

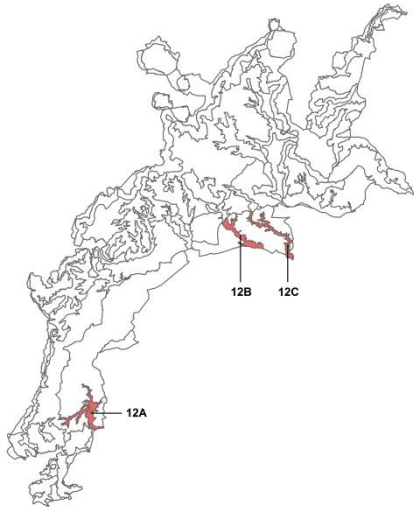
12. Dip-slope Lowland Valley

Character Areas

12A Upper By Brook Valley

12B Lower Coln Valley

12C Lower Leach Valley



Key Features

Upper By Brook

- **Narrow, deeply incised sections along the Upper By Brook and its tributaries** contrast with the shallower valley form of the Thames catchment Dip-Slope Lowland Valleys.
- **Extensive areas of broadleaved woodland including ancient woodlands**, and intermittent coniferous plantations interspersed with species rich grassland cloak steeper valley slopes bordering the By Brook and its tributaries.

Thames Tributaries (Coln and Leach)

- **Well-defined valley form with convex slope profile** at transition onto the adjacent Dip-Slope Lowland landscape.
- **Progressively shallower and more open valley form within the lower reaches** of the Thames tributaries extending into the very gently undulating landscape of the Thames Basin.
- **Pronounced valley meanders, and interlocking spurs. Rivers meander through flat alluvial valley bottoms** that become progressively wider towards the lower reaches of the valleys.
- **Linear belts of mixed and broadleaved woodland follow steeper landform and often extend up to the river edge.** These often combine with hedgerow and hedgerow trees to create the impression of a well-wooded landscape and represent important green ways linking the river to the wider landscape.

All river valleys:

- **Intimate, small scale, settled landscape character** with landform and woodlands restricting long views out of the valleys.
- **Predominance of open pastoral farmland of improved grassland interweave between intermittent wooded slopes and along valley bottoms, together with pockets of arable land, particularly on the shallower slopes** extending onto the neighbouring Dip-Slope Lowlands providing seasonal variations in texture and colour.
- **Sequence of stone built villages occupying secluded locations in valley bottoms**, often in association with a bridging point and on valley sides.
- **Occasional farmsteads within the more open valley sections** linking to farmed areas on the adjacent Dip-Slope Lowlands.
- **Limited road network within valleys, generally confined to a single valley side road, or routes that cross the valley at long established bridging points** contributes to their secluded rural character.
- **Some areas of the valleys, including tributary valleys are only accessible on foot** and retain a remote rural character.

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Summary description

The distinctive valleys within the Dip-Slope landscape comprise the shallow, open lower reaches of tributaries that drain to the Thames, and the deeply-incised valleys that drain into the Bristol Avon. Both areas present a small scale, intimate and settled character, with long views restricted by topography and woodland. A mainly pastoral farmland of improved pasture with pockets of arable land extends between intermittently wooded slopes, mainly broadleaved, and along the valley bottoms. Sequences of villages also occur in the valley bottoms, often associated with bridging points. Farms are occasionally present in the more open sections of the valleys. A limited network of roads either cut across or run along the valley bottoms. Some areas are only accessible on foot, and hence retain a remote, rural character.

Landscape Sensitivity

The Dip-Slope Lowland Valleys are deeply rural and are therefore sensitive to developments that might compromise this characteristic. A number of deeply incised stretches of the valleys and some tributaries are inaccessible other than by foot and are therefore highly sensitive to development that might erode their remote character. These stretches also often contain significant areas of semi-natural broadleaved ancient woodland and species rich grassland, which in view of their national importance are highly sensitive to all forms of development that might result in their loss or damage.

In the more developed sections of the valleys, and where a strong woodland framework exists, the landscape is less sensitive due to tree cover offering opportunities to successfully integrate small scale developments into their surroundings. However, development should avoid the sensitive and more visually prominent upper valley slopes and areas of floodplain bordering the river channel.

Existing valley settlements also have a reduced sensitivity to change. However, consideration should be given to the contribution that sections of the valley sides make to landscape and townscape character, particularly where these sensitive landscapes form a rural backdrop to the setting of valley villages.

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	Local Forces For Change	Potential Landscape Implications	Landscape Strategies and Guidelines
	New Development		
12.1	Development, expansion and infilling of riverside settlements including residential, industrial and leisure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intrusion of expanded settlement fringes into the landscape. • Erosion of distinctive settlement patterns due to settlement growth and coalescence. • Built development on the margins of the floodplain forms a prominent edge alongside open meadows having impacts on views along the valley floor, particularly the river channel. • 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 sparsely settled character of the Dip-slope Lowland Valley 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 on visible valley slopes. • Ensure new development is proportionate and does not overwhelm the existing settlement • Ensure that new development does not adversely affect settlement character and form or impact on views of key features such as church towers. • 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 built development on the fringes of the floodplain is visually integrated with the rural landscape setting and does not interrupt the setting of existing villages or views along the valley. • 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

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	Local Forces For Change	Potential Landscape Implications	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 Rigtgs of Way network.
12.2	Isolated development such as new single dwellings and conversion of farm buildings that might compromise rural landscape character, the sense of isolation and settlement patterns,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visual intrusions introduced to the landscape • Erosion of the sparse settlement pattern of the Dip-slope Lowland Valleys • Introduction of 'lit' elements to characteristically dark landscapes. • Loss of remote character to areas only accessible on foot • 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 and sense of seclusion. • 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 12.6 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. • Avoid isolated development in secluded areas of the valleys only accessible on foot. • Conserve areas of dark skies • Oppose new housing in the Dip-slope Lowland Valley (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 built development, including cumulative development on views to and from the adjacent landscape types • 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

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	Local Forces For Change	Potential Landscape Implications	Landscape Strategies and Guidelines
			<p>and conifers and inappropriate cultivars of native species, particularly on fringes of open countryside.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Respect traditional position of agricultural buildings and their relationship to the surrounding land • Introduce vehicle weight restrictions to prevent damage to verges and roadside boundaries
12.3	<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 	<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 • Avoid conversion of traditional farm buildings to new uses such as residential and industrial in secluded areas of the valleys only accessible on foot. • 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
12.4	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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prevent proposals for solar farms that will impact negatively on landscape character and/or intrude into views • 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 Strip Lynchets, hedgerows and walls • Ensure a glint/glare assessment is undertaken to determine the heliographic impact on receptors. • Reduce landscape impact with appropriate screening

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decline in quality of landscape 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 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
12.5	Introduction of vertical elements such as communication masts, wind turbines and electricity pylons, particularly on valley rims	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduction of visually intrusive 'urban' or industrial features to the intimate, small scale landscape of the river valleys Introduction of unnatural movement and loss of tranquillity and sense of remoteness. Introduction lit elements to a characteristically dark landscape Adds to the significant impact of existing electricity pylon lines. Intrusion on the setting of scheduled monuments, listed buildings and designed landscapes Breaking up of the valley skyline Loss of intimate, secluded character 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conserve the intimate character of the Dip-slope Lowland Valley by objecting to the development of vertical elements where these would adversely affect views along the valleys Ensure the development of vertical elements in neighbouring LCTs and areas beyond the AONB do not adversely affect views along and across the valleys. 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 Seek to minimise the size and number of road signs
12.6	Proliferation of horse paddocks and 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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The creation of horse paddocks in visually prominent locations such a roadside and valley 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 skyline sites and slopes

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	Local Forces For Change	Potential Landscape Implications	Landscape Strategies and Guidelines
		<p>direct or close connections to bridleways etc.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase in vehicle movements and roadside parking • Damage to road verges 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jumps, temporary fences and other equipment should be well maintained and removed when not in use. • Any lighting should be designed to minimise light pollution, e.g. low level and directed downwards and fitted with timers. • Oppose change of use for the 'keeping of horses' in visually prominent locations. • A concentration of horse paddocks and associated structures in any one area can have a cumulative harmful impact on landscape character and should be avoided • Where pastures need to be subdivided into smaller paddocks, temporary electric fencing is better than more permanent structures and offers greater flexibility in pasture management. Post and rail should be avoided. • Encourage the use of olive green tape, wider spacing of fence posts etc • Historic field boundaries, such as hedges, walls and fences should be maintained or extended, and new boundaries should match the local vernacular wherever possible. • Ensure authorisation is obtained from the highway authority for new gates or stiles on public rights of way • In some instances, hedges and dry stone walls may need protection by fencing to prevent damage • Jumps, temporary fences and other equipment should be well maintained and removed when not in use. • Existing gates and access points should be retained if possible, and new gates should match the local vernacular. • Historic features, including ridge and furrow pastures, stone troughs and stone stiles, should be protected from damage by equestrian uses. • Promote Board guidance on good practice
12.7	<p>Development of scrub and trees on roadside verges.</p> <p>Mowing of verges at inappropriate times</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loss of views from the public highway • Loss of roadside grassland habitat • Damage to dry stone walls and hedges and other features • Creation of 'lawns' on the roadside due to regular mowing for tidiness leading to suburbanization and a homogenized appearance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify key views from roads • Manage/remove verge scrub and trees • Reintroduce appropriate verge management and mowing • Promote best practice management of verges

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12.8	<p>Excessive traffic and/or speed on minor local roads and lanes and verge parking.</p> <p>Increase in size of vehicle using lanes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pressure to improve roads by widening, straightening and improving sightlines • Loss of tranquillity • Danger to walkers/riders and other non-motorised users. • Damage to road verges and roadside boundaries by HGVs and agricultural vehicles 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote traffic restriction measures such as speed limits and lorry routing maps. • 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 • Encourage cycling on safe routes • Promote road verge protection and management • Promote quiet lanes.
12.9	<p>Road upgrading and improvements, especially of minor country roads, as a result of development or general improvement schemes.</p>	<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. • Maintain or reinstate rural character within towns and villages by promoting shared space and road design to slow and minimise traffic impact • Seek opportunities to conserve and enhance roadside boundaries and habitats and secure their long-term management
Land use			
12.10	<p>Agricultural intensification and in particular intensification of cattle grazing, conversion of permanent pasture on valley sides to arable, the removal of semi-natural vegetation cover and the poor maintenance and subsequent</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. 	<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 along and across the Dip-slope Lowland Valleys. • 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

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	loss of traditional field boundaries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decline in maintenance of 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 to arable • Unmanaged hedges growing tall obscuring views and changing landscape character • Eutrophication of water courses from farm run off. • Localised poaching of wet pastures by sustained grazing. • Increased area of arable land on valley sides. • Loss of already limited areas of ancient broadleaved woodland and species rich grasslands on steeper slopes • Damage or loss of ancient broadleaved woodland • Loss of characteristic valley floor meadows/pastures and remnant areas of unimproved grassland on valley slopes • 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 • Loss of Farmstead character. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 • Encourage small-scale farming in LCT 12A (By Brook Valley). • Encourage appropriate management of woodlands and non-woodland trees • Monitor river nutrient levels. • Encourage low intensity grazing along floodplain and valley bottom meadows. • Protect remnant areas of ancient woodland, species rich grassland and ancient/veteran trees. • Promote opportunities to extend and link woodlands on valley sides to areas of riverside habitat, encouraging the use of natural regeneration where possible. • 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 and maintenance • 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, min-tillage, direct drilling and other damage reduction methods). • Oppose proposals to convert pasture to arable particularly where archaeological sites/field monuments may be lost or damaged • Conserve field boundary and in-field trees and seek opportunities to plant replacements • Ensure any woodland creation is in keeping with landscape character – see section 12.23

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	Local Forces For Change	Potential Landscape Implications	Landscape Strategies and Guidelines
12.11	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 and along the valley floor Increased sense of inclosure 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 views across or along the valleys and on valley rims 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 Cotswolds Conservation Board guidance
12.12	Loss of dry stone walls due to abandonment, development of volunteer hedges, replacement with hedges or fences or removal to build/restore a wall elsewhere.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Loss of a key feature characteristic of the Cotswolds, particularly in and around the Dip-slope Lowland Valley settlements Change in landscape character through the replacement of dry stone walls with hedges and fences. Weakening/loss of field patterns, particularly those that reflect the pre-enclosure open field system Loss of features in the walls such as stone stiles 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage the retention and maintenance of dry stone walls. Ensure dry stone wall retention and maintenance are included in agri-environment schemes Provide guidance on Delves – small scale on-farm quarries for walling stone Seek opportunities for dry stone wall construction and repair through planning mitigation Where possible use stone that reflects the colour, thickness etc of local stone walls Prevent the formation of volunteer hedges
12.13	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"> 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 the 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
12.14	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. Promote the flood management function of meadows/pasture

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	Local Forces For Change	Potential Landscape Implications	Landscape Strategies and Guidelines
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 12.23 below
12.15	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 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
12.16	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 individual tree planting to ensure that there is a new generation of locally native riverside trees and pollards.
12.17	Deterioration in condition of vernacular farm buildings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Erosion of distinctive features and loss of Cotswold character. • Loss of locally historic features and erosion of the integrity of the historic landscape • Decline in quality of landscape 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conserve vernacular farm buildings for their own sake and/or by developing other options for their use whilst retaining their agricultural character
12.18	<p>Damage to field monuments and archaeological sites and the historic environment from, farming operations, tree root damage, woodland management operations and tree planting, burrowing animals</p> <p>Loss of local distinctiveness due to repair and replacement e.g stone built bridges</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Damage to important archaeological sites and important landscape features. • Loss of traditional stone built bridges • Loss of traditional field patterns • Loss of traditional field boundaries, particularly dry stone walls and hedgerows. • Damage caused by livestock • Damage caused by recreational activity • Loss of locally distinctive features such as stone built bridges, well heads and wash pools • Encroachment of scrub onto archaeological features 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inform landowners of important archaeological sites • Protect all archaeological and historical sites and consider the impact of development on their landscape setting. • Manage/remove burrowing animals • Restore the wider setting of key monuments to ensure that they do not read as islands amidst a sea of arable farming. • Raise awareness of the historic environment and of the HER as a source of information • Provide guidance on managing the historic environment to farmers and landowners • Ensure bridge replacement or repair is in character with the area. • 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. • Repair badly eroded features such as earthworks • Avoid planting new hedgerows or the development of volunteer hedges adjacent to dry stone walls
12.19	Loss of and damage to geological features due to tree growth, erosion and landfill.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loss of sites that provide an understanding of the Cotswold landscape • Loss of visible features such as landslip, dry valleys, valley bulges, convex slopes, interlocking spurs and river meanders 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify important geological and geomorphological features and ensure they are conserved and appropriately managed.

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	Local Forces For Change	Potential Landscape Implications	Landscape Strategies and Guidelines
12.20	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
12.21	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 further bank instability 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
12.22	Potential for decline in grazing stock.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loss of characteristic of grazing animals in the landscape • Scrub encroachment and loss of species rich grassland due to invasion of dominant grass species. • Development of secondary woodland • Loss of characteristic pastoral landscape • Change in colour and texture in the landscape due to rank vegetation and scrub • Tendency for 'abandoned land' to be targeted for conversion into arable or woodland or for development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conserve areas of permanent pasture • Consider traditional management regimes to limit scrub encroachment on areas of permanent pasture, especially species rich grassland. • Retain or reintroduce grazing on grasslands • Produce guidance on scrub management
Woodland and trees			
12.23	Planting of large scale coniferous and broadleaved woodlands.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase of inappropriate woodland cover diminishing the more open, pastoral farmland. • Cumulative impact of woodland creation leading to a change in landscape character. • Increased sense of inclosure of the landscape, particularly from the public highway • Loss of Historic Landscape Character through inappropriate siting and/or species 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote opportunities to extend and link woodlands on valley sides to areas of riverside habitat, encouraging the use of natural regeneration where possible • Encourage new planting and natural regeneration in and around existing woodlands, giving preference to areas of ancient woodland. • Ensure new woodland reflects the prevailing shape and scale of existing woodlands • Have regard to the cumulative impact of woodland creation and tree planting on the open character of the High Wold Dip Slope • Select species characteristic of ancient semi-natural woodland in the area. • Discourage 'ad-hoc' planting through agri-environment schemes • Seek EIA determination if necessary • Conserve and enhance areas of existing woodland particularly areas of ancient woodland. • Discourage conifer planting (unless a nurse) and encourage the use of native broadleaves or species that reflect local broadleaved woodland • Locate new woodland and copses in historically characteristic

12. Dip-slope Lowland Valley

	Local Forces For Change	Potential Landscape Implications	Landscape Strategies and Guidelines
			<p>topographical locations including their relationship to farmsteads and settlements.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For shelterbelts and plantations associated with designed landscapes, select species characteristic of historic designed landscape planting in the area. • Conserve field boundary and in-field trees and seek opportunities to plant replacements • Ensure adequate deer management and squirrel control
12.24	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
12.25	A piecemeal decline in existing woodland cover 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 and Countryside Stewardship to woodland owners • Restore PAWS and safeguard ancient woodland • Retain and plant replacements for non-woodland trees. • Conserve areas of permanent pasture/improved grassland