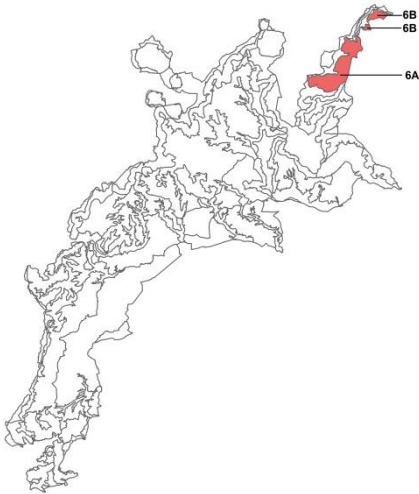


## 6. Ironstone Hills and Valleys

### Character Areas

6A Whichford Hills and Valleys

6B Ratley Hills and Valleys



### Key Features

- **Complex topography of steeply sided convoluted valleys and rolling rounded ridgelines and hills** providing dramatic sweeping views over wide areas of the landscape.
- **Intermittent isolated rounded hills** providing locally distinctive landform features and landmarks.
- **Mainly fertile iron-rich red-brown loams interspersed with occasional bands of calcareous soils derived from intermittent outcrops of limestone bedrock** supports the principal land use of farmland and imparts the landscape with a productive, agricultural character.
- **Distinctive local vernacular** with buildings constructed in the 'warm' red brown 'Hornton Stone' derived from the iron bearing Marlstone Rock Formation.
- **Settlement pattern of intermittent nucleated villages, and isolated farmsteads and individual buildings** contribute to the rural character of the landscape.
- **Area principally under arable cultivation, together with some improved and permanent pasture, mainly within the valley slopes and bottoms** leads to seasonal differences in colour and texture across the landscape.
- **Medium to large-scale regular rectilinear fields, mainly enclosed with hedgerows, with frequent hedgerow trees** indicate widespread parliamentary enclosure.
- **Limited woodland cover, with exception of occasional larger stands of ancient woodland**, which form notable landmarks within the generally open landscape.
- **Linear network of local roads following ridgelines and dropping down into valleys to connect rural settlements** provides vantage points from which to view often inaccessible valley landscapes

## 6. Ironstone Hills and Valleys

### Summary description

These two small areas of Ironstone Hills and Valleys are located in the north eastern section of the AONB, forming part of a broader area that extends further east. They comprise an upland area of rolling hills and valleys, with rounded ridgelines and intermittent isolated hills. Both areas are principally under arable cultivation, although with some improved and permanent pasture, mainly within the valley slopes and bottoms. Fields are medium to large in scale, regular and rectilinear and mainly enclosed by hedgerows with frequent trees. A settlement pattern of intermittent, nucleated villages and isolated farmsteads gains much of its character from the distinctive iron-bearing stone that make up the underlying geology of the area. Linear networks of local roads follow ridgelines, dropping down into valleys to connect rural settlements. Telecommunication masts are occasionally prominent.

### Landscape Sensitivity

The rural landscape of the Ironstone Hills and Valleys is highly sensitive to large scale developments that would introduce built and urbanising elements to otherwise agricultural areas. The landscape is made more sensitive by the wide panoramic views across the landscape from higher elevations and the generally limited woodland cover which would, if more extensive, enable new developments to be screened or integrated into their surroundings. Prominent hills are also sensitive to all forms of development due to their high visual prominence.

Areas fringing existing villages are the obvious location for new development. However, these are sensitive to proposals that may disrupt their characteristic clustered form, or obscure views to older village buildings

## 6. Ironstone Hills and Valleys

	Local Forces For Change	Potential Landscape Implications	Landscape Strategies and Guidelines
	<b>New Development</b>		
6.1	Development and expansion of settlements including residential, industrial, leisure etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Erosion of the rural, remote and tranquil character of the Ironstone Hills and Valleys and the landscape setting of historic hamlets.</li> <li>• Intrusion of expanded settlements into the landscape</li> <li>• Erosion of distinctive linear and nucleated settlement patterns due to settlement growth and coalescence</li> <li>• Proliferation of suburban building styles, housing estate layout and materials and the introduction of ornamental garden plants and boundaries</li> <li>• Illumination of existing 'dark skies'</li> <li>• Degradation of views</li> <li>• Upgrading of minor roads and lanes associated with new development and the introduction of suburbanising features such as lighting and kerbs</li> <li>• Loss/dilution of organic growth patterns of settlements including the relationship between the historic core and adjacent historic fields, paddocks and closes</li> <li>• Damage to road verges and roadside hedges and walls and the creation of informal passing places</li> <li>• Loss of archaeological and historical features, field patterns and landscapes.</li> <li>• Interruption, weakening or loss of the historic character of settlements and the historic context in how they have expanded, especially the importance of the relationship between the historic core of the settlement and surviving historic features such as churchyards, manor houses, burgage plots, historic farms, pre-enclosure paddocks and closes</li> <li>• Loss of archaeological and historical features, field patterns and landscapes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Avoid development that will intrude negatively into the landscape, for example, extensions to settlements on visible hillsides</li> <li>• Avoid development that may restrict or obscure views to or from the Ironstone Hills and Valleys</li> <li>• Ensure built development respects and integrates with the rural landscape character and does not interrupt the setting of settlements</li> <li>• Ensure the proposal is at a scale appropriate to the settlement</li> <li>• Ensure new development is proportionate and does not overwhelm the existing settlement.</li> <li>• Ensure that new development does not adversely affect settlement character and form</li> <li>• Avoid cramming development right up boundaries resulting in hard suburban style edge to settlement</li> <li>• Control the proliferation of suburban building styles and materials</li> <li>• Promote the conservation and/or encourage the restoration of existing stone buildings in preference to new built development in rural areas where appropriate.</li> <li>• Where restored or converted to new uses buildings must retain their historic integrity and functional character. Sound conservation advice and principles must be sought and implemented</li> <li>• Conserve existing dark skies through planning advice and control.</li> <li>• Avoid new sources of light pollution and seek opportunities, including by planning conditions, to reduce existing light pollution.</li> <li>• Conserve the remote character and tranquillity of the hills and valleys</li> <li>• Promote the use of local stone and building styles in the construction of new buildings and extensions to existing dwellings</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• Identify key viewpoints</li> <li>• Conserve the character of the local rural lane network</li> <li>• Introduction of weight restrictions.</li> <li>• Provide advice and guidance on road verge management</li> <li>• Ensure the density of new development reflects its location relative to the 'core' of the settlement. and its proximity to the surrounding rural landscape.</li> <li>• Avoid disconnecting the historic core of settlements from its rural</li> </ul>

## 6. Ironstone Hills and Valleys

	Local Forces For Change	Potential Landscape Implications	Landscape Strategies and Guidelines
			<p>surroundings particularly where there are village Conservation Areas.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote initiatives that remove heritage assets from 'at risk' status in Heritage at Risk Register.</li> <li>• Avoid proposals that result in the loss of archaeological and historical features or that impact on the relationship of the settlement and its links with surviving historical features.</li> <li>• Ensure 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.</li> <li>• Promote use of and application of heritage aspects of design guidelines.</li> <li>• Ensure the historic character and context are included in Neighbourhood Plans</li> </ul>
6.2	Isolated development such as new single dwellings and conversion of isolated farm buildings that might compromise rural and sparsely populated landscape character, including farm buildings converted to residential use.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Erosion of the settlement character of intermittent nucleated hamlets and isolated farmsteads across the Ironstone Hills and Valleys.</li> <li>• Visual intrusions introduced to the landscape</li> <li>• Upgrading of minor roads and lanes in areas of new development and introduction of suburbanising features such as gateways, kerbs and street lighting.</li> <li>• Introduction of 'lit' elements to characteristically dark valley landscapes.</li> <li>• 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</li> <li>• Loss of or weakening of open countryside between existing hamlets and farmsteads</li> <li>• Appearance of 'mini parklands' out of context with the surrounding landscape.</li> <li>• Appearance or extension of stables and 'white tape' field boundaries for horses and ponies. See section 6.8 below</li> <li>• Loss of tranquillity and sense of remoteness</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conserve the distinctive rural and sparse settlement pattern.</li> <li>• Restore existing stone farm buildings and structures in preference to new built development.</li> <li>• Where converted to new uses buildings must retain their historic integrity and functional character. Sound conservation advice and principles must be sought and implemented</li> <li>• Prevent the use of suburban building styles and materials.</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• Avoid the conversion of isolated farm buildings</li> <li>• Respect traditional position of agricultural buildings and their relationship to the surrounding land.</li> <li>• Landscaping schemes accompanying development should encourage the planting of appropriately sized native trees, shrubs and traditional fruit varieties, whilst discouraging large alien tree species such as eucalypts and conifers and inappropriate forms and cultivars of native species particularly on fringes of open countryside</li> </ul>
6.3	<p>Conversion of traditional farm buildings to new uses</p> <p>Deterioration in condition of vernacular farm buildings</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Erosion of distinctive features and loss of Cotswold character.</li> <li>• Domestication or industrialisation of existing agricultural vernacular and character.</li> <li>• Suburbanisation of the agricultural landscape by the introduction of gardens e.g. ornamental garden plants and boundary features, parking areas, lighting and conversion of tracks to manicured drives and ornamental gateways</li> <li>• Loss of locally historic features and erosion of the integrity of the historic landscape</li> <li>• Loss of historic features/character of distinctive buildings if converted to</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conserve vernacular farm buildings for their own sake and/or by developing other options for their use whilst retaining their agricultural character</li> <li>• Where converted to new uses buildings must retain their historic integrity and functional character. Sound conservation advice and principles must be sought and implemented</li> <li>• New uses should not prejudice the effective operation of the farm enterprise.</li> <li>• Avoid inappropriate new uses that necessitate excessive loss of original historic features or introduce elements that expand domestication or</li> </ul>

## 6. Ironstone Hills and Valleys

	Local Forces For Change	Potential Landscape Implications	Landscape Strategies and Guidelines
		<p>uses requiring inappropriate interventions to historic fabric and form.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Loss and erosion of Farmstead Character and how the buildings relate to the surrounding landscape and agricultural landuse</li> <li>Decline in quality of landscape</li> </ul>	<p>industrialisation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Discourage the conversion of farm buildings to a function with a limited life span and seek to prevent follow-on conversions e.g. for housing.</li> <li>Respect traditional position of agricultural buildings and their relationship to the surrounding land.</li> <li>Stabilise historic buildings and undertake localised scrub and woodland clearance to enhance their landscape setting and increase the contribution they make to landscape character.</li> <li>Ensure best practice is followed for the protection of species associated with farm buildings e.g. Bats</li> <li>Promote examples of good practice</li> </ul>
6.4	Solar Farms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Industrialisation of the rural landscape</li> <li>Change of character due to colour and texture and heliographic glint</li> <li>Loss of seasonal change in the landscape</li> <li>Loss of characteristic pastoral landscape</li> <li>Impact of supporting infrastructure such as buildings and cables, roadways, security fencing CCTV masts and lighting.</li> <li>Damage to and loss of landscape features such as Ridge and Furrow, trees, walls and hedgerows.</li> <li>Concealment or damage of geomorphological or archaeological features</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> <li>Reduce visual impact with appropriate screening</li> <li>Ensure a comprehensive LVIA is undertaken (including potential cumulative effects)</li> <li>Ensure a glint/glare assessment is undertaken to determine the heliographic impact on receptors.</li> <li>Bury cables underground and seek opportunities to bury existing overhead cables.</li> <li>Keep supporting infrastructure to a minimum and ensure it is in keeping with landscape character.</li> <li>Ensure removal and restoration of temporary construction access</li> <li>Avoid the inclusion of any security lighting proposals</li> <li>Seek appropriate landscape enhancement to field boundaries and margins within solar farm development proposals.</li> <li>Promote the use of roof space for photovoltaic panels particularly on modern farm buildings</li> </ul>
6.5	Development pressures on adjacent decommissioned airfields. Re-use of decommissioned airfields for large scale residential development or industrial uses.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dereliction/loss of buildings and features that represent monuments of 20th century conflict.</li> <li>Loss of habitat.</li> <li>Loss of tranquillity</li> <li>Increase in light pollution</li> <li>Increased traffic.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minimise impact of new development on the character of the Ironstone Hills and Valleys and the setting of the AONB.</li> <li>Prepare Development Brief or masterplan incorporating and based on a full contextual appraisal.</li> <li>Conserve features of historic interest.</li> <li>Prepare a Biodiversity Action Plan for each airfield.</li> <li>Promote use of existing buildings for commercial uses consistent with AONB.</li> <li>Resist inappropriately sited or large scale new building.</li> </ul>

## 6. Ironstone Hills and Valleys

	Local Forces For Change	Potential Landscape Implications	Landscape Strategies and Guidelines
6.6	New quarries and re-opening of former quarries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Visual impact of quarry and quarry traffic</li> <li>• Loss of tranquillity due to noise, movement, lighting and dust.</li> <li>• Loss of habitats and archaeological sites</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote policy that aggregates are produced only as a by-product of building stone</li> <li>• Apply the presumption against new large scale quarrying, particularly for aggregates.</li> <li>• Support small scale quarrying operations for walling and building stone paying regard to their impact on local landscape character, heritage and nature conservation interests.</li> <li>• Promote 'local stone for local use'</li> <li>• Ensure Quarry Restoration Plans respect landscape character and tranquillity of the Ironstone Hills and Valleys.</li> <li>• Seek opportunities for retention and access to geological and geomorphological features</li> <li>• Minimise loss of archaeological remains</li> <li>• Support restoration plans that restore to agriculture, biodiversity and/or quiet recreation</li> <li>• Resist after use for in-fill or recycling material from outside the Cotswolds.</li> </ul>
6.7	Introduction of vertical elements such as communication masts, wind turbines, electricity pylons and large road signs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduction of visually intrusive 'urban' or industrial features to rural landscapes</li> <li>• Loss of landscape character and 'natural' appearance</li> <li>• Breaking up of skylines</li> <li>• Introduction of unnatural movement and loss of tranquillity.</li> <li>• Intrusion on the setting of scheduled monuments, listed buildings and designed landscapes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conserve the agricultural and remote character by objecting to the development of vertical elements on the skyline or where they would adversely affect views within, to and from the Ironstone Hills and Valleys</li> <li>• Ensure the development of vertical elements in neighbouring areas beyond the AONB do not adversely affect views to and from the Ironstone Hills and valleys</li> <li>• Ensure alternative options have been fully considered</li> <li>• Minimise impact by utilising existing masts in preference to the erection of new masts.</li> <li>• Set masts against trees</li> <li>• Bury cables underground and seek opportunities to bury existing overhead cables.</li> <li>• Avoid use of visually prominent urban security fencing and CCTV masts.</li> <li>• Consider other renewable energy or communications technologies</li> <li>• Ensure full assessment of heritage setting impacts and appropriate measures undertaken</li> <li>• Seek to minimise size and number of road signs</li> </ul>

## 6. Ironstone Hills and Valleys

	Local Forces For Change	Potential Landscape Implications	Landscape Strategies and Guidelines
6.8	Proliferation of equestrian establishments.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Proliferation of stables and other visual clutter such as ribbon fences, jumps, horse boxes, shelters, manège and lighting associated with 'horsiculture'.</li> <li>• Creation of paddocks by sub-dividing fields using non-characteristic field boundary treatments such as post and rail fence or ribbon fences</li> <li>• Deterioration in pasture quality and over grazing</li> <li>• Degraded appearance to the pastoral landscape</li> <li>• Pressure to provide new housing for staff and owners</li> <li>• Creation of surfaced tracks, new and enlarged field entrances and parking areas for cars and horse boxes etc.</li> <li>• Increase in vehicle movements and roadside parking</li> <li>• Damage to road verges</li> <li>• Excessive use of local roads and paths by horses due in part to no direct or close connections to bridleways etc.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The creation of horse paddocks in visually prominent locations such as roadside and hill side locations should be avoided</li> <li>• Take into account proximity to bridleways etc</li> <li>• Where possible, existing buildings should be utilised and new stables and other structures kept to a minimum.</li> <li>• Ensure all new ventures provide accommodation within new stable buildings and proposals for separate isolated housing should be resisted</li> <li>• New structures should be carefully sited and designed to minimize their impact on the landscape. Wherever possible they should be located close to existing buildings. They should be constructed from appropriate vernacular materials and should follow the form of the landscape, avoiding prominent skyline sites and slopes</li> <li>• Jumps, temporary fences and other equipment should be well maintained and removed when not in use.</li> <li>• Any lighting should be designed to minimise light pollution, e.g. low level and directed downwards and fitted with timers.</li> <li>• .Oppose change of use for the 'keeping of horses' in visually prominent locations.</li> <li>• A concentration of horse paddocks and associated structures in any one area can have a cumulative harmful impact on landscape character and should be avoided</li> <li>• Where pastures need to be subdivided into smaller paddocks, temporary electric fencing is better than more permanent structures and offers greater flexibility in pasture management. Post and rail should be avoided.</li> <li>• Encourage the use of olive green tape, wider spacing of fence posts etc</li> <li>• Historic field boundaries, such as hedges, walls and fences should be maintained or extended, and new boundaries should match the local vernacular wherever possible.</li> <li>• Retain existing hedgerow trees and seek opportunities to plant or tag new hedgerow trees.</li> <li>• Ensure authorisation is obtained from the highway authority for new gates or stiles on public rights of way.</li> <li>• In some instances, hedges and dry stone walls may need protection by fencing to prevent damage</li> <li>• Jumps, temporary fences and other equipment should be well maintained and removed when not in use.</li> <li>• Existing gates and access points should be retained if possible, and new gates should match the local vernacular.</li> <li>• Historic features, including ridge and furrow pastures, stone troughs and stone stiles, should be protected from damage by equestrian uses.</li> </ul>

## 6. Ironstone Hills and Valleys

	Local Forces For Change	Potential Landscape Implications	Landscape Strategies and Guidelines
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote Board guidance on good practice</li> </ul>
6.9	Road upgrading and improvements, especially of minor country roads, as a result of development or general improvement schemes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Introduction of suburban features such as mini roundabouts, lighting, kerbs and traffic calming measures.</li> <li>Loss of historic character of the road network particularly in the valleys.</li> <li>Use of inappropriate materials such as standard highway kerbs, fences and barriers</li> <li>Loss of roadside hedges and walls</li> <li>Loss of verge/roadside habitat</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Refer to DMRB Vol 10 for general environmental design guidance.</li> <li>Conserve the rural character of the local road network.</li> <li>Avoid the upgrading of tracks or creation of roads, particularly on hillsides.</li> <li>Promote use of design and materials appropriate to local character.</li> <li>Resist the construction of 'village gateways', particularly those which are inappropriate and out of character</li> <li>Minimise the use of road markings, permanent signage and lighting, siting them with care and ensuring that they are in keeping with their surroundings wherever possible whilst fulfilling road safety requirements.</li> <li>Avoid making over-large and inappropriate entrances and keep visibility splays to a minimum</li> <li>Produce guidance on design and suitable materials.</li> <li>Promote use of 'shared space' for traffic calming measures in villages.</li> <li>Seek opportunities to conserve and enhance roadside boundaries and habitats and secure their long-term management.</li> <li>Promote road verge protection and management.</li> </ul>
6.10	Excessive traffic and/or speed on minor local roads and lanes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pressure to improve roads by widening and straightening, introduction of kerbs etc.</li> <li>Loss of tranquillity and danger to walkers/riders and other non-motorised users.</li> <li>Damage to verges and roadside boundaries by HGVs and agricultural vehicles</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote traffic restriction measures such as lorry routing maps.</li> <li>Maintain or reinstate rural character within settlements by promoting shared space and road design to slow and minimise traffic impact</li> <li>Ensure traffic management measures reflect the character and materials of the area.</li> <li>Apply national guidance on rural speed restrictions in sensitive areas (DfT Circular 01/2013 especially Para 128)</li> <li>Promote road verge protection and management</li> </ul>
	<b>Land use</b>		
6.11	Agricultural intensification, diversification and farm amalgamation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Construction of large scale industrial style agricultural 'sheds', silos and AD plants in prominent location, dominating the Hills and Valleys.</li> <li>Introduction of industrial elements into the landscape.</li> <li>Conversion of farm buildings to business or recreational uses.</li> <li>Loss of farmstead character</li> <li>Increased damage to roads, road verges, hedges and dry stone walls from large vehicles and increase in use.</li> <li>Pressure to upgrade narrow lanes and highway verge crossings.</li> <li>Introduction or expansion of lit elements in areas of characteristically dark valley.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conserve the isolated and rural character of the Hills and Valleys</li> <li>Ensure that new farm buildings including silos and AD plants etc do not have an adverse visual impact including on views to and from the Hills and Valleys</li> <li>Maintain the appearance and characteristic of isolated farmsteads and oppose proposals that will become dominant in the landscape</li> <li>Conserve the characteristic dark landscape</li> <li>Provide advice to farmers on the siting of new buildings, lighting, colour etc.</li> <li>Encourage the mitigation of existing large agricultural buildings e.g by</li> </ul>



## 6. Ironstone Hills and Valleys

	Local Forces For Change	Potential Landscape Implications	Landscape Strategies and Guidelines
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased risk of contamination of water courses from agricultural run-off</li> <li>• Field amalgamation and the loss of hedgerows and traditional field patterns.</li> <li>• Increased conversion of pasture to arable land.</li> <li>• Woodland creation on permanent pasture.</li> <li>• Removal of semi-natural vegetation cover and the poor maintenance and subsequent loss of field boundaries</li> <li>• Abandonment of permanent pasture resulting in the development and spread of scrub and secondary woodland on otherwise open slopes and valley floor pastures.</li> <li>• Damage to and loss of archaeological sites and field monuments from conversion of pasture to arable and from intensification of grazing</li> <li>• Move towards arable production on small mixed farms resulting in the removal or degradation of hedgerows and/ or loss of former pasture.</li> </ul>	<p>limited tree planting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encourage the installation of PV on the roofs of new agricultural buildings, avoiding risk of glint/glare.</li> <li>• Seek to conserve traditional farm buildings.</li> <li>• Respect traditional position of agricultural buildings and their relationship to the surrounding land.</li> <li>• Protect watercourses from the effects of eutrophication by ensuring farmers adopt mandatory requirements for the application of fertilisers and pesticides and the creation of buffer zones.</li> <li>• Encourage initiatives that seek to restore or enhance the quality of watercourses and their habitats</li> <li>• Monitor river nutrient levels.</li> <li>• Encourage small-scale mixed farming and encourage woodland and boundary management.</li> <li>• Avoid the conversion of pasture to arable particularly where archaeological sites/field monuments may be lost or damaged.</li> <li>• Encourage low intensity grazing or restrict access by livestock where archaeological sites/ field monuments may be lost or damaged</li> <li>• 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).</li> <li>• Retain existing hedgerow trees and seek opportunities to plant or tag new hedgerow trees.</li> <li>• Conserve areas of permanent pasture.</li> <li>• Ensure any woodland creation is in keeping with landscape character – see section 6.22</li> </ul>
6.12	Changes in land use and management within historic parks and gardens.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Weakening of the integrity of designed landscapes, parks and gardens.</li> <li>• Loss of or damage to elements of designed landscapes, parks and gardens.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conserve and enhance historic parks and gardens, including their setting.</li> <li>• Develop and implement management plans.</li> <li>• Restore lost elements of historic parks and gardens to restore the integrity of the designed landscape as a whole.</li> <li>• Conserve and enhance historic parks and gardens, including their setting</li> <li>• Develop and implement management plans</li> <li>• Restore lost elements of historic parks and gardens to restore the integrity of the designed landscape as a whole.</li> </ul>

## 6. Ironstone Hills and Valleys

	Local Forces For Change	Potential Landscape Implications	Landscape Strategies and Guidelines
6.13	<p>Loss of hedges as a result of inappropriate management, field amalgamation and through neglect</p> <p>Loss of hedgerow trees</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Degradation of medium scale hedgerow enclosed field patterns which are evident on the slopes.</li> <li>• Loss of the variety of enclosure patterns evident on the slopes.</li> <li>• Increase in fencing</li> <li>• Loss of hedgerow trees</li> <li>• Loss of wildlife corridors and habitat</li> <li>• Loss of elements of the historic environment including historic field patterns reflecting earlier agricultural systems</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conserve hedgerows and hedgerow trees and promote planting to infill gappy hedges.</li> <li>• Promote appropriate management regimes such as hedgelaying or restoration schemes such as coppicing and gapping up.</li> <li>• Where maintained by machine, ensure best practice cutting regimes</li> <li>• Priority should be given to species rich hedges that form part of ancient boundary patterns and areas where hedgerow patterns are a highly visual and contribute to local landscape character.</li> <li>• Retain the characteristic medium scale geometric field patterns on the slopes.</li> <li>• Conserve hedgerow trees and instigate a small scale programme to plant or select and tag new trees in hedgerows.</li> <li>• Remove post and wire and non-traditional post and rail fencing and where appropriate such as on former hedge lines, replace with hedges.</li> <li>• Ensure new hedges reflect the surrounding traditional field boundary patterns and inherent species mix found in that locality</li> </ul>
6.14	<p>Planting of energy crops such as Miscanthus, short rotation coppice and short rotation forestry.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Loss or seasonal interruption of views particularly from roads and public rights of way</li> <li>• Restriction of views across the Hills and Valleys</li> <li>• Loss of remaining permanent pasture</li> <li>• Archaeological sites, historic landscapes, geological and geomorphological sites damaged or obscured</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure energy crops are not planted where they would restrict or intrude into views, particularly open views across the landscape and on skyline sites.</li> <li>• Do not plant on semi-natural habitats, permanent pasture or on sites with Section 41, CROW Act or local BAP species that could be affected in a negative way.</li> <li>• Do not plant on sites where archaeological sites could be damaged or obscured or where significant historic landscapes would be adversely affected or on sites where features of geological or geomorphological importance would be obscured.</li> <li>• Promote Conservation Board guidance</li> </ul>
6.15	<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"> <li>• Suburbanisation of agricultural landscape by the introduction of gardens e.g ornamental garden plants and boundary features, parking areas, lighting and conversion of tracks to manicured drives and ornamental gateways</li> <li>• Loss of integrity, cohesion and character of historic farmsteads and associated farmland.</li> <li>• Loss of agricultural context</li> <li>• Shelterbelt planting for privacy screening</li> <li>• Appearance and proliferation of stables and 'white tape' field boundaries for horses and ponies. See 6.8</li> <li>• Sub-division of fields using post and rail fences</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Only permit new uses of traditional farm buildings that are appropriate to retain their historic character and features.</li> <li>• Use planning conditions to restrict subdivision of fields, construction of stables etc. Consider use of Article 4 Direction.</li> <li>• Ensure the separation of housing does not prejudice the effective operation of the farm enterprise</li> <li>• Avoid isolated development, particularly in areas of dark landscape</li> <li>• Respect traditional position of agricultural buildings and their relationship to the surrounding land</li> </ul>

## 6. Ironstone Hills and Valleys

	Local Forces For Change	Potential Landscape Implications	Landscape Strategies and Guidelines
6.16	<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"> <li>• Pressure for housing on plots of land</li> <li>• Loss of views from the public highway</li> <li>• Loss of roadside grassland habitat</li> <li>• Damage to hedges and walls</li> <li>• Creation of 'lawns' on the roadside due to regular mowing for tidiness leading to a homogenised and sub-urban appearance</li> <li>• Incremental change through introduction of urban elements eroding rural character; raised kerbs, unsympathetic surfacing, creation of fenced visibility splays etc from rural roads</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify key views from roads</li> <li>• Manage/remove verge scrub and trees, particularly where views can be restored or where there are benefits for biodiversity</li> <li>• Reintroduce appropriate verge management and mowing</li> <li>• Ensure highway authority planning conditions respect and are appropriate to rural character and situation</li> </ul>
6.17	Flood management and alleviation measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Construction of 'hard' flood defences</li> <li>• Tree planting for flood management inappropriate to landscape character</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Retain and manage watercourses in their naturalistic form. Seek opportunities to restore natural meanders etc, removing engineered channels, culverts etc to restore a functioning watercourse and floodplain.</li> <li>• Consider Rural Sustainable Drainage interventions such as in-stream woody barriers to slow peak water flow particularly within woodland.</li> <li>• Seek to influence surrounding land management such as contour ploughing, wide margins, de-compaction of soils and pasture etc.</li> <li>• Seek opportunities for temporary flood water storage on farmland</li> <li>• Ensure flood defences integrate into the landscape by using appropriate mitigation measures, landscaping and materials</li> <li>• Seek opportunities for tree planting for flood management in-keeping with landscape and woodland character - see Creation of Woodland section 6.22 below</li> <li>• Promote good soil management practice to assist with water retention</li> </ul>
6.18	Fencing of river corridors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• River edge becomes overgrown with rank vegetation due to a loss of grazing leading to loss of riparian habitat.</li> <li>• Imposition of fence line along valley bottom.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encourage low intensity grazing along floodplain and valley bottom meadows.</li> <li>• Encourage use of temporary fencing where possible.</li> </ul>
6.19	Lack of appropriate management in disused quarries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Loss of limestone flora due to the development of scrub and secondary woodland.</li> <li>• Loss of bat roosts and nesting sites for birds</li> <li>• Loss of geological exposures</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify disused quarries important for biodiversity and/or geology</li> <li>• Encourage appropriate management by providing advice and guidance</li> <li>• Seek planning conditions to ensure quarry restoration and aftercare benefit landscape and biodiversity, particularly unimproved grassland</li> </ul>
6.20	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"> <li>• Damage to important archaeological sites and important landscape features.</li> <li>• Loss of traditional field patterns</li> <li>• Loss of traditional field boundaries, particularly dry stone walls and hedgerows.</li> <li>• Loss of locally distinctive features such as ridge and furrow</li> <li>• Damage caused by livestock</li> <li>• Encroachment of scrub onto archaeological features</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inform landowners of important archaeological sites.</li> <li>• Protect all upstanding archaeological sites and consider the impact of development on their landscape setting.</li> <li>• Manage/remove burrowing animals</li> <li>• Restore the wider setting of key monuments to ensure that they do not read as islands amidst a sea of arable farming.</li> <li>• Raise awareness of the historic environment and of the HER as a source of information</li> </ul>

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide guidance on managing the historic environment to farmers and land owners</li> <li>• Retain traditional field patterns and field boundaries</li> <li>• Ensure tree planting does not take place on archaeological features.</li> <li>• Control scrub and manage existing trees on archaeological features to minimise damage for example by root damage or wind-blow.</li> <li>• Minimise or prevent damage to the historic environment by recreational activity by working with landowners to prepare site management plans and if necessary limit access.</li> <li>• Repair badly eroded features such as earthworks and dry stone walls.</li> </ul>
6.21	Loss of and damage to geological features due to tree growth and erosion.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Loss of sites that provide an understanding of the Cotswold landscape.</li> <li>• Loss of features such as the succession of valleys and ridges and the distinctive isolated hills capped with Northamptonshire sandstone.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify important geological features and ensure they are conserved and appropriately managed.</li> </ul>
<b>Woodland and trees</b>			
6.22	Creation of woodland and planting of shelterbelts and farm copses.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased woodland cover diminishing the open character of the landscape.</li> <li>• Loss of character of steeply sided convoluted valleys and rolling rounded hills.</li> <li>• Loss of remaining permanent pasture</li> <li>• Loss of character</li> <li>• Loss or restriction of views</li> <li>• Increased sense of inclosure of the landscape, particularly from the public highway</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Woodland creation is not appropriate within this landscape type.</li> <li>• Promote the felling of inappropriate coniferous plantations and replanting of farm woodlands on enclosure age woodland footprints using species native to the area.</li> <li>• Ensure any new woodland reflects the prevailing shape and scale of existing small, rectilinear woodland.</li> <li>• Avoid planting on permanent pasture.</li> <li>• Retain and conserve areas of permanent pasture/ unimproved grassland</li> <li>• Select species characteristic of the ancient semi-natural woodland of the area.</li> <li>• Seek EIA determination if necessary.</li> <li>• For shelterbelts and plantations associated with designed landscapes, select species characteristic of historic designed landscape in the area.</li> </ul>
6.23	Decline in woodland condition due to neglect, or inappropriate management of existing woodlands.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Degradation and loss of woodland habitats and wildlife corridors.</li> <li>• Degradation and loss of woodland habitats particularly ancient semi-natural woodland.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conserve and enhance areas of existing woodland through effective long-term management and replanting.</li> <li>• Consideration should be given to preserving their irregular forms, relationship to landform and interlocking patterns with hedgerows.</li> </ul>

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6.24	Impact of tree disease such as Chalara Dieback of ash.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Change of colour and texture of woodland canopy as trees die</li> <li>• Thinning of woodland canopy</li> <li>• Loss of mature hedgerow trees</li> <li>• Loss of single, sometimes veteran, trees in the landscape</li> <li>• Re-stocking with species not native to the Cotswolds</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote Woodland Management Plans to minimise the impact of disease and manage change</li> <li>• Recommend alternative species to ash that reflect the appearance and structure of Cotswold woodland</li> <li>• Consider different provenance of ash that may be disease resistant</li> <li>• Establish a programme to plant replacement trees in the landscape outside of woodlands e.g. hedgerow trees, wood pasture and parkland.</li> <li>• Seek Arboriculturalist advice</li> </ul>