

## 2. Escarpment

### Character Areas

2A Bath to Beach Farm

2B Beach Farm to Hillesley

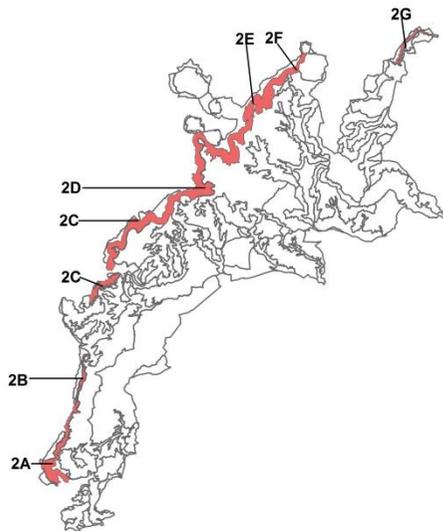
2C Uley to Cooper's Hill

2D Cooper's Hill to Winchcombe

2E Winchcombe to Dover's Hill

2F Dover's Hill to Mickleton

2G Edge Hill



### Key Features

- **Steep exposed and elevated west facing escarpment slope, partly cloaked in semi-natural broadleaved woodland** forming a dramatic relief feature visible from the Forest of Dean and Malverns and a backdrop to neighbouring lowlands.
- **Rock outcrops often mark the site of former quarries** and offer valuable opportunities to view geological formations.
- **Generally poor soils and steep sloping relief of the escarpment not suited to arable farming, and primarily used for pasture or woodland**, which are the dominant land uses.
- **Limited areas of Registered Common Land on upper scarp slopes merging into the more extensive areas on the High Wold** represent an important landscape resource often of nationally important nature conservation and cultural heritage value.
- **Strong sense of elevation with dramatic panoramic views over the Severn Vale to the Forest of Dean and beyond into Wales, the Malverns and the Shropshire Hills** from open areas on the upper escarpment. This contrasts with the more intimate landscapes at lower elevations.
- **Continuity of escarpment face interrupted by a series of major valleys and embayments** creating dramatic relief features and local interest.
- **Gentler landform on lower slopes below the spring line** dissected by numerous streams and characterised by hummocky areas of former landslip, ridge and furrow and areas of arable farming blurring the transition with the surrounding vale.
- **Calcareous grasslands located on steeper escarpment slopes**, often found in close association with areas of ancient **semi-natural broadleaved woodland** and together forming nationally important habitats.
- **Summit of the escarpment slopes often marked by dramatic linear beech hangers**. These are often viewed as a silhouette against the skyline from the vale below.
- **Woodlands, hedgerows, scrub and isolated trees give the impression of a well wooded landscape**. Escarpment woodlands are often narrow and either trace steeper relief or mark the course of streams and gullies that are cut into the escarpment face, and together with hedgerows create important wildlife corridors.
- **Settlement generally confined to lower, shallower slopes, in sheltered locations and adjacent to spring lines**, with linear settlements bordering streams and roads on the lower escarpment slopes and isolated farms and dwellings in sheltered positions mid way up the escarpment.
- **A number of large towns and cities located at, or in the vicinity of the foot of the escarpment**. The scarp forms a rural backdrop to urban development and limits eastward expansion.
- **Roads and tracks surrounded by dense vegetation and occupying holloways**, run parallel to streams and link the High Wold to the Vale. Many are likely to follow the course of ancient and possibly prehistoric tracks. Occasional principa roads descending the escarpment form locally prominent features.
- **Numerous prehistoric sites and follies are located on promontories and elevated sections of the escarpment** indicating their symbolic and strategic importance. Their high visibility and wide panoramic viewing opportunities also make them popular to visitors and tourists.

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### Summary description

Stretching 52 miles in an almost unbroken line and often cloaked in semi-natural broadleaved woodland, the Escarpment comprises an exposed west-facing slope with a distinct sense of elevation and dramatic views to the west. The continuity of the scarp is interrupted by a series of major valleys and embayments, and rock outcrops often marking the sites of former quarries.

A mosaic of woodland, hedgerows, scrub and isolated trees, and particularly the dramatic beech hangers, give the impression of a well wooded landscape, although the area is also well-suited to pasture and grassland.

Settlements are generally confined to the gentler slopes and in sheltered locations adjacent to spring lines. Roads and tracks rise up the slope, often surrounded by dense vegetation and occupying hollow ways. Numerous prehistoric sites, and follies such as Broadway Tower, sit on promontories and other elevated sections.

### Landscape Sensitivity

The escarpment is a distinctive and dramatic landscape. The combination of its elevation, and the steep slopes rising from the lowlands, make it a highly visible feature and is therefore very sensitive to change, particularly where this would introduce built elements within the otherwise agricultural landscapes, or interrupt the balance of rough grassland, species rich calcareous grassland and broadleaved woodland on the upper escarpment slopes.

The undulating lower escarpment slopes, at the junction of the vale, are visually less prominent than the upper escarpment slopes and generally more widely settled.

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	Local Forces For Change	Potential Landscape Implications	Landscape Strategies and Guidelines
	<b>New Development</b>		
2.1	Development, expansion and infilling of settlements including residential, industrial and leisure onto or towards the lower slopes of the Escarpment, including Bath (LCA 2A) and Cheltenham (LCA 2D).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encroachment of built development onto escarpment slopes intruding into the landscape.</li> <li>• Erosion of distinctive form, scale and character of smaller settlements along the base of the Scarp and on lower slopes including their relationship to the landscape and spring line.</li> <li>• Loss of characteristic small scale settlements and hamlets due to settlement growth and coalescence.</li> <li>• Proliferation of suburban building styles, housing estate layout and materials and the introduction of ornamental garden plants and boundary features.</li> <li>• Spread of lit elements up the Escarpment slope.</li> <li>• Potential for glint from buildings, particularly on hillsides.</li> <li>• Erosion of the setting of the AONB</li> <li>• Upgrading of rural lanes and holloways in areas of new development and the introduction of suburbanising features such as mini roundabouts, street lighting, highway fencing and kerbs, traffic calming at village entrances.</li> <li>• Degradation of the view from the scarp across the adjoining vale and from the vale looking at the scarp.</li> <li>• Urban fringe impacts such as fly tipping and dumping of vehicles</li> <li>• Loss of archaeological and historical features, field patterns and landscapes.</li> <li>• Interruption, weakening or loss of the historic character of settlements and the historic context in how they have expanded, especially the importance of the relationship between the historic core of the settlement and surviving historic features such as churchyards, manor houses, burgage plots, historic farms, pre-enclosure paddocks and closes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintain to open, dramatic and sparsely settled character of the Escarpment.</li> <li>• Avoid development that will intrude negatively into the landscape and cannot be successfully mitigated, for example, extensions to settlements onto the escarpment</li> <li>• Conserve pattern of settlements fringing the lower slopes and their existing relationship to landform.</li> <li>• Ensure new development is proportionate and does not overwhelm the existing settlement</li> <li>• Ensure that new development does not adversely affect settlement character and form</li> <li>• Conserve the distinctive orientation of linear villages on lower escarpment slopes and the relationship of settlements to the Escarpment and spring line</li> <li>• Avoid developments incorporating standardised development layout, suburban style lighting, construction details and materials that cumulatively can lead to the erosion of peaceful rural landscape character.</li> <li>• Avoid cramming development right up to the boundaries resulting in hard suburban style edge to the settlement</li> <li>• Control the proliferation of suburban building styles and materials</li> <li>• Restore existing stone, old brick and half-timbered buildings within settlements in preference to new built development.</li> <li>• Promote the use of local stone and building styles in the construction of new buildings and extensions to existing dwellings. (New buildings should, at least, respect local vernacular style).</li> <li>• Existing buildings should be carefully conserved and where converted to new uses buildings must retain their historic integrity and functional character. Sound conservation advice and principles must be sought and implemented</li> <li>• Adopt measures to minimise and where possible reduce light pollution.</li> <li>• Promote initiatives that remove heritage assets from 'at risk' status in the Heritage at Risk Register.</li> <li>• Avoid development that may restrict or obscure views to the upper escarpment slopes and distinctive features such as folly towers and hillforts.</li> <li>• Conserve the rural character of the road network, and in particular holloways climbing the escarpment.</li> </ul>

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Avoid proposals that result in the loss of archaeological and historical features or that impact on the relationship of the settlement and its links with surviving historical features.</li> <li>• Ensure the historic character and context are included in Neighbourhood Plans</li> <li>• Identify key viewpoints to and from the escarpment</li> <li>• Create new woodlands that link to existing woodlands on lower escarpment slopes to counteract the impact of intrusive or degraded urban edges.</li> <li>• Plant trees and hedges within and around new development to reduce impact on the landscape ideally in advance of the development taking place.</li> <li>• Retain existing trees, hedges etc as part of the scheme.</li> <li>• Promote and link to the escarpment 'green' infrastructure in any major extensions to Gloucester and Cheltenham</li> <li>• Ensure development proposals safeguard and provide new links and enhancements to the Public Rights of Way network.</li> <li>• Consider the impact on local Public Rights of Way as settlements expand and take into account any required improvements</li> </ul>
2.2	Isolated development such as new single dwellings and conversion of farm buildings on the mid escarpment slopes that might compromise rural landscape character including farm buildings converted to residential use.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Visual intrusions introduced to the landscape</li> <li>• Upgrading of minor roads and lanes and holloways in areas of new development and introduction of suburbanising features such as street lighting.</li> <li>• Introduction of 'lit' elements to characteristically dark escarpment slope landscapes.</li> <li>• Potential for glint from buildings.</li> <li>• Erosion of distinctive dispersed settlement character on the escarpment slopes.</li> <li>• Suburbanisation and domestication of agricultural landscape by the introduction of gardens e.g ornamental garden plants and boundary features, garden sheds, gateways, parking areas and conversion of tracks to manicured drives and ornamental gateways</li> <li>• Appearance of 'mini parklands' out of context with the surrounding landscape</li> <li>• Appearance and proliferation of stables and 'white tape' field boundaries for horses and ponies – see section 2.6. below</li> <li>• Loss of tranquillity and sense of seclusion</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Avoid development that will intrude negatively into the landscape and cannot be successfully mitigated.</li> <li>• Protect the undeveloped, unlit character of much of the escarpment.</li> <li>• Oppose new housing on the Escarpment (unless special circumstances apply in accordance with Paragraph 55 of the NPPF and development conserves and enhances the AONB as required by the CRoW Act 2000</li> <li>• Avoid conversion of isolated farm buildings.</li> <li>• Conserve the distinctive rural and dispersed settlement pattern.</li> <li>• Restore existing stone farm buildings and structures in preference to new built development.</li> <li>• Existing buildings should be carefully conserved and where converted to new uses buildings must retain their historic integrity and functional character. Sound conservation advice and principles must be sought and implemented</li> <li>• Maintain the sense of openness and consider the impact of development proposals on views to and from the escarpment slopes, including the impact of cumulative development.</li> <li>• Control the proliferation of suburban building styles and materials.</li> <li>• Landscaping schemes accompanying development should encourage the planting of appropriately sized native trees, shrubs and traditional fruit</li> </ul>

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			<p>varieties, whilst discouraging large alien tree species such as eucalypts and conifers and inappropriate forms and cultivars of native species, particularly on fringes of open countryside</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Respect traditional position of agricultural buildings and their relationship to the surrounding land.</li> </ul>
2.3	<p>Conversion of traditional farm buildings to new uses</p> <p>Deterioration in condition of vernacular farm buildings</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Erosion of distinctive features and loss of Cotswold character.</li> <li>• Domestication or industrialisation of existing agricultural vernacular and character</li> <li>• Loss of locally historic features and erosion of the integrity of the historic landscape</li> <li>• Loss of historic features/character of distinctive buildings if converted to uses requiring inappropriate interventions to historic fabric and form.</li> <li>• Introduction or expansion of lit elements on the Escarpment</li> <li>• Loss and erosion of Farmstead Character and how the buildings relate to the surrounding landscape and agricultural land use</li> <li>• Decline in quality of landscape</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conserve vernacular farm buildings for their own sake and/or by developing other options for their use whilst retaining their agricultural character</li> <li>• Where converted to new uses buildings must retain their historic integrity and functional character. Sound conservation advice and principles must be sought and implemented</li> <li>• New uses should not prejudice the effective operation of the farm enterprise.</li> <li>• Avoid inappropriate new uses that necessitate excessive loss of original historic features, or introduce elements that expand domestication or industrialisation</li> <li>• Discourage the conversion of farm buildings to a function with a limited life span and seek to prevent follow-on conversions e.g. for housing.</li> <li>• Respect traditional position of agricultural buildings and their relationship to the surrounding land.</li> <li>• Stabilise historic buildings and undertake localised scrub and woodland clearance to enhance their landscape setting and increase the contribution they make to landscape character.</li> <li>• Ensure best practice is followed for the protection of species associated with farm buildings e.g. bats</li> <li>• Promote examples of good practice</li> </ul>
2.4	Solar Farms on or in the setting of the Escarpment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Industrialisation of the rural landscape</li> <li>• Change of character due to colour and texture and heliographic glint</li> <li>• Loss of seasonal change in the landscape</li> <li>• Loss of characteristic pastoral landscape</li> <li>• Damage to and loss of landscape features such as Ridge and Furrow, Strip Lynchets, trees, walls and hedgerows.</li> <li>• Concealment of geomorphological or archaeological features</li> <li>• Impact of supporting infrastructure such as buildings and cables, roadways, security fencing, CCTV masts and lighting.</li> <li>• Decline in quality of landscape</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prevent proposals for solar farms that will impact negatively on landscape character and/or intrude into views to and/or from the Escarpment</li> <li>• Avoid proposals that will result in the loss or harm to landscape features such as Strip Lynchets, hedgerows and walls</li> <li>• Ensure a comprehensive LVIA is undertaken (including potential cumulative effects)</li> <li>• Ensure a glint/glare assessment is undertaken to determine the heliographic impact on receptors.</li> <li>• Reduce landscape impact with appropriate screening</li> <li>• Bury cables underground and seek opportunities to bury existing power lines</li> <li>• Keep supporting infrastructure to a minimum and ensure it is in keeping with landscape character</li> <li>• Ensure removal and restoration on temporary construction access.</li> </ul>

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Avoid the inclusion of any security lighting proposals</li> <li>• Seek appropriate landscape enhancement to field boundaries and margins within solar farm development proposals.</li> <li>• Promote the use of roof space for photovoltaic panels particularly on modern farm buildings</li> </ul>
2.5	Introduction of vertical elements such as communication masts, wind turbines, electricity pylons and large road signs on and adjacent to the escarpment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduction of visually intrusive 'urban' or industrial features to the dramatic escarpment</li> <li>• Loss of open character and 'natural' appearance</li> <li>• Introduction of unnatural movement and loss of tranquillity</li> <li>• Intrusion on the setting of scheduled monuments, listed buildings and designed landscapes</li> <li>• Breaking up of escarpment skyline</li> <li>• Impact on views to, from and along the escarpment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conserve the open, remote character by objecting to the development of vertical elements on the skyline or where these would adversely affect views along the escarpment or from the neighbouring vales and Cotswolds LCTs</li> <li>• Ensure the development of vertical elements in neighbouring areas beyond the AONB do not adversely affect views to, from and along the escarpment and across the adjacent LCTs</li> <li>• Ensure alternative options have been fully considered</li> <li>• Minimise impact by locating new communication masts on existing structures or by using existing masts</li> <li>• Set masts against trees</li> <li>• Bury cables underground and seek opportunities to bury existing cabling</li> <li>• Avoid use of visually prominent urban security fencing and CCTV masts.</li> <li>• Consider other renewable energy and communication technologies</li> <li>• Ensure full assessment of heritage setting impacts and appropriate measures undertaken</li> <li>• Seek to minimise size and number of roadsigns</li> </ul>
2.6	Establishment or expansion of equestrian establishments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Proliferation of stables and other visual clutter such as ribbon fences, jumps, horse boxes, shelters, manège and lighting associated with 'horsiculture'.</li> <li>• Creation of paddocks by sub-dividing fields using non-characteristic field boundary treatments such as post and rail fence or ribbon fences</li> <li>• Erosion of the dramatic, often open landscape character of the Escarpment</li> <li>• Deterioration in pasture quality and over grazing</li> <li>• Pressure to provide new housing for staff and owners</li> <li>• Creation of surfaced tracks, new and enlarged field entrances and parking areas for cars and horse boxes etc.</li> <li>• Excessive use of local roads and paths by horses, in part due to no direct or close connections to bridleways etc.</li> <li>• Increase in vehicle movements and roadside parking</li> <li>• Damage to road verges.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The creation of horse paddocks in visually prominent locations such as roadside and valley side locations should be avoided.</li> <li>• Oppose change of use for the 'keeping of horses' in visually prominent locations.</li> <li>• A concentration of horse paddocks and associated structures in any one area can have a cumulative harmful impact on landscape character and should be avoided</li> <li>• Take into account proximity to bridleways etc.</li> <li>• Where possible, existing buildings should be utilised and new stables and other structures kept to a minimum..</li> <li>• Ensure all new ventures provide accommodation within new stable buildings and proposals for separate isolated housing should be resisted</li> <li>• New structures should be carefully sited and designed to minimize their impact on the landscape. Wherever possible they should be located close to existing buildings. They should be constructed from appropriate vernacular materials and should follow the form of the landscape, avoiding prominent skyline sites and slopes</li> </ul>

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jumps, temporary fences and other equipment should be well maintained and removed when not in use.</li> <li>• Any lighting should be designed to minimise light pollution, e.g. low level and directed downwards and fitted with timers.</li> <li>• Where pastures need to be subdivided into smaller paddocks, temporary electric fencing is better than more permanent structures and offers greater flexibility in pasture management. Post and rail should be avoided.</li> <li>• Encourage the use of olive green tape, wider spacing of fence posts etc</li> <li>• Historic field boundaries, such as hedges, walls and fences should be maintained or extended, and new boundaries should match the local vernacular wherever possible.</li> <li>• Ensure authorisation is obtained from the highway authority for new gates or stiles on public rights of way.</li> <li>• In some instances, hedges and dry stone walls may need protection by fencing to prevent damage</li> <li>• Jumps, temporary fences and other equipment should be well maintained and removed when not in use.</li> <li>• Existing gates and access points should be retained if possible, and new gates should match the local vernacular.</li> <li>• Historic features, including ridge and furrow pastures, stone troughs and stone stiles, should be protected from damage by equestrian uses.</li> <li>• Promote Board guidance on good practice</li> </ul>
2.7	Major road construction and improvement schemes on escarpment slopes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Intrusive features on highly visible sections of the escarpment, and at gateways into the AONB</li> <li>• Introduction or increased movement in the landscape</li> <li>• Urbanising effect</li> <li>• Potential impact of additional road signage and lighting</li> <li>• Loss of tranquillity and excessive noise</li> <li>• Light and air pollution</li> <li>• Impact of road signs</li> <li>• Loss of archaeological features and impact on the setting of heritage assets.</li> <li>• Loss of woodland and other sensitive habitats</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Avoid major road building schemes</li> <li>• Implement traffic management schemes including speed reduction</li> <li>• Ensure any scheme brings substantial net benefits for the landscape and is designed to conserve and enhance character of the landscape</li> <li>• Ensure comprehensive EIA and LVIA are undertaken and their recommendations implemented.</li> <li>• Ensure careful and sensitive design of road proposals and associated infrastructure on escarpment crest and slopes</li> <li>• Keep lighting to an absolute minimum and use 'Dark Sky friendly' lighting</li> <li>• Seek to prevent rat-running on local roads, restoring and enhancing the character and amenity of local settlements and road network.</li> <li>• Restore redundant lengths of highway to agriculture or suitable habitat</li> <li>• Where bridges or other structures are unavoidable and visually prominent, their siting and design should be well integrated into landform and be of lasting architectural quality.</li> </ul>

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Avoid over-engineering links to the local road network.</li> <li>• Ensure landscaping design is fully in keeping with local character and land form</li> <li>• Seek opportunities for habitat creation, particularly unimproved grassland, on verges, embankments and areas of land isolated by new road and their long term management</li> <li>• Minimise loss of woodlands and other sensitive habitats; avoid loss of ancient woodland as an irreplaceable semi-natural habitat.</li> <li>• Funding from Highway Agency or highway authorities for mitigation measures to be a pre-condition e.g noise screening, quiet surfacing, land bridge etc.</li> <li>• Consider the potential for exposing geological features and their long term management</li> </ul>
2.8	Road upgrading and improvements, especially of minor country roads, as a result of development or general improvement schemes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduction of suburban features such as mini roundabouts, lighting, kerbs and traffic calming measures.</li> <li>• Use of inappropriate materials (e.g. standard highway fences and barriers)</li> <li>• Loss of roadside hedges and walls</li> <li>• Loss of verge/roadside habitat</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Refer to DMRB Vol 10 for general environmental design guidance.</li> <li>• Conserve the rural character of the local road network</li> <li>• Avoid the upgrading of tracks or creation of roads on the escarpment, particularly on the mid and upper slopes, especially where a lack of roads is characteristic</li> <li>• Resist the construction of 'village gateways', particularly those which are inappropriate and out of character</li> <li>• Minimise the use of road markings, permanent signage and lighting, siting them with care and ensuring that they are in keeping with their surroundings wherever possible whilst fulfilling road safety requirements.</li> <li>• Avoid making over-large and inappropriate entrances and keep visibility splays to a minimum</li> <li>• Promote use of design and materials appropriate to local character.</li> <li>• Produce guidance on design and suitable materials.</li> <li>• Promote use of 'shared space' for traffic calming measures in villages.</li> <li>• Seek opportunities to conserve and enhance roadside boundaries and habitats and their long-term management.</li> <li>• Promote road verge protection and management</li> </ul>
2.9	Excessive traffic and/or speed on minor local roads and lanes. Increase in size of vehicles using country lanes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pressure to improve roads by widening and straightening.</li> <li>• Loss of tranquillity and danger to walkers/riders and other non-motorised users.</li> <li>• Damage to verges and roadside boundaries by vehicles</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote traffic restriction measures such as lorry routing maps.</li> <li>• Maintain or reinstate rural character within settlements by promoting shared space and road design to slow and minimise traffic impact</li> <li>• Apply national guidance on rural speed restrictions in sensitive areas (DfT Circular 01/2013 especially Para 128)</li> <li>• Ensure traffic management measures reflect the character and materials of the area.</li> <li>• Encourage use of public transport, car sharing etc</li> </ul>

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encourage cycling on safe routes</li> <li>• Promote road verge protection and management</li> </ul>
	<b>Land use</b>		
2.10	<p>Agricultural intensification, diversification and farm amalgamation.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Construction of large scale industrial style agricultural 'sheds', silos and AD plants in prominent locations obscuring views of the Escarpment when viewed from the vale and dominate views of the lowlands when viewed from the upper escarpment slopes</li> <li>• Introduction of industrial elements on the Escarpment</li> <li>• Conversion of farm outbuildings and field barns to recreational or business uses</li> <li>• Removal of semi-natural vegetation and poor maintenance of and subsequent loss of field boundaries</li> <li>• Contamination of water courses and aquifer particularly from nitrates and phosphates.</li> <li>• Increased conversion of pasture to arable land, mainly on the lower slopes.</li> <li>• Woodland creation on permanent pasture.</li> <li>• Degradation and loss of hedgerows and increased use of post and wire fencing.</li> <li>• Abandonment of permanent pasture on the Escarpment and resulting spread of scrub and secondary woodland on otherwise open slopes.</li> <li>• Damage to and loss of archaeological sites and field monuments from conversion of pasture to arable and from intensification of grazing.</li> <li>• Move towards arable production on small mixed farms resulting in the removal or degradation of hedgerows and/ or loss of former pasture.</li> <li>• Loss of Farmstead character</li> <li>• Introduction or expansion of lit elements in the characteristically dark landscape</li> <li>• Increased damage to roads, road verges, dry stone walls and hedges from large machinery</li> <li>• Pressure to upgrade lanes or create new access tracks on the Escarpment</li> <li>• Increased width of gateways into fields</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conserve the open, dramatic and often remote character of the Escarpment and views to, along and from it.</li> <li>• Ensure that new farm buildings including silos and AD plants etc do not have an adverse visual impact on the wider landscape and views</li> <li>• Maintain the appearance and characteristic of isolated farmsteads and oppose proposals that will become dominant in the landscape</li> <li>• Provide advice to farmers on the siting of new buildings, lighting, colour etc.</li> <li>• Encourage the mitigation of existing large agricultural buildings e.g by limited tree planting.</li> <li>• Encourage the installation of PV on the roofs of new agricultural buildings, avoiding risk of glint/glare.</li> <li>• Seek to conserve traditional farm buildings.</li> <li>• Respect traditional position of agricultural buildings and their relationship to the surrounding land.</li> <li>• Conserve characteristically dark stretches of the Escarpment</li> <li>• Encourage small-scale mixed farming and encourage woodland and boundary management.</li> <li>• Monitor river nutrient levels.</li> <li>• Avoid the conversion of pasture to arable particularly where archaeological sites/field monuments may be lost or damaged. leads to fragmentation of grassland or potential contamination of water courses/aquifer</li> <li>• Encourage low intensity grazing or restrict access by livestock where archaeological sites/ field monuments may be lost or damaged</li> <li>• Encourage means and methods of reducing cultivation damage to archaeological sites and monuments (including reversion to grassland, minimal-tillage, direct drilling and other damage reduction methods).</li> <li>• Conserve areas of permanent pasture.</li> <li>• Protect and retain ancient/veteran trees.</li> <li>• Promote the conservation and restoration of hedgerows. Those marking ancient boundaries should be regarded as a priority.</li> <li>• Ensure any woodland creation is in keeping with landscape character – see section</li> </ul>

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2.11	Increased use of polytunnels, glasshouses and field film in the adjacent vale.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Impact on views from the escarpment across the vale.</li> <li>Introduction of unnatural, often shiny, materials leading to an industrialised appearance</li> <li>Impact of light pollution</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consider the scale and siting of polytunnels etc</li> <li>When not in use, remove field film and polytunnels or roll polytunnel plastic up to reduce impact.</li> </ul>
2.12	Loss of traditional horticulture/ agriculture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Loss of traditional orchards and local varieties of fruit</li> <li>Introduction of field film and polytunnels/ glasshouses into the neighbouring vale and their impact on views from the escarpment.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify and protect existing traditional orchards and new potential sites for traditional orchards</li> <li>Identify historical sites of orchards and promote their restoration</li> <li>Promote the appropriate management of existing traditional orchards and the planting of locally distinctive varieties</li> <li>Consider scale and siting of polytunnels etc</li> </ul>
2.13	Planting of energy crops such as Miscanthus, short rotation coppice and short rotation forestry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Loss or seasonal interruption of views particularly from roads and public rights of way.</li> <li>Loss of and fragmentation permanent pasture</li> <li>Change in colour and texture of the escarpment</li> <li>Damage to Archaeological sites, historic landscapes, geological and geomorphological features damaged or obscured</li> <li>Winter cropping resulting in 'scars' on the escarpment from the appearance of bare ground and vehicle tracks.</li> <li>Appearance of tracks on the escarpment slopes for access and crop extraction.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure energy crops are not planted where they would restrict or intrude into views, particularly open views across the landscape and on skyline sites.</li> <li>Do not plant on semi-natural habitats, permanent pasture or on sites with Section 41 NERC Act or local BAP species that could be affected in a negative way.</li> <li>Do not plant on sites where archaeological sites could be damaged or where significant historic landscapes would be adversely affected or on sites where features of geological or geomorphological importance would be obscured.</li> <li>Promote Cotswolds Conservation Board guidance</li> </ul>
2.14	Decline in grazing stock on escarpment slopes and areas of common land  Abandonment of grassland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Scrub encroachment and loss of permanent pasture and species rich grassland due to invasion of dominant grass species.</li> <li>Development of secondary woodland</li> <li>Loss of characteristic of grazing animals on the Escarpment</li> <li>Loss of open character of some sections of the escarpment</li> <li>Change in colour and texture in the landscape due to rank vegetation and scrub.</li> <li>Tendency for 'abandoned land' to be targeted for conversion into arable or woodland or for development</li> <li>Archaeological and geological sites obscured or damaged</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conserve areas of open pasture and common.</li> <li>Encourage traditional management regimes to limit scrub encroachment on areas of semi natural grassland.</li> <li>Re-introduction of grazing on semi-natural grasslands/improvement of existing grazing regimes.</li> <li>Produce guidance on scrub management</li> <li>Identify key viewpoints</li> </ul>
2.15	Separation of farmhouse/agricultural housing from the working farm for sale with a plot of land.  Sub-division of farmland for 'lifestyle' plots	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Loss of integrity, cohesion and character of historic farmsteads and associated farmland.</li> <li>Loss of agricultural context</li> <li>Suburbanisation of agricultural landscape by the introduction of gardens e.g ornamental garden plants and boundary features, parking areas, lighting, and conversion of tracks to manicured drives and ornamental gateways</li> <li>Shelterbelt planting for privacy screening</li> <li>Appearance and proliferation of stables and 'white tape' field boundaries for</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Only permit new uses of traditional farm buildings that are appropriate to retain their historic character and features.</li> <li>Use planning conditions to restrict subdivision of fields, construction of stables etc. Consider use of Article 4 Direction.</li> <li>Ensure separation of housing does not prejudice the effective operation of the farm enterprise</li> <li>Avoid isolated development, particularly in areas of dark skies</li> </ul>

## 2. Escarpment

	Local Forces For Change	Potential Landscape Implications	Landscape Strategies and Guidelines
		<p>horses and ponies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sub-division of fields using post and rail fences</li> <li>• Pressure for housing on plots of land</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Respect traditional position of agricultural buildings and their relationship to the surrounding land</li> </ul>
3.16	Flood management and alleviation measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Construction of 'hard' flood defences</li> <li>• Tree planting for flood management inappropriate to landscape character</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Retain and manage Escarpment watercourses in their naturalistic form..</li> <li>• Consider Rural Sustainable Drainage interventions such as in-stream woody barriers to slow peak water flow particularly within woodland.</li> <li>• Seek to influence surrounding land management such as de-compaction of pastures and contour ploughing, wide margins etc on the adjacent High Wold and High Wold Dip-slope..</li> <li>• Ensure flood defences integrate into the landscape by using appropriate mitigation measures, landscaping and materials</li> <li>• Seek opportunities for tree planting for flood management in-keeping with landscape and woodland character - see Creation of Woodland section 3.22 below</li> </ul>
2.17	<p>Development of scrub and trees on roadside verges</p> <p>Mowing of verges at inappropriate times</p> <p>New and upgraded verge crossings at entrances</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Loss of views from the public highway</li> <li>• Loss of roadside grassland habitat</li> <li>• Damage to hedges and walls and other features</li> <li>• Creation of 'lawns' on the roadside due to regular mowing for tidiness leading to a homogenised and sub-urban appearance</li> <li>• Incremental change through introduction of urban elements eroding rural character; raised kerbs, unsympathetic surfacing, upgraded entrances, creation of fenced visibility splays etc from rural roads</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify key views from roads</li> <li>• Manage/remove verge scrub and trees, particularly where views can be restored or where there are benefits for biodiversity</li> <li>• Reintroduce appropriate verge management and mowing</li> <li>• Promote best practice management of verges</li> <li>• Ensure highway authority planning conditions respect and are appropriate to rural character and situation</li> </ul>
2.18	Lack of appropriate management in disused quarries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Loss of limestone flora due to the development of scrub and secondary woodland.</li> <li>• Loss of bat roosts and nesting sites for birds</li> <li>• Loss of geological exposures</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify disused quarries important for biodiversity and/or geology</li> <li>• Encourage appropriate management by providing advice and guidance</li> <li>• Seek planning conditions to ensure quarry restoration and aftercare benefit landscape and biodiversity, particularly unimproved grassland</li> </ul>
2.19	Visitor pressure at escarpment vantage points and circular walks commencing from car park areas.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Degradation of the landscape as a result of littering, path erosion, car parking and use of off road vehicles.</li> <li>• Adverse effect on species rich grassland communities.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduce measures to limit/manage access to degraded areas of the landscape.</li> <li>• Reinstate areas of degraded landscape.</li> <li>• Encourage the use of formal paths rather than allowing desire lines to develop.</li> <li>• Limit/exclude motorcycles and mountain bikes from areas of historic and biodiversity interest.</li> <li>• Minimise car journeys to escarpment vantage points by offering adequate public transport services.</li> <li>• Resist the development of tourism facilities on the escarpment</li> </ul>

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	Local Forces For Change	Potential Landscape Implications	Landscape Strategies and Guidelines
2.20	Damage to field monuments and archaeological sites and the historic environment from farming operations, livestock, tree root damage, burrowing animals, woodland management operations and tree planting and recreational activity.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Damage to important archaeological sites and important landscape features including earthworks and lynchets</li> <li>• Loss of traditional field patterns and integrity of the wider historic landscape.</li> <li>• Loss of traditional field boundaries, particularly hedgerows and dry stone walls where they occur on the escarpment..</li> <li>• Loss of locally distinctive features</li> <li>• Encroachment of scrub onto archaeological features</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inform landowners of important archaeological sites</li> <li>• Protect all upstanding archaeological sites and consider the impact of changing land use/development on their landscape setting.</li> <li>• Manage/remove burrowing animals.</li> <li>• Restore the wider setting of key monuments</li> <li>• Raise awareness of the historic environment and of the SMR as a source of information</li> <li>• Provide guidance on managing the historic environment to farmers and land owners</li> <li>• Retain traditional field patterns and field boundaries</li> <li>• Ensure tree planting does not take place on archaeological features.</li> <li>• Control scrub and manage existing trees on archaeological features to minimise damage for example by root damage or wind-blow.</li> <li>• Minimise or prevent damage to the historic environment by recreational activity by working with landowners to prepare site management plans and if necessary limit access.</li> <li>• Repair badly eroded features such as earthworks and dry stone walls.</li> <li>• Avoid the planting of new hedgerows or the development of volunteer hedgerows adjacent to dry stone walls</li> </ul>
2.21	Loss of and damage to geological and geomorphological features due to tree growth, erosion and change of land use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Loss of sites that provide an understanding of the Cotswold landscape</li> <li>• Visible features such as outcrops, gulls and areas of landslip, particularly rotational slip obscured or lost.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify important geological features and ensure they are conserved and appropriately managed.</li> </ul>
<b>Woodland and trees</b>			
2.22	Creation of woodland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Loss of open character of some sections of the escarpment</li> <li>• Dilution of the visual impact of the characteristic Escarpment 'Hanging Woodlands'</li> <li>• Loss of views from and along the escarpment</li> <li>• Weakening of the characteristic mosaic of woodland and grassland particularly in LCTs 2C and 2D (Winchcombe to Uley)</li> <li>• Loss and fragmentation of permanent pasture, breaking the virtually intact corridor of grassland along the escarpment.</li> <li>• Mosaic of new woodlands of inappropriate shape and scale forming prominent non-characteristic features on the escarpment</li> <li>• Loss of Historic Landscape Character through inappropriate siting and/or species.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extend and link existing woodland in preference to creating new 'stand-alone' blocks</li> <li>• Ensure that new woodland planting does not limit or obscure views from and along the escarpment.</li> <li>• Ensure new woodlands respond to the scale and form of existing escarpment woodlands.</li> <li>• Select species characteristic of the ancient semi-natural woodland on the Escarpment.</li> <li>• Ensure woodland creation does not result in the loss of permanent pasture or unimproved grassland</li> <li>• Ensure the grassland corridor along the escarpment remains intact.</li> <li>• Ensure new woodland maximises its open space with grassland to replicate and expand the woodland/grassland mosaic in LCTs 2C and 2D.</li> <li>• Discourage the planting of conifers and encourage the use of native</li> </ul>

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	Local Forces For Change	Potential Landscape Implications	Landscape Strategies and Guidelines
			<p>broadleaves especially when extending or linking the beech woodlands.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encourage the replacement of conifer with native species, particularly on PAWS.</li> <li>• Seek EIA determination if necessary.</li> <li>• For shelterbelts and plantations associated with designed landscapes, select species characteristic of historic designed landscape in the area.</li> <li>• Raise awareness of woodland owners by producing information and guidance</li> <li>• Identify key viewpoints</li> <li>• Ensure adequate deer management and squirrel control</li> </ul>
2.23	Inappropriate or inconsistent management, or neglect of existing woodlands, including hanger woodlands,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Decline and loss of woodland habitats and wildlife corridors.</li> <li>• Poor management endangering long-term continuity of woodlands, especially ancient woodlands and significant alteration to the character of individual stretches of the escarpment.</li> <li>• Decline in the continuity and strength of character of the beech hangers.</li> <li>• Changes in composition of woodlands with potential increase in extent of coniferous plantations.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conserve and enhance areas of existing woodland, with priority given to ancient woodlands.</li> <li>• Promote Constant Cover woodland management</li> <li>• Retain areas of grassland within woodlands to conserve and enhance the important mosaic of woodland and grassland (LCTs 2C and 2D)</li> <li>• Retain the irregular form of woodland and its relationship to landform and interlocking patterns with hedgerows.</li> <li>• Restore PAWS to broadleaved woodland</li> <li>• Felling coupes should be designed to take account of their visual impact</li> <li>• Conserve woodlands along gullies and streams.</li> <li>• Seek opportunities to install 'woody barriers' in streams for flood management.</li> </ul>
2.24	Impact of tree disease such as Chalara Dieback of ash.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Change of colour and texture of woodland canopy as trees die</li> <li>• Thinning of woodland canopy, particularly on the skyline</li> <li>• Loss of single, sometimes veteran, trees in the landscape</li> <li>• Re-stocking with species not native to the Cotswolds</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote Woodland Management Plans to minimise the impact of disease and manage change</li> <li>• Recommend alternative species to ash that reflect the appearance and structure of Cotswold woodland</li> <li>• Consider different provenance of ash that may be disease resistant</li> <li>• Establish a programme to plant replacement trees in the landscape outside of woodlands e.g. hedgerow trees, parkland and wood pasture</li> <li>• Seek arboricultural advice.</li> </ul>