

16. Broad Floodplain Valley

Character Areas

16A Lower Windrush Valley

16B Lower Evenlode Valley



Key Features

- **Intimate, small scale settled and relatively busy landscape**, contrasts with the more remote neighbouring areas of High Wold.
- **Well-defined, broad valley profile of open flat floodplain, river terraces and gentle convex slopes** indicative of a maturing lowland river and subject to periodic flooding, which provides fertile grazing land.
- **River floodplain features such as meanders, water meadows, ponds, old river channels and islands** provide visual interest and variety to the floodplain landscape as well as being of nature conservation interest.
- **Floodplain and riverside trees including pollarded willows** are a distinctive element of the landscape.
- **Wooded bluffs and areas of species rich grassland on areas of steep landform** form habitats of considerable nature conservation value in an otherwise agricultural landscape.
- **River corridor marked by main transport routes through the valley** introduce movement and noise to an otherwise quiet, rural landscapes.
- **Valley sides cloaked in improved pasture and arable land** forming a back drop to the valley floor landscapes and settlements.
- **Land use within valley floor and floodplain dominated by pasture** although some extensive areas of arable land also occur on areas less prone to flooding offering contrasting land use elements and seasonal variations in colour and texture.
- **Fields defined by hedgerows and some stone walls** although the robust framework is eroded by hedgerow loss and the use of post and wire fences.
- **River channel habitats, including standing water** important to a diverse range of flora and fauna.
- **Prolific archaeological remains** likely to be hidden by fluvial and human activity.
- **Linear settlements** often located at ancient bridging and fording points established in the Saxon or medieval period.
- **Historic character of villages** evident in their distinctive layout, building styles and use of Oolitic limestone.

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Summary description

The lower valleys and broad floodplains of the Windrush and Evenlode rivers form a marked contrast with the valleys within the High Wold and High Wold DipSlope above. Small in scale and relatively 'busy', the valleys have a well defined profile that limits distant views and creates an impression of intimacy. Floodplain landscape of valley floors is distinguished by lush wet pasture and meadow, bordered by a patchwork of improved pasture and arable fields. Woodland, rough grassland, copses and shelterbelts add texture. Large fields on the valley plain give way to medium to large fields on the valley sides. Fields are generally defined by a strong framework of hedges with some stone walls, although fencing has begun to encroach. Riverside and floodplain trees fringe the meandering watercourses that support a rich diversity of flora and fauna.

Landscape Sensitivity

The broad valleys retain a quiet, rural character. The landscape along the valley floor has an intimate, enclosed character with views limited by vegetation and landform. Wide views from the upper valley slopes and over long stretches of the valley are possible, thus increasing the sensitivity of the valleys to large scale built development that might interrupt views or impact on their rural character. Limited woodland cover in the valleys further reduces the capacity of the valleys to accommodate development as there is little to integrate new structures to their surroundings. The gently sloping valley sides also have limited development capacity as they often form an agricultural backdrop to views from the valley floor.

The floodplain and valley floor are highly sensitive to development. Traditionally these areas have been undeveloped and retained as seasonal grazing land although limited areas are increasingly being used for permanent pasture and arable farming. The floodplain retains many features of nature conservation and historic/ archaeological interest that are sensitive to development. Indeed the natural river profile is also an important feature of the landscape that should be protected and enhanced wherever possible.

Existing settlements along the valley floor and on the valley sides may have some capacity for built development although new buildings should respect local building styles and materials, ensuring that key views along the valleys to and from prominent features such as churches are retained and that settlement forms are perpetuated in the layout and location of new development.

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| | New Development | | |
| 16.1 | Development, expansion and infilling of settlements including those adjacent to the AONB such as Witney and Long Hanborough, including residential, industrial, leisure etc | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intrusion of expanded settlement fringes into the landscape including within the setting of the AONB • Degradation of views along and across the Broad Floodplain Valleys • Impact or loss of views of key features such as church towers across the landscape. • Built development on the margins of the floodplain forms a prominent edge alongside open meadows having impacts on views along the river channel • Erosion of distinctive settlement patterns due to settlement growth and coalescence. • Loss/dilution of organic growth patterns of settlements including the relationship between the historic core and adjacent historic fields, paddocks and closes • Proliferation of suburban building styles, housing estate layout and materials and the introduction of ornamental garden plants and boundary features. • Upgrading of minor roads and lanes associated with new development and the introduction of suburbanising features such as mini roundabouts, street lighting, Highway fencing, kerbs and traffic calming measures • Increased traffic leading to increased damage to road verges and roadside hedges and walls and the creation of informal passing places • Introduction and accumulation of lit areas and erosion of characteristically dark skies. • Urban fringe impacts such as fly tipping and dumping of cars • Loss of wet meadows and riverine habitat. • Potential loss of archaeological remains and historic features. • Loss of archaeological and historical features, field patterns and landscapes. • Interruption, weakening or loss of the historic character of settlements and the historic context in how they have expanded, especially the importance of the relationship between the historic core of the settlement and surviving historic features such as churchyards, manor houses, burgage plots, historic farms, pre-enclosure paddocks and closes | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoid development on floodplain. • Maintain the pastoral and sparsely settled character and open valley floor of the Broad Floodplain 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 in areas of open landscape • Ensure that new development does not adversely affect the wider rural landscape and views to and from the AONB. • Ensure new development is proportionate and does not overwhelm the existing settlement • Avoid ribbon development along major access or through routes • Avoid developments incorporating standardised development layout, suburban style lighting, construction details and materials that cumulatively can lead to the erosion of peaceful landscape character. • Layout of development should respect local built character and avoid cramming up to boundaries resulting in hard suburban style edge to the settlement. • Control the proliferation of suburban building styles and materials • Promote the conservation and/or encourage the restoration of existing stone buildings in preference to new built development particularly in rural areas. • Where restored or converted to new uses buildings must retain their historic integrity and functional character. Sound conservation advice and principles must be sought and implemented • Promote the use of local stone and building styles in the construction of new buildings and extensions to existing dwellings. (New buildings should, at least, respect local vernacular style). • Ensure that new development does not adversely affect settlement character and form or impact on views of key features such as church towers/spires. • Conserve the existing dark skies between settlements • Adopt measures to minimise and where possible reduce light pollution • Retain existing trees, hedges, dry stone walls etc as part of the scheme for green infrastructure and to reflect historic field patterns etc. • Ensure new development is visually integrated into its surroundings and does not interrupt the setting of existing settlements. 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 |

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| | | | <p>'core' of the settlement and its proximity to the surrounding rural landscape</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoid disconnecting the historic core of the settlement from its rural surroundings, particularly village Conservation Areas. • Conserve floodplain habitats. • Introduce vehicle weight restrictions to prevent damage to verges and roadside boundaries • Promote advice and guidance on road verge management • Preserve archaeological and historical features and deposits and promote initiatives that remove heritage assets from at risk' status in the Heritage at Risk Register. • Avoid proposals that result in the loss of archaeological and historical features or that impact on the relationship of the settlement and its links with surviving historical features. • Ensure the historic character and context are included in Neighbourhood Plans • Consider the impact on local Public Rights of Way as settlements expand and take into account any required improvements • Ensure development proposals safeguard and provide new links and enhancements to the Public Rights of Way network |
| 16.2 | <p>Isolated development such as new single dwellings and conversion of farm buildings that might compromise rural landscape character and dispersed settlement patterns including farm buildings converted to residential use.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visual intrusions introduced to the landscape • Erosion of the sparse settlement pattern of the Broad Floodplain Valley • Loss of characteristic pastoral landscape and open valley floor • Introduction of 'lit' elements to characteristically dark landscapes. • Upgrading of minor roads and lanes in areas of new development and introduction of suburbanising features such as gateways, kerbs, and lighting. • Loss of tranquility. • Suburbanisation and domestication of agricultural landscape by the introduction of gardens e.g ornamental garden plants and boundary features, parking areas, lighting, and conversion of tracks to manicured drives and ornamental gateways • Appearance of 'mini parklands' out of context with the surrounding landscape. • Appearance or extension of stables and 'white tape' field boundaries for horses and ponies (see 17.9 below) • Damage to road verges and roadside hedges and walls and the creation of informal passing places | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoid isolated development, that will intrude negatively into the landscape and cannot be successfully mitigated against. • Conserve areas of dark skies • Oppose new housing in the Broad Floodplain 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 the 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 pastoral character and sense of openness along the valley floor and consider the impact of development, including cumulative development on views to and from the adjacent landscape types such as the High Wold and dip-slope and on the setting of the AONB • Control the proliferation of suburban building styles and materials. • Landscaping schemes accompanying development should encourage the |

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| | | | <p>planting of appropriately sized native trees, shrubs and traditional fruit varieties, whilst discouraging large alien tree species such as eucalypts and conifers and inappropriate cultivars of native species, particularly on fringes of open countryside.</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 |
| 16.3 | <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 • 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. • Introduction or expansion of lit elements in the valleys • Loss and erosion of Farmstead Character and how the buildings relate to the surrounding landscape and agricultural landuse • 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 |
| 16.4 | 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 hedges • Impact of supporting infrastructure such as buildings, cables, roadways, security fencing, CCTV masts and lighting. • Concealment of geomorphological or archaeological features • Decline in quality of landscape | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prevent proposals for solar farms that will impact negatively on landscape character and/or intrude into views including from the adjacent High Wold and Dip-slope landscape types • Ensure a comprehensive LVIA is undertaken (including potential cumulative effects) • Avoid proposals that will result in the loss or harm to landscape features such as ridge and furrow, hedgerows and walls • Ensure a glint/glare assessment is undertaken to determine the heliographic impact on receptors. • Reduce landscape impact with appropriate screening • Bury cables underground and seek opportunities to bury existing overhead cables • Keep supporting infrastructure to a minimum and ensure it is in keeping with |

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| | | | <p>landscape character.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 |
| 16.5 | <p>Introduction of vertical elements such as communication masts, wind turbines, electricity pylons and large road signs, particularly in locations that impact on skylines and views along and across the valleys.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction of visually intrusive 'urban' or industrial features to the pastoral and often open character of the Broad Floodplain Valley and views across it from the neighbouring High Wold and dip-slope landscapes • Introduction of unnatural movement and loss of tranquillity and sense of remoteness. • Introduction of lit elements to a characteristically dark landscape • Intrusion on the setting of scheduled monuments, listed buildings and designed landscapes • Breaking up of the skyline • Loss of intimate, pastoral character | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conserve the intimate, pastoral character and open valley floors of the Broad Floodplain Valley by objecting to the development of vertical elements where these would adversely affect views • Ensure the development of vertical elements in neighbouring LCTs and areas beyond the AONB do not adversely affect views to and from the Broad Floodplain Valley • 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 |
| 16.6 | <p>Proliferation and concentration of equestrian establishments.</p> | <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 due in part to no direct of close connections to bridleways etc. • Increase in vehicle movements and roadside parking • Damage to road verges | <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 to bridleways etc • Where possible, existing buildings should be utilised and new stables and other structures kept to a minimum. • Ensure all new ventures provide accommodation within new stable buildings and proposals for separate isolated housing should be resisted • New structures should be carefully sited and designed to minimize their impact on the landscape. Wherever possible they should be located close to existing buildings. They should be constructed from appropriate vernacular materials and should follow the form of the landscape, avoiding prominent locations • Jumps, temporary fences and other equipment should be well maintained and removed when not in use. • Any lighting should be designed to minimise light pollution, e.g. low level and directed downwards and fitted with timers. |

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| | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. • Retain existing hedgerow trees and seek opportunities to plant or tag new hedgerow trees • 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 |
| 16.7 | Road upgrading and improvements, especially of minor country roads, as a result of development or general improvement schemes. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction of suburban features such as mini roundabouts, lighting, kerbs and traffic calming measures. • Use of inappropriate materials (e.g. standard highway fences and barriers) • Increased traffic movement • Loss of roadside hedges and walls • Loss of verge/roadside habitat | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refer to DMRB Vol 10 for general environmental design guidance. • Conserve the rural character of the local road network • Resist the construction of 'village gateways', particularly those which are inappropriate and out of character. • Minimise the use of road markings, permanent signage and lighting, siting them with care and ensuring that they are in keeping with their surroundings wherever possible whilst fulfilling road safety requirements. • Avoid making over-large and inappropriate entrances and keep visibility splays to a minimum • Promote use of design and materials appropriate to local character. • Produce guidance on design and suitable materials. • Promote use of 'shared space' for traffic calming measures in villages. • Seek opportunities to conserve and enhance roadside boundaries and habitats and secure their long-term management |

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| 16.8 | Excessive traffic and/or speed on minor local roads and lanes. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pressure to improve roads by widening and straightening. • Loss of tranquillity and danger to walkers/riders and other non-motorised users. • Damage to verges and roadside boundaries by HGVs and agricultural vehicles | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote traffic restriction measures such as lorry routing maps, speed limits and weight restrictions • Promote 'Quiet Lane' initiatives • Maintain or reinstate rural character within towns and villages by promoting shared space and road design to slow and minimise traffic impact • Apply national guidance on rural speed restrictions in sensitive areas (DfT Circular 01/2013 especially Para 128) • Ensure traffic management measures reflect the character and materials of the area. • Encourage use of public transport, car sharing etc • Promote quiet lane initiatives • Encourage cycling on safe routes • Promote road verge protection and management |
| Land use | | | |
| 16.9 | Agricultural intensification and in particular intensification of cattle grazing, conversion of pasture on valley sides and valley floor to arable, the removal of semi-natural vegetation cover and the poor maintenance and subsequent loss of traditional field boundaries. Switch from spring to winter cereals. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Field amalgamation and loss of hedgerows and stone walls leading to the loss of distinctive field patterns and a degraded landscape. • Loss of arable reversion back to cultivation. • Loss of habitat • Removal of semi-natural vegetation cover and the poor maintenance and subsequent loss of field boundaries. • Construction of large scale 'industrial style' agricultural sheds on the skyline or in prominent locations. • Decline in maintenance of hedges and stone walls leading to a locally degraded or neglected landscape character. • Increased use of non-characteristic field boundary treatments such as post and wire and post and rail fencing • Cluttering of the landscape by paraphernalia associated with intensification e.g. water troughs. • Conversion of permanent pasture and arable reversion to arable • Loss of already limited areas of ancient broadleaved woodland and species rich grasslands on steeper valley slopes. • Localised poaching of wet riverside pastures by sustained grazing of large herds. • Damage to and loss of archaeological sites and field monuments from conversion of pasture to arable and from intensification of grazing. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure new large scale farm buildings including silos and AD plants etc do not have an adverse visual impact on the wider landscape including on views across the Pastoral Lowland Vale, and views from and to the neighbouring LCTs. • Maintain the appearance and characteristic of isolated farmsteads and oppose proposals that will become dominant in the landscape. • Encourage the mitigation of existing large sheds e.g. limited tree planting • Encourage the installation of PV on the roofs of new agricultural buildings, avoiding risk of glint/glare. • Conserve characteristically dark skies • Provide advice to farmers on siting of new buildings, lighting, colour etc • Seek to conserve traditional farm buildings where necessary through appropriate new uses that retain historic character and features. • Respect traditional position of agricultural buildings and their relationship to the surrounding land. • Encourage small-scale farming and encourage woodland and boundary management. • Retain and conserve areas of permanent pasture and semi-natural vegetation • Encourage the conversion of arable to pasture and in particular the creation and extension of meadows. |

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| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing loss of archaeological sites and monuments from long-term cultivation and erosion. • Conversion of farm outbuildings and field barns to recreational or business uses • Increased damage to roads, road verges, dry stone walls and hedges from large machinery • Increased width of gateways into fields • Increased risk of river pollution and flooding from agricultural run off. • Loss of Farmstead character • Loss of breeding habitat for some bird species. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage the establishment of management regimes that support breeding bird habitats. • Promote management of ditches and seek opportunities to restore ponds. • Encourage low intensity grazing along riverside meadows. • Protect remnant areas of ancient woodland and ancient/veteran trees. • Retain existing hedgerow trees and seek opportunities to plant or tag new hedgerow trees • Enhance quality of local rivers and streams by introducing buffer strips. • Monitor river nutrient levels • Conserve, enhance and replant farm woodlands using suitable native species, • Conserve and enhance riparian habitats and riverside trees such as pollarded willows. • 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 on the floodplain and valley bottom meadows and where archaeological sites may be lost or damaged. • Encourage the protection of traditional field patterns and encourage hedgerow and dry stone wall restoration. • 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 • Ensure any woodland creation is in keeping with landscape character – see section 17.25 |
| 16.10 | 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. |
| 16.11 | Loss of hedges characteristic of the Broad Floodplain Valleys due to inappropriate management or 'abandonment' | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loss of a key characteristic of the Broad Floodplain Valley • Replacement with wire or post and rail fences • Weakening/loss of field patterns, particularly those that reflect the pre-enclosure open field system | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage the retention and maintenance of hedges, using traditional methods such as hedge laying where possible. • Where maintained by machine, ensure best practice cutting regimes. • Ensure hedgerow retention and management are included in agri-environment schemes |

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| 16.12 | Planting of energy crops such as Miscanthus, short rotation coppice and short rotation forestry. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Loss or seasonal interruption of views particularly from roads and public rights of way and views along the valley. Increased sense of enclosure Loss of permanent pasture. Damage to archaeological sites and historic landscapes. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure energy crops are not planted where they would restrict or intrude into views, particularly open views across the landscape and on skyline sites. Do not plant on semi-natural habitats, permanent pasture or on sites with Section 41, CROW Act and 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. Produce guidance. Promote Cotswold Conservation Board guidance |
| 16.13 | 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 |
| 16.14 | Construction of farm reservoirs for winter rainfall storage | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduction of uncharacteristic features in the Cotswold landscape exacerbated by the construction of dams and bunds | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Avoid the construction of farm reservoirs, particularly in open agricultural landscapes. Ensure appropriate mitigation and landscaping. Avoid bunds as a way of disposing of spoil Promote good soil management practice to assist with water retention |
| 16.15 | Development of scrub and trees on roadside verges. Mowing of verges at inappropriate times of the year. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Loss of views from the public highway Loss of pastoral character Loss of roadside grassland habitat Damage to hedges and dry stone walls. Loss of characteristic flora | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify key views from roads Manage/remove verge scrub and trees Reintroduce appropriate verge management and mowing Ensure appropriate timing of mowing Promote Conservation Board guidance |
| 16.16 | Flood management and alleviation measures | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Construction of 'hard' flood defences Tree planting for flood management inappropriate to landscape character | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Retain and manage watercourses in their naturalistic form. Seek opportunities to restore natural meanders etc, removing engineered channels, culverts etc to restore a functioning watercourse and floodplain. Consider Rural Sustainable Drainage interventions to slow peak water flow particularly within woodland. Seek to influence surrounding land management such as contour ploughing, |

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| | | | <p>wide margins, de-compaction of soils and pasture etc.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seek opportunities for temporary flood water storage on farmland • Ensure flood defences integrate into the landscape by using appropriate mitigation measures, landscaping and materials • For tree planting see Creation of Woodland section 17.25 below |
| 16.17 | Permanent fencing off of river corridors. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • River edge becomes overgrown with rank vegetation due to a loss of grazing leading to loss of riparian habitat. • Introduction of fence lines along valley bottoms | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage low intensity grazing along floodplain and valley bottom meadows. • Encourage the use of temporary fencing where required |
| 16.18 | 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. • Loss of breeding habitat for some bird species. • Loss of habitat for invertebrates and mammals. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage low intensity grazing along floodplain and valley bottom meadows and traditional farming methods. • Manage riparian habitats to avoid erosion due to over grazing. • Avoid engineered solutions to water management along degraded stretches of riverbank. • Encourage the use of temporary fencing where required. |
| 16.19 | Lack of management of ditch system | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loss of riparian habitat. • Bank instability leading to increased erosion and bank instability and widening of channels. • Loss of breeding habitat for some bird species. • Loss of habitat for invertebrates and mammals. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage appropriate management of ditch systems. |
| 16.20 | 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 |
| 16.21 | Damage to field monuments and archaeological sites and the historic environment from, farming operations, 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 such as stone bridges, wellheads and wash pools • Damage caused by livestock • Damage caused by recreational activity • Encroachment of scrub onto archaeological features | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inform landowners of important archaeological sites • Protect all upstanding archaeological sites and consider the impact of development on their landscape setting. • Restore the wider setting of key monuments to ensure that they do not read as islands amidst a sea of arable farming. • Raise awareness of the historic environment and of the HER as a source of information • Provide guidance on managing the historic environment to farmers and land owners • Retain traditional field patterns and field boundaries • Ensure tree planting does not take place on archaeological features. • Control scrub and manage existing trees on archaeological features to minimise damage for example by root damage or wind-blow. • Minimise or prevent damage to the historic environment by recreational |

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| | | | <p>activity by working with landowners to prepare site management plans and if necessary limit access.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Repair badly eroded features such as earthworks |
| 16.22 | 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 river meanders | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify important geological features and ensure they are conserved and appropriately managed. |
| Woodland and trees | | | |
| 16.23 | Inappropriate woodland creation and planting of shelterbelts and farm copses. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased woodland cover diminishing the open character of the Broad floodplain Valley limiting views along and across the valley. Loss of pastures and riverside meadows. Cumulative impact of woodland creation leading to a change in landscape character. Loss of Historic Landscape Character through inappropriate siting and/or species | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limit new woodland creation to maintain the unwooded character of the Broad Floodplain Valley Protect remnant areas of ancient woodland and species rich grassland. Promote opportunities to extend and link woodlands on valley sides to areas of riverside habitat, encouraging the use of natural regeneration where possible. Seek EIA determination if necessary Have regard to the cumulative impact of woodland creation and tree planting on the open, unwooded character of the Pastoral Lowland Vale Select species characteristic of ancient semi-natural woodland in the area. Retain any areas of ancient semi-natural woodland. Discourage conifer planting (unless a nurse) and encourage the use of native broadleaves or species that reflect local broadleaved woodland Retain existing hedgerow trees and seek opportunities to plant or tag new hedgerow trees |
| 16.24 | Decline in pollarding and management of riverside trees. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decline in characteristic pollarded willows and river bank trees. Loss of riverside habitats. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage suitable management regimes for existing riverside trees. Initiate a programme of new tree planting to ensure that there is a new generation to locally native riverside trees. |
| 16.25 | 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. |
| 16.26 | 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 Countryside Stewardship to woodland owners and agents Restore PAWS and safeguard ancient woodland Retain and plant replacements for non-woodland trees. Conserve areas of permanent pasture/improved grassland |