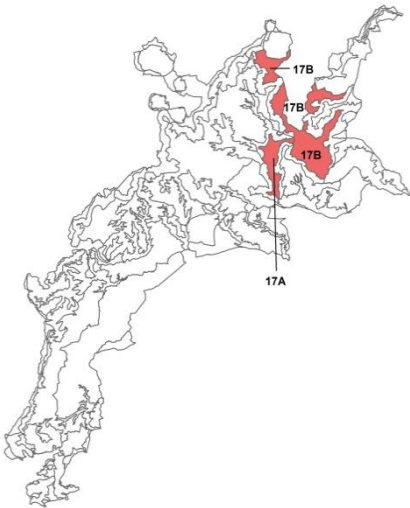


17. Pastoral Lowland Vale

Character Areas

17A Vale of Bourton

17B Vale of Moreton



Key Features

- **Extensive pastoral vale defined by the Farmed Slopes with flat or gently undulating landform fringed by distinctive shallow slopes**, with views often limited by intervening vegetation and undulating landform.
- **Generally human scale intimate landscape, but with intermittent open expansive character and expansive views in some areas** with views possible across flat landscapes bordering river channels where vegetation cover is minimal and from areas of raised landform.
- **Extensive drift deposits mask underlying solid geology**, reflected in the relative absence of stone as a building material.
- **Productive and verdant landscape** of lush improved and semi-improved pastures.
- **Network of hedgerows of varying height and quality with intermittent hedgerow trees and occasional stone walls** create a neat patchwork of fields.
- **Areas of wet meadow and limited areas of species rich grassland bordering river channels** indicate intensive management of the agricultural landscape.
- **Limited woodland cover including ancient woodland** indicative of a long history of clearance and intensive agriculture within the vale.
- **Sparse settlement pattern** emphasises the landscapes rural, agricultural character.

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Summary description

The Pastoral Lowland Vale landscape borders the upper reaches of the rivers Windrush and Evenlode, and their many tributary streams. Whilst the Vale of Bourton is entirely within the bounds of the AONB, the Vale of Moreton extends northward into the Vale of Evesham beyond. It is a soft, flat or gently undulating landscape fringed by the distinctive shallow form of the Farmed Slopes. Unimproved grassland and wet meadows border the streams, the small fields being bounded by a network of hedgerows. Woodland cover is limited and settlement is sparse. A network of narrow, winding lanes links a dispersed pattern of historic towns and small villages sited above the flood plain. Although there is evidence of an older landscape, e.g. ridge and furrow field systems, much of the landscape displays the neat pattern of 18th and 19th century enclosure.

Landscape Sensitivity

Limited woodland cover, a strong rural character, sparse settlement pattern and the proximity to elevated viewing opportunities on the neighbouring Farmed Slopes increases the sensitivity of the Pastoral Lowland Vale landscape to large scale built development.

Existing vale settlements may have the capacity to accommodate some development where this does not interfere with or detract from their landscape setting.

17. Pastoral Lowland Vale

	Local Forces For Change	Potential Landscape Implications	Outline Landscape Strategies and Guidelines
	New Development		
17.1	Development, expansion and infilling of settlements including residential, industrial and leisure.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intrusion of expanded settlement fringes into the landscape including within the setting of the AONB • Degradation of views to, from and across the Pastoral Lowland Vale • Impact or loss of views of key features such as church towers across the landscape. • Erosion of distinctive settlement patterns due to settlement growth and coalescence. • Loss/dilution of organic growth patterns of settlements including the relationship between the historic core and adjacent historic fields, paddocks and closes • Proliferation of suburban building styles, housing estate layout and materials and the introduction of ornamental garden plants and boundary features. • 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 • Increased traffic leading to increased damage to road verges and roadside hedges and walls and the creation of informal passing places • Introduction and accumulation of lit areas and erosion of characteristically dark skies. • Urban fringe impacts such as fly tipping and dumping of cars • Loss of wet meadows and riverine habitat. • Potential loss of archaeological remains and historic features. • Loss of archaeological and historical features, field patterns and landscapes. • Interruption, weakening or loss of the historic character of settlements and the historic context in how they have expanded, especially the importance of the relationship between the historic core of the settlement and surviving historic features such as churchyards, manor houses, burgage plots, historic farms, pre-enclosure paddocks and closes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain the open, sparsely settled character of the Pastoral Lowland Vale by limiting new development to existing settlements. • Avoid development that will intrude negatively into the landscape and cannot be successfully mitigated, for example, extensions to settlements in areas of open landscape • Ensure that new development does not adversely affect the wider rural landscape and views to and from the AONB. • Ensure new development is proportionate and does not overwhelm the existing settlement • Ensure that new development does not adversely affect settlement character and form or impact on views of key features such as church towers/spires • Avoid ribbon development along major access or through routes • Avoid developments incorporating standardised development layout, suburban style lighting, construction details and materials that cumulatively can lead to the erosion of peaceful landscape character. • Layout of development should respect local built character and avoid cramming up to boundaries resulting in hard suburban style edge to the settlement • Control the proliferation of suburban building styles and materials • Promote the conservation and/or encourage the restoration of existing stone buildings in preference to new built development particularly in rural areas. • 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 • .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). • Conserve the existing dark skies. • Adopt measures to minimise and where possible reduce light pollution • Retain existing trees, dry stone walls, hedges etc as part of the scheme. • 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. • Ensure the density of new development reflects its location relative to the 'core' of the settlement and its proximity to the surrounding rural landscape • Conserve floodplain habitats.

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	Local Forces For Change	Potential Landscape Implications	Outline Landscape Strategies and Guidelines
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduce vehicle weight restrictions to prevent damage to verges and roadside boundaries • Promote advice and guidance on road verge management • Preserve archaeological and historical features and deposits and promote initiatives that remove heritage assets from at risk' status in the Heritage at Risk Register. • 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 • 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
17.2	Isolated development such as new single dwellings and conversion of farm buildings that might compromise rural landscape character, dispersed settlement patterns and views to the neighbouring Farmed Slopes including farm buildings converted to residential use.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visual intrusions introduced to the landscape • Erosion of the sparse settlement pattern of the Pastoral Lowland Vale • Loss of characteristic open landscape • Introduction of 'lit' elements to characteristically dark landscapes. • Upgrading of minor roads and lanes in areas of new development and introduction of suburbanising features such as gateways, kerbs, and lighting. • Loss of tranquility. • 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 • Appearance of 'mini parklands' out of context with the surrounding landscape. • Appearance or extension of stables and 'white tape' field boundaries for horses and ponies (see 17.9 below) • Damage to road verges and roadside hedges and walls and the creation of informal passing places 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoid isolated development, that will intrude negatively into the landscape and cannot be successfully mitigated. • Conserve areas of dark skies • Oppose new housing in the Pastoral Lowland Vale (unless special circumstances apply in accordance with Paragraph 55 of the NPPF and development conserves and enhances the AONB as required by the CRoW Act 2000 • Avoid conversion of isolated farm buildings • Conserve the distinctive rural and dispersed settlement pattern. • Restore existing stone farm buildings and structures in preference to new built development. • When restored or converted to new uses, buildings must retain their historic integrity and functional character. Sound conservation advice and principles must be sought and implemented • Maintain the sense of openness and consider the impact of development, including cumulative development on views to and from the adjacent landscape types such as the Farmed Slopes and High Wold and on the setting of the AONB • Control the proliferation of suburban building styles and materials. • Landscaping schemes accompanying development should encourage the planting of appropriately sized native trees, shrubs and traditional fruit varieties, whilst discouraging large alien tree species such as eucalypts and conifers and inappropriate cultivars of native species, particularly on fringes of open countryside. • Respect traditional position of agricultural buildings and their relationship to

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	Local Forces For Change	Potential Landscape Implications	Outline Landscape Strategies and Guidelines
17.3	<p>Conversion of traditional farm buildings to new uses</p> <p>Deterioration in condition of vernacular farm buildings</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Erosion of distinctive features and loss of Cotswold character. Domestication or industrialisation of existing agricultural vernacular and character Suburbanisation of the agricultural landscape by the introduction of gardens e.g. ornamental garden plants and boundary features, parking areas, lighting and conversion of tracks to manicured drives and ornamental gateways Loss of locally historic features and erosion of the integrity of the historic landscape Loss of historic features/character of distinctive buildings if converted to uses requiring inappropriate interventions to historic fabric and form. Loss and erosion of Farmstead Character and how the buildings relate to the surrounding agricultural landuse and landscape Decline in quality of landscape 	<p>the surrounding land</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduce vehicle weight restrictions to prevent damage to verges and roadside boundaries 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
17.4	Solar Farms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Industrialisation of the rural landscape Change of character due to colour and texture and heliographic glint Loss of seasonal change in the landscape Loss of characteristic agricultural landscape Damage to and loss of landscape features such as Ridge and Furrow, Strip Lynchets, trees and dry stone walls Impact of supporting infrastructure such as buildings, cables, roadways, security fencing, CCTV masts and lighting. Concealment of geomorphological or archaeological features Decline in quality of landscape 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prevent proposals for solar farms that will impact negatively on landscape character and/or intrude into views including from the adjacent Farmed Slopes and High Wold Ensure a comprehensive LVIA is undertaken (including potential cumulative effects) Avoid proposals that will result in the loss or harm to landscape features such as ridge and furrow, hedgerows and walls Ensure a glint/glare assessment is undertaken to determine the heliographic impact on receptors. Reduce landscape impact with appropriate screening Bury cables underground and seek opportunities to bury existing overhead cables Keep supporting infrastructure to a minimum and ensure it is in keeping with landscape character. Ensure removal and restoration on temporary construction access. Avoid the inclusion of any security lighting proposals

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	Local Forces For Change	Potential Landscape Implications	Outline Landscape Strategies and Guidelines
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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
17.5	New large scale quarries and expansion of existing quarrying operations including for clay and gravels.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Loss of habitats. Visual impact of quarry and quarry traffic and disturbance of sense of tranquillity and rural landscape character. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limit large scale quarrying extensions to existing quarry sites, ideally for use in the Cotswolds only, particularly for aggregates Avoid new large scale quarrying. Promote small scale quarrying operations paying regard to their impact on local landscape character, heritage and nature conservation interests. Promote 'local stone for local use' After use for in-fill or recycling material from outside the Cotswolds should not be permitted Explore alternative after use such as for biodiversity and geoconservation.
17.6	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
17.7	Illegal waste disposal/fly tipping	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unightly intrusion into the landscape Loss of biodiversity Blocking of gateways, laybys and areas of road verge by fly tipping Pollution of watercourses and aquifer Loose waste material blowing around and catching on hedges, trees etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect former quarries from fly tipping Seek swift removal of fly tipping Prosecute landowners who allow or turn a 'blind eye' to unlicensed waste disposal Remove blown material from hedges, trees and road verges.
17.8	Introduction of vertical elements such as communication masts, wind turbines, electricity pylons and large road signs, particularly in locations that impact long views and panoramas.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduction of visually intrusive 'urban' or industrial features to the open character of the Pastoral Lowland Vale and views across it from the neighbouring Farmed Slopes and High Wold Introduction of unnatural movement and loss of tranquillity and sense of remoteness. Introduction lit elements to a characteristically dark landscape Intrusion on the setting of scheduled monuments, listed buildings and designed landscapes Breaking up of the skyline Loss of open character 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conserve the open, agricultural character of the Pastoral Lowland Vale by objecting to the development of vertical elements where these would adversely affect views Ensure the development of vertical elements in neighbouring LCTs and areas beyond the AONB do not adversely affect views to and from the Pastoral Lowland Vale Ensure alternative options have been fully considered Minimise impact by locating new communication masts on existing structures or by using existing masts. Set masts etc against trees Bury cables underground and seek opportunities to bury existing overhead cables. Avoid use of visually prominent urban security fencing and CCTV masts. Consider other renewable energy and communications technologies Ensure full assessment of heritage setting impacts and appropriate measures undertaken

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	Local Forces For Change	Potential Landscape Implications	Outline Landscape Strategies and Guidelines
17.9	Proliferation and concentration of equestrian establishments.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proliferation of stables and other visual clutter such as ribbon fences, jumps, horse boxes, shelters manège and lighting associated with 'horsiculture' • Creation of paddocks by sub-dividing fields using non-characteristic field boundary treatments such as post and rail fence or ribbon fences • Erosion of the rural landscape • Deterioration in pasture quality and over grazing • Pressure to provide new housing for staff and owners • Creation of surfaced tracks, new and enlarged field entrances and parking areas for cars and horse boxes etc. • Excessive use of local roads and paths by horses, in part due to no direct or close connections to bridleways etc. • Increase in vehicle movements and roadside parking • Damage to road verges 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seek to minimise the size and number of roadsigns • The creation of horse paddocks in visually prominent locations such a 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 locations • 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

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	Local Forces For Change	Potential Landscape Implications	Outline Landscape Strategies and Guidelines
17.10	Road upgrading and improvements, especially of minor country roads, as a result of development or general improvement schemes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction of suburban features such as mini roundabouts, lighting, kerbs and traffic calming measures. • Use of inappropriate materials (e.g. standard highway fences and barriers) • Increased traffic movement • Loss of roadside hedges and walls • Loss of verge/roadside habitat 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refer to DMRB Vol 10 for general environmental design guidance. • Conserve the rural character of the local road network • Resist the construction of 'village gateways', particularly those which are inappropriate and out of character. • Minimise the use of road markings, permanent signage and lighting, siting them with care and ensuring that they are in keeping with their surroundings wherever possible whilst fulfilling road safety requirements. • Avoid making over-large and inappropriate entrances and keep visibility splays to a minimum • Promote use of design and materials appropriate to local character. • Produce guidance on design and suitable materials. • Promote use of 'shared space' for traffic calming measures in villages. • Seek opportunities to conserve and enhance roadside boundaries and habitats and secure their long-term management
17.11	Excessive traffic and/or speed on minor local roads and lanes. Increase in size of vehicle using lanes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pressure to improve roads by widening and straightening. • Loss of tranquillity and danger to walkers/riders and other non-motorised users. • Damage to verges and roadside boundaries by HGVs and agricultural vehicles 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote traffic restriction measures such as lorry routing maps, speed limits and weight restrictions • Promote 'Quiet Lane' initiatives • Maintain or reinstate rural character within towns and villages by promoting shared space and road design to slow and minimise traffic impact • Apply national guidance on rural speed restrictions in sensitive areas (DfT Circular 01/2013 especially Para 128) • Ensure traffic management measures reflect the character and materials of the area. • Encourage use of public transport, car sharing etc • Promote quiet lane initiatives • Encourage cycling on safe routes • Promote road verge protection and management

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	Local Forces For Change	Potential Landscape Implications	Outline Landscape Strategies and Guidelines
	Land use		
17.12	<p>Agricultural intensification and in particular intensification of cattle grazing and farm amalgamation.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Field amalgamation and loss of hedgerows and stone walls leading to the loss of distinctive field patterns and a degraded landscape. • Loss of arable reversion back to cultivation. • Loss of habitat • Removal of semi-natural vegetation cover and the poor maintenance and subsequent loss of field boundaries. • Construction of large scale 'industrial style' agricultural sheds on the skyline or in prominent locations. • Decline in maintenance of hedges and stone walls leading to a locally degraded or neglected landscape character. • Increased use of non-characteristic field boundary treatments such as post and wire and post and rail fencing • Conversion of permanent pasture and arable reversion to arable • Localised poaching of wet riverside pastures by sustained grazing of large herds. • Loss of already limited areas of ancient broadleaved woodland and species rich grasslands due to agricultural improvement. • Damage to and loss of archaeological sites and field monuments from conversion of pasture to arable and from intensification of grazing. • Ongoing loss of archaeological sites and monuments from long-term cultivation and erosion. • Conversion of farm outbuildings and field barns to recreational or business uses • Increased damage to roads, road verges, dry stone walls and hedges from large machinery • Increased width of gateways into fields • Increased risk of river pollution and flooding from agricultural run off. • Loss of Farmstead character 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 Pastoral Lowland Vale, and views from and to the neighbouring LCTs. • Maintain the appearance and characteristic of isolated farmsteads and oppose proposals that will become dominant in the landscape. • Encourage the mitigation of existing large sheds e.g. limited tree planting • Encourage the installation of PV on the roofs of new agricultural buildings, avoiding risk of glint/glare. • Conserve characteristically dark skies • Provide advice to farmers on siting of new buildings, lighting, colour etc • Seek to conserve traditional farm buildings where necessary through appropriate new uses that retain historic character and features. • Respect traditional position of agricultural buildings and their relationship to the surrounding land. • Retain and conserve areas of permanent pasture and semi-natural vegetation • Promote management of ditches and seek opportunities to restore ponds • Encourage low intensity grazing along riverside meadows. • Protect remnant areas of ancient woodland, species rich grassland and ancient/veteran trees. • Enhance quality of local rivers and streams by introducing buffer strips. • Monitor river nutrient levels • Conserve, enhance and replant farm woodlands using suitable native species, • Conserve and enhance riparian habitats and riverside trees such as pollarded willows. • Encourage low-intensity grazing or restrict access by livestock where archaeological sites may be lost or damaged. • Encourage the protection of traditional field patterns and encourage hedgerow and dry stone wall restoration. • Conserve hedgerow and in-field trees and seek opportunities to plant replacements • Retain and restore dry stone walls particularly adjacent to roads and in the vicinity of settlements and farmsteads • Encourage means and methods of reducing cultivation damage to archaeological sites and monuments (including reversion to grassland,

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	Local Forces For Change	Potential Landscape Implications	Outline Landscape Strategies and Guidelines
			<p>min-tillage, direct drilling and other damage reduction methods).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oppose proposals to convert pasture to arable particularly where archaeological sites/field monuments may be lost or damaged • Ensure any woodland creation is in keeping with landscape character – see section 17.25
17.13	Construction of farm reservoirs for winter rainfall storage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction of uncharacteristic features in the Cotswold landscape exacerbated by the construction of dams and bunds 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoid the construction of farm reservoirs, particularly in open agricultural landscapes. • Ensure appropriate mitigation and landscaping. • Avoid bunds as a way of disposing of spoil • Promote good soil management practice to assist with water retention.
17.14	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.
17.15	Planting of energy crops such as Miscanthus, short rotation coppice and short rotation forestry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loss or seasonal interruption of views particularly from roads and public rights of way and views along and across the vale • Loss of permanent pasture • Damage to archaeological sites and historic landscapes 	<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. • 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 where significant historic landscapes would be adversely affected or on sites where features of geological or geomorphological importance would be obscured. • Promote Cotswold Conservation Board guidance
17.16	<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"> • Loss of integrity, cohesion and character of historic farmsteads and associated farmland. • Loss of agricultural context • Suburbanisation of agricultural landscape by the introduction of gardens e.g ornamental garden plants and boundary features, parking areas, lighting and conversion of tracks to manicured drives and ornamental gateways • Shelterbelt planting for privacy screening • Appearance and proliferation of stables and 'white tape' field boundaries for horses and ponies • Sub-division of fields using post and rail fences • Pressure for housing on plots of land 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Only permit new uses of traditional farm buildings that are appropriate to retain their historic character and features. • Use planning conditions to restrict subdivision of fields, construction of stables etc. Consider use of Article 4 Direction. • Ensure separation of housing does not prejudice the effective operation of the farm enterprise • Avoid isolated development, particularly in areas of dark skies • Respect traditional position of agricultural buildings and their relationship to the surrounding land

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	Local Forces For Change	Potential Landscape Implications	Outline Landscape Strategies and Guidelines
17.17	Loss of hedges characteristic of the Pastoral Lowland Vale due to inappropriate management or 'abandonment'	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Loss of a key characteristic of the Pastoral Lowland Vale Replacement with wire or post and rail fences Weakening/loss of field patterns, particularly those that reflect the pre-enclosure open field system 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage the retention and maintenance of hedges, using traditional methods such as hedge laying where possible. Where maintained by machine, ensure best practise cutting regimes Ensure hedgerow retention and management are included in agri-environment schemes
17.18	Development of scrub and trees on roadside verges Mowing of verges at inappropriate times of the year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Loss of views from the public highway Loss of open character Loss of roadside grassland habitat Damage to hedges and dry stone walls. Loss of characteristic flora 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify key views from roads Manage/remove verge scrub and trees Reintroduce appropriate verge management and mowing Ensure appropriate timing of mowing Promote Conservation Board guidance
17.19	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 	<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 17.25 below
17.20	Fencing of river corridors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> River edge becomes overgrown with rank vegetation due to a loss of grazing leading to loss of riparian habitat. Introduction of fence lines along valley bottoms 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage low intensity grazing along floodplain and valley bottom meadows. Encourage the use of temporary fencing where required
17.21	Intensive grazing of stretches of riverbank up to the waters edge.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Loss of riparian habitat. Bank instability leading to increased erosion and widening of river channels. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage low intensity grazing along floodplain and valley bottom meadows. Manage riparian habitats to avoid erosion due to over grazing. Avoid engineered solutions to water management along degraded stretches of riverbank. Encourage use of temporary fencing where required
17.22	Water abstraction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduced river flows/dry rivers Die-off of riverside trees such as willow Loss of wetland habitat Limited selection of crop type Loss of organic archaeological material preserved in waterlogged conditions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce or stop abstraction Support river flows/water recirculation

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	Local Forces For Change	Potential Landscape Implications	Outline Landscape Strategies and Guidelines
17.23	Damage to field monuments and archaeological sites and the historic environment from, farming operations, tree root damage, woodland management operations and recreational activity.	<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 such as stone bridges, wellheads and wash pools • Damage caused by livestock • Damage caused by recreational activity • 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. • 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. • Repair badly eroded features such as earthworks
17.24	Loss of and damage to geological features due to tree growth, erosion and change of land use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loss of sites that provide an understanding of the Cotswold landscape • Loss of visible features such as river meanders 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify important geological features and ensure they are conserved and appropriately managed.
Woodland and trees			
17.25	Woodland creation and planting of shelterbelts and farm copses.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased woodland cover diminishing the open character of the Pastoral Lowland Vale limiting long distance views and intruding on panoramas. • Cumulative impact of woodland creation leading to a change in landscape character. • Loss of Historic Landscape Character through inappropriate siting and/or species 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Woodland creation is not appropriate in this landscape type to retain the open, un-wooded character. The exception is the Evenlode Valley where woodland creation should be limited to the extension of existing woodlands whilst not limiting or obscuring views • Within the few geometric copses, promote the felling of inappropriate conifers and replanting of farm copses using characteristic species. • Seek EIA determination if necessary • Have regard to the cumulative impact of woodland creation and tree planting on the open, unwooded character of the Pastoral Lowland Vale • Select species characteristic of ancient semi-natural woodland in the area. • Retain any areas of ancient semi-natural woodland. • Conserve hedgerow and in-field trees and seek opportunities to plant replacements • Discourage conifer planting (unless a nurse) and encourage the use of native broadleaves or species that reflect local broadleaved woodland

17. Pastoral Lowland Vale

	Local Forces For Change	Potential Landscape Implications	Outline Landscape Strategies and Guidelines
	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 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. parkland and hedgerow trees. • Seek arboricultural advice.
17.26	A piecemeal decline in existing woodland cover in the Evenlode Valley due to inappropriate management or neglect	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Degradation and loss of woodland habitats, particularly ancient semi-natural woodland. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote Countryside Stewardship to woodland owners and agents • Restore PAWS and safeguard ancient woodland • Retain and plant replacements for non-woodland trees. • Conserve areas of permanent pasture/improved grassland
17.27	Decline in pollarding and management of riverside trees.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decline in characteristic pollarded willows and river bank trees. • Loss of riverside habitats. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage suitable management regimes for existing riverside trees. • Initiate a programme of new tree planting to ensure that there is a new generation to locally native riverside trees.