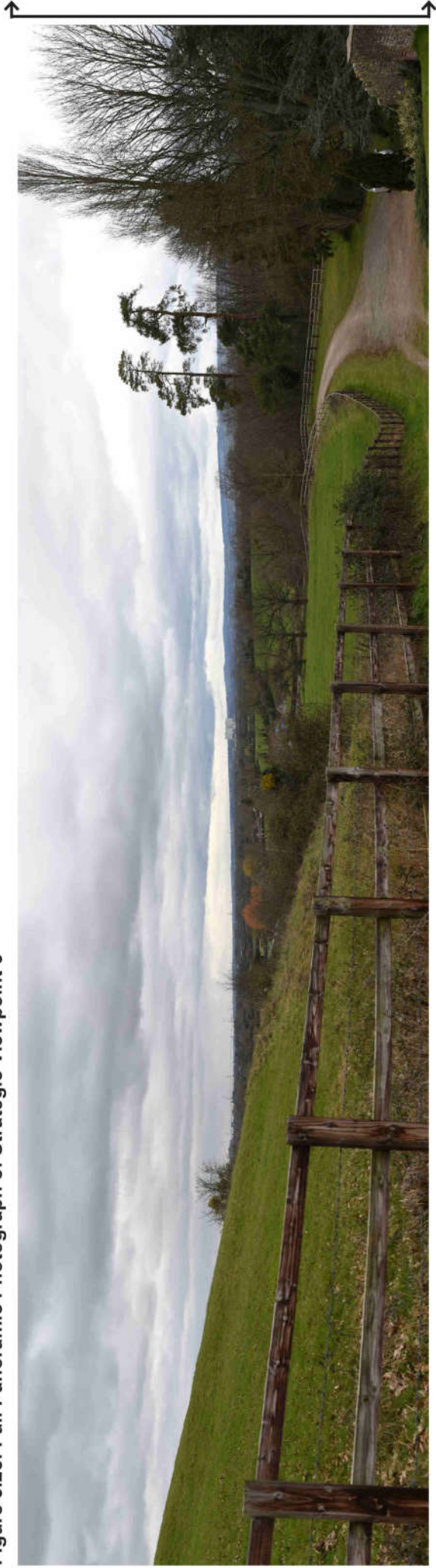
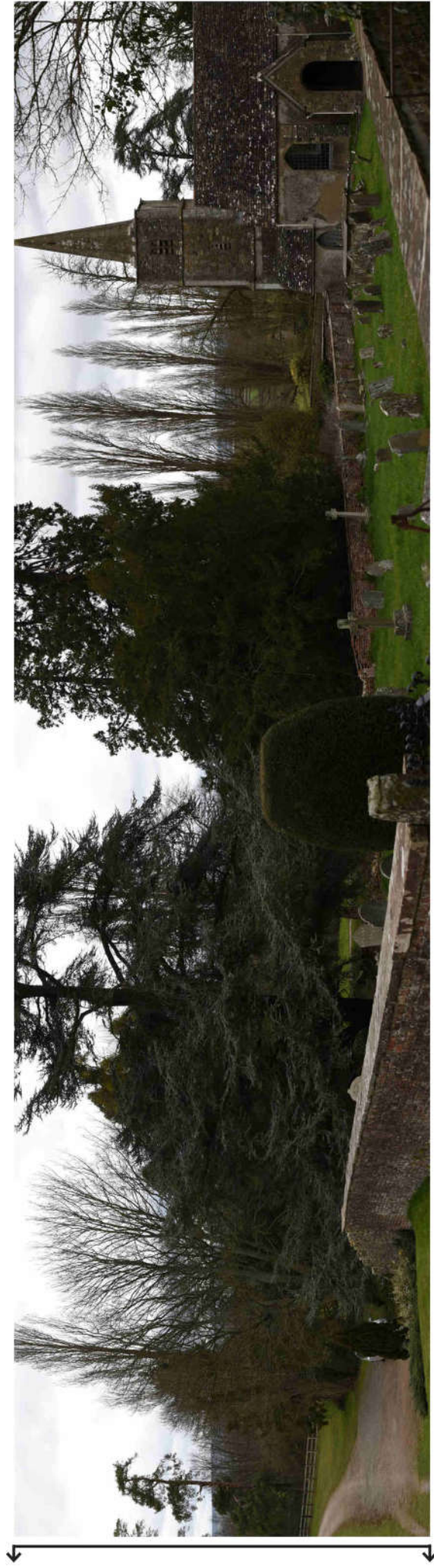


Figure 3.25: Full Panoramic Photograph of Strategic Viewpoint 6



Strategic Viewpoint 6: Hill Court



Strategic Viewpoint 6 (continued)

Characteristics

Popularity, access and facilities

- The view is mentioned in a local walking route leaflet (A Forgotten Landscape - Route 1: 'Hill Hike') which notes that *"As you go up out of Hill, there are wonderful views down river towards the Severn Bridges"* [See reference 4].
- The viewpoint is publicly accessible, located on public footpath OHL/12/20.
- A bench and small parking area is provided adjacent to the churchyard to facilitate the enjoyment of the view.

Quality, value and features of the view

- An elevated viewpoint located along the Upper Hill VIH, that provides a panoramic view (270°) west and south-west over the surrounding lower-lying 'levels' landscape (characterised by flat, small and regular fields with mature hedgerows, hedgerow trees, blocks of woodland, scattered traditional farmsteads, and absence of modern development invoking a sense of time-depth), extending to the Severn Estuary, with the distinctive wooded hillsides of the Wye Valley and South Wales forming a prominent backdrop in views.
- Oldbury Power Station (located on the edge of the estuary 4km away) forms a prominent landmark feature in the view to the west, with its distinctive large-scale pale striped cooling towers seen in context of the surrounding small-scale pastoral farmland.
- The towers of the Severn Bridge and the Prince of Wales Bridge form distant landmark features on the skyline, rising above the intervening wooded farmland (located 10km and 15km away respectively) in views to the south-west.
- The viewpoint is located within the designed landscape of Hill Court (a locally registered historic park), and represents views experienced from the gardens and parkland. St Michael's Church (Grade II* listed) is located adjacent to the viewpoint.

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- Several pylon lines cross the skyline and slightly detract from the overall composition of the view.

Summary

The St Michael's Church (Hill Court) viewpoint is categorised as a SVP as it meets most of the criteria to some extent. It is a popular, well known and recorded viewpoint; it is located on a public footpath with a bench and parking provided to facilitate enjoyment of the view; it provides a panoramic view that takes in the notable landscape features of the levels, the Severn Estuary and the hills of the Wye Valley and South Wales, and the landmark features of Oldbury Power Station, the Severn Bridge and the Prince of Wales Bridge; and is a designed viewpoint from the locally registered historic park of Hill Court.

Strategic Viewpoint 7

Spaniorum Hill

Figure 3.26: Location of Strategic Viewpoint 7 and landscape character context

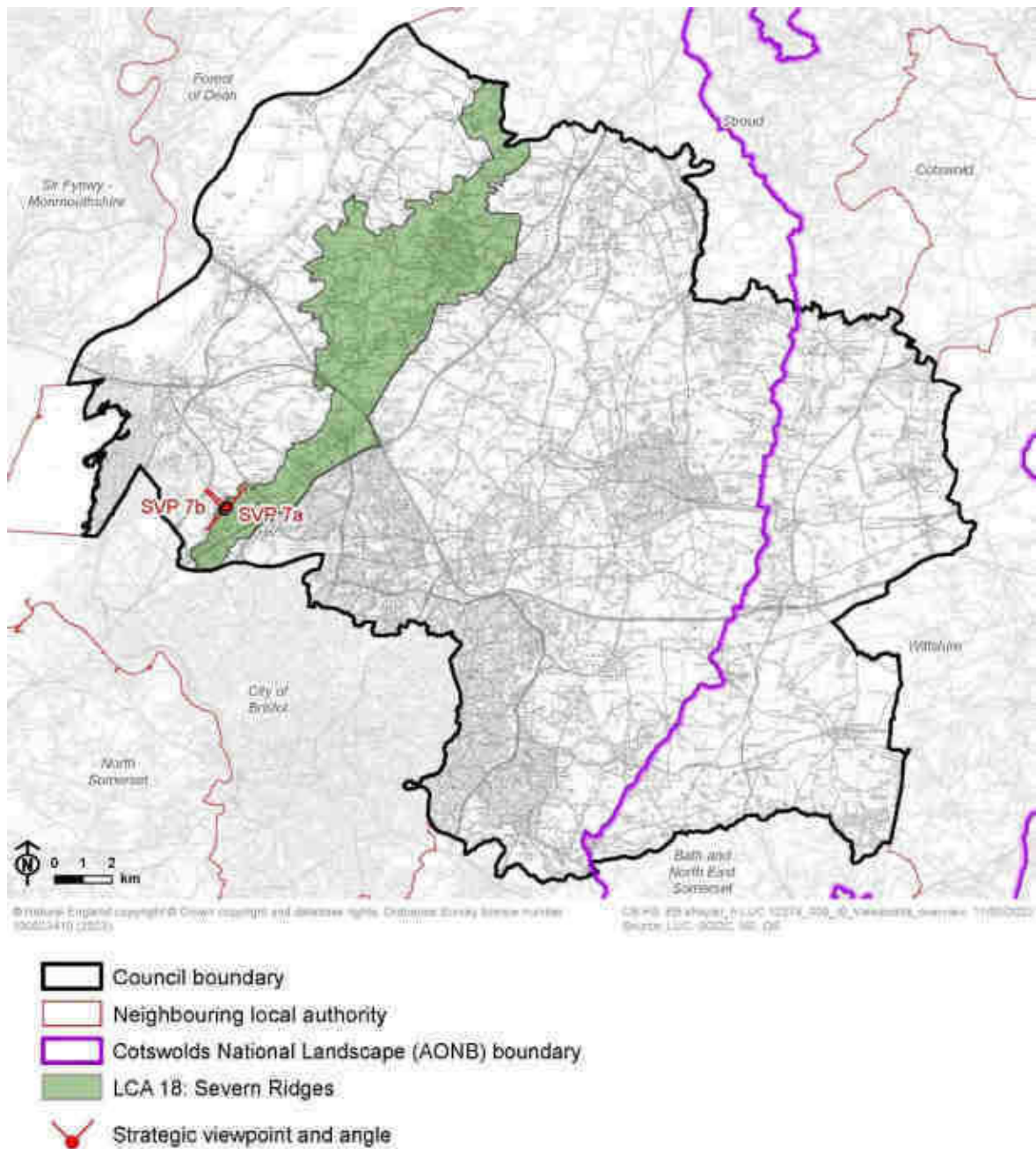
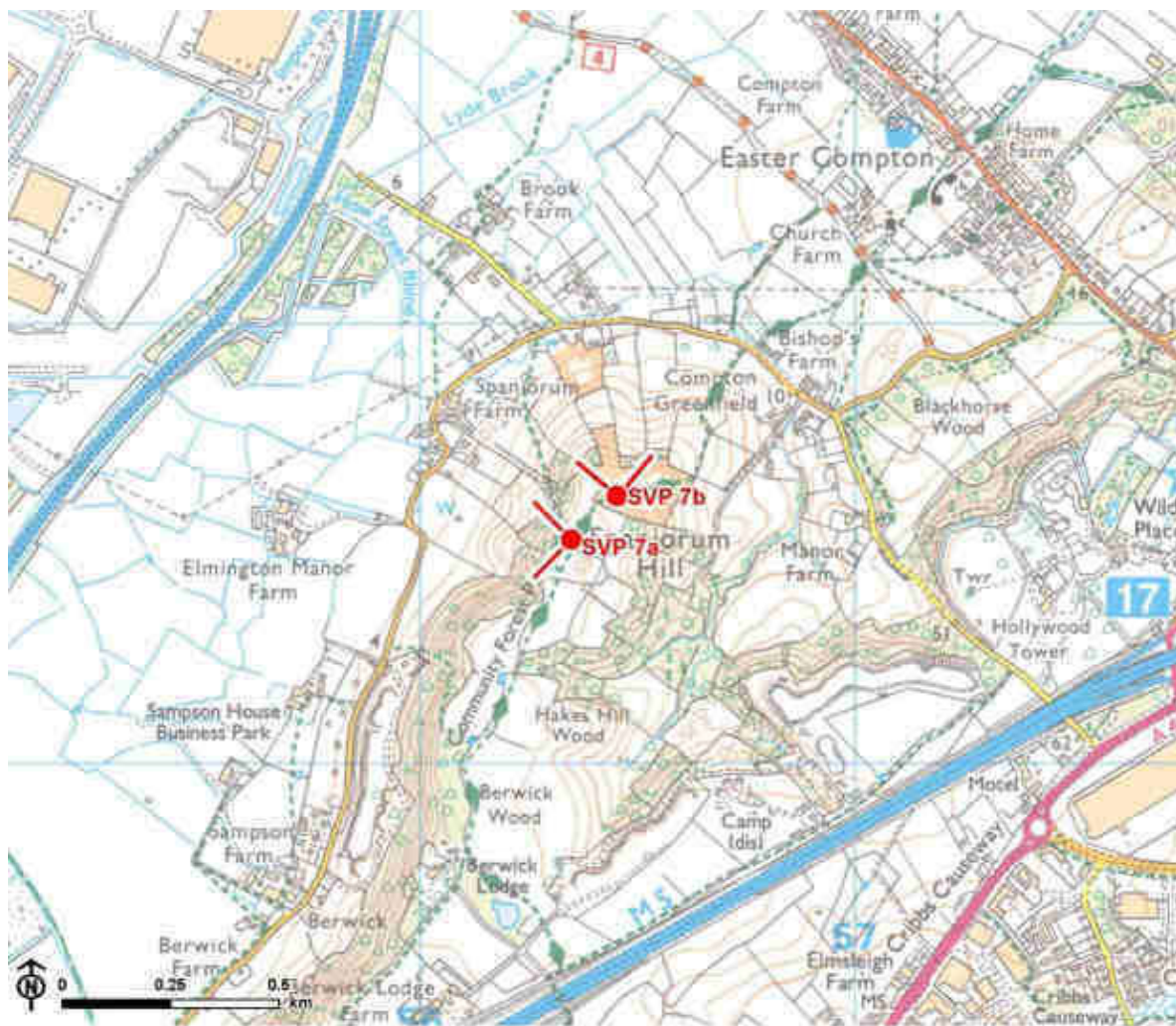


Figure 3.27: Detailed map of the location of Strategic Viewpoint 7



 Strategic viewpoint and angle



Viewpoint Information

Grid reference: SVP 7a: ST 56370 81575 and SVP 7b: ST 56458 81613.

View location: Spaniorum Hill summit, Easter Compton.

View direction: SVP 7a provides views west and south-west over the Pilning Levels (LCA 20) and towards the Severn Shoreline and Estuary (LCA 21). SVP 7b provides views north and east over the Pilning Levels (LCA 20) and Severn Ridges (LCA 18).

Relationship with Visually Important Hillside (VIH): The viewpoint is located along the Severn Ridges VIH.

Experienced by: Recreational users of the open access land on Spaniorum Hill, –the Forest of Avon Community Forest Path (OAY/71/10) and public footpath OAY/70/10 that ascend and cross the hillside.

Figure 3.28: View Composition of Strategic Viewpoint 7a

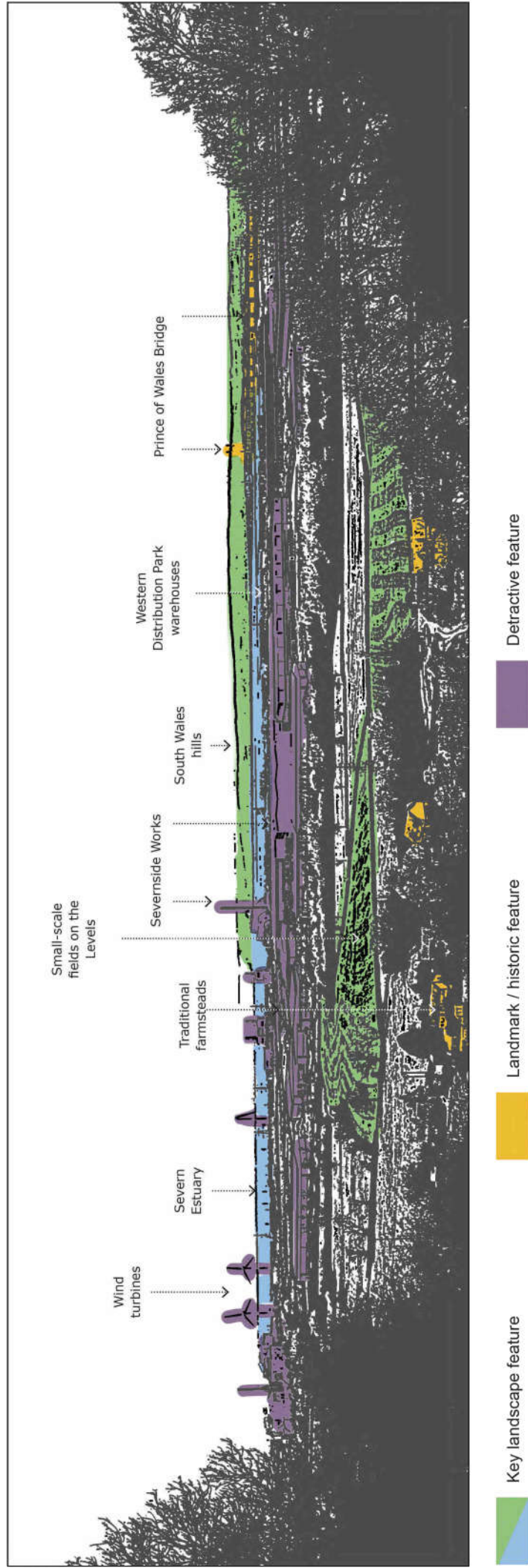
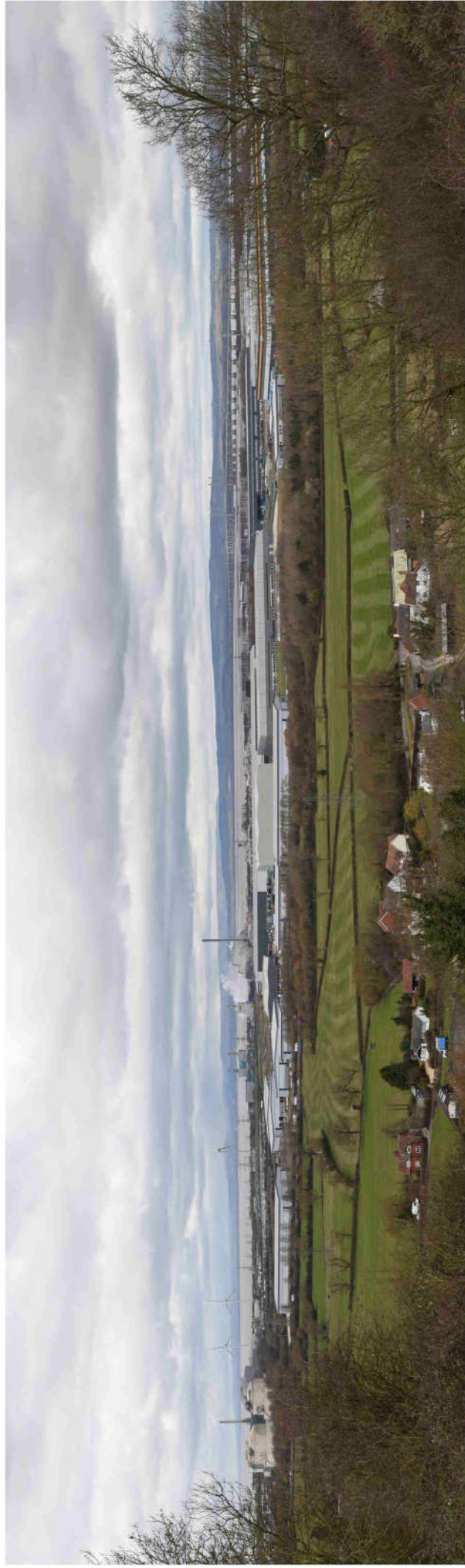
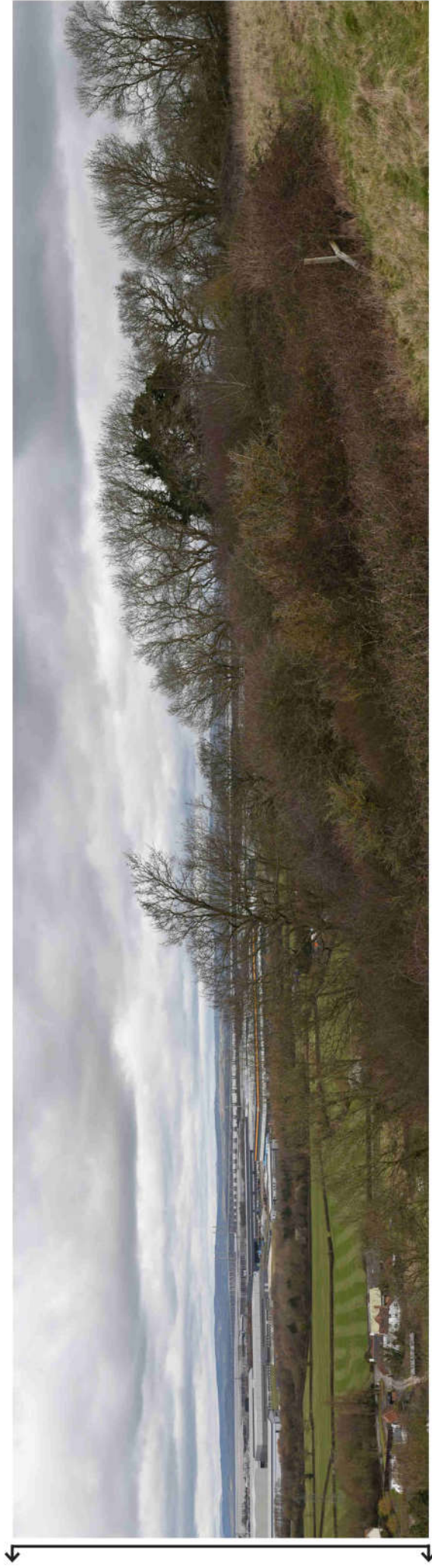


Figure 3.29: Full Panoramic Photograph of Strategic Viewpoint 7a



Strategic Viewpoint 7a: Spaniorum Hill (view west)



Strategic Viewpoint 7a (continued)

Figure 3.30: View Composition of Strategic Viewpoint 7b

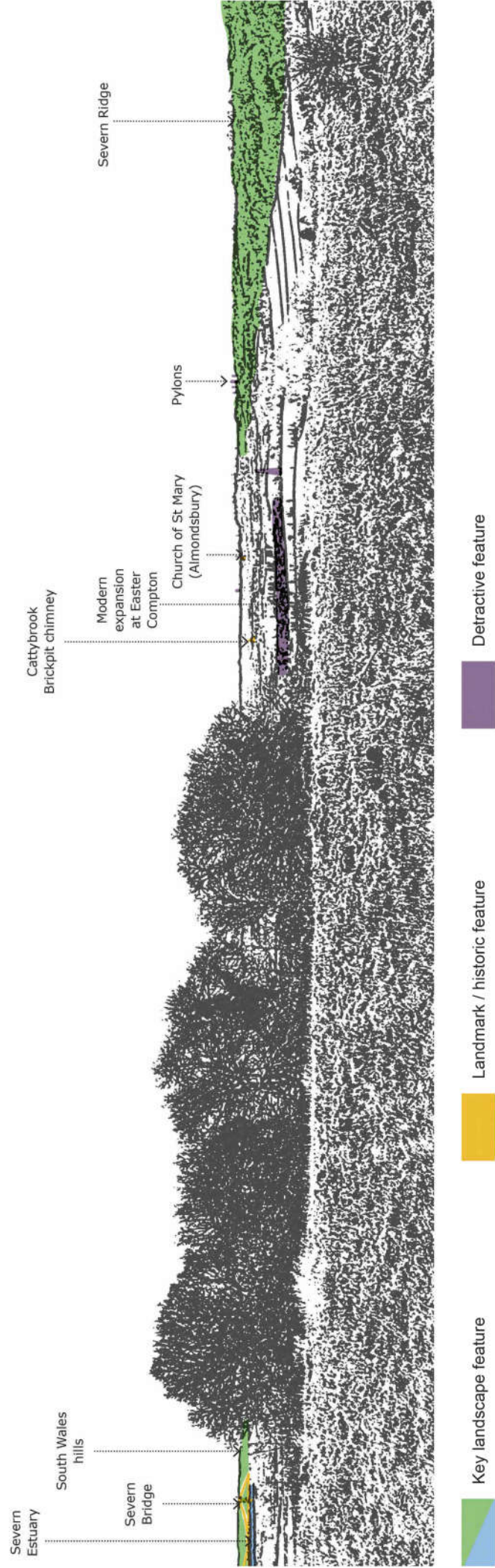
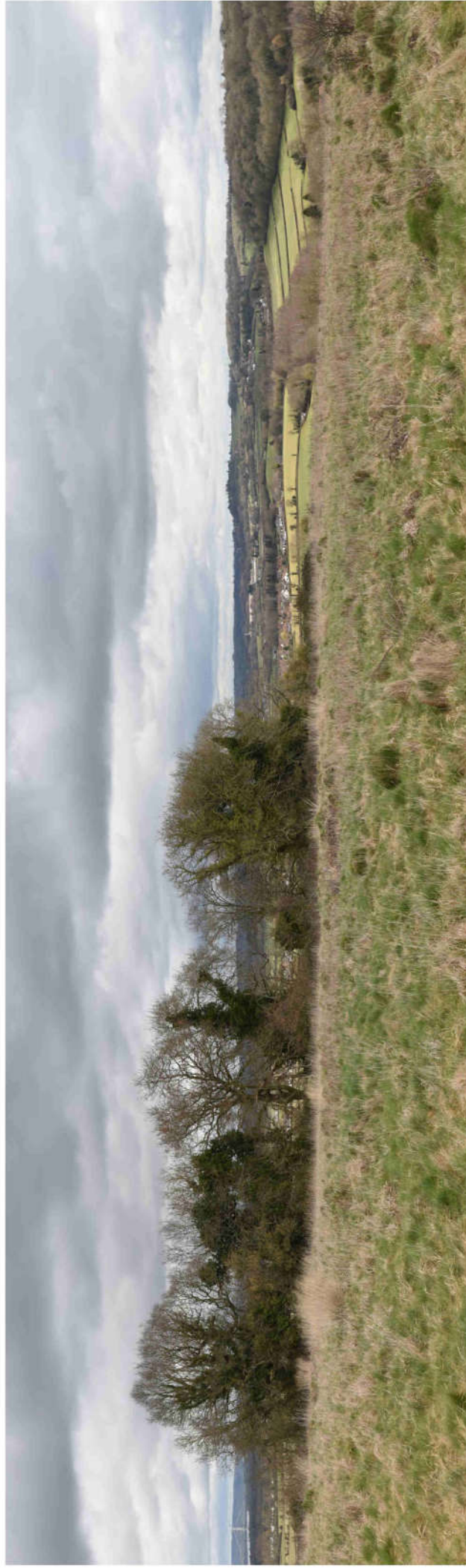
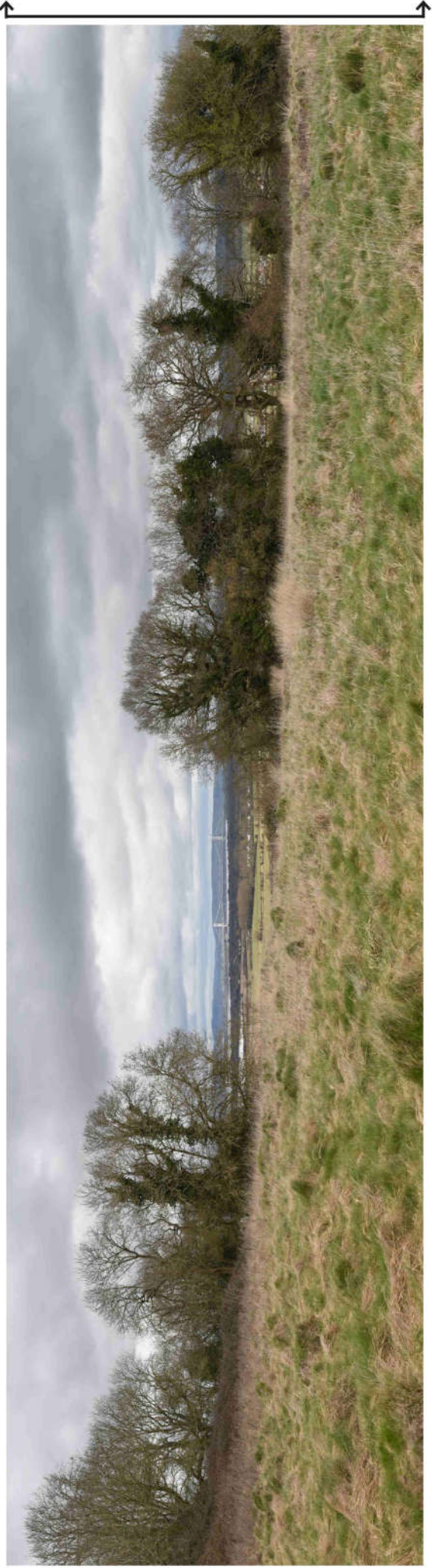
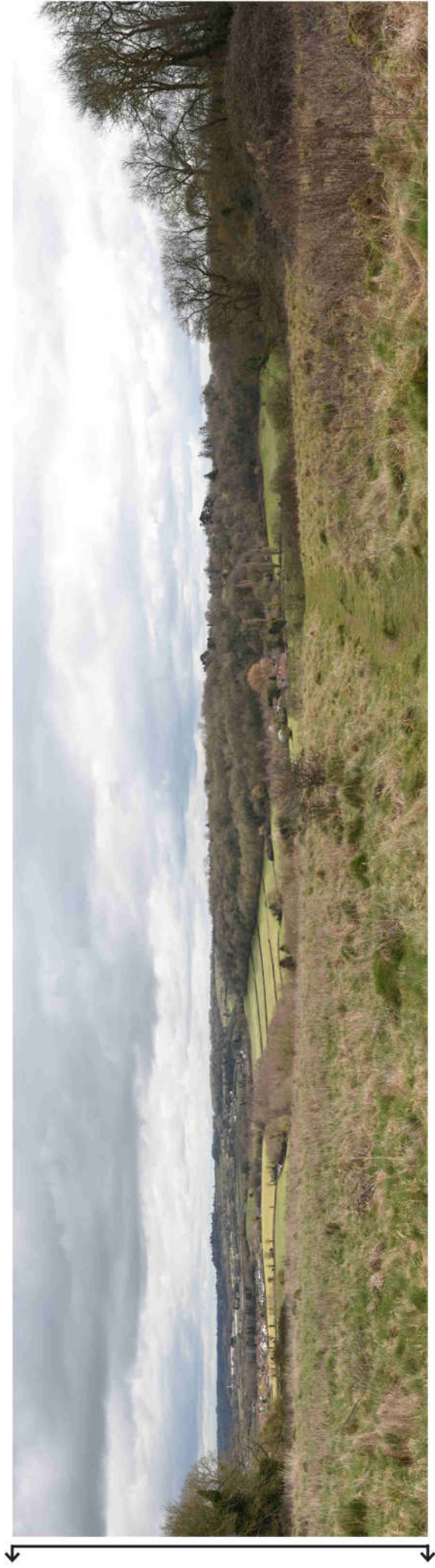


Figure 3.31: Full Panoramic Photograph of Strategic Viewpoint 7b



Strategic Viewpoint 7b: Spaniorum Hill (view north and east)



Strategic Viewpoint 7b (continued)

Characteristics

Popularity, access and facilities

- The viewpoint is mentioned in a local walking route leaflet (A Forgotten Landscape – Route 8: ‘Spaniorum Skyway’) which notes that *“there are wonderful views from the top of Spaniorum Hill west towards the River Severn and east over Bristol”* [See reference 5].
- The viewpoint location is noted in LCA 18: Severn Ridges which notes that *“views [from the Severn Ridge] are most extensive from the upper scarp edge, including places such as Spaniorum Hill”*.
- The viewpoint is publicly accessible, located along the Forest of Avon Community Forest Path (OAY/71/10) and near to footpath OAY/71/10. SVP 7b is also located on a small area of open access land on the north-east facing slope of the hill.

Quality, value and features of the view

- An elevated viewpoint along the Severn Ridges VIH that affords panoramic (180°) views in different directions, framed by foreground vegetation. SVP 7a provides a view to the west and north-west over the surrounding lower-lying ‘levels’ landscape (characterised by flat, small, regular and irregular fields, and blocks of woodland), extending to the Severn Estuary where warehouses, wind turbines and chimneys at Severnside Works and Western Distribution Park are prominent and exert a strong industrial character. Beyond the estuary, the distinctive hills of South Wales form a prominent backdrop in the view. SVP 7b provides a view to the north across the ‘levels’ and north-east over the Severn Ridges (characterised by rural fields, large swathes of woodland and rising landform).
- SVP 7a includes an open view of the Prince of Wales Bridge (5km away) which forms a distinctive landmark feature. SVP 7b also includes views of

landmark features including the Severn Bridge (8km away) to the north, and in views to the east are the locally prominent chimney at Cattybrook Brickpit (located at the site of SSSI 3km away) and the distinctive diamond-patterned lead spire of The Church of St Mary (Grade I listed) in Almondsbury which rises above woodland 4.5km away.

- Some modern expansion to the village of Easter Common and pylons detract from the overall composition of the view to the east, along with the industrial character at Severnside Works and Western Distribution Park in the west .

Summary

The Spaniorum Hill viewpoint is categorised as a SVP as it meets most of the criteria to some extent. It is a popular, well known, and recorded viewpoint; 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 likely to attract many visitors; and it provides a panoramic view that takes in the notable landscape features of the levels, the Severn Estuary (which is influenced by industrial activity), the Severn Ridges and the hills of South Wales, and the landmark features of The Church of St Mary, Cattybrook Brickpit, the Prince of Wales Bridge and the Severn Bridge.

Strategic Viewpoint 8

Church Lane (Winterbourne)

Figure 3.32: Location of Strategic Viewpoint 8 and landscape character context

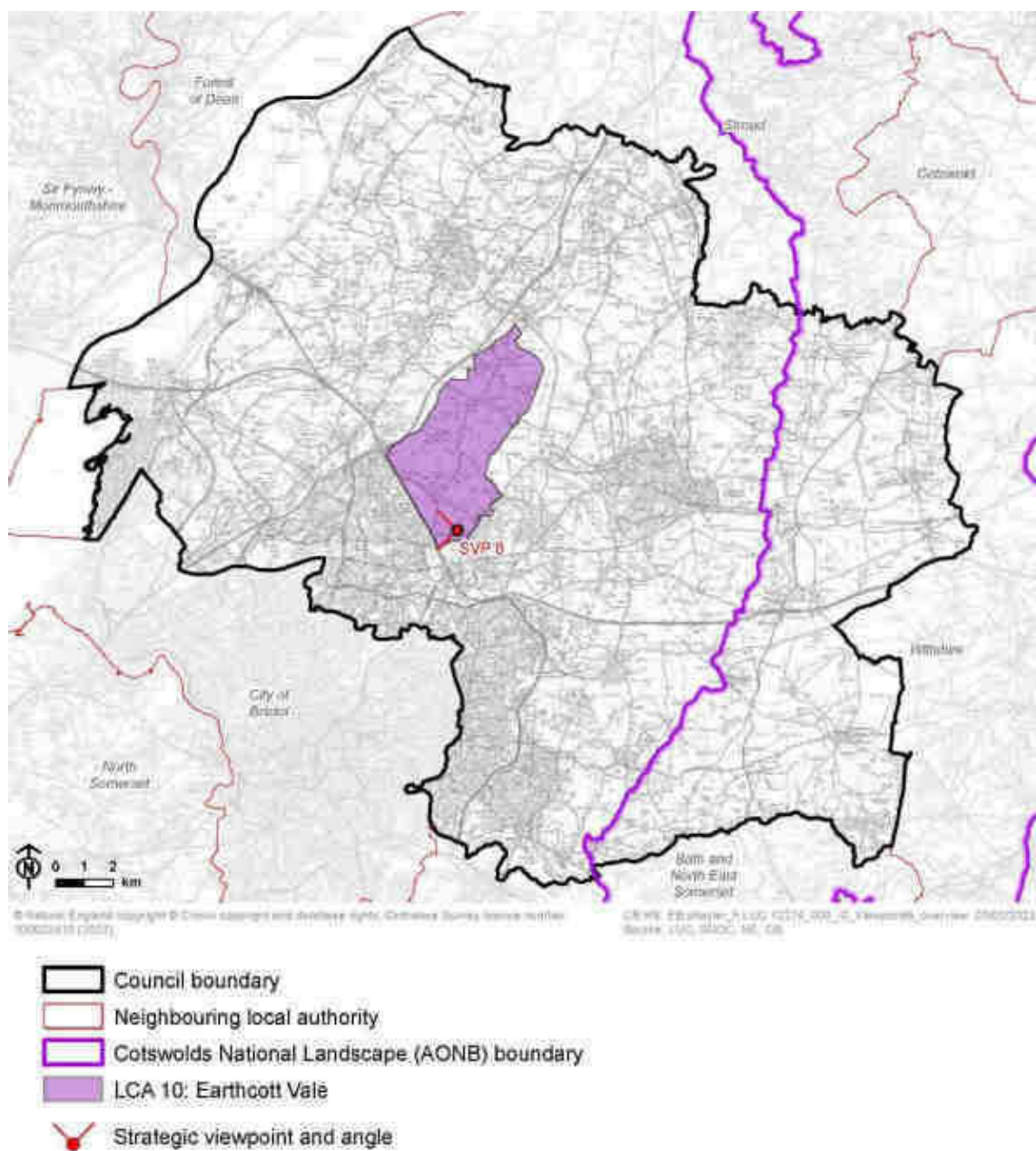
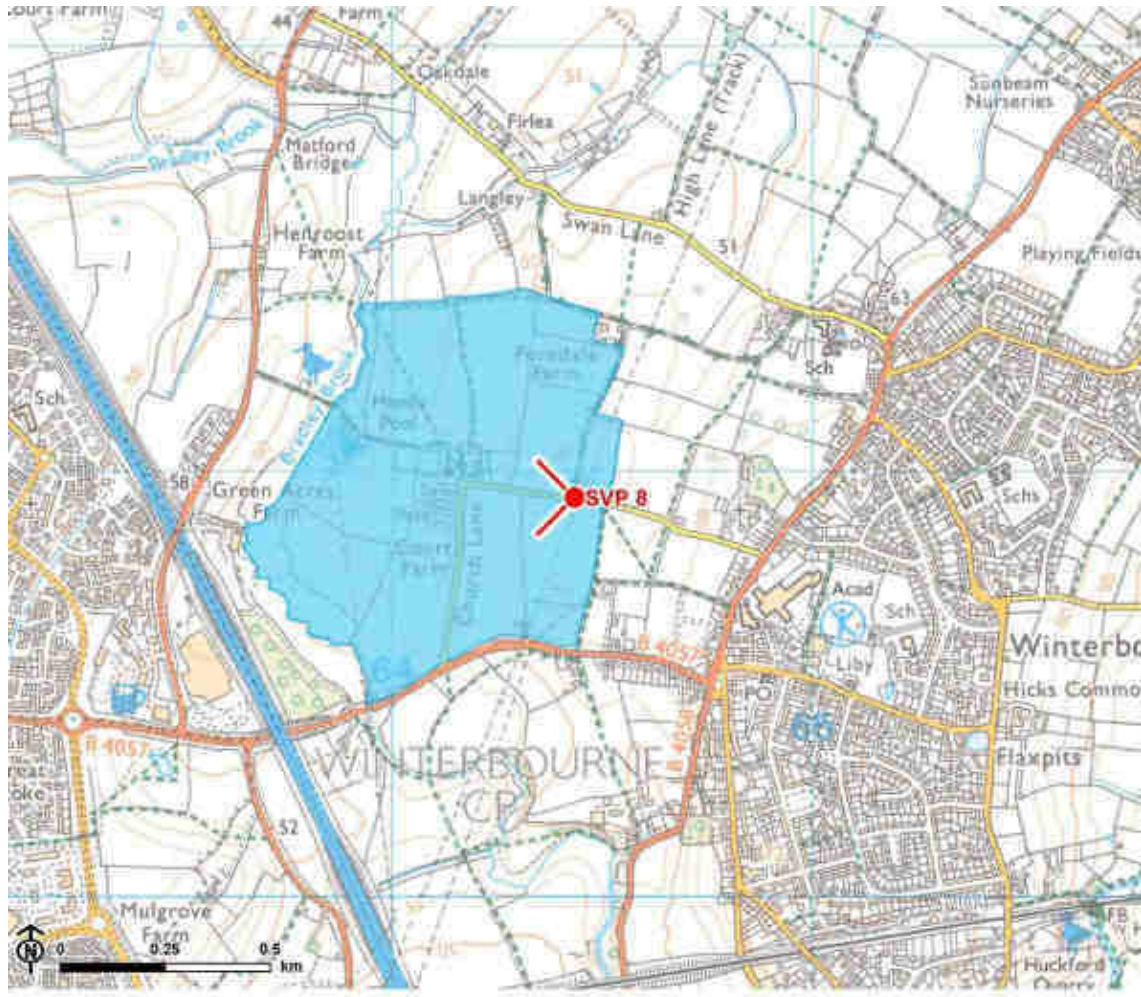




Figure 3.33: Detailed map of the location of Strategic Viewpoint 8



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-  Conservation area
-  Strategic viewpoint and angle



Viewpoint Information

Grid reference: ST 64422 80952

View location: Church Lane/Green Lane junction, Winterbourne.

View direction: View north, west and south-west across the Earthcott Vale (LCA 10) and the Bradley Brook Valley.

Relationship with Visually Important Hillside (VIH): The viewpoint is not located along a VIH, however the Severn Ridges VIH can be seen on the horizon in views to the north-west.

Experienced by: Pedestrians along Church Lane, recreational users of nearby public footpaths (including LWB46/10 and LWB47/10) and Green Lane Restricted Byway (LWB/29/50). Transient views for cyclists and motorists travelling west along Church Lane.

Figure 3.34: View Composition of Strategic Viewpoint 8

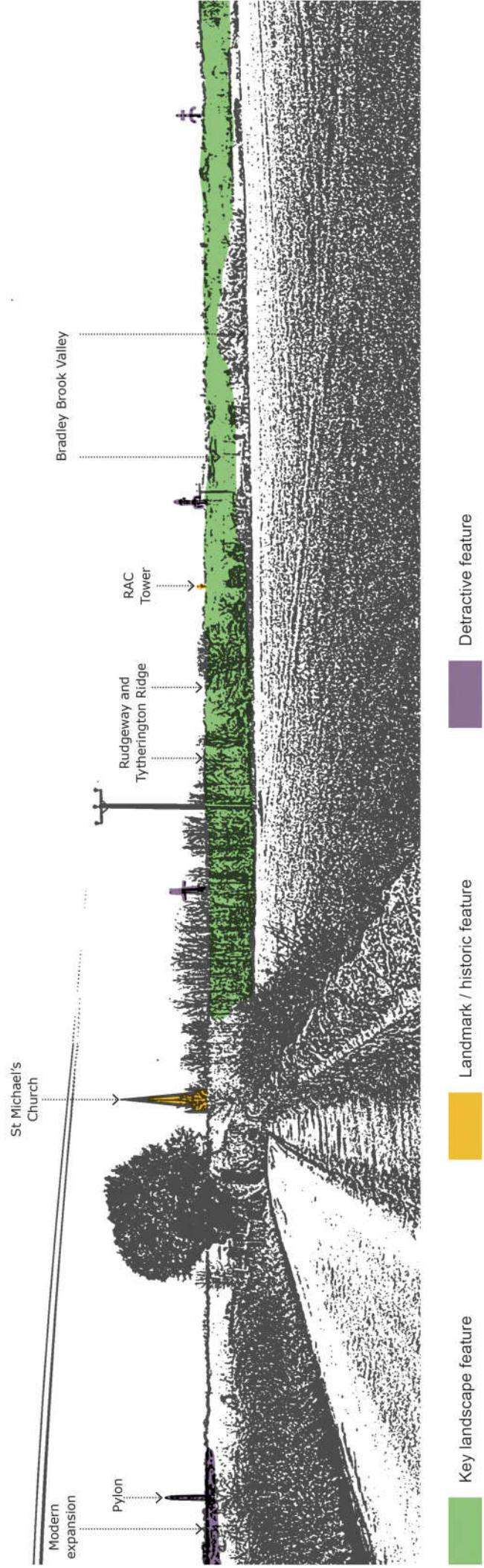
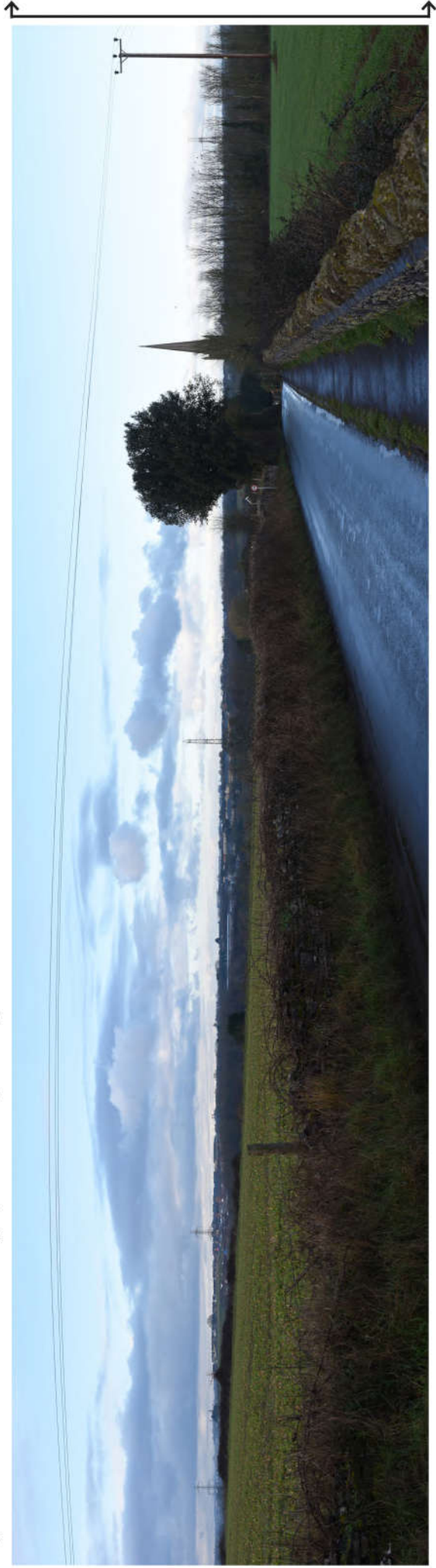
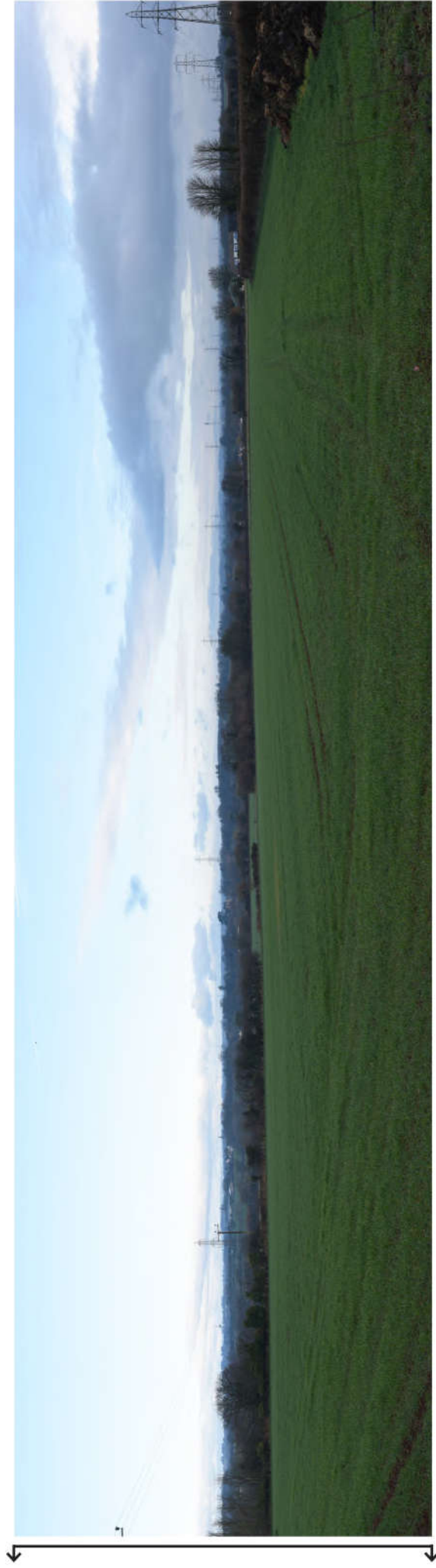


Figure 3.35: Full Panoramic Photograph of Strategic Viewpoint 8



Strategic Viewpoint 8: Church Lane (Winterbourne)



Strategic Viewpoint 8 (continued)

Characteristics

Popularity, access and facilities

- The viewpoint is referenced within Church Lane Winterbourne Conservation Area appraisal [See reference 6] as being an 'important view' with the open fields in the foreground being important to the setting of St Michaels Church (Grade I listed) and the Conservation Area.
- Views from this viewpoint are representative of those described in LCA 10: Earthcott Vale, which notes that *“the open setting and position of Winterbourne Church and Court complex, above the Bradley Brook valley, form a striking local landmark, from which relatively wide views are available looking west across Bradley Brook Valley.”*
- The viewpoint can be accessed from Church Lane, as well as via a number of public rights of way adjoining the road (including LBW/29/50, LBW/46/10 and LWB/47/10).

Quality, value and features of the view

- A slightly elevated viewpoint above the Bradley Brook Valley, that provides a panoramic view (180°) west across the valley towards the edge of Stoke Gifford (Bristol) with urban development seen on the skyline, and north across the vale landscape (characterised by large mixed fields with hedgerows and hedgerow trees) towards the Rudgeway and Tytherington Ridge.
- The viewpoint provides a view of St Michael's Church (Grade I listed) and glimpses of Winterbourne Court within the Church Lane Winterbourne Conservation Area, located 300 metres to the west, and enables an appreciation of these assets within their wider landscape setting. The spire of the church forms an important local landmark feature (although views are partially obscured by intervening vegetation, particularly in summer months).
- The RAC Tower (4km away) and the Purdown BT Tower (5.5km away) form relatively distant landmark features on the skyline in views to the north-west and south-west respectively.

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- A locally distinctive group of three wind turbines near Tytherington, several pylon lines, and the urban edge of Stoke Gifford on the skyline (which contrasts with the surrounding rural landscape), detract from the overall composition of the view.

Summary

The viewpoint at Church Lane (Winterbourne) is categorised as a SVP as it meets most of the criteria to some extent. It is a recorded viewpoint (referred to in the Conservation Area appraisal); 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 adjacent to public rights of way; and it provides a panoramic view that takes in the landmark feature of St Michael's Church and its setting within the Church Lane Winterbourne Conservation Area, as well as the RAC Tower and the Purdown BT Tower.

Strategic Viewpoint 9

Sodbury Common

Figure 3.36: Location of Strategic Viewpoint 9 and landscape character context

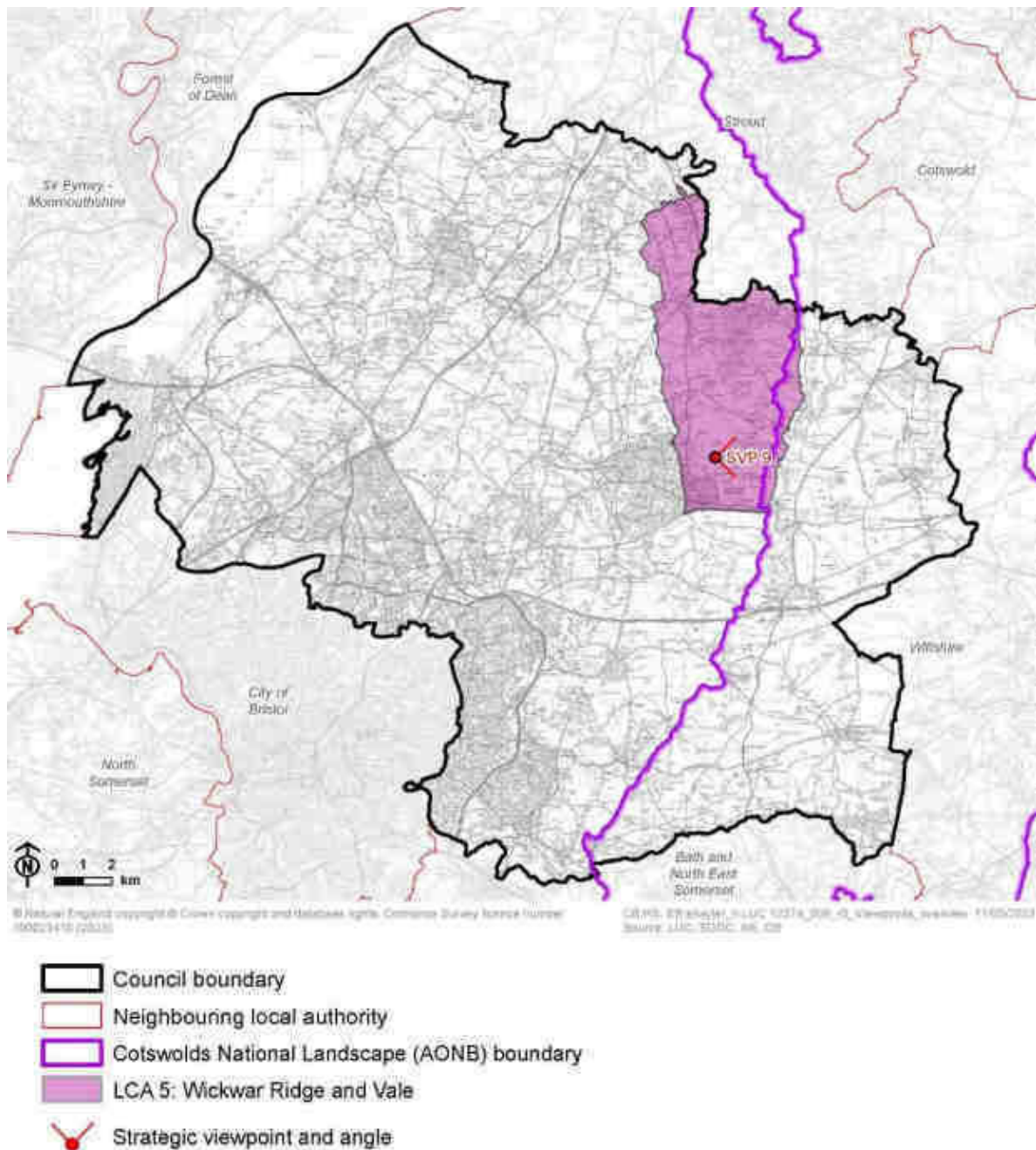
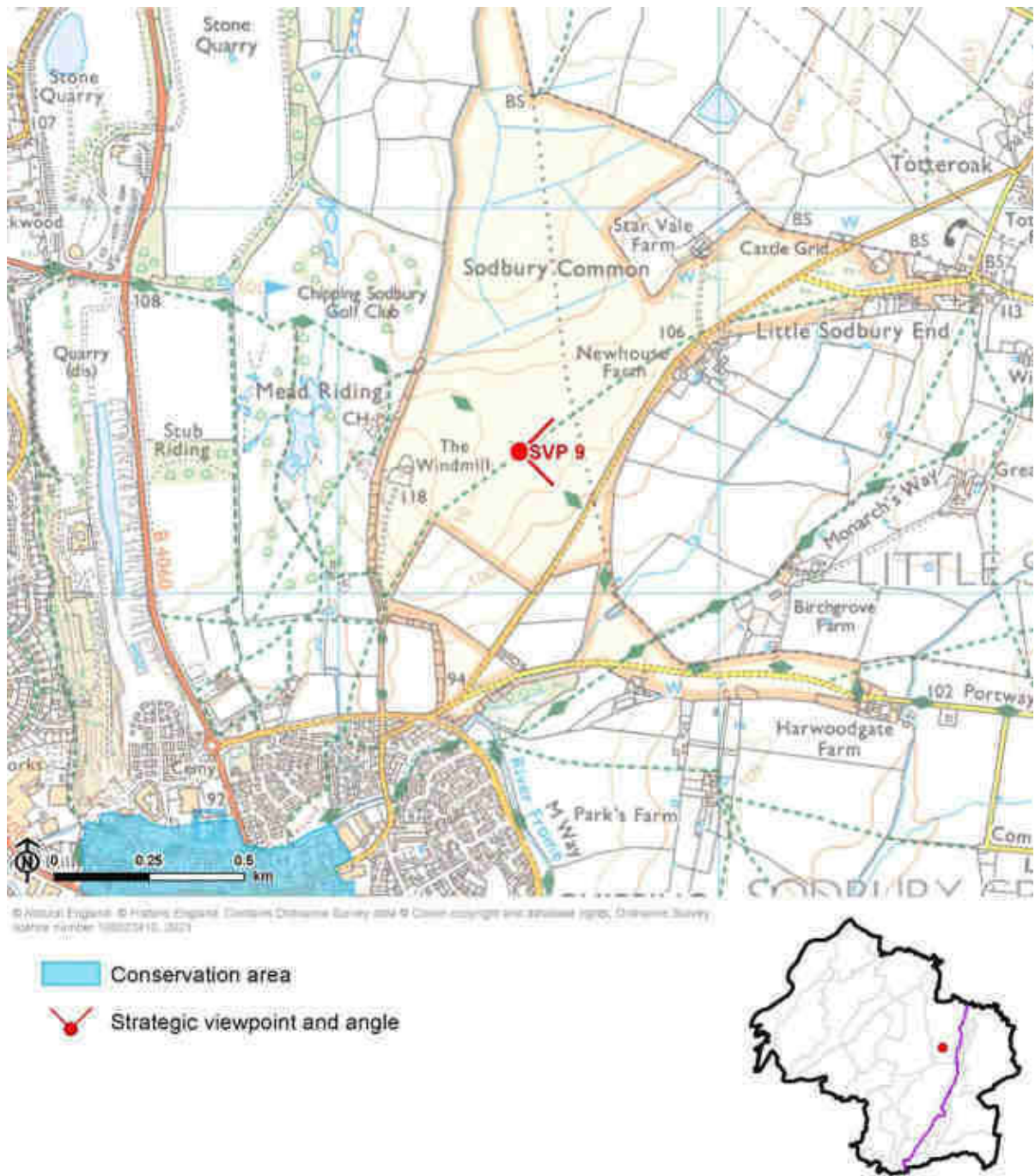


Figure 3.37: Detailed map of the location of Strategic Viewpoint 9



Viewpoint Information

Grid reference: ST 73412 83334

View location: Sodbury Common, Chipping Sodbury.

View direction: View north, east and south-east across the Wickwar Ridge and Vale (LCA 5) and towards the Cotswold Scarp (LCA 4).

Relationship with Visually Important Hillside (VIH): The viewpoint is not located along a VIH, however it provides views east towards the Cotswold Scarp VIH.

Experienced by: Recreational users of the open access land on Sodbury Common, as well as the public rights of way which cross the common including the Jubilee Way locally promoted route and public footpath LSO/5/10.

Figure 3.38: View Composition of Strategic Viewpoint 9 (view north)

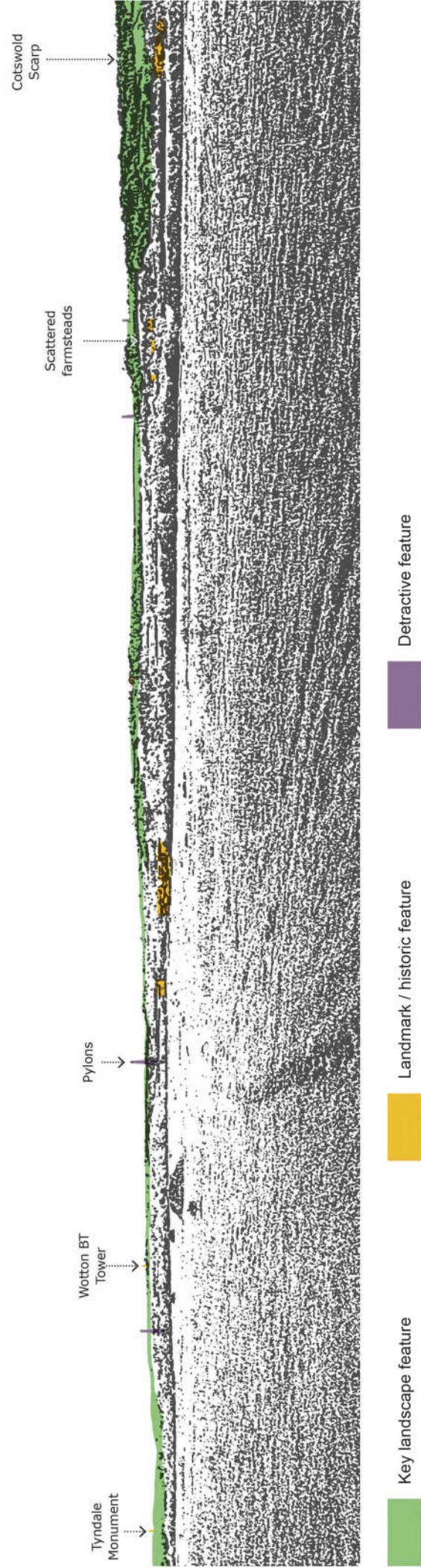


Figure 3.39: View Composition of Strategic Viewpoint 9 (view east)

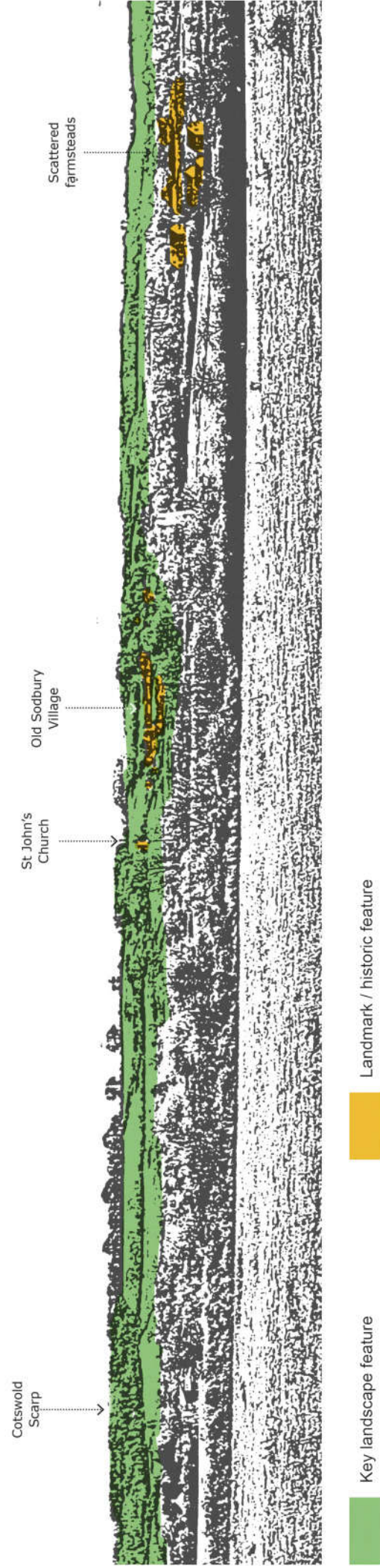
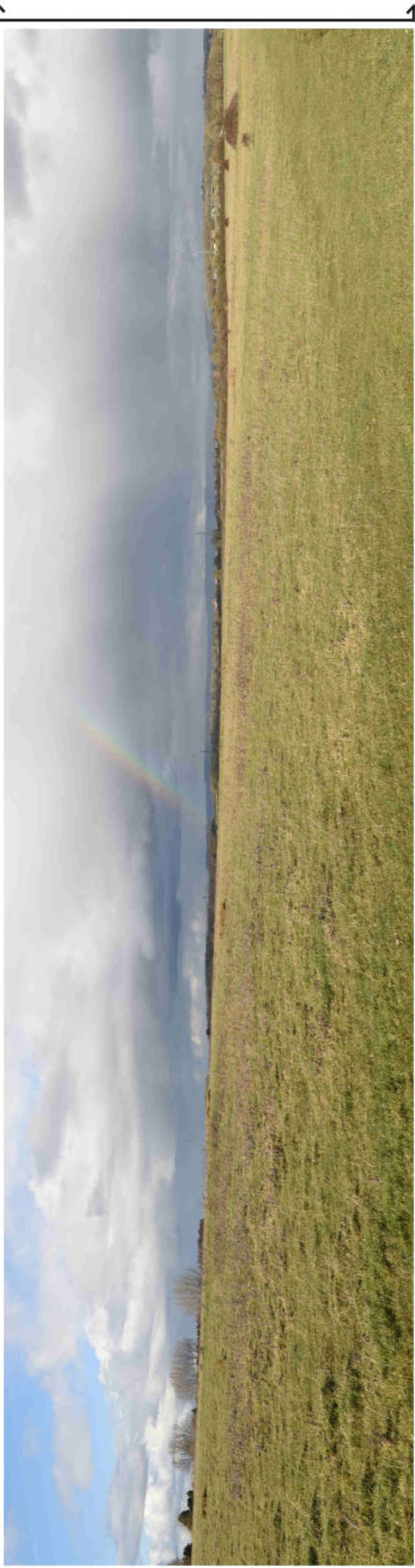
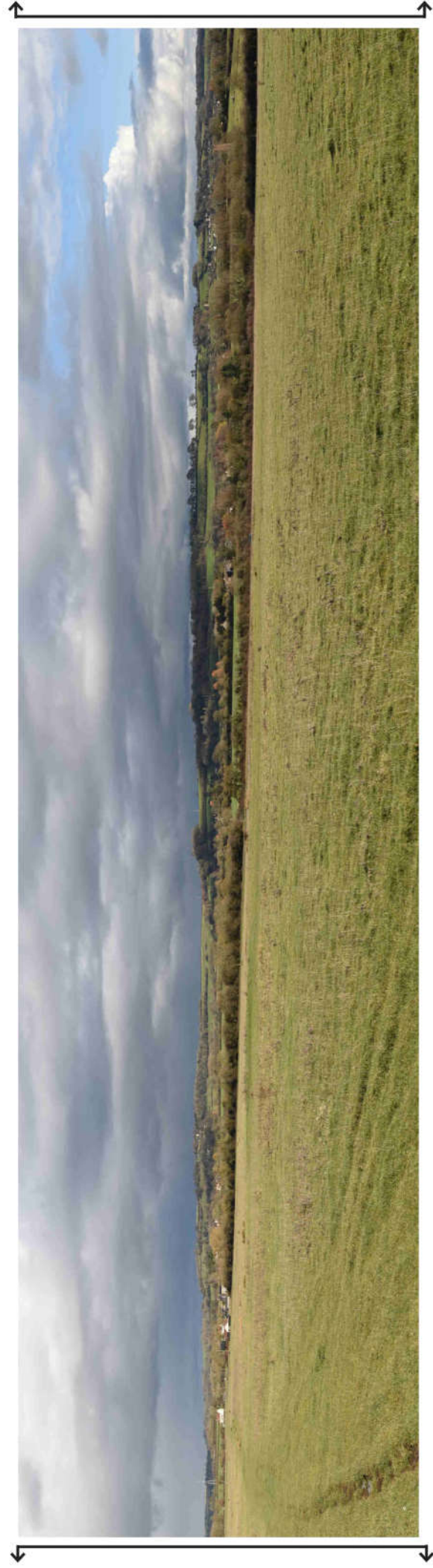


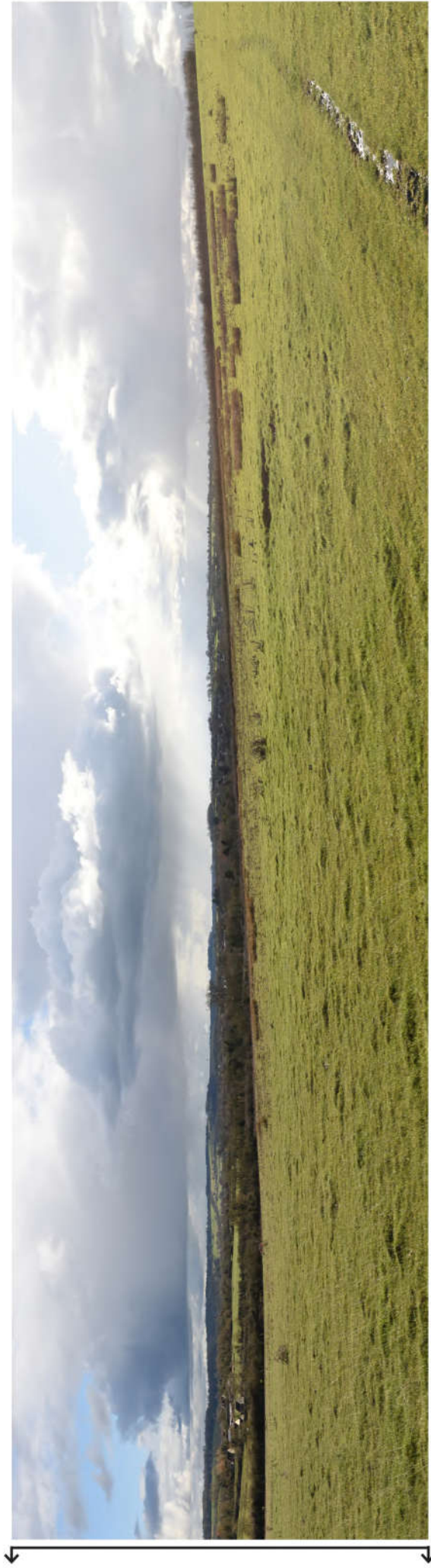
Figure 3.40: Full Panoramic Photograph of Strategic Viewpoint 9



Strategic Viewpoint 9: Sodbury Common



Strategic Viewpoint 9 (continued)



Strategic Viewpoint 9 (continued)

Characteristics

Popularity, access and facilities

- LCA 5: Wickwar Ridge and Vale notes the importance of views from this viewpoint, stating that *"the large commons of Inglestone, Hawkesbury and Sodbury are distinct areas within their locality. Their open character allows extensive views both within these areas, of the adjacent landscape framework and to the Cotswold Scarp."*
- The viewpoint is publicly accessible, located on a large area of open access land at Sodbury Common. Further access is provided by public footpaths which cross the common (LSL/1/10 and LSO/5/10) including the Jubilee Way locally promoted route.

Relationship with the Cotswolds National Landscape

- The viewpoint is not located within the CNL but provides views east towards the Cotswold Scarp. In views to the north-east, Broad Hill, Birch Hill, and the wooded hillsides around Horton (including the Grade II Widden Hill House), form distinctive features. To the east, the historic village of Old Sodbury can be seen nestled on the Cotswold Scarp, with the Parish Church of St John (Grade II* listed) forming a landmark feature as it is perched in a prominent location overlooking the vale. Dodington Park (Grade II* RPG) is visible on the slopes to the south-east.
- Views of the Cotswold Scarp are considered to be a special quality of the designated landscape, as set out in the CNL Management Plan.

Quality, value and features of the view

- The viewpoint is located on open and relatively elevated ground which enables a panoramic view (180°) to the north, east and south-east across the surrounding shallow ridge landscape (characterised by rural fields that are defined by a strong hedgerow framework and scattered farmsteads that contribute to the rural

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character), with the distinctive landform of the Cotswold Scarp forming a prominent backdrop in views.

- The Somerset Monument forms a vertical landmark feature on the skyline in views to the north-east (located approximately 5.6km away), whilst the Tyndale Monument (located 12km away) forms a more distant landmark feature in views to the north.
- To the west, the rising topography limits views towards the town of Chipping Sodbury, with the rooftops of residential properties partially visible above the sloping grassland forming a detracting element within the view. Pylon lines in near- and long-distance views, as well as a single wind turbine on the skyline to the south also slightly detract from the overall composition of the view.

Summary

The Sodbury Common 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 likely to attract many visitors; it allows an appreciation of the Cotswolds National Landscape; and it provides a panoramic view that takes in the notable landscape features of the shallow ridge landscape and Cotswold Scarp, and the landmark features of the Parish Church of St John, the Somerset Monument and the Tyndale Monument.

Strategic Viewpoint 10

Community Forest Path (Siston)

Figure 3.41: Location of Strategic Viewpoint 10 and landscape character context

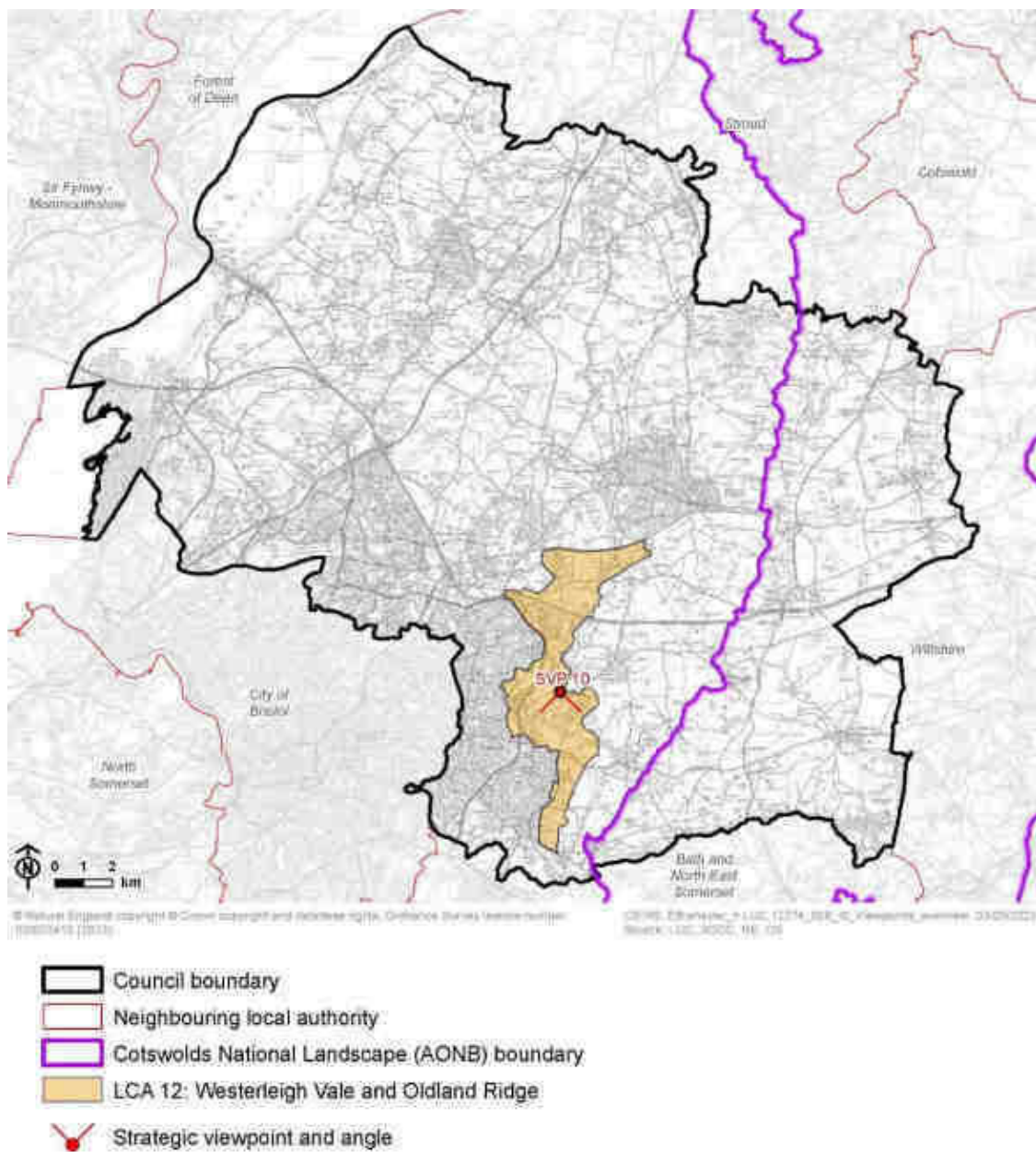
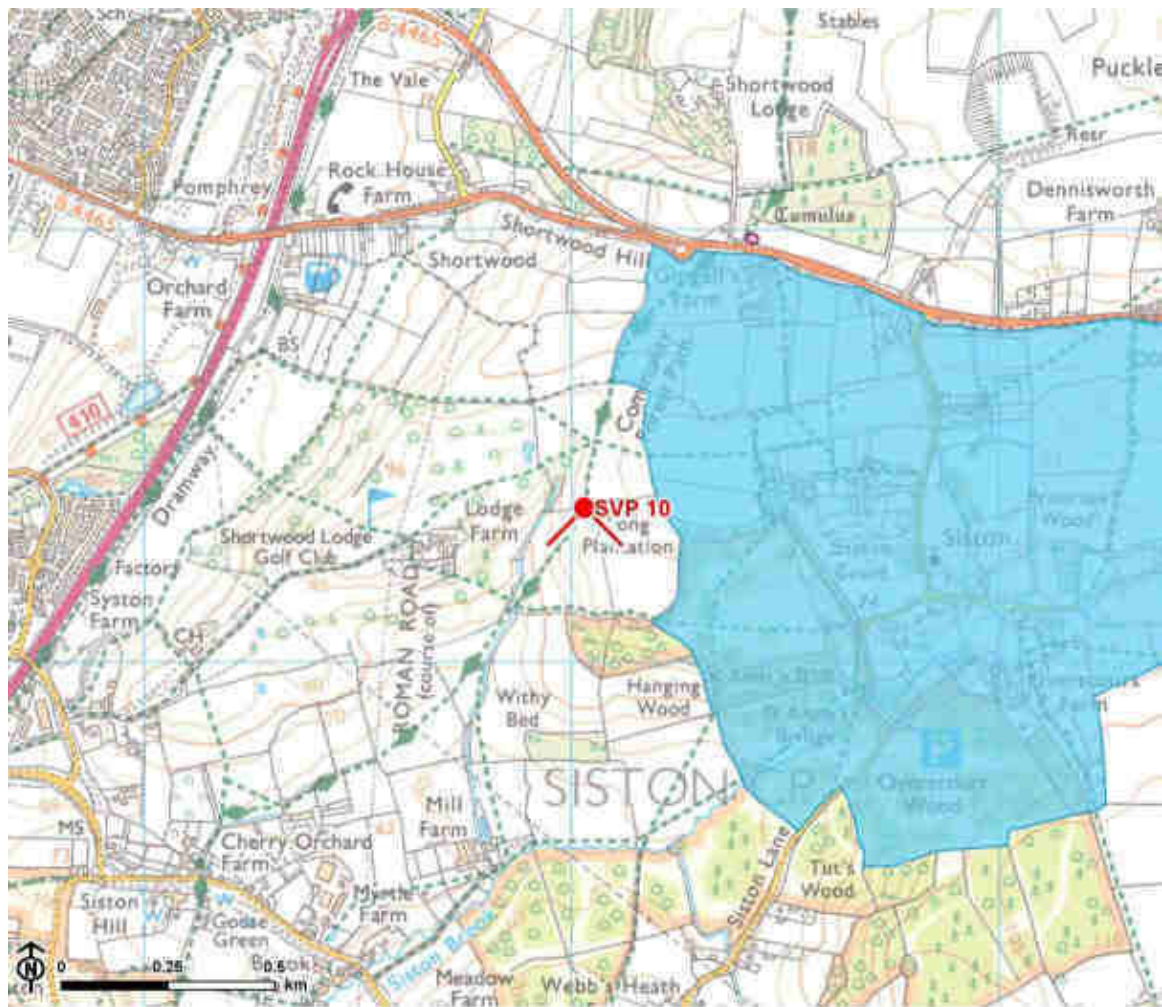





Figure 3.42: Detailed map of the location of Strategic Viewpoint 10



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Mapcode number 12002214 01 18218

-  Conservation area
-  Scheduled monument
-  Strategic viewpoint and angle



Viewpoint Information

Grid reference: ST 68038 75351

View location: Forest of Avon Community Forest Path long distance footpath (PSN/16/40), west of Siston Court and south of Shortwood Hill.

View direction: View south and west across the Westerleigh Vale and Oldland Ridge (LCA 12) and along the Siston Brook valley towards the Kingswood Vale (LCA 14).

Relationship with Visually Important Hillside (VIH): The viewpoint is located along the Pucklechurch Ridge VIH.

Experienced by: Recreational users of the Community Forest Path (PSN/16/40).

Figure 3.43: View Composition of Strategic Viewpoint 10

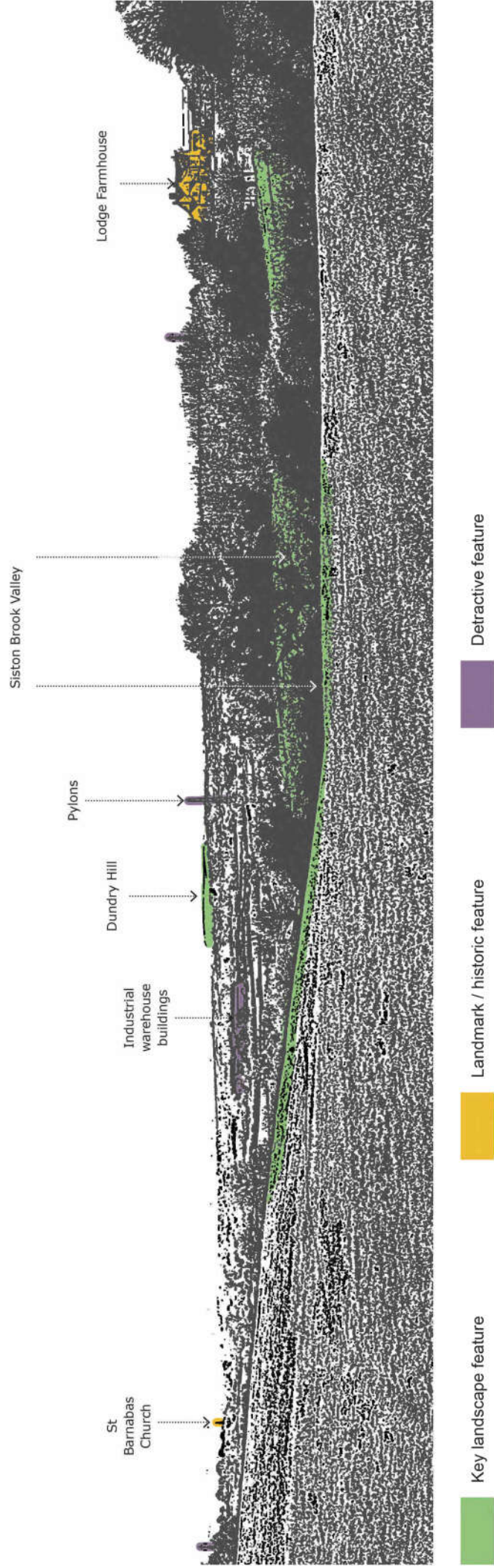
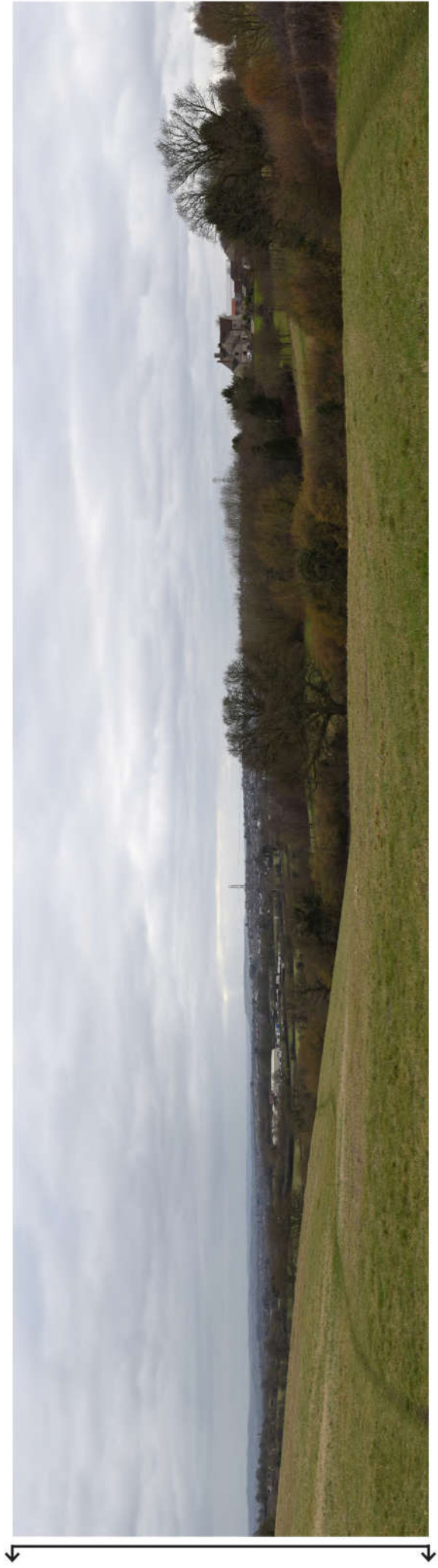


Figure 3.44: Full Panoramic Photograph of Strategic Viewpoint 10



Strategic Viewpoint 10: Siston Common



Strategic Viewpoint 10 (continued)

Characteristics

Popularity, access and facilities

- Views from this viewpoint are representative of those described in LCA 12: Westerleigh Vale and Oldland Ridge, which notes that the Pucklechurch Ridge *"provides expansive panoramic views over the area."*
- The viewpoint can be accessed via The Forest of Avon Community Forest Path promoted route (PSN/16/40) as well as a number of other footpaths that cross the Siston Brook Valley. The adjacent disused Shortwood Lodge golf course is popular for recreation, and a number of informal paths and tracks have been formed across the hillside.
- Car parking is available in Overscourt Wood (part of the Forest of Avon Community Forest) approximately 1km to the south-east of the viewpoint.

Quality, value and features of the view

- An elevated viewpoint located along the Pucklechurch Ridge VIH and on the upper eastern slopes of the Siston Brook Valley, which facilitates a panoramic view (180°) south and west across the valley (characterised by undulating landform, small pastoral fields defined by a strong hedgerow structure and blocks of woodland that impart a rural character) towards the urban edges of Warmley and Kingswood (part of the Bristol conurbation) in middle-distance views.
- The spire of St Barnabas Church (Grade II listed) in Warmley (2.2km away) forms a landmark feature in views to the south. The tower of Church of the Holy Trinity (Grade II* listed) in Kingswood (3km away) can be seen in glimpsed views above woodland to the west. In long distance views to the south, Pen Hill transmitter mast on the Mendip Hills AONB is a tall vertical feature on the skyline.
- The seventeenth-century Lodge Farmhouse (Grade II listed), seen in views 0.3km to the south-west, contributes to the traditional, rural character of the view.

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- Siston Court (Grade I listed) and Conservation Area is located 0.2km to the east; however, views of these features are limited by vegetation (including specimen trees associated with the designed parkland surrounding the historic house), although an appreciation of the setting of Siston Court is still afforded.
- Light-coloured industrial warehouse buildings in near distance views, as well as a series of pylons scattered across the landscape detract from the overall composition of the view.

Summary

The Community Forest Path (Siston) 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 likely to attract many visitors; and it provides a panoramic view that takes in the notable landscape features of the Siston Brook Valley, Lodge Farmhouse, the setting of Siston Court, and the landmark features of St Barnabas Church and Church of the Holy Trinity.

Strategic Viewpoint 11

Westerleigh Hill

Figure 3.45: Location of Strategic Viewpoint 11 and landscape character context

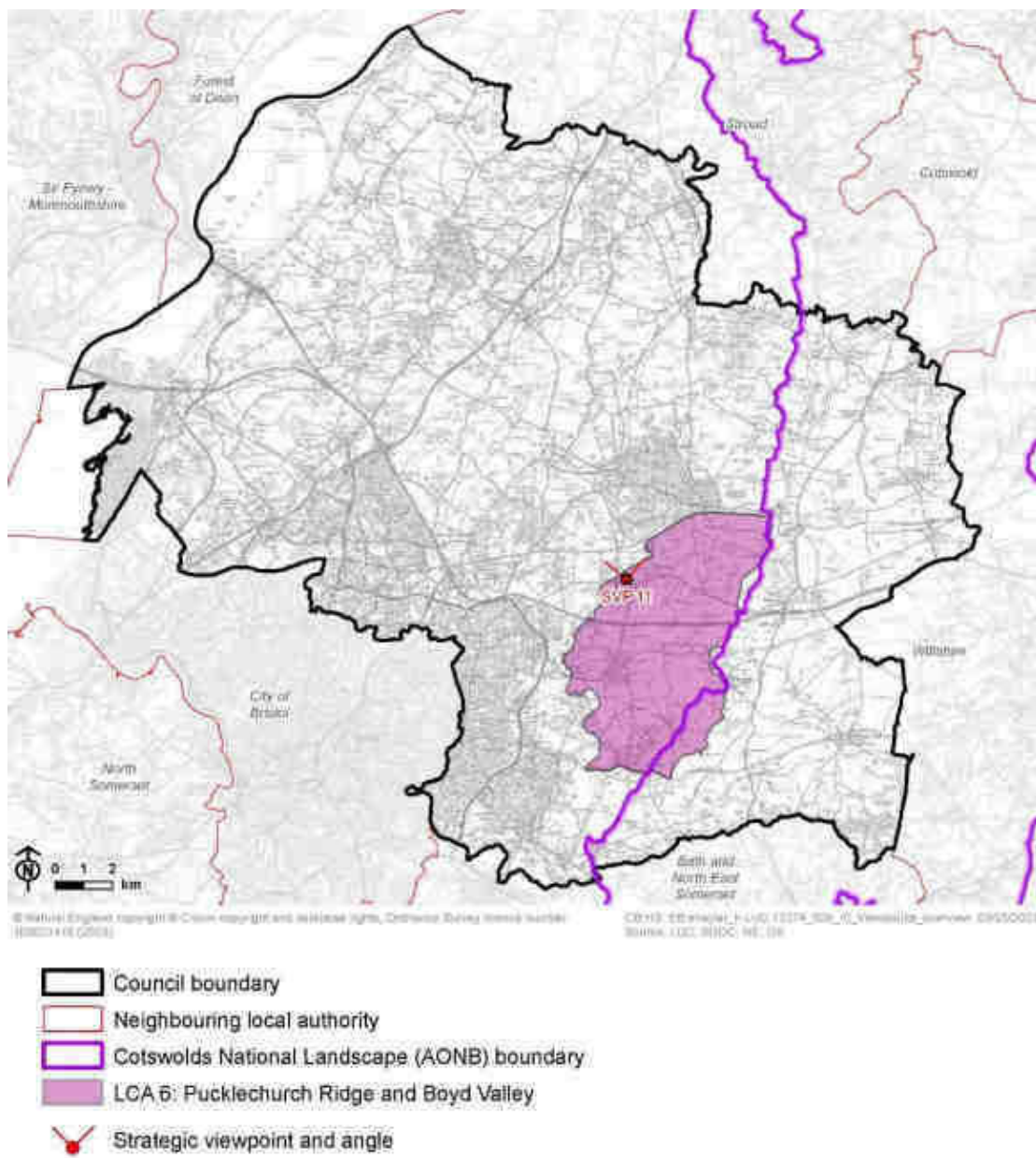


Figure 3.46: Detailed map of the location of Strategic Viewpoint 11



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Mapcode number: 1000204N, 3123

 Strategic viewpoint and angle



Viewpoint Information

Grid reference: ST 70319 79248

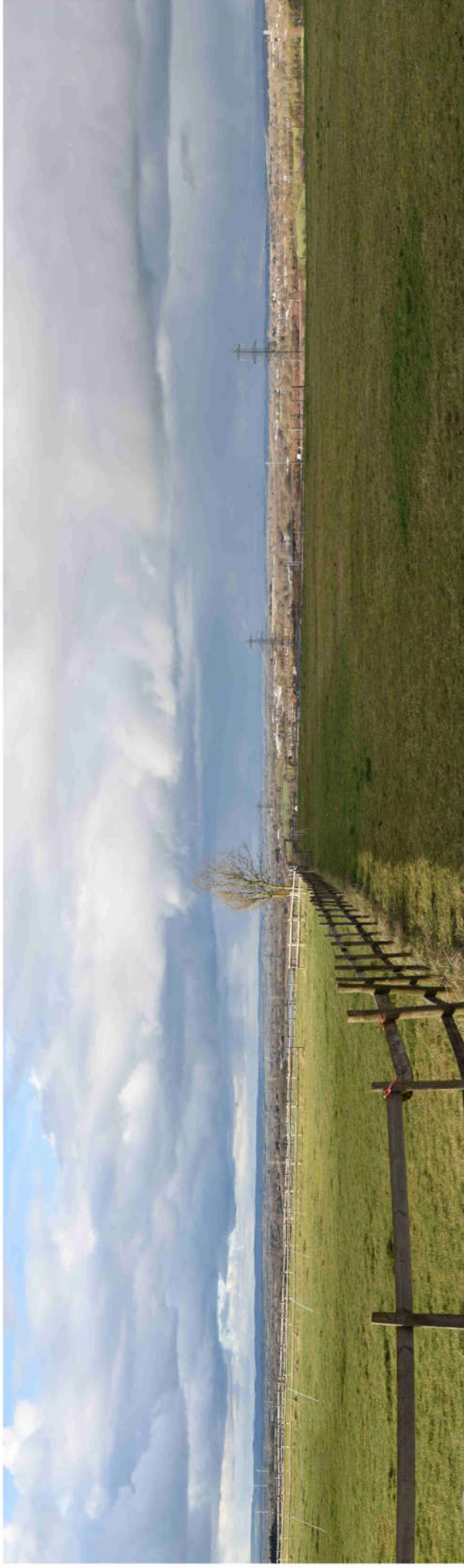
View location: Westerleigh Hill, north-east Bristol.

View direction: View north and west over Westerleigh Vale and Oldland Ridge (LCA 12), and Yate Vale (LCA 8).

Relationship with Visually Important Hillside (VIH): The viewpoint is located along the Pucklechurch Ridge VIH.

Experienced by: Residents along Westerleigh Road, recreational users of public footpath LWE/44/10 and transient views for cyclists and motorists travelling along Westerleigh Road.

Figure 3.47: View Composition of Strategic Viewpoint 11

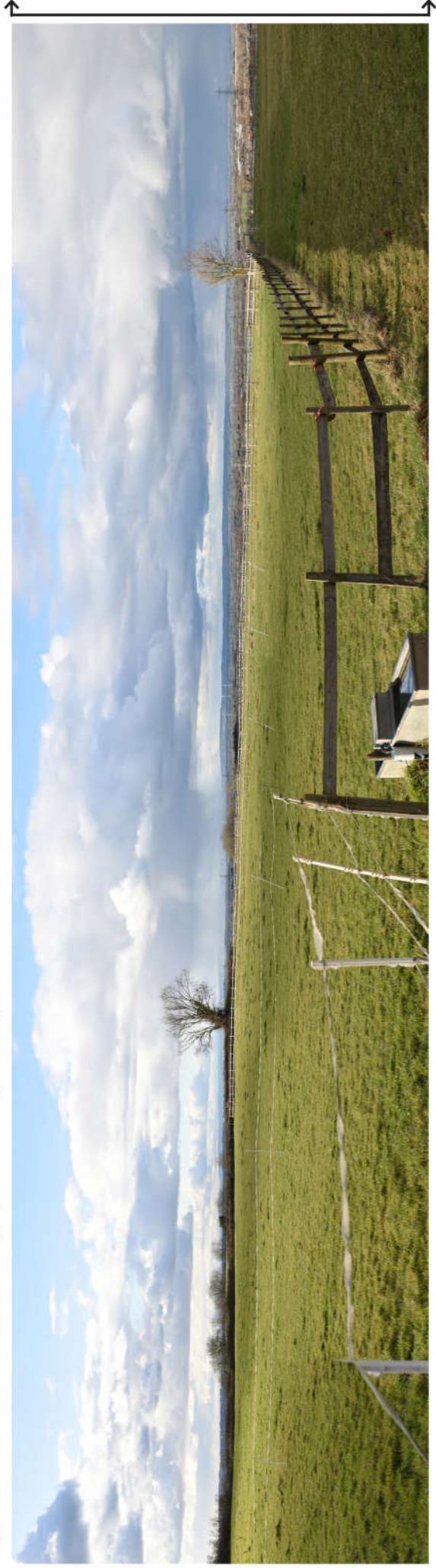


Key landscape feature

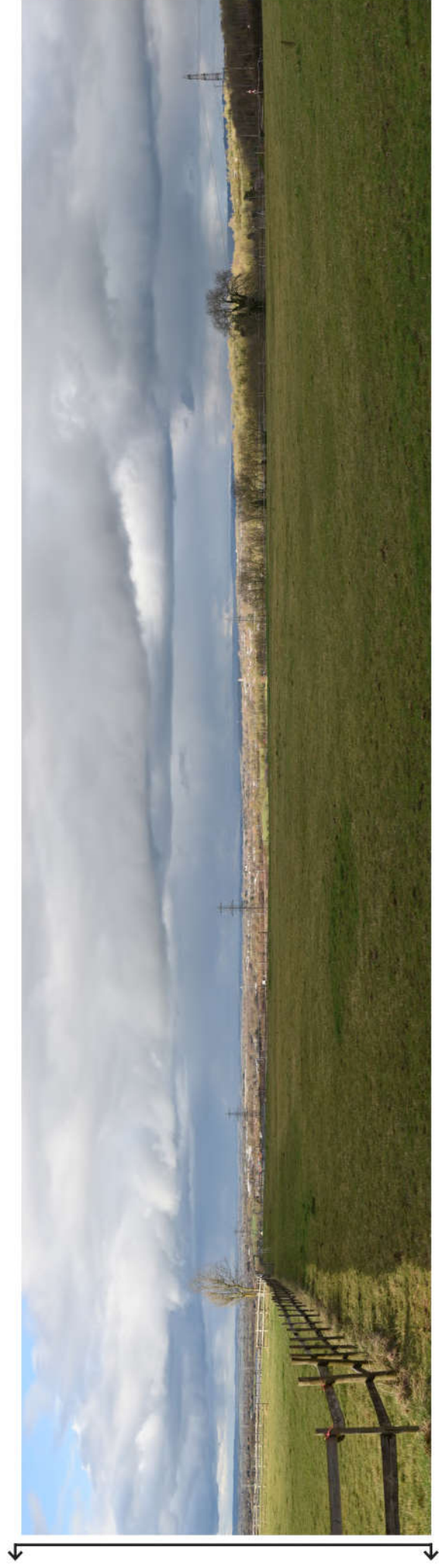
Landmark / historic feature

Detractive feature

Figure 3.48: Full Panoramic Photograph of Strategic Viewpoint 11



Strategic Viewpoint 11: Westerleigh Hill



Strategic Viewpoint 11 (continued)

Characteristics

Popularity, access and facilities

- Views from this viewpoint are representative of those described in LCA 12: Westerleigh Vale and Oldland Ridge, which notes that *"panoramic views over the adjacent Westerleigh Vale are possible, particularly from...footpaths along the scarp edge"*.
- The viewpoint is publicly accessible, located on footpath LWE/44/10, off Westerleigh Road.

Relationship with the Cotswolds National Landscape (CNL)

- The viewpoint is not within the CNL but there are intermittent glimpsed views of the Cotswold Scarp between woodland on the horizon in views to the north-east.
- Views of the Cotswold Scarp are considered to be a special quality of the designated landscape, as set out in the CNL Management Plan.

Quality, value and features of the view

- An elevated viewpoint located on the Pucklechurch Ridge VIH, enabling a panoramic view (180°) north across the adjacent lower-lying vale landscape (characterised by flat, small and regular fields with mature hedgerows, hedgerow trees, blocks of woodland and dispersed settlement).
- The Severn Ridges VIH forms a backdrop to the north-west, with the distant Brecon Beacons in South Wales partially visible beyond. The lower, rounded hillside of Baden Hill, clothed in woodland, can be seen to the north, forming a notable landscape feature.
- The viewpoint provides views of landmark features including the top of St James Church tower (Grade I listed) in Westerleigh (0.5km away) to the north-west, and

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the square tower of St John's Church (Grade I listed) in Yate Conservation Area which rises above surrounding development to the north-east 3.8km away.

- The rural landscape is punctuated by built development including large-scale warehouses, houses, solar farms, a locally distinctive group of three wind turbines on Tytherington Plain, and numerous pylon lines that form detractive features to the overall composition of the view.

Summary

The Westerleigh Hill 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 public footpath; it provides some appreciation of the Cotswold National Landscape; and it provides a panoramic view that takes in the notable landscape features of the vale, the Severn Ridges (including Baden Hill), the hills of South Wales, and the landmark features of St James Church and St John's Church.

Strategic Viewpoint 12

Hanging Hill

Figure 3.49: Location of Strategic Viewpoint 12 and landscape character context

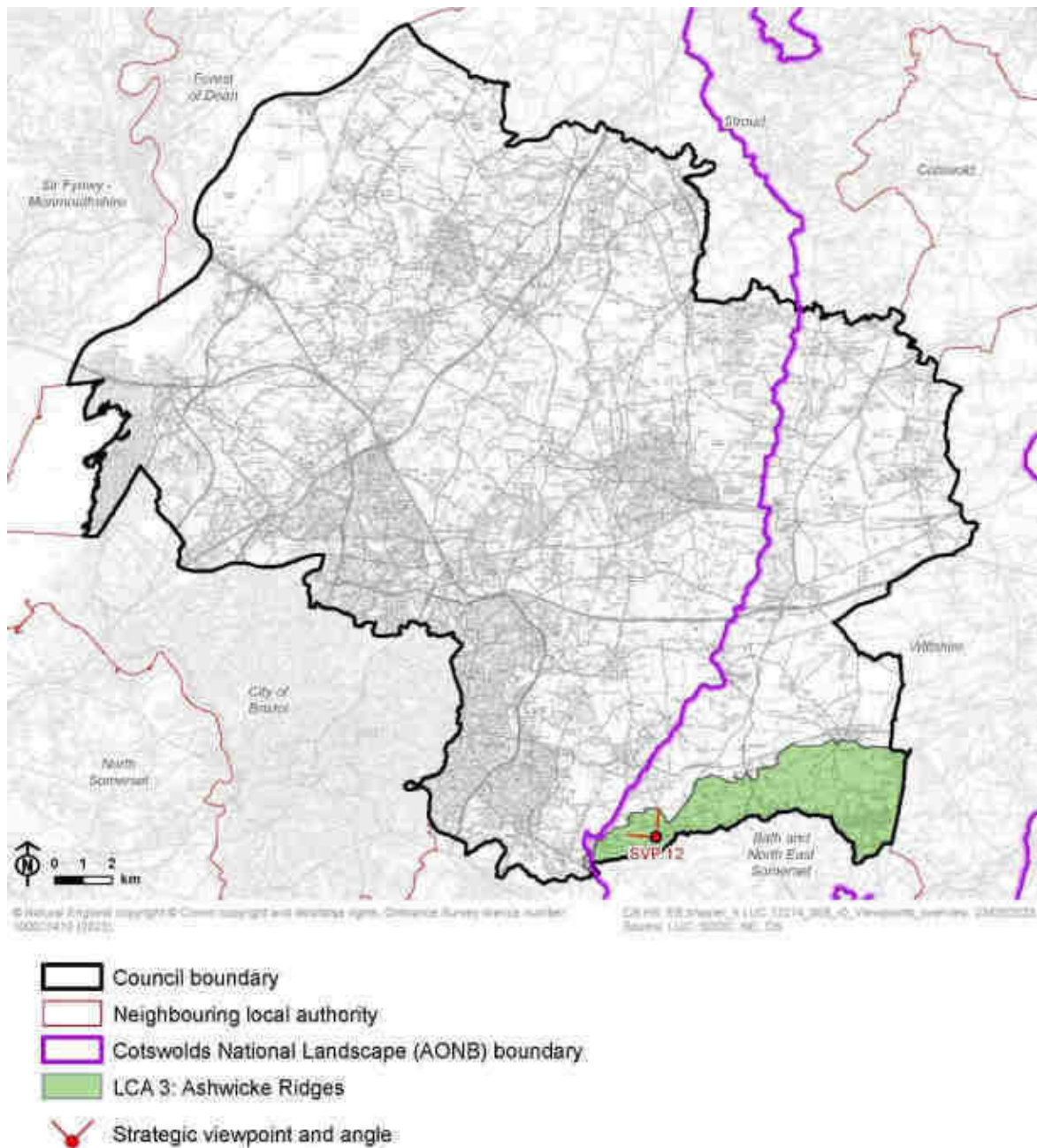
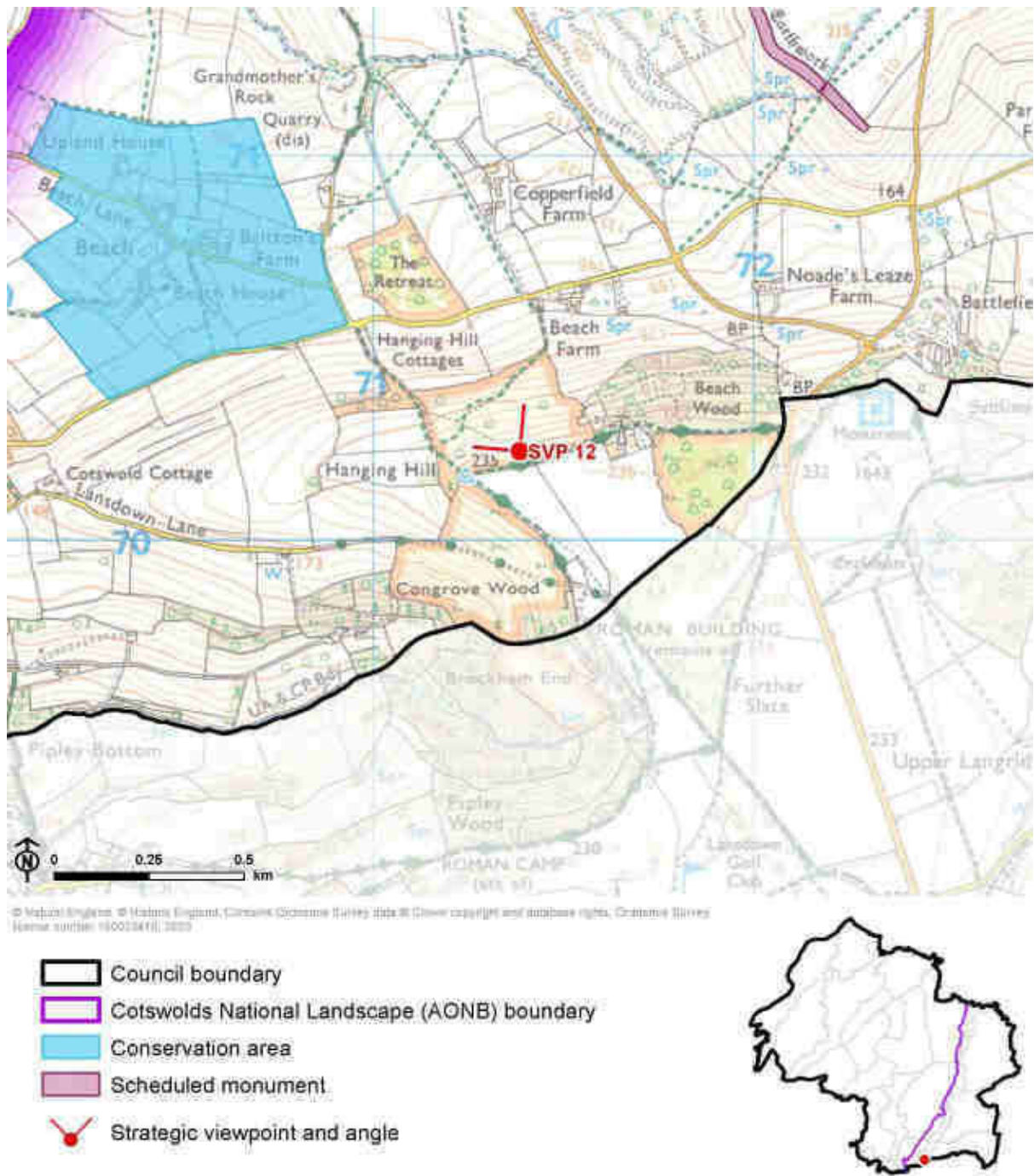


Figure 3.50: Detailed map of the location of Strategic Viewpoint 12



Viewpoint Information

Grid reference: ST 71386 70230

View location: Hanging Hill, Lansdown.

View direction: View north-west over the Ashwicke Ridges (LCA 3) and the Golden Valley (LCA 11), and north towards the Cotswold Scarp (LCA 4).

Relationship with Visually Important Hillside (VIH): The viewpoint is located along the Ashwicke Ridges VIH and provides views north-east towards the Cotswold Scarp VIH, and views north-west over the eastern part of Oldland Ridge VIH.

Experienced by: Recreational users of the Cotswold Way National Trail and the open access land on Hanging Hill.

Figure 3.51: View Composition of Strategic Viewpoint 12

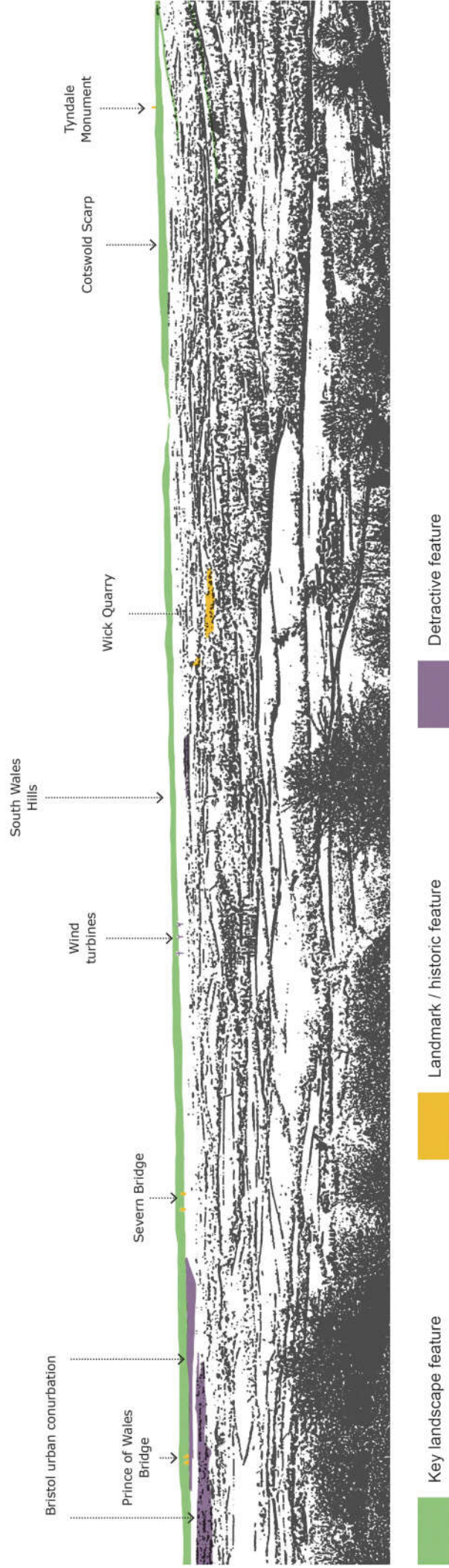
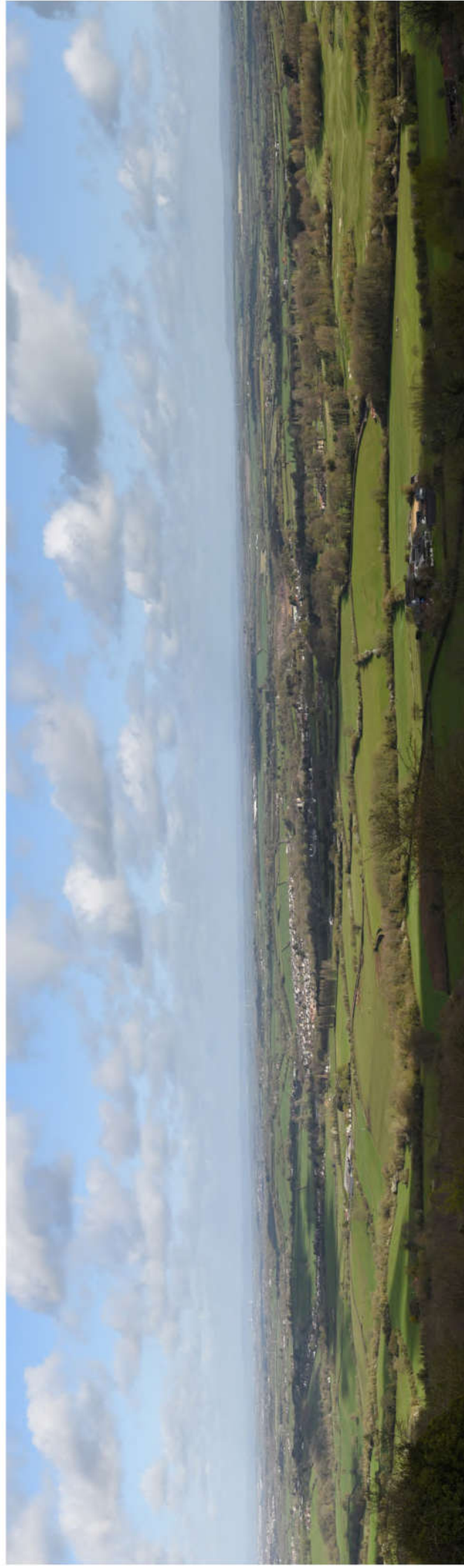
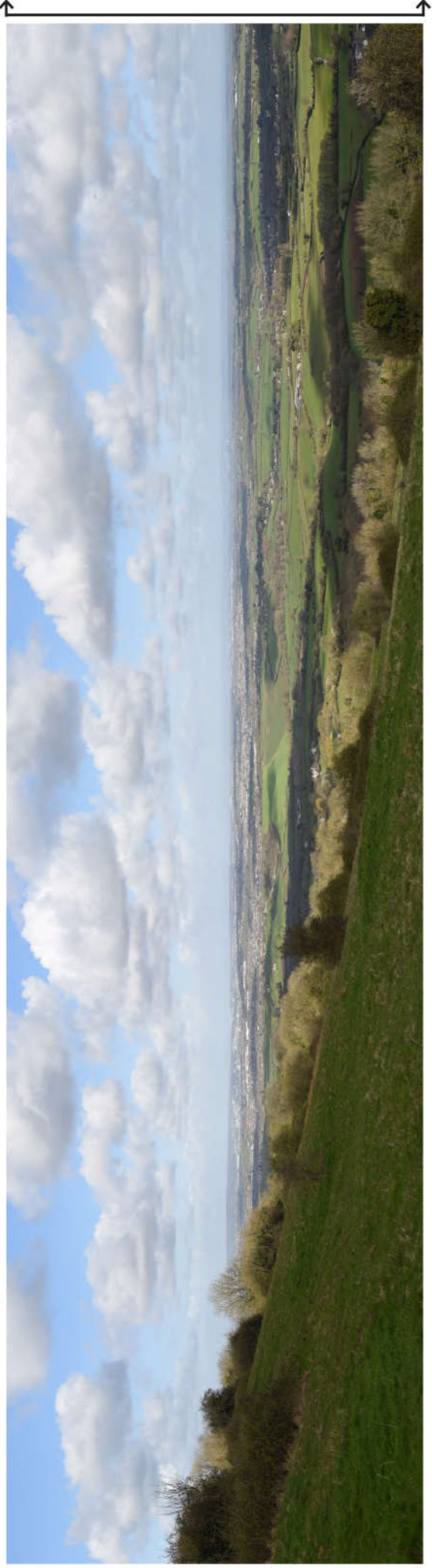
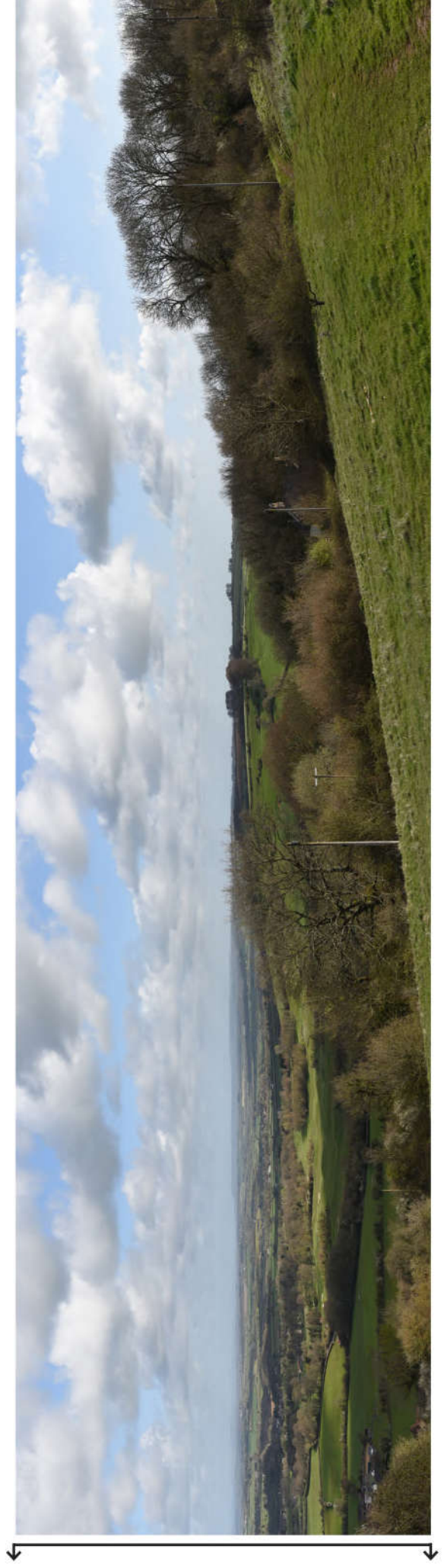


Figure 3.52: Full Panoramic Photograph of Strategic Viewpoint 12



Strategic Viewpoint 12: Hanging Hill



Strategic Viewpoint 12 (continued)

Characteristics

Popularity, access and facilities

- Views from this viewpoint are representative of those described in LCA 3: Ashwicke Ridges, which notes that “*extensive views are possible over the area from the open upper ridges*”.
- The viewpoint is publicly accessible, located on the Cotswold Way National Trail and on open access land. It is marked on Google Maps as ‘Hanging Hill’ and is likely to attract many visitors as a result.
- A bench is provided nearby to facilitate enjoyment of the view and a commemorative way marker and information board for the Battle of Lansdown is located 255m to the west to provide interpretation of the landscape.

Relationship with the Cotswolds National Landscape (CNL)

- The viewpoint is located within the CNL and provides both views to and from the designated landscape, including views north-east along the Cotswold Scarp.
- Views to and from the Cotswold Scarp are considered to be a special quality of the designated landscape, as set out in the CNL Management Plan.

Quality, value and features of the view

- Hanging Hill is the highest point within South Gloucestershire and so this elevated viewpoint provides a sweeping panoramic view (180°) along the Ashwicke Ridges VIH to the north and north-west over a large proportion of the district. In middle-distance views, the adjacent Golden Valley is seen to the north-west (characterised by a mosaic of irregular, medium sized mixed fields defined by mature hedgerows, interspersed with scattered woodlands, copses and shelterbelts, and a dispersed settlement pattern of scattered farmsteads). The undulating slopes of the Cotswold Scarp are seen in views to the north that mainly features the managed landscape of Tracy Park Golf Course, with the

Chapter 3 Analysis of Strategic Viewpoints

distinctive landform of the scarp on the horizon. Longer distance views to the north-west look across the shallow ridges, valleys and vale landscapes of South Gloucestershire where small settlements are scattered across the landscape, and the urban sprawl of the Bristol conurbation forming a dominant feature in views to the north-west. The view extends towards the levels and estuary with the distinctive hillsides of South Wales forming a distinctive backdrop.

- The Severn Bridge and Prince of Wales Bridge form distant landmark features over 24km away.
- A locally distinctive group of three wind turbines near Tytherington are visible 15km away against the relatively low-lying landform; although do not detract from the overall composition of the view given the breadth of the view.
- The viewpoint location is historically significant, associated with The Battle of Lansdown (1643), with a Registered Battlefield located 255m to the west of the viewpoint.

Summary

The Hanging Hill viewpoint is categorised as a SVP as it significantly meets all of the criteria. It is a popular, well known and recorded viewpoint and likely to attract many visitors; 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 with a bench, commemorative way marker and information board facilitating enjoyment and interpretation of the view; it allows appreciation of the Cotswold National Landscape and provides a notable view from the designated landscape; it provides a panoramic view that takes in notable landscape features and landmark features across most of South Gloucestershire and extends to the hills of South Wales; and it has historic associations with The Battle of Lansdown (1643).

Strategic Viewpoint 13

Little Sodbury Hillfort

Figure 3.53: Location of Strategic Viewpoint 13 and landscape character context

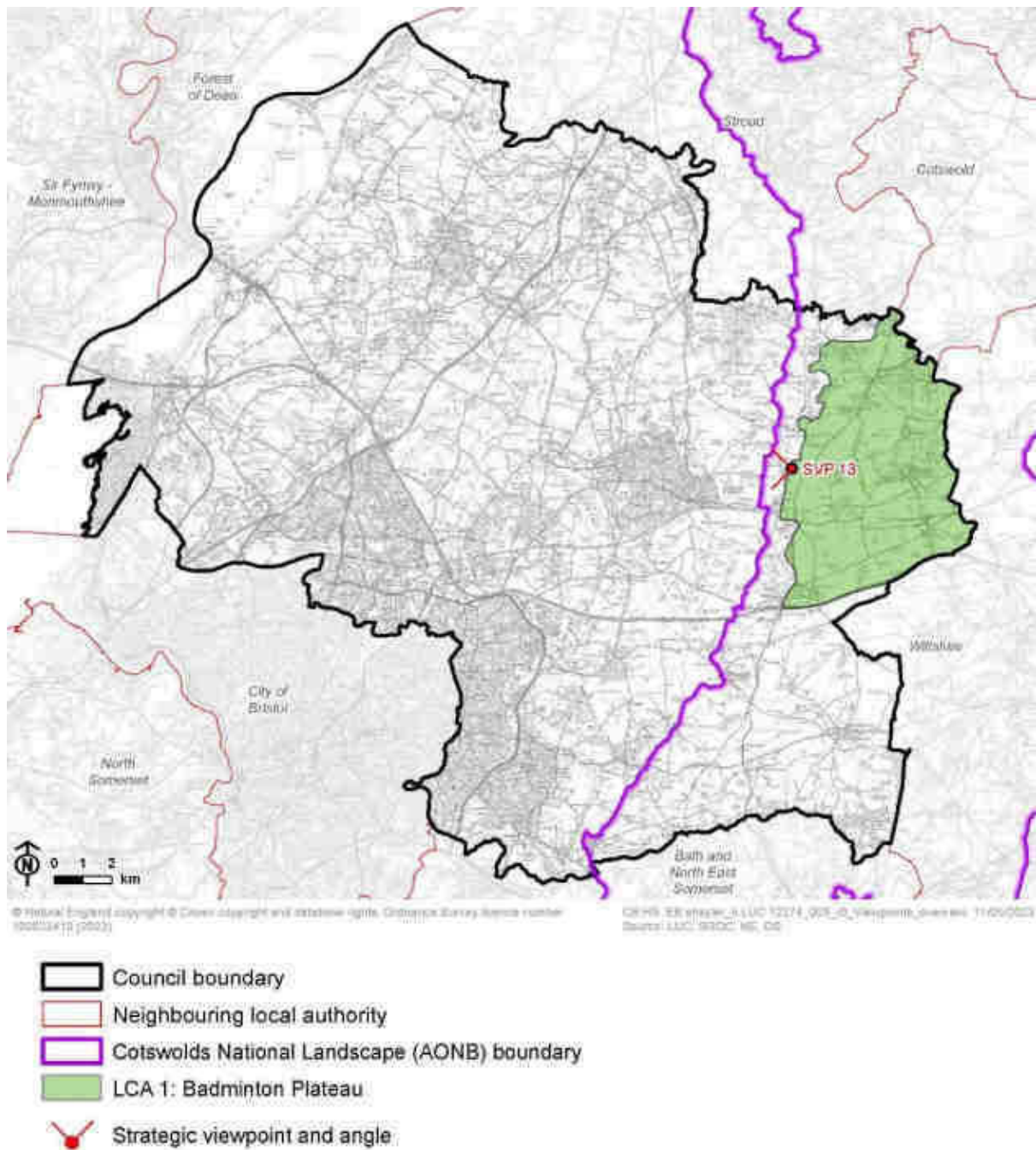
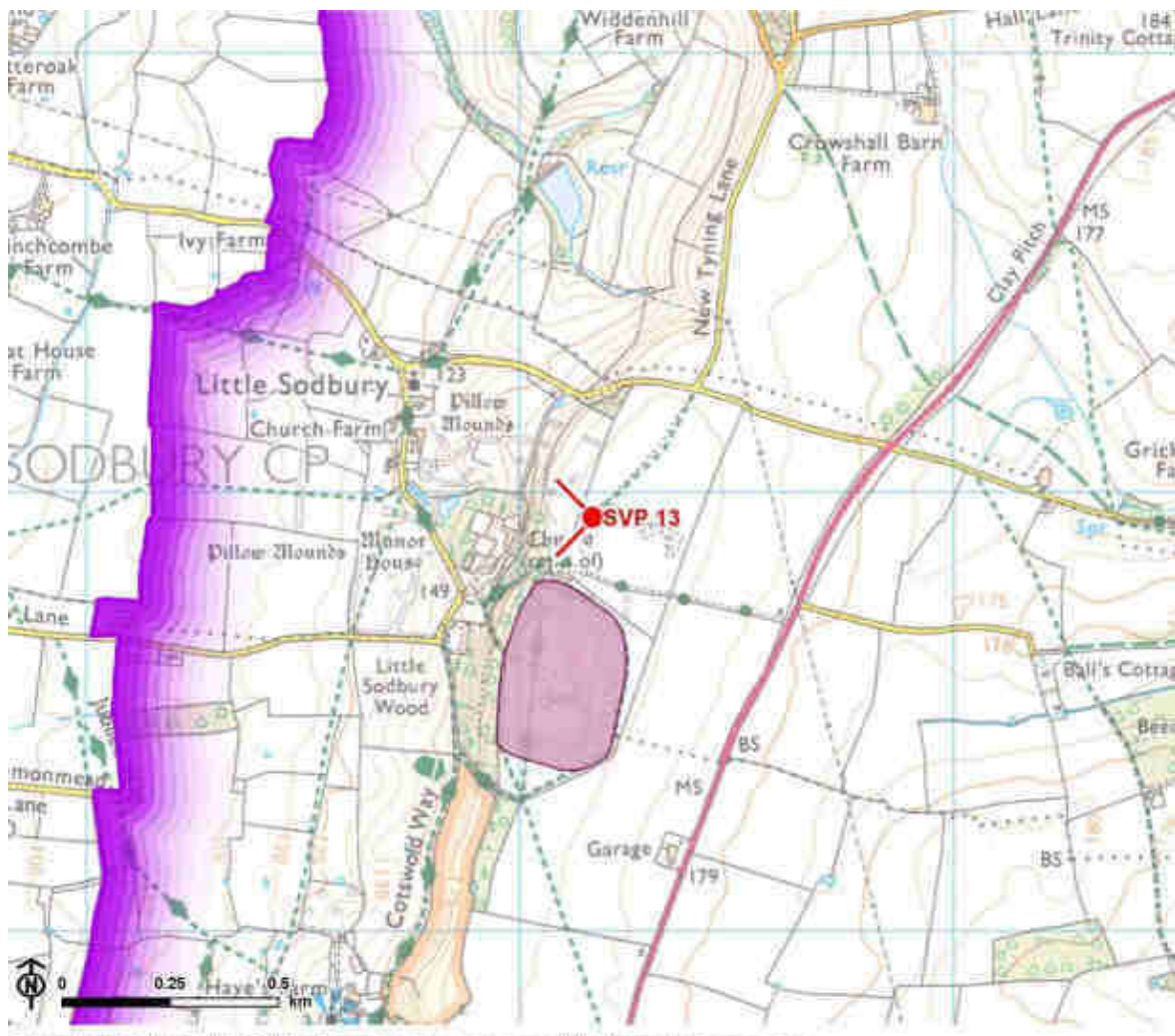





Figure 3.54: Detailed map of the location of Strategic Viewpoint 13



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



Viewpoint Information

Grid reference: ST 76149 82994

View location: Public footpath LSL/11/10, north of Little Sodbury Hillfort.

View direction: View north, west, and south across the Wickwar Ridge and Vale (LCA 5) and along the Cotswold Scarp (LCA 4), with glimpsed views east into Badminton Plateau (LCA 1).

Relationship with Visually Important Hillside (VIH): The viewpoint is located on the plateau to the east of the Cotswold Scarp VIH and represents views experienced from this VIH.

Experienced by: Recreational users along public footpath LSL/11/10.

Figure 3.55: View Composition of Strategic Viewpoint 13

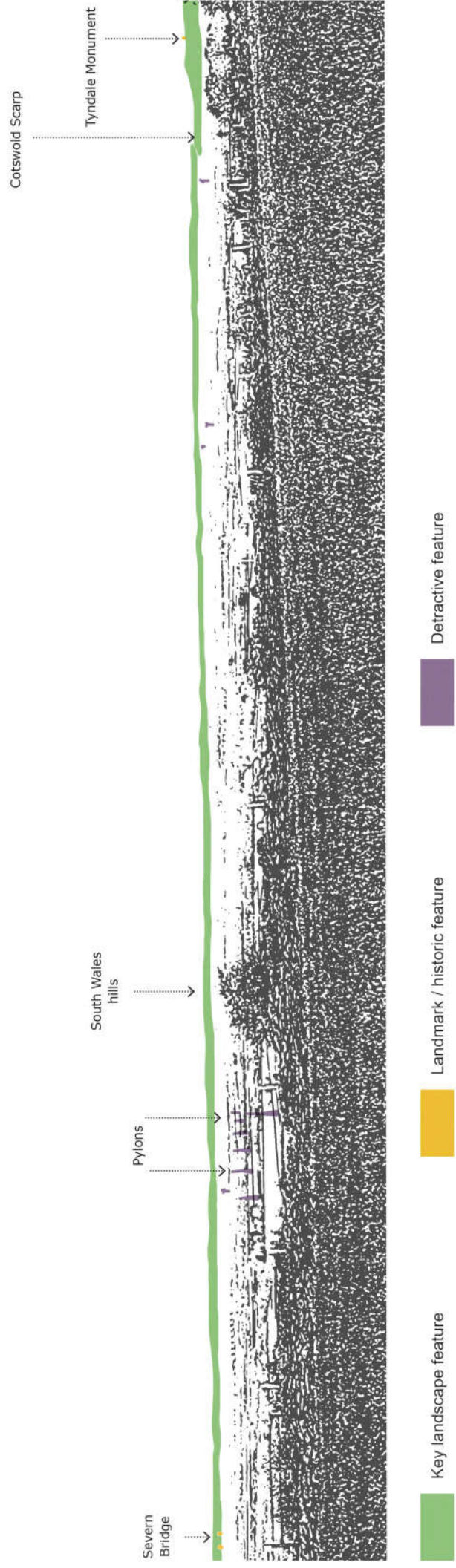
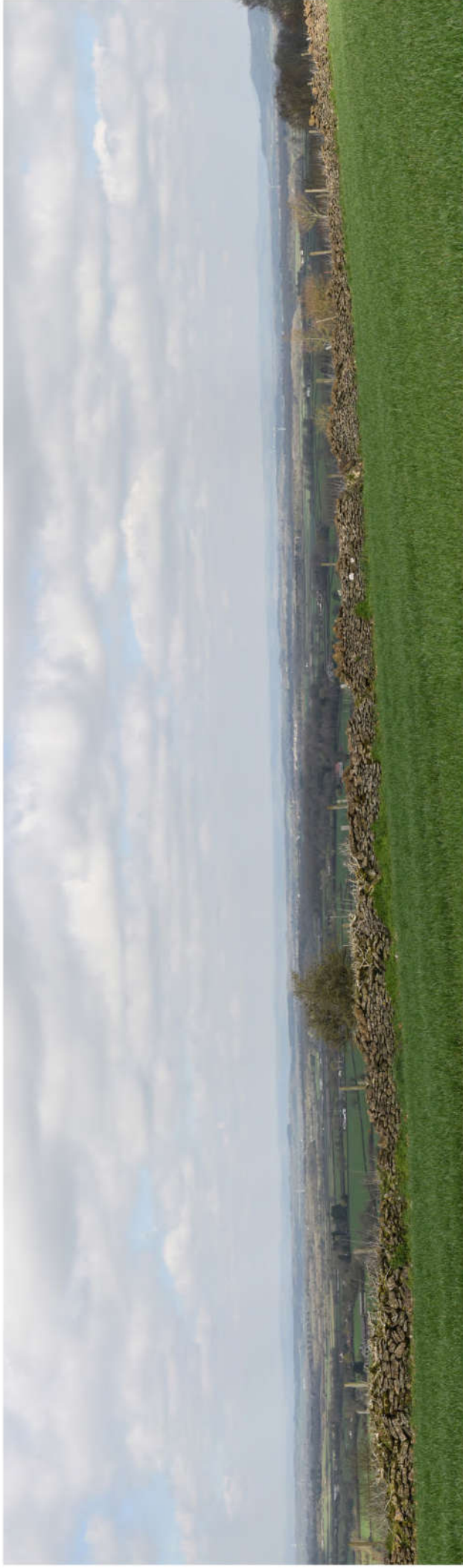
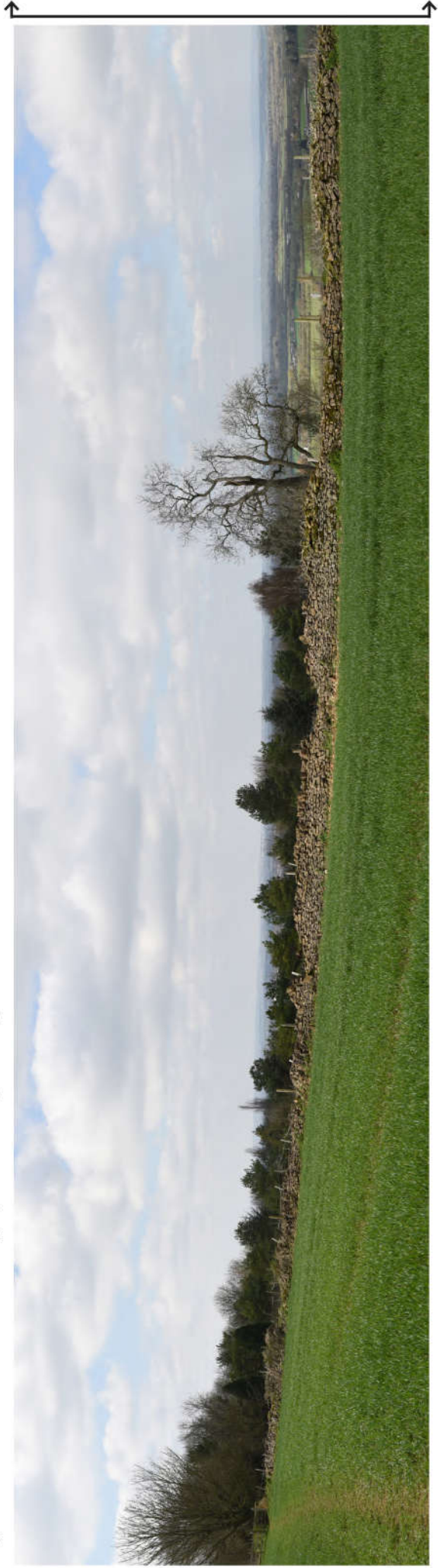
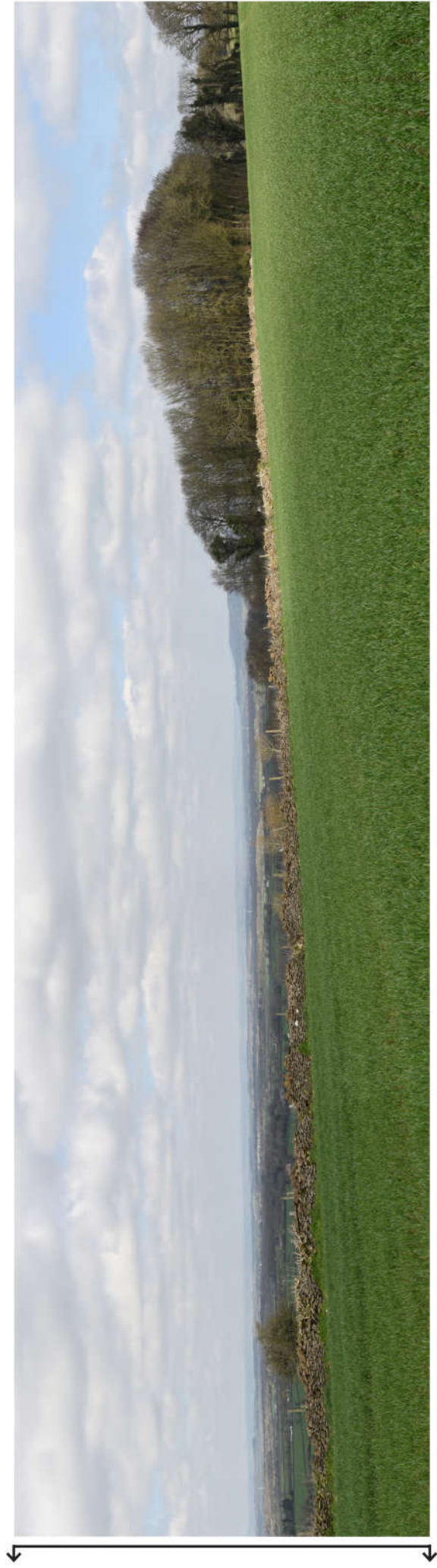


Figure 3.56: Full Panoramic Photograph of Strategic Viewpoint 13



Strategic Viewpoint 13: Little Sodbury Hillfort



Strategic Viewpoint 13 (continued)

Characteristics

Popularity, access and facilities

- Views from this viewpoint are representative of those described in LCA 1: Badminton Plateau, which notes that the *"extensive panoramic views from the Cotswold Scarp, over the lower vale landscapes to the west."*
- Little Sodbury Hillfort is noted on the National Trails website [See reference 7] as an attraction along the route of the Cotswold Way. It is also marked on Google Maps as 'Little Sodbury Hillfort' and is likely to attract many visitors as a result.
- The viewpoint is accessible via public footpath LSL/11/10. The Cotswold Way National Trail runs to the south of the viewpoint, passing across the hill fort and continuing along the ridgeline towards Old Sodbury.

Relationship with the Cotswolds National Landscape (CNL)

- The viewpoint is located within the CNL and is representative of views provided from the Cotswold Scarp, as well as enabling views within the designated landscape.
- Views from the Cotswold Scarp are considered to be a special quality of the designated landscape, as set out in the CNL Management Plan.

Quality, value and features of the view

- An elevated viewpoint which provides a panoramic view (180°) from the Cotswold Scarp VIH, over the lower-lying 'vale' landscape to the west (characterised by small-medium irregular shaped mixed fields defined by hedgerows, with mature trees, small woodlands and scattered farmsteads that contribute towards the rural character). There are relatively close glimpsed views into the Badminton Plateau to the east, although limited by the gently rising landform.

Chapter 3 Analysis of Strategic Viewpoints

- The Cotswold Scarp forms a distinctive landform feature in views north, jutting out beyond the treeline in foreground views. The profile of the South Wales hills forms a backdrop in views west, rising above the lower-lying landscape of South Gloucestershire and the Severn Ridges VIH which contains the vale landscape to the west.
- The Tyndale Monument forms a distant landmark feature that is visible on the Cotswold Scarp to the north approximately 13km away, and the Severn Bridge can be seen in long distance views to the west (20km away).
- The viewpoint is located 200m to the north of Little Sodbury Hillfort (a Scheduled Monument), and whilst outward views from the hillfort itself are restricted by woodland, visitors are likely to experience the view from the viewpoint.
- Pylon lines running from north to east, scattered single turbines, as well as distant views of traffic on the M5 motorway, slightly detract from the overall composition of the view.

Summary

The viewpoint near Little Sodbury Hillfort is categorised as a SVP as it meets most of the criteria to some extent. It is a popular, well known and recorded viewpoint and likely to attract many visitors; 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 public footpath and near a promoted footpath; it allows an appreciation of the Cotswold National Landscape and provides a notable view from the designated landscape; and it provides a panoramic view that takes in the notable landscape features of the vale, the Severn Ridges, the Cotswold Scarp, and the hills of South Wales, and the landmark features of the Tyndale Monument and Severn Bridge.

Strategic Viewpoint 14

St John's Church (Old Sodbury)

Figure 3.57: Location of Strategic Viewpoint 14 and landscape character context

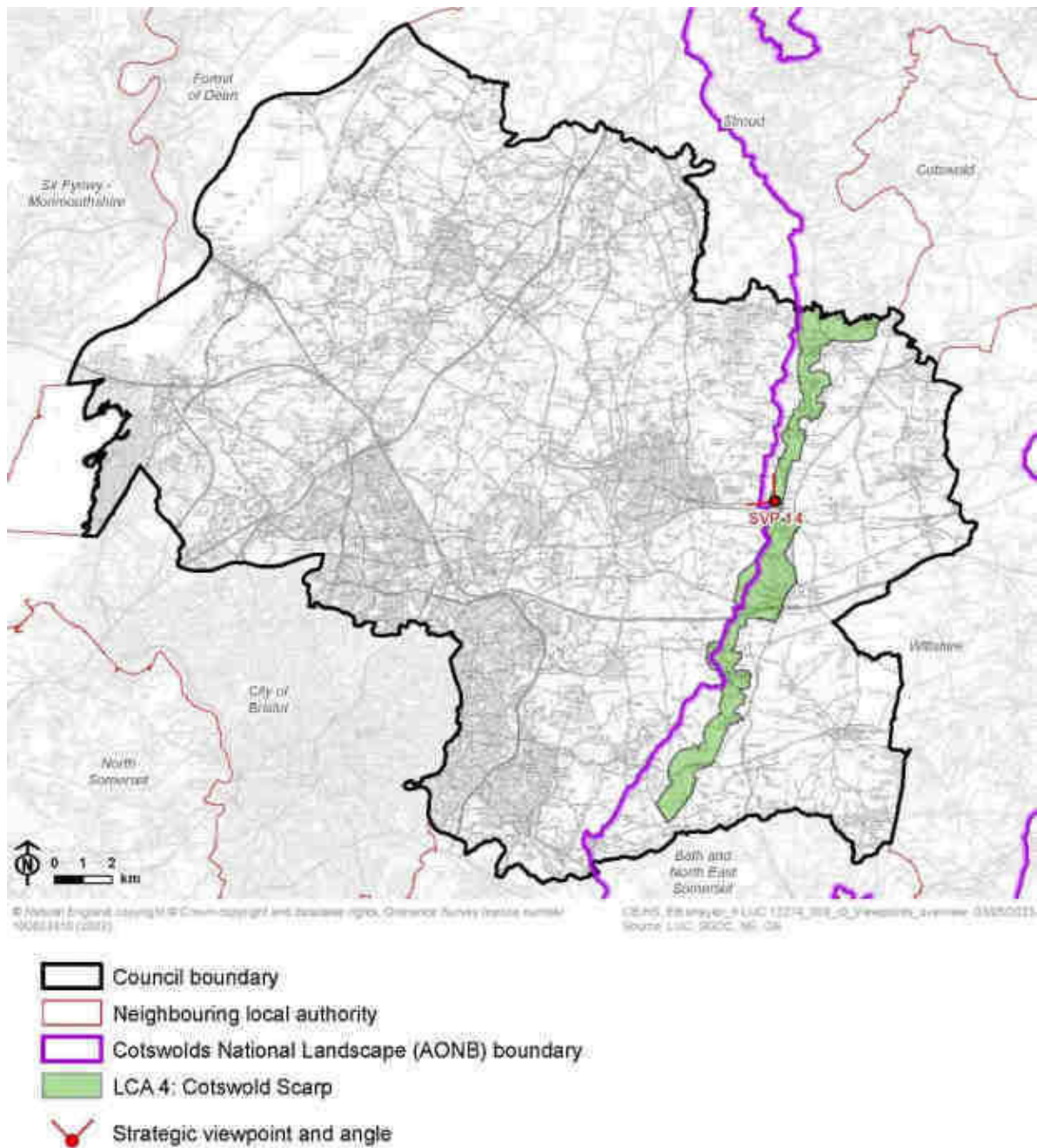
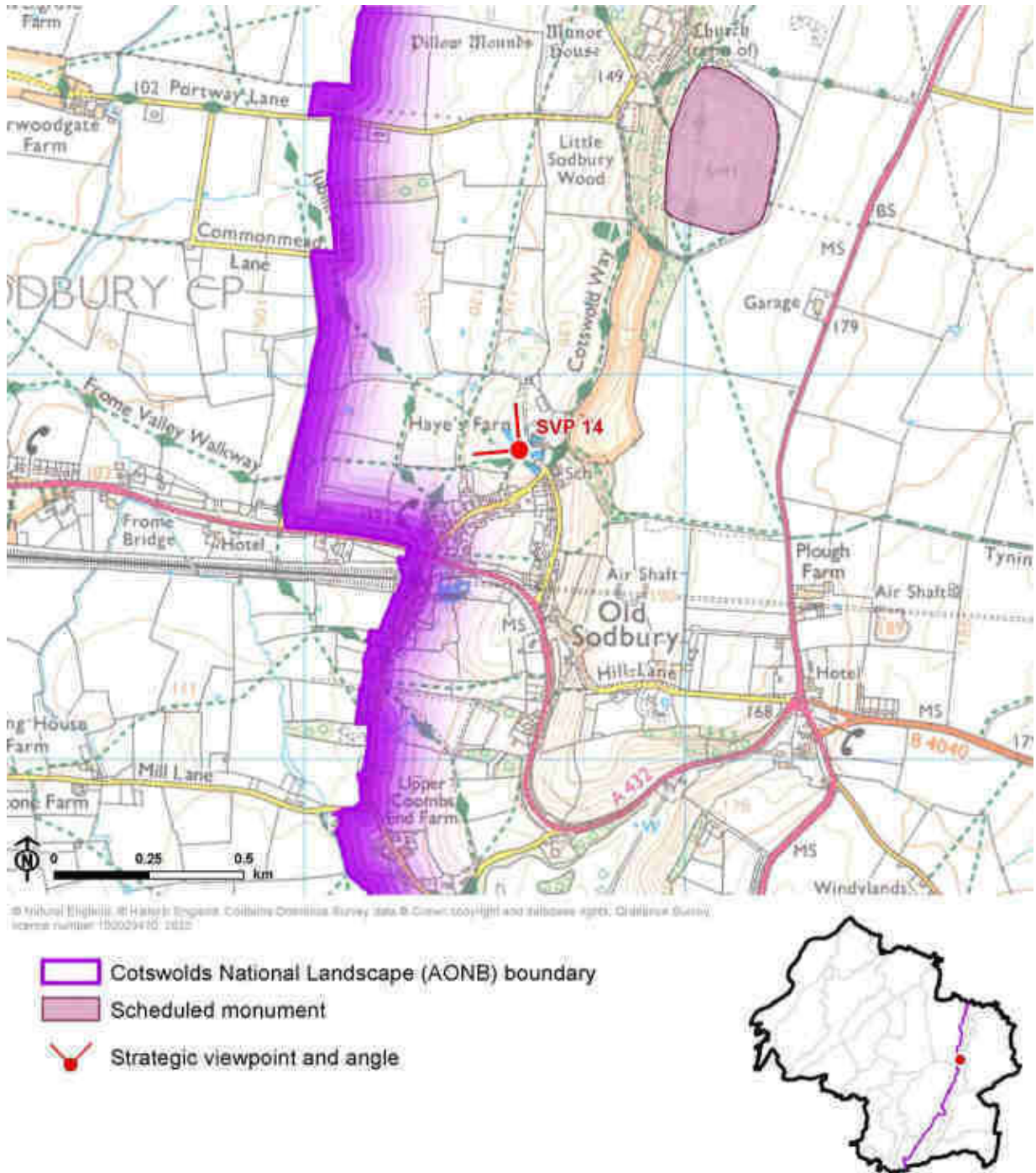


Figure 3.58: Detailed map of the location of Strategic Viewpoint 14



Viewpoint Information

Grid reference: ST 75537 81804

View location: St John's Church, Old Sodbury.

View direction: View west over the Wickwar Ridge and Vale (LCA 5), north along the Costwold Scarp (LCA 4) and south-west over the Pucklechurch Ridge and Boyd Valley (LCA 6).

Relationship with Visually Important Hillside (VIH): The viewpoint is located along the Cotswold Scarp VIH.

Experienced by: Recreational users of The Cotswold Way National Trail and adjacent public footpaths (LSO/52/60 and LSO/49/30), as well as visitors to St. John's Church.

Figure 3.59: View Composition of Strategic Viewpoint 14

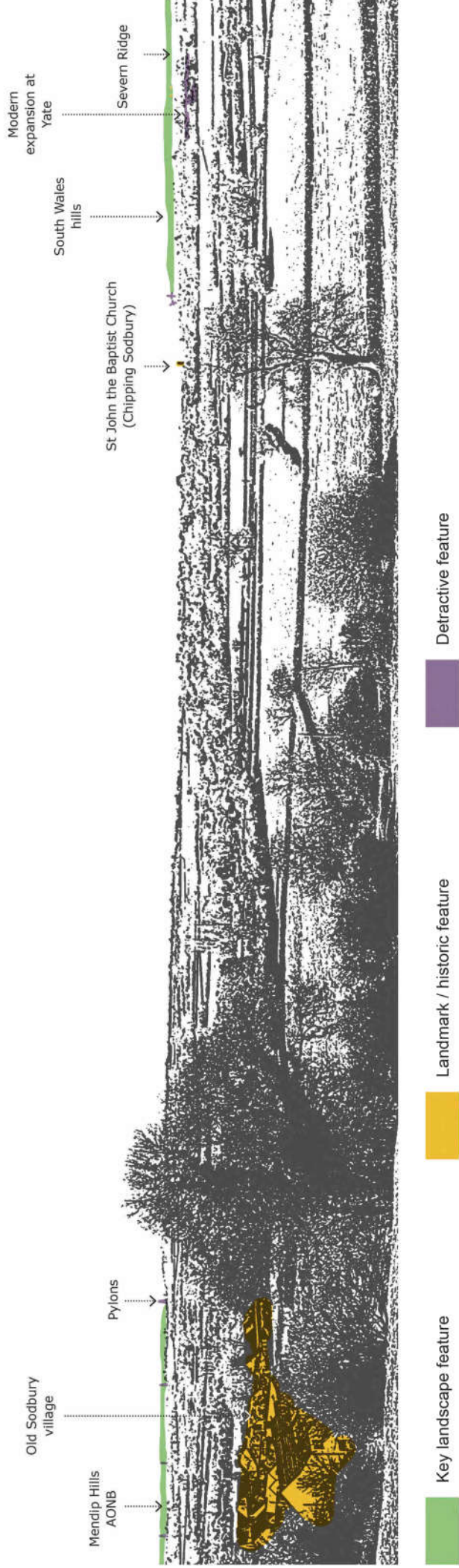
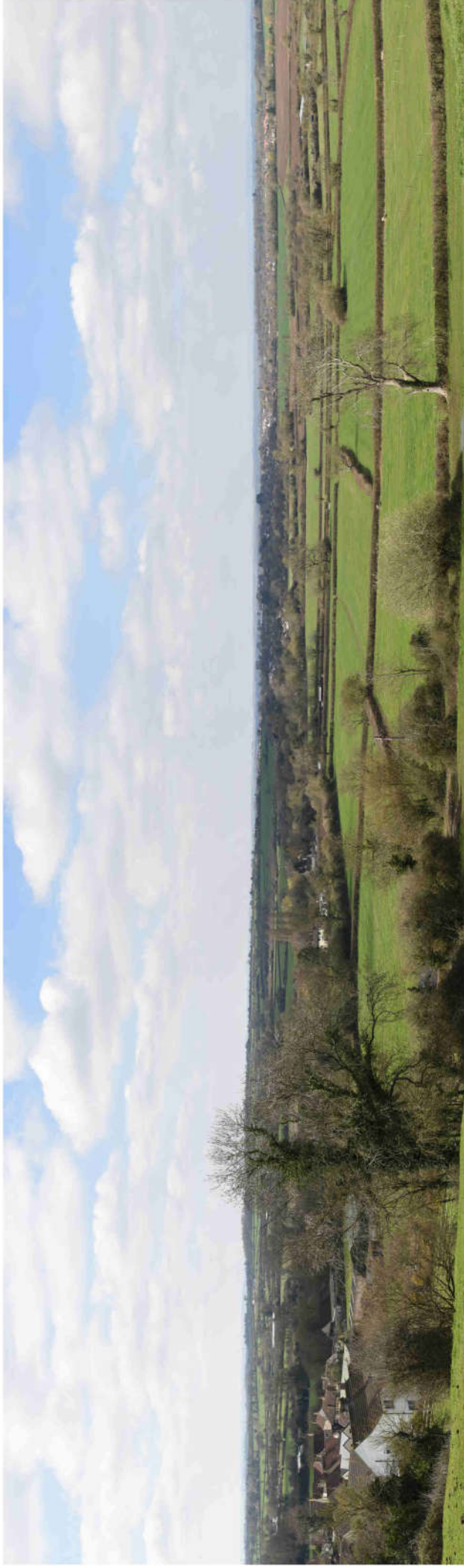
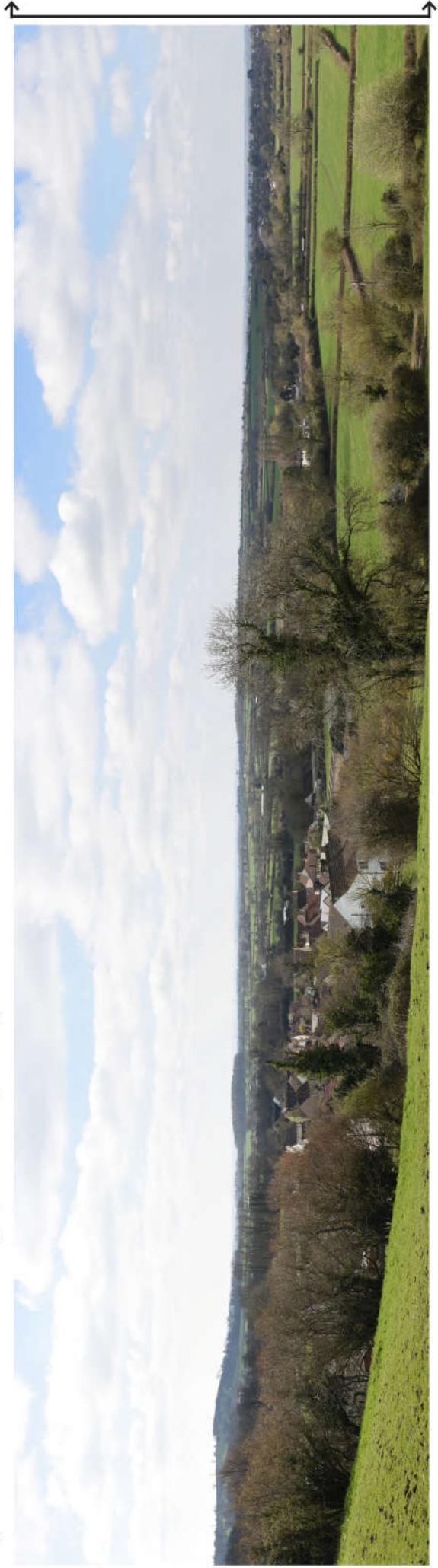
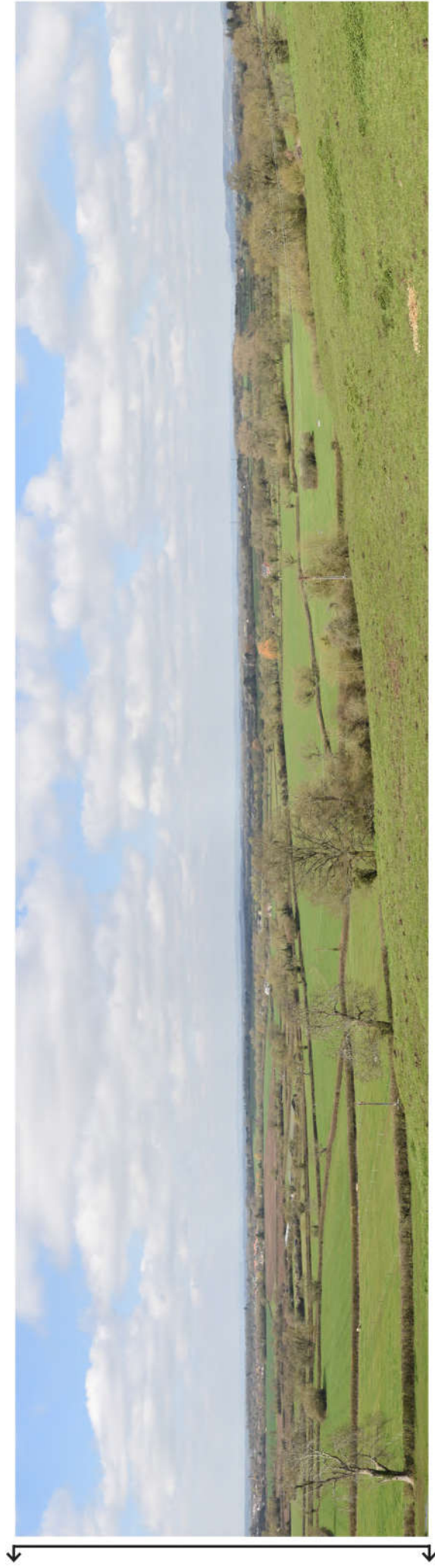


Figure 3.60: Full Panoramic Photograph of Strategic Viewpoint 14



Strategic Viewpoint 14: Old Sodbury Church



Strategic Viewpoint 14 (continued)

Characteristics

Popularity, access and facilities

- The viewpoint location is symbolised as a promoted viewpoint on OS mapping and is likely to attract many visitors as a result.
- LCA 4: Cotswold Scarp notes the significance of the viewpoint location and states *"In particular important viewpoints from the scarp include ...Old Sodbury Church... together with sections of the Cotswold Way permit expansive views of the vale landscape below and as far as Wales in the distance."*
- The viewpoint is publicly accessible, located adjacent to the churchyard of St John's Church with several public footpaths leading to it, including the Cotswold Way National Trail and the Jubilee Way locally promoted route.
- A bench and a toposcope are provided to facilitate enjoyment and interpretation of the view.

Relationship with Cotswolds National Landscape

- The viewpoint is located within the CNL and enables panoramic views to and from the designated landscape.
- Views from the Cotswold Scarp are considered to be a special quality of the designated landscape, as set out in the CNL Management Plan.

Quality, value and features of the view

- A relatively elevated viewpoint located on a small mound along the Cotswold Scarp VIH, enabling panoramic views (180°) to the west across the adjacent lower-lying 'vale' landscape (characterised by small-medium regular-shaped mixed fields defined by dense and managed hedgerows, interspersed with small woodlands and a sparse settlement pattern). To the south-west, the village of Old Sodbury is nestled within the backdrop of the undulating rural landscape rising up from the valley with the Pucklechurch Ridge and Boyd Valley beyond.

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- Views to the north extend along the wooded slope of the Cotswold Scarp with the distinctive landform feature prominent on the horizon. The profile of the South Wales hills forms a backdrop in views west, rising above the lower-lying landscape of South Gloucestershire.
- The viewpoint is located immediately adjacent to St John's Church (Grade II* listed), with intermittent views to the south/south-east towards the designed historic parkland associated with Dodington House RPG (Grade II* listed), located approximately 1.1km away.
- The tower of St John the Baptist Church (Grade I listed) within Chipping Sodbury Conservation Area (2.8km to the west) forms a landmark feature. The Tyndale Monument is a distant landmark feature that is visible on the Cotswold Scarp to the north approximately 14km away (within Stroud District). The top of the Severn Bridge can be seen rising above the treeline in long distance views to the west (20km away).
- New residential development on the edge of Yate, the three wind turbines on the Tytherington Plain, and distant views of pylon lines form low-key detractive elements in the overall composition of the view.

Summary

The St John's Church (Old Sodbury) viewpoint is categorised as a SVP as it meets most of the criteria to some extent. It is a popular, well known and recorded viewpoint and likely to attract many visitors; 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 promoted footpaths with a bench and toposcope facilitating enjoyment and interpretation of the view; it allows appreciation of the Cotswold National Landscape and provides a notable view from the designated landscape; and it provides a panoramic view that takes in the notable landscape features of the vale, the Pucklechurch Ridge and Boyd Valley, the Cotswold Scarp, the historic parkland associated with Dodington House and the hills of South Wales, and the landmark features of St John the Baptist Church, the Tyndale Monument and the Severn Bridge.

Strategic Viewpoint 15

St Arilda's Church (Oldbury-on-Severn)

Figure 3.61: Location of Strategic Viewpoint 15 and landscape character context

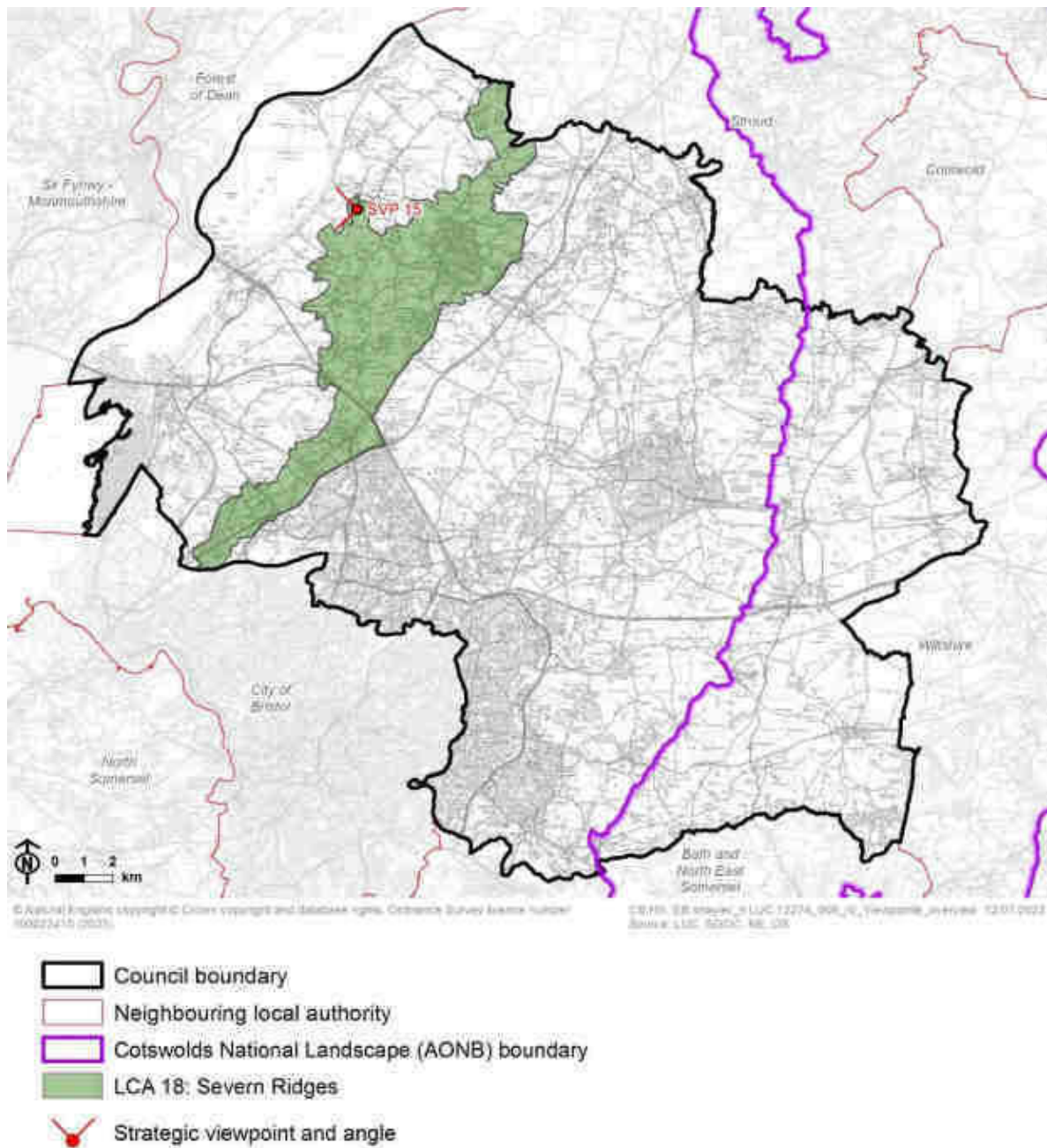
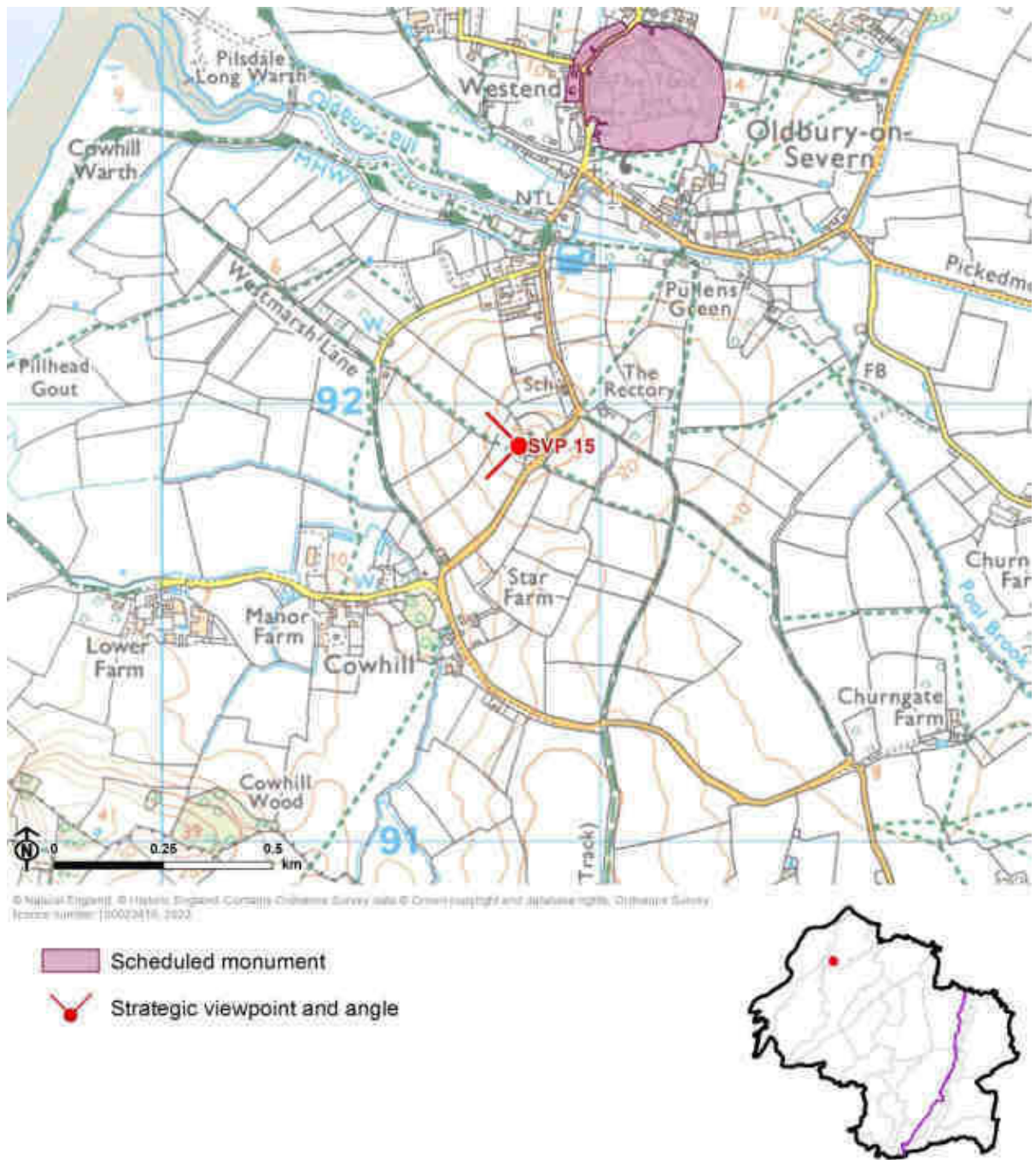


Figure 3.62: Detailed map of the location of Strategic Viewpoint 15



Viewpoint Information

Grid reference: ST 60830 91929

View location: St Arilda's Church, Cowhill, Oldbury on Severn.

View direction: View west across the Pilning Levels (LCA 20) and Estuary, Shoreline and Levels (LCA 21).

Relationship with Visually Important Hillside (VIH): The viewpoint is located on an outlier of the Severn Ridges VIH.

Experienced by: Visitors to the church and burial ground, recreational users of public rights of way including footpaths OOS/82/10 and OOS/83/10, transient views for cyclists and motorists travelling along Church Lane.

Figure 3.63: View Composition of Strategic Viewpoint 15 (view south-west)



Key landscape feature



Landmark / historic feature



Detractive feature

Figure 3.64: View Composition of Strategic Viewpoint 15 (view north-west)

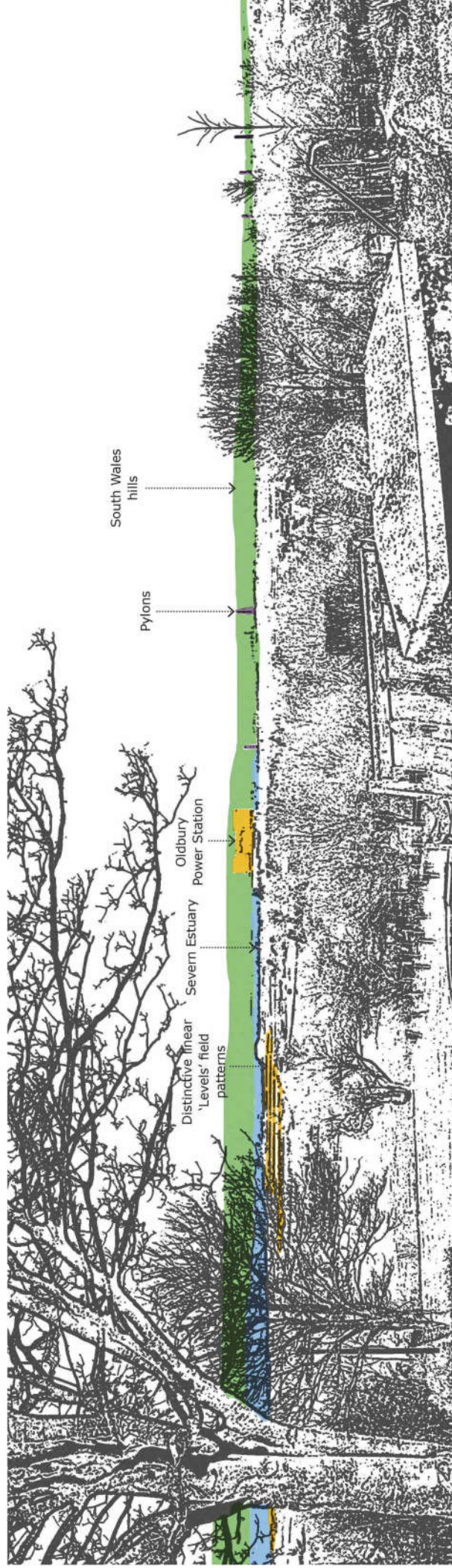
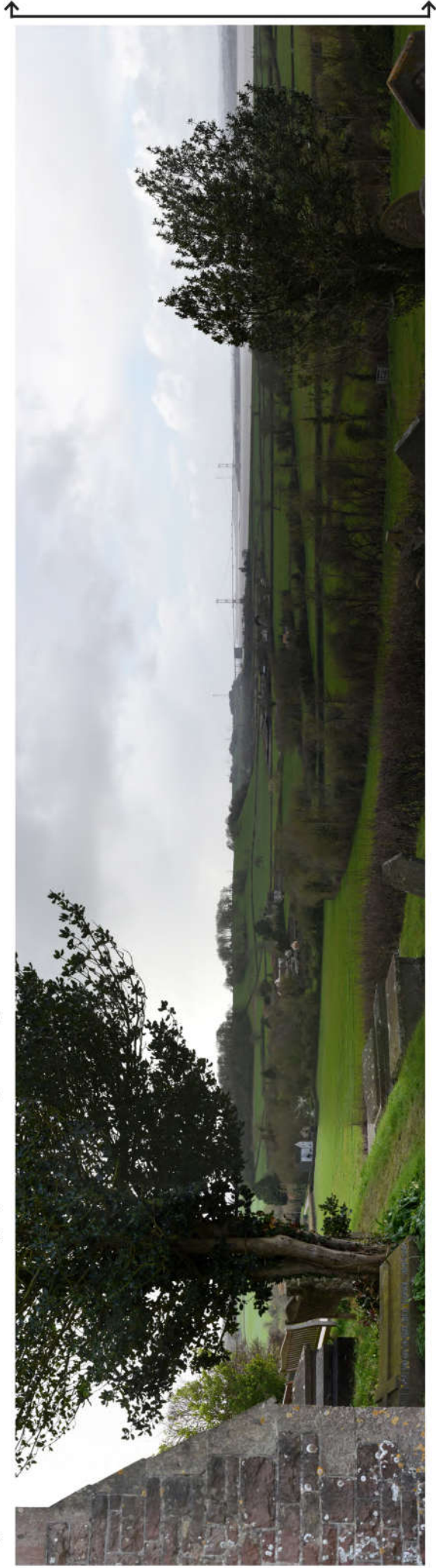
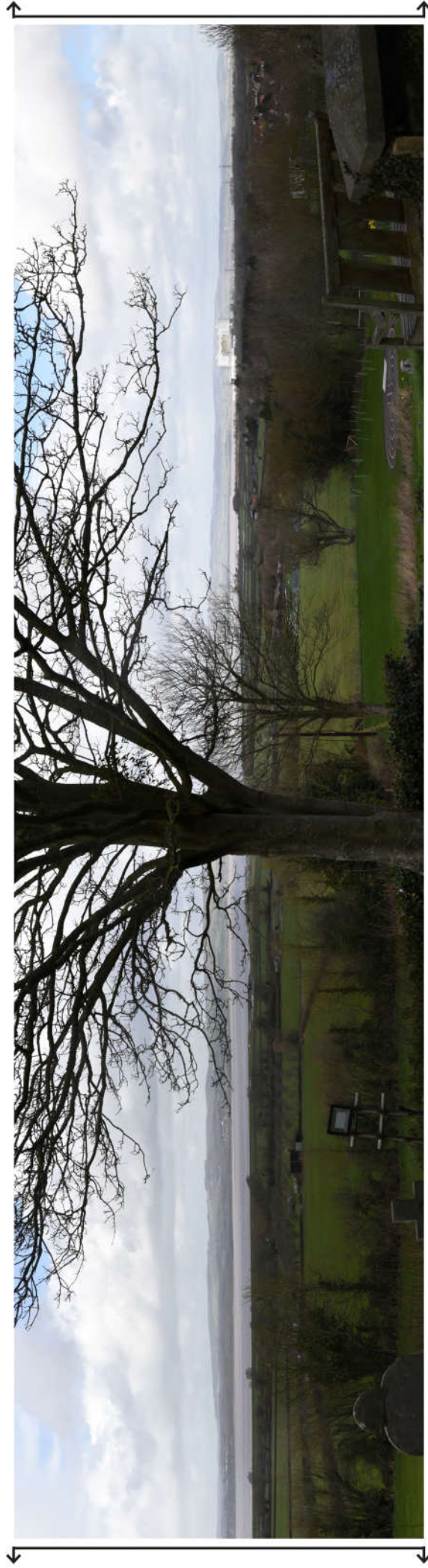


Figure 3.65: Full Panoramic Photograph of Strategic Viewpoint 15



Strategic Viewpoint 15: St Arilda's Church



Strategic Viewpoint 15 (continued)



Strategic Viewpoint 15 (continued)

Characteristics

Popularity, access and facilities

- Cowhill and St Arilda's Church are mentioned in two walking route guides produced as part of the 'A Forgotten Landscape' project: Route 4 (Oldbury-Kington loop) [See reference 8] notes the "*stunningly sited St Arilda's church, from which there are beautiful views across the estuary*" and Route 5 (Long Littleton Loop) [See reference 9] notes the "*wonderful views*" available from the church.
- Views from this viewpoint are representative of those described in LCA 18: Severn Ridges, which states that "*the rounded tump to the north of Cowhill, crowned by St Arilda's Church, is a prominent and distinctive landmark locally, both within this area and the adjacent Pilning Levels*".
- The viewpoint is publicly accessible via Church Lane, as well as from a number of public rights of way adjoining the road including OOS/82/10, OOS/83/10, OOS/60/10 and OOS/81/10.
- A toposcope and a bench are provided within the churchyard to facilitate enjoyment and interpretation of the view.

Quality, value and features of the view

- An elevated viewpoint located on an outlier hill of the Severn Ridges VIH, which provides a panoramic (180°) view over the surrounding 'levels' landscape (characterised by flat, small and regular fields, and blocks of woodland), towards the Severn Estuary, and beyond to the wooded hills of the Wye Valley and South Wales.
- The Severn Bridge forms a prominent landmark feature in views to the south-west 4.5km away, with glimpsed distant views to the Prince Wales Bridge beyond (10km away). Oldbury Power Station and Berkley Power Stations also form landmark features to the north-west (2.5km and 9km away, respectively).
- Several pylon lines slightly detract from the overall composition of the view.

Summary

3.8 The St Arilda's Church (Oldbury-on-Severn) viewpoint is categorised as a SVP as it meets most of the criteria to some extent. It is a popular, well known and recorded viewpoint and likely to attract many visitors; 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 public footpath with a bench and toposcope facilitating enjoyment and interpretation of the view; and it provides a panoramic view that takes in the notable landscape features of the levels, Severn Estuary and hills of the Wye Valley and South Wales, and the landmark features of the Severn Bridge, the Prince of Wales Bridge, Oldbury Power Station and Berkley Power Station.

Strategic Viewpoint 16

Tog Hill

Figure 3.66: Location of Strategic Viewpoint 16 and landscape character context

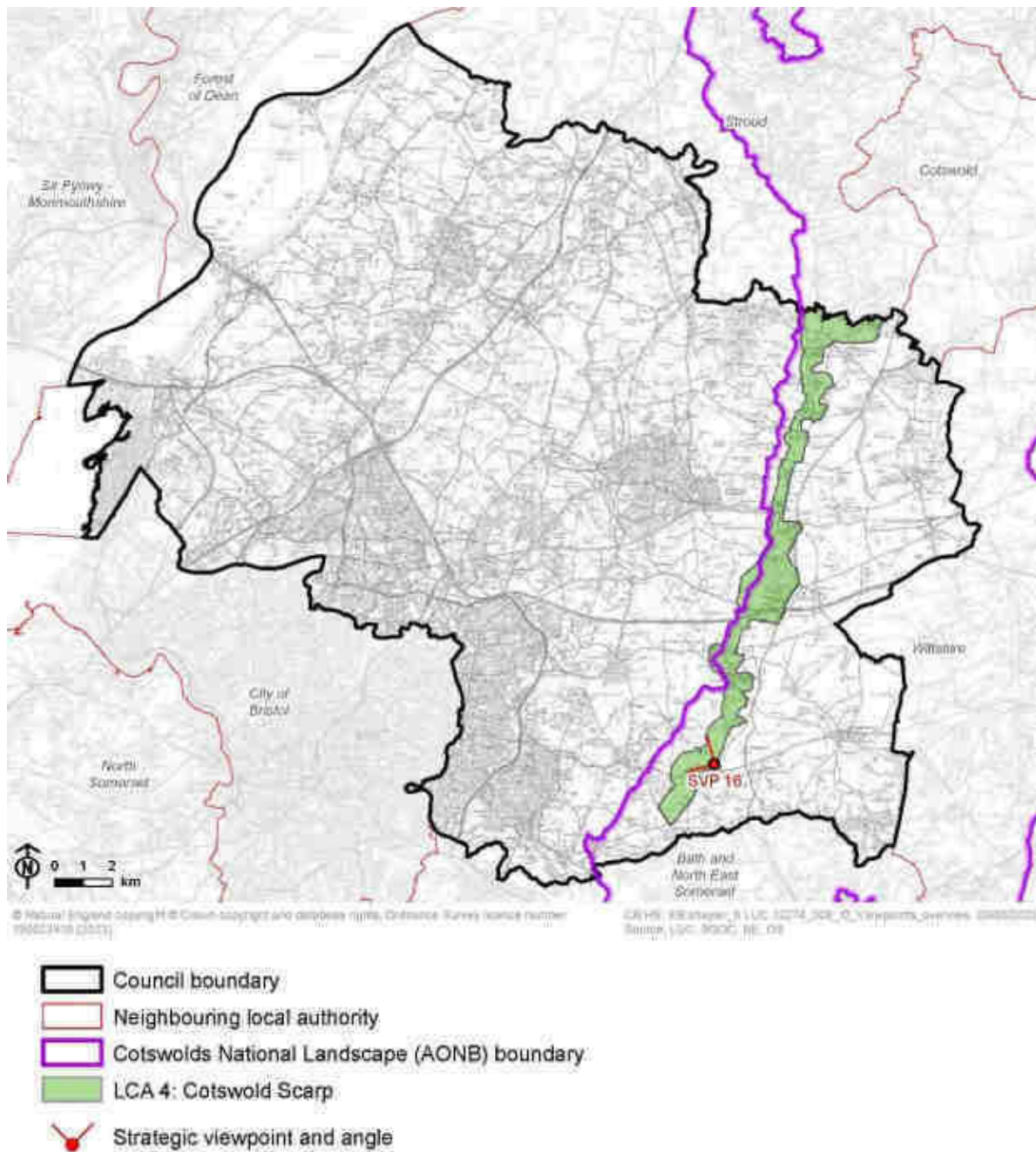
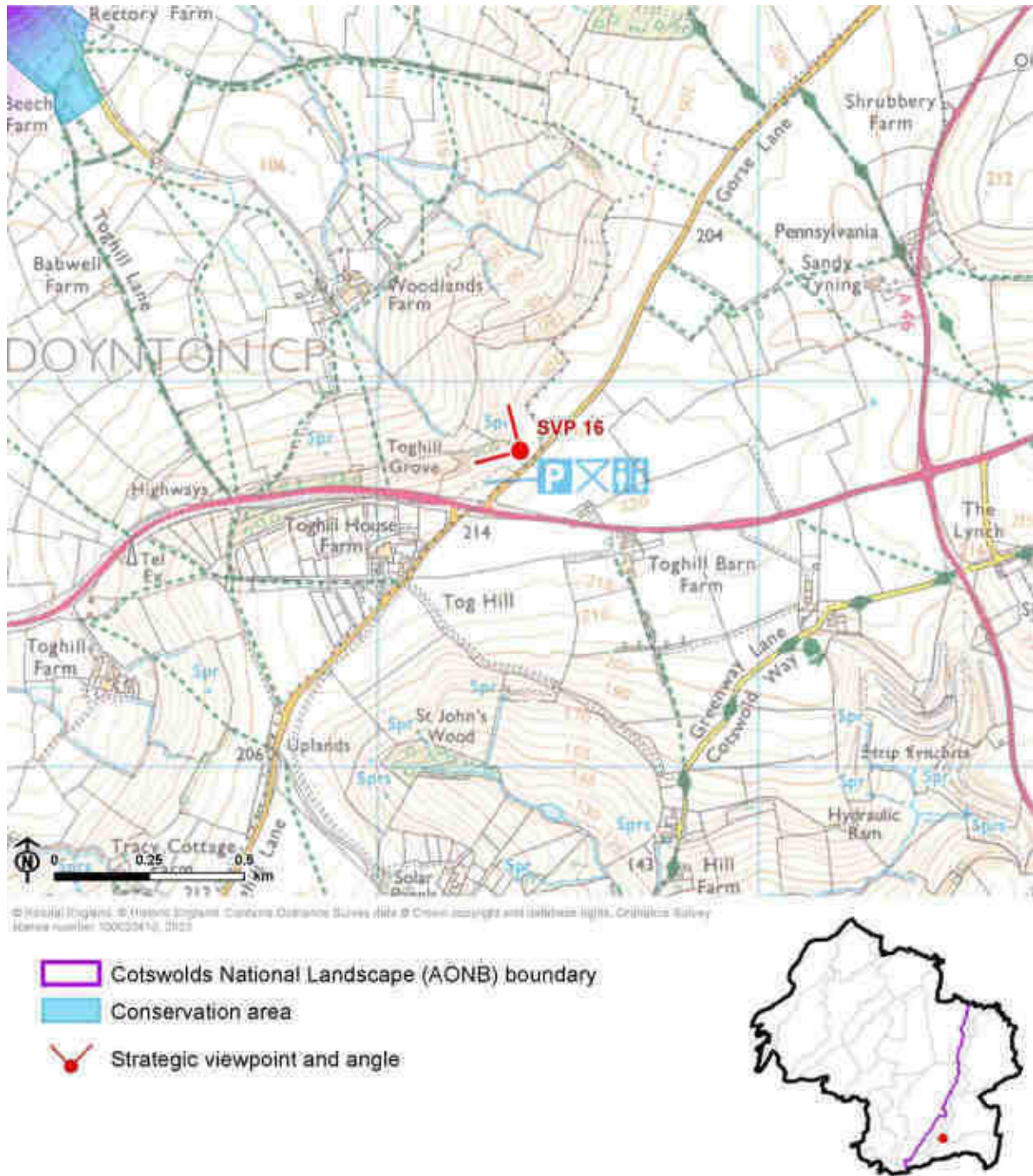


Figure 3.67: Detailed map of the location of Strategic Viewpoint 16



Viewpoint Information

Grid reference: ST 73224 72719

View location: Tog Hill Picnic Site, Gorse Lane, Doynton.

View direction: View north, south and west from the Cotswold Scarp (LCA 4) across the Pucklechurch Ridge and Boyd Valley (LCA 6), Westerleigh Vale and Oldland Ridge (LCA 12), and in longer distance views, Kingswood (LCA 14).

Relationship with Visually Important Hillside (VIH): The viewpoint is located along the Cotswold Scarp VIH.

Experienced by: Visitors to the Tog Hill picnic site, and recreational users of public footpath LDN/36/30.

Figure 3.68: View Composition of Strategic Viewpoint 16

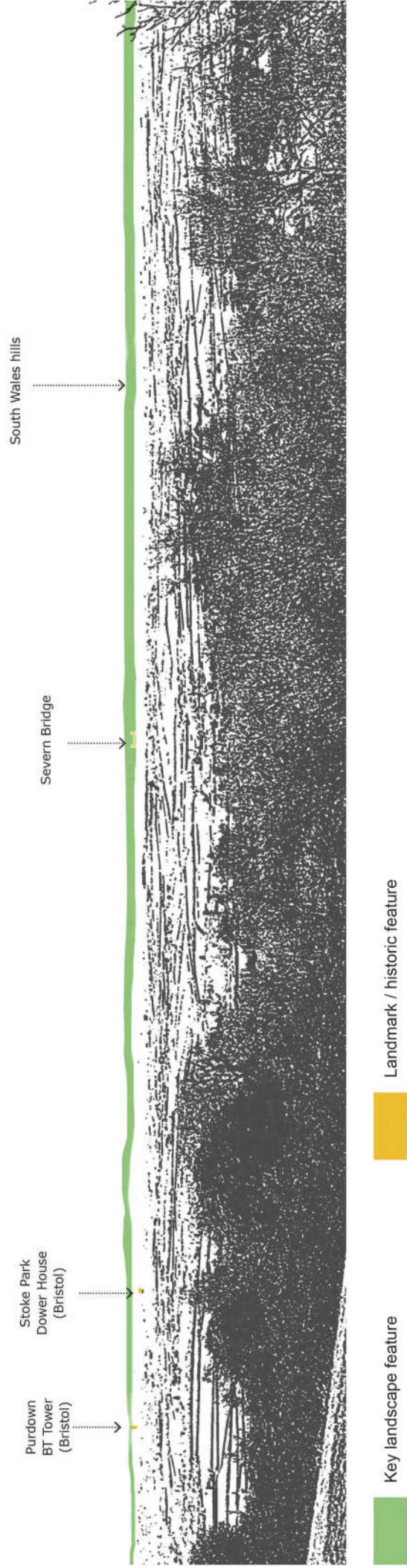
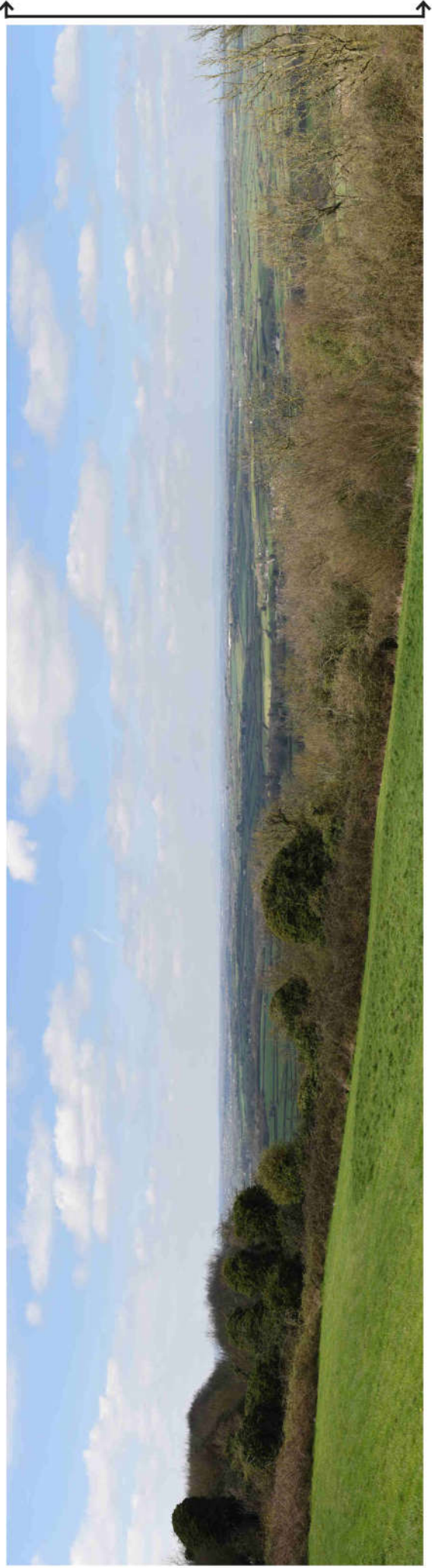
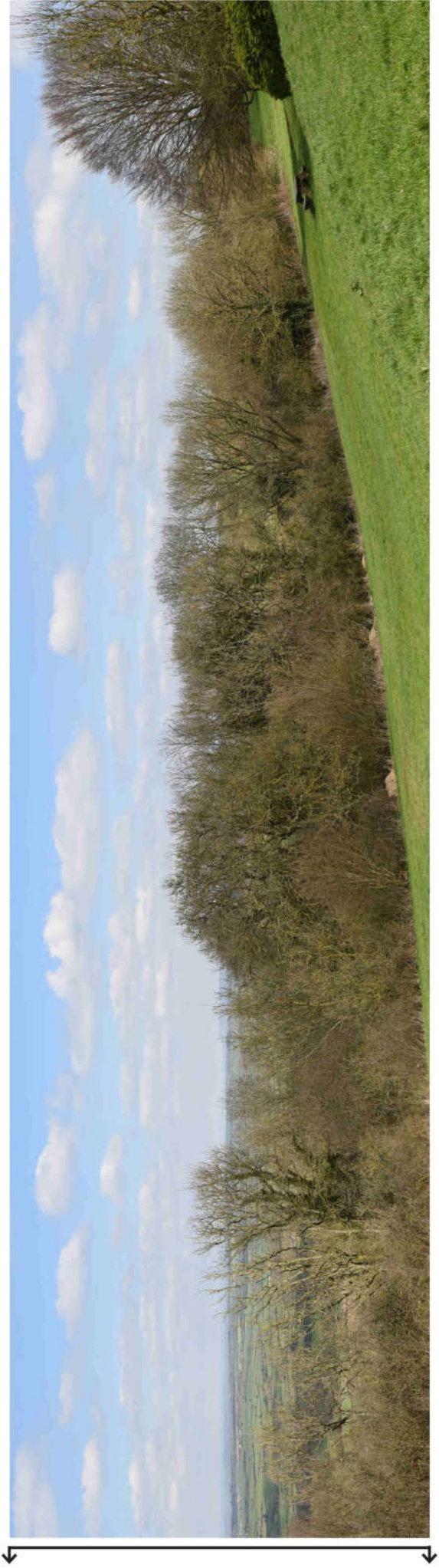


Figure 3.69: Full Panoramic Photograph of Strategic Viewpoint 16



Strategic Viewpoint 16: Tog Hill



Strategic Viewpoint 16 (continued)

Characteristics

Popularity, access and facilities

- The viewpoint is recorded on OS mapping as a picnic site with car parking and toilet facilities, and is likely to attract many visitors as a result.
- The viewpoint location is noted in LCA 4: Cotswold Scarp, which states that *"in particular important viewpoints from the scarp include ...Toghill picnic site together with sections of the Cotswold Way permit expansive views of the vale landscape below and as far as Wales in the distance."*
- The viewpoint is publicly accessible from Gorse Lane and via public footpath LDN/36/30.
- Picnic benches and a toposcope are provided to facilitate enjoyment and interpretation of the view.

Relationship with the Cotswolds National Landscape (CNL)

- The viewpoint is located within the CNL and enables panoramic views to and from the designated landscape.
- Views from the Cotswold Scarp are considered to be a special quality of the designated landscape, as set out in the CNL Management Plan.

Quality, value and features of the view

- Tog Hill is one of the highest points within South Gloucestershire and so this elevated viewpoint provides a sweeping panoramic view (180°) along the Cotswold Scarp VIH to the north-west, west and south-west over a large proportion of the district. In middle-distance views, the adjacent landscapes of the Pucklechurch Ridge and Boyd Valley and Golden Valley are seen (characterised by medium-scale mixed fields, interspersed with occasional small

Chapter 3 Analysis of Strategic Viewpoints

woodlands and copses, and a dispersed settlement pattern of scattered farmsteads). Longer distance views look towards the Westerleigh Vale and Oldland Ridge landscape (characterised by a mixed pattern of woodland, grassland and agricultural fields, with the urban edge of Bristol adjacent to the west). The view extends towards the levels and estuary with the distinctive hillsides of South Wales forming a distinctive backdrop.

- The Purdown BT Tower and Dower House in Stoke Park Estate form landmark features within Bristol 12-13km away. The Severn Bridge and Prince of Wales Bridge form distant landmark features over 23km away.
- A locally distinctive group of three wind turbines near Tytherington are visible 14km away against the relatively low-lying landform; although do not detract from the overall composition of the view given the breadth of the view.

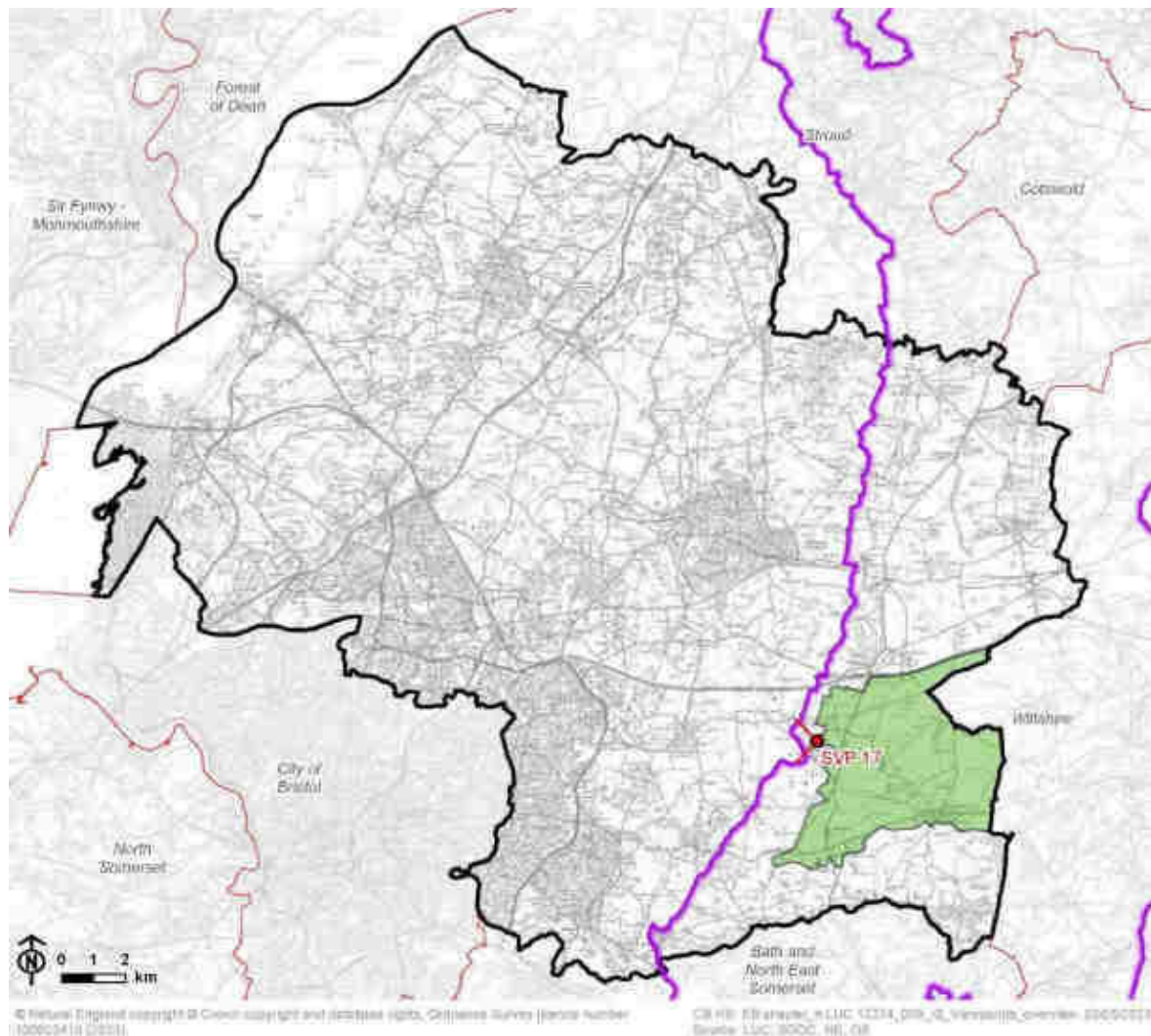
Summary

The Tog Hill viewpoint is categorised as a SVP as it meets most of the criteria to some extent. It is a popular viewpoint and likely to attract many visitors as it provides picnic and toilet facilities; 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 public footpath with picnic benches and a toposcope facilitating enjoyment and interpretation of the view; it allows appreciation of the Cotswold National Landscape and provides a notable view from the designated landscape; it provides a panoramic view that takes in notable landscape features and landmark features across most of South Gloucestershire and extends to the hills of South Wales.

Strategic Viewpoint 17

Dyrham Park

Figure 3.70: Location of Strategic Viewpoint 17 and landscape character context





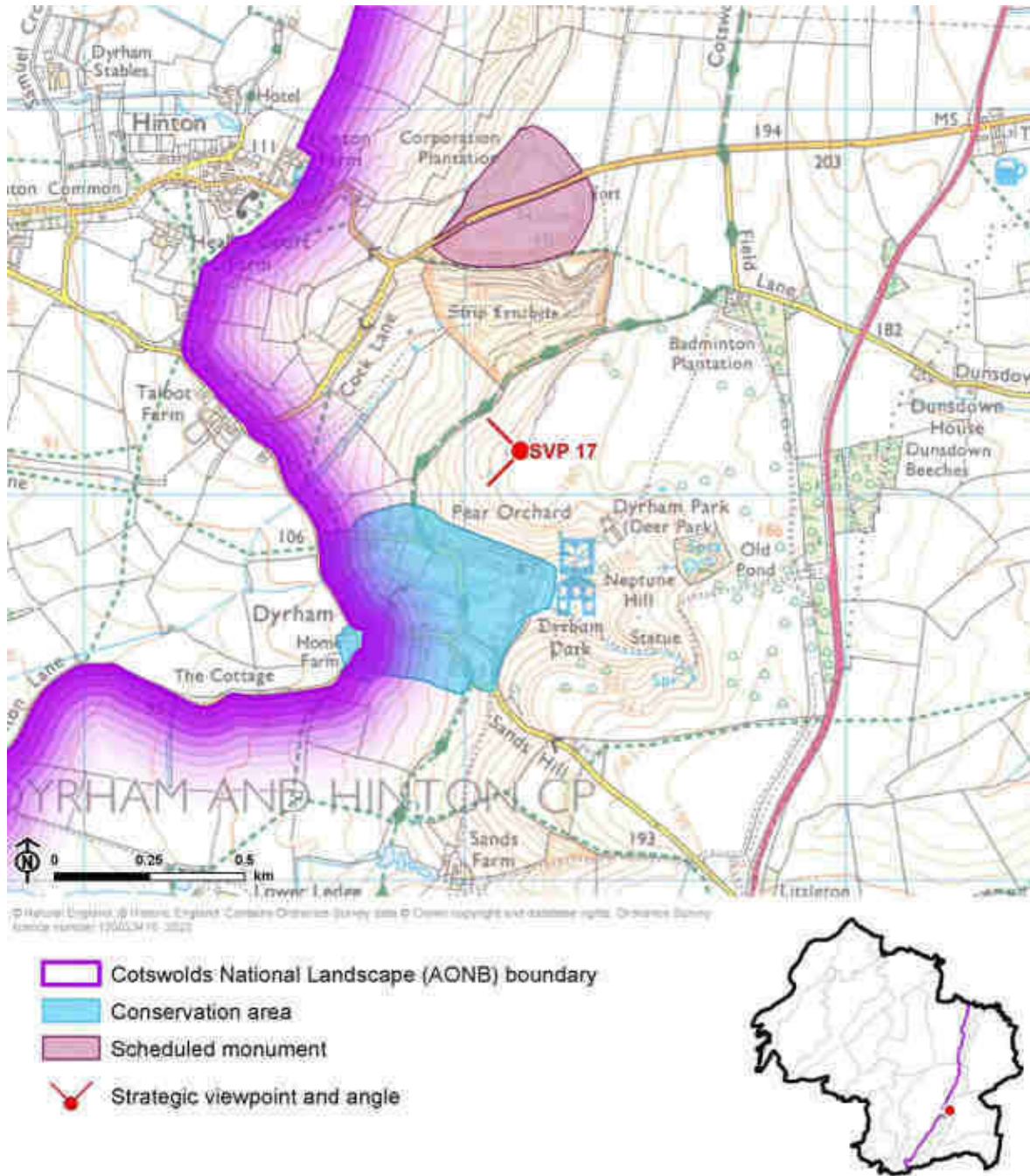
-  Council boundary
-  Neighbouring local authority
-  Cotswolds National Landscape (AONB) boundary
-  LCA 2: Marshfield Plateau
-  Strategic viewpoint and angle

Figure 3.71: Detailed map of the location of Strategic Viewpoint 17



Viewpoint Information

Grid reference: ST 74089 76088

View location: Top of the deer park in Dyrham Park.

View direction: Views north and south along the Cotswold Scarp (LCA 4), west across Pucklechurch Ridge and the Boyd Valley (LCA 6) and east into Marshfield Plateau (LCA 2).

Relationship with Visually Important Hillside (VIH): Viewpoint is located along the Cotswold Scarp VIH.

Experienced by: Visitors to Dyrham Park

Figure 3.72: View Composition of Strategic Viewpoint 17 (view west)

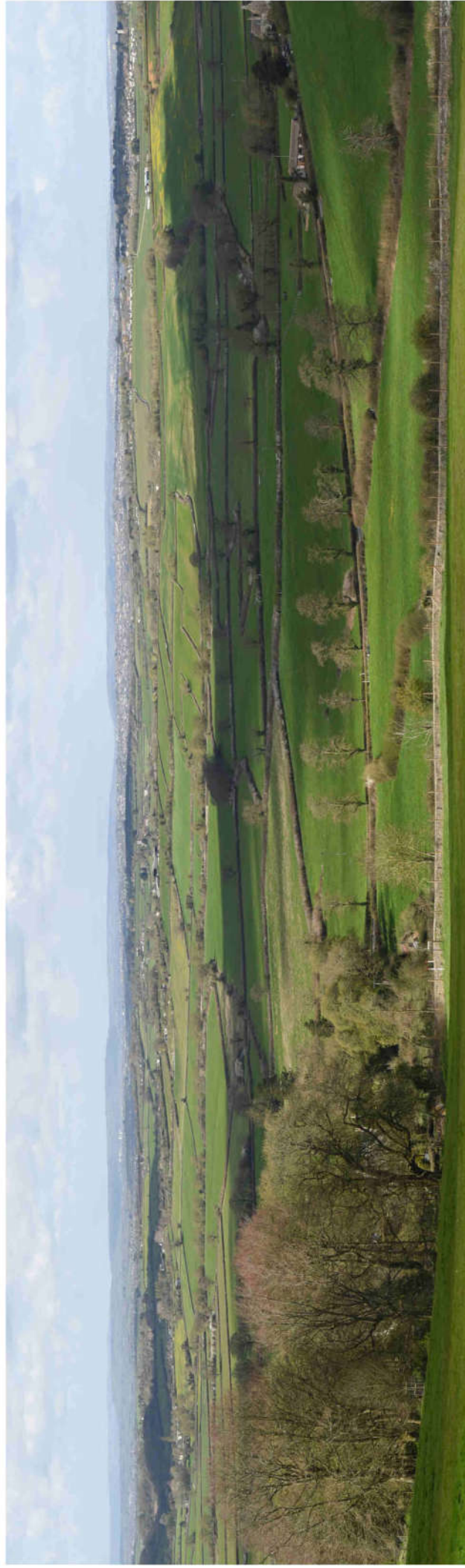


Figure 3.73: View Composition of Strategic Viewpoint 17 (view north-west)

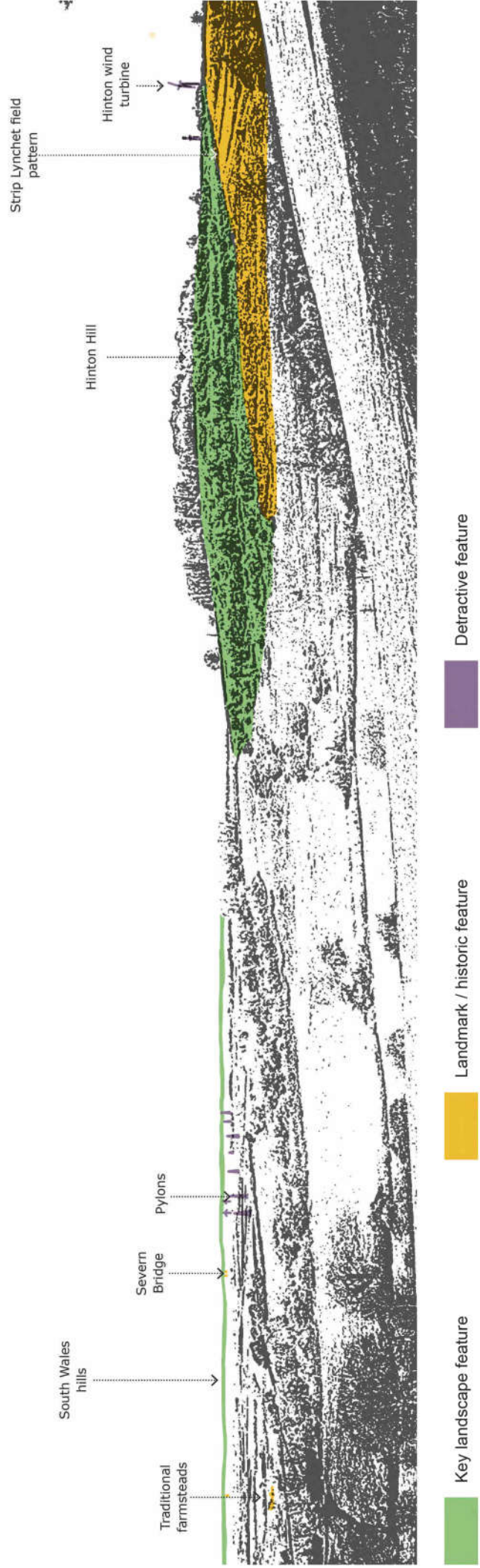
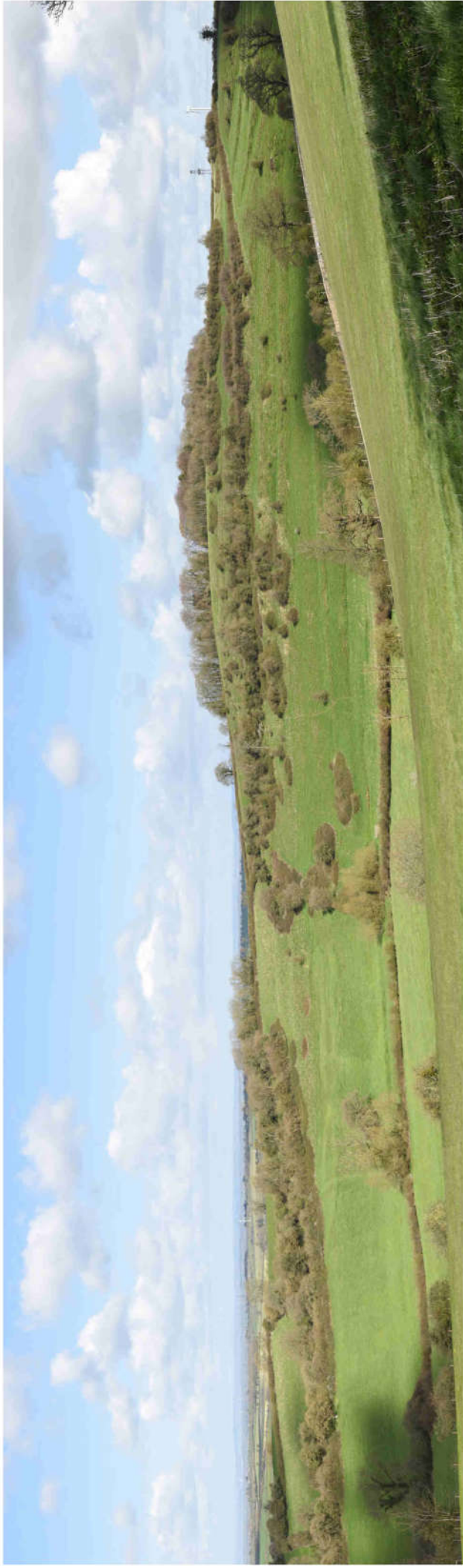
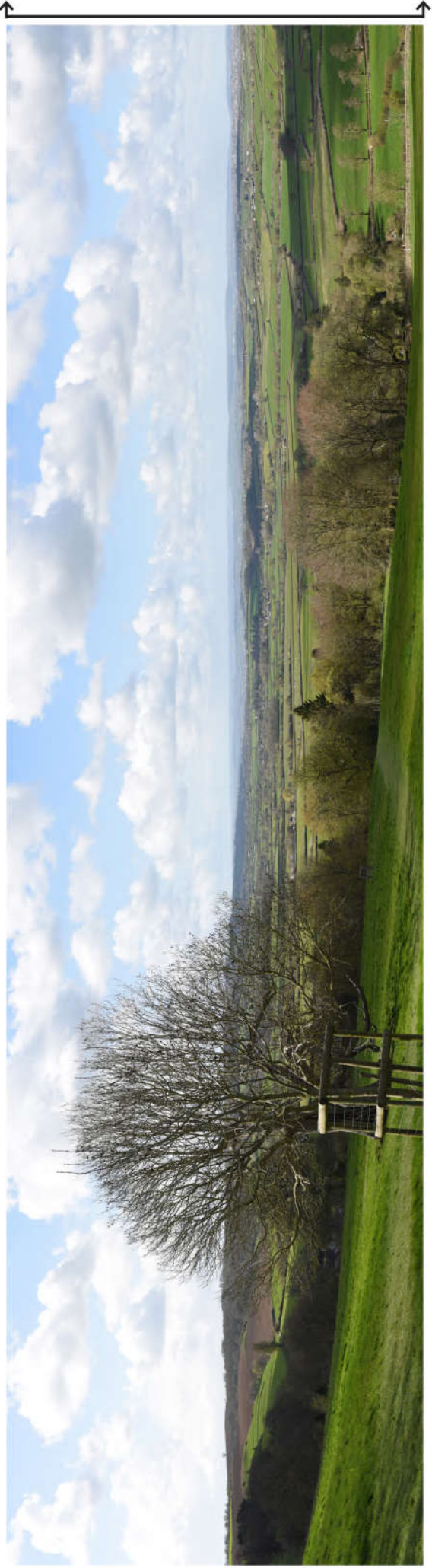
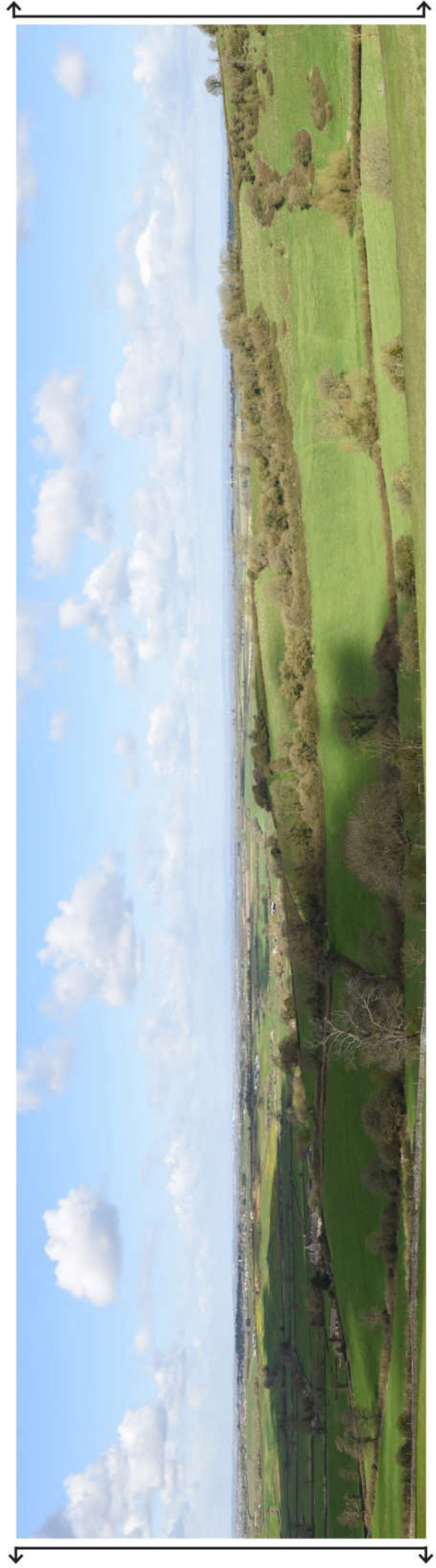


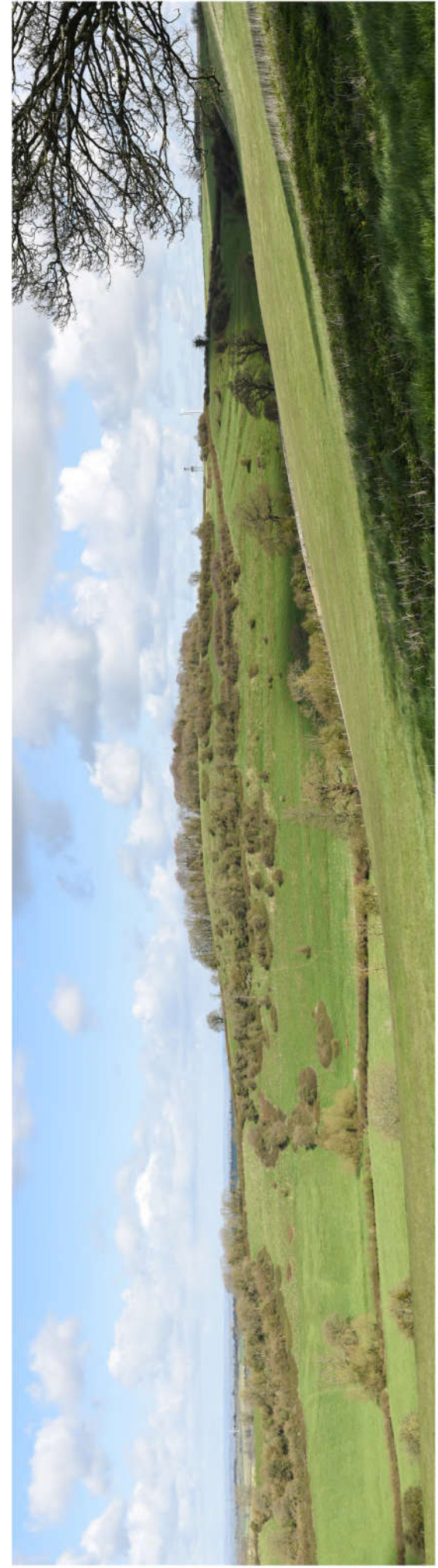
Figure 3.74: Full Panoramic Photograph of Strategic Viewpoint 17



Strategic Viewpoint 17: Dyrham Park



Strategic Viewpoint 17 (continued)



Strategic Viewpoint 17 (continued)

Characteristics

Popularity, access and facilities

- The viewpoint is located within Dyrham Park, a National Trust-managed site and popular visitor destination with facilities including a café, picnic area, toilets and a car park. The viewpoint location is marked on Google Maps as 'Dyrham Park Viewing Point'.
- The viewpoint location is noted in LCA 4: Cotswold Scarp which notes that *"in particular important viewpoints from the scarp include Dyrham Deer Park... together with sections of the Cotswold Way permit expansive views of the vale landscape below and as far as Wales in the distance."*
- A visitor guide and walking route leaflet produced by the National Trust symbolises the viewpoint on its mapping. A waymarked route 'The Prospect Walk' guides visitors around several key locations within the park, including this viewpoint, which is noted for its 'sweeping vistas'. [\[See reference 10\]](#).
- A bench and toposcope are provided at the viewpoint to facilitate enjoyment and interpretation of the view.

Relationship with the Cotswolds National Landscape (CNL)

- The viewpoint is located in the CNL and enables panoramic views within and out of the designated landscape.
- Views from the Cotswold Scarp are considered to be a special quality of the designated landscape, as set out in the CNL Management Plan.

Quality, value and features of the view

- An elevated viewpoint on the edge of the Cotswold Scarp VIH, providing panoramic (180°) views to the north, west and south across a large proportion of South Gloucestershire and beyond. In middle-distance views, the Pucklechurch

Chapter 3 Analysis of Strategic Viewpoints

Ridge and Boyd Valley is seen (characterised by medium-scale rolling pastoral fields enclosed by a mature hedgerow framework with scattered woodlands and copses, a dispersed settlement pattern, and a strong sense of time depth). The undulating slopes of the Cotswold Scarp are seen in views to the north, south and immediate west that mainly features the parkland landscape of Dyrham Park and the Marshfield Plateau. Longer distance views to the north-west look across the shallow ridges, valleys and vale landscapes of South Gloucestershire where small settlements are scattered across the landscape, and the urban sprawl of the Bristol conurbation forming a dominant feature in views to the west.

- The view extends towards the levels and estuary with the distinctive hillsides of South Wales forming a distinctive backdrop. To the south-west, Dundry Hill and the Mendip Hills AONB define the skyline.
- The square towers of the Grade I listed St Thomas à Becket Church in Pucklechurch Conservation Area (4.2km away) and St James Church in Abson (3.8km away), form landmark features within the view. The Huckford Viaduct in Winterbourne (9.3km away), the Purdown BT Tower (13km away), and Dower House in Stoke Park Estate (12km away) form more distant landmark features. The Severn Bridge and Prince of Wales Bridge are also visible in long distance views over 22km away.
- The viewpoint is located within the designed landscape of Dyrham Park (Grade II Registered Park and Garden), and represents views experienced from the deer park.
- A turbine at Hinton in the north is in relatively close proximity to the viewpoint (1.4km away); however, does not detract from the main frame of the view to the west. A locally distinctive group of three wind turbines near Tytherington are visible 12km away against the relatively low-lying landform; although do not detract from the overall composition of the view given the breadth of the view.

Summary

The Dyrham Park viewpoint is categorised as a SVP as it meets most of the criteria to some extent. It is a popular, well known and recorded viewpoint and likely to attract many visitors; it is noted in the South Gloucestershire Landscape Character Assessment as being a natural observation point from which to appreciate the landscape; benches and a toposcope facilitate enjoyment and interpretation of the view; it allows appreciation of the Cotswold National Landscape and provides a notable view from the designated landscape; it provides a panoramic view that takes in notable landscape and landmark features across most of South Gloucestershire, extending to the hills of South Wales, Dundry Hill and the Mendip Hills AONB; and is a designed viewpoint from a Registered Park and Garden.

Strategic Viewpoint 18

Freezing Hill

Figure 3.75: Location of Strategic Viewpoint 18 and landscape character context

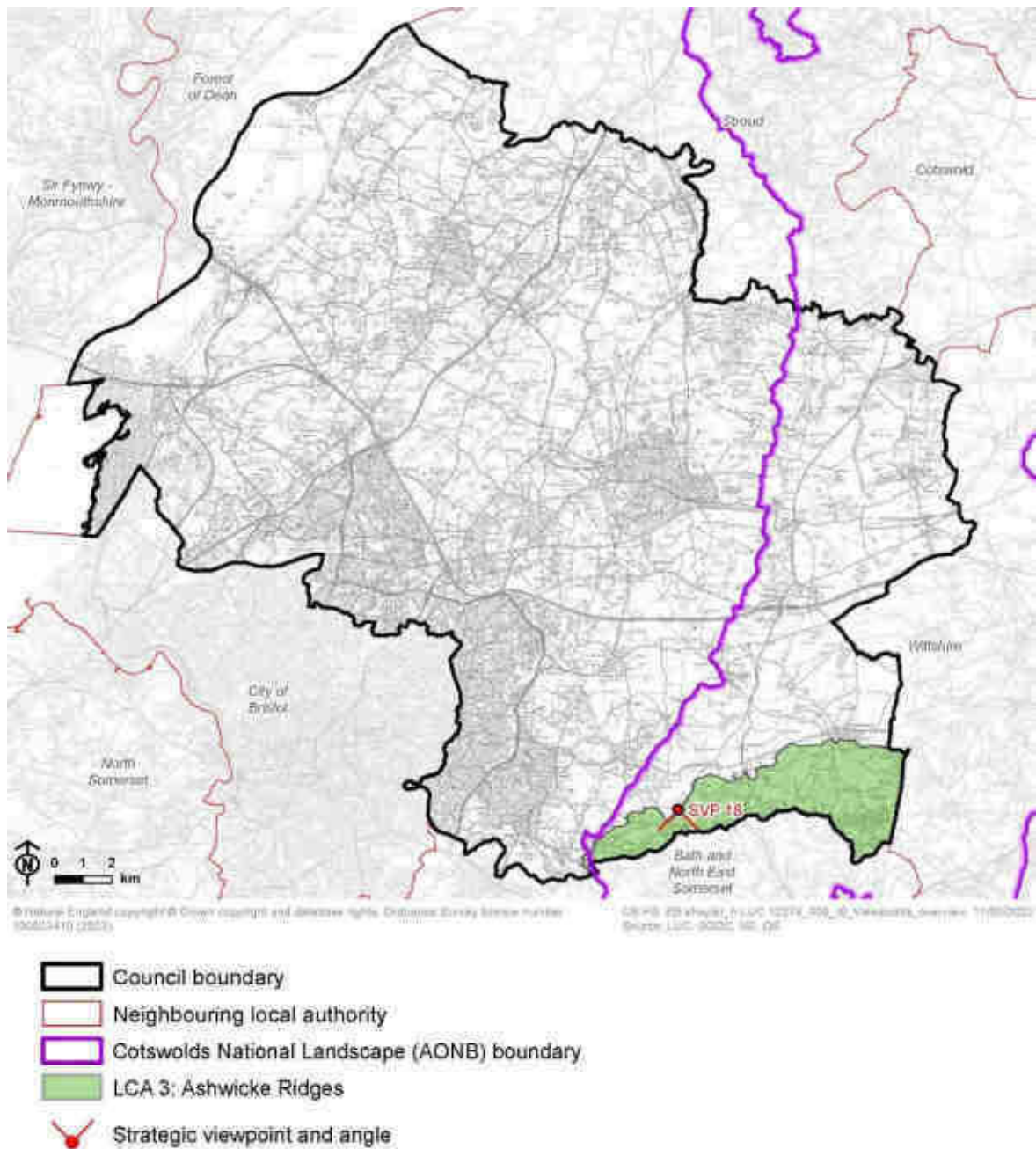


Figure 3.76: Detailed map of the location of Strategic Viewpoint 18



Viewpoint Information

Grid reference: ST 72218 71155

View location: Adjacent to the linear earthwork on Freezing Hill, Wick.

View direction: South, east and south-west across the Ashwicke Ridges (LCA 3).

Relationship with Visually Important Hillside (VIH): The viewpoint is located on the edges of the Cotswold Scarp VIH and the Ashwicke Ridges VIH.

Experienced by: Recreational users of public footpath LCA/22/10.

Figure 3.77: View Composition of Strategic Viewpoint 18

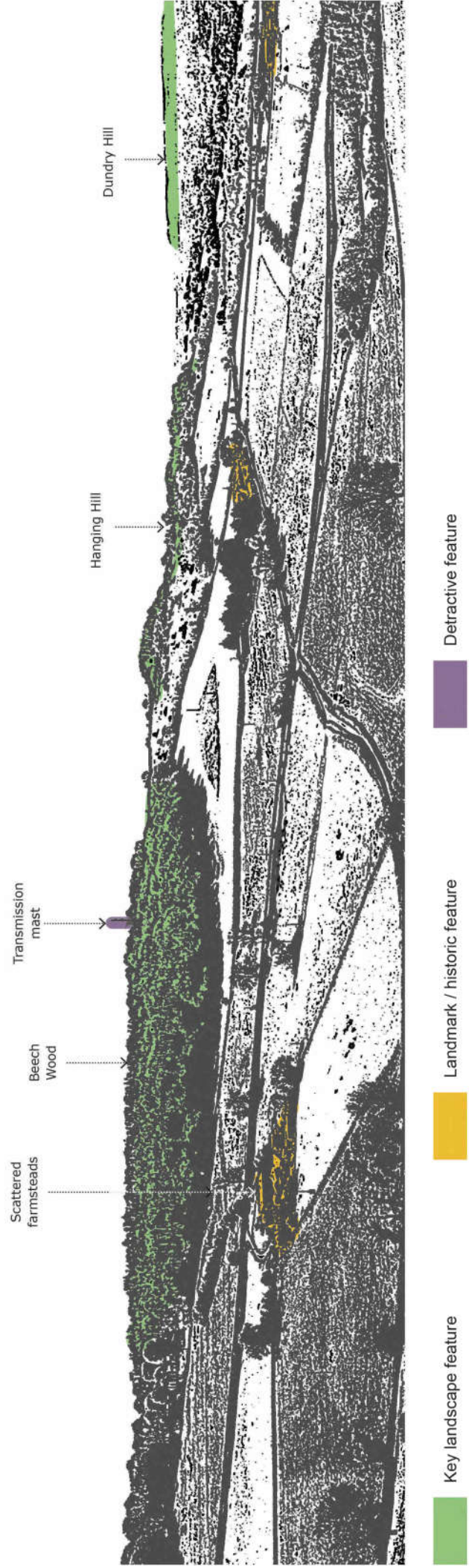
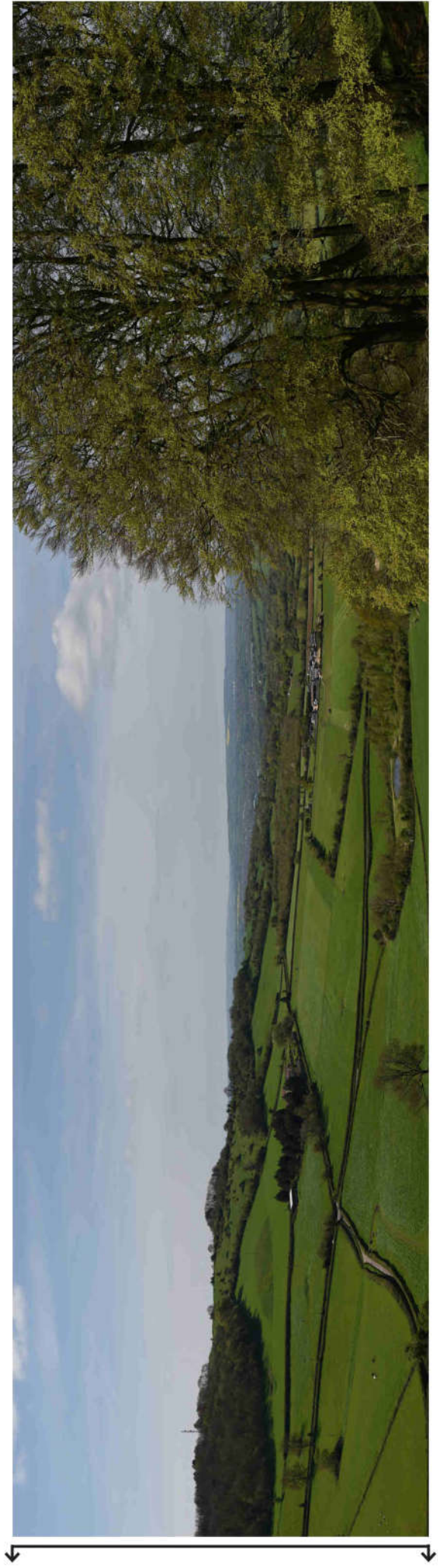


Figure 3.78: Full Panoramic Photograph of Strategic Viewpoint 18



Strategic Viewpoint 18: Freezing Hill



Strategic Viewpoint 18 (continued)

Characteristics

Popularity, access and facilities

- Freezing Hill is a notable location for its distinctive line of mature beech trees. These are marked on Google Maps as 'Hamswell Trees' and likely to attract visitors as a result.
- The viewpoint is accessible via public footpath LCA/22/10.

Relationship with the Cotswolds National Landscape (CNL)

- The viewpoint is located within the CNL and affords panoramic views across the designated landscape.
- Views from the Cotswold Scarp are considered to be a special quality of the designated landscape, as set out in the CNL Management Plan.

Quality, value and features of the view

- An elevated viewpoint located on the edge of the Cotswold Scarp VIH and the Ashwicke Ridges VIH, providing panoramic (180°) rural views to the south, east and south-west across the steeply undulating landscape of the Ashwicke Ridges and the Lower Hamswell valley (characterised by irregular shaped pastoral fields, blocks of woodland on the slopes such as Beech Wood and a sparse settlement pattern of occasional farmsteads).
- In the view to the south-west, the wooded slopes of Hanging Hill form a notable feature. Keynsham and the urban edge of Bristol can be seen beyond the lower slopes of the hill against the prominent backdrop of Dundry Hill, providing a strong visual contrast with the sparsely populated landscape in the foreground. The profile of the Mendip Hills AONB can also be seen on the distant horizon.

Chapter 3 Analysis of Strategic Viewpoints

- Westerly views are obscured by the intervening row of beech trees, which are a distinctive landmark feature in views towards Freezing Hill from the surrounding landscape.
- A telecommunication mast on Hanging Hill slightly detracts from the overall composition of the view.

Summary

The Freezing Hill viewpoint is categorised as a SVP as it meets most of the criteria to some extent. It is a well-known viewpoint and likely to attract many visitors as a result of its distinctive row of mature beech trees; it is located on a public footpath; it allows appreciation of the Cotswold National Landscape and provides a notable view across the designated landscape; it provides a panoramic view that takes in notable landscape features of the Ashwicke Ridges (including Hanging Hill), the Lower Hamswell valley, Dundry Hill and the Mendip Hills AONB.

Strategic Viewpoint 19

Hanham Hills

Figure 3.79: Location of Strategic Viewpoint 19 and landscape character context

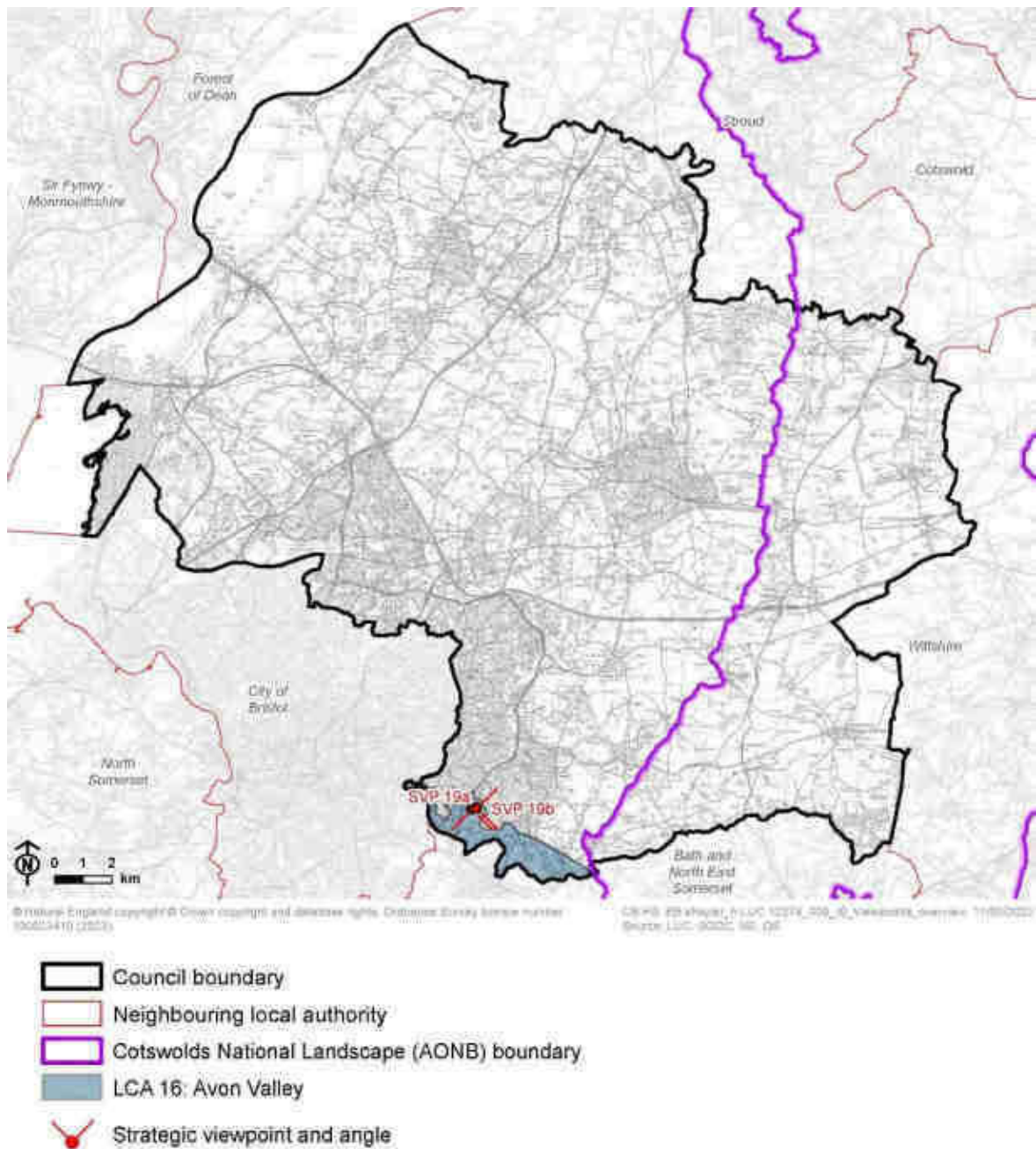
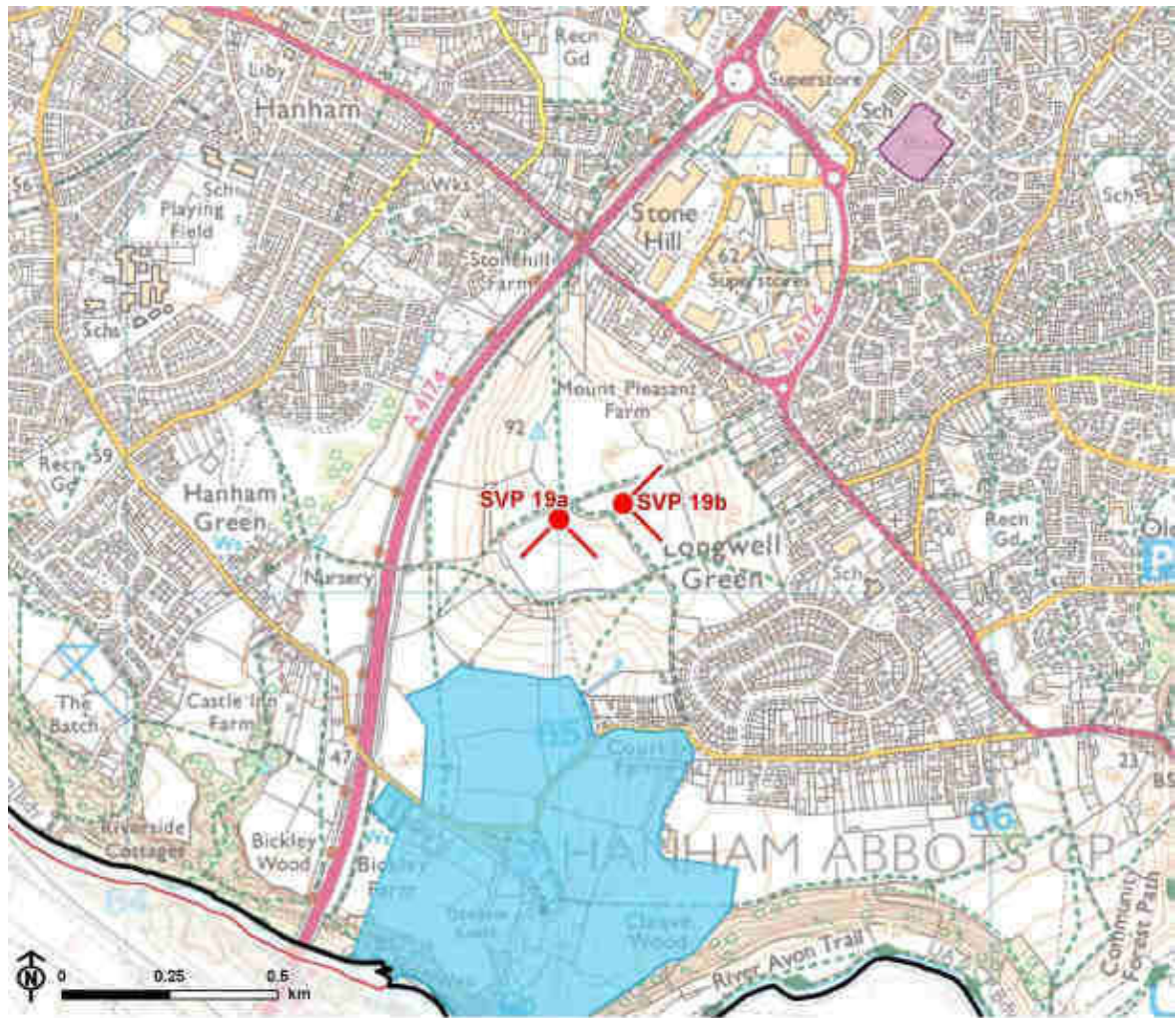






Figure 3.80: Detailed map of the location of Strategic Viewpoint 19



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-  Council boundary
-  Conservation area
-  Scheduled monument
-  Strategic viewpoint and angle



Viewpoint Information

Grid reference: SVP 19a: ST 65009 71174 and SVP 19b: ST 65137 71193.

View location: Hanham Hills, Longwell Green, Bristol.

View direction: SVP 19a provides views south across the Avon Valley (LCA 16), east towards the Cotswold Scarp (LCA 4), and west across Kingswood (LCA 14). SVP 19b provides views east over Kingswood (LCA 14) and towards the Cotswold Scarp (LCA 4).

Relationship with Visually Important Hillside (VIH): The viewpoint is located on the Hanham Hills VIH.

Experienced by: Recreational users along public footpaths PHA/26/10, PHA/29/10, PHA/26/30 and PHA/27/20.

Figure 3.81: View Composition of Strategic Viewpoint 19a

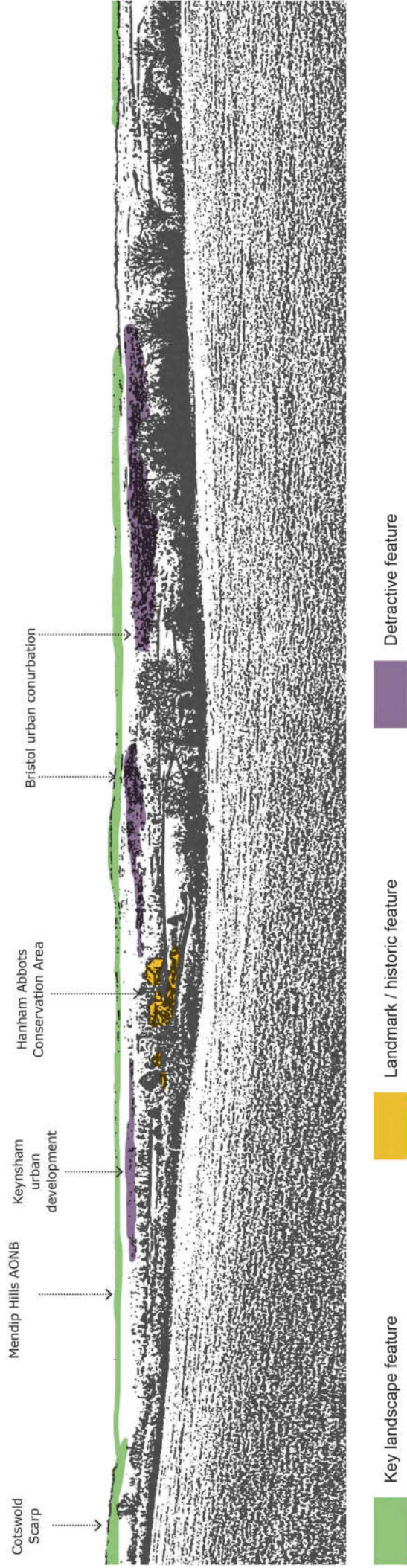
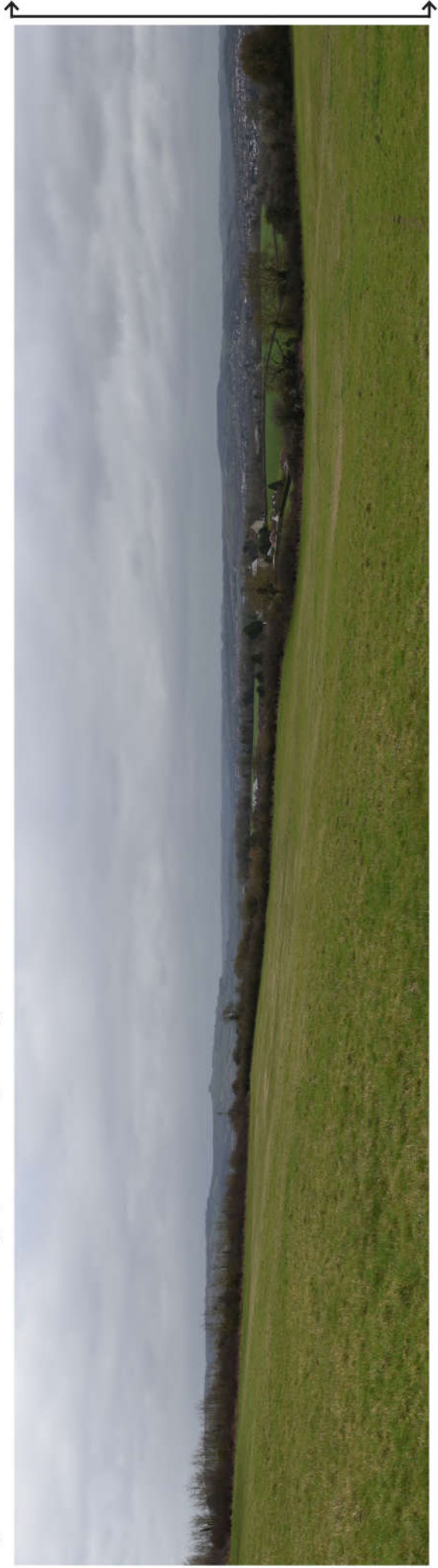
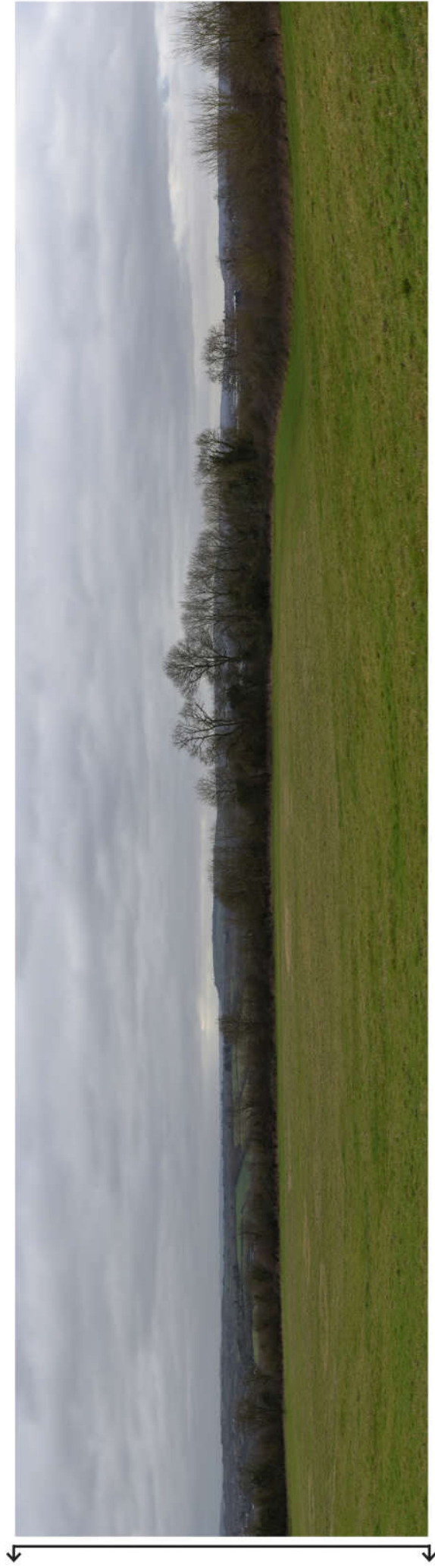


Figure 3.82: Full Panoramic Photograph of Strategic Viewpoint 19a



Strategic Viewpoint 19a: Hanham Hills (south)



Strategic Viewpoint 19a (continued)

Figure 3.83: View Composition of Strategic Viewpoint 19b

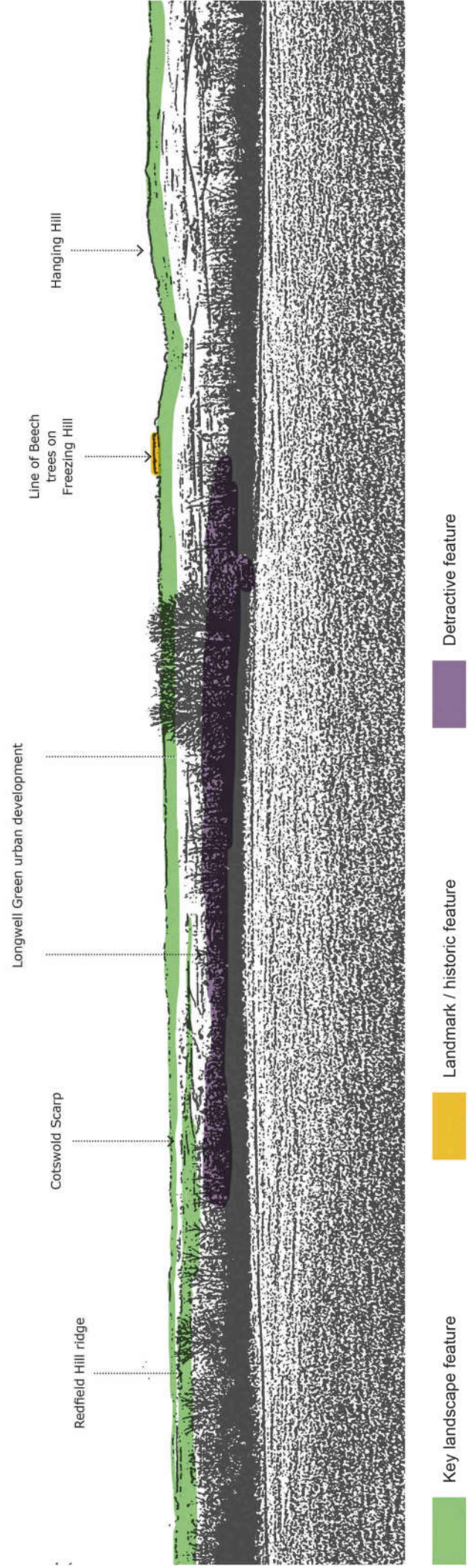
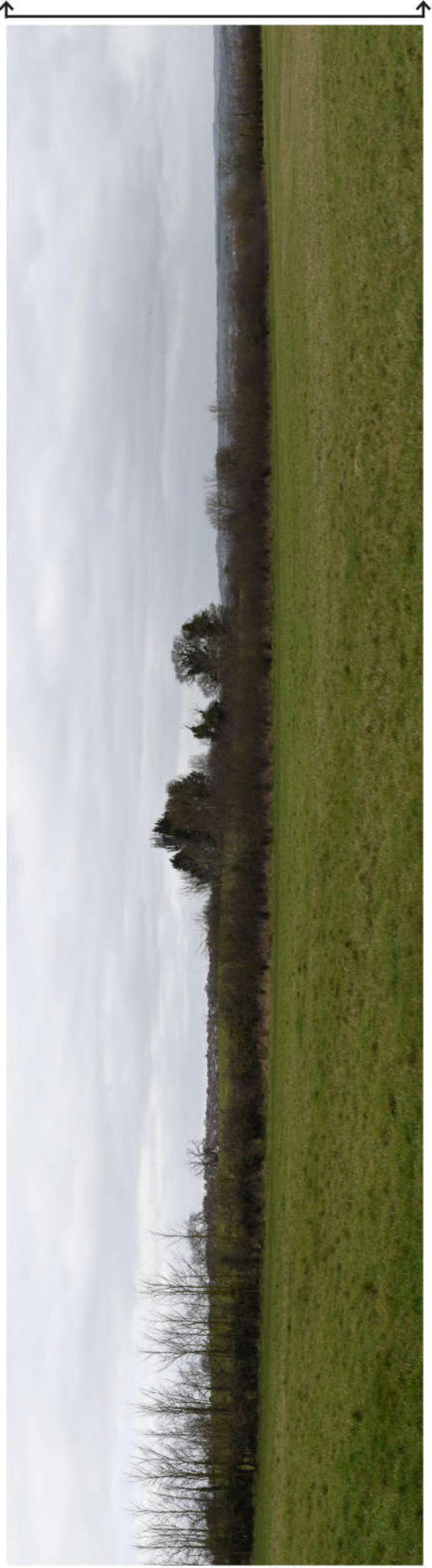
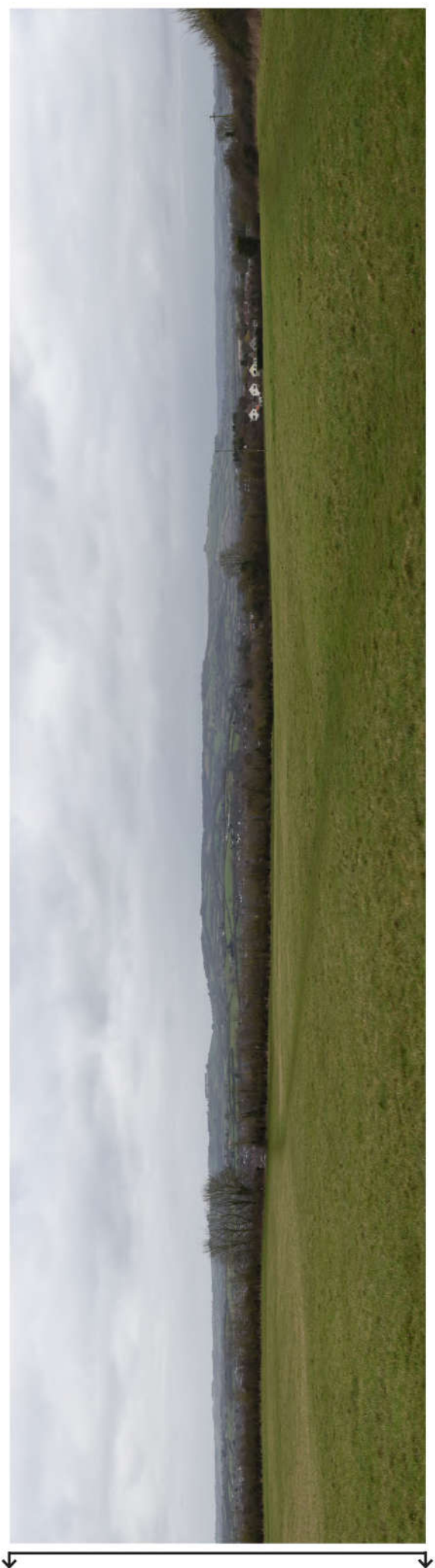


Figure 3.84: Full Panoramic Photograph of Strategic Viewpoint 19b



Strategic Viewpoint 19b: Hanham Hills (east)



Strategic Viewpoint 19b (continued)

Characteristics

Popularity, access and facilities

- The viewpoint location is marked on Google Maps as 'Hanham Hills' and is likely to attract many visitors as a result.
- The viewpoint location is noted in LCA 16: Avon Valley which notes that the *"distinct landform of the Hanham Hills rises above the urban edge, enabling panoramic views over Bristol and to the Cotswold Scarp."*
- The viewpoint is publicly accessible from the surrounding suburban areas of Hanham Green and Longwell Green via several public footpaths including PHA/26/10, PHA/29/10, PHA/26/30 and PHA/27/20.
- Several lay-bys provide informal car parking, including to the south along Abbots Road, and to the north-east off the A431 in Longwell Green.

Relationship with the Cotswolds National Landscape (CNL)

- The viewpoint is not located within the CNL but provides views east towards the Cotswold Scarp (from SVP 19b).
- Views of the Cotswold Scarp are considered to be a special quality of the designated landscape, as set out in the CNL Management Plan.

Quality, value and features of the view

- An elevated viewpoint located on the Hanham Hills VIH that affords panoramic (270°) views in different directions. SVP 19a provides views south across the Avon Valley and beyond into Bath and North East Somerset, with the Cotswold Scarp partially visible in views to the south-east. Views from SVP 19b are primarily eastwards across Longwell Green, towards the Cotswold Scarp.

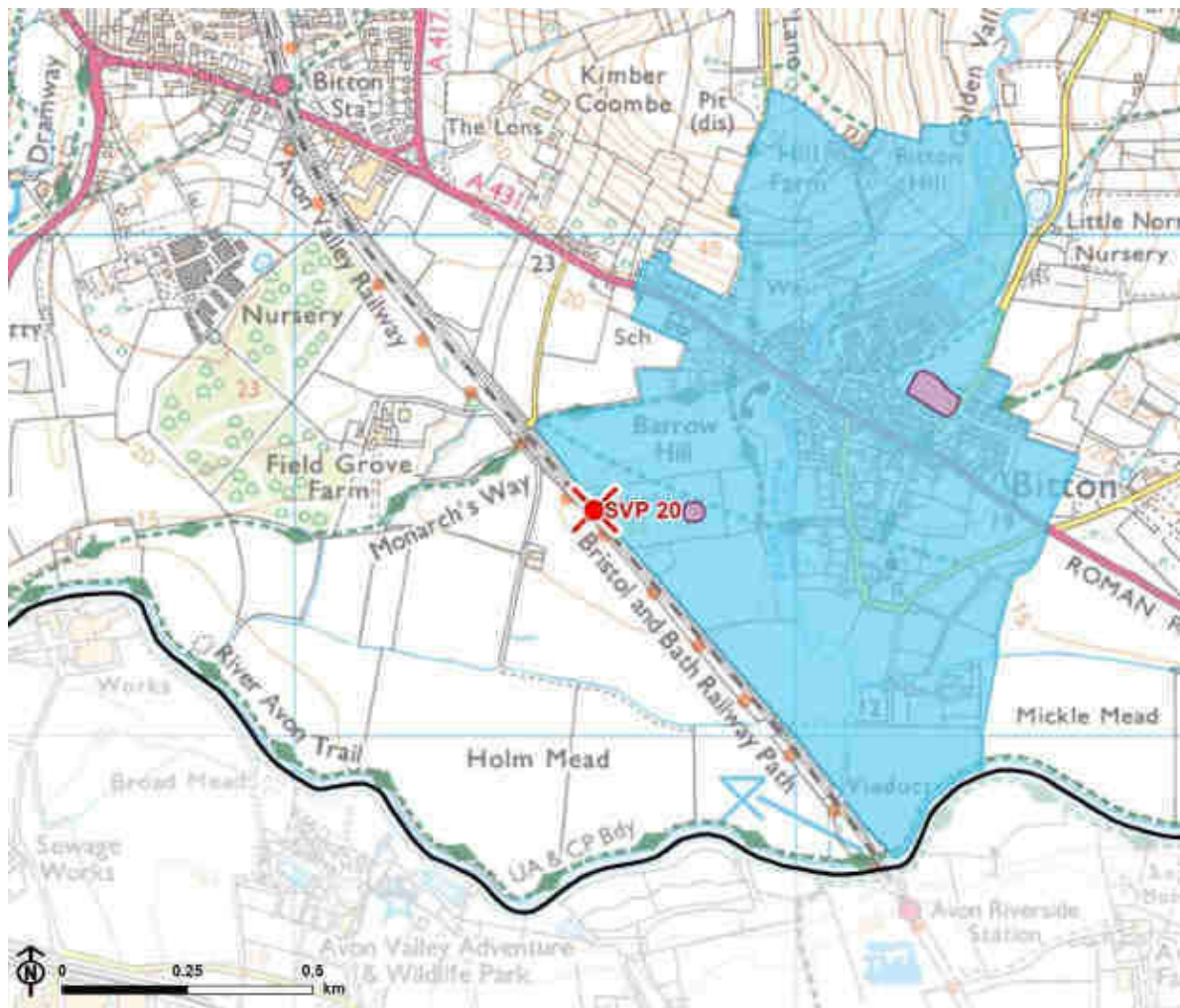
Chapter 3 Analysis of Strategic Viewpoints

- Several distinctive landforms provide notable landscape features within the view, including the Oldland Ridge, Pucklechurch Ridge, Severn Ridges, Dundry Hill, Kelston Hill, the Ashwicke Ridges and the Cotswold Scarp,
- A group of listed buildings at Hanham Court and Court Farm (within Hanham Abbots Conservation Area, located 0.4km to the south) can be seen from SVP 19a, and are of significance for their historical associations with the ancient Kingswood forest. The historic parkland associated with Dyrham Park on the Cotswold Scarp (10km to the east) is also visible.
- The distinctive line of beech trees on Freezing Hill (7km to the east) forms a landmark feature.
- The extensive urban influence from built development within Bristol and Keynsham detract from the overall composition of the view.


Summary

The Hanham Hills viewpoint is categorised as a SVP as it meets most of the criteria to some extent. It is a popular, well known, and recorded viewpoint and likely to attract many visitors; 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 several public footpaths; it allows an appreciation of the Cotswold National Landscape; and it provides a panoramic view that takes in the notable landscape features of the Avon Valley, Oldland Ridge, Pucklechurch Ridge, Severn Ridges, Dundry Hill, Kelston Hill, the Ashwicke Ridges and the Cotswold Scarp, and the landmark feature of the distinctive line of beech trees on Freezing Hill.

Figure 3.86: Detailed map of the location of Strategic Viewpoint 20



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-  Council boundary
-  Cotswolds National Landscape (AONB) boundary
-  Conservation area
-  Scheduled monument
-  Strategic viewpoint and angle



Viewpoint Information

Grid reference: ST 67599 69451

View location: On the Bristol to Bath Railway Path, approximately 600m south-west of Bitton.

View direction: Panoramic views across the Avon Valley (LCA 16) and Golden Valley (LCA 11).

Relationship with Visually Important Hillside (VIH): The viewpoint is not located along a VIH, however it provides views towards the southern extent of the Oldland Ridge VIH.

Experienced by: Pedestrians and cyclists on the Bristol to Bath Railway Path (National Cycle Network Route 4).

Figure 3.84: View Composition of Strategic Viewpoint 20 (view east)

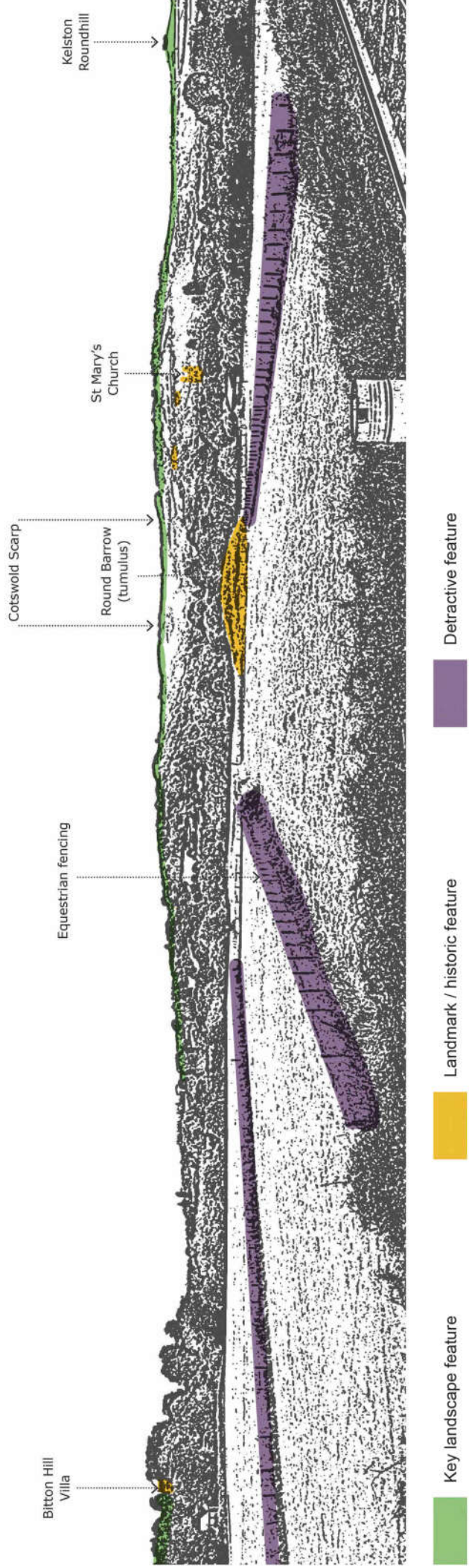


Figure 3.88: View Composition of Strategic Viewpoint 20 (view west)

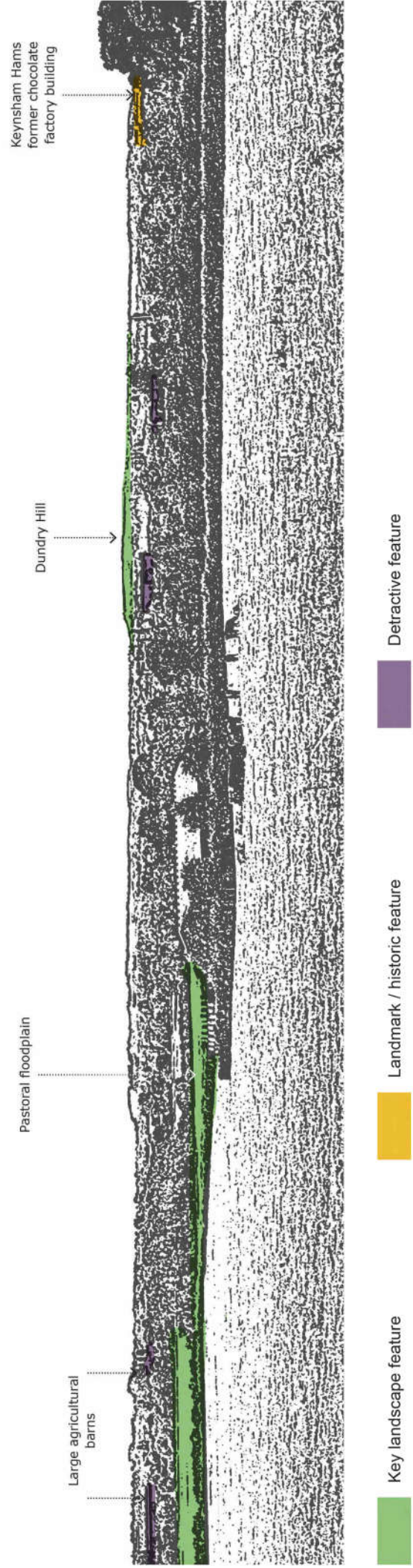
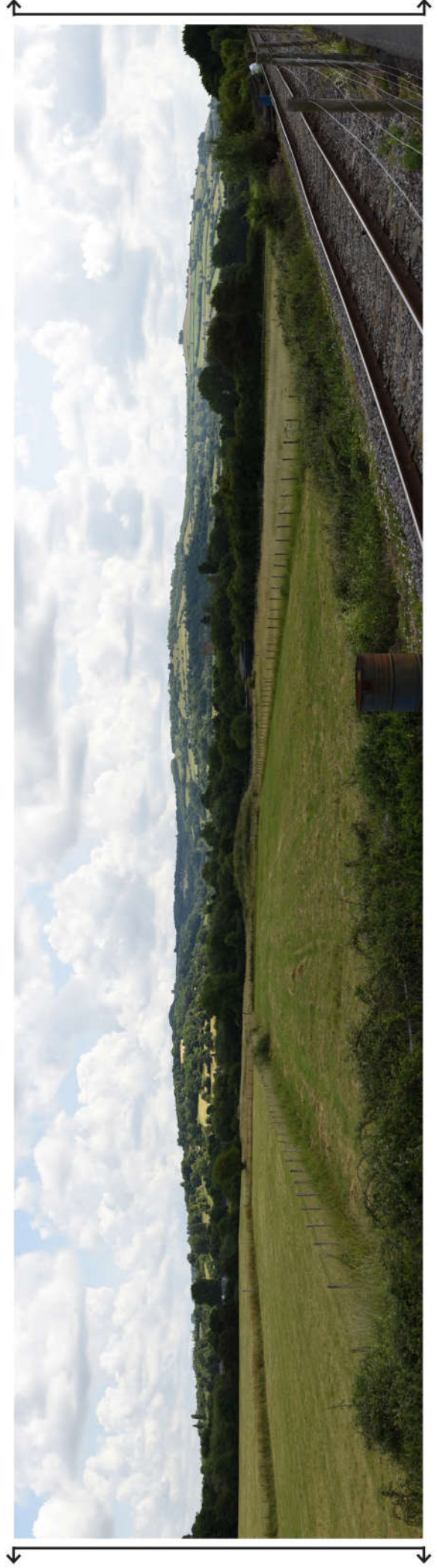


Figure 3.89: Full Panoramic Photograph of Strategic Viewpoint 20



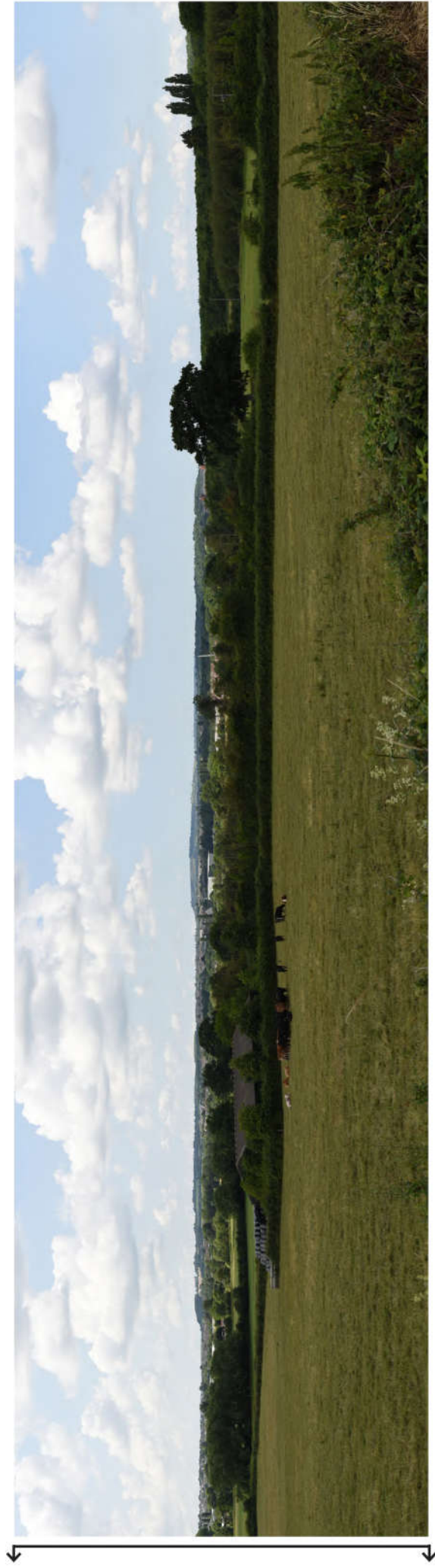
Strategic Viewpoint 20: Bristol to Bath Railway Path



Strategic Viewpoint 20 (continued)



Strategic Viewpoint 20: (continued)



Strategic Viewpoint 20 (continued)

Characteristics

Popularity, access and facilities

- The viewpoint is located along a disused railway, one of many historic industrial relics in the Avon Valley which is now a highly valued recreational asset. The Avon Riverside Station (located one kilometre to the south-east of the viewpoint) is symbolised as a visitor attraction on Google Maps and is likely to attract many visitors as a result.
- The viewpoint location is noted in LCA 16: Avon Valley, which states that there are *“occasional local and distant views over the adjacent floodplain and river”* from the railway path, including *“views towards distinctive landform features within the CNL, Ashwicke Ridges and Oldland Ridge, and historic features including the Bitton and Upper Cheyney Conservation Areas.”*
- The viewpoint is publicly accessible via the Bristol to Bath Railway Path (National Cycle Network Route 4) and the River Avon Trail locally promoted route (public footpath PBN/67/30). The Avon Valley Heritage Railway Line runs alongside the bike path with a station close to the viewpoint (Avon Riverside Station).

Relationship with the Cotswolds National Landscape (CNL)

- The viewpoint is not located within the CNL but provides views east towards Prospect Stile (within Bath and North East Somerset).

Quality, value and features of the view

- The viewpoint provides panoramic (360°) views north-east across the Avon Valley (characterised by the flat Avon floodplain alongside the meandering form of the River Avon) and towards the rolling hillsides of the Ashwicke Ridges and Oldland Ridge which enclose the Golden Valley, and south-east towards the Cotswold hills, including the wooded hillside of Prospect Stile, and Kelston Roundhill (both within Bath and North East Somerset).

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- The view west extends across the Avon Valley floodplain towards Keynsham, the flat, low-lying landscape contrasting with the elevated rolling landform of the Cotswold hills to the east.
- The viewpoint is located on the southern edge of Bitton Conservation Area and provides views north towards the settlement and its setting within the Golden Valley. To the north-east, Upton Cheyney Conservation Area is nestled on the Cotswold Scarp, and is well-integrated into the landscape by the surrounding mature vegetation.
- The tower of St Mary's Church (Grade I listed) in Bitton Conservation Area (0.6km away) forms a landmark feature, and is prominent within the low-lying floodplain. The former chocolate factory (now residential apartments) at Keynsham Hams is another landmark feature seen in views to the north-west (2.5km away).
- An ancient tumulus (round barrow) is located 0.2 kilometres from the viewpoint and contributes to the sense of time depth in the landscape.

Summary

The Bristol to Bath Railway Path (Avon Riverside Station) viewpoint is categorised as a SVP as it meets most of the criteria to some extent. It is a popular and well known viewpoint and likely to attract many visitors; 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 national cycle path and promoted footpath; it provides an appreciation of the Cotswold National Landscape; and it provides a 360° panoramic view that takes in the notable landscape features of the Avon Valley, Ashwicke Ridges, Oldland Ridge, Cotswold hills (including Prospect Stile and Kelston Roundhill), the Bitton and Upper Cheyney Conservation Areas, and the landmark features of St Mary's Church and the former chocolate factory at Keynsham Hams.

Strategic Viewpoint 21

View across Yate Vale and Rangeworthy

Figure 3.90: Location of Strategic Viewpoint 21 and landscape character context

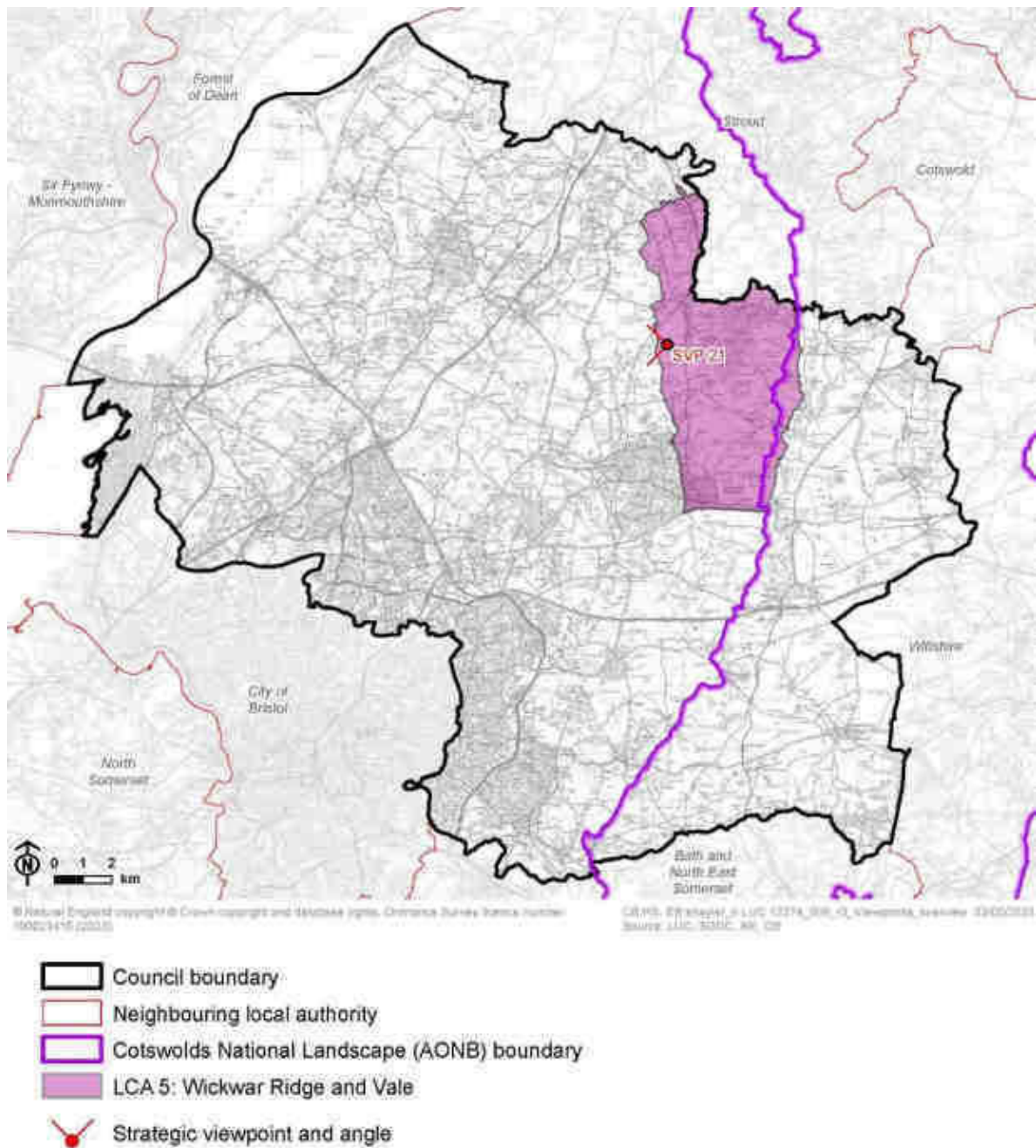
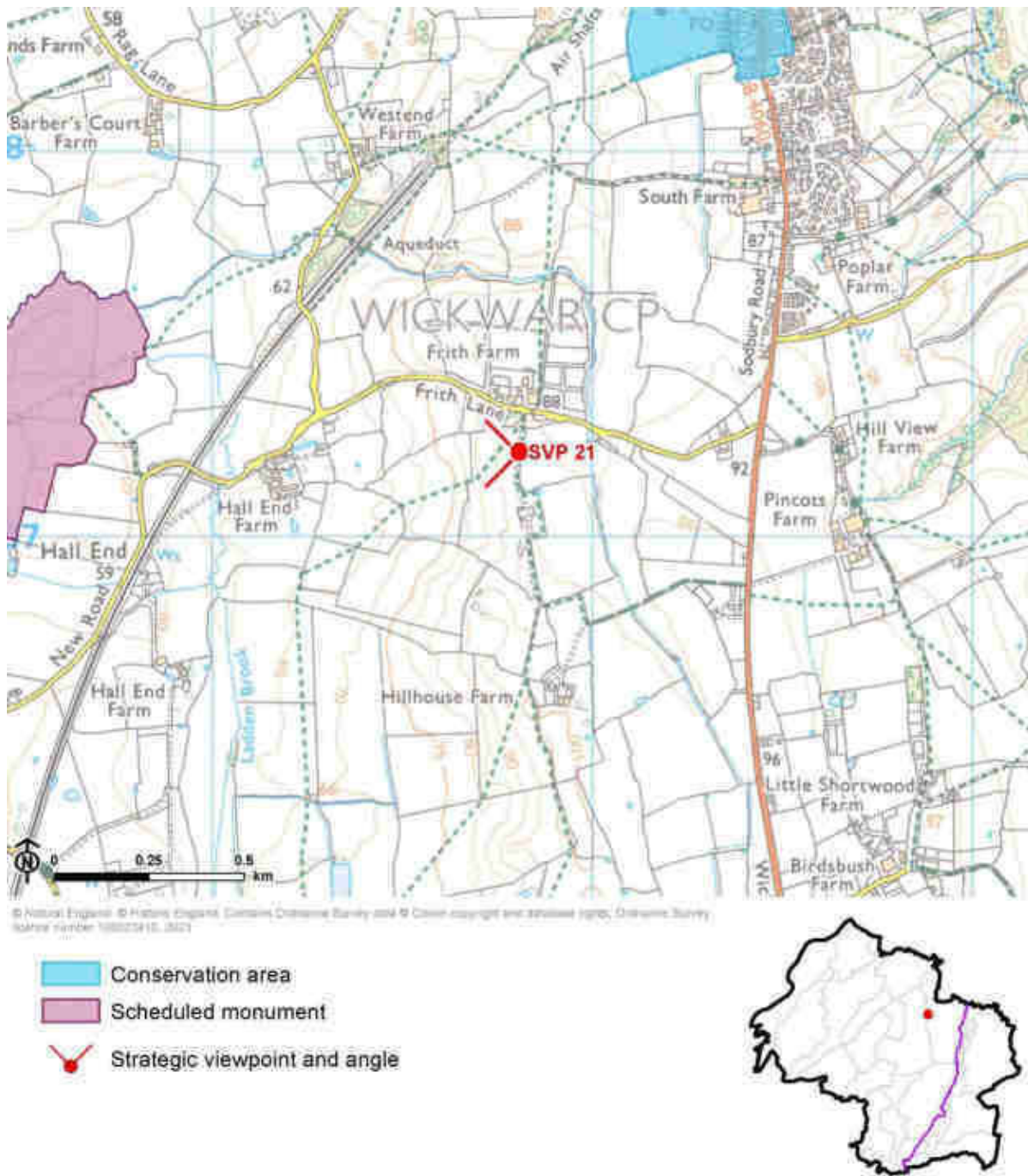


Figure 3.91: Detailed map of the location of Strategic Viewpoint 21



Viewpoint Information

Grid reference: ST 71807 87250

View location: On public footpath LYA/12/20, south of Frith Lane, near Wickwar.

View direction: Views north-west across Yate Vale (LCA 8) and towards Rudgeway and Tytherington Ridge (LCA 17). View south-west towards Earthcott Vale (LCA 10).

Relationship with Visually Important Hillside (VIH): The viewpoint is located 120m to the east of the Wickwar Ridge VIH and represents views experienced from it.

Experienced by: Pedestrians along Frith Lane, and recreational users of public footpaths LYA/12/20 and LYA/10/10.

Figure 3.92: View Composition of Strategic Viewpoint 21

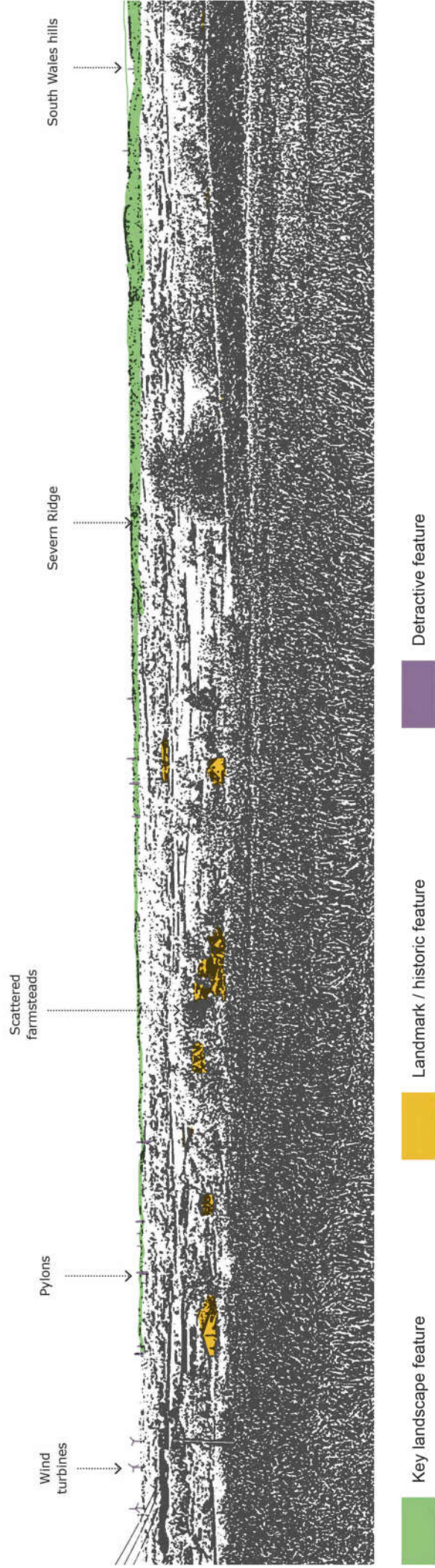
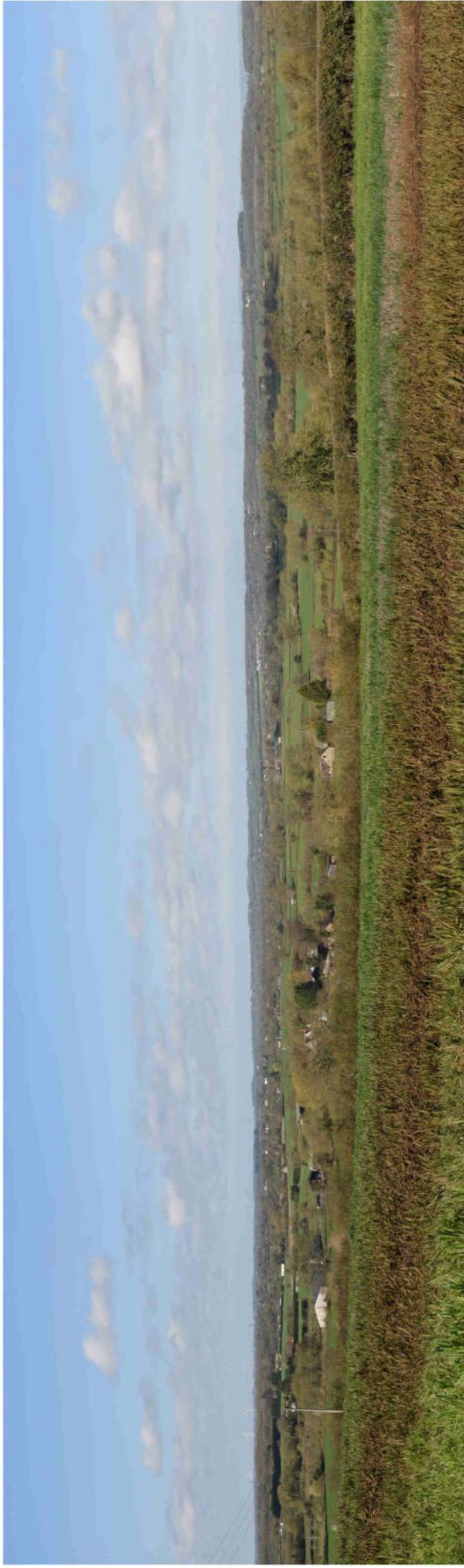
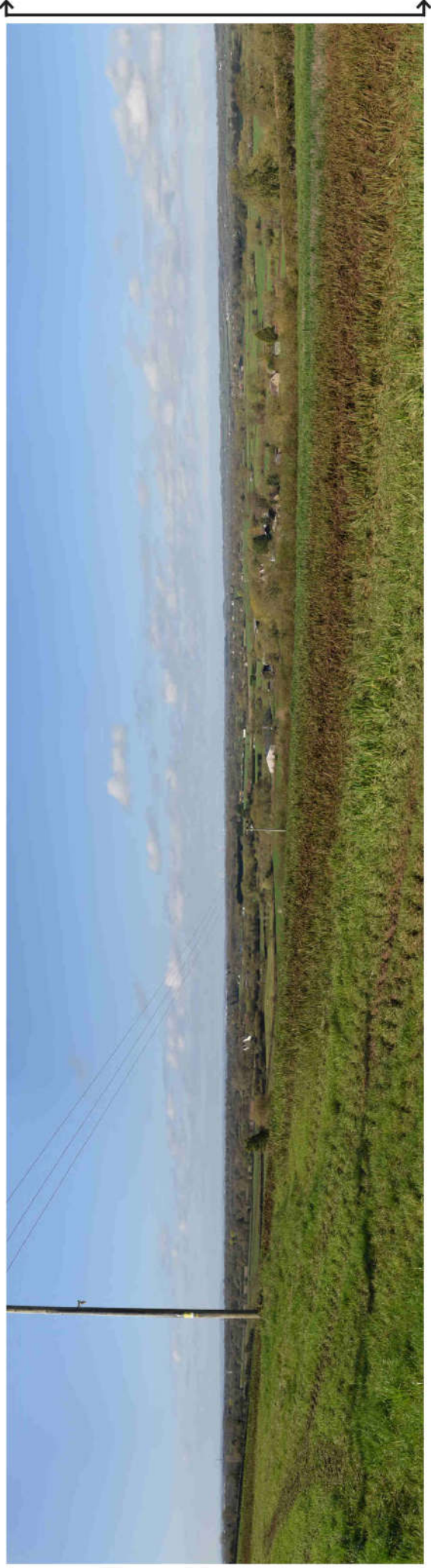
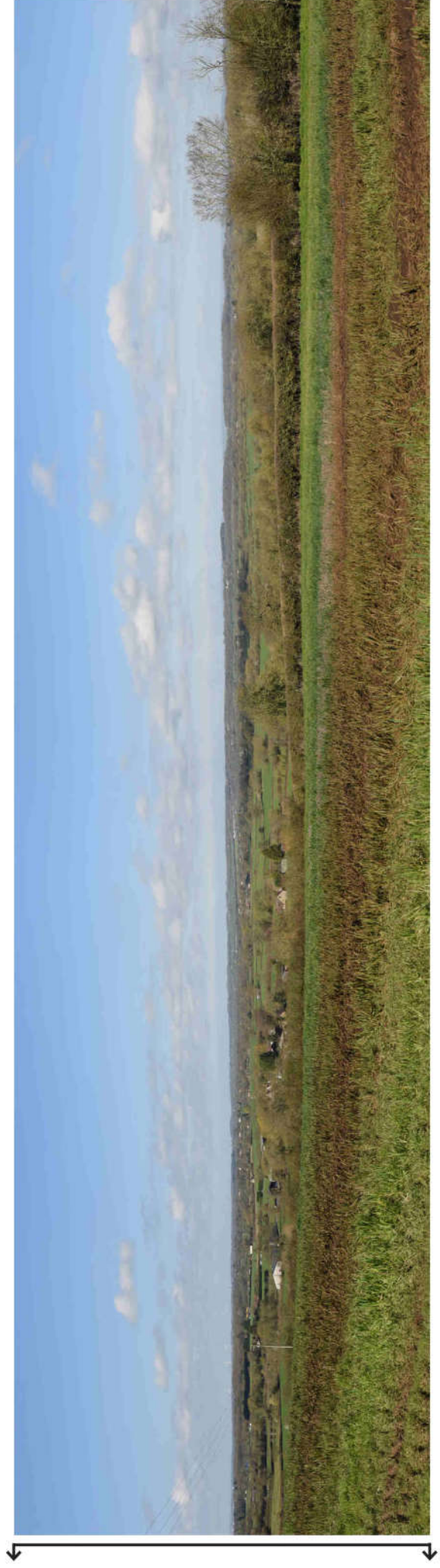


Figure 3.93: Full Panoramic Photograph of Strategic Viewpoint 21



Strategic Viewpoint 21: View across Yate Vale and Rangeworthy



Strategic Viewpoint 21 (continued)

Characteristics

Popularity, access and facilities

- Views from this viewpoint are representative of those described in LCA 5: Wickwar Ridge and Vale which states that there are "*expansive westward views across the landscapes to the north of Yate*".
- The viewpoint is publicly accessible from Frith Lane on footpath LYA/12/20.

Quality, value and features of the view

- An elevated viewpoint providing panoramic (180°) views west across the settled rural landscape of Yate Vale (characterised by medium-scale mixed use fields interspersed with scattered farmsteads, small copses and shelterbelts, and woodlands). In views to the south-west, the wooded slopes of the Tytherington Ridge and the Severn Ridges beyond form notable landform features and provide a sense of containment to the view. The hills of South Wales form a backdrop to long-distance views west and south-west.
- The Purdown BT Tower in Bristol is a distant landmark feature (15km away).
- A locally distinctive group of three wind turbines near Tytherington (7km away), several pylon lines, industrial development at Avonmouth (visible in long distance views) and large light-coloured warehouses at Yate industrial estate to the south slightly detract from the overall composition of the view.

Summary

The View across Yate Vale and Rangeworthy 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 public footpath; and it provides a panoramic view that takes in the notable landscape features of the Yate Vale, the Tytherington Ridge, the Severn Ridges, the hills of South Wales, and the landmark feature of the Purdown BT Tower.

Strategic Viewpoint 22

St James' Church (Abson)

Figure 3.94: Location of Strategic Viewpoint 22 and landscape character context

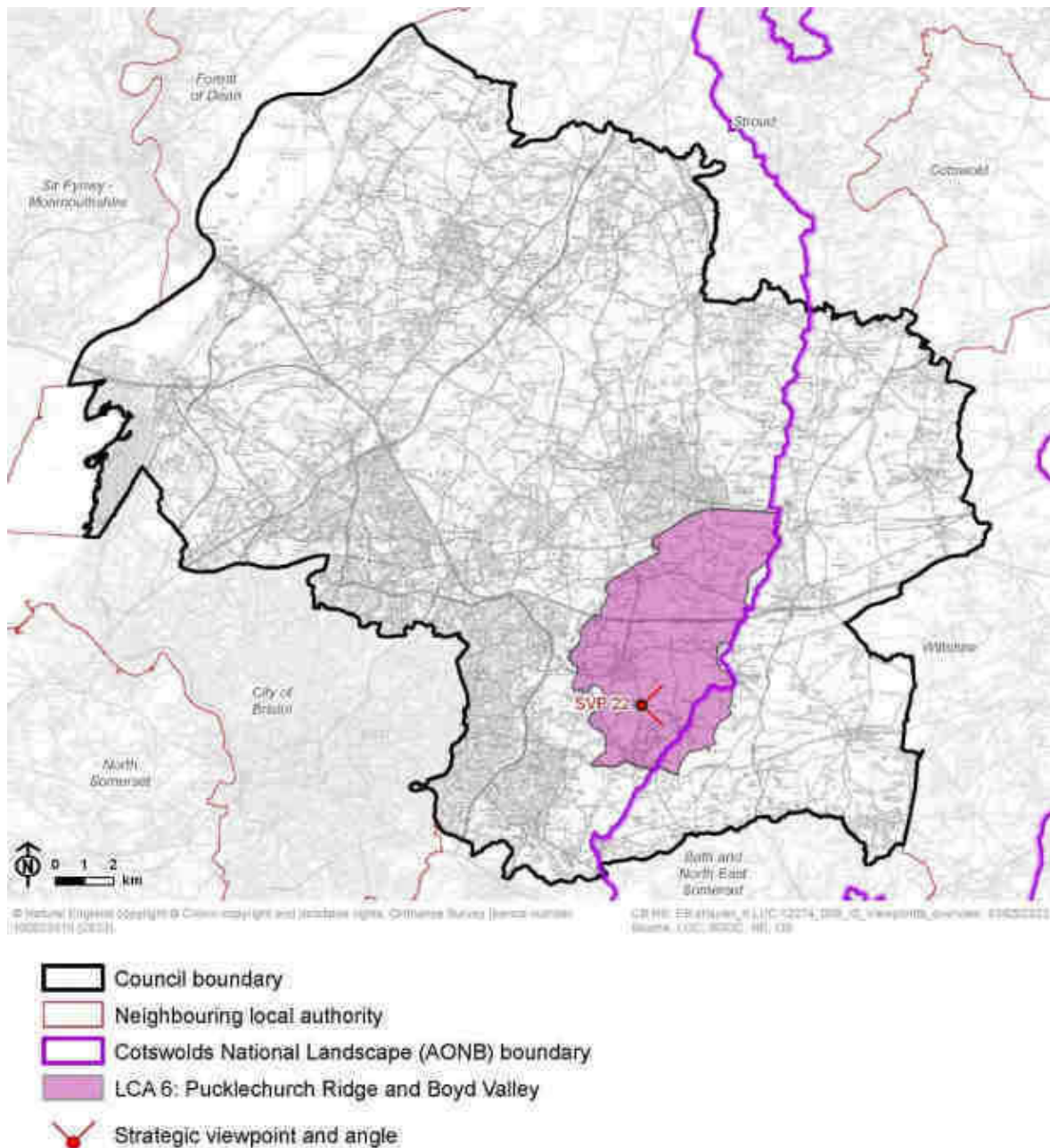
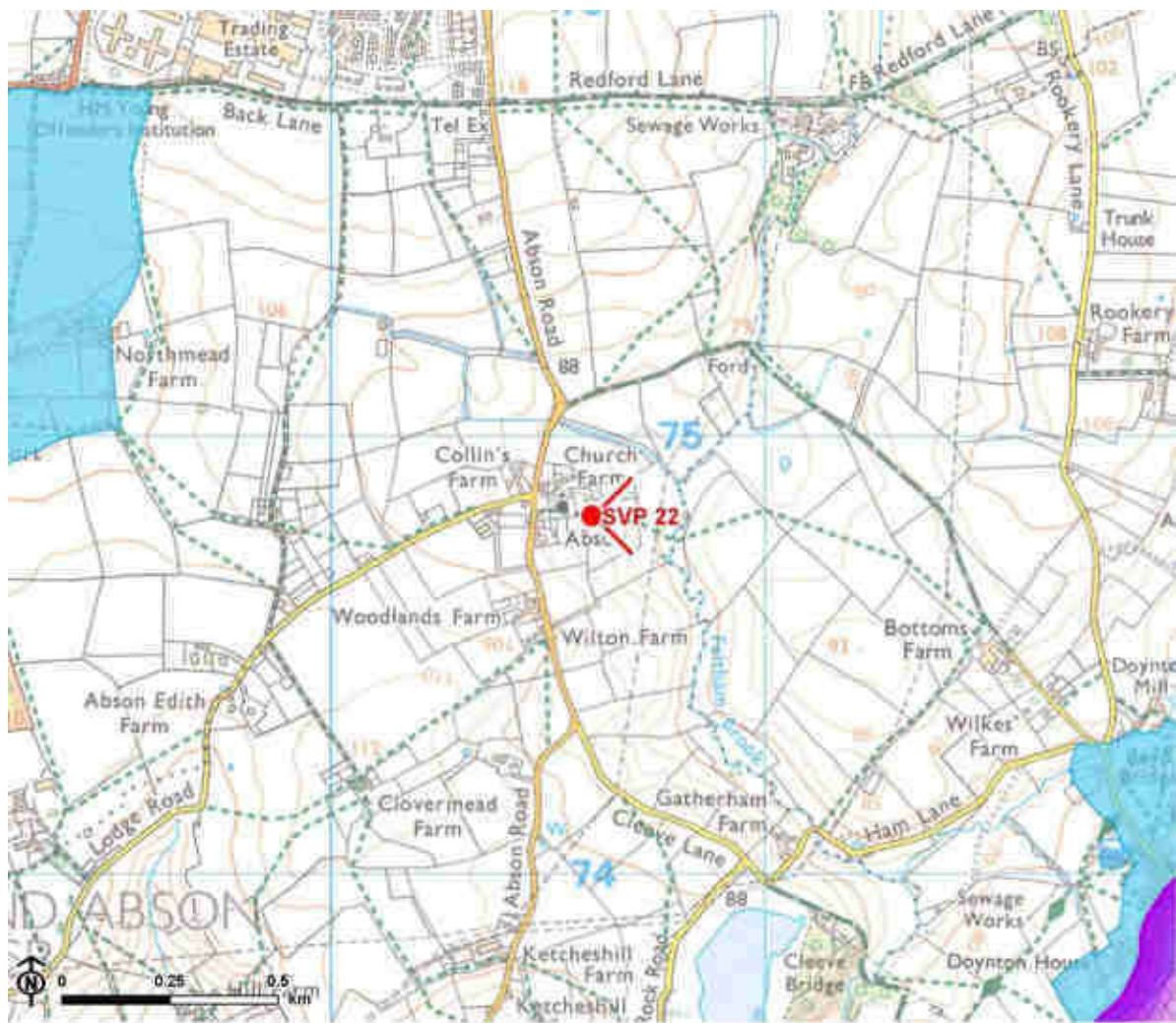





Figure 3.95: Detailed map of the location of Strategic Viewpoint 22



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



Viewpoint Information

Grid reference: ST 70603 74830

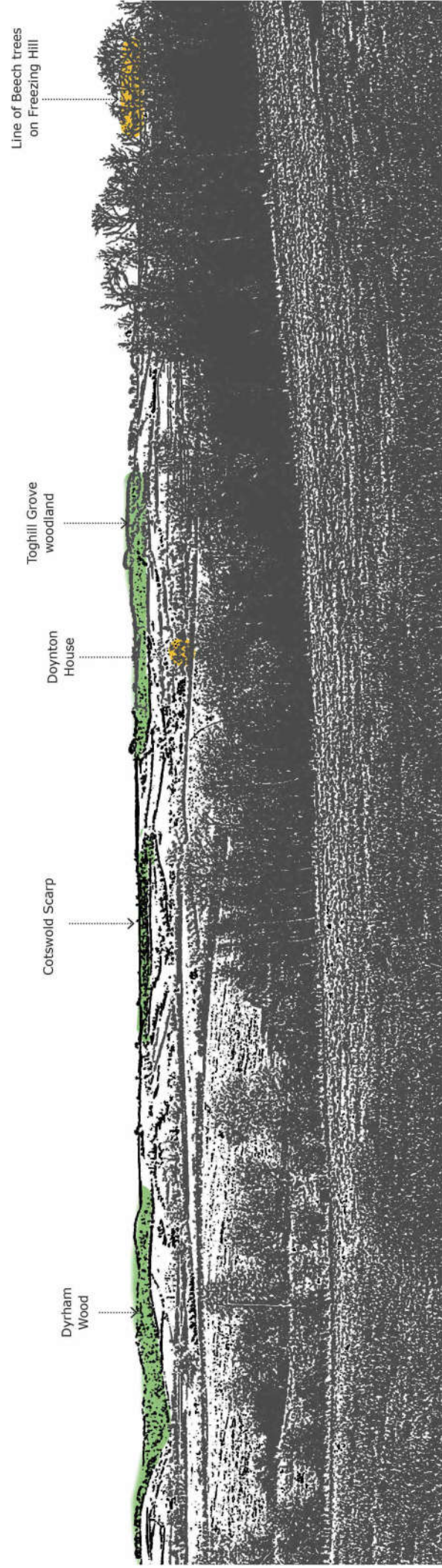
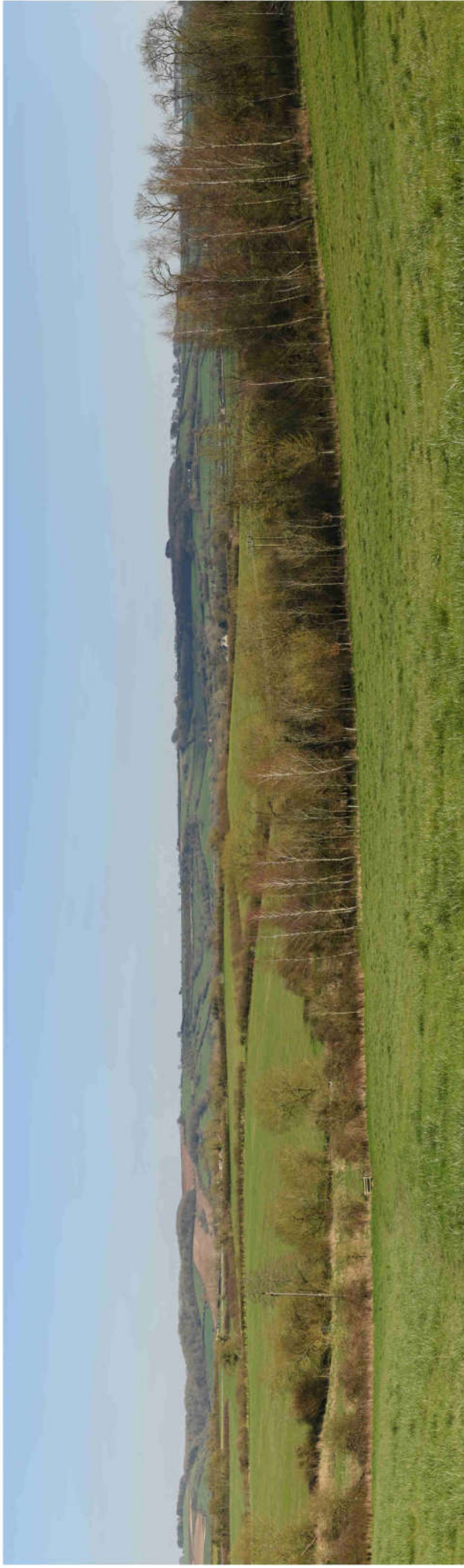
View location: Public footpath LWA/31/10 to the rear of St James' Church, Abson.

View direction: View east across the Feltham Brook valley and the Pucklechurch Ridge and Boyd Valley (LCA 6), and towards the Cotswold Scarp (LCA 4).

Relationship with Visually Important Hillside (VIH): The viewpoint is not located along a VIH, however it provides views east towards the Cotswold Scarp VIH.

Experienced by: Visitors to St James' Church (Grade I listed), and recreational users of public footpath LWA/31/10 to the rear of the church.

Figure 3.96: View Composition of Strategic Viewpoint 22



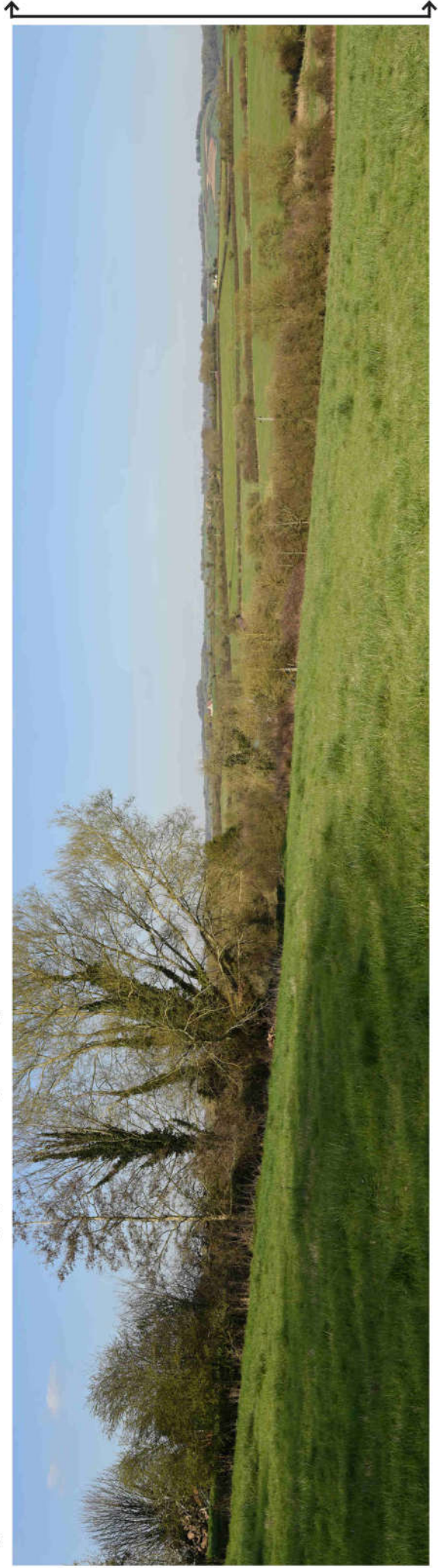
Key landscape feature



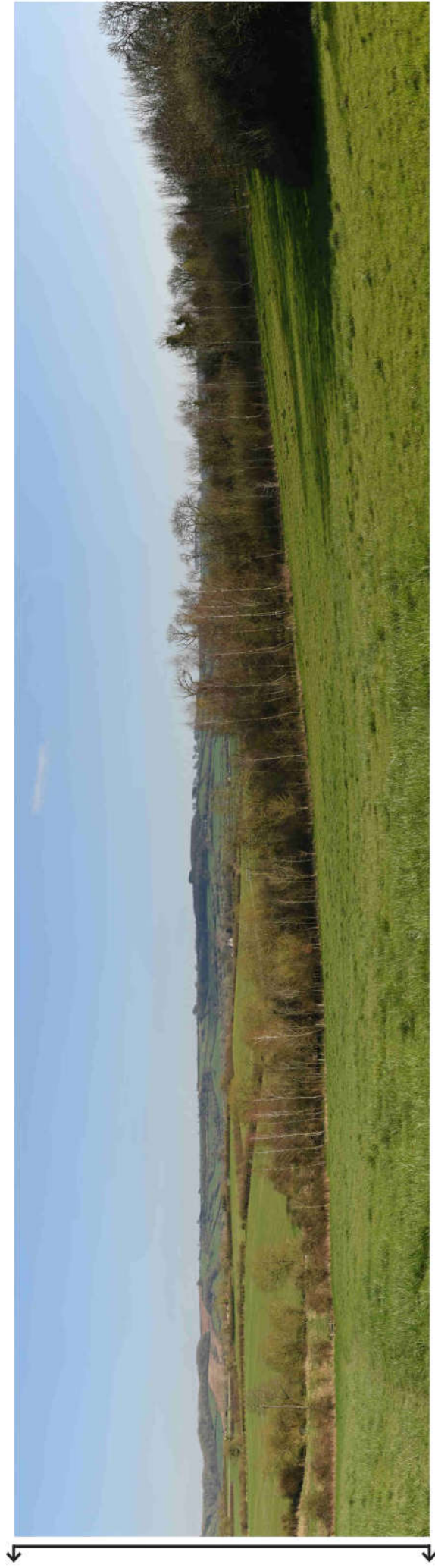
Landmark / historic feature



Figure 3.97: Full Panoramic Photograph of Strategic Viewpoint 22



Strategic Viewpoint 22: Abson Church



Strategic Viewpoint 22 (continued)

Characteristics

Popularity, access and facilities

- The viewpoint is publicly accessible, located on public footpath LWA/31/10 which can be accessed via St James' Church, and from Bottoms Farm Lane to the east.
- A small car parking area is provided on Abson Road, adjacent to the church.

Relationship with the Cotswolds National Landscape (CNL)

- The viewpoint is not located within the CNL but offers panoramic views east towards the Cotswold Scarp.
- Views of the Cotswold Scarp are considered to be a special quality of the designated landscape, as set out in the CNL Management Plan.

Quality, value and features of the view

- An elevated viewpoint that affords open panoramic (180°) views across the Feltham Brook valley and the Boyd Valley (characterised by small-scale pastoral fields defined by hedgerows with hedgerow trees, small blocks of woodland and a sparse settlement pattern of occasional farmsteads invoking a strong rural character and sense of time depth), that extends east to the rolling foothills of the Cotswold Scarp. Upon the scarp a large area of woodland (Dyrham Wood and Toghill Grove) clothes the slopes of an incised stream valley.
- In views to the south-east, Doynton Conservation Area (1.4km away) can be seen nestled amongst mature vegetation at the foot of the Cotswold Scarp, with the chimneys of Doynton House (Grade II listed) providing a distinctive feature. To the north-east, a planted avenue of trees lining the main drive of Dyrham Park can be seen 4km away, although the manor house is concealed by surrounding woodland.

Chapter 3 Analysis of Strategic Viewpoints

- To the south-east, the distinctive line of beech trees on Freezing Hill can be seen in glimpsed views through intervening woodland, providing a landmark feature within the view.
- This is a strongly rural, undisturbed view arising from its rural setting and absence of detractive features or modern development.

Summary

The St James' Church (Abson) viewpoint is categorised as a SVP as it meets most of the criteria to some extent. It is located on a public footpath with parking provided to facilitate enjoyment of the view; it allows an appreciation of the Cotswolds National Landscape; and it provides a panoramic view that takes in the notable landscape features of the Feltham Brook valley, the Boyd Valley, the Cotswold Scarp and Doynton Conservation Area, and the landmark features of Doynton House and line of beech trees on Freezing Hill.

Strategic Viewpoint 23

Woodwell Meadows (Littleton-upon-Severn)

Figure 3.98: Location of Strategic Viewpoint 23 and landscape character context

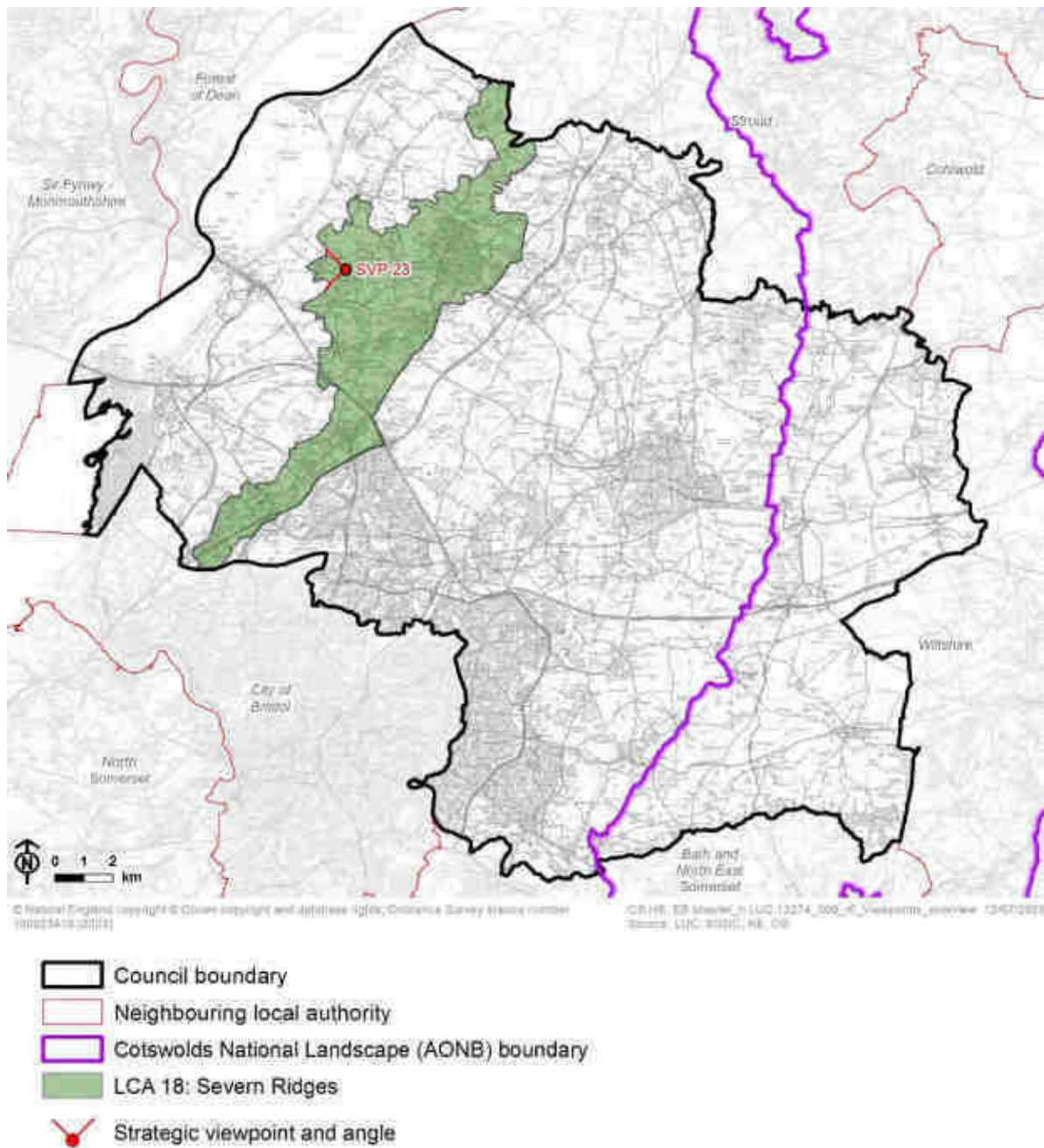
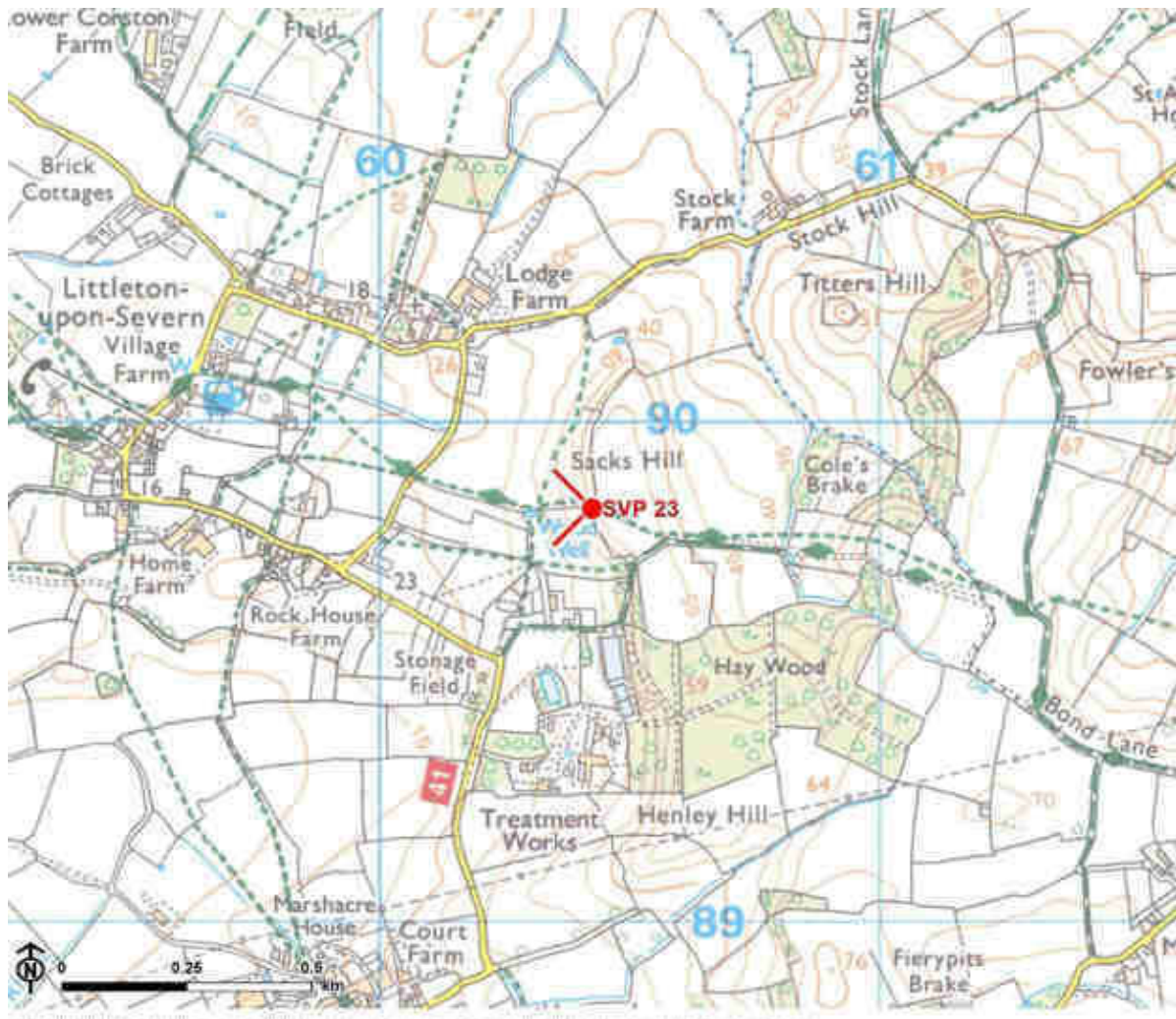


Figure 3.99: Detailed map of the location of Strategic Viewpoint 23



 Strategic viewpoint and angle



Viewpoint Information

Grid reference: ST 60418 89803

View location: Top of Woodwell Meadows Local Nature Reserve, near Littleton-upon-Severn.

View direction: View west and south across the Pilning Levels (LCA 20) towards the Estuary, Shoreline and Levels (LCA 21).

Relationship with Visually Important Hillside (VIH): The viewpoint is located on Sacks Hill, part of the Severn Ridges VIH.

Experienced by: Recreational users of public rights of way including The Jubilee Way locally promoted route (OAU/15/20) and nearby footpath OAU/17/20.

Figure 3.100: View Composition of Strategic Viewpoint 23

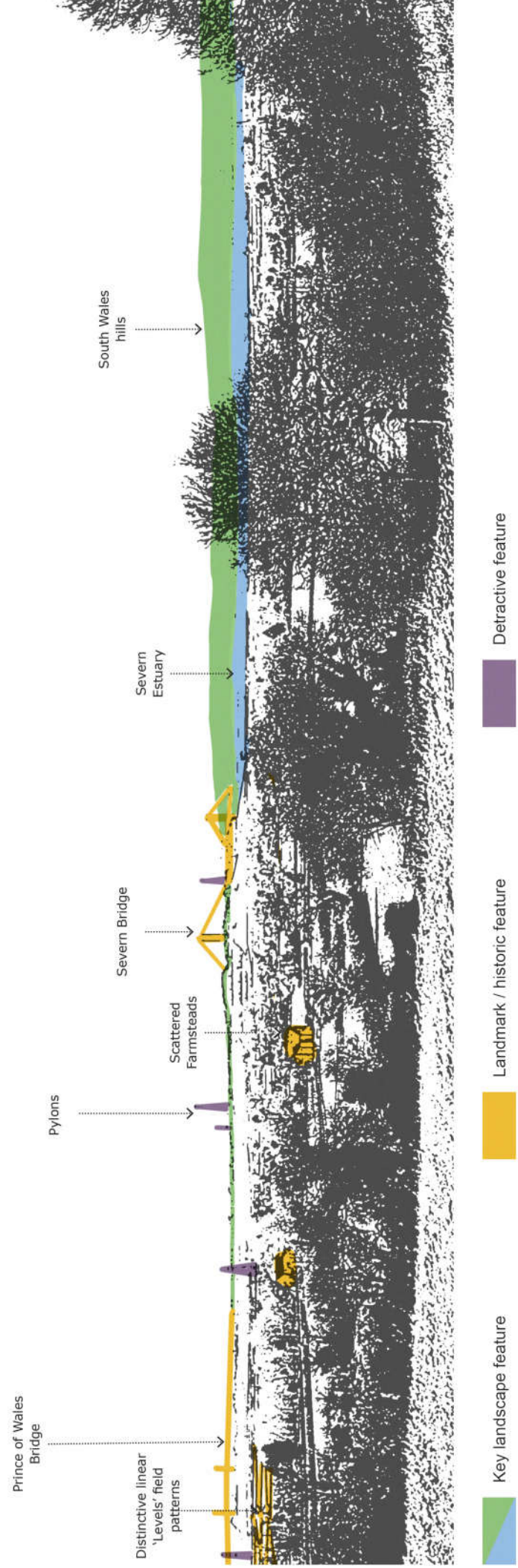
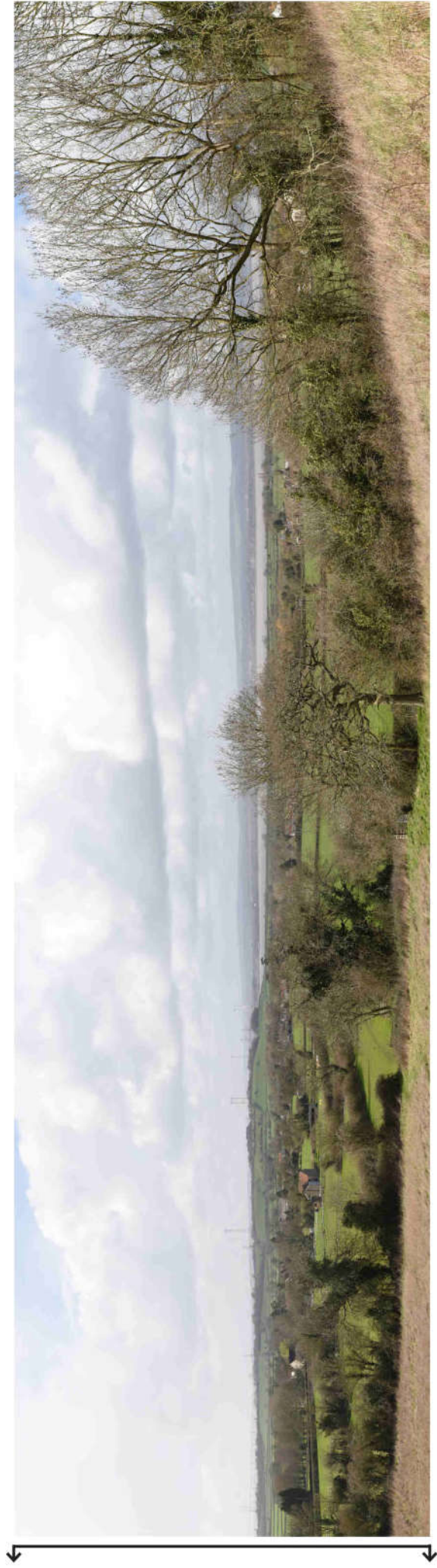


Figure 3.101: Full Panoramic Photograph of Strategic Viewpoint 23



Strategic Viewpoint 23: Woodwell Meadows



Strategic Viewpoint 23 (continued)

Characteristics

Popularity, access and facilities

- Views from the viewpoint are noted in the Jubilee Way route guide leaflet (2009), which states that *“there are excellent views from the upper field to the Severn Estuary, the two Severn bridges and into Wales”* [See reference 11].
- The viewpoint is publicly accessible, located within the Woodwell Meadows Local Nature Reserve, and can be accessed via the Jubilee Way (footpath OAU/15/20) as well as several adjoining public rights of way.
- A bench and toposcope are provided as part of the ‘A Forgotten Landscape’ project to facilitate enjoyment and interpretation of the view.

Quality, value and features of the view

- An elevated viewpoint located on the upper west-facing slopes of the Severn Ridges VIH, affording panoramic (180°) views across the lower-lying levels (characterised by a distinctive geometric field pattern of linear rhines, a strongly wooded hedgerow framework and a dispersed settlement pattern of traditional farmsteads that contribute to the rural character of the view), towards the Severn Estuary and beyond to the wooded hills of the Wye Valley and South Wales.
- The Severn Bridge (Grade I listed) and Prince of Wales Bridges form distant landmarks within the view (located 7km and 7.8km away, respectively).
- Several pylon lines, as well as views south to industrial infrastructure (including chimneys and wind turbines) at Avonmouth slightly detract from the overall composition of the view.

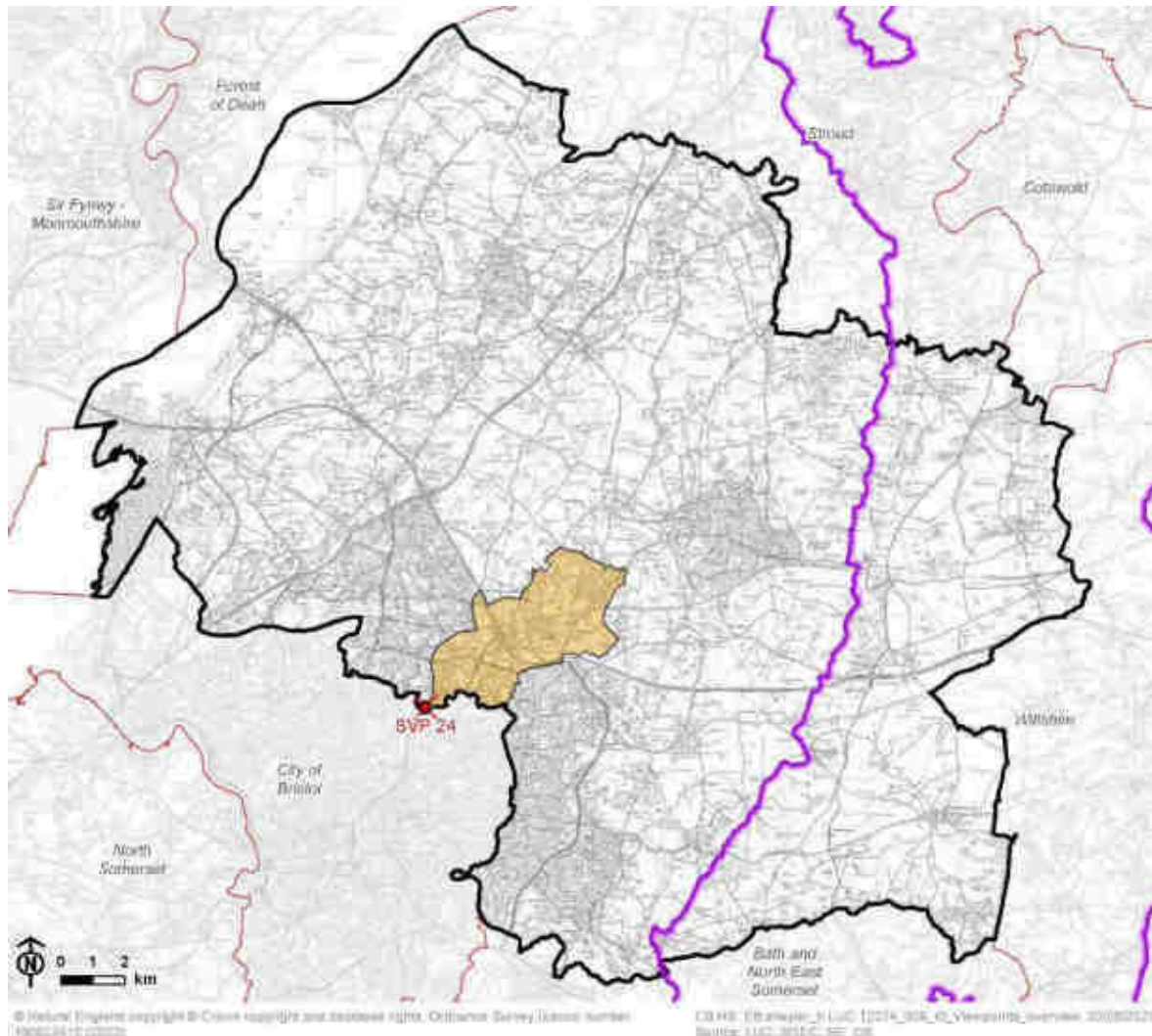
Summary

The Woodwell Meadows viewpoint is categorised as a SVP as it meets most of the criteria to some extent. It is a well-known and recorded viewpoint and likely to attract many visitors being within the Woodwell Meadows Local Nature Reserve; it is located on a promoted footpath with a bench and toposcope provided to facilitate enjoyment and interpretation of the view; it provides a panoramic view that takes in the notable landscape features of the levels, the Severn Estuary and the hills of the Wye Valley and South Wales, and the landmark features of the Severn Bridge and the Prince of Wales Bridge.

Strategic Viewpoint 24

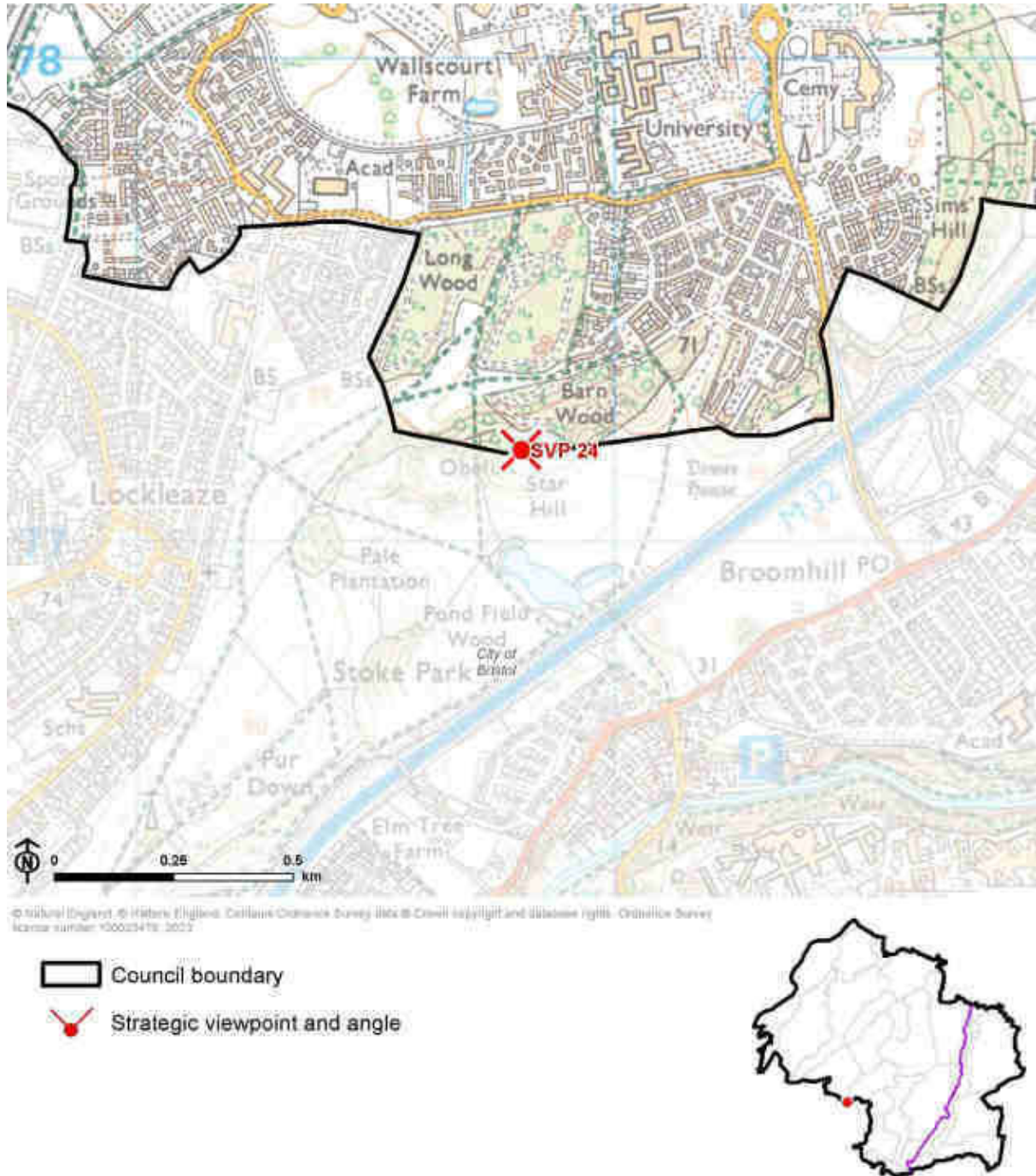
Stoke Park

Figure 3.102: Location of Strategic Viewpoint 24 and landscape character context



-  Council boundary
-  Neighbouring local authority
-  Cotswolds National Landscape (AONB) boundary
-  LCA 13: Frome Valley
-  Strategic viewpoint and angle

Figure 3.103: Detailed map of the location of Strategic Viewpoint 24



Viewpoint Information

Grid reference: ST 61803 77187

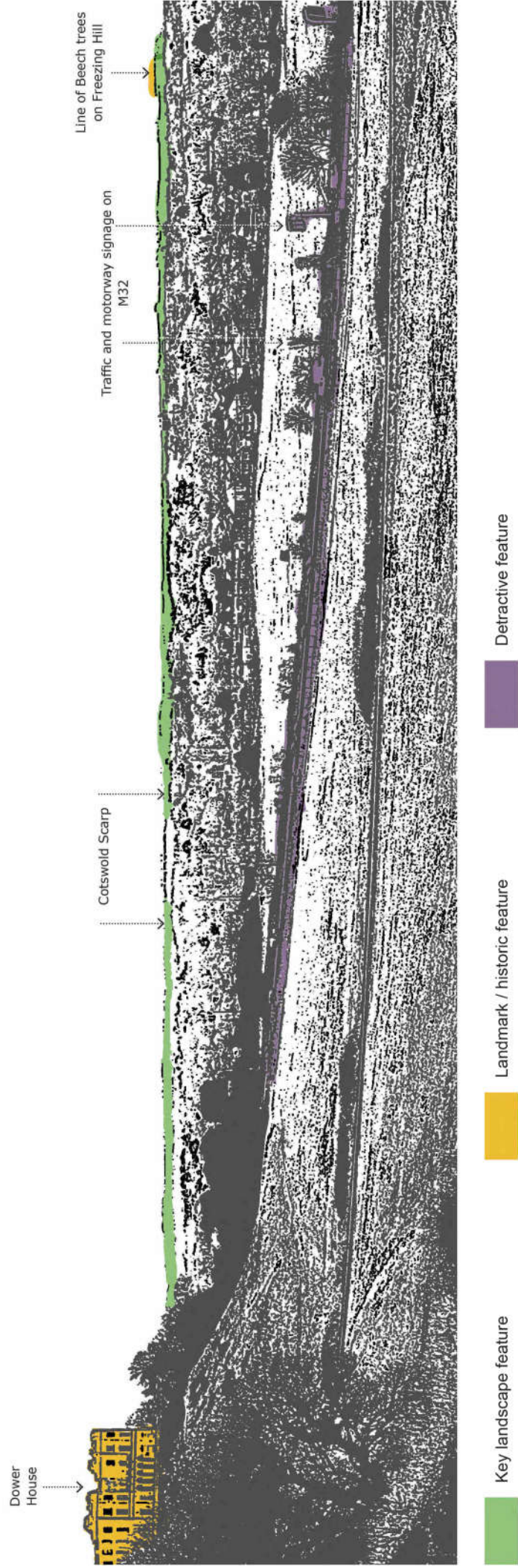
View location: Obelisk on Star Hill, Stoke Park.

View direction: Views south, east and west into the Frome Valley (LCA 13) and across Kingswood (LCA 14).

Relationship with Visually Important Hillside (VIH): The viewpoint is located approximately 180m west of Sims Hill VIH which can be seen within the view.

Experienced by: Visitors to Stoke Park Estate, accessible via public footpaths LSG/26/20 and LSG/26/60.

Figure 3.104: View Composition of Strategic Viewpoint 24 (view north-east)



Dower House

Cotswold Scarp

Traffic and motorway signage on M32

Line of Beech trees on Freezing Hill

Key landscape feature

Landmark / historic feature

Detractive feature

Figure 3.105: View Composition of Strategic Viewpoint 24 (view south-east)

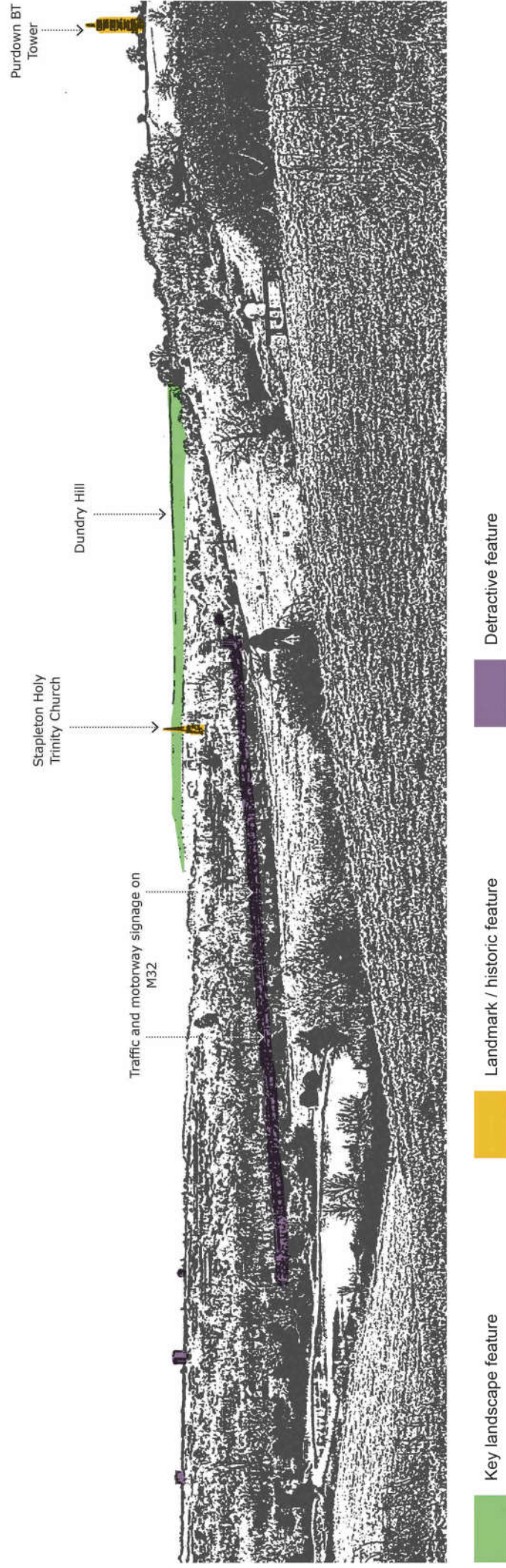
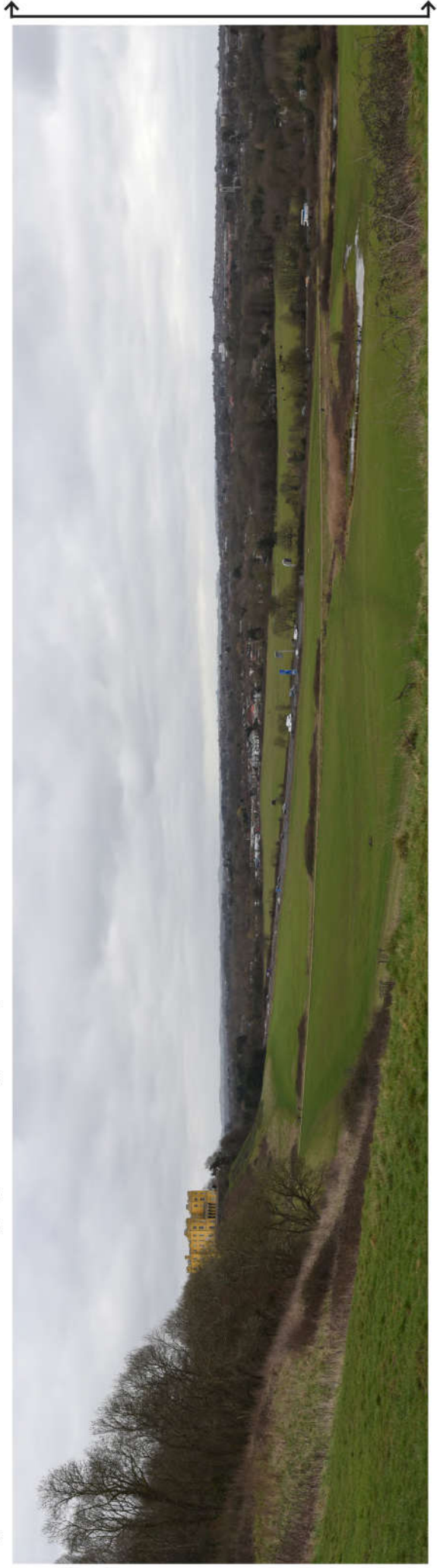
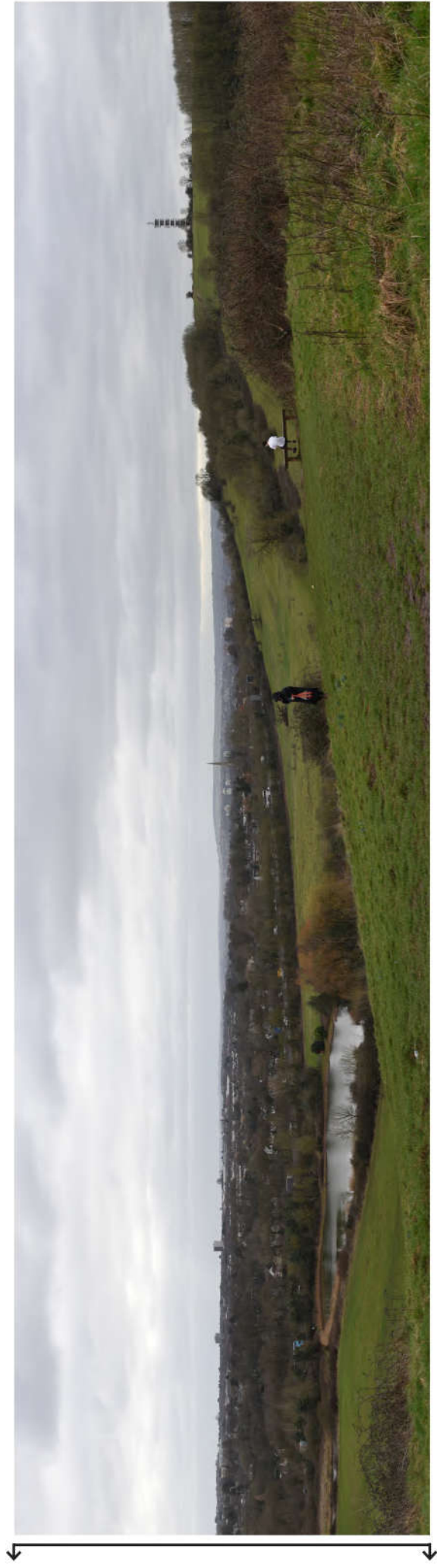


Figure 3.106: Full Panoramic Photograph of Strategic Viewpoint 24



Strategic Viewpoint 24: Stoke Park



Strategic Viewpoint 24 (continued)

Characteristics

Popularity, access and facilities

- The viewpoint is located within the Stoke Park Estate, a Grade II listed Registered Park and Garden, and public park managed by Bristol City Council. It is marked on Google Maps as 'Lady Elizabeth Somerset's Obelisk' and is likely to attract many visitors as a result.
- Public footpaths LSG/26/20 and LSG/26/60 provide further public access to the viewpoint.
- A bench is provided near the viewpoint to facilitate enjoyment of the view.

Relationship with the Cotswolds National Landscape (CNL)

- The viewpoint is located outside the Cotswolds National Landscape but offers views east towards the Cotswold Scarp.
- Views of the Cotswold Scarp are considered to be a special quality of the designated landscape, as set out in the CNL Management Plan.

Quality, value and features of the view

- The viewpoint occupies an elevated position within the park and provides a panoramic (180°) view south, east and west over Fishponds, Stapleton, and the edge of Bristol.
- The Cotswold Scarp is visible on the skyline in long distance views to the east (including the distinctive line of beech trees on Freezing Hill), whilst Dundry Hill (in North Somerset) forms the horizon in views to the south-east. Views to the south extend across Stoke Park Estate towards the edge of Bristol.
- The distinctive yellow Dower House (Grade II* listed) located on a small hill within the park (0.4km away) is a prominent landmark feature in views to the east, as is the Purdown BT Tower (1.4km away) in views to the south-west.

Chapter 3 Analysis of Strategic Viewpoints

Other landmarks include the clock tower at UWE Glenside Campus (1km away), the spires of the Grade II* listed Stapleton Holy Trinity Church (1.2km away), the Grade II listed St Mary's Church in Fishponds (1.8km away), and the clocktower of Cossham Hospital in Hillfields (2km away) which forms a prominent vertical skyline feature that is notably higher than the surrounding buildings.

- The viewpoint is located within the designed landscape of Stoke Park (Grade II Registered Park and Garden).
- The busy M32 dual carriageway is visible immediately to the south-east and detracts from the overall composition of the view.

Summary

The Stoke Park viewpoint is categorised as a SVP as it meets most of the criteria to some extent. It is a popular and well-known viewpoint and likely to attract many visitors being within Stoke Park; it is located on a public footpath with a bench provided to facilitate enjoyment of the view; it allows an appreciation of the Cotswolds National Landscape; it provides a panoramic view that takes in the notable landscape features of the Stoke Park Estate, Dundry Hill and the Cotswold Scarp, and the landmark features of Dower House, Purdown BT Tower, clock tower at UWE Glenside Campus, Stapleton Holy Trinity Church, St Mary's Church and the clocktower of Cossham Hospital in Hillfields; and is a designed viewpoint from a Registered Park and Garden..

Strategic Viewpoint 25

East End (Marshfield)

Figure 3.107: Location of Strategic Viewpoint 25 and landscape character context

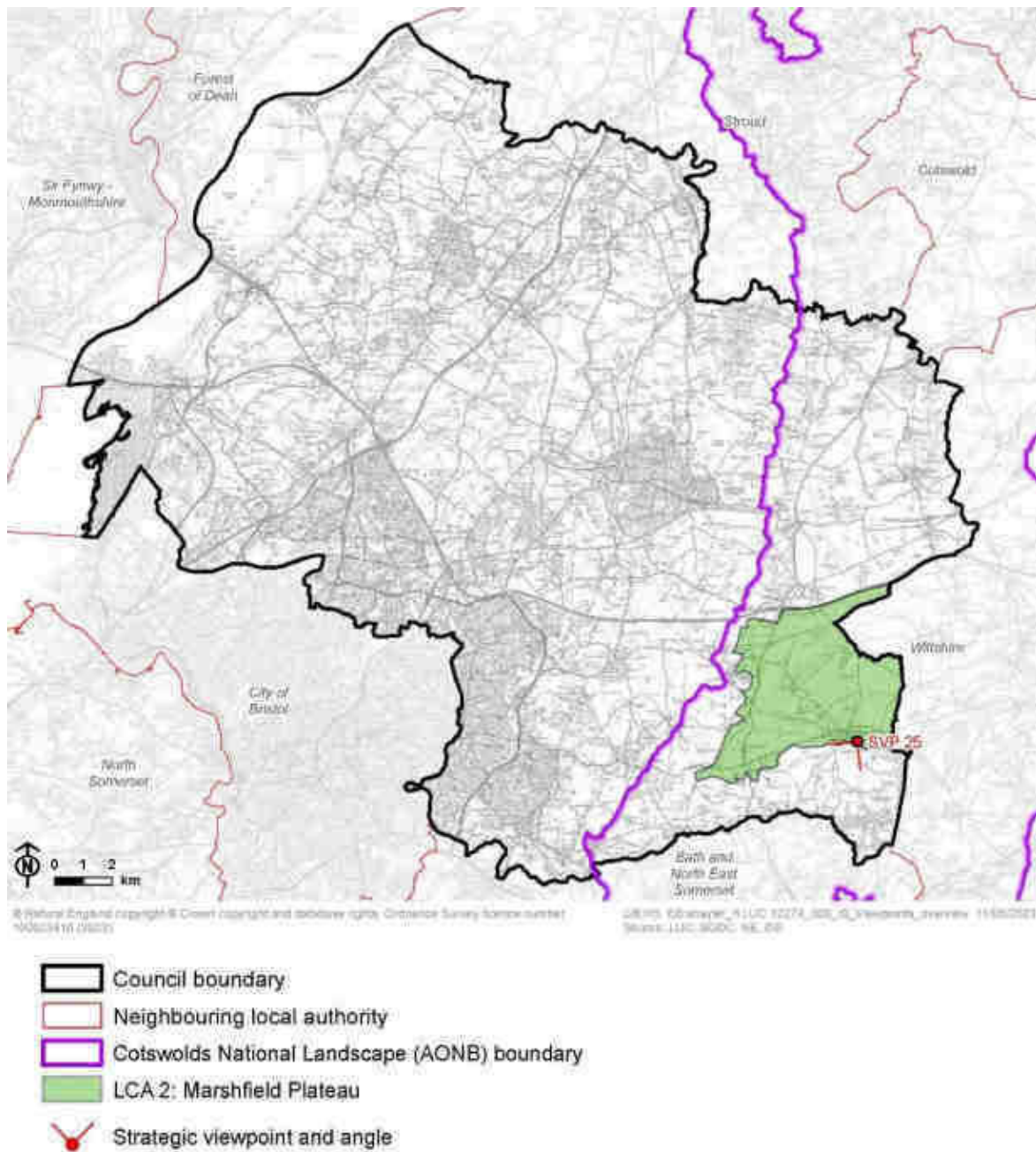
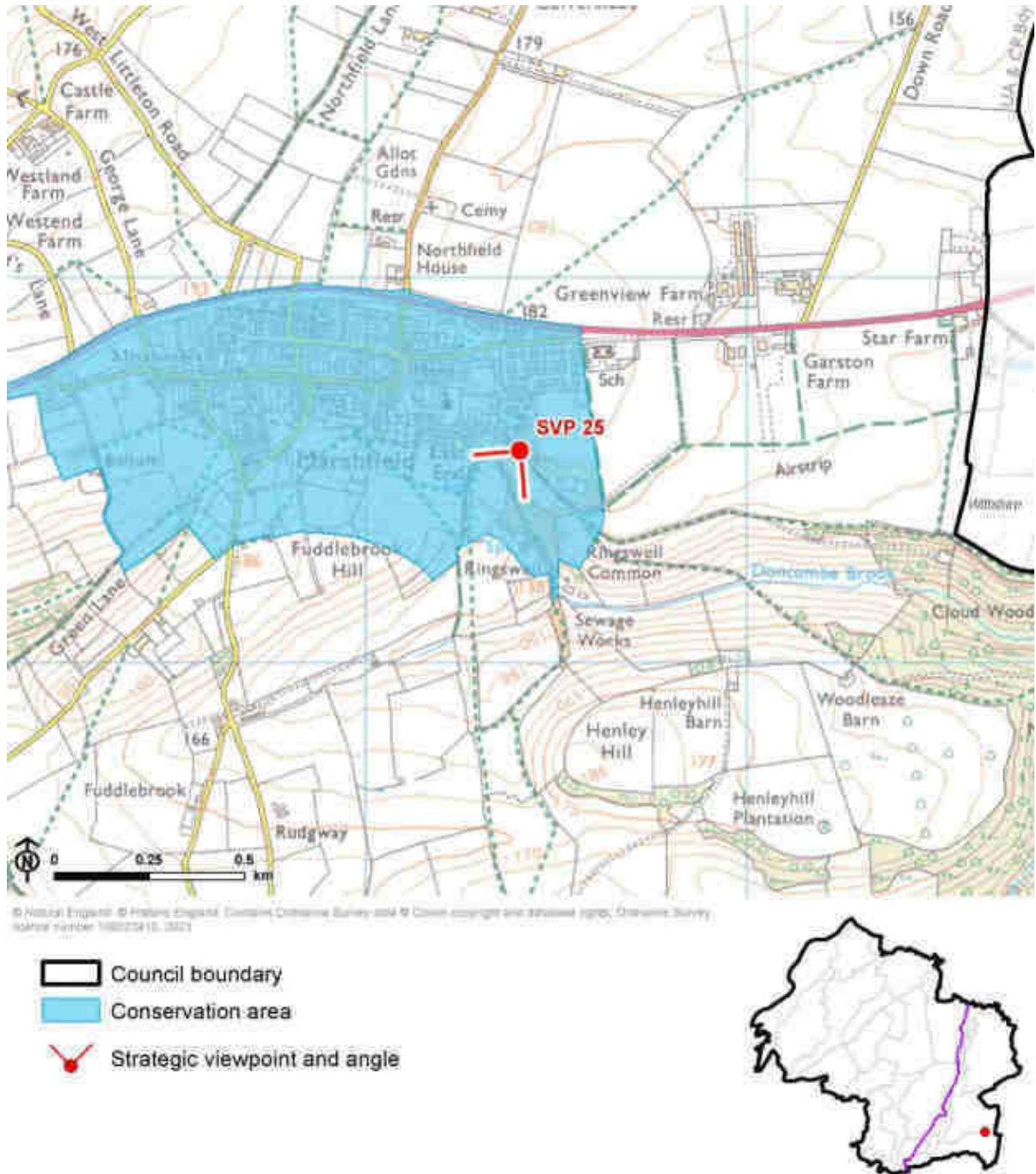


Figure 3.108: Detailed map of the location of Strategic Viewpoint 25



Viewpoint Information

Grid reference: ST 78407 73550

View location: Public bridleway LMA/36/10, to the east of the Marshfield village centre.

View direction: View south and south-west across Marshfield Plateau (LCA 2).

Relationship with Visually Important Hillside (VIH): The viewpoint is located on the northern edge of the Ashwicke Ridges VIH.

Experienced by: Recreational users (including pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders) travelling along bridleway LMA/36/10, as well as people using the area of open access land and seating area to the north-east of the viewpoint.

Figure 3.109: View Composition of Strategic Viewpoint 25

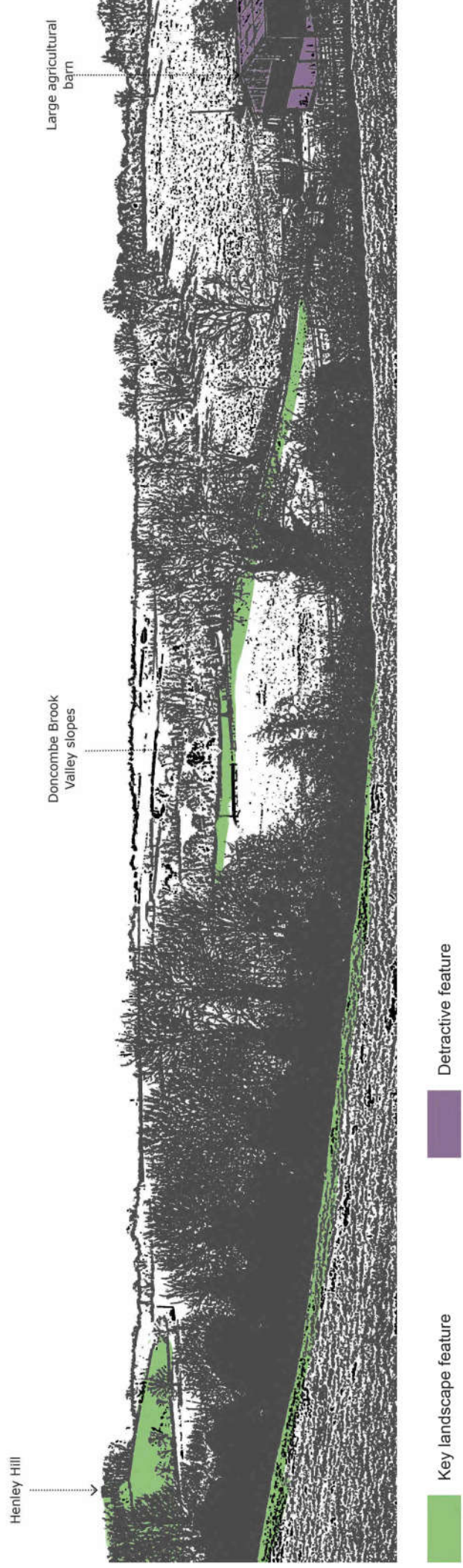
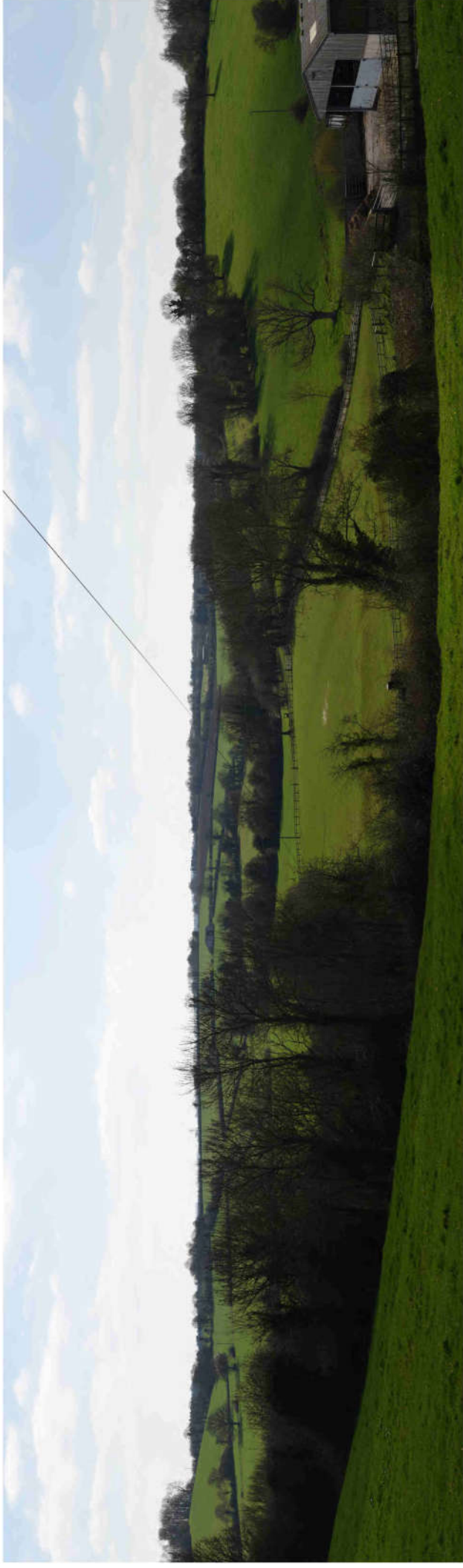
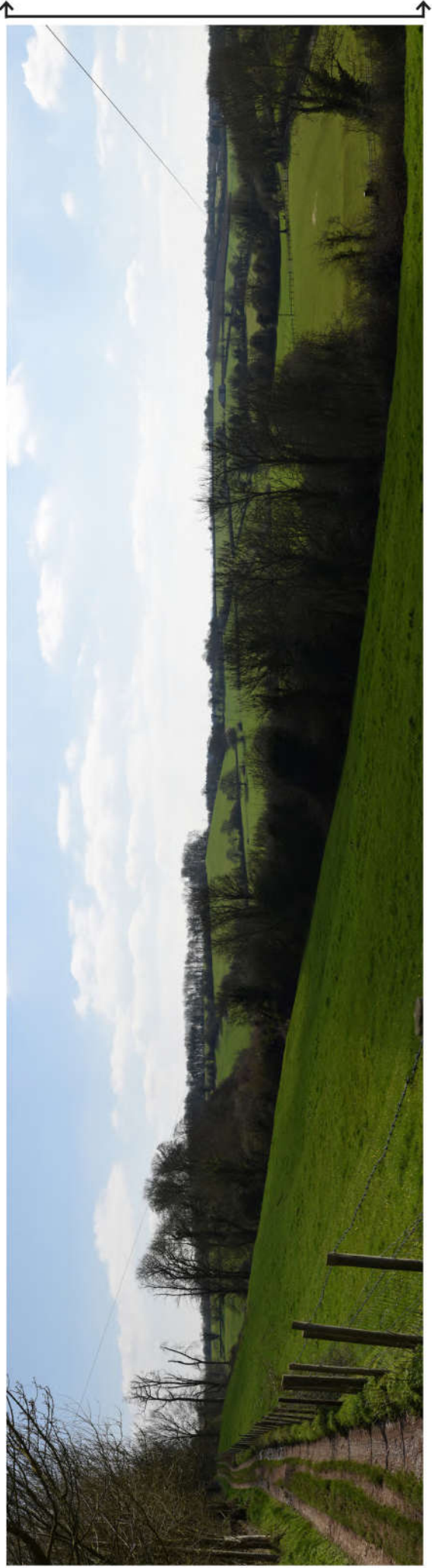


Figure 3.110: Full Panoramic Photograph of Strategic Viewpoint 25



Strategic Viewpoint 25: East End (Marshfield)



Strategic Viewpoint 25 (continued)

Characteristics

Popularity, access and facilities

- The Marshfield Conservation Area Appraisal identifies important views in to and out of the village, specifically noting the views from Market Place, with its *“important view out over the valley to the south”* [See reference 12].
- Views from this viewpoint are representative of those described in LCA 3: Ashwicke Ridges which notes that from Marshfield there are *“open views southwards of rolling upland agricultural hills, with ground falling steeply from pronounced edges of high ground, into adjacent textured valleys”*.
- The viewpoint is publicly accessible, located on a public bridleway (LMA/36/10) and within an area of open access land. It can be accessed via Market Place, and Withymead Road, as well as by adjacent public rights of way (including LMA/36/20, LMA/39/10, and LMA/38/10).
- Immediately to the north-east of the viewpoint there is a small seating area with three benches and a litter bin provided to facilitate enjoyment of the view. There is also a small carpark nearby, associated with the playing fields that are located adjacent to the north-east of the viewpoint.

Relationship with the Cotswolds National Landscape (CNL)

- The viewpoint is located within the CNL and enables appreciation of views within the designated landscape.

Quality, value and features of the view

- An elevated viewpoint on the edge of the Ashwicke Ridges VIH and on the upper south-facing slopes of the Doncombe Brook Valley, facilitating a panoramic (180°) view south over the valley and across the rolling pastoral landscape of the Ashwicke Ridges (characterised by its complex landform of rounded hills, steep sided ridges and incised valleys).

Chapter 3 Analysis of Strategic Viewpoints

- The locally-prominent Henley Hill (0.8km away) provides some containment of the view to the south-west and is a notable landscape feature.
- The viewpoint represents views experienced from the historic Marshfield Conservation Area which is perched on the valley side (to the west of the viewpoint), and includes views to the Grade I listed Church of St Mary (that is nestled among the traditional stone buildings) which provides a landmark feature within the view.
- A large agricultural barn in the foreground of the view slightly detracts from the overall composition of the view.

Summary

The East End (Marshfield) viewpoint is categorised as a SVP as it meets most of the criteria to some extent. It is a recorded viewpoint within the Marshfield Conservation Area Appraisal; 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 public right of way and an area of open access land with a bench, litter bin and parking facilitating enjoyment of the view; it allows appreciation of the Cotswold National Landscape and provides a notable view across the designated landscape; it provides a panoramic view that takes in notable landscape features of the Ashwicke Ridges (including the Doncombe Brook Valley and Henley Hill), the Marshfield Conservation Area, and the landmark feature of the Church of St Mary.

Strategic Viewpoint 26

Cold Ashton

Figure 3.111: Location of Strategic Viewpoint 26 and landscape character context

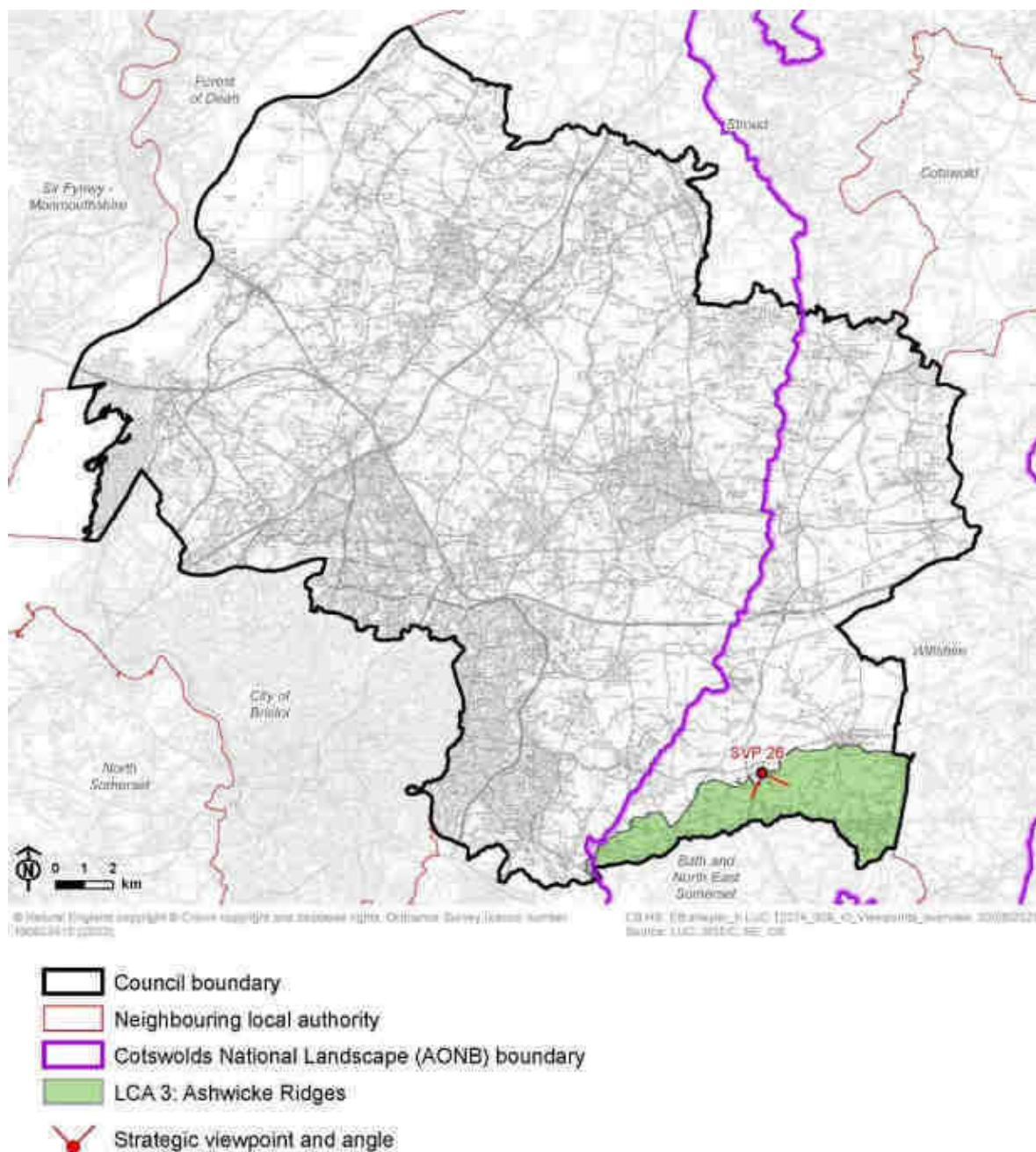
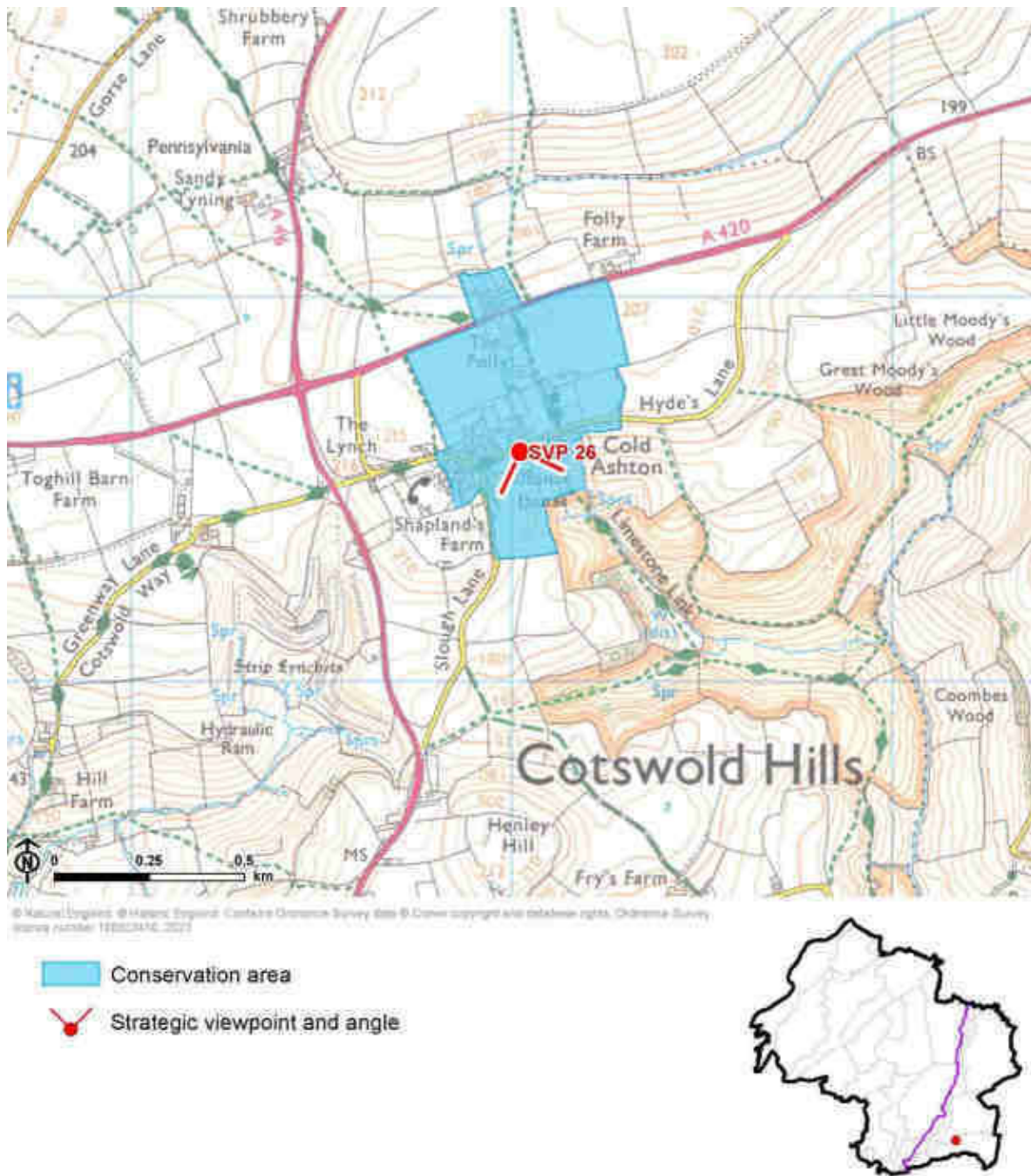


Figure 3.112: Detailed map of the location of Strategic Viewpoint 26



Viewpoint Information

Grid reference: ST 75042 72624

View location: Seating area on Hyde's Road/Cotswold Way, Cold Ashton.

View direction: Views south, east and west across St Catherine's Valley, part of the Ashwicke Ridges (LCA 3).

Relationship with Visually Important Hillside (VIH): The viewpoint is located on the north-western edge of the Ashwicke Ridges VIH.

Experienced by: Residents on Hyde's Road, recreational users of The Cotswold Way National Trail, and transient views for cyclists and motorists travelling along Hyde's Road.

Figure 3.113: View Composition of Strategic Viewpoint 26

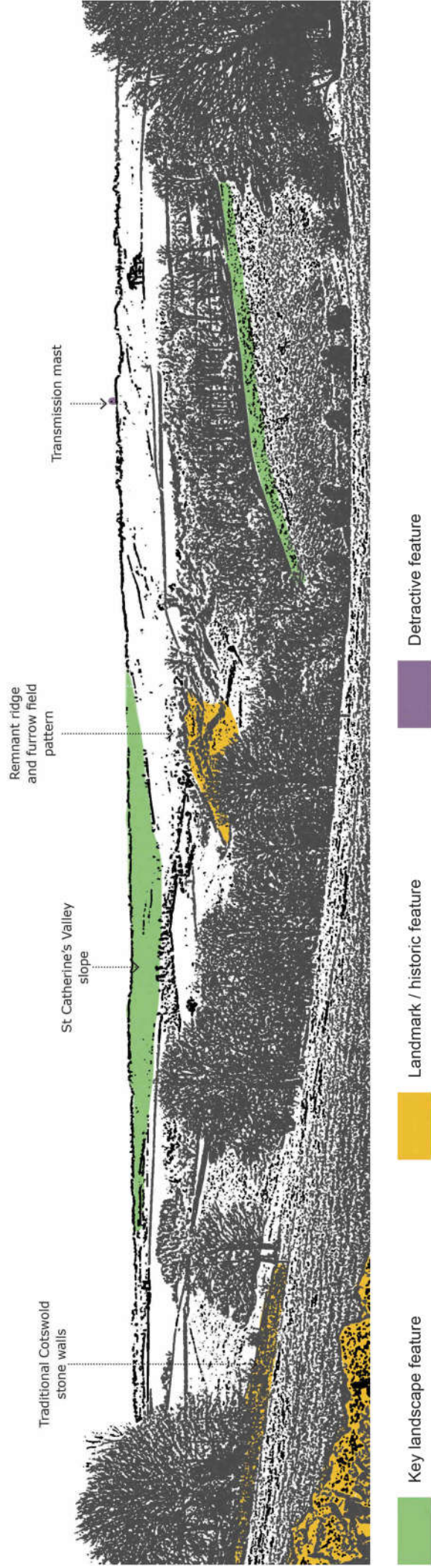
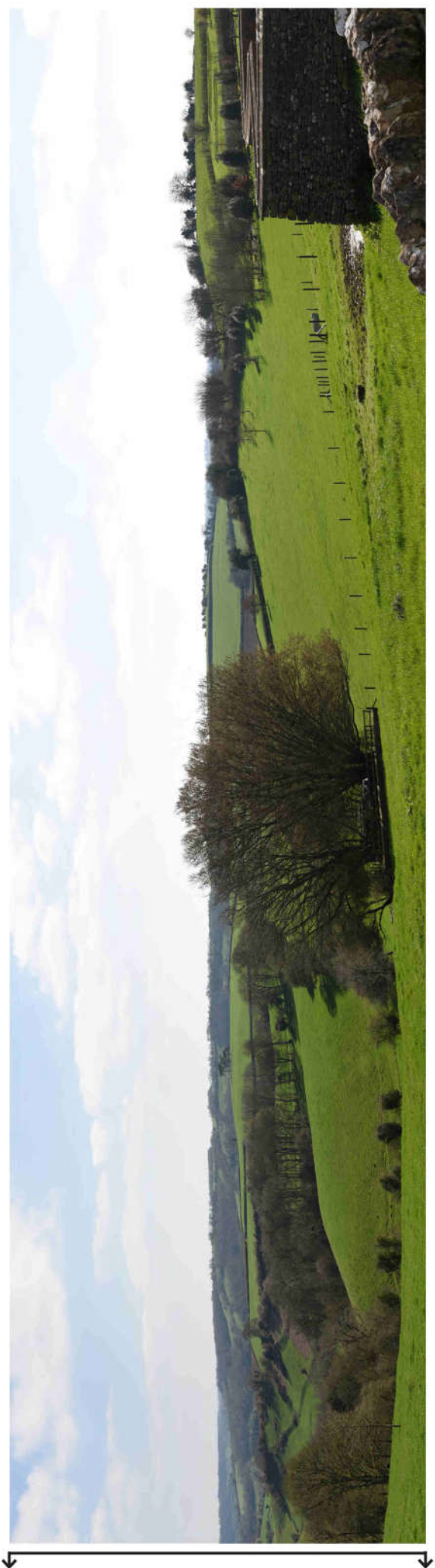


Figure 3.114: Full Panoramic Photograph of Strategic Viewpoint 26



Strategic Viewpoint 26: Cold Ashton



Strategic Viewpoint 26 (continued)

Characteristics

Popularity, access and facilities

- The viewpoint is referenced in the Cold Ashton Conservation Area appraisal, which states that there are “*magnificent views over...the steep St Catherine’s Valley to the South*” [See reference 13]
- Views from this viewpoint are representative of those described in LCA 2: Marshfield Plateau which states that from Cold Ashton there are “*Views of the surrounding landscape including into the valleys of the Ashwicke Ridges.*”
- The viewpoint is publicly accessible, located on Hyde’s Road, and on the route of The Cotswolds Way National Trail. It is close to The Limestone Link locally promoted route, which runs 85m to the east of the viewpoint, and can also be accessed via adjoining public rights of way LCA/13/10 to the north and LCA/17/10 to the south.
- Two benches and a litter bin are provided near the viewpoint to facilitate enjoyment of the view.

Relationship with the Cotswolds National Landscape (CNL)

- The viewpoint is located within the CNL and provides panoramic views across the undulating valleys of the Ashwicke Ridges.

Quality, value and features of the view

- An elevated viewpoint on the edge of the Ashwicke Ridges VIH and on the northern edge of the Marshfield plateau, providing panoramic views (180°) over the surrounding Ashwicke Ridges (characterised by its complex landform of rounded hills, steep sided ridges, and incised and broad valleys).
- The locally-prominent Henley Hill (1km away) forms a notable landscape feature on the horizon, along with the distinctive landform of the St Catherine's Valley.

Chapter 3 Analysis of Strategic Viewpoints

- This is a strongly rural view with few detracting elements or modern built features. The presence of traditional cottages within Cold Ashton, as well as visible remnant medieval strip lynchet field patterns to the west invoke a sense of time depth.
- Located within the Cold Ashton Conservation Area, the viewpoint represents views experienced from the historic settlement, including from the Grade I listed Manor House.
- Two transmission masts form vertical features on what is otherwise an undeveloped skyline, slightly detracting from the overall composition of the view.

Summary

The Cold Ashton viewpoint is categorised as a SVP as it meets most of the criteria to some extent. It is a recorded viewpoint within the Cold Ashton Conservation Area Appraisal; 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 with benches and a litter bin facilitating enjoyment of the view; it allows appreciation of the Cotswold National Landscape and provides a notable view across the designated landscape; and it provides a panoramic view that takes in notable landscape features of the Ashwicke Ridges (including St Catherine's Brook Valley and Henley Hill), the Cold Ashton Conservation Area.

Strategic Viewpoint 27

Shortwood Hill (Pucklechurch)

Figure 3.115: Location of Strategic Viewpoint 27 and landscape character context

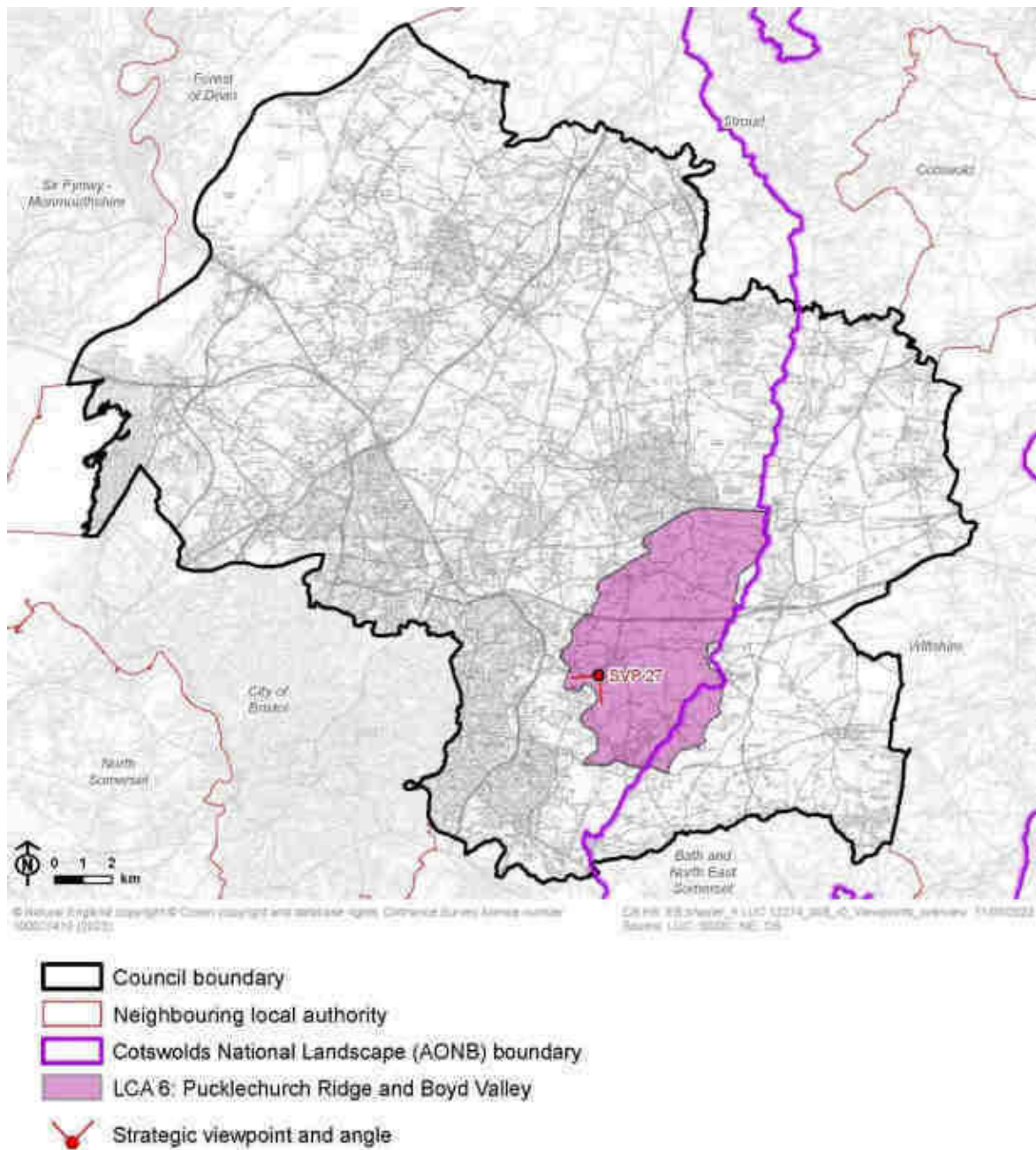
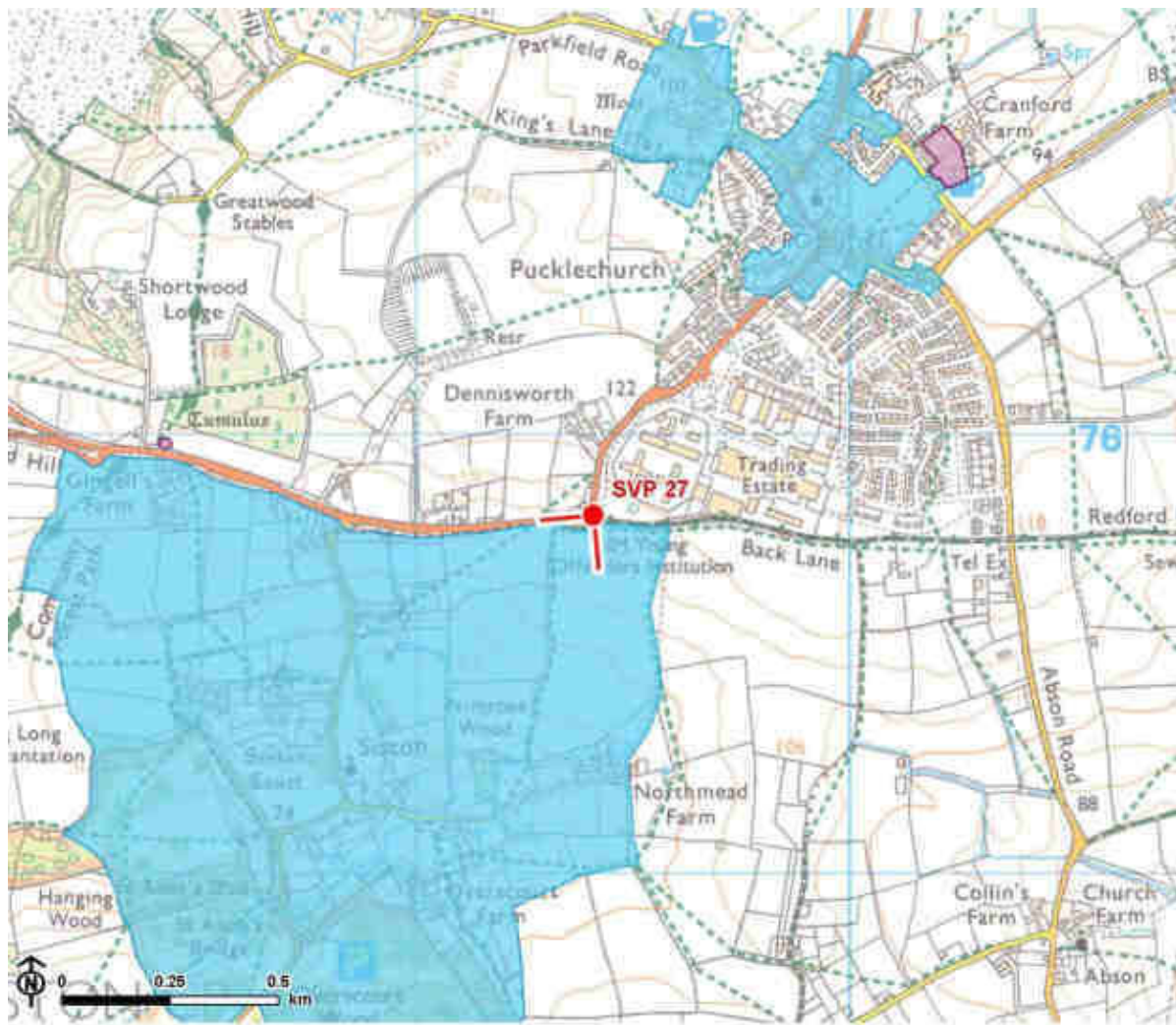





Figure 3.116: Detailed map of the location of Strategic Viewpoint 27



-  Conservation area
-  Scheduled monument
-  Strategic viewpoint and angle



Viewpoint Information

Grid reference: ST 69371 75787

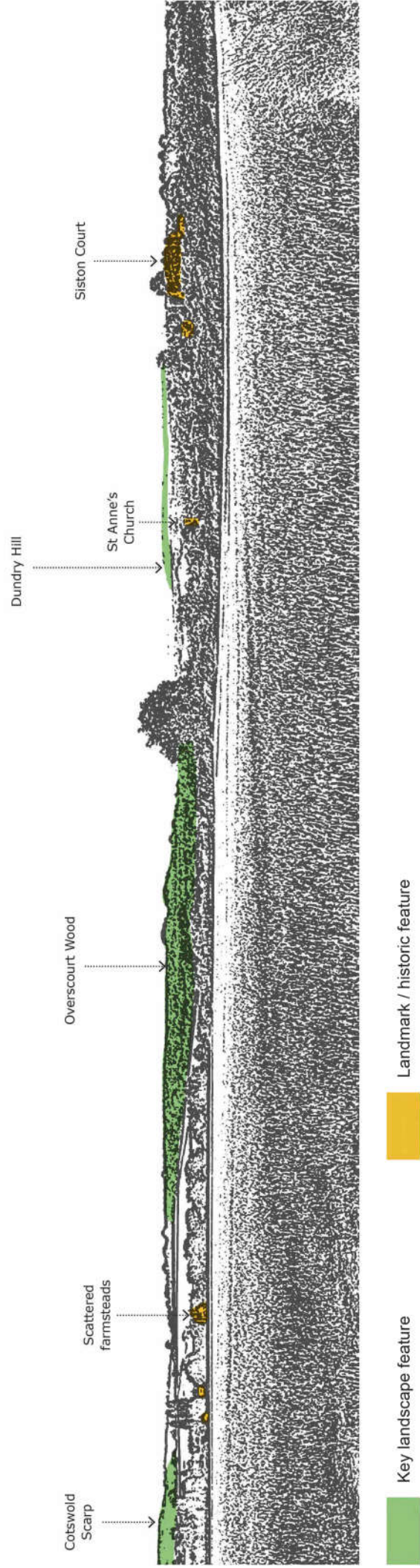
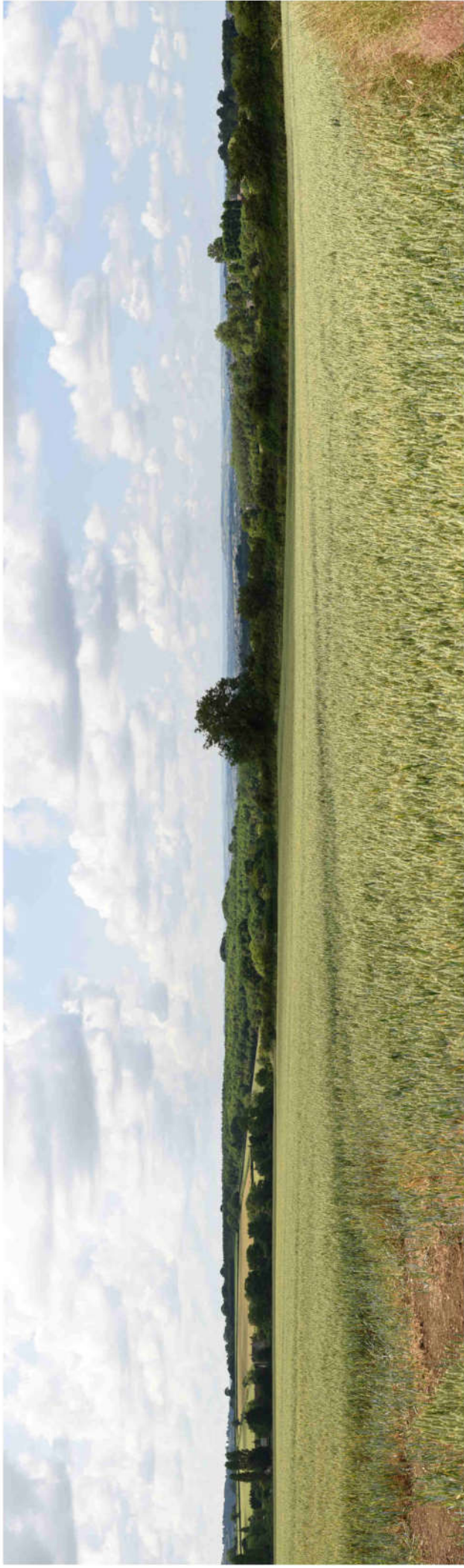
View location: Public footpath PSN/44/10 adjacent to Shortwood Road (B4465), to the south-west of Pucklechurch.

View direction: Views south and east and across the Pucklechurch Ridge and Boyd Valley (LCA 6), towards the Cotswold Scarp (LCA 4). There are intermittent views to the south-west to Westerleigh Vale and Oldland Ridge (LCA 12).

Relationship with Visually Important Hillside (VIH): The viewpoint is located approximately 300m to the north-east of the Pucklechurch Ridge VIH. The Cotswold Scarp VIH can be seen in views to the east and south-east.

Experienced by: Residents and pedestrians on Shortwood Road, recreational users of nearby public footpaths PSN/44/10 and PSN/46/10, and transient views for cyclists and motorists travelling along Shortwood Road.

Figure 3.117: View Composition of Strategic Viewpoint 27



Key landscape feature

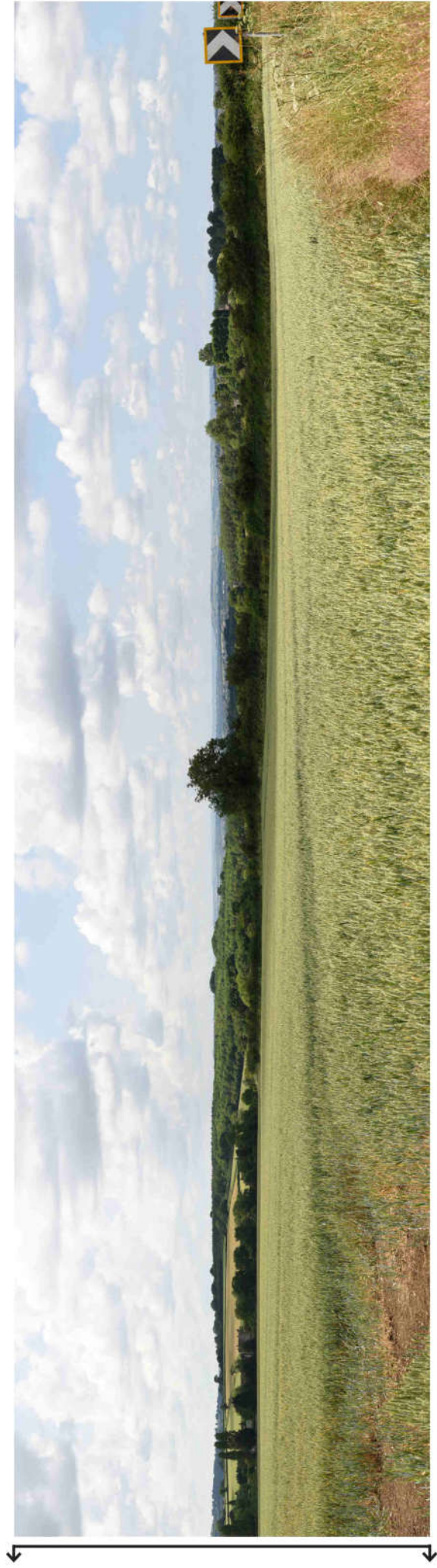


Landmark / historic feature

Figure 3.118: Full Panoramic Photograph of Strategic Viewpoint 27



Strategic Viewpoint 27: Pucklechurch



Strategic Viewpoint 27 (continued)

Characteristics

Popularity, access and facilities

- Views from this viewpoint are representative of those described in LCA 6: Pucklechurch Ridge and Boyd Valley which notes that there are "*panoramic views over the adjacent Westerleigh Vale...from Shortwood Hill, and footpaths along the scarp edge.*"
- The viewpoint is publicly accessible via public footpaths PSN/44/10, PSN/46/10 and PSN/45/10.

Relationship with the Cotswolds National Landscape (CNL)

- The viewpoint is not located within the CNL, but provides long-distance views south-east towards the Cotswold Scarp.
- Views of the Cotswold Scarp are considered to be a special quality of the designated landscape, as set out in the CNL Management Plan.

Quality, value and features of the view

- A slightly elevated view near to the Pucklechurch Ridge VIH, that provides open panoramic (180°) views to the south, east and south-west across the shallow ridge landscape (characterised by medium-scale regular pastoral fields defined by hedgerows and hedgerow trees with shelterbelts and scattered farmsteads). The viewpoint also affords open views towards the large block of woodland at Overscourt Wood in the south-west, and the distinctive landform of the Cotswold Scarp provides a prominent backdrop in the view to the south-east.
- The distinctive line of beech trees on Freezing Hill (located approximately 5.3km to the south-east) forms a prominent landmark feature on the skyline. In the view to the south-west, the spire of St Barnabas Church (Grade II listed) in Warmley rises above woodland 3.3km away.

Chapter 3 Analysis of Strategic Viewpoints

- The viewpoint is located directly adjacent to the north of the Siston Conservation Area, however views into the Conservation Area are mostly obscured by intervening mature vegetation.
- The presence of modern infrastructure and built development in views south-eastwards towards the settlement edge of Bristol, Kingswood and Warmley detract from the rural features seen within the view.

Summary

The Shortwood Hill (Pucklechurch) 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 public footpath; and it provides a panoramic view that takes in the notable landscape features of the shallow ridges, the Pucklechurch Ridge, Overscourt Wood, the Cotswold Scarp, and the landmark features of St Barnabas Church the line of beeches on Freezing Hill.

Strategic Viewpoint 28

Severn View Viewpoint

Figure 3.119: Location of Strategic Viewpoint 28 and landscape character context

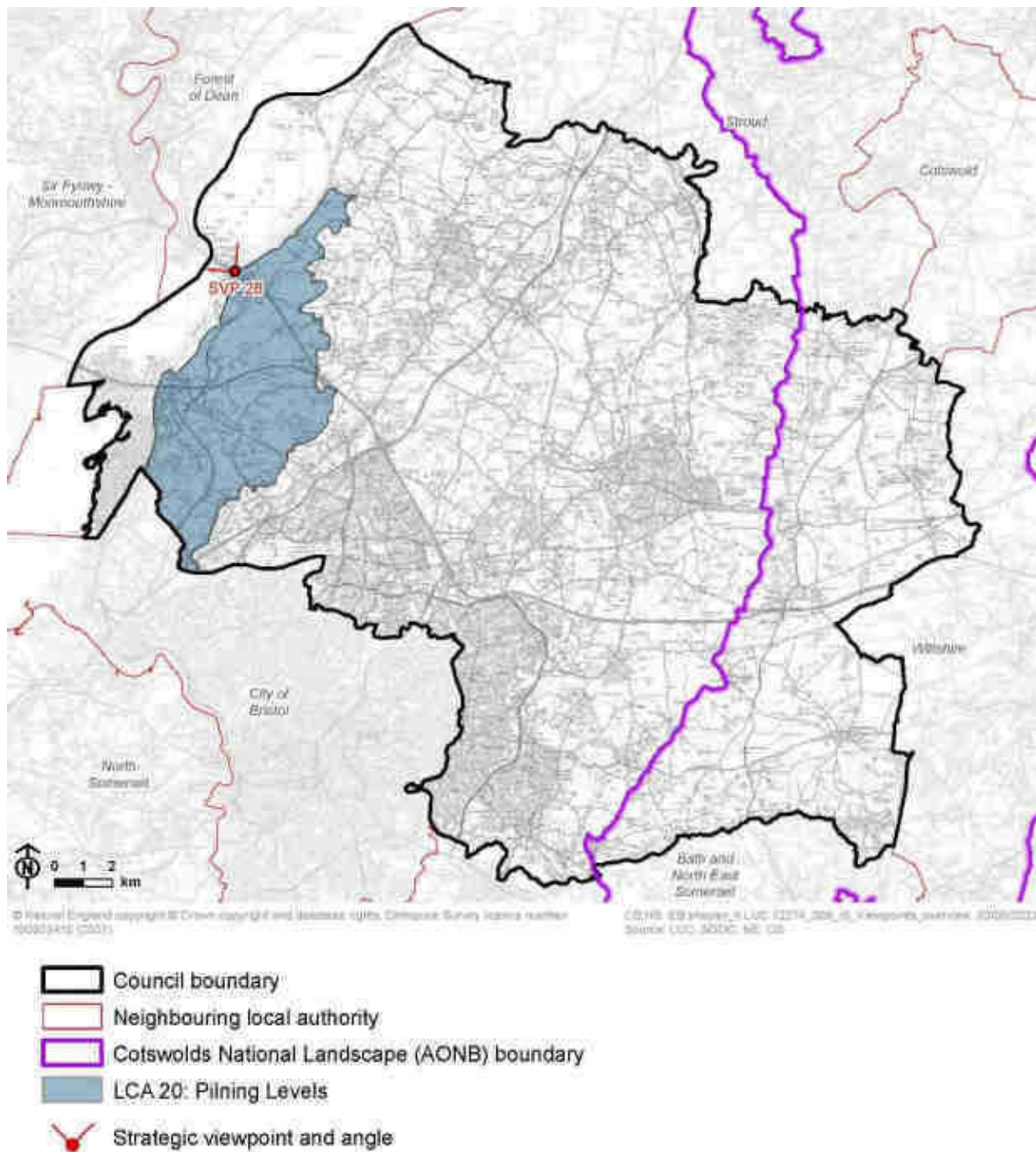


Figure 3.120: Detailed map of the location of Strategic Viewpoint 28



Viewpoint Information

Grid reference: ST 56684 89810

View location: Severn Bridge Viewpoint, west of Severn View Service Station, Aust.

View direction: Views north, south and west across the Shoreline, Levels and Estuary (LCA 21).

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

Experienced by: Recreational users of The Severn Way long distance footpath, the Jubilee Way locally promoted route and visitors to the Severn Bridge viewpoint.

Figure 3.121: View Composition of Strategic Viewpoint 28

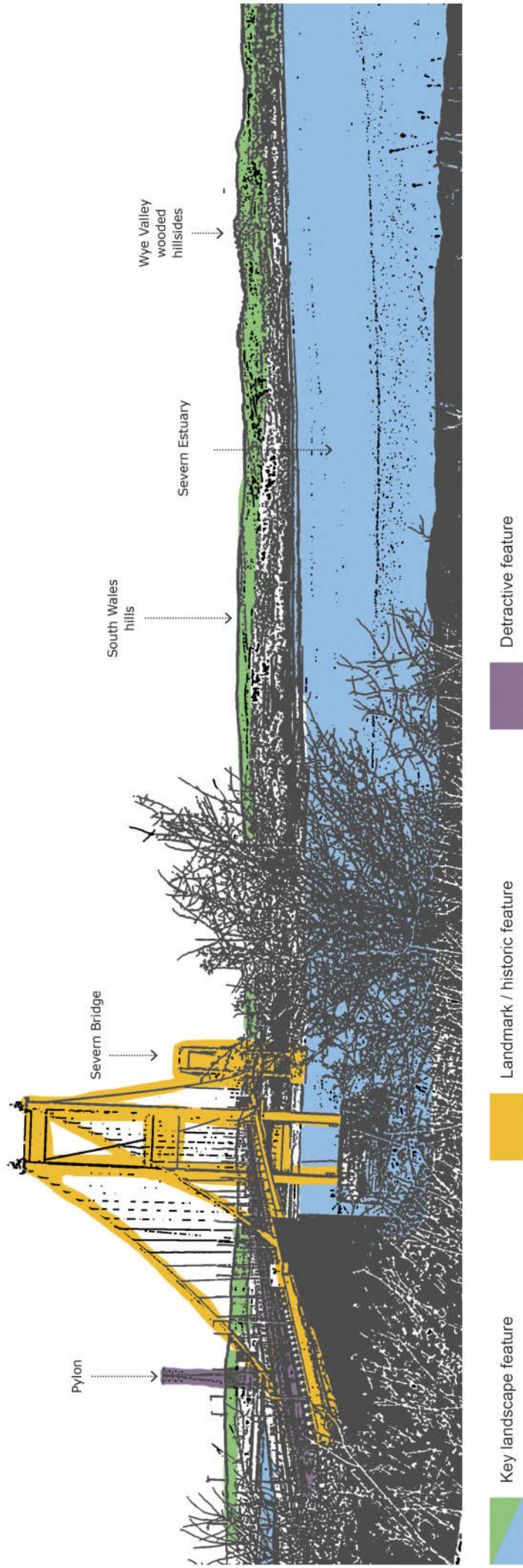
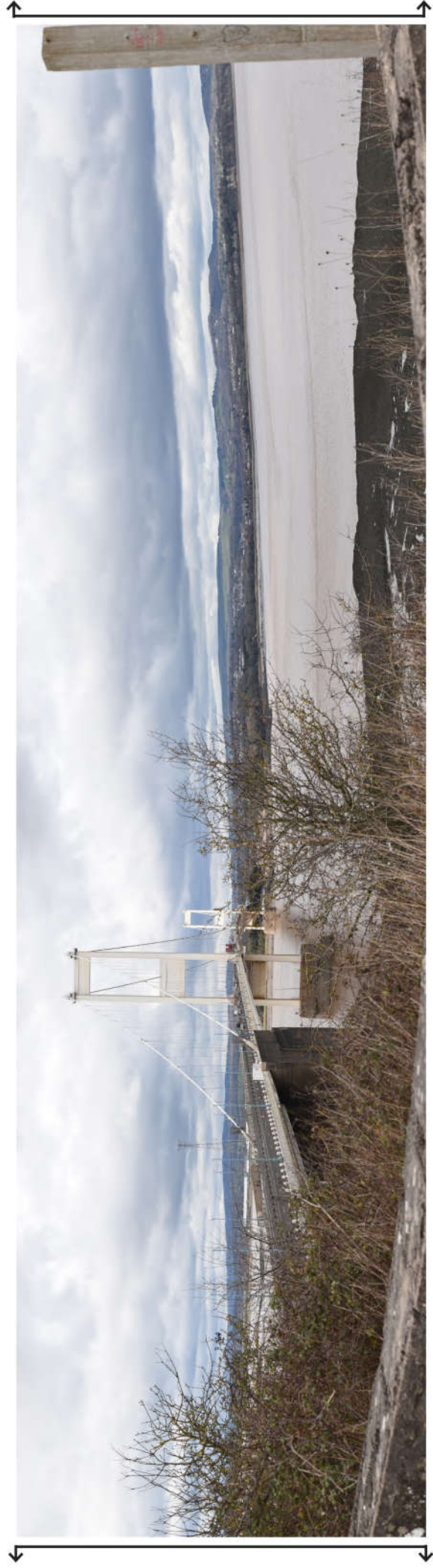


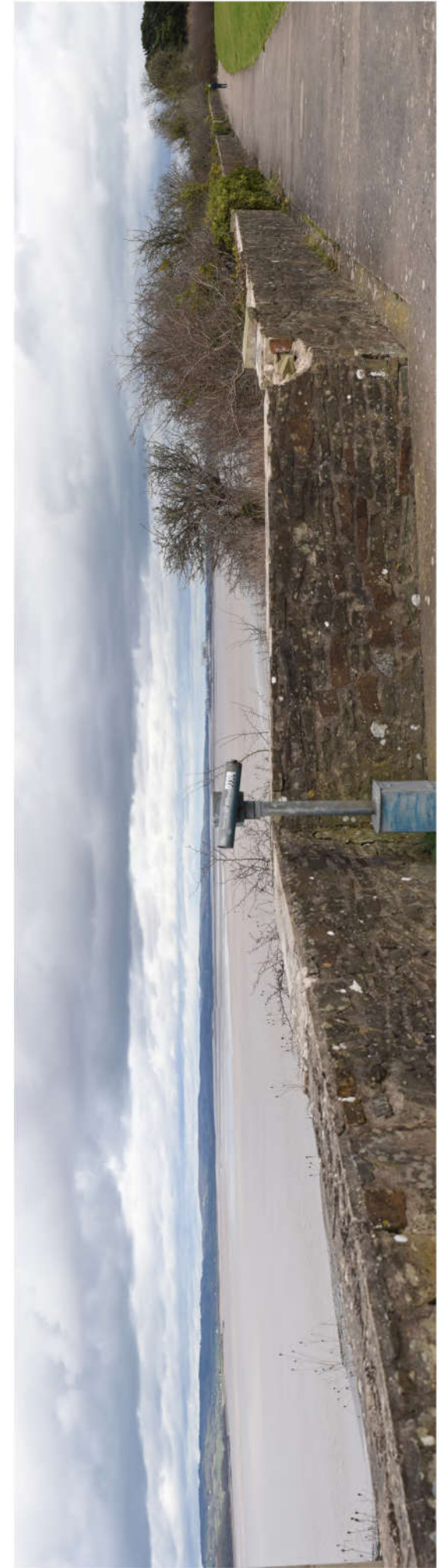
Figure 3.122: Full Panoramic Photograph of Strategic Viewpoint 28



Strategic Viewpoint 28: Severn View Viewpoint



Strategic Viewpoint 28 (continued)



Strategic Viewpoint 28 (continued)

Characteristics

Popularity, access and facilities

- The viewpoint location is marked on Google Maps as the ‘Severn Bridge Viewpoint’ and is likely to attract many visitors as a result.
- The viewpoint location is noted in LCA 20: Pilning Levels which identifies the “*panoramic views across the adjacent landscape and estuary, including to the Severn Bridges*” afforded from The Severn Way footpath.
- The viewpoint is publicly accessible via The Severn Way long distance footpath and Jubilee Way locally promoted route.
- A bench, litter bins and two-coin-operated telescopes are provided to facilitate enjoyment of the view, and a stone marker commemorating the opening of the Severn Bridge is present at the viewpoint.

Quality, value and features of the view

- The viewpoint provides open and expansive panoramic (180°) views across the Severn Estuary and partly across Aust Rock (characterised by the open and exposed landscape of the estuary and intertidal zone of bed rock, shingle, rivuletted mudflats). 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 dominant landmark feature in views, located immediately adjacent to the west. The Prince of Wales bridge can also be seen in views to the south-west, located 5.2km away.
- Oldbury Power Station also forms a landmark feature (6km away) seen in long-distance views to the north.
- Two large pylons slightly detract from the overall composition of the view, as does more distant views of industrial activity and wind turbines at Avonmouth to the south.

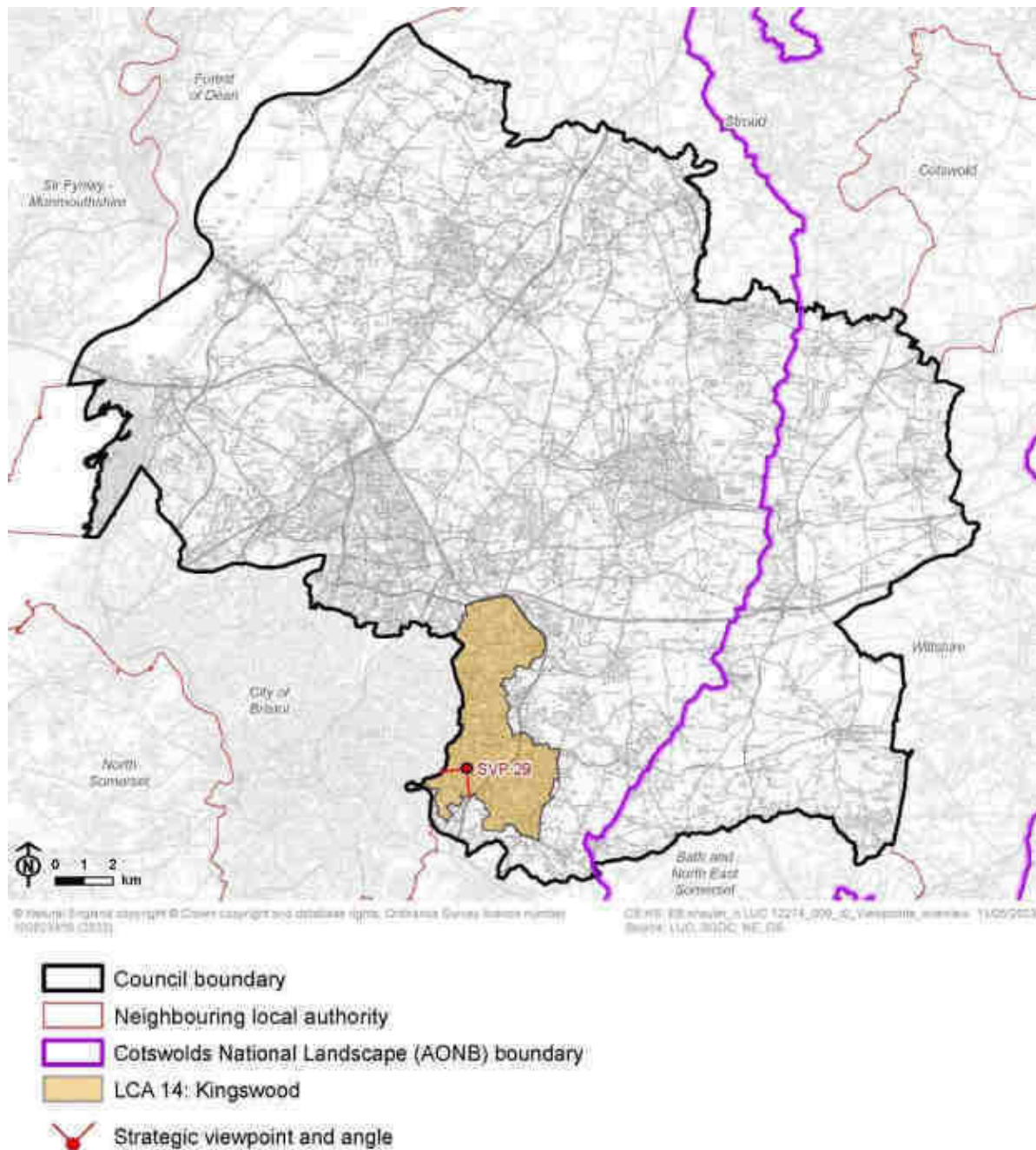
Summary

The Severn View viewpoint is categorised as a SVP as it meets most of the criteria to some extent. It is a popular, well-known and recorded viewpoint and likely to attract many visitors; 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 with a bench, litter bins and telescopes facilitating enjoyment of the view; and it provides a panoramic view and takes in the notable landscape features of the Severn Estuary and the hills of the Wye Valley and South Wales, and the landmark features of the Severn Bridge, Prince of Wales Bridge and Oldbury Power Station.

Strategic Viewpoint 29

Mount Hill (Hanham)

Figure 3.123: Location of Strategic Viewpoint 29 and landscape character context



Viewpoint Information

Grid reference: ST 64760 72666

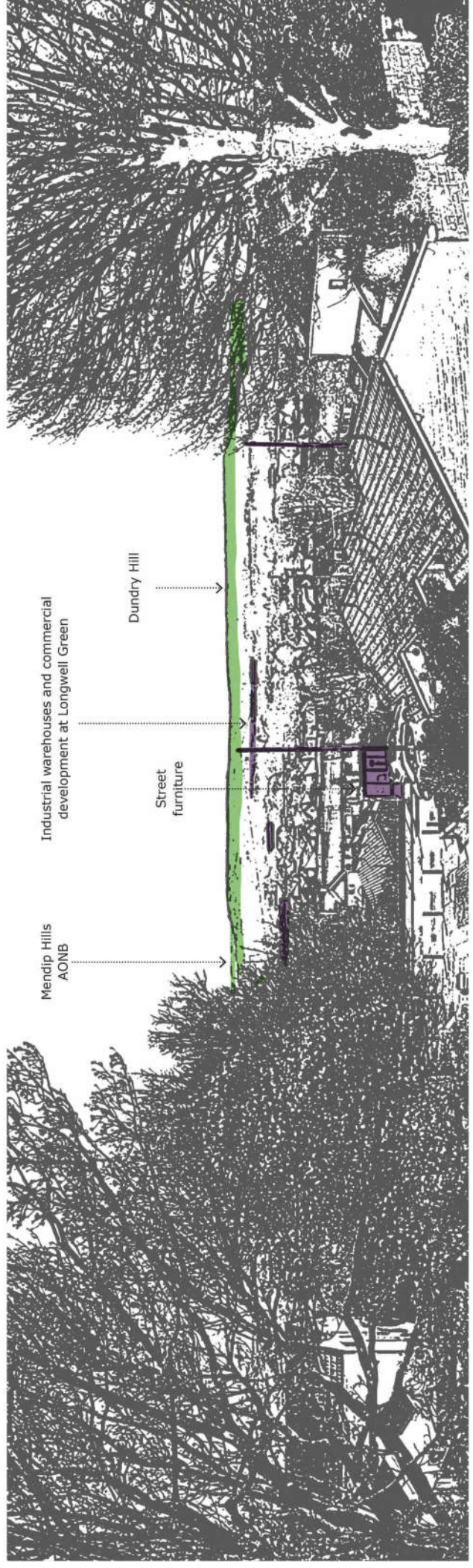
View location: Hanham Mount, Mount Hill Road, Kingswood

View direction: View south and south-west over Kingswood (LCA 14).

Relationship with Visually Important Hillside (VIH): The viewpoint is not located on any VIH.

Experienced by: Pedestrians along public footpaths KW/21/20, KW/24/10 and KW/41/10, as well as visitors to Hanham Mount memorial site.

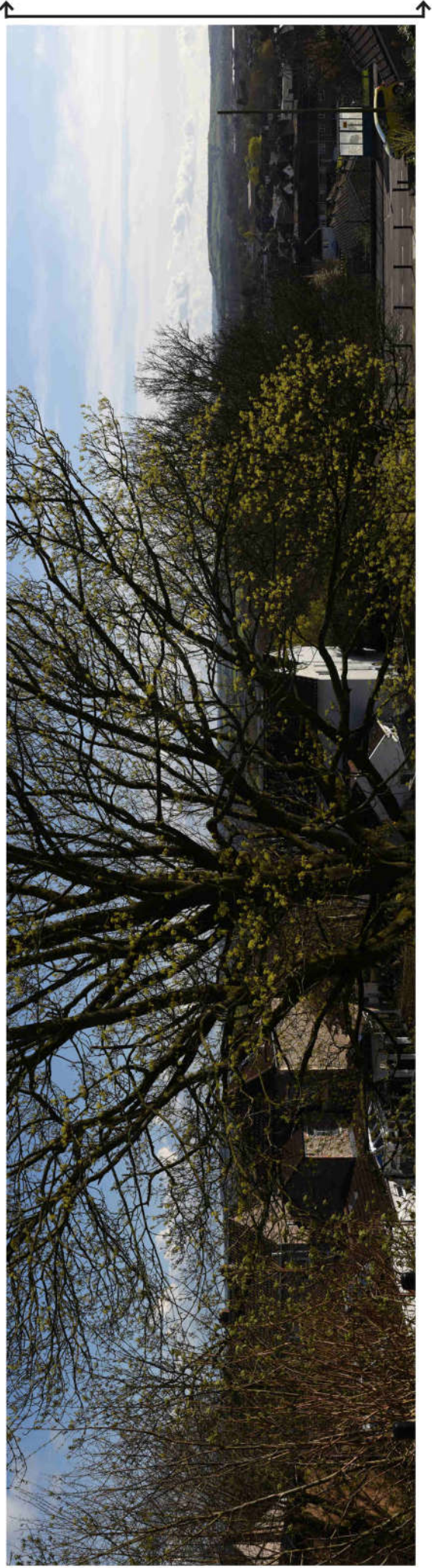
Figure 3.125: View Composition of Strategic Viewpoint 29



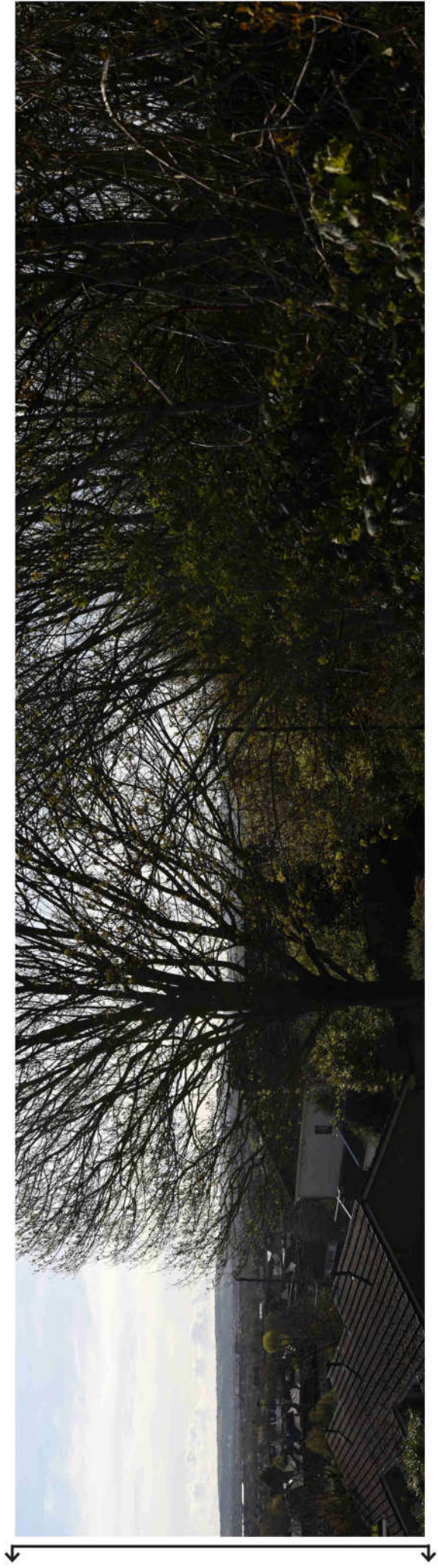
Key landscape feature

Detractive feature

Figure 3.126: Full Panoramic Photograph of Strategic Viewpoint 29



Strategic Viewpoint 29: Hanham Mount



Strategic Viewpoint 29 (continued)

Characteristics

Popularity, access and facilities

- The viewpoint location is marked on Google Maps as 'Hanham Mount' and is likely to attract visitors as a result.
- The viewpoint is publicly accessible along public footpath KW/21/20 and can be reached via Mount Hill Road, as well as from Gunnings Close to the north.
- A bus stop and a small parking area are provided adjacent to the viewpoint on Mount Hill Road. There is also an information board, outdoor pulpit and commemorative landscaped garden at the viewpoint location, facilitating enjoyment and interpretation of the landscape.

Quality, value and features of the view

- An elevated viewpoint that provides panoramic views (180°) over the urban area of Hanham, Conham, Brislington and Kingswood (LCA 14) towards the wooded slopes of the Avon Valley (LCA 16), and beyond to North Somerset.
- Dundry Hill (in North Somerset) is a dominant landform feature and forms the skyline in views to the south-west. The edge of the Mendip Hills AONB can also be seen in long views to the south.
- Large warehouses and industrial buildings in Longwell Green (including Gallagher Shopping Centre), and infrastructure along Mount Hill Road (e.g. street lamps, bus stop, chain link fence) detract from the overall composition of the view.

Summary

The Hanham Mount viewpoint is categorised as a SVP as it meets most of the criteria to some extent. It is a well-known viewpoint and likely to attract many visitors, being at the site of the Hanham Mount memorial; it is located on a public footpath with an information board, outdoor pulpit and commemorative landscaped garden provided to facilitate enjoyment and interpretation of the landscape. It provides a panoramic view that takes in the notable landscape features of Dundry Hill and the Mendip Hills AONB.

Appendix A

Scoping Exercise for Local Viewpoints

A.1 The following pages are an extract from the scoping exercise undertaken to initially assess the viewpoints against the criteria. It contains the viewpoints defined as 'Local Viewpoints' which did not to meet enough of the criteria to be categorised as 'Strategic Viewpoints'.

Viewpoint LVP 1: Severn Way (Northwick)

- Popular, well known, or recorded viewpoint: No
- Viewpoints noted in the LCA: Yes, mentioned in 2014 LCA 20 (Pilning Levels)
- Publicly accessible viewpoints that are likely to attract many visitors: Yes - on public footpath and Severn Way promoted route
- Viewpoints where facilities for the enjoyment of the view have been provided: Not evident from desk study
- Viewpoint marked on ground by a toposcope or similar interpretation feature/signage: Not evident from desk study
- Viewpoints that allow appreciation of or provide notable views looking out from the CNL: N/A - not within the CNL and no views towards it.
- Provides a visually impressive, scenic vista that takes in notable landscape features: Provides panoramic views across the Severn Estuary and beyond to the hills of south Wales.
- Elevated viewpoint that facilitates a panoramic view (e.g. 180-360 degree) or broad prospect/appreciation of the surrounding landscape: Provides 360 degree panoramic views of the surrounding 'levels' landscape.
- Provides a view of a landmark/historic feature: The Severn Bridges are a notable landmark seen within the view
- Designed viewpoint with historic or cultural heritage associations: Not a designed view

Viewpoint LVP 2: Baden Hill (Tytherington)

- Popular, well known, or recorded viewpoint: No.
- Viewpoints noted in the LCA: No.
- Publicly accessible viewpoints that are likely to attract many visitors: Located on Baden Hill Road, a minor singletrack lane.
- Viewpoints where facilities for the enjoyment of the view have been provided: No.
- Viewpoint marked on ground by a toposcope or similar interpretation feature/signage: No.
- Viewpoints that allow appreciation of or provide notable views looking out from the CNL: No.
- Provides a visually impressive, scenic vista that takes in notable landscape features: Offers long views across the agricultural vale/plain landscape towards the Wickwar Ridge.
- Elevated viewpoint that facilitates a panoramic view (e.g. 180-360 degree) or broad prospect/appreciation of the surrounding landscape: Where vegetation allows, there are long views south-east across the fields of Tytherington Plain (LCA 9) and Yate Vale (LCA 8) which slope very gently south-eastwards towards the Ladden Brook (approx 1.2km south-east of the VP). The Wickwar Ridge features on the horizon.
- Provides a view of a landmark/historic feature: No landmark/historic features present in the view
- Designed viewpoint with historic or cultural heritage associations: Not a designed view

Viewpoint LVP 3: M5 overbridge /gateway at Haw Wood

- Popular, well known, or recorded viewpoint: No.
- Viewpoints noted in the LCA: No.
- Publicly accessible viewpoints that are likely to attract many visitors: No.
- Viewpoints where facilities for the enjoyment of the view have been provided: No.
- Viewpoint marked on ground by a toposcope or similar interpretation feature/signage: No.
- Viewpoints that allow appreciation of or provide notable views looking out from the CNL: N/A - the VP is not within the CNL and does not provide view towards it
- Provides a visually impressive, scenic vista that takes in notable landscape features: No.
- Elevated viewpoint that facilitates a panoramic view (e.g. 180-360 degree) or broad prospect/appreciation of the surrounding landscape: No.
- Provides a view of a landmark/historic feature: No.
- Designed viewpoint with historic or cultural heritage associations: Not a designed view.

Viewpoint LVP 4: Berwick Lodge Farm

- Popular, well known, or recorded viewpoint: No.
- Viewpoints noted in the LCA: No.
- Publicly accessible viewpoints that are likely to attract many visitors: No.
- Viewpoints where facilities for the enjoyment of the view have been provided: No.
- Viewpoint marked on ground by a toposcope or similar interpretation feature/signage: No.
- Viewpoints that allow appreciation of or provide notable views looking out from the CNL: N/A - the VP is not within the CNL and does not provide view towards it
- Provides a visually impressive, scenic vista that takes in notable landscape features: No - vegetation limits views
- Elevated viewpoint that facilitates a panoramic view (e.g. 180-360 degree) or broad prospect/appreciation of the surrounding landscape: No.
- Provides a view of a landmark/historic feature: No.
- Designed viewpoint with historic or cultural heritage associations: Not a designed view.

Viewpoint LVP 5: Elbury Hill

- Popular, well known, or recorded viewpoint: No.
- Viewpoints noted in the LCA: No.
- Publicly accessible viewpoints that are likely to attract many visitors: The VP is located on a public footpath.
- Viewpoints where facilities for the enjoyment of the view have been provided: No.
- Viewpoint marked on ground by a toposcope or similar interpretation feature/signage: No.
- Viewpoints that allow appreciation of or provide notable views looking out from the CNL: The viewpoint is not located within the CNL. There are views west towards the Cotswold Scarp at Wotton-under-Edge
- Provides a visually impressive, scenic vista that takes in notable landscape features: Views into South Gloucestershire are limited by development in Charfield.: Views into South Gloucestershire are limited by development in Charfield.
- Elevated viewpoint that facilitates a panoramic view (e.g. 180-360 degree) or broad prospect/appreciation of the surrounding landscape: No.
- Provides a view of a landmark/historic feature: No notable landmarks present in views.
- Designed viewpoint with historic or cultural heritage associations: Not a designed view.

Viewpoint LVP 6: Filton Golf Course

- Popular, well known, or recorded viewpoint: No.
- Viewpoints noted in the LCA: No.
- Publicly accessible viewpoints that are likely to attract many visitors: Accessible via a public footpath which runs through the golf course
- Viewpoints where facilities for the enjoyment of the view have been provided: No.
- Viewpoint marked on ground by a toposcope or similar interpretation feature/signage: No.
- Viewpoints that allow appreciation of or provide notable views looking out from the CNL: Not applicable.
- Provides a visually impressive, scenic vista that takes in notable landscape features: Not applicable.
- Elevated viewpoint that facilitates a panoramic view (e.g. 180-360 degree) or broad prospect/appreciation of the surrounding landscape: The viewpoint is located on a slightly elevated hillside, but is not at a significantly higher than the surrounding topography.
- Provides a view of a landmark/historic feature: No.
- Designed viewpoint with historic or cultural heritage associations: Not a designed view.

Viewpoint LVP 7: Earth Sculpture (Cribbs Causeway)

- Popular, well known, or recorded viewpoint: No.
- Viewpoints noted in the LCA: No.
- Publicly accessible viewpoints that are likely to attract many visitors: No.
- Viewpoints where facilities for the enjoyment of the view have been provided: No.
- Viewpoint marked on ground by a toposcope or similar interpretation feature/signage: Not evident in desk study.
- Viewpoints that allow appreciation of or provide notable views looking out from the CNL: N/A - The VP is located 16km west of the CNL. There is no visual relationship.
- Provides a visually impressive, scenic vista that takes in notable landscape features: There are some views to the west/south-west to woodland on the southern end of the Severn Ridge.
- Elevated viewpoint that facilitates a panoramic view (e.g. 180-360 degree) or broad prospect/appreciation of the surrounding landscape: Views are primarily to the north and north-west.
- Provides a view of a landmark/historic feature: No notable landmarks present in the view.
- Designed viewpoint with historic or cultural heritage associations: Not a designed view.

Viewpoint LVP 8: Somerset Monument

- Popular, well known, or recorded viewpoint: No.
- Viewpoints noted in the LCA: Yes, noted in 2014 LCA 4 to: "*Permit expansive views of the vale landscape below*".
- Publicly accessible viewpoints that are likely to attract many visitors: Accessible via the Cotswold Way National Trail.
- Viewpoints where facilities for the enjoyment of the view have been provided: A bench is provided.
- Viewpoint marked on ground by a toposcope or similar interpretation feature/signage: No.
- Viewpoints that allow appreciation of or provide notable views looking out from the CNL: The viewpoint is located within the CNL however views from the viewpoint are restricted by topography and mature vegetation.
- Provides a visually impressive, scenic vista that takes in notable landscape features: Views from the viewpoint are restricted by topography and mature vegetation.
- Elevated viewpoint that facilitates a panoramic view (e.g. 180-360 degree) or broad prospect/appreciation of the surrounding landscape: The viewpoint is located along the Cotswold Scarp but views out are limited by mature vegetation.
- Provides a view of a landmark/historic feature: The Somerset Monument is located adjacent to the viewpoint.
- Designed viewpoint with historic or cultural heritage associations: Not a designed view.

Viewpoint LVP 9: Wick Rocks

- Popular, well known, or recorded viewpoint: No.
- Viewpoints noted in the LCA: No.
- Publicly accessible viewpoints that are likely to attract many visitors: Located on public footpath LWA/39/20 and accessible via Golden Valley Nature Reserve.
- Viewpoints where facilities for the enjoyment of the view have been provided: A bench is provided.
- Viewpoint marked on ground by a toposcope or similar interpretation feature/signage: No.
- Viewpoints that allow appreciation of or provide notable views looking out from the CNL: The VP is located 620m north-west of the CNL boundary and offers views eastwards towards the Cotswold Scarp.
- Provides a visually impressive, scenic vista that takes in notable landscape features: Provides views into Wick Quarry workings and beyond to the Cotswold Ridge, including the distinctive row of trees on Freezing Hill.
- Elevated viewpoint that facilitates a panoramic view (e.g. 180-360 degree) or broad prospect/appreciation of the surrounding landscape: Offers panoramic views across Wick Quarry and the Boyd Valley towards the Cotswold scarp.
- Provides a view of a landmark/historic feature: There are views towards the locally distinctive 'line of trees' on Freezing Hill.
- Designed viewpoint with historic or cultural heritage associations: Not a designed view.

References

- 1 <https://www.cotswoldsaonb.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/2023-25-CNL-Management-Plan-Adopted-Subject-to-SEA-HRA.pdf>
- 2 [Interpretation Points and Benches - A Forgotten Landscape](#)
- 3 Lower Almondsbury Conservation Area website available at:
<https://edocs.southglos.gov.uk/loweralmondsburyconservationarea/pages/loweralmondsburyconservationarea/>
- 4 <https://www.aforgottenlandscape.org.uk/projects/hill-hike/>
- 5 <https://www.aforgottenlandscape.org.uk/projects/spaniorum-skyway-route/>
- 6 Church lane Winterbourne Conservation Area SPD April 2006 available at:
<https://beta.southglos.gov.uk/static/267b863791edb0c998480fa9de702263/Church-lane-Winterbourne-Conservation-Area-SPD-April-2006.pdf>
- 7 https://www.nationaltrail.co.uk/en_GB/attraction/old-sodbury-hillfort/
- 8 <https://www.aforgottenlandscape.org.uk/projects/oldbury-kington-loop/>
- 9 https://www.aforgottenlandscape.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/RW05web_LongLittleL.pdf
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- 11 <https://www.southglos.gov.uk/Documents/Leaflets/PTE070023.pdf>
- 12 Marshfield Conservation Area Appraisal available at:
<https://beta.southglos.gov.uk/static/0f6cb67d55fecca0796cfc22f0099ba2/pte040002.pdf>
- 13 Cold Ashton Conservation Area Appraisal available at:
<https://edocs.southglos.gov.uk/coldashtonconservationarea/pages/coldashtonconservationarea/>

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