

1. Escarpment Outliers

Character Areas

1A Cam Long Down, Peaked Down and Downham Hills

1B Langley Hill

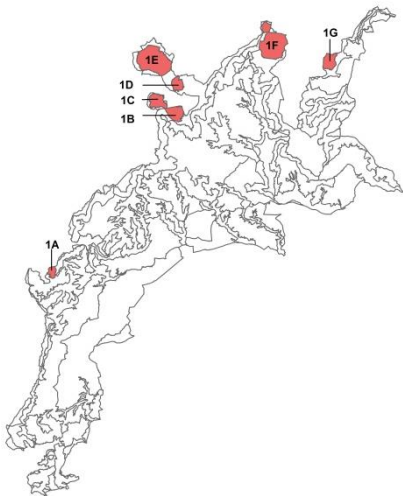
1C Oxenton and Dixon Hills

1D Dumbleton and Alderton Hills

1E Bredon Hill

1F Meon and Ebrington Hills

1G Brailes Hill and Castle Hill



Key Features

- **Distinctive hills detached from the main Cotswolds escarpment and rising above the neighbouring vale** forming prominent landscape features visible from great distances.
- **Varied and sometimes steeply sloping topography** reflecting localised differences in geology.
- **Dramatic panoramic views from upper slopes possible over the Severn Vale to the Welsh borders and eastwards to the Cotswolds Escarpment** emphasising the remoteness and inaccessibility of many parts of the outliers.
- **Areas of rough grassland and scrub occur on some sections of the upper slopes and areas of steep landform** often supporting remnants of ancient species rich grasslands and providing important habitats for many species of flora and fauna.
- **Woodlands and belts of trees often occupy steeper slopes of the outliers and also border the gullies of brooks draining radially into the vale.** Veteran trees, scrub and ancient woodlands provide important habitats for a range of species.
- **Areas of woodland and hedgerows form interlocking patterns** that provide green corridors through which wildlife can move freely.
- **Lower, gentler slopes cloaked in improved pastures and arable farmland, divided up by a network of hedgerows and some dry stone walls** reminiscent of the vale landscapes below.
- **Sparsely settled.** Small wayside villages on lower slopes give way to isolated farmsteads and dwellings linked by narrow winding lanes on upper slopes and contribute to the generally remote character.
- **Hilltops often the site of prehistoric hillforts or other defensive enclosures** indicating a long history of settlement and a reminder of the strategic importance they held in the wider landscape.
- **Hills criss-crossed by footpaths often surrounded by dense vegetation link the hill tops to the vale villages.** These may follow the course of ancient tracks onto former hill top commons

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Summary description

The varied, sometimes steeply sloping topography of these distinctive hills sits detached to the west of the main Cotswold escarpment, rising above the neighbouring vale and offering dramatic, panoramic views away from and into the AONB. They are important landmarks in their own right being viewed from miles around

Rough grassland and scrub occur on some sections of their upper slopes, and other steep areas, along with woodland belts and trees. Woodland and hedgerows form interlocking patterns. A network of hedgerows and occasional walls divide the improved pasture and arable farmland of the lower slopes.

Although the outliers themselves are sparsely settled, their hilltops, which are often the site of prehistoric hill forts or other defensive enclosures, are criss-crossed by footpaths that link to the vale villages below

Landscape Sensitivity

The Outliers are a distinctive, highly visible landscape type that often retains a remote character. As a result, the hills are highly sensitive to change that would introduce built elements to otherwise agricultural landscapes or interrupt the existing balance of rough pasture and woodland on their upper slopes.

Care should be taken to respect the character of each individual outlier and indeed the various characteristics that are present on different faces of the same hill.

This is particularly notable in the case of Bredon Hill, the largest of the Escarpment Outliers, where variations in land use occur across different faces and slope facets of the hill. The more detailed landscape character assessment undertaken by Worcestershire County Council has identified a further tier of landscape types, with the result that three separate types occur across the hill, differentiating between the summit area, the steeper northern face, and the gentler slopes to the south and at the foot of the northern slopes. As this forms part of a more detailed level of assessment than the broader Cotswolds AONB study, the Worcestershire assessment provides a basis for management objectives to a more local level that can nest within the broader division of Escarpment Outliers that relates more directly to the AONB.

1. Escarpment Outliers

	Local Forces For Change	Potential Landscape Implications	Landscape Strategies and Guidelines
	New Development		
1.1	Development, expansion and infilling of settlements including residential, industrial and leisure, fringing the lower slopes of the outliers including expansion onto the lower slopes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encroachment of development onto visually prominent slopes of the Outliers • Erosion of organic growth and linear pattern of settlements bordering roads fringing the lower slopes of individual outliers including their relationship to the landscape • Proliferation of suburban building styles, housing estate layout and materials and the introduction of ornamental garden plants and boundary features. • Spread of lit elements up the slopes of the outliers. • Potential for glint from buildings on the outlier slopes. • Loss of characteristic small scale settlements and hamlets due to settlement growth and coalescence • Introduction of lit elements on previously dark hill sides. • 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, kerbs and traffic calming at village entrances. • Degradation of the view to and from the outliers from the adjacent vale and Escarpment and in some instances between outliers. • 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 often open, dramatic and sparsely settled character of the Escarpment Outliers • 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 • Conserve linear pattern of settlements fringing the lower slopes of the hills and the rural road network linking them, particularly the narrow winding lanes linking villages to hillside farms and ancient hollow-ways onto the tops of the outliers. • Conserve the distinctive orientation of linear villages on lower slopes and along the base of the outliers and their relationship to the landscape, ensuring new development does not adversely affect settlement character and form • 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. • Avoid cramming development right up to the boundaries resulting in hard suburban style edge to the settlement. • Restore existing stone, old brick and half-timbered buildings within settlements in preference to new built development. • 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 • 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 the local vernacular style. • Promote initiatives that remove heritage assets from 'at risk' status in the Heritage at Risk Register. • Conserve the rural character of the road network. • Avoid development that may restrict or obscure views to the upper slope, skylines or sweeping views across the landscape and to distinctive features such as folly towers and hillforts. • 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

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			<p>Plans</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retain existing trees, hedges etc as part of the scheme. • Plant trees and hedges within and around new development to reduce impact on the landscape ideally in advance of the development taking place. • Identify key viewpoints to and from the outliers, including between outliers and between outliers and the escarpment • 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 and take into account any required improvements • Identify and promote examples of best practice
1.2	Isolated development such as new single dwellings and conversion of farm buildings on the slopes 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 into the landscape • Upgrading of minor roads and hollow-ways in areas of new development and introduction of suburbanising features such as street lighting and kerbs. • Introduction of lit elements to areas of dark landscape • Potential for glint from buildings. • Erosion of distinctive dispersed settlement pattern of hill slopes. • Proliferation of suburban building styles/ materials • Suburbanisation 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 • 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 section 1.6 below. • Loss of tranquillity and sense of seclusion particularly on Bredon Hill 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoid development that will intrude negatively into the landscape and cannot be successfully mitigated. • Conserve the dispersed pattern of settlement on Outlier hillsides. • Protect the undeveloped, unlit character of the hillsides • 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 • Avoid conversion of isolated farm buildings. • Restore existing stone buildings in preference to new built development. • Where 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 remoteness and consider the impact of new development proposals on views to and from the hillsides, 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 forms and cultivars of native species, particularly on fringes of open countryside. • Respect traditional position of agricultural buildings and their relationship to the surrounding land.

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1.3	<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 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 • Loss and erosion of Farmstead Character and how the buildings relate to the surrounding landscape and agricultural land use and landscape. • Decline in quality of landscape 	<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. • 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
1.4	Solar Farms on or in the setting of the outliers	<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, walls and hedgerows. • Concealment of geomorphological or archaeological features • Impact of supporting infrastructure such as buildings, cables, roadways, security fencing, CCTV masts and lighting. • Decline in the 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 to and/or from the outliers • Avoid proposals that will result in the loss or harm to landscape features such as Strip Lynchets, Ridge and Furrow, hedgerows and walls • Ensure a comprehensive LVIA is undertaken (including potential cumulative effects) • 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 power lines • 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

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1.5	Introduction of vertical elements such as telecommunications masts, wind turbines, drilling rigs, electricity pylons and large road signs on and adjacent to the outliers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction of visually intrusive 'urban' or industrial features to the outliers or their setting. • Loss of open character and 'natural' appearance • Introduction of unnatural movement and loss of tranquillity and sense of remoteness. • Intrusion on the setting of scheduled monuments, listed buildings and designed landscapes • Breaking up of outlier skyline • Impact on views to and from the outliers 	<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 to and from the outliers • Ensure the development of vertical elements in neighbouring areas beyond the AONB or in adjacent LCTs do not adversely affect views to and from the Escarpment Outliers • Minimise impact by locating new communication masts on existing structures or by using existing masts • Set masts against trees • Bury cables underground and seek opportunities to bury existing power lines • Avoid use of visually prominent urban security fencing and CCTV masts • Ensure alternative options have been fully considered • Consider other renewable energy or communication technologies • Seek to minimise size and number of road signs • Ensure full assessment of heritage setting impacts and appropriate measures undertaken •
1.6	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 dramatic, often open character of the Outliers. • 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. • Increase in vehicle movements • Damage to road verges. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The creation of horse paddocks in visually prominent locations such as roadside and hill side locations should be avoided • Take into account proximity of bridleways etc. • 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 • 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. • Oppose change of use for the 'keeping of horses' in visually prominent locations. • 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 • Where pastures need to be subdivided into smaller paddocks, temporary

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			<p>electric fencing is better than more permanent structures and offers greater flexibility in pasture management. Post and rail should be avoided.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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
1.7	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) • 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 rural character of the local road network around the base of the outliers. • Object to the upgrading of tracks or creation of roads on the top and slopes of the outliers especially where an absence 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. • Encourage use of public transport, car sharing etc • Encourage cycling on safe routes • Seek opportunities to conserve and enhance roadside boundaries and habitats and their long-term management • Promote examples of good practice

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1.8	Excessive traffic and/or speed on minor local roads and lanes. Increase in size of vehicles using lanes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pressure to improve roads by widening and straightening and improving sightlines. • Loss of tranquillity and danger to walkers/riders and other non-motorised users. • Damage to verges and roadside boundaries by vehicles 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote traffic restriction measures such as lorry routing maps. • Maintain or reinstate the rural character within settlements by promoting the use of 'shared space' for traffic calming measures in villages • 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 • Promote road verge protection and management
Land use			
1.9	Agricultural intensification, diversification and farm amalgamation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction of large scale industrial style agricultural 'sheds', silos and AD plants in prominent locations obscuring views of the Outliers when viewed from the vale or nearby Escarpment or Outliers and dominate views of the lowlands when viewed from the upper Outlier slopes • Introduction of industrial elements on the Escarpment • Conversion of farm outbuildings and field barns to recreational or business uses • Introduction or expansion of lit elements into areas of characteristically dark landscape, particularly slopes and hill tops. • Increased damage to roads, road verges, dry stone walls and hedges from large machinery • Pressure to upgrade lanes or create new access tracks • Increased width of gateways into fields • Removal of semi-natural vegetation and poor maintenance of and subsequent loss of field boundaries • Contamination of water courses and aquifer particularly from nitrates, phosphates and metaldehydes. • Increased conversion of pasture to arable land. • Abandonment of permanent pasture on the Outliers and resulting spread of scrub and secondary woodland on otherwise open slopes. • Damage to and loss of archaeological sites and field monuments from conversion of pasture to arable and from intensification of grazing. • Move towards arable production on small mixed farms resulting in the removal or degradation of hedgerows and/ or loss of former pasture. • Woodland creation on permanent pasture • Loss of Farmstead character 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conserve the open, dramatic and often remote character of the Outliers and views to, from and between the Outliers and nearby Outliers and Escarpment • Ensure that new farm buildings including silos and AD plants etc do not have an adverse visual impact on the wider landscape and views • Maintain the appearance and characteristic of isolated farmsteads and oppose proposals that will become dominant in the landscape • Provide advice to farmers on the siting of new buildings, lighting, colour etc. • 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. • Seek to conserve traditional farm buildings. • Respect traditional position of agricultural buildings and their relationship to the surrounding land. • Encourage small-scale mixed farming and encourage woodland and boundary management. • Monitor river nutrient levels. • Conserve areas of permanent pasture. • Avoid 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. • 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). • Encourage low intensity grazing or restrict access by livestock where archaeological sites/field monuments may be lost or damaged • Conserve field boundary and in-field trees and seek opportunities to plant replacements. • Protect and retain ancient/veteran trees

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure any woodland creation is in keeping with landscape character. See section 1.26 below.
1.10	Increased use of polytunnels, glasshouses and field film in the adjacent vale and lower slopes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Impact on views from the outliers across the vale. Impact on the setting of the outliers Impact on views of the outliers from the surrounding vale Introduction of unnatural, often shiny, materials leading to an industrialised appearance Impact of light pollution 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Avoid extensive areas of glasshouses, polytunnels etc on or adjacent to the outliers. Consider the scale and siting of polytunnels etc When not in use, remove field film and polytunnels or roll polytunnel plastic up to reduce impact.
1.11	Loss of traditional horticulture/ agriculture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Loss of characteristic features on lower slopes on some of the outliers such as traditional orchards and local varieties of fruit. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify and protect existing traditional orchards and new potential sites for traditional orchards Identify historical sites of orchards and promote their restoration Promote the appropriate management of existing traditional orchards and the planting of locally distinctive varieties
1.12	Expansion and intensification of existing horticultural sites; degradation of sites or sale for development potential	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Changes in traditional horticultural land use resulting in new buildings, hard standings, stacks of boxes etc Loss of features such as hedgerows and drystone walls Impact of poly tunnels/glasshouses and field film 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure expansion and intensification does not have an adverse impact on landscape character and views to and from the Outliers Keep infrastructure such as new tracks, roads and buildings to a minimum Conserve existing hedgerows and hedgerow trees Consider scale and siting of polytunnels etc
1.13	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. Loss of remaining permanent pasture <p>Archaeological sites, historic landscapes, geological or geomorphological features damaged or obscured</p>	<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 or 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 guidance
1.14	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. 	<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.
1.15	Loss of dry stone walls due to abandonment, development of volunteer hedges, replacement with hedges or fences or removal to build/restore walls elsewhere.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Loss of a key feature characteristic of the Cotswolds. 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

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1.16	<p>Decline in grazing stock on upper slopes of the outliers.</p> <p>Abandonment of grassland</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scrub encroachment and loss of permanent pasture including species rich grassland due to invasion of dominant grass species. • Development of secondary woodland • Loss of characteristic of grazing animals on the Outlier slopes • 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 • Archaeological and geological sites obscured or damaged 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prevent the formation of volunteer hedges • Conserve areas of open pasture- • Retain area of grassland. • Protect unimproved grassland. • Encourage traditional management regimes to limit scrub encroachment on areas of semi natural grassland. • Re-introduction of grazing on semi-natural grasslands/improvement of existing grazing regimes. • Produce guidance on scrub management
1.17	<p>Separation of farmhouse/agricultural housing from the working farm for sale with a plot of land.</p> <p>Sub-division of farmland for 'lifestyle' plots</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 •
1.18	<p>Loss of important limestone scrub habitat to woodland succession, particularly on Bredon Hill</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishment of secondary woodland • Loss of characteristic biodiversity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduce/reinstate rotational scrub clearance to maintain a varied scrub structure. • Introduce/reinstate grazing • Produce scrub management guidelines
1.19	<p>Loss of hedged field boundaries as a result of field amalgamation or neglect</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Degradation of field patterns which are a distinctive feature of hillsides. • Loss of elements of the historic environment including historic field patterns reflecting earlier agricultural systems. • Loss of habitat connectivity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conserve hedgerows and hedgerow trees and promote hedgerow planting to infill gappy hedges and replace post and wire fencing. • Retain historic and distinctive field patterns on hillsides • Encourage traditional management methods such as hedgelaying and where maintained by machine ensure best practice cutting regimes • Priority should be given to species rich hedges, hedges that form part of ancient boundary patterns and areas where hedgerow patterns are a highly visible feature and contribute to local landscape character. • Ensure new hedges reflect the surrounding traditional field boundary patterns and inherent species mix in that locality • Encourage hedgerow trees where characteristic of the landscape
1.20	<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 hedges and walls 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

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	New and upgraded verge crossings at entrances	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure highway authority planning conditions respect and are appropriate to rural character and situation
1.21	Flood management and alleviation measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Construction of 'hard' flood defences Tree planting for flood management inappropriate to landscape character. See section 1.26 below 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Retain and manage watercourses in their naturalistic form. Seek opportunities to restore natural meanders etc, removing engineered channels, culverts etc to restore a functioning watercourse and floodplain. Consider Rural Sustainable Drainage interventions to slow peak water flow particularly within woodland. Seek to influence surrounding land management such as contour ploughing, wide margins, de-compaction of soils and pasture etc. Seek opportunities for temporary flood water storage on farmland Ensure flood defences integrate into the landscape by using appropriate mitigation measures, landscaping and materials For tree planting see Creation of Woodland section 1.26 below
1.22	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
1.23	Recreational activities such as motorsport and Paintballing.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Loss of character Degradation of habitat and loss of tree cover Creation of tracks and circuits Creation of car parks and other facilities Loss of tranquillity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect existing woodland and grassland areas Encourage appropriate opportunities for habitat management
1.24	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 including ridge and furrow, lynchets etc. Loss of traditional field patterns and integrity of the wider historic landscape Loss of traditional field boundaries, particularly dry stone walls and hedgerows. 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 changing land use/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 HER 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.

1. Escarpment Outliers

	Local Forces For Change	Potential Landscape Implications	Landscape Strategies and Guidelines
1.25	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 Visible features such as outcrops, gulls and areas of landslip, particularly rotational slip, obscured or lost 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Repair badly eroded features such as earthworks and dry stone walls Avoid the planting of new hedgerows or the development of volunteer hedgerows adjacent to dry stone walls Identify important geological features and ensure they are conserved and appropriately managed.
Woodland and trees			
1.26	<p>Creation of woodland</p> <p>Creation of 'shelterbelts' to provide seclusion for private dwellings</p> <p>Tree planting for land stabilisation and water management</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Significant alteration to the individual character of each outlier. Loss of views to, from and across the outliers and between the outliers and the Cotswold escarpment Cumulative impact of woodland creation leading to a change in landscape character Loss of Historic Landscape Character through inappropriate siting and/or species Loss of permanent pasture 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure new woodland does not limit or obscure views from the outliers Extend and/or link existing woodland in preference to creating new 'stand-alone' blocks New woodland should reflect the irregular form, relationship with landform and interlocking pattern with field boundaries Discourage conifer planting (unless as a nurse) and encourage the use of native broadleaves or species that reflect local broadleaved woodland Encourage the replacement of conifers with broadleaves particularly on PAWS Ensure woodland creation does not result in the loss of permanent pasture or unimproved grassland and does not impact on areas of archaeological or geological interest For shelterbelts and plantations associated with designed landscapes, select species characteristic of historic designed landscape in the area. Have regard to the cumulative impact of woodland creation and tree planting on the character of individual outliers. Identify key viewpoints Seek EIA determination if necessary Discourage the planting of conifers Ensure adequate deer management and squirrel control Conserve hedgerow and in-field trees and seek opportunities to plant replacements.
1.27	Inappropriate or inconsistent management, or neglect of existing woodlands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decline and loss of woodland habitats and wildlife corridors. Changes in composition of woodlands with potential increase in extent of coniferous plantations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conserve and enhance areas of existing woodland through active management including replanting or natural regeneration. Retain the irregular form or woodland and its relationship to landform and interlocking patterns with hedgerows. Restore PAWS Conserve woodlands along gullies and streams Felling coupes should be designed to take account of their visual impact Seek opportunities to install 'woody barriers' in streams for flood management

1. Escarpment Outliers

	Local Forces For Change	Potential Landscape Implications	Landscape Strategies and Guidelines
1.28	Impact of tree disease such as Chalara Dieback of ash.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Change of colour and texture of woodland canopy as trees die • Thinning of woodland canopy, particularly on the skyline • 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 • Consider different provenance of ash that may be disease resistant • Establish a programme to plant replacement trees in the landscape outside of woodland e.g. hedgerow tress, parkland and wood pasture. • Seek arboricultural advice.