

## Cotswolds National Park: Evaluation Framework for Natural Beauty Criterion

The sub-factors and associated indicators should be regarded as a menu of examples (developed from past designations and subsequent consultation) from which those appropriate to the character of the landscape under consideration should be chosen, adapted or added to. There is no scoring involving accumulations of indicators and it is possible for a landscape to exhibit natural beauty or offer opportunities for open air recreation even if a number of the indicators shown in this appendix are not present.

Factor	Example sub-factor	Example Indicator
<p><b>Landscape quality</b></p>	<p>Intactness of the landscape in visual, functional and ecological perspectives</p>	<p>Characteristic natural and man-made elements are well represented throughout</p> <p>Cotswolds AONB was designated for its natural beauty; designated in 1966 and extended in area in 1990. It is the country's largest AONB and third largest Protected Landscape, covering 790 sq miles and 2038 sq kms.</p> <p>The Cotswolds are often described as the quintessential English rural landscape. More than any other English landscape the Cotswolds reflects the physical and human influences that have moulded it through time, creating an immensely varied landscape, but one which has many common features and a clear identity (see The Cotswold Landscape, Countryside Commission Publication, CCP 229).</p> <p>The underlying limestone, field boundary walls, stone buildings and rolling hills are all seamlessly interwoven. No other area combines such a high quality landscape with its high quality village and town architecture, the combined sum of the whole is very much greater than the sum of the individual parts.</p> <p><b>Landscape - A unique survivor</b></p> <p>The Cotswold landscape is a unique survivor, losing out in the industrial revolution and remaining largely untouched until the late 19th/early 20th century, creating an impression of stability and peace which attracts people and visitors escaping industrialised Britain.<sup>1</sup> The Cotswolds has experienced less modernisation than elsewhere, developing its own individuality.</p> <p>The Cotswolds in particular have been extraordinarily fortunate in preserving an almost entirely rural appearance ..... All the Cotswold towns have remained country towns, despite the impacts of mass tourism and long-distance commuting, and form collectively one of the most attractive aspects of the area. Of even wider significance is the consistency established by the almost exclusive use of the Oolitic limestones as</p>

building materials ...<sup>ii</sup>

### Characteristics

Whilst there is a range of key characteristics/special qualities that individually may not be unique, the combination of those characteristics are unique and define the Cotswolds in turn as a unique and coherent landscape.

The Cotswold AONB Landscape Character Assessment (see Supporting Information) states:

*“The Cotswolds landscape..... forms the best-known section of the outcrop of Oolitic limestone that stretches across England from Lyme Bay in Dorset to the North Sea, in North Yorkshire and Lincolnshire. The Cotswolds landscape attracts many visitors both from this country as well as from around the world, in response to its perception as a rural idyll.*

*Many of the features associated with this cherished landscape evoke strong images, particularly the dramatic escarpment and expansive high wolds, the network of limestone walls, beech woods clothing the escarpment, and secluded valleys and valley bottom meadows. The built environment is also very evocative ranging from the charm of the many picturesque villages and historic small towns to the individual houses, churches and mansions, and historic landscaped parks. Together these create a strong perception of harmony throughout the area.*

*The outstanding natural beauty is derived from the Cotswolds visual unity (and lack of stridency) and yet scenic diversity.”*

The Cotswolds AONB Management Plan 2013-18 and draft plan for 2018-23 recognise the Special Qualities of the Cotswolds (Statement Of Significance). The area is a rich mosaic of historical, social, economic, cultural, geological, geomorphological and ecological features. The special qualities of the Cotswolds include:

- the unifying character of the limestone geology – its visible presence as natural outcrops, its use as a building material and through the plant and animal communities it supports;
- the Cotswold escarpment, including views to and from it;
- the high wolds – a large open, elevated landscape with commons, ‘big’ skies

		<p>and long-distance views;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• river valleys, the majority forming the headwaters of the Thames, with high-quality water;</li> <li>• dry stone walls, which give the AONB its essential character in many areas;</li> <li>• internationally important flower-rich limestone grasslands;</li> <li>• internationally important ancient broadleaved woodland, particularly along the crest of the escarpment;</li> <li>• variations in the colour of the stone from one part of the AONB to another, which add a vital element of local distinctiveness;</li> <li>• the tranquillity of the area;</li> <li>• distinctive settlements, developed in the Cotswold vernacular, high architectural quality and integrity;</li> <li>• accessible landscape for quiet recreation; and</li> <li>• historic associations.</li> </ul> <p>For current and draft Management Plans see links provided in Supporting Information.</p>
	<p>The condition of the landscape’s features and elements</p>	<p>Landscape elements are in good condition</p> <p>The Cotswolds landscape is described in Cotswolds Landscape Character Assessment and identifies 19 different landscape character types in the Cotswolds AONB.</p> <p>The Landscape Strategy and Guidelines have been produced for each of the 19 landscape character types. This information is used by local planners and decision makers to make informed decisions about the suitability of proposed development or change within the Cotswold landscape.</p> <p>For the Cotswolds AONB Landscape Character Assessment and Landscape Strategy and Guidelines, see Supporting Information.</p> <p>Countryside Quality Counts (CQC) rated the Cotswolds as one of a limited number of landscapes to be improving/strengthening character.</p>

	<p>The influence of incongruous features or elements (whether man-made or natural) on the perceived natural beauty of the area</p>	<p>Incongruous elements are not present to a significant degree, are not visually intrusive, have only localised influence or are temporary in nature</p> <p>There are a small number of individual and isolated wind turbines. Small solar farms installations are present but not common. There are a relatively small number of mobile phone signal and communication masts e.g. Goose Green Telecoms tower, near Wotton.</p> <p>However, the landscape is under pressure, reflected by: loss of dry stone walls, woodlands often not being managed effectively, open views being lost to woodland creation and tress on road verges and unimproved grasslands being lost.</p> <p>CPREs 2017 review of housing in England’s AONBs identified the Cotswolds as one of the most pressurised landscapes, ( see An Independent Review of Housing In England’s Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty 2012-2017, CPRE).</p>
<p><b>Scenic quality</b></p>	<p>A distinctive sense of place</p>	<p>Landscape character lends a clear and recognisable sense of place</p> <p>The industrial revolution passed the Cotswolds by and until the second half of the 20th century it was largely untouched. There is a continuous harmonious landscape from the north to the south where settlements, both large and small, built from limestone with a common architectural heritage sit seamlessly within the countryside around them. Much of the landscape is very sparsely populated and is remote in feel. It is a unique and stunningly beautiful area.</p> <p>The area represents the best known section of Oolitic limestone stretching from Lyme Bay on the South Coast to Filey / Redcar on the North Sea. The underlying limestone, field boundary walls, stone buildings and rolling hills are all seamlessly interwoven.</p>
	<p>Striking landform</p>	<p>Landform shows a strong sense of scale or contrast</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cotswolds escarpment – dramatic escarpment forming a highly visible landscape feature from Bath to Mickleton. Forms a ‘wall’ on the eastern side of the vale to the west and a backdrop to Cheltenham and Bath;</li> <li>• High Wold – open and exposed with extensive views and panoramas;</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Secluded/incised valleys around Stroud and Bath, providing a sense of enclosure and seclusion;</li> <li>• Wider floodplain valleys of Evenlode and Windrush with ‘misfit’ rivers;</li> <li>• Dry valley systems with alternating interlocking spurs.</li> </ul>
Visual interest in patterns of land cover	<p>There are striking landform types or coastal configurations</p> <p>Land cover and vegetation types form an appealing pattern or composition in relation to each other and/or to landform which may be appreciated from either a vantage point or as one travels through a landscape</p> <p>The Cotswolds are often described as the quintessential English rural landscape.</p> <p>Land cover is varied ranging from woodland to pasture and arable. The Cotswolds is 12% woodland and 87% farmland of which 49% is arable and 43% grass. The visual interest in the arable land changes through the year. Crops of cereal and oil-seed rape provide texture and colour variation changing to yellow and browns during and following the harvest. Pasture colour is also varied in the landscape from the intense greens of agricultural pastures to russets and golds of unimproved grasslands.</p> <p>The beech hangers of the Cotswold escarpment add visual interest, sometimes from a considerable distance, providing a diverse structure to the crest.</p>
Appeal to the senses	<p>Strong aesthetic qualities, reflecting factors such as scale and form, degree of openness or enclosure, colours and textures, simplicity or diversity, and ephemeral or seasonal interest</p> <p>Memorable or unusual views and eye-catching features or landmarks</p> <p>Views from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• and along the Cotswolds escarpment across the vales to the Forest of Dean, Black Mountains, Malvern Hills and Shropshire Hills;</li> <li>• the scarp and high wold towards the North Wessex Downs;</li> <li>• the southern Cotswolds across the Severn Estuary and down towards Exmoor;</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• structures on the escarpment e.g. Broadway Tower or the Tyndale Monument;</li> <li>• the Commons e.g. Cleeve, Rodborough and Selsley;</li> <li>• archaeological and historic sites e.g. Belas Knapp or Nymphsfield Long Barrow;</li> <li>• the extensive landscape and large open skies of the High Wold.</li> </ul> <p>Characteristic cognitive and sensory stimuli (e.g. sounds, quality of light, characteristic smells, characteristics of the weather)</p> <p>The Cotswolds has a unique light, particularly in the spring and autumn when the low sun reflects off the stone buildings. The summer evenings light up the landscape from the west showing the Cotswolds in a 'different light', particularly the escarpment.</p> <p>The soundscape of the Cotswolds is varied and provides a unique experience. On hot days Cleeve Common literally crackles as the gorse seed pods ripen and burst, the grasslands buzz with insects and the song of the yellowhammer and corn bunting echo across farmland backed up by mewing buzzards.</p> <p>The open landscapes of the wolds and escarpment provide experience of the power of the weather. Oncoming rain can be seen for some distance and the exposure of the Cotswolds is particularly felt in the winter. The land mass of the Cotswolds holds snow and frost for longer and in the summer the Cotswolds are 2-3 degrees cooler than the Severn Vale.</p> <p>The smells of the Cotswolds ranges from the cool damp earth and leaf litter of the Beech woodlands to the high perfume of field beans in flower. Cotswold stone, particularly freshly dug stone, has a very distinctive smell.</p>
<b>Relative wildness</b>	A sense of remoteness	<p>Relatively few roads or other transport routes</p> <p>The Cotswolds can be accessed easily via the national road network and strategic routes. It also has main routes running through the 800 sq miles e.g. A40, A429, (Fosse Way), A417 A44 and A46.</p>

		<p>Away from these main a to b routes the road network quickly becomes a relatively minor and quiet network of rural roads – providing a clear sense of being away from centres of population and industry.</p>
		<p>Distant from or perceived as distant from significant habitation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High Wold landscape in particular can feel remote and “away from it all”;</li> <li>• Much of the landscape is very sparsely populated and is remote in feel;</li> <li>• Population density: 190 per sq mile or 73 per sq kms, (150,000 AONB resident populations), slightly less than the South Downs National Park;</li> <li>• Population concentrated in market towns, rural population density much lower.</li> </ul>
	<p>A relative lack of human influence</p>	<p>Extensive areas of semi-natural vegetation</p> <p>Grasslands: The Cotswolds contains over 50% of the UK’s unimproved, flower-rich limestone grassland – not only a stunningly beautiful feature of the region, but a habitat vital for pollinators and other wildlife. In the 1930s 40% of the Cotswolds was covered in limestone grassland but today that has fallen to less than 1.5%. These remnants are often small fragments and highly vulnerable, there is a need for landscape-scale restoration to maintain, expand and connect these precious meadows.</p> <p>Woodlands: 12% of the area is woodland. Ancient woodland, especially beech is a particularly distinctive and prominent feature of the escarpment and enclosed limestone valleys. Part of this woodland is included within the Cotswold Beech Woodland Specula Area of Conservation, (SAC) and is of both national and European importance.</p> <p>Uninterrupted tracts of land with few built features and few overt industrial or</p>

		<p>urban influences</p> <p>The industrial revolution passed the Cotswolds by and until the second half of the</p>
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		<p>20th century it was largely untouched.</p> <p>The exception is the Stroud valleys – a hive of industrial activity up the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, giving rise to large woollen mills initially powered by water. These large industrial buildings are made of Cotswold stone and blend surprisingly well in to the valley landscape. Many have now been converted into offices and flats. Bliss’ Woollen Mill in Chipping Norton is another reminder of the wool industry and with its unusual chimney is an iconic building. The iconic and much photographed Arlington row is a row of former weavers cottages.</p>
	A sense of openness and exposure	<p>Open, exposed to the elements and expansive in character</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cotswolds escarpment and Commons – elevated and exposed;</li> <li>• High Wold – elevated, expansive and exposed.</li> </ul>
	A sense of enclosure and isolation	<p>Sense of enclosure provided by (eg) woodland, landform that offers a feeling of isolation</p> <p>The incised valleys around Stroud and Bath provide a sense of enclosure.</p>
	A sense of the passing of time and a return to nature	<p>Absence or apparent absence of active human intervention</p> <p>Much of the landscape is very sparsely populated and is remote in feel.</p>
<b>Relative tranquillity</b>	Contributors to tranquillity	<p>Presence and/or perceptions of natural landscape, birdsong, peace and quiet, natural-looking woodland, stars at night, stream, sea, natural sounds and similar influences</p> <p>The Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE) has undertaken considerable work to define and map tranquillity across England. CPRE produced “dark skies” maps in 1993, 2000 and 2016 showing the impact of light pollution across England. In 2006 CPRE published “tranquillity maps” which showed comparative levels of tranquillity for England. See the Board’s Position Statement on Tranquillity and Dark Skies, within the Supporting Information.</p>



		<p>This research identifies that the Cotswolds are the remaining large area free from excessive light pollution and noise in the region, surrounded by the urban areas of Bath/Bristol, Gloucester/Cheltenham, Worcester/Evesham/Stratford/, Banbury/Bicester/Oxford, Swindon and Trowbridge. The AONB therefore fulfils an important function for the populations of these areas as a “breathing space” where they can “get away from it all”.</p> <p>Examples of dark sky areas: the A40 corridor from Burford to Andoversford, whilst the Rollright Stones have Dark Sky site status.</p> <p>Examples of areas of solitude: the high wold and incised valleys are often only interrupted by birdsong and the sound of the wind.</p>
	<p>Detractors from tranquillity</p>	<p>Presence and/or perceptions of traffic noise, large numbers of people, urban development, overhead light pollution, low flying aircraft, power lines and similar influences</p> <p>The main roads crossing the Cotswolds bring with them traffic noise although their impact can be a relatively narrow corridor. The most significant road corridor is the A417.</p> <p>The glow of lights from Cotswold towns, particularly around the edge of the AONB, eg Cheltenham, Gloucester, Stroud, Bath and ‘greater’ Bristol (Kingswood etc) often serves to reinforce the value of tranquillity and dark skies in the Cotswolds.</p> <p>High voltage electricity cables cross the Cotswolds, most notably paralleling parts of the A40. Whilst they are large structures, their location within a large and open and expansive landscape means that they do not intrude significantly.</p> <p>There are a variety of examples of where low voltage electricity cables have been successfully undergrounded, improving both agricultural landscapes and village street scenes.</p>

<p><b>Natural heritage features</b></p>	<p>Geological and geo-morphological features</p>	<p>Visible expression of geology in distinctive sense of place and other aspects of scenic quality</p> <p>General</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Classic scarp and dip-slope scenery with mis-fit river and dry valley systems;</li> <li>• Thickest sections of Middle Jurassic Inferior Oolite rocks in the UK;</li> <li>• Classic area of Jurassic stratigraphy;</li> <li>• The ONLY area where units such as the Pea Grit, Gryphite Grit and Rolling Bank member can be seen;</li> <li>• Long history of research;</li> <li>• Provides the resources for the characteristic Cotswold building, roofing and walling stone;</li> <li>• Provides aquifers for local water supply;</li> <li>• Part of a structural feature extending from Somerset to Yorkshire;</li> <li>• Numerous high quality exposures.</li> </ul> <p>Palaeontology</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Great variety and abundance of fossils;</li> <li>• First ever dinosaur described was from the Cotswolds;</li> <li>• Oldest confirmed Stegosaur in the world;</li> <li>• Early finds of carnivorous insects;</li> <li>• Numerous discoveries of other dinosaurs, pterosaurs and large reptiles;</li> <li>• First area where fossils were used as relative dating tools;</li> <li>• Many locations where fossils can be collected.</li> </ul> <p>Historical significance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Studies date back to early 1800's and William Smith, "The Father of English Geology", born in Churchill;</li> <li>• Over 200 years of geological research and study;</li> <li>• Significant collections of rocks and fossils housed in local museums;</li> <li>• Large collection of papers and studies from the Cotteswold Naturalists Field Club.</li> </ul> <p>Economic resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Building, roofing and walling stone;</li> <li>• Fullers Earth;</li> </ul>
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Water;</li> <li>• Aggregate;</li> <li>• Lime;</li> <li>• Brick clay;</li> <li>• Iron.</li> </ul> <p>Designations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 36 Geological Conservation Review (GCR) / Geological SSSI (Site of Special Scientific Interest) in the AONB;</li> <li>• 84 Regionally Important Geological Sites (RIGS) in the AONB.</li> </ul> <p>Presence of striking or memorable geo-morphological features</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cotswold escarpment;</li> <li>• Devils chimney at Leckhampton;</li> <li>• Classic example of ‘scarp and dip’ landscape;</li> <li>• Probably the most intense accumulation of landslips in inland Britain;</li> <li>• Dry valleys, windgaps, incised meanders and misfit streams;</li> <li>• Extensive cambering on the scarp and valley sides;</li> <li>• Evidence of southern most extent of recent glaciations.</li> </ul>
Wildlife and habitats		<p>Presence of wildlife and/or habitats that make a particular contribution to distinctive sense of place or other aspects of scenic quality</p> <p>The area contains:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3 National Nature Reserves, NNRs (7 sq kms, 0.34% of AONB);</li> <li>• 5 Special Areas of Conservation , SACs (12 sq kms, 0.57% of AONB);</li> <li>• 89 Sites of Special Scientific Interest, SSSIs (44 sq kms, 2.14% of AONB).</li> </ul> <p>Key habitats recognised in the Cotswolds AONB Management Plan 2013 – 18 and draft plan for 2018-23:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lowland mixed deciduous woodland</li> <li>• Lowland beech and yew woodland</li> <li>• Wood pasture and parkland</li> </ul>

- Lowland calcareous grasslands
- Rivers and ponds
- Arable field margins important for birds and plant species
- Hedgerows
- Traditional orchards
- Areas important for bats (batscapes)

The AONB contains over half the UK's CG5 Grassland (unimproved Jurassic Limestone Grassland).

Presence of individual species that contribute to sense of place, relative wildness or tranquillity

Key species recognised in the Cotswolds AONB Management Plan 2013 – 18 and draft plan for 2018-23:

- Farmland birds, such as skylark, linnet, corn bunting
- Pearl-bordered fritillary
- Arable plants
- Juniper
- Cotswold pennycress
- Bats
- Dormouse
- Water vole
- Brown hare
- Otter
- Limestone grassland butterflies (including Marsh fritillary in the Cotswolds)
- Violet click beetle
- White clawed crayfish
- Bath asparagus (*Ornithogalum pyrenacium*)
- Native brown trout

Large Blue Butterfly – successfully re-introduced and a draw for visitors.

Pasqueflower, 25% of UK sites in the Cotswolds including the largest population.

		<p>Stronghold for water vole and farmland birds.</p>
<p><b>Cultural heritage</b></p>	<p>Built environment, archaeology and designed landscapes</p>	<p>Presence of settlements, buildings or other structures that make a particular contribution to distinctive sense of place or other aspects of scenic quality</p> <p>The Cotswold vernacular is a defining element of the built environment and of the landscape.</p> <p>The "wool churches" of the Cotswolds are among the most elaborate and architecturally attractive in England and were built with investment from the successful wool merchants. Many of the churches are akin to mini-cathedrals, complete with fanciful carvings, elaborate ornamentation and funereal monuments. The parish churches of the Cotswold area constitute a superb collection of architecturally important historic buildings and examples of medieval architecture,</p> <p>Wool churches of particular note are: St. Peter and St. Paul at Northleach; St Peter's Church, Winchcombe; St John the Baptist's Church, Burford; St James' Church, Chipping Campden, St John the Baptist's Church, Cirencester and St Mary's Church, Chipping Norton.</p> <p>The success of wool merchants also resulted in a range of associated manor houses across the Cotswolds.</p> <p>Dry stone walls, built to retain sheep flocks are a defining feature of the landscape.</p> <p>The result is that Cotswold District alone has more scheduled buildings than Westminster, with many other towns and villages across the AONB having high concentrations of listed / scheduled buildings.</p> <p>In 1906 architect Sir Edwin Lutyens bought and restored the village of Upper Slaughter.</p> <p>The Cotswolds AONB is adjoined by two World Heritage Sites: the City of Bath and Blenheim Palace.</p>

		<p>Presence of visible archaeological remains, parkland or designed landscapes that provide striking features in the landscape</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rollright Stones</li> <li>• Belas Knap Long Barrow</li> <li>• Uley Bury Hill Fort</li> <li>• Blenheim Palace: a Capability Brown landscape</li> <li>• Lodge Park: a Charles Bridgeman landscape</li> <li>• Sezincote: a Humphrey Repton landscape</li> <li>• Prior Park: a Capability Brown landscape</li> </ul>
	<p>Historic influence on the landscape</p>	<p>Visible presence of historic landscape types or specific landscape elements or features that provide evidence of time depth or historic influence on the landscape.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Huge time-depth evident in the landscape, notably from the Neolithic onwards;</li> <li>• Classic Cotswold/Severn Barrows;</li> <li>• Causewayed enclosure;</li> <li>• Hillforts;</li> <li>• 2 oppida (late Iron Age enclosed settlements);</li> <li>• 70+ known Romano-British Villas;</li> <li>• Roman roads e.g. Fosse Way (A429);</li> <li>• Basic grain of Cotswolds set out by the Saxons in 800s – 900s when countryside reorganised. Echoed by open fields and in earlier enclosure awards. Most place names are Anglo-saxon;</li> <li>• Castles: Motte and Bailey and stone e.g. Castle Combe;</li> <li>• Wychwood Royal Hunting Forest;</li> <li>• Around 70 deserted or shrunken medieval villages;</li> <li>• Saltways;</li> <li>• Wool churches, grand country houses and other building such as Wool Staplers Hall in Chipping Campden;</li> <li>• Sheepwashes and ‘sheep’ placenames e.g. Shipton. Drove roads;</li> <li>• Midland open-fields and ridge and furrow;</li> <li>• Large estates with Parks: Cirencester, Badmington, Cornbury;</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• English Civil War sites: Edgehill, Lansdown and Stow;</li> <li>• Arts and Crafts movement sites: Rodmarton Manor, Sapperton Village Hall;</li> <li>• Modern country houses: Farmcote;</li> <li>• 20<sup>th</sup> Century defence: airfields, 3 cold war bunkers.</li> </ul> <p>A Historic Landscape Character (HLC) Assessments for the AONB has been undertaken, see Supporting Information. The most recent one for Wiltshire and Oxfordshire. There is a wide array of HLC types.</p> <p><b>Perceptions of a harmonious balance between natural and cultural elements in the landscape that stretch back over time</b></p> <p>The birth and advancement of the Arts and Crafts Movement in the Cotswolds reflects the interrelationship of landscape with culture – how landscape and culture inspired crafts people, artists, architects, plantsmen and women, writers, poets and musicians. The Arts and Craft movement was attracted to the Cotswolds because it had been by-passed by industrial revolution.</p> <p>Landscape and the built environment used and built from same material – Cotswold Stone. Soft, pleasing colour with a lack of stridency unifies the natural and built environments. Settlement and its relationship to the landscape is a defining element of the Cotswolds.</p>
<p><b>Characteristic land management practices</b></p>	<p><b>Existence of characteristic land management practices, industries or crafts which contribute to natural beauty</b></p> <p>Farming covers 87% of the landscape and woodland 12%. Farming is synonymous with the Cotswolds;</p> <p>Grazing of major commons e.g Minchinhampton, Selsley, Cleeve still takes place.</p> <p>Arts &amp; Crafts Movement evolved from the Cotswolds; influencing interior and exterior design across the UK;</p> <p>Cotswolds Conservation Board runs an extensive Rural Skills training programme;</p>

		The Board also runs annual Hedge-laying and Dry-stone walling competitions in association with the two nationals associations, see Supporting Information.
	Associations with written descriptions	<p>Availability of descriptions of the landscape in notable literature, topographical writings or guide books, or significant literature inspired by the landscape.</p> <p>Laurie Lee: Cider with Rosie, based in the Slad Valley.</p> <p>Numerous other writers, including: Joanna Trollope, Jilly Cooper, Jane Austen, Dinah Craik, Daniel Defoe and William Cobbett.</p> <p>Numerous modern day guide books to the area, e.g. Rough Guide, Lonely Planet, Slow Travel as well as National Trail Guides for the Cotswold Way and Thames Path.</p> <p>Arts and Crafts Movement designs and books; revived English traditions, vernacular architecture, cottage gardens, and folk music.</p>
	Associations with artistic representations	<p>Depiction of the landscape in art, other art forms such as photography or film, through language or folklore, or in inspiring related music</p> <p>Cotswold Morris dancing: strong cultural and historical association with the Cotswolds, dating from the 16<sup>th</sup> century.</p> <p>Composers inspired by the Cotswold landscape:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gustav Holst: Cotswold Symphony, composed 1899/1900;</li> <li>• Peter Gabriel: Solsbury Hill, composed 1977;</li> <li>• Vaughan Williams, born Down Ampney, The Lark Ascending, composed 1914;</li> <li>• Hugh the Drover (1928ish) AKA 'Theo Cotswold Opera'.</li> </ul> <p>Artists capturing the Cotswold landscape:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• John Singer Sargent, American colony of artists in Broadway, early 1900s;</li> <li>• Alfred West;</li> <li>• Sir William Rothenstein; St Martin's Summer 1915;</li> <li>• Charles Gere, A Cotswolds Walk, Painswick from the South circa 1920;</li> </ul>



		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• H F Bateman; Haytime in the Cotswolds, 1939;</li> <li>• Paul Fripp, A Cotswold Farm, 1928.</li> </ul> <p>Poets inspired by the Cotswolds landscape:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Leonard Clark;</li> <li>• Frank Mansell;</li> <li>• WH Davies;</li> <li>• Ivor Gurney.</li> </ul>
	<p>Associations of the landscape with people, places or events</p>	<p>Evidence that the landscape has associations with notable people or events, cultural traditions or beliefs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cotswold Morris dancing;</li> <li>• Cheese Rolling, Cooper’s Hill;</li> <li>• Wool Sack Races, Tebury;</li> <li>• Painswick Clypping ceremony (church rededication and thanksgiving);</li> <li>• Well Dressing, Bisley;</li> <li>• Randwick Wap (spring events and traditional procession and festival dating back to the Middle Ages);</li> <li>• Cranham Feast;</li> <li>• Olympik Games, Dovers Hill near Chipping Campden;</li> <li>• Football in the river match, Bourton on the Water;</li> <li>• William Morris and the Arts &amp; Crafts Movement;</li> <li>• Mitford Sisters (associated with the Evenlode Valley);</li> <li>• Winston Churchill, born at Blenheim Palace and buried at Bladon;</li> <li>• Hell of the North Cotswolds (HONC) cycling event;</li> <li>• Royal estates: Highgrove and Gatcombe Park.</li> </ul>

## Supporting Information:

[Cotswolds AONB Management Plan 2013 - 2018](#)

[Cotswolds AONB Management Plan 2018 – 2023 \(Draft\)](#)

[Cotswolds AONB Landscape Character Assessment](#)

[Cotswolds AONB Landscape Strategy and Guidelines](#)

[Cotswolds AONB – Local Distinctiveness and Landscape Change](#)

[Historic Landscape Characterisation](#)

[Position Statement: Tranquillity and Dark Skies](#)

[CPRE Tranquillity Mapping](#)

[CPRE Dark Skies Mapping](#)

[Cotswolds Rural Skills](#)

July 2018

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<sup>i</sup> Dr. Anthea Jones The Cotswolds, 1994

<sup>ii</sup> David Verey and Alan Brooks, The Buildings of England Gloucestershire 1: The Cotswolds, 1999