

3. Rolling Hills and Valleys

Character Areas

3A *Ozleworth Bottom and Lower Kilcott*

3B *Stinchcombe and North Nibley*



Key Features

- **Relatively enclosed and secluded ‘secret’ character in upper sections of the valleys and narrow valley bottoms**, contrasts to more open landscapes on the neighbouring High Wold and High Wold Dip-Slope and in the Unwooded Vale below.
- **Broader and more open valley form and developed character where valleys meet the vale**, indicating a gentler and accessible landscape better suited to large scale settlement.
- **Steep sided concave valleys with steeper upper slopes often dominated by woodland**, contribute to the area’s rural and secretive character.
- **Valleys drained by several tributary streams flowing into the Little Avon River before entering the Severn**, provide important linear habitats linking the Vale to the High Wold.
- **Area principally under pastoral use, together with some scattered areas under arable cultivation, mainly within the valley slopes and bottom. Areas of scrubby pasture often evident on upper slopes.** Differing land uses provide contrasting textures and seasonal variations in colour and a range of habitats and habitat features.
- **Fields generally small-scale, mainly enclosed with hedgerows, with hedgerow trees being frequent on valley slopes** creating a patchwork effect.
- **Post and wire fences frequent throughout the landscape** break up the patterns created by hedgerows.
- **Contrasting settlement patterns** with larger settlements with more pronounced urban influences at valley mouths, and smaller and deeply rural settlements along valley bottoms and upper valley slopes.
- **Roads located along valley bottoms and sides, with a number cutting across the slopes, often sunk between high banks**, possibly indicating the course of ancient route ways.

3. Rolling Hills and Valleys

Summary description

Although unified by continuity of form, the relatively enclosed and secluded character of the upper sections of these valleys and their narrow bottoms contrasts strongly with the broader and more open nature of the developed areas that meet the Vale beyond. Valleys sides are steep and concave, the upper slopes often dominated by woodland.

Most of the area is under pastoral use, although there are also scattered patches of arable land. Rough, scrubby pasture is often evident on the upper slopes. Fields are generally small in scale, mainly enclosed with hedgerows although post and wire fencing is also evident.

Larger settlements with pronounced urban influences sit at the valley mouths, with smaller and deeply rural settlements in the valley bottoms and on the upper valley slopes. Roads run along the valley bottoms and sides, although some do cut across the slopes, sometimes sunken between high banks.

Landscape Sensitivity

The upper valley sections represent quiet rural landscapes with strong associations of peace, tranquillity and a sense of remoteness. Landscape character is strong, and these sections of the valleys are highly sensitive to developments that may compromise these characteristics. Of similar sensitivity are the highly visible landscapes on the upper slopes of the valleys and spurs of land separating the valleys

The more expansive and heavily settled mouths of the valleys are generally less sensitive although change should reflect the form, massing and layout of the existing valley settlements. New development should be avoided on highly visible valley sides.

3. Rolling Hills and Valleys

	Local Forces For Change	Potential Landscape Implications	Landscape Strategies and Guidelines
	New Development		
3.1	Expansion and infilling of Cam, Dursley and Wotton-Under-Edge, including residential, industrial and leisure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Erosion of the character of rural valley settlements and possible amalgamation of separate settlements- E.g. Holywell and Wotton-under-Edge Settlements creeping along the valleys and up the valley sides Suburbanisation of hillsides and valley bottoms by the introduction of suburban style estate layout, gardens e.g ornamental garden plants and boundary features, gateways, lighting, parking areas and conversion of tracks to manicured drives and ornamental gateways Spread of lit elements up the slopes. Potential for glint from buildings, particularly on hillsides. 'Tidying up' of the landscape in and around existing settlements resulting in the replacement of traditional features such as stone walls with uncharacteristic elements such as garden fences. Upgrading of minor roads and lanes associated with new development and the introduction of suburbanising features such as mini roundabouts, street lighting, kerbs, highway fencing and traffic calming measures. Division of fields into paddocks for ponies and horses Division of fields into small plots with sheds, greenhouses, benches etc. Urban fringe impacts such as fly tipping and dumping of cars 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 Loss of archaeological and historical features, field patterns and landscapes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conserve the secluded, pastoral character of the valleys Avoid development that may restrict or obscure views to the upper slope, along or across the valleys, skylines, sweeping views across the landscape and to distinctive features such as folly towers and prominent hills. Avoid development that will intrude negatively into the landscape and cannot be successfully mitigated, for example, extensions to settlements into the valleys and up the hillsides. Ensure new development does not adversely affect settlement character and form Avoid development incorporating standardised development layout, suburban style lighting, construction details and materials that cumulatively can lead to the erosion of peaceful landscape character. Avoid cramming development right up to boundaries resulting in hard suburban style edge to settlement 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). Promote the restoration of existing stone buildings and structures within settlements. 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 Conserve the character of the rural network of narrow roads and lanes Adopt measures to minimize and reduce light pollution. Plant trees and hedges within and around new development to reduce impact on the landscape ideally in advance of the development taking place. Counteract the impact of degraded urban edges with new woodland planting that links to existing woodlands on the valley slopes. 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. Promote initiatives that remove heritage assets from 'at risk' status in Heritage at Risk Register. Ensure the historic character and context are included in Neighbourhood Plans

3. Rolling Hills and Valleys

	Local Forces For Change	Potential Landscape Implications	Landscape Strategies and Guidelines
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify key viewpoints • Manage and enhance hedgerow boundary features on valley slopes bordering settlements, particularly where they form a backdrop to urban forms. • Ensure development proposals safeguard and provide new links and enhancements to the Public Rights of Way network
3.2	Expansion and infilling of existing settlements within the valleys e.g. Uley, Stinchcombe and North Nibley	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Erosion of the rural, secluded and tranquil character of the hills and valleys and the landscape setting of historic villages. • Intrusion of expanded settlements onto the highly visible valley sides and along valley bottoms • Erosion of distinctive settlement patterns due to settlement growth and coalescence and loss of small fields and network of narrow lanes associated with houses fringing the valley villages. • Proliferation of suburban building styles, housing estate layout and materials and the introduction of ornamental garden plants and boundaries • Illumination of existing 'dark skies' • Degradation of views along and across the valleys • Upgrading of minor roads and lanes associated with new development and the introduction of suburbanising features such as lighting and kerbs • Loss/dilution of organic growth patterns of settlements including the relationship between the historic core and adjacent historic fields, paddocks and closes • Damage to road verges and roadside hedges and walls and the creation of informal passing places • 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 • Loss of archaeological and historical features, field patterns and landscapes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoid development that will intrude negatively into the landscape, for example, extensions to settlements on visible hillsides • Avoid development that may restrict or obscure views to the valley slopes, along or across the valleys, skylines, and to distinctive features • Ensure new development is proportionate and does not overwhelm the existing settlement • Retain village character and settlement patterns • Avoid development incorporating standardised development layout, suburban style lighting, construction details and materials that cumulatively can lead to the erosion of peaceful landscape character. • Avoid cramming development right up boundaries resulting in hard suburban style edge to settlement • Control the proliferation of suburban building styles and materials • Promote the use of local stone and building styles in the construction of new buildings and extensions to existing dwellings • Promote the conservation and/or encourage the restoration of existing stone buildings in preference to new built development in rural areas where appropriate. 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 • Conserve the distinctive rural character of valley settlements and the rural road network of narrow hedged lanes. • Ensure built development respects and integrates with the rural landscape character and does not interrupt the setting of settlements. • Conserve existing dark skies through planning advice and control. Avoid new sources of light pollution and seek opportunities, including by planning conditions, to reduce existing light pollution. • Conserve the secluded nature and tranquillity of the valleys • Ensure new development is integrated into its surroundings. Break up harsh edges of new development with appropriate and adequate tree planting ideally in advance of the development taking place.

3. Rolling Hills and Valleys

	Local Forces For Change	Potential Landscape Implications	Landscape Strategies and Guidelines
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify key viewpoints • Conserve the character of the local rural lane network • Introduction of weight restrictions. • Provide advice and guidance on road verge management • Ensure the density of new development reflects its location relative to the 'core' of the settlement. and its proximity to the surrounding rural landscape. • Ensure the proposal is at a scale appropriate to the settlement • Promote initiatives that remove heritage assets from 'at risk' status in 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 local authority design guidelines provide full coverage of historic character issues and clear practical guidance on achieving high quality design that respects and enhances local character. • Promote use of and application of heritage aspects of design guidelines. • Ensure the historic character and context are included in Neighbourhood Plans
3.3	Isolated development such as new single dwellings and conversion of farm buildings that might compromise rural landscape character and settlement patterns, particularly on valley sides.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visual intrusions introduced to the landscape • Upgrading of minor roads and lanes in areas of new development and introduction of suburbanising features such as gateways, kerbs and street lighting. • Introduction of 'lit' elements to characteristically dark valley landscapes. • Suburbanisation and domestication of the 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 • Loss of green space between built up areas on the valley slopes that often provide a green backdrop to settlements in the valley • Appearance and proliferation of stables and 'white tape' field boundaries for horses and ponies. See section 3.7 below • Loss of tranquillity. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conserve the distinctive rural and dispersed settlement pattern. • Restore existing stone farm buildings and structures in preference to new built development. Where converted to new uses buildings must retain their historic integrity and functional character. Sound conservation advice and principles must be sought and implemented • Prevent the use of suburban building styles and materials. • Oppose new housing in the countryside (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 • Limit the upgrading of the characteristic narrow road network • Respect traditional position of agricultural buildings and their relationship to the surrounding land. • 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

3. Rolling Hills and Valleys

	Local Forces For Change	Potential Landscape Implications	Landscape Strategies and Guidelines
3.4	<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 landscape and agricultural land use Decline in quality of landscape 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conserve vernacular farm buildings for their own sake and/or by developing other options for their use whilst retaining their agricultural character Where converted to new uses buildings must retain their historic integrity and functional character. Sound conservation advice and principles must be sought and implemented New uses should not prejudice the effective operation of the farm enterprise Avoid inappropriate new uses that necessitate excessive loss of original historic features or introduce elements that expand domestication or industrialisation Discourage the conversion of farm buildings to a function with a limited life span and seek to prevent follow-on conversions e.g. for housing. Respect traditional position of agricultural buildings and their relationship to the surrounding land. Stabilise historic buildings and undertake localised scrub and woodland clearance to enhance their landscape setting and increase the contribution they make to landscape character. Ensure best practice is followed for the protection of species associated with farm buildings e.g. bats Promote examples of good practice
3.5	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

3. Rolling Hills and Valleys

	Local Forces For Change	Potential Landscape Implications	Landscape Strategies and Guidelines
3.6	Introduction of vertical elements such as communication masts, wind turbines, drilling rigs, electricity pylons and large road signs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction of visually intrusive 'urban' or industrial features to rural landscapes • Loss of valley character and 'natural' appearance • Breaking up of valley rim 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 the secluded character and open spurs by objecting to the development of vertical elements on the skyline and valley rims or where they would adversely affect views within, to and from the Rolling Hills and Valleys • Ensure the development of vertical elements in neighbouring areas beyond the AONB do not adversely affect views to and from the valleys • Ensure alternative options have been fully considered • Minimise impact by utilising existing masts in preference to the erection 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
3.7	Establishment or expansion of equestrian establishments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proliferation of stables and other visual clutter such as ribbon fences, jumps, horse boxes, shelters, manège and lighting associated with 'horsiculture'. • Creation of paddocks by sub-dividing fields using non-characteristic field boundary treatments such as post and rail fence or ribbon fences • Deterioration in pasture quality and over grazing • Degraded appearance to the pastoral landscape • 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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The creation of horse paddocks in visually prominent locations such as roadside and valley side locations should be avoided. • 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 • Take into account proximity of bridleways etc. • Where possible, existing buildings should be utilised and new stables and other structures kept to a minimum. • Ensure all new ventures provide accommodation within new stable buildings and proposals for separate isolated housing should be resisted • New structures should be carefully sited and designed to minimize their impact on the landscape. Wherever possible they should be located close to existing buildings. They should be constructed from appropriate vernacular materials and should follow the form of the landscape, avoiding prominent skyline sites and slopes • Jumps, temporary fences and other equipment should be well maintained and removed when not in use. • Any lighting should be designed to minimise light pollution, e.g. low level

3. Rolling Hills and Valleys

	Local Forces For Change	Potential Landscape Implications	Landscape Strategies and Guidelines
			<p>and directed downwards and fitted with timers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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
3.8	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 • 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, particularly within the valleys. • Avoid the upgrading of tracks or creation of roads, particularly within the valleys • Promote use of design and materials appropriate to local character. • 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. • 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. • Promote road verge protection and management.

3. Rolling Hills and Valleys

	Local Forces For Change	Potential Landscape Implications	Landscape Strategies and Guidelines
3.9	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			
3.10	Agricultural intensification along the valleys and in the neighbouring Vale.	<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 and traditional field patterns. • Increased conversion of pasture to arable land. • 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. • 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"> • Conserve the secluded, pastoral character of the valleys • 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 • Conserve dark stretches of valley • 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. • 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. • Conserve field boundary and in-field trees and seek opportunities to plant replacements • Protect and retain ancient/veteran trees • 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

3. Rolling Hills and Valleys

	Local Forces For Change	Potential Landscape Implications	Landscape Strategies and Guidelines
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. • Ensure any woodland creation is in keeping with landscape character. See section 3.21 below
3.11	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 across the open spurs • Loss of remaining permanent pasture • Archaeological sites, historic landscapes, geological and geomorphological sites damaged or obscured 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure energy crops are not planted where they would restrict or intrude into views, particularly open views across the landscape and on skyline sites. • Do not plant on semi-natural habitats, permanent pasture or on sites with Section 41 NERC Act 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. • Produce guidance
3.12	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.
3.13	Decline in grazing livestock Abandonment of grassland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scrub encroachment and loss of species rich grassland and other permanent pasture • Development of secondary woodland • Loss of the characteristic of grazing animals from the valley pastures • 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 areas of unimproved grassland and permanent pasture. • Retain/re-introduce grazing, particularly on unimproved grasslands. • Manage scrub • Produce guidance on scrub management
3.14	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 • 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 landscape • Respect traditional position of agricultural buildings and their relationship to the surrounding land

3. Rolling Hills and Valleys

	Local Forces For Change	Potential Landscape Implications	Landscape Strategies and Guidelines
3.15	<p>Loss of hedges as a result of inappropriate management and through neglect</p> <p>Loss of hedgerow trees</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Degradation of small scale field patterns. • Increase in fencing • Loss of hedgerow trees on upper slopes • Loss of wildlife corridors and habitat • Loss of elements of the historic environment including historic field patterns reflecting earlier agricultural systems 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conserve hedgerows and promote planting to infill gappy hedges.. • Promote appropriate management regimes such as hedgelaying or restoration schemes such as coppicing and gapping up. • Where maintained by machine ensure best practice cutting regimes • Conserve hedgerow trees and instigate a small scale programme to plant or select and tag new trees in hedgerows. • Remove post and wire and non-traditional post and rail fencing and where appropriate such as on former hedge lines, replace with hedges. • Ensure new hedges and dry stone walls reflect the surrounding traditional field boundary patterns and inherent species mix found in that locality
3.16	<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
3.17	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 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. • Seek opportunities for temporary flood water storage on farmland • Ensure flood defences integrate into the landscape by using appropriate mitigation measures, landscaping and materials • Seek opportunities for tree planting for flood management in-keeping with landscape and woodland character - see Creation of Woodland section 3.21 below
3.18	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. • Imposition of fence line along valley bottom. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage low intensity grazing along floodplain and valley bottom meadows. • Encourage use of temporary fencing where possible.

3. Rolling Hills and Valleys

	Local Forces For Change	Potential Landscape Implications	Landscape Strategies and Guidelines
3.19	Damage to field monuments and archaeological sites and the historic environment from farming operations, livestock, tree root damage, burrowing animals, woodland management operations and tree planting and recreational activity.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Damage to important archaeological sites and important landscape features. • Loss of traditional field patterns • Loss of traditional field boundaries, particularly dry stone walls and hedgerows. • Loss of locally distinctive features • 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. • Manage/remove burrowing animals • Restore the wider setting of key monuments to ensure that they do not read as islands amidst a sea of arable farming. • Raise awareness of the historic environment and of the SMR as a source of information • Provide guidance on managing the historic environment to farmers and land owners • Retain traditional field patterns and field boundaries • Ensure tree planting does not take place on archaeological features. • Control scrub and manage existing trees on archaeological features to minimise damage for example by root damage or wind-blow. • Minimise or prevent damage to the historic environment by recreational activity by working with landowners to prepare site management plans and if necessary limit access. • Repair badly eroded features such as earthworks and dry stone walls. • Avoid planting new hedgerows or the development of 'volunteer hedges' adjacent to dry stone walls
3.20	Loss of and damage to geological and geomorphological features due to tree growth, erosion and change of land use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loss of sites that provide an understanding of the Cotswold landscape • Loss of visible features such as gulls, valley bulges and areas of landslip. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify important geological features and ensure they are conserved and appropriately managed.
Woodland and trees			
3.21	Creation of woodland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loss of permanent pasture • Loss of character • Loss of open spurs of land between the valleys • Loss or restriction of views across and along the valleys • Increased sense of inclosure of the landscape, particularly from the public highway 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conserve open areas, particularly of the open spurs between the valleys. • Retain and conserve areas of permanent pasture/ unimproved grassland • Create limited extensions of existing wet woodland and riverine habitats along the course of rivers and streams. • Counteract the impact of degraded urban edges with new woodland planting that links to existing woodlands on the valley slopes • 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.

3. Rolling Hills and Valleys

	Local Forces For Change	Potential Landscape Implications	Landscape Strategies and Guidelines
3.22	Decline of important 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 valleys 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 valley side woodlands through effective long-term management and replanting. • Conserve open areas, particularly of the open spurs between the valleys. • Sensitively restore PAWS to broadleaved woodland • Conserve areas of permanent pasture/ unimproved grassland • Create limited extensions of existing wet woodland and riverine habitats along the course of rivers and streams.
3.23	<p>Impact of tree disease such as Chalara Dieback of ash.</p> <p>Impact of climate change such as extremes of drought or flooding</p>	<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