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Strategic Planning Policy and Specialist Advice Team,  
South Gloucestershire Council,  
Environment and Community Services Department,  
PO Box 299,  
Civic Centre,  
Bristol  
BS15 0DR

3<sup>rd</sup> March 2014.

Dear Sir/Madam,

**South Gloucestershire Landscape Character Assessment Supplementary Planning Document – consultation.**

The Landscape Character Assessment for the Cotswolds AONB was published in 2004 with the Landscape Strategy and Guidelines being developed and adopted by the Cotswolds Conservation Board between 2007 and 2008.

Theoretically, two Landscape Character Assessments covering the same area should identify the same characteristics and develop very similar strategies to conserve and enhance those characteristics. This is indeed the case for the South Gloucestershire and Cotswolds AONB LCAs.

The principal differences between the two LCAs is that the South Gloucestershire LCA has smaller area Landscape Types and is consequently able to go into greater detail in the descriptions of the physical influences, land cover, character etc compared to the Cotswolds AONB LCA. The Cotswolds LCA Landscape Strategy and Guidelines, are however more detailed and more explicit for example on woodland creation and the impacts of keeping horses.

The inclusion of Biodiversity in the revised LCA is very much supported by the Board.

The Landscape Areas of relevance to the Cotswolds AONB are:

- Area 1 Badminton Plateau
- Area 2 Marshfield Plateau
- Area 3 Ashwick Ridge
- Area 4 Cotswold Scarp
- Area 5 Wickwar Ridge and Vale
- Area 6 Pucklechurch Ridge and Boyd Valley
- Area 11 Golden Valley
- Area 16 Avon Valley

Conserving, enhancing, understanding and enjoying the Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

Cotswolds Conservation Board The Old Prison Fosse Way Northleach Gloucestershire GL54 3JH

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Because of the high degree of concurrence between the two LCAs, the comments of the Board are very brief.

**Section 1, Policy Context.**

This section covers the ELC and the NPPF but only makes brief mention of national designations. It would be worth including a short paragraph on AONB designation in the context of the NPPF paragraph 115 – "Great weight should be given to conserving landscape and scenic beauty in National Parks, the Broads and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, which have the highest status of protection in relation to landscape and scenic beauty".

**Landscape Strategies**

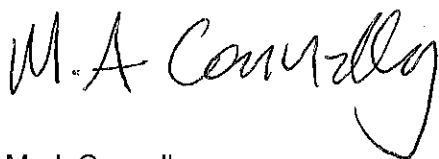
The recognition of the strong visual relationship between the Cotswold Scarp and Landscape Areas 5 and 6 is particularly welcomed by the Board. Landscape Areas 11 and 16 also adjoin if not slightly overlap with the Cotswolds AONB and perhaps should have similar strategies.

**Area 6, The Changing Landscape.**

An increase in small woodlands as a result of the Community Forest has been cited in the land cover section (last bullet point). Should this also be included in the Changing Landscape section?

If you wish to discuss or seek clarification on the comments above, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "M.A. Connolly". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end of the name.

Mark Connolly

Land Management Officer