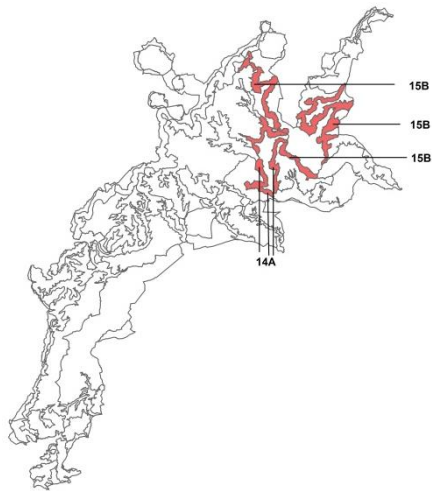


15. Farmed Slopes

Character Areas

15A *Vale of Bourton Farmed Slopes*

15B *Vale of Moreton Farmed Slopes*



Key Features

- **Transitional landscape** between the large fields and exposed nature of the High Wold and High Wold Dip-Slope and the more sheltered and verdant, intimate landscapes of the Pastoral Lowland Vales.
- **Smooth gentle landform on lower slopes and sense of exposure on some upper slopes** with views across wide areas of the Pastoral Lowland Vales.
- **Gentler landform on lower slopes** better suited to more intensive settlement and agriculture.
- **Landform has a consistent north-south orientation following the course of the Evenlode and Windrush** giving the landscape a well-defined grain and providing a general sense of orientation when in the vales.
- **Small, often geometric, broadleaf and coniferous woodlands and tree belts along watercourses draining the slopes** combine with hedgerows and hedgerow trees to give the impression of a well wooded landscape when viewed from the neighbouring lowlands.
- **Large deciduous and mixed woodlands bordering parklands integrated by strong hedgerow network** contribute significantly to local woodland cover and form a dark textural backdrop to views from neighbouring lowlands.
- **Limited ancient woodlands and species rich grasslands** indicative of a long history of clearance and intensive farming.
- **Numerous historic parklands** sited to take advantage of wide panoramic views over productive farmland.
- **Productive arable and pasture farmland** merging with areas of arable farming on the High Wold and High Wold Dip-Slope and pasture farming in the lowland vale.
- **Strong pattern of hedgerows** divide the farmed slopes into a patchwork of fields of sometimes contrasting colours and textures.
- **Small stone villages and hamlets** climbing the slopes above the level of the wetter lowland vale are clearly visible from within the neighbouring lowlands and often afford wide views over the pastoral vales from their outer limits.
- **Areas of ridge and furrow on lower slopes** indicate a long history of farming on the drier slopes above the less well-drained landscapes in the Vale.
- **Scrub encroachment on some steeper slopes** gives the landscape a locally degraded appearance.

15. Farmed Slopes

Summary description

Despite sharing many geological features with the Escarpment, the Farmed Slopes have a more subtle profile, although their smooth, gentle landform gives way to a sense of exposure in some areas. It is a transitional landscape, linking the large-scale openness of the High Wold with the lushness of the Pastoral Lowland Vales of Bourton and Moreton.

The slopes have a generally consistent north-south orientation, following the lines of the rivers Evenlode and Windrush. Small, semi-natural woodlands and tree belts can be found along watercourses.

Farmland comprises a mixture of pastoral and arable, interspersed by a significant number of historic parks, sited to take advantage of the dramatic landform and extensive views, and often bordered by deciduous woodland. The whole area is unified by a strong network of hedgerows.

Landscape Sensitivity

Although gentler and shallower than the escarpment, the Farmed Slopes are in many respects similar, particularly with regard to their sensitivity to development.

Rising from the lowlands, the elevated and sloping landform of the Farmed Slopes makes them a highly visible feature and therefore very sensitive to change, particularly where this would introduce built elements to the otherwise agricultural landscapes, or interrupt the strong patchwork patterns created by hedged pasture and arable fields.

The gentler lower slopes, at the junction of the Pastoral Vales, are visually less prominent than the upper slopes and generally more widely settled, decreasing their sensitivity to change and development.

15. Farmed Slopes

	Local Forces For Change	Potential Landscape Implications	Outline Landscape Strategies and Guidelines
	New Development		
15.1	<p>Development, expansion and infilling of existing settlements, including residential, industrial and leisure, on the Farmed Slopes and onto the Farmed Slopes from adjacent settlements such as Chipping Campden and Shipton-under-Wychwood</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encroachment of built development onto the Farmed slopes intruding into the landscape, particularly on the more prominent upper slopes. • Erosion of distinctive form, scale and character of small settlements on the Farmed Slopes including their relationship to the landscape and springline. • Loss of characteristic small scale settlements and hamlets due to settlement growth and coalescence. • Proliferation of suburban building styles, housing estate layout and materials and the introduction of ornamental garden plants and boundary features. • Spread of lit elements on the Farmed Slopes • Potential for glint from buildings, particularly on hillsides. • Upgrading of rural lanes and holloways in areas of new development and the introduction of suburbanising features such as mini roundabouts, street lighting, highway fencing and kerbs, traffic calming at village entrances. • Degradation of views to and from the Farmed Slopes from the adjacent Pastoral Lowland Vale and Ironstone Hills and Valleys. • Urban fringe impacts such as fly tipping and dumping of vehicles • 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 to open, often highly visible and sparsely settled character of the Farmed Sloped. • Avoid development that will intrude negatively into the landscape and cannot be successfully mitigated, for example, extensions to settlements onto the Farmed Slopes • Avoid development that may restrict or obscure views to or from the Farmed Slopes. • Ensure new development is carefully integrated into the rural character of the Farmed Slopes • Ensure new development is proportionate and does not overwhelm the existing settlement. • Ensure that 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 • Control the proliferation of suburban building styles and materials • Conserve the distinctive dispersed character of villages on the Farmed Slopes and the relationship of settlements to their surrounding landscape • Restore existing stone buildings within settlements in preference to new built development. • 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). • 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 • Adopt measures to minimise and where possible reduce light pollution. • Promote initiatives that remove heritage assets from 'at risk' status in the Heritage at Risk Register. • Avoid new inappropriate road infrastructure • Avoid proposals that result in the loss of archaeological and historical features or that impact on the relationship of the settlement and its links with surviving historical features. • Ensure the historic character and context are included in Neighbourhood Plans

15. Farmed Slopes

	Local Forces For Change	Potential Landscape Implications	Outline Landscape Strategies and Guidelines
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify key viewpoints to and from the Farmed Slopes Plant trees and hedges within and around new development to reduce impact on the landscape ideally in advance of the development taking place. Retain existing trees, hedges etc as part of the scheme. Consider the impact on local Public Rights of Way as settlements expand and take into account any required improvements Ensure development proposals safeguard and provide new links and enhancements to the Public Rights of Way network.
15.2	Isolated development such as new single dwellings and conversion of farm buildings that might compromise rural landscape character and views to and from the Farmed Slopes, including farm buildings converted to residential use.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Visual intrusions introduced to the landscape Upgrading of minor roads and lanes and holloways in areas of new development and introduction of suburbanising features such as street lighting. Introduction of 'lit' elements to characteristically dark Farmed Slopes landscapes, forming a dark backdrop to the Pastoral Lowland Vale. Potential for glint from buildings. Erosion of distinctive dispersed settlement character of the Farmed Slopes. Suburbanisation and domestication of agricultural landscape by the introduction of gardens e.g ornamental garden plants and boundary features, garden sheds, gateways, parking areas and conversion of tracks to manicured drives and ornamental gateways 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 15.5. below. Loss of tranquillity and sense of seclusion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Avoid development that will intrude negatively into the landscape and cannot be successfully mitigated. Protect the undeveloped, open, unlit character of much of the Farmed Slopes. Oppose new housing on the Farmed Slopes (unless special circumstances apply in accordance with Paragraph 55 of the NPPF and development conserves and enhances the AONB as required by the CRoW Act 2000 Avoid conversion of isolated farm buildings Conserve the distinctive rural and dispersed settlement pattern. Restore existing stone farm buildings and structures in preference to new built development. 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 Maintain the sense of openness and consider the impact of development proposals on views to and from the Farmed Slopes, 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.
15.3	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. Loss of historic character of the road network particularly in the valleys. Use of inappropriate materials such as standard highway kerbs, fences and barriers 	<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, particularly within the valleys. Avoid the upgrading of tracks or creation of roads, particularly on open hillsides Promote use of design and materials appropriate to local character.

15. Farmed Slopes

	Local Forces For Change	Potential Landscape Implications	Outline Landscape Strategies and Guidelines
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loss of roadside hedges and walls • Loss of verge/roadside habitat 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 • Produce guidance on design and suitable materials. • Maintain or reinstate rural character within villages by promoting 'shared space' and road design to slow and minimize traffic impact. • Seek opportunities to conserve and enhance roadside boundaries and habitats and secure their long-term management. • Promote road verge protection and management.
15.4	Solar Farms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Industrialisation of the rural landscape • Change of character due to colour and texture and heliographic glint • Loss of seasonal change in the landscape • Loss of characteristic pastoral landscape • Impact of supporting infrastructure such as buildings and cables, roadways, security fencing CCTV masts and lighting. • Damage to and loss of landscape features such as Ridge and Furrow, trees, walls and hedgerows. • Concealment or damage of geomorphological or archaeological features 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoid proposals for solar farms that will impact negatively on landscape character and/or intrude into views or result in loss or harm to landscape features such as hedgerows, trees and Ridge and Furrow. • Reduce visual impact with appropriate screening • Ensure a comprehensive LVIA is undertaken (including potential cumulative effects) • Ensure a glint/glare assessment is undertaken to determine the heliographic impact on receptors. • Bury cables underground and seek opportunities to bury existing overhead cables. • Keep supporting infrastructure to a minimum and ensure it is in keeping with landscape character. • Ensure removal and restoration of 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
15.5	Proliferation 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 • Deterioration in pasture quality and over grazing • Degraded appearance to the pastoral landscape 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The creation of horse paddocks in visually prominent locations such as a roadside and hillside 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

15. Farmed Slopes

	Local Forces For Change	Potential Landscape Implications	Outline Landscape Strategies and Guidelines
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. • Increase in vehicle movements and roadside parking • Damage to road verges • Excessive use of local roads and paths by horses, in part due to no direct or close connections to bridleways etc 	<p>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</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 electric fencing is better than more permanent structures and offers greater flexibility in pasture management. Post and rail should be avoided. • Encourage the use of olive green tape, wider spacing of fence posts etc • Historic field boundaries, such as hedges, walls and fences should be maintained or extended, and new boundaries should match the local vernacular wherever possible. • Ensure authorisation is obtained from the highway authority for new gates or stiles on public rights of way. • In some instances, hedges and dry stone walls may need protection by fencing to prevent damage • Jumps, temporary fences and other equipment should be well maintained and removed when not in use. • Existing gates and access points should be retained if possible, and new gates should match the local vernacular. • Historic features, including ridge and furrow pastures, stone troughs and stone stiles, should be protected from damage by equestrian uses. • Promote Board guidance on good practice
15.6	Introduction of vertical elements such as communication masts, wind turbines, electricity pylons and large road signs, particularly on the upper slopes and crest of the Farmed Slopes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction of visually intrusive 'urban' or industrial features to rural landscapes • Loss of open landscape character and 'natural' appearance • Breaking up of Farmed Slope skyline • Introduction of unnatural movement and loss of tranquility. • Intrusion on the setting of scheduled monuments, listed buildings and designed landscapes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conserve open, remote character by objecting to the development of vertical elements particularly on the upper slopes and crest or where they would adversely affect views to and from the Farmed Slopes • Ensure the development of vertical elements in neighbouring areas beyond the AONB do not adversely affect views to and from the Farmed Slopes • Ensure alternative options have been fully considered • Minimise impact by utilising existing masts in preference to the erection

15. Farmed Slopes

	Local Forces For Change	Potential Landscape Implications	Outline Landscape Strategies and Guidelines
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> of new masts. • Set masts against trees • Bury cables underground and seek opportunities to bury existing overhead cables. • Avoid use of visually prominent urban security fencing and CCTV masts. • Consider other renewable energy or communications technologies • Ensure full assessment of heritage setting impacts and appropriate measures undertaken • Seek to minimise size and number of road signs
15.7	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, introduction of kerbs etc. • Loss of tranquility and danger to walkers/riders and other non-motorised users. • Damage to verges and roadside boundaries by HGVs and agricultural vehicles 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote traffic restriction measures such as lorry routing maps. • Maintain or reinstate rural character within settlements by promoting shared space and road design to slow and minimise traffic impact • Ensure traffic management measures reflect the character and materials of the area. • Apply national guidance on rural speed restrictions in sensitive areas (DfT Circular 01/2013 especially Para 128) • Promote road verge protection and management
Land use			
15.8	Agricultural intensification and in particular intensification of cattle grazing, conversion of permanent pasture to arable, the removal of semi-natural vegetation cover and the poor maintenance and subsequent loss of traditional field boundaries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction of large scale industrial style agricultural 'sheds', silos and AD plants in prominent location, dominating the valleys. • Introduction of industrial elements into the landscape. • Conversion of farm buildings to business or recreational uses. • Loss of farmstead character • Increased damage to roads, road verges, hedges and dry stone walls from large vehicles and increase in use. • Pressure to upgrade narrow lanes and highway verge crossings. • Introduction or expansion of lit elements in areas of characteristically dark valley. • Increased risk of contamination of water courses from agricultural run-off • Field amalgamation and the loss of hedgerows, dry stone walls and traditional field patterns. • Increased risk of river pollution and flooding from agricultural run off. • Decline in hedgerow and dry stone wall management leading to a degraded or neglected landscape. • Increased use of non-characteristic field boundary treatments such as post and wire and post and rail fences • Increased conversion of pasture to arable land. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conserve the views to and from the Farmed Slopes • Ensure that new farm buildings including silos and AD plants etc do not have an adverse visual impact on the valleys or on views across and along the valleys. • Maintain the appearance and characteristic of isolated farmsteads and oppose proposals that will become dominant in the landscape • Encourage the protection of traditional field patterns and encourage hedgerows and stone wall restoration and management. • Conserve dark stretches of the Farmed Slopes • 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. • Protect watercourses from the effects of eutrophication by ensuring farmers adopt mandatory requirements for the application of fertilisers and pesticides within NVZ, and the creation of buffer zones.

15. Farmed Slopes

	Local Forces For Change	Potential Landscape Implications	Outline Landscape Strategies and Guidelines
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Woodland creation on permanent pasture. • Removal of semi-natural vegetation cover and the poor maintenance and subsequent loss of field boundaries • Abandonment of permanent pasture on the valleys and resulting spread of scrub and secondary woodland on otherwise open slopes and valley floor pastures. • Loss of already limited areas of ancient semi-natural broadleaved woodland and species rich grasslands on steeper 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 dry stone walls and/ or loss of former pasture. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage initiatives that seek to restore or enhance the quality of watercourses and their habitats • Monitor river nutrient levels. • Encourage small-scale mixed farming and encourage woodland and boundary management. • Avoid the conversion of pasture to arable particularly where archaeological sites/field monuments may be lost or damaged. • Encourage low intensity grazing or restrict access by livestock where archaeological sites/ field monuments may be lost or damaged • Encourage means and methods of reducing cultivation damage to archaeological sites and monuments (including reversion to grassland, minimal-tillage, direct drilling and other damage reduction methods). • Conserve areas of permanent pasture • Conserve hedgerow and in-field trees and seek opportunities to plant replacements • Protect remnant areas of ancient woodland, species rich grassland and ancient/veteran trees.
15.9	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 • Restriction of views from the Farmed Slopes • Loss of remaining permanent pasture • Archaeological sites, historic landscapes, geological and geomorphological sites damaged or obscured 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure energy crops are not planted where they would restrict or intrude into views, particularly views across the neighbouring landscape types. • 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 Cotswolds Conservation Board guidance
15.10	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"> • 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 integrity, cohesion and character of historic farmsteads and associated farmland. • Loss of agricultural context • Shelterbelt planting for privacy screening • Appearance and proliferation of stables and 'white tape' field boundaries for horses and ponies 	<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 on dark stretches of the Farmed Slopes • Respect traditional position of agricultural buildings and their relationship to the surrounding land

15. Farmed Slopes

	Local Forces For Change	Potential Landscape Implications	Outline Landscape Strategies and Guidelines
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sub-division of fields using post and rail fences • Pressure for housing on plots of land 	
15.11	Deterioration in condition of vernacular farm buildings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Erosion of distinctive features and loss of Cotswold character. • Loss of locally historic features and erosion of the integrity of the historic 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 • Raise awareness of grant availability for building restoration. • Ensure best practice is followed for the protection of species associated with farm buildings e.g. bats
	Loss of traditional horticulture/agriculture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loss of traditional orchards and local varieties of fruit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify existing traditional orchards and new potential sites. • Identify historical sites of orchards • Promote the appropriate management of existing traditional orchards and the planting of locally distinctive varieties
15.12	Decline in grazing stock Abandonment of grassland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scrub encroachment and loss of remnant species rich grassland and other permanent pasture • Development of secondary woodland • Loss of pasture characteristic of the Farmed Slopes • Loss of the characteristic of grazing animals from the Farmed Slopes • Tendency for 'abandoned land' to be targeted for conversion into arable or woodland or become earmarked for development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conserve open areas of pasture and remnant unimproved grassland and limit scrub encroachment by increased grazing and management. • Retain/re-introduce grazing, particularly on unimproved grasslands. • Manage scrub • Produce guidance on scrub management
15.13	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.
15.14	Damage to field monuments and archaeological sites and the historic environment from farming operations, tree root damage, woodland management operations and tree planting.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Damage to important archaeological sites and important landscape features. • Loss of traditional field patterns • Loss of traditional field boundaries, particularly dry stone walls and hedgerows. • Loss of locally distinctive features • Damage caused by livestock • Encroachment of scrub onto archaeological features 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inform landowners of important archaeological sites • Protect all upstanding archaeological sites and consider the impact of development on their landscape setting. • Manage/remove burrowing animals • Restore the wider setting of key monuments to ensure that they do not read as islands amidst a sea of arable farming. • Raise awareness of the historic environment and of the 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

15. Farmed Slopes

	Local Forces For Change	Potential Landscape Implications	Outline Landscape Strategies and Guidelines
			<p>activity by working with landowners to prepare site management plans and if necessary limit access.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Repair badly eroded features such as earthworks and dry stone walls. • Avoid planting new hedgerows or the development of 'volunteer hedges' adjacent to dry stone walls
15.15	Licensed spreading of waste on agricultural land	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Change in colour in the landscape. • Unpleasant smells • Potential impact on watercourses or aquifer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoid spreading waste across or adjacent to public rights of way, in close proximity to settlements or where it may impact on biodiversity or water courses. • Avoid storage (e.g. sewage waste heaps) adjacent to public rights of way and roads • Ensure swift incorporation
15.16	Loss of and damage to geological features due to tree growth and erosion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loss of sites that provide an understanding of the Cotswold landscape • Loss of outcrops and other visible features such as valley bulges, alluvial fans and marlstone promontories. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify important geological features and ensure they are conserved and appropriately managed.
15.17	<p>Development of scrub and trees on roadside verges</p> <p>Mowing of verges at inappropriate times</p> <p>New and upgraded verge crossings at entrances</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loss of views from the public highway • Loss of roadside grassland habitat • Damage to hedges and walls • Creation of 'lawns' on the roadside due to regular mowing for tidiness leading to a homogenised and sub-urban appearance • Incremental change through introduction of urban elements eroding rural character; raised kerbs, unsympathetic surfacing, creation of fenced visibility splays etc from rural roads 	<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 • Ensure highway authority planning conditions respect and are appropriate to rural character and situation
15.18	Flood management and alleviation measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tree planting for flood management inappropriate to landscape character 	<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. • Consider Rural Sustainable Drainage interventions such as in-stream woody barriers 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. • Promote the flood management function of pasture • Seek opportunities for tree planting for flood management in-keeping with landscape and woodland character - see Creation of Woodland section 3.21 below

15. Farmed Slopes

	Local Forces For Change	Potential Landscape Implications	Outline Landscape Strategies and Guidelines
	Woodland and trees		
15.19	Creation and establishment woodland and planting of shelterbelts and farm copses.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased woodland cover diminishing the open character and sense of exposure on some upper slopes Loss of permanent pasture Loss or restriction of views from and along the Farmed Slopes Increased sense of inclosure of the landscape, particularly from the public highway 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limit new woodland creation to conserve views Protect views from and along the slopes Promote the felling of inappropriate coniferous plantations and replanting of farm woodlands on enclosure age woodland footprints using species native to the area. Ensure any new woodland reflects the prevailing shape and scale of existing geometric woodland Retain and conserve areas of permanent pasture and remnant unimproved grassland Create limited extensions of existing wet woodland and along the course of rivers and streams. Select species characteristic of the ancient semi-natural woodland of the area. Seek EIA determination if necessary. For shelterbelts and plantations associated with designed landscapes, select species characteristic of historic designed landscape in the area. Conserve hedgerow and in-field trees and seek opportunities to plant replacements
15.20	Decline of important remnant semi-natural and ancient woodland due to inappropriate management or neglect.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Impact on the wooded character of some stretches of the Farmed Slopes and the setting of some villages. Degradation and loss of woodland habitats particularly ancient semi-natural woodland. Decline and loss of woodland habitats and wildlife corridors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Manage, enhance and restore slope woodlands through effective long-term management and replanting. Sensitively restore PAWS to broadleaved woodland Conserve areas of permanent pasture/ unimproved grassland Create limited extensions of existing wet woodland along the course of streams.
15.21	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 Loss of mature hedgerow trees 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 woodlands e.g. hedgerow trees, wood pasture and parkland. Seek arboricultural advice