

5. Settled Valley

Character Areas

5A Nailsworth

5B Frome Golden Valley and Stroud



Key Features

- **Steep sided, concave, narrow valleys with upper sections forming an abrupt break of slope with the High Wold and High Wold Dip-Slope** indicating the nature of the underlying geology and weathering processes.
- **Strong sense of enclosure** provided by the steep-sided valley profile and presence of woodland.
- **Predominantly pastoral land use with scattered areas of arable land enclosed by a network of hedgerow boundaries** providing a rural backdrop to urban forms.
- **Relatively well wooded with deciduous species predominating, with a large proportion of ancient woodland.** Woodlands provide a textural backdrop to urban areas and important refuges for urban wildlife.
- **Stone walls are common features within the valley bottoms particularly surrounding settlements** and create distinctive field patterns.
- **Sequence of settlements along the valley bottoms and sides resulting in a settled character.** Historic associations with industrial period apparent, with terraces of houses following contours close to the sites of mills.
- **Close proximity of large urban areas beyond the AONB boundary** have a strong influence on the wider landscape adding to its 'developed' character.
- **Strong evidence of industrial past** from communications infrastructure and mills and stone built civic buildings confined primarily to valley floors.
- **Extensive road network within the majority of valleys** connecting settlements and areas within the valleys to the High Wold, and extending suburban influences into the wider landscape.
- **Isolated and deeply rural character** survives in remoter tributary valleys.

5. Settled Valley

Summary description

The Settled Valleys comprise areas of relatively narrow, high-sided valleys with steep upper slopes forming an abrupt break of slope with the High Wold and High Wold Dip-Slope. Land use is predominantly pastoral with scattered areas of arable, mainly enclosed by a network of hedgerow boundaries.

Stone walls are confined mainly to the valley bottoms, particularly surrounding settlements. Significant areas of development dominate the valley floors and extend up the valley sides in terraces, lending these areas a particularly urban character.

Evidence of a strong industrial past, including communications, infrastructure and mill development, is confined to the valley floors. An extensive road network within the majority of the valleys connect the settlements with the High Wold above.

Landscape Sensitivity

The settled valleys are under particular pressure from the outward expansion of existing urban areas onto the steep, highly visible valley sides. Such development would detract from the characteristic wooded, rural backdrop of valley towns and their typical linear form. The valleys are also sensitive to the coalescence of settlements along the valley floor, resulting in the loss of their distinctive identity.

Despite the close proximity of large urban areas, some valleys retain an isolated rural character. The remoter sections of these valleys are highly sensitive to change that would compromise their intrinsic secluded character.

Valley settlements are also sensitive to the ongoing loss of features of industrial heritage interest. Disused mill buildings and chimney stacks are striking landmark features that contribute to their character and local identity.

5. Settled Valley

	Local Forces For Change	Potential Landscape Implications	Outline Landscape Strategies and Guidelines
	New Development		
5.1	<p>Development, expansion and infilling of settlements, including residential, retail, industrial leisure etc, along the valleys including expansion up the valley slopes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expansion of valley settlements onto the highly visible valley sides, which would require significant amounts of terracing • Encroachment of built development into the valleys intruding into the landscape. • Erosion of distinctive form, scale and character of smaller settlements including their relationship to the landscape. • Loss of distinctive valley settlement identity due to settlement growth and coalescence and the development of 'rural sprawl'. • 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. • Increased urbanisation of the valley floor • Increase in noise pollution and loss of tranquillity • Upgrading of rural lanes 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 views to and from the valley sides and rim. • 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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain the tranquil, secluded and often remote and sparsely settled character of the Settled Valleys • Maintain the open, undeveloped slopes of the valleys • Conserve the characteristic remote rural areas within the Settled Valleys. • Identify and maintain key views to and from the existing settlements • Avoid development that will intrude negatively into the landscape and cannot be successfully mitigated, for example, extensions to settlements onto the valley sides. • New development should be concentrated within existing built-up areas, and be of a density reflecting the characteristic linear settlement forms • 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. Refer to Stroud DC Design Statements • 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. Refer to the Stroud Industrial Heritage Conservation Area documentation. • 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.. • Conserve the rural character of the road network.

5. Settled Valley

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 • Identify key viewpoints to, from 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. • 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.
5.2	Isolated development such as new single dwellings and conversion of farm buildings on the mid valley slopes that might compromise rural landscape character between areas of settlement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 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. • Perpetuation of inappropriate uncharacteristic buildings which do not enhance landscape character • 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 5.9. below • Loss of tranquillity and sense of seclusion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoid development that will intrude negatively into the landscape and cannot be successfully mitigated against. • Protect unlit stretches of the valleys • Retain the sense of openness and consider the impact of built development on views to and from valley floor and between the valley sides. • 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

5. Settled Valley

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			<p>implemented</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. • Control the proliferation of suburban building styles and materials. Refer to Stroud DC Design Statements • 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
5.3	<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
5.4	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 pastoral landscape • Damage to and loss of landscape features such as trees, walls and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prevent proposals for solar farms that will impact negatively on landscape character and/or intrude into views across or along the valleys • Avoid proposals that will result in the loss or harm to landscape features such as hedgerows and walls • Ensure a comprehensive LVIA is undertaken (including potential

5. Settled Valley

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		<p>hedgerows.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 	<p>cumulative effects)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 of temporary construction access. • Avoid the inclusion of any security lighting proposals • Seek appropriate landscape enhancement to field boundaries and margins within solar farm development proposals. • Promote the use of roof space for photovoltaic panels particularly on modern farm and industrial buildings
5.5	Introduction of vertical elements such as communication masts, wind turbines, electricity pylons and large road signs, particularly on valley sides and skylines.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction of visually intrusive 'urban' or industrial features, particularly to the valley slopes, forming the backdrop to settlements • Loss of open character and 'natural' appearance • Introduction of unnatural movement and loss of tranquillity • Intrusion on the setting of scheduled monuments, listed buildings and designed landscapes • Breaking up of valley skyline • Impact on views to and from the valley slopes and along the valleys 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conserve the often open character of the valleys 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 do not adversely affect views to or from the valley slopes or 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 road signs
5.6	Licensed Waste disposal such as land-fill and waste recycling operations including composting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Degradation of landscape character and wildlife habitats. • Loss of tranquillity due to noise, dust and vehicle movements • Unpleasant smells from composting • Loss of biodiversity and geological features 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoid strategic waste disposal proposals within or adjacent to the AONB. • Avoid importing waste into the AONB • Ensure small scale local waste disposal operations continue to operate with minimal impact • Support proposals for local waste recycling that do not impact on landscape character or tranquillity and reduce vehicle movement, especially distance travelled
5.7	Licensed spreading of waste on agricultural land	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Change in colour in the landscape. • Unpleasant smells • Potential impact on watercourses or aquifer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoid spreading waste across or adjacent to public rights of way, in close proximity to settlements or where it may impact on biodiversity or water courses.

5. Settled Valley

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5.8	Illegal waste disposal/fly tipping	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unsightly intrusion into the landscape • Loss of biodiversity • Blocking of gateways, laybys and areas of road verge by fly tipping • Pollution of watercourses and aquifer • Loose waste material blowing around and catching on hedges, trees etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoid storage (e.g. sewage waste heaps) adjacent to public rights of way and roads • Ensure swift incorporation • Protect former quarries from fly tipping • Seek swift removal of fly tipping • Prosecute landowners who allow or turn a 'blind eye' to unlicensed waste disposal • Remove blown material from hedges, trees and road verges.
5.9	Proliferation and concentration of equestrian establishments.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proliferation of stables and other visual clutter such as ribbon fences, jumps, horse boxes, shelters, manège and lighting associated with 'horsiculture'. • Creation of paddocks by sub-dividing fields using non-characteristic field boundary treatments such as post and rail fence or ribbon fences • 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 as no direct or close connections to bridleways etc. • Increase in vehicle movements and roadside parking and conflict with other road users • Damage to road verges. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoid the creation of horse paddocks in visually prominent valley locations. • 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. • The creation of horse paddocks in visually prominent locations such a roadside and valley side locations should be avoided. • Oppose change of use for the 'keeping of horses' in visually prominent locations. • A concentration of horse paddocks and associated structures in any one area can have a cumulative harmful impact on landscape character and should be avoided • 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 tag or plant new hedgerow trees • Ensure authorisation is obtained from the highway authority for new gates or stiles on public rights of way.

5. Settled Valley

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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.
5.10	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) • 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 • 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
5.11	Excessive traffic and/or speed on minor local roads and lanes. Increase in size of vehicles using narrow 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 vehicles 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote traffic restriction measures such as lorry routing maps. • Maintain or reinstate rural character within settlements by promoting shared space and road design to slow and minimise traffic impact • 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

5. Settled Valley

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5.12	Dereliction and loss of old mills, associated structures and landscape features such as mill races, aqueducts etc of industrial heritage interest.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 where appropriate. Stabilise ruins and enhance their immediate setting to increase the contribution they make to local landscape character. Ensure conservation-led 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. Take into account access and potential traffic generation when considering the conversion of mills to new visitor uses and local industries. 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.
5.13	Restoration and subsequent recreational use of the Cotswold Canals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Visual impact of realigned sections of canal on the AONB Introduction of noise and movement into currently tranquil sections of the Settled Valley Increased recreational use of canal path and surrounding area. Loss of habitats in and alongside abandoned canal Loss of industrial archaeology features Pressure for further development alongside/associated with the restored canal. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure canal restoration brings substantial net benefits for the landscape and its appreciation and is designed to conserve and enhance the character of the landscape. Pre-empt recreational increase by ensuring the rights of way network is in good condition, using appropriate materials and design of gates etc. Restrict vehicular access within tranquil sections of the canal corridor and promote alternative means of access. Ensure habitats are conserved and appropriately managed, including any off-line habitat creation if appropriate Conserve archaeological features as far as possible Ensure further development linked to the restoration of the canal does not adversely impact on the AONB

5. Settled Valley

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	Land use		
5.14	Agricultural intensification and in particular intensification of cattle grazing and farm amalgamation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 areas of ancient broadleaved woodland and species rich grasslands due to agricultural improvement. • 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 dry stone walls 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, walls 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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 • 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 creation 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. leads to fragmentation of grassland or potential contamination of water courses/aquifer • Protect remnant areas of ancient woodland, species rich grassland and ancient/veteran trees • Encourage low intensity grazing along riverside meadows. • Encourage low intensity grazing or restrict access by livestock where archaeological sites/ field monuments may be lost or damaged • Seek opportunities to restore or create wildflower rich grasslands • 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.

5. Settled Valley

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conserve hedgerow trees and seek opportunities to tag or plant new trees in hedgerows. Ensure any woodland creation is in keeping with landscape character – see 5.23.
5.15	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. Insertion of inappropriate new elements that diminish rather than enhance historic design characteristics Intrusion on setting of designed landscapes – especially designed vistas and other important views of or out from the area. 	<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. Avoid development that damages the extent, features, character or setting of historic designed landscapes.
5.16	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 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' particularly on valley slopes from the appearance of bare ground and vehicle tracks. Appearance of tracks on the valley slopes for access and crop extraction 	<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 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
5.17	Decline in grazing stock on valley slopes and valley bottom meadows and areas of common land Abandonment of grassland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 on the Escarpment Loss of open character of some sections of the escarpment 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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conserve areas of open pasture and common. Encourage traditional management regimes to limit scrub encroachment on areas of semi natural grassland. Re-introduction of grazing on semi-natural grasslands/improvement of existing grazing regimes. Produce guidance on scrub management Identify key viewpoints
5.18	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 	<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 on areas of dark valley slopes Respect traditional position of agricultural buildings and their relationship to

5. Settled Valley

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 	the surrounding land
5.19	<p>Development of scrub and trees on roadside verges Mowing of verges at inappropriate times of the year</p> <p>Mowing of verges at inappropriate times</p> <p>New and upgraded verge crossings at entrances</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loss of open character • 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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify key views from roads • Manage/remove verge scrub and trees, particularly where views can be restored or where there are benefits for biodiversity • Reintroduce appropriate verge management and mowing • Promote best practice management of verges • Ensure highway authority planning conditions respect and are appropriate to rural character and situation
5.20	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.. • 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 • Seek opportunities for tree planting for flood management in-keeping with landscape and woodland character - see Creation of Woodland section 5.23 below
5.21	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 including earthworks and lynchets • Damage caused by livestock. • 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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inform landowners of important archaeological sites • Protect all upstanding archaeological sites and consider the impact of changing land use/development on their landscape setting. • 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

5. Settled Valley

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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
5.22	Loss of and damage to geological 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 Visible features such as rock exposures and river meanders obscured or lost. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify important geological features and ensure they are conserved and appropriately managed.
Woodland and trees			
5.23	Woodland creation and tree planting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Loss of characteristic open pastoral landscape of the valley sides Cumulative impact of woodland creation leading to a change in landscape Character Loss of permanent pasture and unimproved grassland 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conserve views across and along the Valleys Have regard to the cumulative impact of woodland creation and tree planting Give priority to planting on areas where woodland cover has been lost. Avoid woodland creation on permanent grassland to retain the pastoral character of the valleys Encourage natural regeneration, particularly in proximity to ancient woodlands and seek the phased removal of non-native species. 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. Develop opportunities for informal recreation and environmental improvements by promoting linear 'greenways' and schemes that seek to restore or enhance river and stream habitats. 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.
5.24	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"> 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. safeguard ancient woodland Retain and plant replacements for non-woodland trees. Conserve areas of permanent pasture/improved grassland
5.25	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



5. Settled Valley

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			of woodlands e.g. parkland and hedgerow trees. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Seek advice from Arboriculturalist.