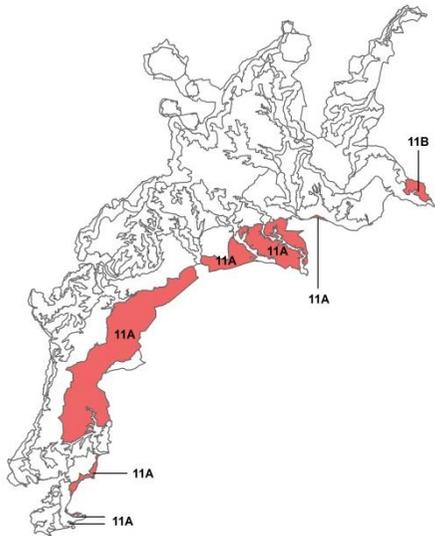


## 11. Dip-slope Lowland

### Character Areas

11A *South and Mid Cotswolds Lowlands*

11B *Stonesfield Lowlands*



### Key Features

- **Broad area of gently sloping, undulating lowland with a predominantly south-easterly fall** represents a transition between the landscapes of the High Wold Dip-Slope to the north and west and the low lying landscapes in the Thames basin to the south east.
- **Lowland landform gently dissected by infrequent small watercourses flowing into the main rivers that cross the area**, reinforcing the general grain of the topography.
- **Strong and structured, productive farmland character**, with an open character but smaller in scale than the High Wold and High Wold Dip-Slope.
- **Well-managed, productive agricultural landscape of mixed arable and improved pasture, together with more limited areas of permanent pasture, mainly within the valley bottoms** indicate a well-managed, productive agricultural landscape.
- **Seasonal variations in colour and texture** associated with mixed arable farming.
- **Medium to large scale regular fields predominate, mainly enclosed by hedgerows, with hedgerow trees, together with some stone walls or post and wire fencing** indicating strong similarities with the High Wold and High Wold Dip-Slope landscape to the north and west.
- **Woodland cover limited to intermittent copses and shelterbelts within agricultural landscapes** creates some wide expansive views. These are in contrast to more intimate landscapes with restricted views in the vicinity of large estate plantations.
- **Limited areas of ancient woodland and species rich grassland** indicates the impact of intensive farming.
- **Settlement pattern of intermittent small nucleated villages, hamlets and isolated farmsteads, together with occasional larger settlements**, contribute to the strong rural character.
- **Distinctive pattern of large estates and associated planned parkland landscape and woodland occurring throughout the**
- **Dip-Slope Lowland** makes an important contribution to the wider character of the landscape due to the influences of designed parkland and planned woodland planting which often form a backdrop to long distance views across the otherwise open landscape.
- **Evidence of long period of occupation of the area.**

## 11. Dip-slope Lowland

### Summary description

The Dip-Slope Lowland forms a broad area of gently sloping, undulating lowland with a predominantly south-easterly fall, and provides the final transition between the high Cotswold country and the Thames Valley. The lowland form is gently, although infrequently, dissected by small watercourses, with the overall impression of a well-managed, productive landscape of mixed arable and improved pasture. Medium to large scale regular fields enclosed by hedgerows predominate, although fences and stone walls are not entirely absent. Intermittent small villages and isolated farmsteads define the pattern of settlement, although there are some larger settlements present. There is also a distinctive pattern of large estates and their associated parks and woodland, some of which are of national importance. Otherwise, woodland is limited to isolated copses and shelter belts.

### Landscape Sensitivity

The strongly structured cultivated Dip-Slope Lowland landscape is sensitive to large scale developments that might interrupt wide views across the landscape and in particular to developments that would introduce tall vertical elements such as pylons and wind turbines.

However, the presence of more intensively managed landscapes makes the Dip Slope Lowlands generally less sensitive than remoter and more elevated landscapes on the High Wold and High Wold Dip-Slope. Areas where a strong woodland framework exists are particularly suited to accommodate development. However, development proposals should avoid extensive new woodland planting to screen developments, as this would compromise the open character of the landscape and long views across the Dip-Slope Lowlands.

Areas of ancient woodland and species rich grassland represent a small fraction of the extent that once existed, and are therefore highly sensitive to developments that might compromise their survival or setting. Parkland landscapes are particularly sensitive to developments that might compromise their historic character and the contribution they make to the wider landscape of the Dip-Slope Lowlands. Care should be taken to ensure that developments do not compromise elements that constitute the wider setting of designed parklands such as estate villages and tree plantations.

## 11. Dip-slope Lowland

	Local Forces For Change	Potential Landscape Implications	Landscape Strategies and Guidelines
	<b>New Development</b>		
11.1	Development, expansion and infilling of settlements including residential, industrial and leisure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Intrusion of expanded settlement fringes into the landscape.</li> <li>• Degradation of views to, from and across the Dip-slope Lowland</li> <li>• Impact or loss of views of key features such as church towers/spires across the landscape.</li> <li>• Erosion of distinctive settlement patterns due to settlement growth and coalescence.</li> <li>• Loss/dilution of organic growth patterns of settlements including the relationship between the historic core and adjacent historic fields, paddocks and closes</li> <li>• Proliferation of suburban building styles, housing estate layout and materials and the introduction of ornamental garden plants and boundary features.</li> <li>• Upgrading of minor roads and lanes associated with new development and the introduction of suburbanising features such as mini roundabouts, street lighting, Highway fencing, kerbs and traffic calming measures</li> <li>• Increased traffic leading to increased damage to road verges and roadside hedges and walls and the creation of informal passing places</li> <li>• Introduction and accumulation of lit areas and erosion of characteristically dark skies.</li> <li>• Urban fringe impacts such as fly tipping and dumping of cars</li> <li>• Potential loss of archaeological remains and historic features.</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 the open, sparsely settled character of the Dip-slope Lowland by limiting new development to existing settlements.</li> <li>• Avoid development that will intrude negatively into the landscape and cannot be successfully mitigated, for example, extensions to settlements on visible hillsides or areas of open landscape</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 or impact on views of key features such as church towers/spires</li> <li>• Avoid developments incorporating standardised development layout, suburban style lighting, construction details and materials that cumulatively can lead to the erosion of peaceful landscape character.</li> <li>• Layout of development should respect local built character and avoid cramming up to boundaries resulting in hard suburban style edge to the settlement.</li> <li>• Control the proliferation of suburban building styles and materials</li> <li>• Promote the conservation and/or encourage the restoration of existing stone buildings in preference to new built development particularly in rural areas.</li> <li>• Where 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</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>• Conserve the existing dark skies.</li> <li>• Adopt measures to minimise and where possible reduce light pollution</li> <li>• Retain existing trees, dry stone walls, hedges etc as part of the scheme.</li> <li>• Ensure new development is visually 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.</li> <li>• Ensure the density of new development reflects its location relative to the 'core' of the settlement and its proximity to the surrounding rural landscape</li> <li>• Introduce vehicle weight restrictions to prevent damage to verges and roadside boundaries</li> <li>• Promote advice and guidance on road verge management</li> <li>• Preserve archaeological and historical features and deposits and promote initiatives that remove heritage assets from at risk' status in the Heritage at Risk Register.</li> </ul>

## 11. Dip-slope Lowland

	Local Forces For Change	Potential Landscape Implications	Landscape Strategies and Guidelines
			<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>• Consider the impact on local Public Rights of Way as settlements expand and take into account any required improvements</li> <li>• Ensure development proposals safeguard and provide new links and enhancements to the Public Rights of Way network.</li> </ul>
11.2	Isolated development such as new single dwellings and conversion of farm buildings that might compromise rural landscape character and dispersed settlement patterns.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Visual intrusions introduced to the landscape</li> <li>• Erosion of the sparse settlement pattern of the Dip-slope Lowland</li> <li>• Introduction of 'lit' elements to characteristically dark landscapes.</li> <li>• Upgrading of minor roads and lanes in areas of new development and introduction of suburbanising features such as gateways, kerbs, and lighting.</li> <li>• Loss of tranquility and sense of seclusion.</li> <li>• Suburbanisation and domestication 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>• Appearance of 'mini parklands' out of context with the surrounding landscape.</li> <li>• Appearance or extension of stables and 'white tape' field boundaries for horses and ponies (see 11.11 below)</li> <li>• Damage to road verges and roadside hedges and walls and the creation of informal passing places</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Avoid isolated development, that will intrude negatively into the landscape and cannot be successfully mitigated.</li> <li>• Conserve areas of dark skies</li> <li>• Oppose new housing on the Dip-slope Lowland (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>• 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</li> <li>• Maintain the sense of openness and consider the impact of built development, including cumulative development on views to and from the adjacent landscape types</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 varieties, whilst discouraging large alien tree species such as eucalypts and conifers and inappropriate cultivars of native species, particularly on fringes of open countryside.</li> <li>• Respect traditional position of agricultural buildings and their relationship to the surrounding land</li> <li>• Introduce vehicle weight restrictions to prevent damage to verges and roadside boundaries</li> </ul>

## 11. Dip-slope Lowland

	Local Forces For Change	Potential Landscape Implications	Landscape Strategies and Guidelines
11.3	<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>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</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>Loss and erosion of Farmstead Character and how the buildings relate to the surrounding agricultural landuse and landscape</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>
11.4	Solar Farms	<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 agricultural landscape</li> <li>Damage to and loss of landscape features such as Ridge and Furrow, Strip Lynchets, trees and dry stone walls</li> <li>Impact of supporting infrastructure such as buildings, cables, roadways, security fencing, CCTV masts and lighting.</li> <li>Concealment of geomorphological or archaeological features</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</li> <li>Ensure a comprehensive LVIA is undertaken (including potential cumulative effects)</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 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 overhead cables</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> <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</li> </ul>

## 11. Dip-slope Lowland

	Local Forces For Change	Potential Landscape Implications	Landscape Strategies and Guidelines
			farm buildings
11.5	Development pressures on decommissioned airfields Re-use of decommissioned airfields for large scale residential development or industrial uses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Loss of open character of the Dip-slope Lowland</li> <li>• Intrusion of development into the landscape.</li> <li>• Introduction of 'lit' elements to characteristically dark landscapes</li> <li>• Degradation of views to, from and across the Dip-slope Lowland</li> <li>• introduction of suburbanising features such as mini roundabouts, street lighting, kerbs and traffic calming measures</li> <li>• Loss of historical and cultural significance</li> <li>• Dereliction/loss of buildings and features that represent monuments of 20th century conflict.</li> <li>• Loss of habitat</li> <li>• Noise and light pollution</li> <li>• Increased traffic</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protect the open character of the Dip-slope Lowland and avoid development that will intrude negatively into the landscape</li> <li>• Avoid developments incorporating standardised development layout, suburban style lighting, construction details and materials that cumulatively can lead to the erosion of peaceful landscape character.</li> <li>• Ensure comprehensive EIA and GLVIA are undertaken</li> <li>• Promote the use of local stone and building styles in the construction of new buildings and extensions to existing dwellings.</li> <li>• Resist inappropriately sited or large scale new building</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• Encourage the planting of appropriately sized native trees, shrubs and traditional fruit varieties, whilst discouraging large alien tree species such as eucalypts and conifers.</li> <li>• Prepare Development Brief or masterplan incorporating and based on a full contextual appraisal</li> <li>• Conserve features of historic interest.</li> <li>• Ensure the historical and cultural significance of the airfield is retained and avoid their erosion through piecemeal development.</li> <li>• Prepare a Biodiversity Action Plan for each airfield and seek the retention of open grassland and improve its biodiversity</li> <li>• Promote use of existing buildings for commercial uses consistent with AONB.</li> </ul>
11.6	New large scale quarries and expansion of existing quarrying operations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Visual impact of quarry and quarry traffic-</li> <li>• Loss of tranquility due to noise, movement, lighting and dust.</li> <li>• Loss of habitats and archaeological sites</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote policy that aggregates are produced only as a by-product of building stone</li> <li>• Apply the presumption against new large scale quarrying, particularly for aggregates</li> <li>• Limit large scale quarrying extensions to existing quarry sites, ideally for use in the Cotswolds only, particularly for aggregates</li> <li>• Ensure comprehensive EIA and GLVIA are undertaken</li> <li>• Ensure Quarry Restoration Plans respect landscape character and tranquillity of the Dip-slope Lowland.</li> <li>• Seek opportunities for retention and access to geological and geomorphological features</li> <li>• Minimise loss of archaeological remains</li> </ul>

## 11. Dip-slope Lowland

	Local Forces For Change	Potential Landscape Implications	Landscape Strategies and Guidelines
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support restoration plans that restore to agriculture, biodiversity and/or quiet recreation</li> <li>• Promote small scale quarrying operations for walling and building stone paying regard to their impact on local landscape character, heritage and nature conservation interests.</li> <li>• Promote 'local stone for local use'</li> <li>• Resist after use for in-fill or recycling material from outside the Cotswolds</li> </ul>
11.7	Licensed Waste disposal such as land-fill and waste recycling operations including composting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Degradation of landscape character and wildlife habitats.</li> <li>• Loss of tranquillity due to noise, dust and vehicle movements</li> <li>• Unpleasant smells from composting</li> <li>• Loss of biodiversity and geological features</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Avoid strategic waste disposal proposals within or adjacent to the AONB.</li> <li>• Avoid importing waste into the AONB</li> <li>• Ensure small scale local waste disposal operations continue to operate with minimal impact</li> <li>• Support proposals for local waste recycling that do not impact on landscape character or tranquillity and reduce vehicle movement, especially distance travelled</li> </ul>
11.8	Licensed spreading of waste on agricultural land	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Change in colour in the landscape.</li> <li>• Unpleasant smells</li> <li>• Potential impact on watercourses or aquifer</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• Avoid storage (e.g. sewage waste heaps) adjacent to public rights of way and roads</li> <li>• Ensure swift incorporation</li> </ul>
11.9	Illegal waste disposal/fly tipping	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unsightly intrusion into the landscape</li> <li>• Loss of biodiversity</li> <li>• Blocking of gateways, laybys and areas of road verge by fly tipping</li> <li>• Pollution of watercourses and aquifer</li> <li>• Loose waste material blowing around and catching on hedges, trees etc.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protect former quarries from fly tipping</li> <li>• Seek swift removal of fly tipping</li> <li>• Prosecute landowners who allow or turn a 'blind eye' to unlicensed waste disposal</li> <li>• Remove blown material from hedges, trees and road verges.</li> </ul>
11.10	Introduction of vertical elements such as communication masts, wind turbines and electricity pylons, particularly in locations that impact on panoramas.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduction of visually intrusive 'urban' or industrial features to the open and expansive High Wold Dip Slope landscape</li> <li>• Introduction of unnatural movement and loss of tranquillity and sense of remoteness.</li> <li>• Introduction of lit elements to a characteristically dark landscape</li> <li>• Adds to the significant impact of existing electricity pylon lines.</li> <li>• Intrusion on the setting of scheduled monuments, listed buildings and designed landscapes</li> <li>• Breaking up of the skyline</li> <li>• Loss of open character</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conserve the open and often remote character of the Dip-slope Lowland by objecting to the development of vertical elements where these would adversely affect panoramas and views along and to the Dip-slope Lowland</li> <li>• Ensure the development of vertical elements in neighbouring LCTs and areas beyond the AONB do not adversely affect views to and from the Dip-slope Lowland.</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 etc against trees</li> <li>• Bury cables underground and seek opportunities to bury existing overhead</li> </ul>

## 11. Dip-slope Lowland

	Local Forces For Change	Potential Landscape Implications	Landscape Strategies and Guidelines
			<p>cables.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Avoid use of visually prominent urban security fencing and CCTV masts.</li> <li>• Consider other renewable energy and communications technologies</li> <li>• Ensure full assessment of heritage setting impacts and appropriate measures undertaken</li> <li>• Seek to minimise the size and number of road signs</li> </ul>
11.11	Proliferation and concentration of equestrian establishments and horse paddocks.	<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 rural landscape</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>• Take into account proximity of 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> <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>• 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>• 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</li> </ul>

## 11. Dip-slope Lowland

	Local Forces For Change	Potential Landscape Implications	Landscape Strategies and Guidelines
			<p>and removed when not in use.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <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>
11.12	Road upgrading and improvements, especially of minor country roads, as a result of development or general improvement schemes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <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>Increased traffic movement</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>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 secure their long-term management</li> </ul>
11.13	<p>Excessive traffic and/or speed on minor local roads and lanes.</p> <p>Increase in size of vehicle using lanes.</p>	<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 HGVs and agricultural vehicles</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote traffic restriction measures such as lorry routing maps, speed limits and weight restrictions</li> <li>Maintain or reinstate rural character within towns and villages 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> <li>Promote quiet lane initiatives</li> <li>Encourage cycling on safe routes</li> <li>Promote road verge protection and management</li> </ul>

## 11. Dip-slope Lowland

	Local Forces For Change	Potential Landscape Implications	Landscape Strategies and Guidelines
11.14	Deterioration in condition of vernacular farm buildings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Erosion of distinctive features and loss of Cotswold character.</li> <li>Loss of locally historic features and erosion of the integrity of the historic landscape</li> <li>Decline in quality of landscape</li> <li>Erosion of distinctive features and loss of Cotswold character.</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 and functional character.</li> </ul>
<b>Land use</b>			
11.15	Agricultural intensification and diversification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Field amalgamation and loss of hedgerows and stone walls leading to the loss of distinctive field patterns and a degraded landscape.</li> <li>Loss of arable reversion back to cultivation.</li> <li>Loss of habitat</li> <li>Removal of semi-natural vegetation cover and the poor maintenance and subsequent loss of field boundaries.</li> <li>Construction of large scale 'industrial style' agricultural sheds on the skyline or in prominent locations.</li> <li>Decline in maintenance of stone walls leading to a locally degraded or neglected landscape character.</li> <li>Increased use of non-characteristic field boundary treatments such as post and wire and post and rail fencing</li> <li>Conversion of permanent pasture and arable reversion to arable</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>Ongoing loss of archaeological sites and monuments from long-term cultivation and erosion.</li> <li>Conversion of farm outbuildings and field barns to recreational or business uses</li> <li>Increased damage to roads, road verges, dry stone walls and hedges from large machinery</li> <li>Increased width of gateways into fields</li> <li>Loss of Farmstead character</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure new large scale farm buildings including silos and AD plants etc do not have an adverse visual impact on the wider landscape including on views across the Dip-Slope Lowland, and views from and to the neighbouring LCTs.</li> <li>Maintain the appearance and characteristic of isolated farmsteads and oppose proposals that will become dominant in the landscape.</li> <li>Encourage the mitigation of existing large sheds e.g. limited tree planting</li> <li>Encourage the installation of PV on the roofs of new agricultural buildings, avoiding risk of glint/glare.</li> <li>Conserve characteristically dark skies</li> <li>Provide advice to farmers on siting of new buildings, lighting, colour etc</li> <li>Seek to conserve traditional farm buildings where necessary through appropriate new uses that retain historic character and features.</li> <li>Respect traditional position of agricultural buildings and their relationship to the surrounding land.</li> <li>Retain and conserve areas of permanent pasture, semi-natural vegetation and ancient/veteran trees.</li> <li>Encourage low-intensity grazing or restrict access by livestock where archaeological sites may be lost or damaged.</li> <li>Encourage the protection of traditional field patterns and encourage hedgerow and dry stone wall restoration.</li> <li>Retain and restore dry stone walls particularly adjacent to roads and in the vicinity of settlements and farmsteads</li> <li>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).</li> <li>Oppose proposals to convert pasture to arable particularly where archaeological sites/field monuments may be lost or damaged</li> <li>Conserve hedgerow and in-field trees and seek opportunities to plant replacements</li> </ul>

## 11. Dip-slope Lowland

	Local Forces For Change	Potential Landscape Implications	Landscape Strategies and Guidelines
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure any woodland creation is in keeping with landscape character – see section 11.25</li> </ul>
11.16	Changes in land use and management within historic parks and gardens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Weakening of the integrity of designed landscapes, parks and gardens</li> <li>Loss of or damage to elements of designed landscapes, parks and gardens.</li> <li>Insertion of inappropriate new elements that diminish rather than enhance historic design characteristics</li> <li>Intrusion on setting of designed landscapes – especially designed vistas and other important views of or out from the area.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conserve and enhance historic parks and gardens, including their setting</li> <li>Develop and implement management plans</li> <li>Restore lost elements of historic parks and gardens to restore the integrity of the designed landscape as a whole.</li> <li>Avoid development that damages the extent, features, character or setting of historic designed landscapes.</li> </ul>
11.17	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>Increased sense of enclosure</li> <li>Changes in texture and landscape character</li> <li>Loss of permanent pasture</li> <li>Archaeological sites, historic landscapes, geological and geomorphological sites damaged or obscured</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>
11.18	Construction of farm reservoirs for winter rainfall storage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Introduction of uncharacteristic features in the Cotswold landscape exacerbated by the construction of dams and bunds</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Avoid the construction of farm reservoirs, particularly in open arable landscapes.</li> <li>Ensure appropriate mitigation and landscaping.</li> <li>Avoid bunds as a way of disposing of spoil</li> <li>Promote good practice</li> </ul>
11.19	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"> <li>Loss of a key feature characteristic of the Cotswolds and high wold in particular.</li> <li>Change in landscape character through the replacement of dry stone walls with hedges and fences.</li> <li>Weakening/loss of field patterns, particularly those that reflect the pre-enclosure open field system</li> <li>Loss of features in the walls such as stone stiles</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Encourage the retention and maintenance of dry stone walls.</li> <li>Ensure dry stone wall retention and maintenance are included in agri-environment schemes</li> <li>Provide guidance on Delves – small scale on-farm quarries for walling stone</li> <li>Seek opportunities for dry stone wall construction and repair through planning mitigation</li> <li>Where possible use stone that reflects the colour, thickness etc of local stone walls</li> <li>Prevent the formation of volunteer hedges</li> </ul>
11.20	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> </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 the 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>

## 11. Dip-slope Lowland

	Local Forces For Change	Potential Landscape Implications	Landscape Strategies and Guidelines
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Appearance and proliferation of stables and 'white tape' field boundaries for horses and ponies</li> <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>
11.21	<p>Development of scrub and trees on roadside verges</p> <p>Mowing of verges at inappropriate times</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 dry stone walls and hedges</li> <li>• Creation of 'lawns' on the roadside due to regular mowing for tidiness leading to a homogenised and sub-urban appearance</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 management of verges</li> </ul>
11.22	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 watercourses in their naturalistic form. Seek opportunities to restore natural meanders etc, removing engineered channels, culverts etc to restore a functioning watercourse and floodplain.</li> <li>• Consider Rural Sustainable Drainage interventions to slow peak water flow particularly within woodland.</li> <li>• Seek to influence surrounding land management such as contour ploughing, wide margins, de-compaction of soils and pasture etc.</li> <li>• Seek opportunities for temporary flood water storage on farmland</li> <li>• Ensure flood defences integrate into the landscape by using appropriate mitigation measures, landscaping and materials</li> <li>• For tree planting see Creation of Woodland section 11.25below</li> </ul>
11.23	Damage to field monuments and archaeological sites and the historic environment from, farming operations, 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.</li> <li>• Loss of traditional field patterns</li> <li>• Loss of traditional field boundaries, particularly dry stone walls and hedgerows.</li> <li>• Loss of locally distinctive features such as stone built bridges, well heads and wash pools</li> <li>• Damage caused by livestock</li> <li>• Damage caused by recreational activity</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>• Manage/remove burrowing animals</li> <li>• Protect all upstanding archaeological sites and consider the impact of development on their landscape setting.</li> <li>• Restore the wider setting of key monuments to ensure that they do not read as islands amidst a sea of arable farming.</li> <li>• Raise awareness of the historic environment and of the HER 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> </ul>

## 11. Dip-slope Lowland

	Local Forces For Change	Potential Landscape Implications	Landscape Strategies and Guidelines
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Repair badly eroded features such as earthworks and dry stone walls</li> <li>Avoid planting new hedgerows or the development of volunteer hedges adjacent to dry stone walls</li> </ul>
11.24	Loss of and damage to geological 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>Loss of visible features such as dry valley systems and valley bulges</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>			
11.25	<p>Creation of woodland</p> <p>Creation of 'shelterbelts' to provide seclusion for private dwellings</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increased woodland cover diminishing the open character of the Dip-Slope Lowland.</li> <li>Views lost or limited, particularly long distance views along and from the Dip-slope Lowland</li> <li>Cumulative impact of woodland creation leading to a change in landscape character.</li> <li>Increased sense of inclosure of the landscape, particularly from the public highway</li> <li>Loss of Historic Landscape Character through inappropriate siting and/or species</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Limit new woodland and shelterbelt planting to retain the open character and wide panoramas of the Dip-slope Lowland</li> <li>Ensure new woodland reflects the prevailing shape and scale of existing geometric and linear woodlands</li> <li>Have regard to the cumulative impact of woodland creation and tree planting on the open character of the Dip-slope Lowland</li> <li>Extend or link existing woodland in preference to new 'stand-alone' plantations</li> <li>Select species characteristic of ancient semi-natural woodland in the area.</li> <li>Discourage 'ad-hoc' planting through agri-environment schemes</li> <li>Ensure that new woodland planting does not limit or obscure views to, from and across the High Wold Dipslope</li> <li>Seek EIA determination if necessary</li> <li>Retain areas of ancient semi-natural woodland.</li> <li>Discourage conifer planting (unless a nurse) and encourage the use of native broadleaves or species that reflect local broadleaved woodland</li> <li>Promote the felling of inappropriate coniferous plantations and replanting of farm copses and shelterbelts on enclosure age woodland footprints using indigenous species.</li> <li>Locate new woodland and copses in historically characteristic topographical locations including their relationship to farmsteads and settlements.</li> <li>For shelterbelts and plantations associated with designed landscapes, select species characteristic of historic designed landscape planting in the area.</li> <li>Conserve hedgerow and in-field trees and seek opportunities to plant replacements</li> <li>Ensure adequate deer management and squirrel control</li> </ul>
11.26	Maturation and decline of enclosure age pine and beech corner copses, roadside shelterbelts and farm copses.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Decline and potential loss of characteristic feature of the High Wold Dip-slope landscape.</li> <li>Introduction of non-characteristic tree species and general erosion of the Dip- slope Lowland's open character.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Encourage opportunities to manage and re-plant enclosure age tree belts using traditional species.</li> <li>Identify areas of AONB where shelterbelts are part of the inherent character and use to target ES.</li> </ul>

## 11. Dip-slope Lowland

	Local Forces For Change	Potential Landscape Implications	Landscape Strategies and Guidelines
11.27	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</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. parkland and hedgerow trees.</li> <li>• Seek arboricultural advice</li> </ul>
11.28	A piecemeal decline in existing woodland cover due to inappropriate management or neglect	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Degradation and loss of woodland habitats, particularly ancient semi-natural woodland.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote Countryside Stewardship to woodland owners and agents</li> <li>• Restore PAWS and safeguard ancient woodland</li> <li>• Retain and plant replacements for non-woodland trees.</li> <li>• Conserve areas of permanent pasture/improved grassland</li> </ul>