

7. High Wold

Character Areas

7A *Nymphsfield and Kingscote Plateau & Minchinhampton Common*

7B *Bisley Plateau*

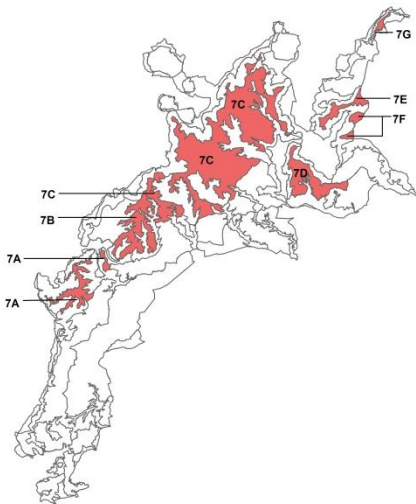
7C *Cotswolds High Wold Plateau*

7D *Rissington Plateau and Milton Downs*

7E *Rollright and Chastleton Plateau*

7F *Over Norton Plateau*

7G *Edge Hill Ironstone Plateau*



Key Features

- **Broad, elevated, gently undulating plateau** dissected by a network of dry valleys with distinctive convex profile valley sides.
- **Expansive long distance views** across the open plateau and to distant hills beyond the Severn Vale.
- **Elevated areas of plateau surrounded by deeply incised valleys** perceived as part of the High Wold, due to inter-visibility of neighbouring elevated landscapes.
- **Predominantly arable land use with some improved pasture/grass leys, and very limited permanent pasture mainly confined to valley bottoms** provides seasonal variations in colour and texture.
- **Large scale, regular fields mainly enclosed by dry stone walls, together with hedgerows with very occasional hedgerow trees, and post and wire fencing** create a patchwork effect across wide areas of the landscape.
- **Small to moderate size geometric farm woodlands, many comprising small coniferous and broadleaved plantations and shelterbelts, and plantations bordering roads** provide shelter across areas of otherwise open landscape.
- **Settlement limited to small villages and hamlets, generally within valleys, and isolated farmsteads and individual dwellings** gives many areas a remote character.
- **Low density of settlement resulting in a sense of tranquillity and areas of dark skies.**
- **Network of mainly linear roads following ridge tops, and linking settlements** give the landscape a distinct grain.
- **Evidence of long period of occupation of the landscape**, with many Neolithic and Bronze Age barrows and Iron Age hillforts
- **Seasonal rotation of arable cropping patterns and improved grassland** interrupts otherwise homogenous and simple land cover.
- **Remnants of once more extensive commons survive** highly valued for their nature conservation interest and cultural heritage value.
- **Occasional active and disused limestone quarries located across the High Wold** often valued as wildlife resources.
- **Prominent telecommunication masts and power lines** gain visual prominence as vertical elements in otherwise vast sweeping landscapes.
- **Use of locally quarried stone for both dry stone walls and houses, frequently constructed in distinctive local vernacular**, engenders a harmonious relationship between built elements and their surroundings.

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Summary description

The High Wold comprises a broad, elevated, gently undulating plateau dissected by a network of dry valleys with distinctive convex profiles. It is an expansive, large-scale landscape with long views and an impression of cohesion that belies its fragmentation.

Land use is predominantly arable, with a limited amount of permanent and improved pasture. Fields are large and regular. Dry stone walls dominate the landscape with occasional hedgerows, some of which have propagated along the lines of walls. Small plantations and shelterbelts form a part of this geometric pattern.

Although there is much evidence of occupation since ancient times, settlement is sparse and generally limited to small villages, hamlets and isolated farmsteads, linked by roads following the ridge tops. The one exception is the town of Stow-on-the-Wold sitting at 230m above sea level on a tongue of High Wold. Active and disused limestone quarries occasionally interrupt the landscape.

Landscape Sensitivity

Despite its predominantly agricultural character, the wide, elevated, gently undulating plateau landscape retains a strong sense of remoteness and tranquillity contributing to its high sensitivity. Wide panoramic views, a high degree of inter-visibility, and limited woodland cover also add to the sensitivity of the High Wold landscape to development, particularly tall vertical elements, such as telecommunication masts and wind turbines and to woodland creation and shelterbelt planting.

The High Wold contains a large number of prehistoric monuments including funerary monuments dating to the Neolithic and Bronze Age and defensive enclosures dating to the Iron Age. These are an important component of the landscape and highly sensitive to developments that may affect their landscape setting and material remains.

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	Local Forces For Change	Potential Landscape Implications	Landscape Strategies and Guidelines
	New Development		
7.1	Development, expansion and infilling of settlements within and on to the High Wold, including residential, industrial and leisure.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intrusion of expanded settlement fringes into the landscape • Erosion of distinctive radial and linear settlement patterns. • Loss/dilution of organic growth patterns of settlements including the relationship between the historic core and adjacent historic fields, paddocks and closes. • Loss of characteristic small scale settlements and hamlets due to settlement growth and coalescence. • Proliferation of suburban building styles, housing estate layout and materials and the introduction of ornamental garden plants and boundary features. • Erosion of characteristically dark skies • Upgrading of minor roads and lanes associated with new development and the introduction of suburbanising features such as mini roundabouts, street lighting, highway fencing and kerbs and traffic calming at village entrances • Introduction and accumulation of lit areas • Spread of urban fringe impacts such as fly tipping and dumping of cars • Potential loss of archaeological remains and historic features. • Loss of archaeological and historical features, field patterns and landscapes. • 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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain the open, sparsely settled character of the High Wold by limiting new development to existing settlements. • Avoid development that will intrude negatively into the landscape and cannot be successfully mitigated, for example, extensions to settlements on visible hillsides. • Ensure new development is proportionate and does not overwhelm the existing settlement. • Ensure that new development does not adversely affect settlement character and form or impact on views of key features such as church towers.. • 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. • Layout of development should respect local built character and avoid cramming up to boundaries resulting in hard suburban style edge to the settlement • Control the proliferation of suburban building styles and materials • 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). • Ensure new built development is visually integrated with the rural landscape setting and does not interrupt the setting of existing villages or views . • Retain existing trees, hedges etc as part of the scheme. • Ensure new development is integrated into its surroundings. Break up harsh edges of new development with appropriate and adequate tree planting ideally in advance of the development taking place. • Ensure the density of new development reflects its location relative to the 'core' of the settlement and its proximity to the surrounding rural landscape • Adopt measures to minimise and where possible reduce light pollution. • Promote initiatives that remove heritage assets from 'at risk' status in the Heritage at Risk Register. • Preserve archaeological and historical features and deposits. • 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. • Ensure the historic character and context are included in Neighbourhood Plans • Ensure development proposals safeguard and provide new links and enhancements to the Public Rights of Way network. • Consider the impact on local Public Rights of Way as settlements expand

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	Local Forces For Change	Potential Landscape Implications	Landscape Strategies and Guidelines and take into account any required improvements
7.2	Isolated development such as new single dwellings and conversion of farm buildings that might compromise rural landscape character and dispersed settlement patterns, including farm buildings converted to residential use.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visual intrusions introduced to the landscape • Erosion of the sparse settlement pattern of the high wold • Introduction of 'lit' elements to characteristically dark landscapes • Loss of tranquillity and sense of seclusion • Introduction of 'lit' elements to characteristically dark landscapes. • Upgrading of minor roads and lanes in areas of new development and introduction of suburbanising features such as gateways, kerbs and street lighting. • Suburbanisation and domestication of agricultural landscape by the introduction of gardens e.g ornamental garden plants and boundary features, garden sheds, parking areas, lighting and conversion of tracks to manicured drives and ornamental gateways • Appearance of 'mini parklands' out of context with the surrounding landscape • Appearance and proliferation of stables and 'white tape' field boundaries for horses and ponies. See below 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoid isolated development that will intrude negatively into the landscape and cannot be successfully mitigated. • Conserve areas of dark skies. • Oppose new housing on the High Wold (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 • Avoid conversion of isolated farm buildings • Conserve the distinctive rural and dispersed settlement pattern. • Restore existing stone farm buildings and structures in preference to new built development. • When restored or converted to new uses, buildings must retain their historic integrity and functional character. Sound conservation advice and principles must be sought and implemented. • Maintain the sense of openness and consider the impact of built development on views to and from the High Wold, including the impact of cumulative development • Control the proliferation of suburban building styles and materials. • Landscaping schemes accompanying development should encourage the planting of appropriately sized native trees, shrubs and traditional fruit varieties, whilst discouraging large alien tree species such as eucalypts and conifers and inappropriate cultivars of native species, particularly on fringes of open countryside. • Respect traditional position of agricultural buildings and their relationship to the surrounding land.
7.3	<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"> • Erosion of distinctive features and loss of Cotswold character. • Domestication or industrialisation of existing agricultural vernacular and character • Suburbanisation of the 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 • Loss of locally historic features and erosion of the integrity of the historic landscape • Loss of historic features/character of distinctive buildings if converted to uses requiring inappropriate interventions to historic fabric and form. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conserve vernacular farm buildings for their own sake and/or by developing other options for their use whilst retaining their agricultural character • Where converted to new uses buildings must retain their historic integrity and functional character. Sound conservation advice and principles must be sought and implemented • New uses should not prejudice the effective operation of the farm enterprise • Avoid inappropriate new uses that necessitate excessive loss of original historic features, or introduce elements that expand domestication or industrialisation • 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.

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Loss and erosion of Farmstead Character and how the buildings relate to the surrounding agricultural landuse and landscape Decline in quality of landscape 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Respect traditional position of agricultural buildings and their relationship to the surrounding land. Stabilise historic buildings and undertake localised scrub and woodland clearance to enhance their landscape setting and increase the contribution they make to landscape character. Ensure best practice is followed for the protection of species associated with farm buildings e.g. bats Promote examples of good practice
7.4	Solar Farms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Industrialisation of the rural landscape Change of character due to colour and texture and heliographic glint Loss of seasonal change in the landscape Loss of characteristic agricultural landscape Damage to and loss of landscape features such as Ridge and Furrow, Strip Lynchets, trees and dry stone walls. Impact of supporting infrastructure such as buildings, cables, roadways, security fencing, CCTV masts and lighting Concealment of geomorphological or archaeological features Decline in quality of landscape 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prevent proposals for solar farms that will impact negatively on landscape character and/or intrude into views Ensure a comprehensive LVIA is undertaken (including potential cumulative effects) Avoid proposals that will result in the loss or harm to landscape features such as Strip Lynchets, hedgerows and walls Ensure a glint/glare assessment is undertaken to determine the heliographic impact on receptors. Reduce landscape impact with appropriate screening Bury cables underground and seek opportunities to bury existing overhead cables Keep supporting infrastructure to a minimum and ensure it is in keeping with landscape character. Ensure removal and restoration on temporary construction access. Avoid the inclusion of any security lighting proposals Seek appropriate landscape enhancement to field boundaries and margins within solar farm development proposals. Promote the use of roof space for photovoltaic panels particularly on modern farm buildings
	<p>Development pressures on decommissioned airfields.</p> <p>Re-use of decommissioned airfields for large scale residential development or industrial uses including solar farms.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Loss of open character of the High Wold Intrusion of development into the landscape. Introduction of 'lit' elements to characteristically dark landscapes Degradation of views to, from and across the High Wold Dip-slope introduction of suburbanising features such as mini roundabouts, street lighting, kerbs and traffic calming measures Loss of historical and cultural significance Dereliction/loss of buildings and features that represent monuments of 20th century conflict. Loss of habitat 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect the open character of the High Wold and avoid development that will intrude negatively into the landscape Avoid developments incorporating standardised development layout, suburban style lighting, construction details and materials that cumulatively can lead to the erosion of peaceful landscape character. Ensure comprehensive EIA and GLVIA are undertaken Promote the use of local stone and building styles in the construction of new buildings and extensions to existing dwellings. Ensure new development is integrated into its surroundings and does not interrupt the setting of existing settlements. Break up harsh edges of new development with appropriate and adequate tree planting ideally in advance of the development taking place. Encourage the planting of appropriately sized native trees, shrubs and

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Noise and light pollution Increased traffic 	<p>traditional fruit varieties, whilst discouraging large alien tree species such as eucalypts and conifers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prepare Development Brief or masterplan incorporating and based on a full contextual appraisal Conserve features of historic interest. Ensure the historical and cultural significance of the airfield is retained and avoid their erosion through piecemeal development. Prepare a Biodiversity Action Plan for each airfield and seek the retention of open grassland and improve its biodiversity Promote use of existing buildings for commercial uses consistent with AONB.
7.5	New large scale quarries and expansion of existing quarrying operations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Visual impact of quarry and quarry traffic Loss of tranquillity due to noise, movement, lighting and dust. Loss of habitats and archaeological sites 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote policy that aggregates are produced only as a by-product of building stone Apply the presumption against new large scale quarrying, particularly for aggregates. Support small scale quarrying operations for walling and building stone paying regard to their impact on local landscape character, heritage and nature conservation interests. Promote 'local stone for local use' Ensure Quarry Restoration Plans respect landscape character and tranquillity of the High Wold. Seek opportunities for retention and access to geological and geomorphological features Minimise loss of archaeological remains Support restoration plans that restore to agriculture, biodiversity and/or quiet recreation Resist after use for in-fill or recycling material from outside the Cotswolds.
7.6	Licensed Waste disposal such as land-fill and waste recycling operations including composting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Degradation of landscape character and wildlife habitats. Loss of tranquillity due to noise, dust and vehicle movements Unpleasant smells from composting Loss of biodiversity and geological features 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Avoid strategic waste disposal proposals within or adjacent to the AONB. Avoid importing waste into the AONB Ensure small scale local waste disposal operations continue to operate with minimal impact Support proposals for local waste recycling that do not impact on landscape character or tranquillity and reduce vehicle movement, especially distance travelled

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7.7	Licensed spreading of waste on agricultural land	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Change in colour in the landscape. • Unpleasant smells • Potential impact on watercourses or aquifer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoid spreading waste across or adjacent to public rights of way, in close proximity to settlements or where it may impact on biodiversity or water courses. • Avoid storage (e.g. sewage waste heaps) adjacent to public rights of way and roads • Ensure swift incorporation
7.8	Illegal waste disposal/fly tipping	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unsightly intrusion into the landscape • Loss of biodiversity • Blocking of gateways, laybys and areas of road verge by fly tipping • Pollution of watercourses and aquifer • Loose waste material blowing around and catching on hedges, trees etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect former quarries from fly tipping • Seek swift removal of fly tipping • Prosecute landowners who allow or turn a 'blind eye' to unlicensed waste disposal • Remove blown material from hedges, trees and road verges.
7.9	Introduction of vertical elements such as communication masts, wind turbines, drilling rigs, electricity pylons and large roadsigns particularly on prominent hill top, valley rim and escarpment edge locations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction of visually intrusive 'urban' or industrial features to the rural open and expansive high wold landscape • Introduction of unnatural movement and loss of tranquillity and sense of remoteness. • Introduction of lit elements to a characteristically dark landscape • Intrusion on the setting of scheduled monuments, listed buildings and designed landscapes • Breaking up of the skyline • Loss of open character 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conserve the open, remote character by objecting to the development of vertical elements on the skyline or where these would adversely affect views across and to the High Wold • Ensure the development of vertical elements in neighbouring LCTs and areas beyond the AONB do not adversely affect views to, from and across the High Wold. • Ensure alternative options have been fully considered • Minimise impact by locating new communication masts on existing structures or by using existing masts. • Set masts etc against trees • Bury cables underground and seek opportunities to bury existing overhead cables. • Avoid use of visually prominent urban security fencing and CCTV masts. • Consider other renewable energy or communication technologies • Ensure full assessment of heritage setting impacts and appropriate measures undertaken • Seek to minimise the size and number of roadsigns
7.10	Establishment or expansion of equestrian establishments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proliferation of stables and other visual clutter such as ribbon fences, jumps, horse boxes, shelters, manège and lighting associated with 'horsiculture'. • Creation of paddocks by sub-dividing fields using non characteristic field boundary treatments such as post and rail fence or ribbon fences • Erosion of the rural landscape • Deterioration in pasture quality and over grazing • Pressure to provide new housing for staff and owners • Creation of surfaced tracks, new and enlarged field entrances and parking areas for cars and horse boxes etc. • Excessive use of local roads and paths by horses, in part due to no direct or close connections to bridleways etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where possible, existing buildings should be utilised and new stables and other structures kept to a minimum. • Ensure all new ventures provide accommodation within new stable buildings and proposals for separate isolated housing should be resisted • 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 • The creation of horse paddocks in visually prominent locations such as roadside and hill side locations should be avoided. • Oppose change of use for the 'keeping of horses' in visually prominent

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

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	Local Forces For Change	Potential Landscape Implications	Landscape Strategies and Guidelines
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. • Avoid over-engineering links to the local road network. • Ensure landscaping design is fully in keeping with local character and land form • Minimise loss of woodlands and other sensitive habitats; avoid loss of semi-natural ancient woodland as an irreplaceable resource • Seek opportunities for habitat creation, particularly unimproved grassland, on verges and embankments and their long term management • Funding from highways authorities or Highways England for mitigation measures to be a pre-condition e.g noise screening, quiet surfacing etc. • Consider the potential for exposing geological features and their long term management
7.12	Road upgrading and improvements, especially of minor country roads, as a result of development or general improvement schemes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction of suburban features such as mini roundabouts, lighting, kerbs and traffic calming measures. • Use of inappropriate materials (e.g. standard highway fences and barriers) • Increased traffic movement • Loss of roadside hedges and walls • Loss of verge/roadside habitat 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refer to DMRB Vol 10 for general environmental design guidance. • Conserve the character of the local road network. • Object to the upgrading of tracks or creation of roads especially where a lack of roads is characteristic • Resist the construction of 'village gateways' particularly those which are inappropriate and out of character. • 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. • Avoid making over-large and inappropriate entrances and keep visibility splays to a minimum • Promote use of design and materials appropriate to local character. • Produce guidance on design and suitable materials. • Promote use of 'shared space' for traffic calming measures in villages. • Seek opportunities to conserve and enhance roadside boundaries and habitats and their long term management. • Promote road verge protection and management
7.13	Excessive traffic and/or speed on minor local roads and lanes and verge parking. Increase in size of vehicle using country lanes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pressure to improve roads by widening and straightening. • Loss of tranquillity and danger to walkers/riders and other non-motorised users. • Damage to verges and roadside boundaries by HGVs and agricultural vehicles 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote traffic restriction measures such as lorry routing maps. • Maintain or reinstate rural character within towns and villages by promoting shared space and road design to slow and minimise traffic impact • Apply national guidance on rural speed restrictions in sensitive areas (DfT Circular 01/2013 especially Para 128) • Ensure traffic management measures reflect the character and materials of the area. • Encourage use of public transport, car sharing etc • Encourage cycling on safe routes

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	Local Forces For Change	Potential Landscape Implications	Landscape Strategies and Guidelines
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote road verge protection and management
	Land use		
7.14	Agricultural intensification and diversification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Field amalgamation and loss of hedgerows and dry stone walls leading to the loss of distinctive field patterns. Loss of arable reversion back to cultivation. Removal of semi-natural vegetation cover and the poor maintenance and subsequent loss of field boundaries. Loss of habitat Decline in maintenance of stone walls leading to a locally degraded or neglected landscape character. Conversion of permanent pasture to arable or woodland Damage to and loss of archaeological sites and field monuments from conversion of pasture to arable and from intensification of grazing. Ongoing loss of archaeological sites and monuments from long-term cultivation and erosion. Increased use of post and wire fences. Construction of large scale industrial style agricultural 'sheds', silos, AD plants etc on the skyline or in prominent locations. Introduction of industrial elements to the agricultural landscape Conversion of farm outbuildings and field barns to recreational or business uses Loss of Farmstead character Introduction or expansion of lit elements in the characteristically dark landscape Increased damage to roads, road verges, dry stone walls and hedges from large machinery Increased width of gateways into fields 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure that new farm buildings including silos and AD plants etc do not have an adverse visual impact on the wider landscape. Maintain the appearance and characteristic of isolated farmsteads and oppose proposals that will become dominant in the landscape Encourage the mitigation of existing large agricultural buildings e.g by limited tree planting. Encourage the installation of PV on the roofs of new agricultural buildings, avoiding risk of glint/glare. Conserve characteristically dark skies Provide advice to farmers on siting of new buildings, lighting, colour etc Seek to conserve traditional farm buildings where necessary through appropriate new uses that retain historic character and features. Respect traditional position of agricultural buildings and their relationship to the surrounding land. Conserve areas of permanent pasture Encourage the protection of traditional field patterns. Retain and restore dry stone walls particularly adjacent to roads and public rights of way and in the vicinity of settlements Encourage means and methods of reducing cultivation damage to archaeological sites and monuments (including reversion to grassland, min-tillage, direct drilling and other damage reduction methods). Oppose proposals to convert pasture to arable particularly where archaeological sites/field monuments may be lost or damaged. Ensure any woodland creation is in keeping with landscape character – see section 7.23
7.15	Planting of energy crops such as Miscanthus, short rotation coppice and short rotation forestry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Loss or seasonal interruption of views particularly from roads and public rights of way. Increased sense of enclosure Loss of remaining permanent pasture Archaeological sites, historic landscapes, geological and geomorphological sites damaged or obscured 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure energy crops are not planted where they would restrict or intrude into views, particularly open views across the landscape and on skyline sites. Do not plant on semi-natural habitats, permanent pasture or on sites with Section 41, NERC Act and local BAP species that could be affected in a negative way. Do not plant on sites where archaeological sites could be damaged or obscured or where significant historic landscapes would be adversely affected or on sites where features of geological or geomorphological importance would be obscured. Promote Cotswolds Conservation Board guidance

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7.16	Changes in land use and management within historic parks and gardens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weakening of the integrity of designed landscapes, parks and gardens • Loss of or damage to elements of designed landscapes, parks and gardens. • Insertion of inappropriate new elements that diminish rather than enhance historic design characteristics • Intrusion on setting of designed landscapes – especially designed vistas and other important views of or out from the area. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conserve and enhance historic parks and gardens, including their setting • Develop and implement management plans • Restore lost elements of historic parks and gardens to restore the integrity of the designed landscape as a whole. • Avoid development that damages the extent, features, character or setting of historic designed landscapes.
7.17	Loss of dry stone walls due to abandonment, development of volunteer hedges, replacement with hedges or fences or removal to build/restore a wall elsewhere.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loss of a key feature characteristic of the Cotswolds and high wold in particular. • Change in landscape character through the replacement of dry stone walls with hedges and fences. • Weakening/loss of field patterns, particularly those that reflect the pre-enclosure open field system • Loss of features in the walls such as stone stiles 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage the retention and maintenance of dry stone walls. • Ensure dry stone wall retention and maintenance are included in agri-environment schemes • Provide guidance on Delves – small scale on-farm quarries for walling stone • Seek opportunities for dry stone wall construction and repair through planning mitigation • Where possible use stone that reflects the colour, thickness etc of local stone walls • Prevent the formation of volunteer hedges
7.18	Decline in grazing stock on areas of permanent pasture and common land	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loss of characteristic of grazing animals in the landscape • Scrub encroachment and loss of species rich grassland due to invasion of dominant grass species. • Loss of open character • Change in colour and texture in the landscape due to rank vegetation and scrub. • Tendency for 'abandoned land' to be targeted for conversion into arable or woodland or for development. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retain and conserve areas of open pasture and common land • Encourage traditional management regimes to control scrub encroachment on areas of common land. • Re-introduction of grazing on semi-natural grasslands/improvement of existing grazing regimes. • Produce guidance on scrub management
7.19	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"> • Loss of integrity, cohesion and character of historic farmsteads and associated farmland. • Loss of agricultural context • 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 • Shelterbelt planting for privacy screening • Appearance and proliferation of stables and 'white tape' field boundaries for horses and ponies • Sub-division of fields using post and rail fences • Pressure for housing on plots of land 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Only permit new uses of traditional farm buildings that are appropriate to retain their historic character and features. • Use planning conditions to restrict subdivision of fields, construction of stables etc. Consider use of Article 4 Direction. • Ensure separation of housing does not prejudice the effective operation of the farm enterprise • Avoid isolated development, particularly in areas of dark skies • Respect traditional position of agricultural buildings and their relationship to the surrounding land

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	Local Forces For Change	Potential Landscape Implications	Landscape Strategies and Guidelines
7.20	<p>Development of scrub and trees on roadside verges</p> <p>Mowing of verges at inappropriate times</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Loss of views from the public highway Loss of roadside grassland habitat Damage to dry stone walls and hedges and other features Creation of 'lawns' on the roadside due to regular mowing for tidiness leading to a homogenised and sub-urban appearance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify key views from roads Manage/remove verge scrub and trees, particularly where views can be restored or where there are benefits for biodiversity. Reintroduce appropriate verge management and mowing Promote best practice management of verges.
7.21	Lack of appropriate management in disused quarries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Loss of limestone flora due to the development of scrub and secondary woodland. Loss of bat roosts and nesting sites for birds Loss of geological exposures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify disused quarries important for biodiversity and/or geology Encourage appropriate management by providing advice and guidance Seek planning conditions to ensure quarry restoration and aftercare benefit landscape and biodiversity, particularly unimproved grassland
7.22	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"> Damage to important archaeological sites and important landscape features. Loss of traditional field boundaries, particularly dry stone walls and hedgerows. Loss of traditional field patterns and integrity of the wider historic landscape Loss of locally distinctive features Encroachment of scrub onto archaeological features 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inform landowners of important archaeological sites Protect all upstanding archaeological sites and consider the impact of development on their landscape setting. Manage/remove burrowing animals Restore the wider setting of key monuments to ensure that they do not read as islands amidst a sea of arable farming. Raise awareness of the historic environment and of the SMR as a source of information Provide guidance on managing the historic environment to farmers and land owners Retain traditional field patterns and field boundaries Ensure tree planting does not take place on archaeological features. Control scrub and manage existing trees on archaeological features to minimise damage for example by root damage or wind-blow. 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. Repair badly eroded features such as earthworks and dry stone walls. Avoid planting new hedgerows or the development of volunteer hedges adjacent to dry stone walls.
	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"> Loss of sites that provide an understanding of the Cotswold landscape Loss of visible features such as dry valley systems 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify important geological features and ensure they are conserved and appropriately managed.

7. High Wold

	Local Forces For Change	Potential Landscape Implications	Landscape Strategies and Guidelines
	Woodland and trees		
7.23	<p>Creation of woodland and geometric farm copses and shelterbelts.</p> <p>Creation of 'shelterbelts' to provide seclusion for private dwellings</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased woodland cover diminishing the open character of the High Wold. Woodlands limiting long distance views and inter-visibility of detached areas of High Wold. Loss of views across, to and from the High Wold Cumulative impact of woodland creation leading to a change in landscape character. Increased sense of inclosure of the landscape, particularly from the public highway Loss of permanent pasture Loss of Historic Landscape Character through inappropriate siting and/or species 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Retain the expansive, open character of the High Wold Discourage 'ad-hoc' planting through appropriate agricultural support mechanisms Seek EIA determination if necessary Limit new farm woodland and shelterbelt planting. Extend or link existing woodland in preference to new 'stand-alone' plantations Have regard to the cumulative impact of woodland creation and tree planting on the open character of the High Wold. Select species characteristic of ancient semi-natural woodland in the area. Promote the felling of inappropriate coniferous plantations and replanting of farm woodlands and shelterbelts on enclosure age woodland footprints using suitable species. Ensure that new woodland planting does not limit or obscure views to and from and across the High Wold Ensure new woodlands respond to the scale and form of existing High Wold woodlands; Locate new woodland and copses in historically characteristic topographical locations including their relationship to farmsteads and settlements. For shelterbelts and plantations associated with designed landscapes, select species characteristic of historic designed landscape planting in the area. Ensure woodland creation does not result in the loss of permanent pasture or unimproved grassland Discourage conifer planting (unless a nurse) and encourage the use of native broadleaves or species that reflect local broadleaved woodland Encourage the replacement of conifer with native species, particularly on PAWS Raise awareness of woodland owners by producing information and guidance Identify key viewpoints Ensure adequate deer management and squirrel control
7.24	<p>Maturation and decline of enclosure-age pine and beech corner copses, roadside shelterbelts and farm copses.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decline and potential loss of characteristic feature of the High Wold landscape. Introduction of non-characteristic tree species and general erosion of the High Wold's open character. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage opportunities to manage and re-plant enclosure age tree belts using traditional species. Identify areas of AONB where shelterbelts are part of the inherent character and use to target agri-environment funding..
7.25	<p>Impact of tree disease such as Chalara Dieback of ash.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Change of colour and texture of woodland canopy as trees die Thinning of woodland canopy Loss of single, sometimes veteran, trees in the landscape Re-stocking with species not native to the Cotswolds 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote Woodland Management Plans to minimise the impact of disease and manage change Recommend alternative species to ash that reflect the appearance and structure of Cotswold woodland



7. High Wold

	Local Forces For Change	Potential Landscape Implications	Landscape Strategies and Guidelines
			<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Consider different provenance of ash that may be disease resistant• Establish a programme to plant replacement trees in the landscape outside of woodlands eg parkland.• Seek arboricultural advice