

## 8. High Wold Valley

### Character Areas

8A Toadsmoor, Holy Brook, and Upper Frome Valleys

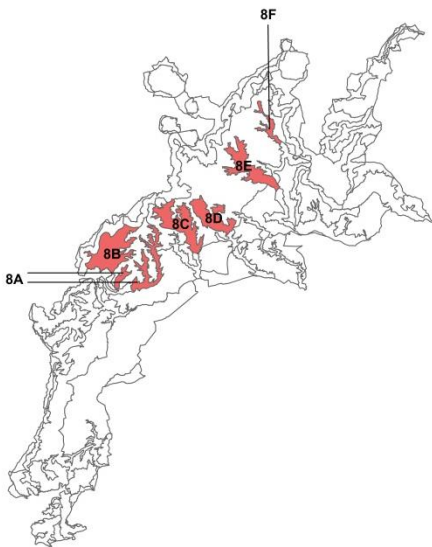
8B Painswick and Slad Valleys

8C Upper Churn Valley

8D Upper Coln Valley

8E Upper Windrush Valley

8F Upper Dikler Valley



### Key Features

- **Predominantly dry or ephemeral flow headwater valleys with generally broad valley form and shallow slope profiles** forming a rolling gently dissected landform.
- **Incised valley form below heads of valleys with often steep, convoluted valley sides dissected by minor watercourses and distinctive convex profile at transition with the High Wold** and forming dramatic landscape features and contrast to the open landscapes characteristic of the neighbouring High Wold.
- **Sections with pronounced valley form meanders with distinctive interlocking spurs, disproportionate to size of rivers and streams** indicative of valley formation and conditions prevalent during the glacial periods.
- **Extensive areas of predominantly broadleaved woodland cloaking sections of the valley sides, particularly across the steeper sections**, create visual containment and add to the secluded, secretive character of many stretches of the valleys.
- **Areas of open pastoral farmland extend between the wooded slopes, and along valley bottoms, together with pockets of arable land, particularly on the shallower slopes** indicative of a well-settled and long farmed landscape.
- **Pasture predominantly comprises improved grassland, together with occasional remnants of unimproved and calcareous grasslands** of nationally important nature conservation value
- **Intermittent stone villages occupying secluded locations in valley bottoms, often in association with a bridging point**, indicate a long history of settlement in the valleys.

- **Occasional farmsteads and isolated buildings within the more open valley sections** link to farmed areas on the adjacent High Wold.
- **Occasional private parklands and gardens associated with country houses** add to the wooded and historic character of the valleys.
- **Limited road network within valleys generally confined to a single valley bottom road, or routes that cross the valley** maintain a quiet, secluded and rural character in the valleys.
- **Deeply incised and inaccessible wooded slopes** extend across some valley sections, and provide important habitats for wildlife.

### Painswick and Slad Valleys

- **Wider and complex valley form to Painswick Valley and its tributaries, but with steep and convoluted slopes, separated by intermediate ridges that project into the main valley form.**
- **Rich pastoral and secluded rural character** with intermittent consolidated areas of arable land.
- **Sheltered, visually contained and intimate setting of remote upper reaches of valleys.**
- **Significant areas of registered common land and ancient semi-natural woodland in the upper reaches of the Painswick and Slad Valleys** marking the transition with the High Wold and the upper slopes of the Escarpment.

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### Summary description

Two types of valley dissect the High Wold. Broad, shallow headwater valleys carry some rivers south-east towards the Thames, with some sections forming interlocking meanders.

Extensive areas of predominantly broadleaved woodland cloak the valley sides, between which, are areas of open land of mainly grassland pasture with pockets of arable that also extend along the valley floors. The valleys are sheltered and visually contained, giving a general impression of intimacy.

Villages occupy secluded locations in the valley bottoms or sides. Farmsteads can be found in the more open section, often linked to farms in the High Wold. Communication routes are generally confined to a single road that runs along the bottom of each valley, with other routes cutting across. The richly pastoral Painswick and Slad valleys are wider and more complex, with intermediate ridges intercepting the main valley form.

### Landscape Sensitivity

The High Wold Valleys are sensitive to developments that might interrupt the sense of seclusion within them and their rural, pastoral character. In addition, the confined landform and steep slopes within the valleys, together with many areas of nature conservation interest together form a further constraint to development. Such areas include riparian and riverine habitats along watercourses at the base of the valleys, areas of ancient broadleaved woodland, and calcareous grassland on steep landform beyond the limits of grazing stock. The valleys are therefore particularly sensitive to direct change brought about by development, and also by intensification of agricultural activities leading to overgrazing or fertiliser run-off.

The town of Painswick, occupying a spur of land separating two valleys is highly visible and an important component of the wider landscape. Therefore the settlement is sensitive to further development on its fringes. The wider valley is also sensitive due to its rural character. Of particular sensitivity are the ancient semi-natural woodlands and areas of Registered Common Land supporting calcareous grassland in the upper reaches of the Painswick and Slad Valleys. These areas are of national importance for their nature conservation value, and designated as NNRs and SSSI.

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	Local Forces For Change	Potential Landscape Implications	Landscape Strategies and Guidelines
	<b>New development</b>		
8.1	Development, expansion and infilling of valley settlements including residential, industrial and leisure.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Erosion of the rural character of the valleys and the landscape setting of historic villages.</li> <li>• Intrusion of expanded settlements onto the highly visible valley sides,</li> <li>• Increase in light pollution</li> <li>• Loss of village patterns and development of 'rural sprawl' due to settlement growth and coalescence.</li> <li>• Degradation of views across and along the valley</li> <li>• Upgrading of minor roads and lanes associated with new development and the introduction of suburbanising features such as mini roundabouts, street lighting, highway fencing and kerbs and traffic calming at village entrances</li> <li>• Erosion of distinctive settlement patterns and loss of small fields and network of narrow lanes associated with houses fringing the valley villages.</li> <li>• Loss/dilution of organic growth patterns of settlements including the relationship between the historic core and adjacent historic fields, paddocks and closes.</li> <li>• Loss of archaeological and historical features, field patterns and landscapes.</li> <li>• Interruption, weakening or loss of the historic character of settlements and the historic context in how have expanded, especially the importance of the relationship between the historic core of the settlement and surviving historic features such as churchyards, manor houses, burgage plots, historic farms, pre-enclosure paddocks and closes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Avoid development that will intrude negatively into the landscape and cannot be successfully mitigated, for example, extensions to settlements on visible hillsides</li> <li>• Limit expansion of villages</li> <li>• Ensure new development is proportionate and does not overwhelm the existing settlement</li> <li>• Ensure built development respects and integrates with the rural landscape character and does not interrupt the setting of settlements or impact on views of key features such as church towers/spires</li> <li>• Avoid developments incorporating standardised development layout, suburban style lighting, construction details and materials that cumulatively can lead to the erosion of peaceful landscape character.</li> <li>• Layout of development should respect local built character and avoid cramming up to boundaries resulting in hard suburban style edge to the settlement</li> <li>• Restore existing stone buildings within settlements in preference to new built development.</li> <li>• 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</li> <li>• Retain village character and settlement patterns</li> <li>• 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).</li> <li>• Conserve the distinctive rural character of valley settlements and the rural road network of narrow dry stone walled lanes.</li> <li>• Avoid development that may restrict or obscure views across or along the valleys</li> <li>• Adopt measures to minimise and where possible reduce light pollution</li> <li>• Conserve and restore traditional dry stone wall boundary features within settlements and on valley slopes bordering settlements</li> <li>• Ensure new development is integrated into its surroundings. Break up harsh edges of new development with appropriate and adequate tree planting ideally in advance of the development taking place.</li> <li>• Ensure the density of new development reflects its location relative to the 'core' of the settlement and its proximity to the surrounding rural landscape</li> <li>• Avoid proposals that result in the loss of archaeological and historical features or that impact on the relationship of the settlement and its links with</li> </ul>

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			<p>surviving historical features.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote initiatives that remove heritage assets from 'at risk' status in the Heritage at Risk Register.</li> <li>• Ensure local authority design guidelines provide full coverage of historic character issues and clear practical guidance on achieving high quality design that respects and enhances local character.</li> <li>• Promote use of and application of heritage aspects of design guidelines.</li> <li>• Ensure the historic character and context are included in Neighbourhood Plans</li> <li>• Ensure development proposals safeguard and provide new links and enhancements to the Public Rights of Way network.</li> <li>• Consider the impact on local Public Rights of Way as settlements expand and take into account any required improvements</li> </ul>
8.2	<p>Isolated development such as new single dwellings and conversion of farm buildings that might compromise rural landscape character and settlement patterns, particularly on valley sides, including farm buildings converted to residential use.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Visual intrusions introduced to the landscape</li> <li>• Upgrading of minor roads and lanes in areas of new development and introduction of suburbanising features such as gateways, kerbs and street lighting.</li> <li>• Introduction of 'lit' elements to characteristically dark landscapes.</li> <li>• Suburbanisation and domestication of the agricultural landscape by the introduction of gardens e.g ornamental garden plants and boundary features, parking areas, lighting and conversion of tracks to manicured drives and ornamental gateways</li> <li>• Loss of green space between built up areas on the valley slopes that often provide a green backdrop to settlements in the valley</li> <li>• Appearance and proliferation of stables and 'white tape' field boundaries for horses and ponies – see 8.5 below</li> <li>• Appearance of 'mini parklands' out of context with the surrounding landscape</li> <li>• Loss of tranquillity.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conserve the distinctive rural and dispersed settlement pattern.</li> <li>• Avoid isolated development, that will intrude negatively into the landscape and cannot be successfully mitigated.</li> <li>• Oppose new housing in the countryside (unless special circumstances apply in accordance with Paragraph 55 of the NPPF and development conserves and enhances the AONB as required by the CRoW Act 2000</li> <li>• Avoid conversion of isolated farm buildings</li> <li>• Conserve areas of dark skies and dark valley slopes</li> <li>• Restore existing stone farm buildings and structures in preference to new built development.</li> <li>• Where restored or converted to new uses buildings must retain their historic integrity and functional character. Sound conservation advice and principles must be sought and implemented</li> <li>• Prevent the use of suburban building styles and materials.</li> <li>• Landscaping schemes accompanying development should encourage the planting of appropriately sized native trees, shrubs and traditional fruit varieties, whilst discouraging large alien species such as eucalypts and conifers and inappropriate cultivars of native species, particularly on fringes of open countryside.</li> <li>• Respect traditional position of agricultural buildings and their relationship to the surrounding land.</li> </ul>
8.3	<p>Conversion of traditional farm buildings and mills to new uses</p> <p>Deterioration in condition of vernacular farm and mill buildings</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduction of the remote character of the valleys</li> <li>• Erosion of distinctive features in the landscape and loss of Cotswold character.</li> <li>• Domestication or industrialisation of existing agricultural vernacular and character</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conserve vernacular farm buildings for their own sake and/or by developing other options for their use whilst retaining their agricultural character</li> <li>• 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</li> </ul>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Suburbanisation of the agricultural landscape by the introduction of gardens e.g. ornamental garden plants and boundary features, parking areas, lighting and conversion of tracks to manicured drives and ornamental gateways</li> <li>• Loss of locally historic features and erosion of the integrity of the historic landscape</li> <li>• Loss of historic features/character of distinctive buildings if converted to uses requiring inappropriate interventions to historic fabric and form.</li> <li>• Loss and erosion of farmstead or mill character and how the building relates to the surrounding agricultural landuse</li> <li>• Decline in quality of landscape</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New uses should not prejudice the effective operation of the farm enterprise</li> <li>• Consider opportunities for the conversion of mills and barns to new visitor uses and rural industries. Capacity of the local road network needs to be taken into consideration</li> <li>• Avoid inappropriate new uses that necessitate excessive loss of original historic features or introduce elements that expand domestication or industrialisation</li> <li>• Conserve mill races, mill ponds, leats and meadows which relate to mill sites whilst recognising and enhancing their nature conservation value.</li> <li>• Discourage the conversion of farm buildings to a function with a limited life span and seek to prevent follow-on conversions e.g. for housing.</li> <li>• Stabilise historic buildings and undertake localised scrub and woodland clearance to enhance their landscape setting and increase the contribution they make to landscape character.</li> <li>• Respect traditional position of agricultural buildings and their relationship to the surrounding land.</li> <li>• Ensure best practice is followed for the protection of species associated with farm buildings e.g. bats</li> <li>• Promote examples of good practice</li> </ul>
8.4	Solar Farms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Industrialisation of the rural landscape</li> <li>• Change of character due to colour and texture and heliographic glint</li> <li>• Loss of seasonal change in the landscape</li> <li>• Loss of characteristic agricultural landscape</li> <li>• Loss of habitat</li> <li>• Impact of supporting infrastructure such as buildings, cables, roadways, security fencing, CCTV masts and lighting</li> <li>• Damage to and loss of landscape features such as Ridge and Furrow, Strip Lynchets, trees and dry stone walls</li> <li>• Concealment of geomorphological or archaeological features</li> <li>• Adverse impact on the setting of heritage assets</li> <li>• Decline in landscape quality</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prevent proposals for solar farms that will impact negatively on landscape character and/or intrude into views.</li> <li>• Ensure a comprehensive LVIA is undertaken (including potential cumulative effects)</li> <li>• Ensure a glint/glare assessment is undertaken to determine the heliographic impact on receptors.</li> <li>• Reduce landscape impact with appropriate screening</li> <li>• Bury cables underground and seek opportunities to bury existing overhead cables.</li> <li>• Keep supporting infrastructure to a minimum and ensure it is in keeping with landscape character.</li> <li>• Ensure removal and restoration on temporary construction access.</li> <li>• Avoid the inclusion of any security lighting proposals</li> <li>• Seek appropriate landscape enhancement to field boundaries and margins within solar farm development proposals.</li> <li>• Promote the use of roof space for photovoltaic panels particularly on modern farm buildings</li> <li>• Avoid proposals that will result in the loss or harm to landscape features such as Strip Lynchets, hedgerows and walls</li> </ul>

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8.5	Introduction of vertical elements such as communication masts, wind turbines, drilling rigs, electricity pylons and large road signs particularly on valley rims and heads	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduction of visually intrusive 'urban' or industrial features to rural landscapes</li> <li>• Introduction of unnatural movement and loss of tranquillity</li> <li>• Breaking up of valley rim skylines</li> <li>• Introduction of lit elements into dark landscape</li> <li>• Intrusion on the setting of scheduled monuments, listed buildings and designed landscapes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conserve character by opposing the development of vertical elements where these would adversely affect views along the valleys and from valley sides and on valley rims</li> <li>• Ensure development of vertical elements in neighbouring Landscape Types do not adversely affect views from, across or along the valleys</li> <li>• Ensure alternative options have been fully considered</li> <li>• Minimise impact by locating new communication masts on existing structures or by using existing masts.</li> <li>• Set masts etc against trees</li> <li>• Bury cables underground and seek opportunities to bury existing overhead cables</li> <li>• Avoid use of visually prominent urban security fencing and CCTV masts</li> <li>• Consider other renewable energy or communication technologies</li> <li>• Seek to minimise size and number of road signs</li> <li>• Ensure full assessment of heritage setting impacts and appropriate measures undertaken</li> </ul>
8.6	Licensed Waste disposal such as land-fill and waste recycling operations including composting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Degradation of landscape character and wildlife habitats.</li> <li>• Loss of tranquillity due to noise, dust and vehicle movements</li> <li>• Unpleasant smells from composting</li> <li>• Loss of biodiversity and geological features</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Avoid strategic waste disposal proposals within or adjacent to the AONB.</li> <li>• Avoid importing waste into the AONB</li> <li>• Ensure small scale local waste disposal operations continue to operate with minimal impact</li> <li>• Support proposals for local waste recycling that do not impact on landscape character or tranquillity and reduce vehicle movement, especially distance travelled</li> </ul>
8.7	Licensed spreading of waste on agricultural land	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Change in colour in the landscape.</li> <li>• Unpleasant smells</li> <li>• Potential impact on watercourses or aquifer</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• Avoid storage (e.g. sewage waste heaps) adjacent to public rights of way and roads</li> <li>• Ensure swift incorporation</li> </ul>
8.8	Illegal waste disposal/fly tipping	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unsightly intrusion into the landscape</li> <li>• Loss of biodiversity</li> <li>• Blocking of gateways, laybys and areas of road verge by fly tipping</li> <li>• Pollution of watercourses and aquifer</li> <li>• Loose waste material blowing around and catching on hedges, trees etc.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protect former quarries from fly tipping</li> <li>• Seek swift removal of fly tipping</li> <li>• Prosecute landowners who allow or turn a 'blind eye' to unlicensed waste disposal</li> <li>• Remove blown material from hedges, trees and road verges.</li> </ul>

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

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8.10	Road upgrading and improvements, especially of minor country roads, as a result of development or general improvement schemes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduction of suburban features such as mini roundabouts, lighting, kerbs and traffic calming measures.</li> <li>• Use of inappropriate materials (e.g. standard highway fences and barriers)</li> <li>• Increased traffic movement</li> <li>• Loss of roadside hedges and walls</li> <li>• Loss of verge/roadside habitat</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Refer to DMRB Vol 10 for general environmental design guidance.</li> <li>• Conserve the rural character of the local road network</li> <li>• Promote use of design and materials appropriate to local character.</li> <li>• Produce guidance on design and suitable materials.</li> <li>• Resist the construction of 'village gateways', particularly those which are inappropriate and out of character.</li> <li>• Minimise the use of road markings, permanent signage and lighting, siting them with care and ensuring that they are in keeping with their surroundings wherever possible whilst fulfilling road safety requirements.</li> <li>• Avoid making over-large and inappropriate entrances and keep visibility splays to a minimum.</li> <li>• Promote use of 'shared space' for traffic calming measures in villages.</li> <li>• Seek opportunities to conserve and enhance roadside boundaries and habitats and secure their long-term management,</li> </ul>
8.11	Excessive traffic and/or speed on minor local roads and lanes and verge parking. Increase in size of vehicle using lanes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pressure to improve roads by widening and straightening and improving sightlines.</li> <li>• Loss of tranquillity</li> <li>• Danger to walkers/riders and other non-motorised users.</li> <li>• Damage to verges and roadside boundaries by HGVs and agricultural vehicles</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote traffic restriction measures such as lorry routing maps.</li> <li>• Maintain or reinstate rural character within towns and villages by promoting shared space and road design to slow and minimise traffic impact.</li> <li>• Apply national guidance on rural speed restrictions in sensitive areas (DfT Circular 01/2013 especially Para 128)</li> <li>• Ensure traffic management measures reflect the character and materials of the area.</li> <li>• Encourage use of public transport, car sharing etc</li> <li>• Encourage cycling on safe routes</li> <li>• Promote road verge protection and management</li> </ul>
<b>Land use</b>			
8.12	<p>Agricultural intensification, diversification and farm amalgamation.</p> <p>Conversion of permanent pasture to arable.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eutrophication of water courses from farm run off.</li> <li>• Loss of dry stone walls, species rich hedgerows and field patterns on the valley sides.</li> <li>• Removal of semi-natural vegetation cover and the poor maintenance and subsequent loss of field boundaries</li> <li>• Loss of habitat</li> <li>• Loss of permanent pasture</li> <li>• Increased conversion of pasture to arable land.</li> <li>• Damage to and loss of archaeological sites and field monuments from conversion of pasture to arable and from intensification of grazing.</li> <li>• Ongoing loss of archaeological sites and monuments from long-term cultivation and erosion.</li> <li>• New agricultural buildings</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure that new farm buildings including silos, AD plants etc do not have an adverse visual impact on the wider landscape including views along or across the valleys.</li> <li>• Encourage the mitigation of existing large agricultural buildings e.g. limited tree planting</li> <li>• Provide advice to farmers on the siting of new buildings, lighting, colour etc</li> <li>• Encourage the installation of PV on the roofs of new agricultural buildings, avoiding risk of glint/glare.</li> <li>• Seek to conserve traditional farm buildings. where necessary through appropriate new uses that retain historic character and features</li> <li>• Respect traditional position of agricultural buildings and their relationship to the surrounding land.</li> <li>• Encourage the protection of traditional field patterns and</li> </ul>



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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Move towards arable production on small mixed farms resulting in the removal or degradation of hedgerows and/ or loss of former pasture.</li> <li>• Conversion of farm outbuildings and field barns to recreational or business uses</li> <li>• Loss of Farmstead character</li> <li>• Increased damage to roads, road verges, dry stone walls and hedges from large machinery</li> <li>• Increased width of gateways into fields</li> </ul>	<p>encourage hedgerow and dry stone wall restoration.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Retain and restore dry stone walls particularly adjacent to roads and in the vicinity of settlements</li> <li>• Encourage small-scale mixed farming and encourage woodland and boundary management.</li> <li>• Monitor river nutrient levels.</li> <li>• Conserve herb-rich meadows and areas of permanent pasture</li> <li>• Conserve hedgerow and in-field trees and seek opportunities to plant replacements</li> <li>• Protect and retain ancient/veteran trees</li> <li>• 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).</li> <li>• Oppose proposals to convert pasture to arable particularly where archaeological sites/field monuments may be lost or damaged.</li> <li>• Encourage low intensity grazing or restrict access by livestock where archaeological sites/field monuments may be lost or damaged</li> </ul>
8.13	Changes in land use and management within historic parks and gardens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Weakening of the integrity of designed landscapes, parks and gardens</li> <li>• Loss of or damage to elements of designed landscapes, parks and gardens.</li> <li>• Insertion of inappropriate new elements that diminish rather than enhance historic design characteristics</li> <li>• Intrusion on setting of designed landscapes – especially designed vistas and other important views of or out from the area.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conserve and enhance historic parks and gardens, including their setting</li> <li>• Develop and implement management plans</li> <li>• Restore lost elements of historic parks and gardens to restore the integrity of the designed landscape as a whole.</li> <li>• Avoid development that damages the extent, features, character or setting of historic designed landscapes.</li> </ul>
8.14	Loss of dry stone walls due to abandonment, development of volunteer hedges, replacement with hedges or fences or removal to build/restore a wall elsewhere.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Loss of a key feature characteristic of the Cotswolds and high wold landscapes in particular.</li> <li>• Change in landscape character through the replacement of dry stone walls with hedges and fences.</li> <li>• Weakening/loss of field patterns, particularly those that reflect the pre-enclosure open field system</li> <li>• Loss of features in the walls such as stone stiles</li> <li>• Loss of key characteristic of 18<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> century field patterns that dominate the area.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encourage the retention and maintenance of dry stone walls.</li> <li>• Ensure dry stone wall retention and maintenance are included in agri-environment schemes</li> <li>• Provide guidance on Delves – small scale on-farm quarries for walling stone</li> <li>• Seek opportunities for dry stone wall construction and repair through planning mitigation</li> <li>• Where possible use stone that reflects the local style of dry stone wall including colour and thickness</li> <li>• Prevent the formation of volunteer hedges</li> </ul>
8.15	Planting of energy crops such as Miscanthus, short rotation coppice and short rotation forestry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Loss or seasonal interruption of views particularly from roads and public rights of way.</li> <li>• Increased sense of inclosure</li> <li>• Loss of remaining permanent pasture</li> <li>• Damage to archaeological sites and historic landscapes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure energy crops are not planted where they would restrict or intrude into views, particularly open views across the landscape and on skyline sites.</li> <li>• Do not plant on semi-natural habitats, permanent pasture or on sites with Section 41 NERC Act or local BAP species that could be affected in a negative way.</li> </ul>

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	Local Forces For Change	Potential Landscape Implications	Landscape Strategies and Guidelines
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Archaeological sites, historic landscapes, geological and geomorphological sites damaged or obscured</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Do not plant on sites where archaeological sites could be damaged or obscured or where significant historic landscapes would be adversely affected or on sites where features of geological or geomorphological importance would be obscured.</li> <li>• Promote Cotswolds Conservation Board Guidance</li> </ul>
8.16	Decline in grazing stock particularly on unimproved limestone grassland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Loss of characteristic of grazing animals in the landscape</li> <li>• Scrub encroachment and loss of species rich grassland due to invasion of dominant grass species.</li> <li>• Development of secondary woodland</li> <li>• Change in colour and texture in the landscape due to rank vegetation and scrub.</li> <li>• Tendency for 'abandoned land' to be targeted for conversion into arable or woodland or for development.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conserve areas of open pasture and common.</li> <li>• Consider traditional management regimes to limit scrub encroachment on areas of semi natural grassland.</li> <li>• Re-introduction of grazing on semi-natural grasslands/improvement of existing grazing regimes.</li> <li>• Produce guidance on scrub management</li> </ul>
8.17	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"> <li>• Loss of integrity, cohesion and character of historic farmsteads and associated farmland.</li> <li>• Loss of agricultural context</li> <li>• Suburbanisation of agricultural landscape by the introduction of gardens e.g ornamental garden plants and boundary features, parking areas, lighting and conversion of tracks to manicured drives and ornamental gateways</li> <li>• Shelterbelt planting for privacy screening</li> <li>• Appearance and proliferation of stables and 'white tape' field boundaries for horses and ponies</li> <li>• Sub-division of fields using post and rail fences</li> <li>• Pressure for housing on plots of land</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Only permit new uses of traditional farm buildings that are appropriate to retain their historic character and features.</li> <li>• Use planning conditions to restrict subdivision of fields, construction of stables etc. Consider use of Article 4 Direction.</li> <li>• Ensure separation of housing does not prejudice the effective operation of the farm enterprise</li> <li>• Avoid isolated development, particularly in areas of dark skies</li> <li>• Respect traditional position of agricultural buildings and their relationship to the surrounding land</li> </ul>
8.18	Development of scrub and trees on roadside verges Mowing of verges at inappropriate times	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Loss of views from the public highway</li> <li>• Loss of roadside grassland habitat</li> <li>• Damage to hedges, dry stone walls and other features</li> <li>• Creation of 'lawns' on the roadside due to regular mowing for tidiness leading to suburbanisation and a homogenised appearance.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify key views from roads</li> <li>• Manage/remove verge scrub and trees</li> <li>• Reintroduce appropriate verge management and mowing</li> <li>• Promote best practice management of verges</li> </ul>
8.19	Flood management and alleviation measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Construction of 'hard' flood defences</li> <li>• Tree planting for flood management inappropriate to landscape character - see 8.24 below.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Retain and manage watercourses in their naturalistic form. Seek opportunities to restore natural meanders etc, removing engineered channels, culverts etc to restore a functioning watercourse and floodplain.</li> <li>• Consider Rural Sustainable Drainage interventions to slow peak water flow particularly within woodland.</li> <li>• Seek to influence surrounding land management such as contour ploughing, wide margins, de-compaction of soils and pasture etc.</li> <li>• Seek opportunities for temporary flood water storage on farmland</li> <li>• Ensure flood defences integrate into the landscape by using appropriate mitigation measures, landscaping and materials</li> </ul>

## 8. High Wold Valley

	Local Forces For Change	Potential Landscape Implications	Landscape Strategies and Guidelines
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For tree planting see Creation of Woodland section below</li> </ul>
8.20	Fencing of river corridors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• River edge becomes overgrown with rank vegetation due to a loss of grazing leading to loss of riparian habitat.</li> <li>• Imposition of fence line along valley bottom.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encourage low intensity grazing along floodplain and valley bottom meadows.</li> <li>• Encourage use of temporary fencing where possible.</li> </ul>
8.21	Water abstraction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduced river flows/dry rivers</li> <li>• Die-off of riverside trees such as willow</li> <li>• Loss of wetland habitat</li> <li>• Limited selection of crop type</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduce or stop abstraction</li> <li>• Support river flows/water recirculation</li> </ul>
8.22	Damage to field monuments and archaeological sites and the historic environment from, farming operations, livestock, tree root damage, burrowing animals, woodland management operations and tree planting and recreational activity.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Damage to important archaeological sites and important landscape features.</li> <li>• Loss of traditional field patterns</li> <li>• Loss of traditional field patterns and integrity of the wider historic landscape</li> <li>• Loss of traditional field boundaries, particularly dry stone walls and hedgerows.</li> <li>• Loss of locally distinctive features</li> <li>• Damage caused by livestock</li> <li>• Damage caused by recreational activity</li> <li>• Encroachment of scrub onto archaeological features</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inform landowners of important archaeological sites</li> <li>• Protect all upstanding archaeological sites and consider the impact of development on their landscape setting.</li> <li>• Manage/remove burrowing animals</li> <li>• Restore the wider setting of key monuments to ensure that they do not read as islands amidst a sea of arable farming.</li> <li>• Raise awareness of the historic environment and of the county and unitary authority Historic Environment Records as a source of information</li> <li>• Provide and disseminate guidance on managing the historic environment to farmers and land owners</li> <li>• Retain traditional field patterns, field boundaries and ridge and furrow</li> <li>• Ensure tree planting does not take place on archaeological features.</li> <li>• Control scrub and manage existing trees on archaeological features to minimise damage for example by root damage or wind-blow.</li> <li>• Minimise or prevent damage to the historic environment by recreational activity by working with landowners to prepare site management plans and if necessary limit access.</li> <li>• Repair badly eroded features such as earthworks and dry stone walls</li> <li>• Avoid planting new hedgerows or the development of volunteer hedges adjacent to dry stone walls.</li> </ul>
8.23	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"> <li>• Loss of sites that provide an understanding of the Cotswold landscape</li> <li>• Loss of visible features such as valley bulges and land slips.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify important geological features and ensure they are conserved and appropriately managed</li> </ul>

## 8. High Wold Valley

	Local Forces For Change	Potential Landscape Implications	Landscape Strategies and Guidelines
	<b>Woodland and trees</b>		
8.24	Creation of woodland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Loss of permanent pasture</li> <li>• Loss of character</li> <li>• Loss or restriction of views across and along the High Wold valleys</li> <li>• Increased sense of inclosure of the landscape, particularly from the public highway</li> <li>• Loss of Historic Landscape Character through inappropriate siting and/or species.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conserve views, particularly along and across the valleys</li> <li>• Extend and link existing woodland</li> <li>• Plant new woodland or allow natural woodland regeneration on valley sides and surrounding new development, but not on areas of permanent pasture or unimproved grasslands.</li> <li>• Conserve hedgerow and in-field trees and seek opportunities to plant replacements</li> <li>• Seek EIA determination if necessary</li> <li>• Select species characteristic of ancient semi-natural woodland in the area.</li> <li>• Identify key viewpoints</li> <li>• Locate new woodland and copses in historically characteristic topographical locations including their relationship to farmsteads and settlements.</li> <li>• For shelterbelts and plantations associated with designed landscapes, select species characteristic of historic designed landscape planting in the area.</li> </ul>
8.25	Decline of important semi-natural and ancient woodland due to neglect and over grazing of stock limiting natural regeneration.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Loss of woodland and associated habitat.</li> <li>• Decline in the wooded character of the valleys.</li> <li>• Loss of historic landscape character of traditionally managed woodland</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Exclude grazing or manage grazing as appropriate.</li> <li>• Initiate schemes for the phased removal of invasive non-native species.</li> <li>• Conserve and manage ancient semi-natural woodlands.</li> <li>• Re-establish traditional woodland management/woodland products.</li> <li>• Develop contribution of traditional woodland products such as coppice to renewable energy</li> <li>• Restore PAWS</li> <li>• Conserve grassland habitats found in close proximity to areas of broadleaved woodland.</li> </ul>
8.26	Impact of tree disease such as Chalara Dieback of ash.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Change of colour and texture of woodland canopy as trees die</li> <li>• Thinning of woodland canopy</li> <li>• Loss of single, sometimes veteran, trees in the landscape</li> <li>• Re-stocking with species not native to the Cotswolds</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote Woodland Management Plans to minimise the impact of disease and manage change</li> <li>• Recommend alternative species to ash that reflect the appearance and structure of Cotswold woodland</li> <li>• Consider different provenance of ash that may be disease resistant</li> <li>• Establish a programme to plant replacement trees in the landscape outside of woodlands e.g. parkland</li> <li>• Seek arboricultural advice</li> </ul>