4. Enclosed Limestone Valley

Character Areas

4A Cam and Wellow Brook Valleys

4B Bathampton and Limpley Stoke

4C Lam Brook and St Catherine's Brook Valleys

4D Lower By Brook Valley

4E Perrymead Slopes

Key Features

- **Moderately broad but enclosed river valleys with steep sides separated by areas of low limestone plateaux and High Wold Dip-Slope** forming the principal river systems of the south Cotswolds draining into the Bristol Avon and ultimately the Severn.

- **Strong physical enclosure of valleys** creates a secluded and intimate character.

- **Significant areas of woodland, of which a number are ancient semi-natural woodlands particularly on upper and steeper slopes** add to the nature conservation value of the valleys and form a wooded backdrop to many views in the valleys.

- **Areas under both arable and pastoral use, together with areas of rough pasture and scrub** add contrasting textures and colours to the landscape.

- **Fields of varying sizes, dependent on slope, mainly enclosed by hedgerows with frequent hedgerow trees** creates a complex mosaic indicating a range of enclosure histories.

- **Road networks following valley bottoms connecting settlements and ascending valley sides to more isolated dwellings** give the valleys a busier and more developed character.

- **Canals, railways and mills signify the industrial heritage of the valleys** and indicate the importance of the valleys as communication routes.

- **Impressive features of Victorian engineering** to retain the valley sides and allow transport corridors to pass through and across valley systems.

- **Surviving vernacular structures such as terraces of weavers' cottages** provide important evidence of the role the valleys played in the early industrial age.

4D
4C
4E
4B
4A

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Summary description

These areas are located to the south, east and north of Bath, and are characterised by enclosed river valleys with steep sides separated by areas of Low Limestone Plateaux and High Wold Dip-Slope. The strong physical enclosure of the valleys results in a secluded character, the sense of which is heightened by significant areas of woodland, some of which is ancient and semi-natural. Areas of pastoral and arable use are interspersed with pasture and scrub. Fields vary in size, and are mainly enclosed with hedgerows with frequent hedgerow trees. Roads connecting settlements generally follow valley bottoms, with others serving isolated dwellings ascending the valley sides. The presence of canals, railways and mills, a number of which are abandoned, attest to the industrial heritage of the landscape.

Landscape Sensitivity

Sections of the enclosed limestone valleys are quiet and rural and retain a distinct secluded character with strong associations of peace, tranquillity and a sense of remoteness. Landscape character here is strong, and these sections of the valleys are highly sensitive to developments that may compromise these characteristics.

Of similar sensitivity are the highly visible landscapes on the upper slopes of the valleys. The heavily settled areas of some valley floors close to major communication routes are generally less sensitive but should be contained within the existing settlement boundaries.

New development should be avoided on visible valley sides. The industrial architecture of many valley settlements is an important characteristic feature and therefore the landscape is sensitive to their loss or degradation.

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	Local Forces For Change	Potential Landscape Implications	Landscape Strategies and Guidelines
	New Development		
4.1	Development, expansion and infilling of settlements including residential, industrial, leisure etc along the valleys including expansion up the valley slopes	• Encroachment of built development into the valleys intruding into the landscape. • Erosion of distinctive form, scale and character of smaller settlements along the valleys including their relationship to the landscape and springline. • Harm to the value and setting of the Bath World Heritage Site and to its current and historical relationship to the surrounding landscape • Loss of characteristic small scale valley settlements and hamlets and their distinctive identities due to settlement growth and coalescence. • Proliferation of suburban building styles, housing estate layout and materials and the introduction of ornamental garden plants and boundary features. • Spread of lit elements up the valley slopes • Potential for glint from buildings, particularly on hillsides. • Urbanisation of the valley floor • Increase in noise pollution and loss of tranquility • Upgrading of rural lanes and tracks in areas of new development and the introduction of suburbanising features such as mini roundabouts, street lighting, highway fencing and kerbs, traffic calming at village entrances. • Degradation of the view from the valley sides and rim and from neighbouring areas of dip-slope and plateaux • Urban fringe impacts such as fly tipping and dumping of vehicles • Loss of meadows and riverine habitat • 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, historic farms, pre-enclosure paddocks and closes	• Maintain the tranquil, secluded and often remote and sparsely settled character of the Enclosed Limestone Valleys • Maintain the open, undeveloped slopes of the valleys • Avoid development that will intrude negatively into the landscape and cannot be successfully mitigated, for example, extensions to settlements into the valleys. • Identify and maintain key views to and from the City of Bath • New development should be concentrated within existing built up areas, and be of a density reflecting the characteristic linear settlement form. • Ensure new development is proportionate and does not overwhelm the existing settlement. • Conserve pattern of settlements fringing the lower slopes and their existing relationship to landform. • Ensure that new development does not adversely affect settlement character and form • Avoid developments incorporating standardised development layout, suburban style lighting, construction details and materials that cumulatively can lead to the erosion of peaceful rural landscape character. • Avoid cramming development right up to the boundaries resulting in hard suburban style edge to the settlement. • Control the proliferation of suburban building styles and materials • Restore existing stone and old brick buildings within settlements in preference to new built development. • 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). • Existing buildings should be carefully conserved and where converted to new uses buildings must retain their historic integrity and functional character. Sound conservation advice and principles must be sought and implemented • Conserve dark stretches of the valleys and valley slopes forming the backdrop to settlements • Adopt measures to minimise and where possible reduce light pollution. • Avoid development that may restrict or obscure views to the upper valley slopes and rims and distinctive features such as folly towers and hillforts. • Avoid disconnecting the historic core of settlements from its rural surroundings particularly where there are village Conservation Areas • Conserve the rural character of the road network. • Avoid proposals that result in the loss of archaeological and historical

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	Local Forces For Change	Potential Landscape Implications	Landscape Strategies and Guidelines
			features or that impact on the relationship of the settlement and its links with surviving historical features. • Promote initiatives that remove heritage assets from 'at risk' status in the Heritage at Risk Register. • Ensure the historic character and context are included in Neighbourhood Plans • Identify key viewpoints across and along the valleys • Create new woodlands that link to existing valley slope woodlands to counteract the impact of intrusive or degraded urban edges. • Plant trees and hedges within and around new development to reduce impact on the landscape and for Green Infrastructure ideally in advance of the development taking place. • Retain existing trees, hedges etc as part of the scheme for green infrastructure and to reflect the former landscape, historic field patterns etc • Promote and link to the 'green' infrastructure in Bath • Ensure development proposals safeguard and provide new links and enhancements to the Public Rights of Way network. • Consider the impact on local Public Rights of Way as settlements expand and take into account any required improvements
4.2	Isolated development such as new single dwellings and conversion of farm buildings on the valley slopes that might compromise rural landscape character, particularly in areas between settlements	• Visual intrusions introduced to the landscape • Loss of green space between built up areas on the valley slopes that often provide a green backdrop to settlements on the valley floor • Upgrading of minor roads and lanes and tracks in areas of new development and introduction of suburbanising features such as street lighting. • Introduction of 'lit' elements to characteristically dark valley slopes, particularly between areas of existing settlement/development. • Potential for glint from buildings. • Erosion of distinctive dispersed settlement character on the valley slopes. • Suburbanisation and domestication of agricultural landscape by the introduction of gardens e.g ornamental garden plants and boundary features, garden sheds, gateways, parking areas and conversion of tracks to manicured drives and ornamental gateways • Appearance and proliferation of stables and 'white tape' field boundaries for horses and ponies – see section 4.7 below • Loss of tranquillity and sense of seclusion	• Avoid development that will intrude negatively into the landscape and cannot be successfully mitigated. • Protect the undeveloped, unlit character of much of the Enclosed Limestone Valleys. • Maintain the sense of openness and consider the impact of built development on views to the valley sides from the valley floor and across the valley, including the impact of cumulative development. • Oppose new housing in the rural landscapes of the valleys (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. • Conserve distinctive rural / agricultural landscapes that fringes and forms a backdrop to settlements on the lower valley slopes and valley floor. • Restore existing stone farm buildings and structures in preference to new built development. • Existing buildings should be carefully conserved and where converted to new uses buildings must retain their historic integrity and functional character. Sound conservation advice and principles must be sought and implemented

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	Local Forces For Change	Potential Landscape Implications	Landscape Strategies and Guidelines
			• Control the proliferation of suburban building styles and materials. • Landscaping schemes accompanying development should encourage the planting of appropriately sized native trees, shrubs and traditional fruit varieties, whilst discouraging large alien tree species such as eucalypts and conifers and inappropriate forms and cultivars of native species, particularly on fringes of open countryside • Respect traditional position of agricultural buildings and their relationship to the surrounding land
4.3	Conversion of traditional farm buildings to new uses Deterioration in condition of vernacular farm buildings	• 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	• 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
4.4	Dereliction and loss of old mills, associated structures and landscape features such as mill races, aqueducts etc of industrial heritage interest.	• Loss of important landmark features and features characteristic of the area's industrial heritage. • Loss of industrial heritage and historic character • Erosion of the historic character of the landscape and important links to the area's industrial past. • Growth of blackthorn scrub and sycamore thickets	• Promote the conservation and/or encourage the restoration of existing stone buildings and industrial buildings of historic or heritage interest in preference to new built development in rural areas where appropriate. • Encourage opportunities for the conversion of mills and barns to new visitor uses and local industries, taking into account access and potential traffic generation. • Stabilise ruins and enhance their immediate setting to increase the contribution they make to local landscape character. • Ensure conservation-lead regeneration of historic industrial sites to find new uses compatible with retaining and conserving their historic character and associated features that tell the story of the area's industrial past

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		Local Forces For Change	Potential Landscape Implications	Landscape Strategies and Guidelines
				• Convert and manage buildings and landscape features of industrial heritage interest. Where converted to new uses buildings must retain their historic integrity and functional character. Sound conservation advice and principles must be sought and implemented. • Avoid new uses that necessitate excessive loss of original historic features or introduce elements that expand domestication or industrialisation. • Landscaping schemes should reflect landscape character and the relationship of the mill building to the landscape and to its associated features. • Conserve historic features. • Conserve and enhance mill races, mill ponds, leats, meadows and other industrial heritage landscape features recognising and enhancing their nature conservation interest. • Ensure best practice is followed for the protection of species associated with old industrial buildings and mills e.g. bats, otters and native crayfish.
4.5		Solar Farms	• Industrialisation of the rural landscape • Change of character due to colour and texture and heliographic glint • Loss of seasonal change in the landscape • Loss of characteristic pastoral landscape • Damage to and loss of landscape features such as Strip Lynchets, trees, walls and hedgerows. • Concealment of geomorphological or archaeological features • Impact of supporting infrastructure such as buildings and cables, roadways, security fencing, CCTV masts and lighting. • Decline in quality of landscape	• Prevent proposals for solar farms that will impact negatively on landscape character and/or intrude into views to and/or from the valleys and neighbouring areas of dip-slope and plateaux. • Avoid proposals that will result in the loss or harm to landscape features such as Strip Lynchets, hedgerows and walls • Ensure a comprehensive LVIA is undertaken (including potential cumulative effects) • 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 power lines • 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
4.6		Introduction of vertical elements such as communication masts, wind turbines, electricity pylons and large road signs, particularly on	• Introduction of visually intrusive 'urban' or industrial features, particularly to the valley slopes, forming the backdrop to settlements including the the City of Bath World Heritage Site • Loss of open character and 'natural' appearance • Introduction of unnatural movement and loss of tranquillity	• Conserve the open character by objecting to the development of vertical elements on the skyline or where these would adversely affect views to and from the valley slopes and along the valleys. • Ensure the development of vertical elements in neighbouring areas beyond the AONB do not adversely affect views to or from the valley slopes or

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		Local Forces For Change	Potential Landscape Implications	Landscape Strategies and Guidelines
		valley sides and skylines.	- Intrusion on the setting of scheduled monuments, listed buildings and designed landscapes - Breaking up of escarpment skyline - Impact on views to and from the valley slopes and along the valleys	- along 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 against trees - Bury cables underground and seek opportunities to bury existing cabling - Avoid use of visually prominent urban security fencing and CCTV masts. - Consider other renewable energy and communication technologies - Ensure full assessment of heritage setting impacts and appropriate measures undertaken - Seek to minimise size and number of roadsigns
4.7		Proliferation and concentration of equestrian establishments.	- 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 often secluded and open landscape character of the valleys - 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 or close connections to bridleways etc. - Increase in vehicle movements and roadside parking - Damage to road verges.	- 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 skyline sites and slopes - Jumps, temporary fences and other equipment should be well maintained and removed when not in use. - Any lighting should be designed to minimise light pollution, e.g. low level 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. - Retain existing hedgerow trees and seek opportunities to plant or tag new

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		Local Forces For Change	Potential Landscape Implications	Landscape Strategies and Guidelines
				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
4.8		Major road construction and improvement schemes	• Intrusive features on highly visible sections of the valleys. • Introduction or increased movement in the landscape • Urbanising effect • Potential impact of additional road signage and lighting • Loss of tranquility and excessive noise • Light and air pollution • Loss of archaeological features and impact on the setting of heritage assets. • Loss of woodland and other sensitive habitats	• Avoid major road building schemes • Implement traffic management schemes including speed reduction • Ensure any scheme brings substantial net benefits for the landscape and is designed to conserve and enhance character of the landscape • Ensure comprehensive EIA and LVIA are undertaken and their recommendations implemented. • Ensure careful and sensitive design of road proposals and associated infrastructure particularly on valley slopes and rims • Keep lighting to an absolute minimum and use 'Dark Sky friendly' lighting • Seek to prevent rat-running on local roads, restoring and enhancing the character and amenity of local settlements and road network. • Restore redundant lengths of highway to agriculture or suitable habitat • Where bridges or other structures are unavoidable and visually prominent, their siting and design should be well integrated into landform and be of lasting architectural quality. • Avoid over-engineering links to the local road network. • Ensure landscaping design is fully in keeping with local character and land form • Seek opportunities for habitat creation, particularly unimproved grassland, on verges, embankments and areas of land isolated by new road and their long term management • Minimise loss of woodlands and other sensitive habitats; avoid loss of ancient woodland as an irreplaceable semi-natural habitat. • Funding from Highway Agency or highway authorities for mitigation measures to be a pre-condition e.g noise screening, quiet surfacing, land bridge etc. • Consider the potential for exposing geological features and their long term management

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	Local Forces For Change	Potential Landscape Implications	Landscape Strategies and Guidelines
4.9	Road upgrading and improvements, especially of minor country roads, as a result of development or general improvement schemes.	• 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) • Loss of roadside hedges and walls • Loss of verge/roadside habitat	• Refer to DMRB Vol 10 for general environmental design guidance. • Conserve the rural character of the local road network • Avoid the upgrading of tracks or creation of roads, particularly on the mid and upper slopes. • 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 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 their long-term management. • Promote road verge protection and management
4.10	Excessive traffic and/or speed on minor local roads and lanes.	• 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 vehicles	• Promote traffic restriction measures such as lorry routing maps. • Maintain or reinstate rural character within settlements by promoting shared space and road design to slow and minimise traffic impact • 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

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		Local Forces For Change	Potential Landscape Implications	Landscape Strategies and Guidelines
	Land use			
4.11		Agricultural intensification along the valleys and in the neighbouring uplands.	- Construction of large scale industrial style agricultural 'sheds', silos and AD plants in prominent locations - Introduction of industrial elements into the valleys - Conversion of farm outbuildings and field barns to recreational or business uses - Removal of semi-natural vegetation and poor maintenance of and subsequent loss of field boundaries - Loss of already limited areas of ancient broadleaved woodland and species rich grasslands due to agricultural improvement or abandonment - Eutrophication of water courses from farm run off resulting in a decline in biodiversity of riverine habitats. - Increased risk of flooding from agricultural run off. - Localised poaching of wet riverside pastures by sustained grazing of large herds. - Increased conversion of pasture to arable land, mainly on the lower slopes. - Woodland creation on permanent pasture. - Degradation and loss of hedgerows and increased use of post and wire fencing. - Abandonment of permanent pasture on the valley slopes and resulting spread of scrub and secondary woodland on otherwise open slopes. - Damage to and loss of archaeological sites and field monuments from conversion of pasture to arable and from intensification of grazing. - Move towards arable production on small mixed farms resulting in the removal or degradation of hedgerows and/ or loss of former pasture. - Field amalgamation along the valley bottoms and loss of hedgerows in favour of post and wire fences - Loss of Farmstead character - Introduction or expansion of lit elements in the characteristically dark landscape - Increased damage to roads, road verges, dry stone walls and hedges from large machinery - Pressure to upgrade lanes or create new access tracks in the valleys, particularly on the valley slopes - Increased width of gateways into fields	- Conserve the open and often remote and secluded character of the valleys particularly areas of open pastoral landscape - Ensure that new farm buildings including silos and AD plants etc do not have an adverse visual impact on the wider landscape and views - Maintain the appearance and characteristic of isolated farmsteads and oppose proposals that will become dominant in the landscape - Provide advice to farmers on the siting of new buildings, lighting, colour etc. - Encourage the mitigation of existing large agricultural buildings e.g by limited tree planting. - Encourage the installation of PV on the roofs of new agricultural buildings, avoiding risk of glint/glare. - Seek to conserve traditional farm buildings. - Respect traditional position of agricultural buildings and their relationship to the surrounding land. - Conserve characteristically dark stretches of the valleys, particularly the slopes - Encourage small-scale mixed farming and encourage woodland and boundary management. - Encourage initiatives that seek to restore or enhance the quality of watercourses and their habitats. Including low intensity grazing along riverside meadows and the creatiojn of buffer zones. - Monitor river nutrient levels. - Avoid the conversion of pasture to arable particularly where archaeological sites/field monuments may be lost or damaged or leads to fragmentation of grassland or potential contamination of water courses/aquifer - Protect remnant areas of ancient woodland and species rich grassland. - Seek opportunities to restore or create meadows and unimproved grasslands - Encourage low intensity grazing or restrict access by livestock where archaeological sites/ field monuments may be lost or damaged - Encourage means and methods of reducing cultivation damage to archaeological sites and monuments (including reversion to grassland, minimal-tillage, direct drilling and other damage reduction methods). - Conserve areas of permanent pasture. - Promote the conservation and restoration of hedgerows. Those marking ancient boundaries and traditional field patterns should be regarded as a priority. - Conserve hedgerow trees and seek opportunities to plant or tag new

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		Local Forces For Change	Potential Landscape Implications	Landscape Strategies and Guidelines
				hedgerow trees. • Ensure any woodland creation is in keeping with landscape character – see section 4.22.
4.12		Planting of energy crops such as Miscanthus, short rotation coppice and short rotation forestry.	• Loss or seasonal interruption of views particularly from roads and public rights of way across and along the valleys • Increased sense of enclosure • Loss of and fragmentation permanent pasture • Change in colour and texture of the valley landscape • Damage to Archaeological sites, historic landscapes, geological and geomorphological features damaged or obscured • Winter cropping resulting in 'scars' in the landscape from the appearance of bare ground and vehicle tracks. • Appearance of tracks on the valley slopes for access and crop extraction	• 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 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
4.13		Decline in grazing stock on valley slopes and areas of common land.	• Scrub encroachment and loss of permanent pasture and species rich grassland due to invasion of dominant grass species. • Development of secondary woodland • Loss of characteristic of grazing animals in the valleys • Loss of open character of some sections of the valleys • 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 • Archaeological and geological sites obscured or damaged	• Conserve areas of open pasture and common. • Encourage traditional management regimes to limit scrub encroachment on areas of semi natural grassland. • Re-introduce grazing on semi-natural grasslands/improve existing grazing regimes. • Produce guidance on scrub management • Identify key viewpoints
4.14		Separation of farmhouse/agricultural housing from the working farm for sale with a plot of land. Sub-division of farmland for 'lifestyle' plots	• 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 non-traditional field boundary treatments such as post and wire and post and rail fences • Pressure for housing on plots of land	• Avoid isolated development, particularly on areas of dark valley slopes • Only permit new uses of traditional farm buildings that are appropriate to retain their historic character and features. • Ensure separation of housing does not prejudice the effective operation of the farm enterprise • Use planning conditions to restrict subdivision of fields, construction of stables etc. Consider use of Article 4 Direction. • Respect traditional position of agricultural buildings and their relationship to the surrounding land

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		Local Forces For Change	Potential Landscape Implications	Landscape Strategies and Guidelines
4.15		Development of scrub and trees on roadside verges. Mowing of verges at inappropriate times New and upgraded verge crossings at entrances	• Loss of views, particularly from the public highway • Loss of roadside grassland habitat and characteristic flora • Damage to hedges and walls and other features • Creation of 'lawns' on the roadside due to regular mowing for tidiness leading to a homogenised and sub-urban appearance • Incremental change through introduction of urban elements eroding rural character; raised kerbs, unsympathetic surfacing, upgraded entrances, creation of fenced visibility splays etc from rural roads	• Identify key views from roads • Manage/remove verge scrub and trees, particularly where views can be restored or where there are benefits for biodiversity • Reintroduce appropriate verge management and mowing • Promote best practice management of verges • Ensure highway authority planning conditions respect and are appropriate to rural character and situation
4.16		Flood management and alleviation measures	• Construction of 'hard' flood defences • Tree planting for flood management inappropriate to landscape character	• Retain and manage watercourses in their naturalistic form.. • Consider Rural Sustainable Drainage interventions such as in-stream woody barriers to slow peak water flow particularly within woodland. • Seek to influence surrounding land management such as de-compaction of pastures and contour ploughing, wide margins etc. • Ensure flood defences integrate into the landscape by using appropriate mitigation measures, landscaping and materials • Promote good soil management to assist with water retention • Seek opportunities for tree planting for flood management in-keeping with landscape and woodland character - see Creation of Woodland section 4.22 below
4.17		Fencing of river corridors	• 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	• Encourage low intensity grazing along floodplain and valley bottom meadows. • Encourage the use of temporary fencing where required
4.18		Intensive grazing of stretches of riverbank up to the waters edge.	• Loss of riparian habitat. • Bank instability leading to increased erosion and widening of river channels.	• Encourage low intensity grazing along floodplain and valley bottom meadows. • Manage riparian habitats to avoid erosion due to over grazing. • Avoid engineered solutions to water management along degraded stretches of riverbank. • Encourage use of temporary fencing where required
4.19		Water abstraction	• 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.	• Reduce or stop abstraction • Support river flows/water recirculation
4.20		Damage to field monuments and archaeological sites and the historic environment from	• Damage to important archaeological sites and important landscape features including earthworks and lynchets • Damage caused by livestock.	• Inform landowners of important archaeological sites • Protect all upstanding archaeological sites and consider the impact of changing land use/development on their landscape setting.

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		Local Forces For Change	Potential Landscape Implications	Landscape Strategies and Guidelines
		farming operations, tree root damage, burrowing animals, woodland management operations and tree planting and recreational activity.	• Damage caused by recreational activity • Loss of traditional field patterns and integrity of the wider historic landscape. • Loss of traditional field boundaries, particularly hedgerows and dry stone walls • Loss of locally distinctive features such as stone stiles • Encroachment of scrub onto archaeological features	• Manage/remove burrowing animals. • Restore the wider setting of key monuments • Raise awareness of the historic environment and of the HER as a source of information • Provide guidance on managing the historic environment to farmers and land owners • Retain traditional field patterns and field boundaries • Ensure tree planting does not take place on archaeological features. • Control scrub and manage existing trees on archaeological features to minimise damage for example by root damage or wind-blow. • Minimise or prevent damage to the historic environment by recreational activity by working with landowners to prepare site management plans and if necessary limit access. • Repair badly eroded features such as earthworks and dry stone walls. • Avoid the planting of new hedgerows or the development of volunteer hedgerows adjacent to dry stone walls
4.21		Loss of and damage to geological features due to tree growth, erosion and change of land use	• Loss of sites that provide an understanding of the Cotswold landscape • Visible features such as outcrops and river meanders obscured or lost.	• Identify important geological features and ensure they are conserved and appropriately managed.
	Woodland and trees			
4.22		Woodland creation	• Loss of characteristic open pastoral landscape • Loss of views across and along the valleys	• Retain the pastoral, open character of the valleys • Avoid woodland creation on permanent grassland. • Give priority to planting on areas where woodland cover has been lost, particularly on arable areas, and encourage natural regeneration, particularly in proximity to ancient woodlands. • Extend and link existing woodlands in preference to new stand-alone plantations. • Create areas of wet woodland and riverine habitats along the course of rivers and streams – also benefits flood management, water quality, biodiversity and helps prevent soil erosion
4.23		Impact of tree disease such as Chalara Dieback of ash.	• 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	• 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.

4. Enclosed Limestone Valley

	Local Forces For Change	Potential Landscape Implications	Landscape Strategies and Guidelines
4.24	A piecemeal decline in existing woodland cover due to inappropriate management or neglect	• Impact of the wooded character of some stretches of the valleys and the setting of some villages. • Degradation and loss of woodland habitats, particularly ancient semi-natural woodland.	• Conserve, enhance and restore existing valley side woodlands through effective long term management and replanting, but avoiding areas of nature conservation interest such as species rich grasslands. • 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
4.25	Decline in pollarding and management of riverside trees.	• Decline in characteristic pollarded willows and river bank trees. • Loss of riverside habitats.	• 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.