
Habitats
Regulations
Assessment
Screening Report
for the 2025/30
National
Landscape
Management
Plan

The Cotswolds
National
Landscape

Craggatak Consulting
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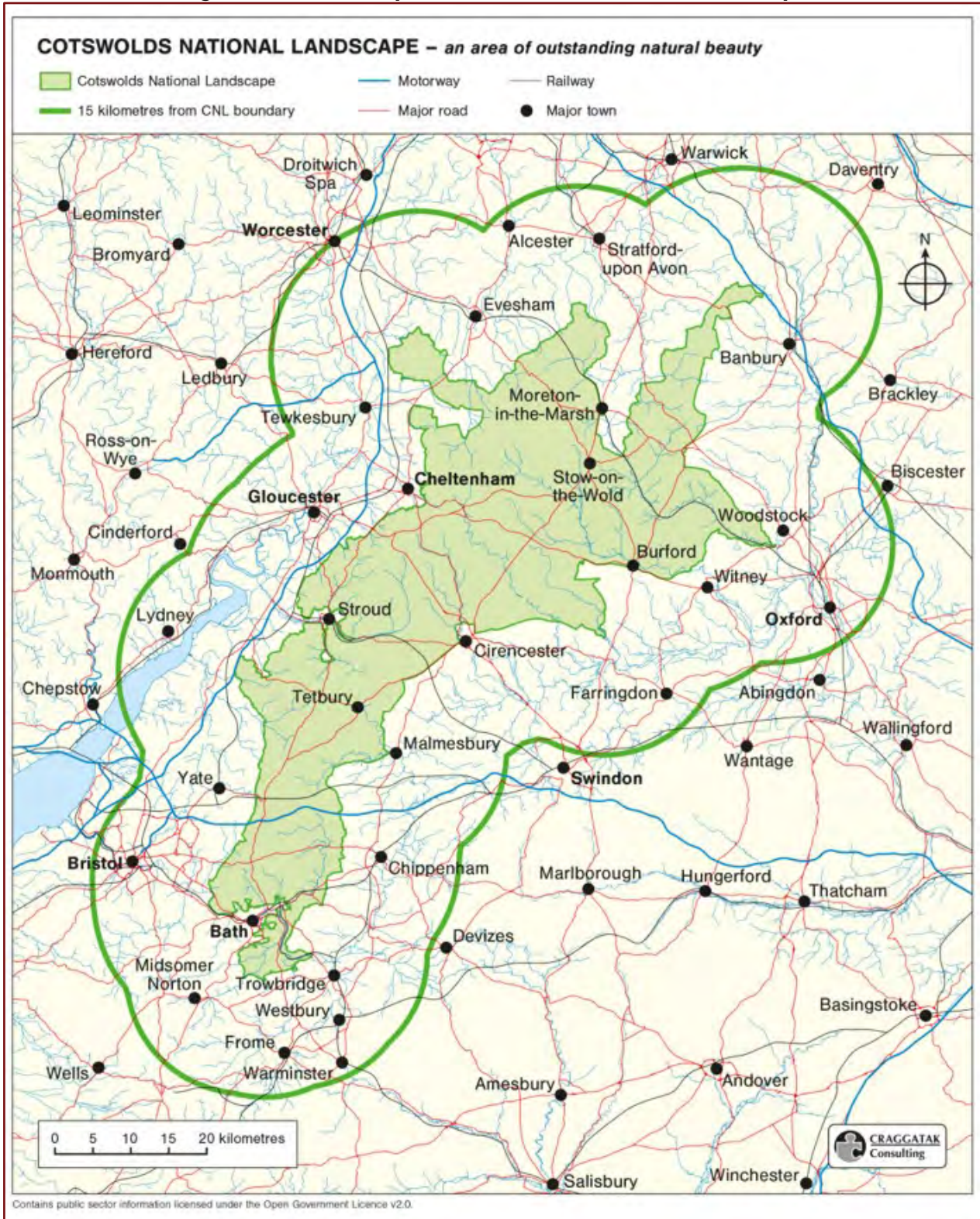
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Acknowledgements

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Figure 1: Outline map of the Cotswolds National Landscape



1. Background

- 1.1. This Screening Report has been prepared as part of the Habitats Regulations Assessment (SEA) of the Cotswolds National Landscape (NL) Management Plan Review. A National Landscape is everyday name for what is set out in legislation as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). The Cotswolds National Landscape Management plan is already subject to Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)¹. SEA and HRA are separate assessments. However, the two are complimentary and contribute to the management plan process, with all three exercises proceeding jointly and in an iterative way. Unlike SEA and National Landscape management plans, there is no requirement to submit the HRA to public consultation.
- 1.2. This report is for scrutiny by Natural England, as the statutory consultee for Habitats Regulation Assessment.

The European Habitats Directive

- 1.3. The UK national site network of European sites provides ecological infrastructure for the protection of sites that are of exceptional importance in respect of rare, endangered or vulnerable natural habitats and species. Habitat Regulations Assessment is a statutory requirement² to ensure that the protection of the integrity of these sites is a part of the planning process at a regional and local level. Under the Regulations, there is a requirement for the Cotswolds National Landscape Board to undertake a HRA of the draft Management Plan to determine whether its policies and actions are likely to have a significant adverse effect on any internationally recognised sites of nature conservation interest (the National Site networks). These sites include Special Protection Areas (SPAs), designated under the Birds Directive³; and Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), designated under the Habitats Directive⁴. Natural England guidance specifies the inclusion of sites designated under the Ramsar wetlands convention in HRAs⁵. If there are significant adverse effects then there is an examination of alternative policies or avoidance and mitigation measures. The intent is to prevent the plan from detrimentally influencing any National Site network conservation objectives.
- 1.4. Article 2 of the Habitats Directive requires the maintenance or restoration of habitats and species of European Community interest, at a favourable conservation status.

¹ Directive 2001/42/EC “on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment”. Transposed into law by Statutory Instrument 2004 No. 1633 The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (the “SEA Regulations”).

² Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21st May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora. Transposed into law by the Conservation (Natural Habitats) Regulations 1994 (Habitats Regulation) as amended in 1997 and in 2000 (in England only) as amended in 2017 (SI 1012).

³ Directive 2009/147/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 November 2009 on the conservation of wild birds (the codified version of Directive 79/409/EEC as amended).

⁴ Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and Wild Fauna and Flora

⁵ Natural England 2009. Final Draft Guidance: The Habitats Regulations Assessment of Local Development Documents.

Articles 3 - 9 provide the legislative means to protect habitats and species of Community interest. Article 6 (3) of the Directive states:

- 1.5. “Any plan or project not directly connected with, or necessary to, the management of the [European] site, but likely to have a significant effect thereon, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, shall be subject to appropriate assessment of its implications for the site in view of the site’s conservation objectives”.

Habitats Regulations Assessment Stages

- 1.6. It is the accepted practice to adopt a stage-by-stage approach for an Article 6 Assessment. There are four stages:
 - **Stage One: Screening** - To identify the likely impacts on a National Site network of a project or plan, either alone or in combination with other projects or plans, and consider whether these impacts are likely to be significant;
 - **Stage Two: Appropriate Assessment** (where there are likely to be significant impacts) - To consider the impact on the integrity of the National Site network of the project or plan, either alone or ‘in combination’ with other projects or plans, with respect to the structure, function and conservation objectives of the site. Additionally, where there are adverse impacts, to assess the potential mitigation of those impacts;
 - **Stage Three: Assessment of alternative solutions** - To examine alternative ways of achieving the objectives of the project or plan that avoid adverse impacts on the integrity of the National Site network;
 - **Stage Four: Assessment where no alternative solutions exist** (where adverse impacts remain) - To assess compensatory measures where, in the light of an assessment of imperative reasons of overriding public interest, it is deemed that the project or plan should proceed.

Each stage determines whether a further stage in the process is required. If, for example, the conclusions at the end of Stage One are that there will be no significant impacts on any National Site network, there is no requirement to proceed further.

Cotswolds National Landscape

- 1.7. The Cotswolds National Landscape was designated as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) in 1966, and extended in area in 1990. Although AONB is still the legal name of the designation, it was rebranded as a ‘National Landscape’ for most purposes in June 2020. At 2038 square kilometres, it is the largest AONB – and the third largest protected landscape, including National Parks – in England. The National Landscape stretches from Bath and Wiltshire in the south, through Gloucestershire and Oxfordshire to Warwickshire and Worcestershire in the north (Figure 1). It cuts across 15 local authority areas.

- 1.8. AONBs are landscapes whose distinctive character and natural beauty are so outstanding that it is in the nation’s interest to safeguard them⁶. Each AONB has been designated by reason of its ‘special qualities’. These include the flora, fauna, historical and cultural associations as well as landscape and scenic views.

Management Plan review

- 1.9. Section 82 of the Countryside and Rights of Way (CRoW) Act 2000 establishes the primary purpose of AONB designation as the conservation and enhancement of natural beauty. Section 85 of the CRoW Act (as amended by section 245 of the Levelling-up and Regeneration Act 2023) places a duty on all public bodies (other than a devolved Welsh authority) to ‘seek to further the purpose of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the area of outstanding natural beauty’. Under section 89, the relevant local authorities must prepare and publish a Management Plan for each AONB; and keep it under review. A plan under section 89 relating to an AONB in England must further the purpose of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of that area.
- 1.10. The Management Plan is a statutory document. It provides a policy framework that brings together partners to help them design, resource and implement the priorities set out specifically for the AONB designation. It guides and informs all other plans and activities that may affect the AONB so that they can contribute to the continued conservation and enhancement of the AONB designation.
- 1.11. For this AONB, there is one relevant authority, the Cotswolds National Landscape Board. Established as the Cotswolds Conservation Board by Parliament in 2004, it has two statutory purposes⁷:
- To conserve and enhance the natural beauty of the Cotswolds National Landscape.
 - To increase the understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of the Cotswolds National Landscape.

In fulfilling these roles, the Board has a duty to seek to foster the economic and social well-being of people living in the National Landscape. In circumstances where these purposes and duties are irreconcilable, the Board must give priority to conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the National Landscape⁸.

- 1.12. The Board consists of 37 members, of whom local authorities nominate 15, the parish councils nominate eight, and government appoint 14. The Board’s work programme is delivered by a small team of staff, supported by volunteers including the Cotswold Voluntary Wardens who deliver a programme of practical projects and guided walks across the National Landscape

⁶ Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) (2015) *Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty: Landscape Protection and Enhancement Support Scheme (England) 2015 – 17. Application to European Commission.*

⁷ Section 87, Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000, as amended by the NERC Act 2006.

⁸ This prioritisation of conserving and enhancing is known as the ‘Sandford Principle’, after Lord Sandford, who chaired the National Parks Policy Review Committee between 1971 and 1974.

1.13. The current Management Plan is for the 2023-25 period. CRoW requires a formal review of each Management Plan at intervals of not more than five years. The Board is now preparing a Management Plan for the period 2025-30. Following consultation with local communities, public bodies and agencies with an interest in the area, the plan will present the special qualities and features of the National Landscape, and set out the outcomes and policies needed to ensure their conservation and enhancement.

2. HRA programme and methodology

Introduction

2.1. The approach for carrying out the HRA of the National Landscape Management Plan Review is based on good practice and the following guidance:

- European Commission (2001). Assessment of plans and projects significantly affecting Natura 2000 sites
- European Commission (2002). Methodological guidance on the provisions of Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/ECC
- Department for Communities and Local Government (2006). Planning for the Protection of European Sites: Appropriate Assessment. Guidance for Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Documents.
- European Commission (2007). Managing Natura 2000 sites: The provisions of Article 6 of the Habitats Directive 92/43/ECC
- The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations as amended

2.2. A summary of the approach and method applied to the Management Plan is set out in **Table 1** below:

Table 1: The four stages of assessment

Stages / Tasks		Description	Habitats Directive
1	Likely Significant Effects or 'Screening'	i	Article 6(3)
		ii	
Where a significant impact is likely:			
2	Appropriate Assessment	i	
		ii	
		iii	

3	Assessment of Alternative Solutions	iv	Where applicable, propose and assess mitigation measures for addressing adverse effects	
		v	Prepare an Appropriate Assessment Report for consultation with NE and key stakeholders	
4	Assessment where no alternative solutions remain and where adverse impacts remain	-	Reassess alternatives if effective mitigation proves impossible and develop / select a different alternative that does not harm site integrity.	Article 6(4)
		i	At this stage actions which, even with mitigation, still have an adverse effect on the site(s) integrity should be dropped.	
		ii	Assess whether an action can be passed justified by 'imperative reasons of overriding public interest'.	
			Permitted on the grounds of human health, public safety or primary beneficial consequences for the environment.	

Step one – Pre-Screening

2.3. Gather information on the location of the National Landscape and the scope and intent of its draft Management Plan. This includes the location, conservation objectives and qualifying feature(s) for each National Site network complete with the key factors influencing that condition; and the objectives of other plans and schemes in the area that may work in combination with the Management Plan to affect a National Site network.

Step two – Screening for a likely significant effect

2.4. Categorise each element of the plan as to its likely effects on each interest feature of each National Site network identified as subject to assessment in the evidence base. This includes all the reasons for the designation / classification or listing of the site (in the case of SAC, including primary and non-primary reasons for designation). There are four categories of potential effects as follows:

Category A: elements of the plan that would have no negative effect⁹ on a National Site network at all;

Category B: elements of the plan that could have an effect but the likelihood is there would be no significant negative effect on a National Site network either alone or in combination with other elements of the same plan, or other plans or projects;

⁹ 'Negative' effects in the context of this and all the following lists are effects that would be likely to undermine the conservation objectives of a European site. (Tyldesley, D., 2012 'Final Draft Guidance for Plan Making Authorities in Wales: The Appraisal of Plans under the Habitats Regulations' by David Tyldesley and Associates for Countryside Council for Wales, September 2012. footnote 24)

Category C: elements of the plan that could or would be likely to have a significant effect alone and will require the plan to be subject to an appropriate assessment before the plan may be adopted;

Category D: elements of the plan that would be likely to have a significant effect in combination with other elements of the same plan, or other plans or projects and will require the plan to be subject to an appropriate assessment before the plan may be adopted;

After Tyldesley, D. CCW 2012

2.5. There are three tasks in Step Two:

Task 1 – Compile a schedule listing all the policies and actions of the Management Plan. Check each element for the likelihood of it leading to a significant effect on a National Site network.

All elements placed in Category A are set aside, as they could have no ecological impact on any National Site network.

Those elements identified as having a potential negative impact upon any National Site network were re-checked ‘in combination’ with other elements of the Management Plan. Where other elements clearly mitigated any potential negative impacts, they are set aside.

Task 2 – Assess the remaining elements of the plan for each National Site network (both alone and in combination) to identify any elements that could have an effect but would not be likely to have a significant (negative) effect on a National Site network because the effects are trivial or ‘*de minimis*’, even if combined with other effects (Category B). The identification of such elements follows the precautionary principle. If there is any doubt about an ecological impact then the element remains in the assessment process.

All elements placed in Category B are set aside, as they could have no ecological impact on any National Site network.

Task 3 - Any remaining elements are likely to have a significant effect alone (Category C) or in combination (Category D).

Move to Step Three

Step Three – Appropriate Assessment

Once identified as Category C or D, the recommendation is to remove the policy or action from the plan, or otherwise modify the plan, to avoid the likelihood of significant effects (all modifications pass through the assessment steps).

Where modification is not possible, the plan must be the subject of a full appropriate assessment.

Consultation and re-appraisal

- 2.6. The draft Management Plan and Strategic Environmental Assessment are the subject of consultation with the statutory agencies and principal stakeholders. The Habitats Regulations Screening Report is the subject of consultation with Natural England. As well as the formal consultation with the statutory agencies, there is regular informal support from Natural England throughout the process.
- 2.7. Amendments to the Management Plan may occur in the light of the Screening Report and Strategic Environmental Assessment findings and / or the advice received from the statutory agencies. The plan making authority should remove potentially harmful policies and proposals and explicitly include measures to ensure that no development flowing from the plan will have an adverse effect on the integrity of a National Site network. The plan making authority must consult and reach agreement with Natural England before concluding that a plan would have no adverse effect on the integrity of a National Site network. If the plan making authority amends the Management Plan, then there is a reappraisal of the impacts upon the integrity of any National Site networks under the Habitat Regulations using the methodology set out above.

3. National Site network potentially affected

List of relevant National Sites

- 3.1. The National Site network provides ecological infrastructure for the protection of sites that are of exceptional importance in respect of rare, endangered or vulnerable natural habitats and species within the Europe. These sites consist of Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) and Special Protection Areas (SPA). It is common practice to treat RAMSAR sites (Internationally Important Wetlands) as if they were national sites. The guidance recommends taking into consideration sites within the plan area and within 15km of its boundary. Through an analysis using MAGIC Map¹⁰ it was determined that there are 5 National Sites in the National Landscape and 15 within 15km of its boundary. The relevant National Site networks for the Cotswolds National Landscape are set out in **Table 2**; **Map 2** shows the location and spatial relationship of the National Sites to the Cotswolds National Landscape.

¹⁰ The Government's open-access mapping service at <http://magic.gov.uk/>

Figure 2: Location of National Sites

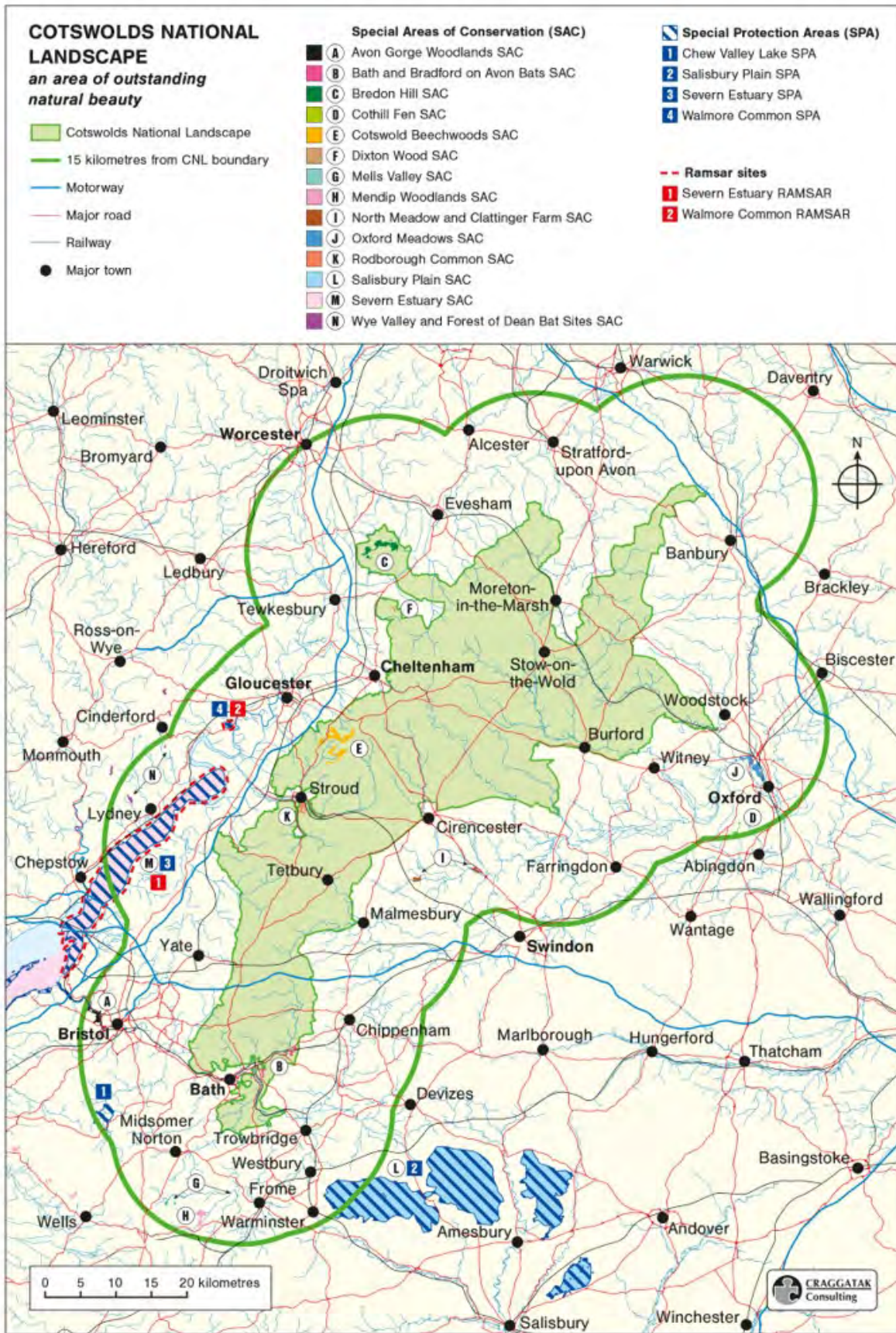


Table 2: National Sites

National Sites in the National Landscape boundary

Bath and Bradford on Avon Bats SAC
Bredon Hill SAC
Cotswold Beechwoods SAC
Dixton Wood SAC
Rodborough Common SAC

National Sites within 15km of the National Landscape boundary

Avon Gorge Woodlands SAC
Cothill Fen SAC
Mells Valley SAC
Mendip Woodlands SAC **
North Meadow and Clattinger Farm SAC
Oxford Meadows SAC
Salisbury Plain SAC*
Severn Estuary SAC
Wye Valley and Forest of Dean Bat Sites SAC
Chew Valley Lake SPA*
Salisbury Plain SPA*
Severn Estuary RAMSAR
Severn Estuary SPA
Walmore Common RAMSAR*
Walmore Common SPA*

Though not subject to HRA, other sites to note

96 Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) covering 41.20 km² (2.02%) of the Cotswolds National Landscape (these include 81 geological SSSI unit features and 2 National Nature Reserves).

- 3.2. Descriptions of each National Site are set out in **Appendix 1**. The qualifying features and conservation objectives for each site are set out in a schedule, as stated by Natural England.

4. Potential adverse effects of the Management Plan

NL Management Plan

- 4.1. The Management Plan sets out a framework that gives guidance and direction towards achieving the long-term Vision for the Cotswolds National Landscape. The Outcomes and policies are set out under three over-arching headings that reflect the National Landscape’s purpose of designation (to conserve and enhance natural beauty) and the National Landscape Board’s additional purpose (to increase understanding and enjoyment). The headings are:

- 1) **Cross Cutting Themes** - Tackling 21st century issues through progressive partnerships, addressed by 4 policies.

- 2) **Conserving and Enhancing** - Influencing and delivering for landscape, nature and climate, addressed by 16 policies.
- 3) **Increasing Understanding and Enjoyment** - Ensuring access, learning and wellbeing opportunities are for everyone, addressed by 3 policies.

4.2. The policy framework is set out in **Appendix 3**.

Identifying potential adverse effects of Management Plan Policies

4.3. To understand whether the Management Plan may affect the National Sites listed above it is necessary to identify those factors that will adversely affect the sites. Through Natural England, data is available for the National Site network on the conservation objectives and descriptions of the designated features of interest complete with a statement on the current pressures and vulnerabilities that threaten their integrity¹¹. These pressures are set out in **Appendix 1** and are summarised in **Table 3**.

Table 3: Pressures on the integrity of National Sites

Sites within the National Landscape

Air pollution, air-borne pollutants
Changes in abiotic conditions
Changes in biotic conditions
Cultivation
Forest and Plantation management & use
Inter-specific floral relations
Invasive non-native species
Other ecosystem modifications
Other urbanisation, industrial and similar activities
Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities
Problematic native species
Unknown threat or pressure

Sites within 15 km of the National Landscape boundary

All the above plus:

Cultivation
Dredging
Erosion
Forest and Plantation management & use
Grazing

¹¹ There are Site Improvement Plans (SIPs) for each national site in England, developed as part of the Improvement Programme for England's national site network. They are live documents capable of updating to reflect changes in evidence / knowledge and as actions get underway. Ranking in the table is from the SIP.

- Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions
- Modification of cultivation practices
- Other human intrusions and disturbances
- Pollution to groundwater (point sources and diffuse sources)
- Pollution to surface waters (limnic & terrestrial, marine & brackish)
- Recreational/tourism disturbance (unspecified)

- 4.4. The Site Improvement Plans for network sites within the Cotswolds National landscape provide an overview of the issues (both current and predicted) affecting the condition of the SACs. They also outline the priority measures required to improve the condition of the features. They do not cover issues where remedial actions are already in place or ongoing site maintenance activities. **Appendix 2** sets out in detail the issues for the sites in Table 3.
- 4.5. The factors listed in the national site schedules frame the testing of policies within the National Landscape Management Plan when assessing their effect upon the sites.

Results of the preliminary screening appraisal

- 4.6. **Task 1** is to compile a schedule listing all the policies of the Management Plan and check each for the likelihood of it leading to a significant effect on the National Site network (**Appendix 4**). The initial task was to identify those policies that have no negative effects (Category A see **Appendix 4a**).
- 4.7. The Management Plan’s policies do not directly trigger development proposals, and neither do they provide a decision-making framework for development. However, the assessment applies the precautionary principle. An element is screened when it has the potential for one or more of the impacts, even if it falls under an element that does not have that impact. Where no potential ecological impacts have been identified, it has been assumed that the policy or action will not have an impact on the National Site network.
- 4.8. The preliminary screening appraisal reduced the long list of policies presented in Appendix 3 to two that have, in part, the potential to have some of the impacts presented in Table 3, which are set out in **Table 4** (paragraphs with a potential impact marked).

Table 4: Policies that may impact a National Site

POLICY UE1: Health and Well-being	<p>1. Further opportunities for improving health and wellbeing in the Cotswolds National Landscape (CNL) should be created, improved and promoted, including, where appropriate, the provision of: green spaces or water within easy reach of communities; walking, cycling and riding routes, including routes for disabled people; opportunities to access and interact with nature; and volunteering and personal development opportunities.</p> <p>2. Children and young people resident within and around the CNL should be provided with environmental education opportunities to experience the CNL through direct contact with the natural environment.</p> <p>3. The health sector should make greater use of the benefits that the National Landscape provides for the health and wellbeing of residents and visitors, for example, by prescribing exercise in the CNL countryside.</p>
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**POLICY UE2:
Access &
Recreation**

1. A safe, pleasant, accessible, clearly waymarked and well-connected Public Rights of Way network that welcomes people of all abilities should be maintained, enhanced and promoted across the Cotswolds National Landscape (CNL) and into surrounding communities.
2. Improvements to access and recreation provision including rights of way should be undertaken in a way that is compatible with and seeks to further the conservation and enhancement of the natural beauty of CNL. Innovative ways of providing named routes without introducing additional signage should be explored. This should be balanced with the needs of groups that lack confidence in exploring the countryside, sensitive sites and of landowners and farmers who need to keep people on designated routes.
3. Open Access Land and other land including Country Parks, that is open to public access should be maintained, enhanced and promoted across the CNL. Where appropriate, more land should be made available for public access.
4. Sustainable funding for National Trails, including the Cotswold Way and Thames Path, should be secured.
5. Visitors, residents and local communities should be provided with opportunities to increase their understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of the CNL.
6. A priority for engagement in the CNL should be individuals who are not currently enjoying or engaged with the benefits of the landscape. Particularly those from within the CNL and from the surrounding urban areas, especially those from areas of high deprivation and those that are not traditional visitors to the Cotswolds.
7. Easily accessible online, downloadable and onsite resources for walking, cycling, horse riding, volunteering and educational activities should be provided in the CNL to help promote access to the area and understanding and appreciation of its special qualities.
8. Visitor facilities and routes that are accessible to those of all abilities should be provided.
9. Guided walks and activities for those who are not confident walking in the countryside should be provided to increase confidence and share knowledge of the CNL and its special qualities.
10. Arts and cultural experiences should be provided to encourage people to deepen their emotional connection to the landscape and support the engagement of new and existing audiences.
11. The Countryside Code should be promoted to educate visitors and communities to act appropriately in the countryside and to improve understanding between visitors and those living and working in the area.
12. The provision of new, and level of use of existing, access and recreational opportunities should be delivered in a way that is compatible with and seeks to further the conservation and enhancement of the natural beauty of the CNL. Where recreational use is having or is likely to have, an adverse impact on the natural beauty of the National Landscape or on the integrity of existing wildlife and historic sites, steps should be taken to evaluate, prevent or mitigate these impacts. Such steps can include enhanced maintenance and wayfinding, onsite engagement, legal restrictions, and the provision and promotion of access and recreational opportunities in new alternative suitable locations.
13. Where there is a conflict between (i) conservation and enhancement of natural beauty and (ii) public enjoyment of this natural beauty in the CNL, the conservation and enhancement of natural beauty should be given greater weight.
14. Stakeholders should work towards the delivery of the relevant target for access and recreation within the national Protected Landscapes Targets and

Outcomes Framework. The indicators for monitoring this target are outlined in appendix 6.

- 4.9. Task two is to assess the two policies against each national network site (both alone and in combination) to identify any elements that could have an effect but would not be likely to have a significant (negative) effect on a National Site because the effects are trivial or ‘de minimis’, even if combined with other effects. Only parts of the two policies may have an impact on the National Site network. These relate to increasing public access to land.
- 4.10. As written, the paragraphs can only affect sites within the National Landscape; and only three National Sites show public access, disturbance or the direct impact from third parties as an issue (see Appendix 2). These are:
- Bath & Bradford SAC
 - Cotswolds Beechwoods SAC
 - Rodborough Common SAC
- 4.11. The analysis is presented in **Appendix 4b**.
- 4.12. The preliminary screening finds that **no policies** Cotswolds National Landscape Management Plan **are likely to have any Likely Significant Effect** on the National Site network.

Outcome of consultation

- 4.13. Natural England did not comment on the final draft of this report. It is presumed that they agreed with the conclusion.

5. Other relevant plans

Introduction

- 5.1. The Habitats Regulations state that when considering whether a specific plan or project is likely to have a significant effect on the National Site network, this should consider possible ‘in-combination’ effects with other plans or projects.
- 5.2. Part of the Management Plan screening process is to identify the plans, programmes and projects that could have ‘in-combination’ effects. There is no assessment of these plans, programmes and projects in any detail at this stage. In-combination effects will only be assessed where it is identified in Stage 2 of the HRA process that the Management Plan policies and actions are likely to have significant adverse effects. If the plan is not likely to have an impact on a site, there is no potential for any ‘in-combination’ effect. A series of other plans and projects have been identified to test for possible in-combination effects. These are outlined in **Appendix 5**.

6. Conclusions

- 6.1. Results of Screening:
- **That no policy areas would have a Likely Significant Effect on any National Sites.**

- **There is no requirement to undertake an Appropriate Assessment under the Habitat Regulations.**

Appendices

Appendix 1: Location & description of the National Site networks

Sites within the AONB

Bath and Bradford-on-Avon Bats SAC

The SAC comprises four component sites: Brown’s Folly, Box Mine, Winsley Mines, and Combe Down and Bathampton Down Mines. These are distributed over a wide geographical area to the south and east of Bath and have different known bat usages, which over the whole of the SAC include breeding, hibernation, swarming and dispersal. The sites are all abandoned limestone mines and some include areas of supporting habitat: broadleaved woodland and species rich calcareous grassland. The surrounding landscape provides feeding and commuting opportunities between the component SSSIs, other SAC sites and other undesignated roosts which is vital in supporting the bats throughout their life cycle. Features of significance within the wider landscape are watercourses, woodland, grazed pasture, hay meadows, hedgerows, linear trees and scrub.

Site details

Country	England
Unitary Authority	Gloucestershire, Wiltshire and Bristol/Bath area
Centroid ¹²	ST834688
Latitude	51.4175
Longitude	-2.238611111
SAC EU code	UK0012584
Status	Special Area of Conservation (SAC)
Area (ha)	106.45
General site character	
Heath, Scrub, Maquis and Garrigue, Phygrana (4%) Broad-leaved deciduous woodland (41%) Other land (including Towns, Villages, Roads, Waste places, Mines, Industrial sites) (55%)	
Conservation objectives	Issues¹³
Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring; The extent and distribution of the habitats of qualifying species	Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities Other ecosystem modifications

¹² This is the approximate central point of the SAC. In the case of large, linear or composite sites, this may not represent the location where a feature occurs within the SAC.

¹³ Identified in the Natural England Site Improvement Plans

The structure and function of the habitats of qualifying species The supporting processes on which the habitats of qualifying species rely The populations of qualifying species, and, The distribution of qualifying species within the site.	Unknown threat or pressure Other urbanisation, industrial and similar activities
Annex II species that are a primary reason for selection of this site	
Bechstein’s bat <i>Myotis bechsteinii</i> Greater horseshoe bat <i>Rhinolophus ferrumequinum</i>	
Annex II species present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for site selection	
Lesser horseshoe bat <i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i>	

Bredon Hill SAC

Bredon Hill is an outlier of the Cotswold Hills composed of sedimentary rocks of Jurassic age. Throughout the historic period the hill was used for sheep pasture. A feature of the scarp slope is the large number of open-grown trees. These have been incorporated into pasture-woodlands and parklands, first established in 1275.

Bredon Hill has one of the best assemblages of invertebrates associated with ancient trees (known collectively as saproxylic invertebrates) in Britain. The saproxylic invertebrates are associated with ancient native trees, in particular ash *Fraxinus excelsior*. Pedunculate oak *Quercus robur*, beech *Fagus sylvatica* and field maple *Acer campestre* are also important. There are concentrations of such trees in Elmley Castle Deer Park to the east and at Bredon’s Norton to the west, but important individual and groups of trees are found all along the northern side of the hill. Nectar sources, such as hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna* in hedgerows and scrub, and thistles *Cirsium* spp. in grasslands, are important feeding and mating sites for the adults of saproxylic insects. The violet click beetle *Limoniscus violaceus* has been found at two separate sites on the hill.

Site details

Country	England
Unitary Authority	Herefordshire, Worcestershire and Warwickshire
Centroid	SO965406
Latitude	52.0636
Longitude	-2.0506
SAC EU code	UK0012587
Status	Special Area of Conservation (SAC)
Area (ha)	360.46
General site character	

Heath, Scrub, Maquis and Garrigue, <i>Phygrana</i> (10%) Dry grassland, Steppes (10%) Non-forest areas cultivated with woody plants (including Orchards, groves, Vineyards, Dehesas) (80%)	
Conservation objectives	Issues
Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring; The extent and distribution of the habitats of qualifying species The structure and function of the habitats of qualifying species The supporting processes on which the habitats of qualifying species rely The populations of qualifying species, and, The distribution of qualifying species within the site.	Changes in abiotic conditions Inter-specific floral relations Unknown threat or pressure Air pollution, air-borne pollutants Forest and Plantation management & use
Annex II species that are a primary reason for selection of this site <i>Violet click beetle Limoniscus violaceus</i>	

Cotswold Beechwoods SAC

The site consists of ancient beech woodland and unimproved grassland lying over Jurassic limestones at the western edge of the Cotswolds. The woodlands are amongst the most diverse and species-rich of their type while the grasslands typify the unimproved calcareous pastures for which the area is famous. The Cotswold Beechwoods represent the most westerly extensive blocks of *Asperulo-Fagetum* beech forests in the UK.

The woods are floristically richer than the Chilterns, and rare plants include red helleborine *Cephalanthera rubra*, stinking hellebore *Helleborus foetidus*, narrow-lipped helleborine *Epipactis leptochila* and wood barley *Hordelymus europaeus*. There is a rich mollusc fauna. The woods are structurally varied, including blocks of high forest and some areas of remnant beech coppice.

Site details

Country	England
Unitary Authority	Gloucestershire, Wiltshire and Bristol/Bath area
Centroid	SO898134
Latitude	51.81861111
Longitude	-2.147777778
SAC EU code	UK0013658
Status	Special Area of Conservation (SAC)
Area (ha)	590.2
General site character Inland water bodies (Standing water, Running water) (1%) Dry grassland, Steppes (1.5%) Broad-leaved deciduous woodland (82%)	

Coniferous woodland (5%) Mixed woodland (10%) Other land (including Towns, Villages, Roads, Waste places, Mines, Industrial sites) (0.5%)	
Conservation objectives	Issues
Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring; The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats, and The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats rely	Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities Inter-specific floral relations Problematic native species Invasive non-native species
Annex I habitats that are a primary reason for selection of this site <i>Asperulo-Fagetum</i> beech forests. (Beech forests on neutral to rich soils)	
Annex I habitats present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for selection of this site Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies: on calcareous substrates (<i>Festuco-Brometalia</i>). (Dry grasslands and scrublands on chalk or limestone)	

Dixton Wood SAC

Dixton Wood is a steep east facing woodland surrounded by permanent grassland, situated in the foothills of the Cotswold Scarp. The wood represents an atypical ash *Fraxinus excelsior*-field maple *Acer campestre*-dog's mercury *Mercurialis perennis* community, with a lush but impoverished ground flora and unusual structure derived from wood pasture management. The historic management of the site has resulted in a number of very large, low ash pollards with a range of deadwood types, from split ash boles, shattered tree limbs, old and active pollards and cut stumps. The moist clay soils, the aspect and ground and scrub cover sustain a humid microclimate which probably enhances the decay process. The deadwood beetle fauna of Dixton Wood is very rich and includes the violet click beetle *Limoniscus violaceus*. Hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna* hedges and flowering bramble *Rubus fruticosus* agg. provide important nectar sources for the deadwood fauna.

Site details

Country	England
Unitary Authority	Gloucestershire, Wiltshire and Bristol/Bath area
Centroid	SO979313
Latitude	51.97972222
Longitude	-2.030555556
SAC EU code	UK0030135
Status	Special Area of Conservation (SAC)
Area (ha)	13.02
General site character	

Broad-leaved deciduous woodland (100%)	
Conservation objectives	Issues
Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring; The extent and distribution of the habitats of qualifying species The structure and function of the habitats of qualifying species The supporting processes on which the habitats of qualifying species rely The populations of qualifying species, and, The distribution of qualifying species within the site.	Changes in biotic conditions Forest and Plantation management & use Inter-specific floral relations
Annex II species that are a primary reason for selection of this site	
Violet click beetle <i>Limoniscus violaceus</i>	

Rodborough Common SAC

Rodborough Common is the most extensive area of semi-natural dry grassland surviving in the Cotswolds and represents upright brome – tor-grass (*Bromopsis erecta – Brachypodium pinnatum*) grassland, which is more or less confined to the Cotswolds. The site contains a wide range of structural types, ranging from short turf through to scrub margins, although short-turf vegetation is mainly confined to areas of shallower soils.

Site details

Country	England
Unitary Authority	Gloucestershire, Wiltshire and Bristol/Bath area
Centroid	SO849036
Latitude	51.73083333
Longitude	-2.218333333
SAC EU code	UK0012826
Status	Special Area of Conservation (SAC)
Area (ha)	109.27
General site character	
Heath, Scrub, Maquis and Garrigue, <i>Phygrana</i> (10%) Dry grassland, Steppes (70%) Improved grassland (10%) Broad-leaved deciduous woodland (10%)	
Conservation objectives	Issues
Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring; The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats	Cultivation Air pollution, air-borne pollutants

The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats, and The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats rely	Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities
Annex I habitats that are a primary reason for selection of this site	
Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies: on calcareous substrates (<i>Festuco-Brometalia</i>). (Dry grasslands and scrublands on chalk or limestone)	

Sites within 15 Km of the AONB boundary

Avon Gorge Woodlands SAC

The Avon Gorge Woodlands SAC is good example of *Tilio-Acerion* forests in south-west England. It is important because of the high concentration of Small-leaved lime *Tilia cordata* and the presence of rare whitebeams *Sorbus spp.*, including at least two which are unique to the Avon Gorge (*S. bristoliensis* and *S. wilmottiana*), and other Nationally Scarce plants, such as Angular Solomon's-seal *Polygonatum odoratum*.

The associated species-rich transitions to scrub and herb-rich calcareous open limestone grassland often found on cliff ledges support a high number of Nationally Rare and Scarce species, such as Bristol rock-cress *Arabis scabra*, round-headed leek ('Bristol onion') *Allium sphaerocephalon* and honewort *Trinia glauca*. Part of the Leigh Woods side of the SAC is considered to be important remnant wood pasture habitat which was managed as a wood pasture for many hundreds of years. This is shown by the presence of large numbers of veteran pollards, which are also highly likely to be important for saproxylic invertebrates.

Site details

Country	England
Unitary Authority	Gloucestershire, Wiltshire and Bristol/Bath area
Centroid	ST560741
Latitude	51.46388889
Longitude	-2.633611111
SAC EU code	UK0012734
Status	Special Area of Conservation (SAC)
Area (ha)	151.07
General site character	
Heath, Scrub, Maquis and Garrigue, Phygrana (4%) Dry grassland, Steppes (4%) Humid grassland, Mesophile grassland (2%) Broad-leaved deciduous woodland (70%) Coniferous woodland (5%) Mixed woodland (5%) Inland rocks, Scree, Sands, Permanent Snow and ice (10%)	
Conservation objectives	Issues

<p>Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring;</p> <p>The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats</p> <p>The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats, and</p> <p>The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats rely</p>	<p>Problematic native species</p> <p>Changes in biotic conditions</p> <p>Inter-specific floral relations</p> <p>Grazing</p> <p>Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities</p>
<p>Annex I habitats that are a primary reason for selection of this site</p> <p><i>Tilio-Acerion</i> forests of slopes, screes and ravines (mixed woodland on base-rich soils associated with rocky slopes).</p>	
<p>Annex I habitats present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for selection of this site</p> <p>Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies: on calcareous substrates (<i>Festuco-Brometalia</i>) (dry grasslands and scrublands on chalk or limestone) Important orchid site</p>	

Chew Valley Lake SPA

Chew Valley Lake SPA is located south of Bristol and is the largest artificial freshwater lake in South West England. It is a large, shallow reservoir with peripheral areas of reedbeds, carr woodland and neutral grassland. The water conditions are eutrophic and open water plant communities are rather sparse. The open water of the reservoir and its margins are of high value for wintering waterbirds, specifically overwintering Northern Shoveler *Anas clypeata*.

Site details

Country	England
Unitary Authority	Bath and North East Somerset
Centroid	ST569597
Latitude	51.33388889
Longitude	-2.618611111
SPA EU code	UK9010041
Status	Special Protection Area (SPA)
Area (ha)	575.73
<p>General site character</p> <p>Bogs, Marshes, Water fringed vegetation, Fens 6%</p> <p>Broad-leaved deciduous woodland 4%</p> <p>Humid grassland, Mesophile grassland 7%</p> <p>Inland water bodies (Standing water, Running water) 83%</p> <p>Soil & Geology:neutral,sedimentary,basic</p> <p>Geomorphology and landscape:valley,lowland</p>	
Conservation objectives	Issues

<p>Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the aims of the Wild Birds Directive, by maintaining or restoring;</p> <p>The extent and distribution of the habitats of the qualifying features</p> <p>The structure and function of the habitats of the qualifying features</p> <p>The supporting processes on which the habitats of the qualifying features rely</p> <p>The population of each of the qualifying features, and,</p> <p>The distribution of the qualifying features within the site.</p>	<p>Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions</p> <p>Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities</p>
<p>Annex I habitats that are a primary reason for selection of this site</p> <p>Northern shoveler <i>Anas clypeata</i></p>	

Cothill Fen SAC

Cothill Fen is an exceptionally important site with an outstanding range of nationally rare habitats which support a large number of rare invertebrates and plants. The habitats consist of calcareous fen, calcareous grassland, woodland and scrub of varying degrees of wetness. The habitat supports over 330 species of vascular plant and over 120 nationally scarce or rare invertebrates, including the nationally rare Southern Damselfly (*Coenagrion mercuriale*).

Site details

Country	England
Unitary Authority	Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire
Centroid	SU463999
Latitude	51.69555556
Longitude	-1.329444444
SAC EU code	UK0012889
Status	Special Area of Conservation (SAC)
Area (ha)	43.39
<p>General site character</p> <p>Inland water bodies (Standing water, Running water) (1%)</p> <p>Bogs, Marshes, Water fringed vegetation, Fens (25%)</p> <p>Dry grassland, Steppes (2%)</p> <p>Improved grassland (10%)</p> <p>Broad-leaved deciduous woodland (62%)</p>	
Conservation objectives	Issues
<p>Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring;</p> <p>The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats</p> <p>The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats, and</p>	<p>Pollution to groundwater (point sources and diffuse sources)</p> <p>Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions</p>

The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats rely	
Annex I habitats that are a primary reason for selection of this site	
Alkaline fens. (Calcium-rich springwater-fed fens)	
Annex I habitats present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for selection of this site	
Alluvial forests <i>with Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (<i>Alno-Padion</i> , <i>Alnion incanae</i> , <i>Salicion albae</i>). (Alder woodland on floodplains) - Priority feature	

Mells Valley SAC

The Mells Valley SAC lies at the eastern end of the Mendip Hills in the County of Somerset. The site has three component sites: The Old Ironstone Works Mells, St. Dunstan's Well Catchment and Vallis Vale. The primary interest of the site is the maternity roost of Greater Horseshoe Bats *Rhinolophus ferrumequinum* originally located in the Old Ironstone Works Mells site. Subsidiary interests are caves not open to the public located on the other two sites and an area of limestone grassland on the St Dunstan's Well Catchment site. The caves are used as a hibernacula by some of the bats from the maternity roost.

Site details

Country	England
Unitary Authority	Dorset and Somerset
Centroid	ST657476
Latitude	51.22583333
Longitude	-2.491666667
SAC EU code	UK0012658
Status	Special Area of Conservation (SAC)
Area (ha)	28.77
General site character	
Humid grassland, Mesophile grassland (5%) Improved grassland (60%) Broad-leaved deciduous woodland (10%) Other land (including Towns, Villages, Roads, Waste places, Mines, Industrial sites) (25%)	
Conservation objectives	Issues
Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring; The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats The structure and function of the habitats of qualifying species The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats and the habitats of qualifying species rely The populations of qualifying species, and,	Unknown threat or pressure Other human intrusions and disturbances Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities Grazing

The distribution of qualifying species within the site.	
Annex I habitats present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for selection of this site	
Caves not open to the public Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies: on calcareous substrates (<i>Festuco-Brometalia</i>). (Dry grasslands and scrublands on chalk or limestone)	
Annex II species that are a primary reason for selection of this site	
Greater horseshoe bat <i>Rhinolophus ferrumequinum</i>	

Mendip Woodlands SAC

Mendip Woodlands contains extensive examples of mixed woodlands on limestone. They have developed on dolomitic conglomerate, lower limestone shales and Carboniferous limestone strata on the southern escarpment of the Mendip Hills. There are four individual woods all located on the southern slope of the Mendip Hills in the county of Somerset. Three of the woods, Cheddar Wood, Ebbor Gorge and Rodney Stoke lie in the west of Mendip while Asham Wood lies in the east. Asham Wood and Ebbor Gorge are both associated with limestone gorges while Cheddar Wood and Rodney Stoke lie on the steep southern slope of the hills. Only one of the woods, Asham, has permanent streams running through it. All four woods are dominated by ash while both Cheddar Wood and Rodney Stoke have a high population of small-leaved lime. Notable species present include Purple gromwell *Lithospermum purpureocaeruleum*, Lily of the valley *Convallaria majalis* and Wild daffodil *Narcissus pseudonarcissus*. All the woodlands were managed by coppicing and are gradually reverting to high forest.

Site details

Country	England
Unitary Authority	Dorset and Somerset
Centroid	ST706454
Latitude	51.20694444
Longitude	-2.421666667
SAC EU code	UK0030048
Status	Special Area of Conservation (SAC)
Area (ha)	251.39
General site character Dry grassland, Steppes (1.5%) Broad-leaved deciduous woodland (98.5%)	
Conservation objectives	Issues
Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring; The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats	Other human intrusions and disturbances Air pollution, air-borne pollutants

The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats, and	Problematic native species
The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats rely	Inter-specific floral relations
Annex I habitats that are a primary reason for selection of this site	
<i>Tilio-Acerion</i> forests of slopes, screes and ravines. (Mixed woodland on base-rich soils associated with rocky slopes)	

North Meadow and Clattinger Farm SAC

This site in the Thames Valley represents an exceptional survival of the traditional pattern of management of lowland hay meadows. It consists of a series of traditionally managed unimproved grasslands within the floodplain of the Upper Thames which continue to be managed as pasture and as hay-meadow.

It contains a rich variety of species-rich grassland types including the rare MG4 community for which the SAC is designated as well as a number of notable plant species. These grasslands represent rare and scattered remnants of a much more widespread unimproved grassland habitat before agricultural intensification and extensive gravel quarrying locally were responsible for widespread losses of this habitat and its subsequent fragmentation.

Site details

Country	England
Unitary Authority	Gloucestershire, Wiltshire and Bristol/Bath area
Centroid	SU014934
Latitude	51.63888889
Longitude	-1.979166667
SAC EU code	UK0016372
Status	Special Area of Conservation (SAC)
Area (ha)	105.23
General site character	
Inland water bodies (Standing water, Running water) (2%) Dry grassland, Steppes (15%) Humid grassland, Mesophile grassland (71%) Improved grassland (12%)	
Conservation objectives	Issues
Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring; The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats, and	Pollution to groundwater (point sources and diffuse sources) Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions

The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats rely	Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities Grazing Other ecosystem modifications
Annex I habitats that are a primary reason for selection of this site Lowland hay meadows (<i>Alopecurus pratensis</i> , <i>Sanguisorba officinalis</i>).	

Oxford Meadows SAC

Oxford Meadows is one of two SACs that represent lowland hay meadows (*Alopecurus pratensis*, *Sanguisorba officinalis*) in the Thames Valley. It includes vegetation communities that are perhaps unique in the world in reflecting the influence of long-term grazing and hay-cutting on lowland hay meadows. The site has benefited from the survival of traditional management, which has been undertaken for several centuries, and so exhibits good conservation of structure and function. The site is selected because Port Meadow is the larger of only two known sites in the UK for creeping marshwort *Apium repens*.

Site details

Country	England
Unitary Authority	Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire
Centroid	SP492090
Latitude	51.77694444
Longitude	-1.28666667
SAC EU code	UK0012845
Status	Special Area of Conservation (SAC)
Area (ha)	267.4
General site character Humid grassland, Mesophile grassland (87%) Improved grassland (13%)	
Conservation objectives	Issues
Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring; The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats The structure and function of the habitats of qualifying species The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats and the habitats of qualifying species rely The populations of qualifying species, and,	Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions Pollution to surface waters (limnic & terrestrial, marine & brackish) Invasive non-native species

The distribution of qualifying species within the site.	
Annex I habitats that are a primary reason for selection of this site	
Lowland hay meadows (<i>Alopecurus pratensis</i> , <i>Sanguisorba officinalis</i>)	
Annex II species that are a primary reason for selection of this site	
Creeping marshwort <i>Apium repens</i>	

Salisbury Plain SAC / SPA

Salisbury Plain SAC, which includes Porton Down and Parsonage Down, represents the largest surviving semi-natural dry grassland area within north-west Europe. It hosts the priority habitat type 'orchid-rich sites' and supports extensive areas of CG3 *Bromus erectus* grassland, which is the most widespread and abundant calcareous grassland found in the UK. Other grassland types, like the rare CG7 *Festuca ovina* - *Hieracium pilosella* - *Thymus praecox* grassland, are present. In addition, the site features the best remaining example in the UK of lowland Juniper scrub on chalk and a cluster of large Marsh fritillary *Euphydryas aurinia*, sub-populations where the species breeds on dry calcareous grassland.

Porton Down SPA and Salisbury Plain SPA support important breeding populations of Stone-curlew *Burhinus oedicephalus*, Quail *Coturnix coturnix*, Hobby *Falco subbuteo*, and over-wintering Hen harrier *Circus cyaneus*.

Site details

Country	England
Unitary Authority	Gloucestershire, Wiltshire and Bristol/Bath area, Hampshire and Isle of Wight
Centroid	SU077497
Latitude	51.24583333
Longitude	-1.889444444
SAC EU code	UK0012683
SPA EU code	UK9011102
Status	Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and Special Protection Area (SPA)
Area (ha)	21465.94
General site character	
Heath, Scrub, Maquis and Garrigue, Phygrana (1.9%)	
Dry grassland, Steppes (94.7%)	
Humid grassland, Mesophile grassland (0.9%)	
Improved grassland (0.9%)	
Broad-leaved deciduous woodland (0.4%)	
Coniferous woodland (0.4%)	
Mixed woodland (0.4%)	
Other land (including Towns, Villages, Roads, Waste places, Mines, Industrial sites) (0.4%)	
Conservation objectives	Issues

<p>SAC</p> <p>Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring;</p> <p>The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species</p> <p>The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats</p> <p>The structure and function of the habitats of qualifying species</p> <p>The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats and the habitats of qualifying species rely</p> <p>The populations of qualifying species, and,</p> <p>The distribution of qualifying species within the site.</p>	<p>Air pollution, air-borne pollutants</p> <p>Changes in biotic conditions</p> <p>Inter-specific floral relations</p> <p>Grazing</p>
<p>SPA</p> <p>Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the aims of the Wild Birds Directive, by maintaining or restoring;</p> <p>The extent and distribution of the habitats of the qualifying features</p> <p>The structure and function of the habitats of the qualifying features</p> <p>The supporting processes on which the habitats of the qualifying features rely</p> <p>The population of each of the qualifying features, and,</p> <p>The distribution of the qualifying features within the site.</p>	
<p>Annex I habitats that are a primary reason for selection of this site</p> <p><i>Juniperus communis</i> formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands. (Juniper on heaths or calcareous grasslands)</p> <p>Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies: on calcareous substrates (<i>Festuco-Brometalia</i>). (Dry grasslands and scrublands on chalk or limestone)</p> <p>Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies: on calcareous substrates (<i>Festuco-Brometalia</i>) (important orchid sites). (Dry grasslands and scrublands on chalk or limestone, including important orchid sites)*</p> <p>Stone curlew <i>Burhinus oedicemus</i></p> <p>Hen harrier <i>Circus cyaneus</i></p>	
<p>Annex I habitats present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for selection of this site</p> <p>Merlin <i>Falco columbarius</i></p> <p>Short-eared owl <i>Asio flammeus</i></p> <p>Montagu's harrier <i>Circus pygargus</i></p>	
<p>Annex II species that are a primary reason for selection of this site</p> <p>Marsh fritillary butterfly <i>Euphydryas (Eurodryas, Hypodryas) aurinia</i></p> <p>Quail <i>Coturnix coturnix</i></p> <p>Hobby <i>Falco subbuteo</i></p>	

Severn Estuary SAC / SPA / RAMSAR

The Severn Estuary is located between Wales and England in south-west Britain. It is a large estuary with extensive intertidal mud-flats and sand-flats, rocky platforms and islands. Saltmarsh fringes the coast backed by grazing marsh with freshwater ditches and occasional brackish ditches. The subtidal seabed is rock and gravel with subtidal sandbanks. The site also supports reefs of the tube forming worm *Sabellaria alveolata*.

The estuary’s classic funnel shape, unique in the UK, is a factor causing the Severn to have one of the highest tidal ranges in the world. A consequence of the large tidal range is an extensive intertidal zone, one of the largest in the UK. The tidal regime results in plant and animal communities typical of the extreme physical conditions of liquid mud and tide-swept sand and rock. The species-poor intertidal invertebrate community includes high densities of ragworms, lugworms and other invertebrates forming an important food source for passage and wintering waders and fish.

The site is of importance during the spring and autumn migration periods for waders, as well as in winter for large numbers of waterbirds, especially swans, ducks and waders. The fish fauna is very diverse with more than 110 species identified. The site is of particular importance for migratory fish.

Site details

Country	England/Wales
Unitary Authority	Dorset and Somerset, East Wales, Extra-Regio, Gloucestershire, Wiltshire and Bristol/Bath area
Centroid	ST321748
Latitude	51.46861111
Longitude	-2.978055556
SAC EU code	UK0013030
SPA EU code	UK9015022
Status	Special Area of Conservation (SAC), Special Protection Area (SPA) and RAMSAR
Area (ha)	73714.11
General site character	
Tidal rivers, Estuaries, Mud flats, Sand flats, Lagoons (including saltwork basins) (99%) Salt marshes, Salt pastures, Salt steppes (1%)	
Conservation objectives	Issues
SAC	

<p>Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring;</p> <p>The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species</p> <p>The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats</p> <p>The structure and function of the habitats of qualifying species</p> <p>The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats and the habitats of qualifying species rely</p> <p>The populations of qualifying species, and,</p> <p>The distribution of qualifying species within the site.</p>	<p>Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities</p> <p>Other urbanisation, industrial and similar activities</p> <p>Modification of cultivation practices</p> <p>Changes in abiotic conditions</p> <p>Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions</p> <p>Dredging</p> <p>Erosion</p> <p>Recreational/tourism disturbance (unspecified)</p>
<p>SPA</p>	
<p>Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the aims of the Wild Birds Directive, by maintaining or restoring;</p> <p>The extent and distribution of the habitats of the qualifying features</p> <p>The structure and function of the habitats of the qualifying features</p> <p>The supporting processes on which the habitats of the qualifying features rely</p> <p>The population of each of the qualifying features, and,</p> <p>The distribution of the qualifying features within the site.</p>	
<p>Annex I habitats that are a primary reason for selection of this site</p> <p>Estuaries</p> <p>Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide. (Intertidal mudflats and sandflats)</p> <p>Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritima</i>)</p> <p>Bewick's swan <i>Cygnus columbianus bewickii</i></p>	
<p>Annex I habitats present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for selection of this site</p> <p>Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time. (Subtidal sandbanks)</p> <p>Reefs</p>	
<p>Annex II species that are a primary reason for selection of this site</p> <p>Sea Lamprey (<i>Petromyzon marinus</i>)</p> <p>River Lamprey (<i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i>)</p> <p>Twaite Shad (<i>Alosa fallax</i>)</p> <p>Large wintering waterfowl flock</p>	

Walmore Common SPA / RAMSAR

Walmore Common occupies a low-lying area in the Severn Vale which is subject to annual winter flooding. The site overlies the only significant area of peat in the county of Gloucestershire. The habitats represented include neutral grassland and open water ditches.

Site details

Country	England
Unitary Authority	Gloucestershire
Centroid	SO745150
Latitude	51.83277778
Longitude	-2.370555556
SPA EU code	UK9007051
Status	Special Protection Area (SPA) and RAMSAR
Area (ha)	52.85
General site character	
Improved grassland 65%	
Humid grassland, Mesophile grassland 34%	
Terrestrial: Soil & Geology:clay,alluvium,peat,neutral2 Terrestrial: Geomorphology and landscape: floodplain, lowland	
Conservation objectives	Issues
Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the aims of the Wild Birds Directive, by maintaining or restoring;	Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions
The extent and distribution of the habitats of the qualifying features	Changes in biotic conditions
The structure and function of the habitats of the qualifying features	Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities
The supporting processes on which the habitats of the qualifying features rely	Modification of cultivation practices
The population of each of the qualifying features, and,	
The distribution of the qualifying features within the site.	
Annex I habitats that are a primary reason for selection of this site	
Bewick swan <i>Cygnus columbianus bewickii</i>	

Wye Valley and Forest of Dean Bat Sites SAC

This complex of sites on the border between England and Wales contains, at the time of listing, by far the greatest concentration of Lesser horseshoe bat in the UK, totalling about 26% of the national population. It features an exceptional breeding population. In addition, it supports a significant population of Greater horseshoe bat in the northern part of its range. The site contains the main maternity roost and hibernacula for this species in this area.

Site details

Country	England/Wales
Unitary Authority	Gloucestershire, Wiltshire and Bristol/Bath area, West Wales and The Valleys
Centroid	SO605044
Latitude	51.7375

Longitude	-2.5725
SAC EU code	UK0014794
Status	Special Area of Conservation (SAC)
Area (ha)	144.82
General site character	
Broad-leaved deciduous woodland (26.2%) Other land (including Towns, Villages, Roads, Waste places, Mines, Industrial sites) (73.8%)	
Conservation objectives	Issues
Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring; The extent and distribution of the habitats of qualifying species The structure and function of the habitats of qualifying species The supporting processes on which the habitats of qualifying species rely The populations of qualifying species, and The distribution of qualifying species within the site.	Other ecosystem modifications Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions
Annex II species that are a primary reason for selection of this site	
Greater horseshoe bat <i>Rhinolophus ferrumequinum</i> Lesser horseshoe bat <i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i>	

Appendix 2: Prioritised issues for the National Sites within the AONB

Prioritised issues for National sites ¹⁴			
Priority	Issue		Measure
Bath & Bradford-on-Avon Bats			
1	Planning Permission: general	There is currently difficulty in determining cumulative impacts of development across such a wide area and across local authority boundaries, including operations carried out under an European Protected Species license. This applies to both the developments themselves and the surveys which are needed to inform the planning application process. There is currently no formal way of assessing the cumulative impacts of "high disturbance" level surveys (e.g. mist netting, harp trapping, radiotracking) being carried out outside the SAC boundary which may have cumulative impacts on the features of the SAC. Similarly, there is no formal way of assessing cumulative impacts on the SAC from permissions granted by the different competent authorities.	Produce and promote advice and guidance on development control and strategic planning
2	Change in land management	Land ownership is fragmented and management has lapsed, particularly around the urban fringe of Bath.	Provide information regarding appropriate management of habitat for bats
3	Direct impact from third party	One-off acts of vandalism or impacts of recreational pursuits could have a devastating effect if done in close proximity to roosting bats. There have been impacts at Brown's Folly, Box Mine and Bathampton Down Mines, specifically from third parties gaining access for inappropriate purposes.	Reduce vandalism and impacts of recreational activities
4	Feature location/ extent/ condition unknown	There is a lack of knowledge about the population of Bechstein's bat within the SAC and its relationship to roosts within the wider landscape. There is very little data to show which component sites are used by Bechstein's and in what way, and even less foraging / commuting data. This is a risk because it is difficult	Investigate Bechstein's bat to improve knowledge of local population activity

¹⁴ After the Natural England Site Improvement Plans

		to determine the impacts of plans and projects on Bechstein's bat.	
5	Offsite habitat availability/management	There is a lack of knowledge as to usage of the wider landscape by the SAC species. For example whether there are certain critical bat corridors which link the component sites, other bat SAC sites or non-designated roosts, or particularly important areas or routes used for feeding, 'swarming' or other activity between sites is unknown. Lack of knowledge compromises the ability to respond appropriately to threats such as development pressure and opportunities such as the use of agri-environment schemes in locations that will most greatly benefit bats.	Investigate bat species use of surrounding habitat
6	Public Access/Disturbance	It is very difficult to close the sites to public access, potentially causing disturbance. This is a pressure in terms of continuous long-term disturbance by visitors, however the sites are managed in such a way that it does not present a significant pressure unless the volume and frequency of visitors were to increase. The threat to the sites come from one-off events such as: fire juggling near to the maternity colony; use of aerosol spray paints underground; use of fuel of any type underground, and bonfires at the mine entrances.	Review access arrangements and implement improved management of access
7	Change to site conditions	All component areas of the SAC have the potential risk of collapse as they are abandoned mines and their status with regards to stability is largely unknown. Mine instability is particularly relevant at entrances where a collapse could make it unusable by bats. A collapse is likely to alter the entrance dimensions thereby affecting ventilation, temperature and humidity within the mines, and/or may cause bats to be killed or become entrapped. Due to mine instability it is also difficult to monitor bats effectively.	Investigate the stability of mine and cave systems and feasibility for stabilisation
8	Inappropriate designation boundary	Several undesignated sites support important populations of SAC bats. Some of these are under threat, and others are located in areas/landscapes where they could be offered greater protection and enhanced management of surrounding habitats if they were known to be special sites. Consultation zones for planning have been agreed far	Review series of SAC sites and consider new sites for notification

		beyond the bounds of the current component sites, and evaluating the importance of new sites relative to the currently designated ones will validate and improve the series.	
Bredon Hill			
1	Forestry and woodland management	The lack of succession in veteran tree cohorts is an issue, as current planting will only benefit the beetles after about 400 years and it is uncertain how long tree surgery will prolong the veterans' lives. The beetle depends on the production of humid wood mould within decaying trees and the amount of available wood mould in the SAC is unknown.	Formulate and implement a wood mould continuity strategy for the Violet click beetle population
2	Feature location/ extent/ condition unknown	There is a current lack of information on the distribution across the site of the rare and secretive Violet click beetle.	Survey of Violet click beetle, to identify site distribution
3	Disease	Ash die-back caused by the <i>Chalara fraxinea</i> fungus threatens the large number of current veteran ash trees and their replacements on which the Violet click beetle depends. Whilst the beetle is known to use other species elsewhere (eg Windsor), ash dominates the trees on Bredon Hill. The scale of this impact on the persistence and continuity of wood mould is uncertain and is likely to be beyond human control.	Monitor for the impact of Ash dieback, and investigate the effect of tree death on the wood mould persistence and continuity
4	Air Pollution: impact of Pressure atmospheric nitrogen deposition	Nitrogen deposition exceeds site relevant critical loads. This site is sensitive to nitrogen deposition.	Reduce the impact of atmospheric nitrogen deposition
5	Climate change	The likelihood of increased violent storm events and the viability of ash in a changed environment threatens the veteran ash trees on which the beetle depends.	Monitor and plan for the effect of increased losses due to storms and changed environment
Cotswold Beechwoods			
1	Invasive species	The dumping of garden waste and the consequent spread of invasive plants is an on-going threat but one that the land managers largely have under control. However, the spread of the non-native sycamore provides more of a challenge and has made particular use of canopy gaps created by storm damage. Although sycamore is considered an acceptable component of woodlands, including beechwoods, on the continent, in the Cotswolds it tends to dominate	Reduce invasive sycamore, especially in the canopy

		understorey and canopy to the detriment of other (native) tree species. Its control is costly and time consuming and often unpopular with woodland owners who find it useful to "deflect" squirrel damage from the beech trees. This together with the ever increasing risk to native tree species from plant disease and climate change makes the sycamore issue all the more acute.	
2	Deer	Deer browsing of regenerating trees (and possibly ground flora) remains a major threat to favourable condition throughout the beechwoods. Whilst deer control does take place, this work needs to be monitored and coordinated to ensure deer populations are adequately managed.	Reduce deer browsing pressure
3	Invasive species	Grey squirrel numbers have increased sharply over the past decade or so and now cause significant damage to tree species, in particular beech. In places, this can lead to pole stage beech being systematically ring barked and killed. Control measures are widely applied but the numbers and associated damage persists. This also dissuades woodland owners from favouring the retention of beech.	Reduce squirrel damage to trees
4	Disease	Although not known to be present in the Cotswolds as yet, <i>Chalara</i> (ash disease) is a major future threat to the beechwoods. Natural regeneration tends to favour ash although beech does also regenerate but at a slower rate. This has enabled an acceptable mix of beech/ash canopy with other minor species. However, the other main regeneration tree is the non-native sycamore. If ash starts to die out then the woodlands are likely to become dominated by sycamore, hence the need for a strategy to prepare for ash dieback.	Produce a strategy to deal with potential ash dieback
5	Public Access / Disturbance	Public use of the Beechwoods has grown considerably over recent years and damage is becoming more widespread. A particular increase has been the use of mountain bikes and horseriding which use the woods far beyond the limited network of bridleways. This has created numerous additional trackways and so increasing the erosion of the ground	Minimise impact of recreational use, especially mountain biking, horse riding and dog walking

		<p>flora and potentially opportunities for water erosion. Although the routes away from bridleways are not usually permitted, much of the SAC woodland is NNR or has public access by foot. Hence efforts have been made to provide agreed permissive routes with local bike groups with the aim of minimising damage whilst still allowing some use. This is still experimental and much will depend on the scale of use and whether the users stick to the permissive routes. This approach could also be tried with horseriders. Additionally, dog walking has increased within the SAC especially at Coopers Hill where car parking is available. This has become a particular issue where professional dog walkers release large numbers of dogs (up to 12) to run uncontrolled through the woods. This causes disturbance to wildlife as well as local nitrification through dog faeces.</p>	
6	Changes in species distributions	<p>There is a risk that global warming will increase the risk of drought to beech trees (which are shallow rooted). Whilst this risk should be acknowledged, it should be noted that no evidence of drought amongst beech trees has been noted in the Cotswolds as yet and the nature of the soils (limestone rather than chalk) and the (wetter) westerly location may help to prevent the risk.</p>	Monitor the effects of drought on beech trees
7	Air Pollution: impact of atmospheric nitrogen deposition	<p>Nitrogen deposition exceeds site relevant critical loads. High atmospheric nitrogen levels could affect the SAC features through: changes in ground vegetation and mycorrhiza; nutrient imbalance; changes to soil fauna; increase in tall grasses; decline in diversity; increased mineralization; N leaching; or surface acidification.</p>	Control, reduce and ameliorate atmospheric nitrogen impacts
Dixton Wood			
1	Changes in species distributions	<p>Because of its rarity and highly specialised ecology associated with decaying wood and leaf litter in tree cavities, specialist involvement is required for survey, monitoring and the provision of detailed habitat management advice. Without it, appropriate management advice is</p>	Carry out survey and monitoring work to inform advice to landowner

		difficult to provide to the woodland owner.	
2	Forestry and woodland management	The beetle depends on the production of humid wood mould where it lives for part of its life cycle within decaying trees; this is typically found in veteran trees where they show signs of rot. The amount of suitable and available wood mould in the SAC is unknown. The lack of succession in veteran cohorts is an issue and it make the need for extending the life of the existing veteran trees even more important. Although the woodland and the surrounding land is in HLS, it is unclear if the scheme (and indeed subsequent schemes) can adequately fund the required specialist tree climbing/surgery work which is very expensive on this challenging site.	Formulate and implement a wood mould continuity strategy for the Violet click beetle population
3	Disease	Ash dieback disease <i>Chalara fraxinea</i> is a potential threat to the site. The Violet click beetle population at Dixton Wood is thought only to use ash trees. The previous management advice has been to extend the life of the ash trees by pollarding suitable trees. The current advice on the control of the spread of the disease is not to coppice or pollard ash trees as this may make them more susceptible to disease. Although there is no current evidence that the disease is present, specialist advice is required to formulate a strategy regarding how to manage the woodland for the Violet click beetle whilst also considering the threat of <i>Chalara</i> disease.	Monitor for Chalara and take appropriate action
Rodborough Common			
1	Undergrazing	Undergrazing is an issue due to the reliance on the rights of commoners to turn out cattle. The number of stock have dropped over the years to the point that additional cattle now need to be electric fenced on to the most species-rich areas on the slopes. Of key importance is the lack of cattle grids on minor roads which means that Commoners are less inclined to push the cattle on to the lower slopes where they may escape onto busy surrounding roads. It is these lower slopes that are the most species-rich and are suffering from a lack of grazing. A better evidence	Increase grazing pressure in key areas

		base (NVC survey, see action 2A) relating to the state of the site's grasslands is desirable to support the case for improved grazing.	
2	Public Access / Disturbance	The common is very close to Stroud and recreational use has greatly increased over the past few decades. This has created many new paths and parking areas which cause soil compaction to the detriment of the surrounding sward. Dog faeces is a particular issue which also damages the sward but also poses a real disease risk to the cattle which are vital to the management of the Common. New and proposed housing continues to add to the problem.	Reduce impact of recreational use
3	Air Pollution: risk of atmospheric nitrogen deposition	Nitrogen deposition exceeds the site-relevant critical load for ecosystem protection and hence there is a risk of harmful effects, but the sensitive features are currently considered to be in favourable condition on the site. This requires further investigation.	Further investigate potential atmospheric nitrogen impacts

Appendix 3: Cotswolds National Landscape Management Plan policy framework

Vision

A COTSWOLDS VISION: A NATIONAL LANDSCAPE FOR EVERYONE

A time of opportunity

The Cotswolds is good for us; we feel better when we are here and engaged with the natural beauty of the landscape around us. In recent years we have been reminded of the intrinsic relationship between ourselves and the natural world – and the condition it is in. We believe the Cotswolds National Landscape offers opportunities for optimism, regeneration, wellbeing, and inclusion.

Challenges lie ahead

We are in the midst of a global climate emergency and an ecological crisis. Our awareness of ongoing social and economic inequalities is heightened. In the Cotswolds, these concerns are as real for us too, and we face significant challenges: climate change; threats to wildlife and habitat; changes to the farming landscape and agriculture; finding ways to deliver opportunities for younger people and provide for an ageing population; and achieving access to, and involvement in, the countryside for everyone – in ways which help benefit the countryside and encourage a diverse range of people to appreciate and care for the Cotswolds.

What can we do, and how should we do it?

To address these issues and begin to make improvements, we need to challenge ourselves. We must avoid complacency, and not adhere doggedly to past beliefs – this will hold us back, and limit how much positive change we can introduce. Instead, we need to embrace new ways of thinking in order to find win-win solutions which both conserve and enhance natural beauty, and serve the people who are here. We will work hard, and in partnership – to find outcomes which offer the most positive benefits and the least negative impact. We will need to demonstrate collaboration and leadership. We will need to be energetic and proactive. We will need to be bold, brave, and confident. Above all, we will need to acknowledge that we can't do it all alone – we want to work with other organisations and individuals to achieve results which benefit all of us, and nature.

The future should be bright

The treasured landscapes which make the Cotswolds nationally and internationally important are diverse in character, as are the people who live, work, and visit here. There is no 'one size fits all' for the future – but we have a greater opportunity than ever before to pull together as communities across the Cotswolds, and to work with each other to harness our dedication and expertise to forge the future of the Cotswolds. This place, the Cotswolds National Landscape, is for everyone, from all walks of life. In sharing it and looking after it, we will continue to create a place that is vibrant, unique, welcoming, and truly special – for people and for nature. We will work towards ensuring that the Cotswolds stays a working landscape, where agriculture thrives and supply chains are secure. Our communities should be connected and diverse, but self-sustaining. Visitors should feel welcome to enjoy being here, confident about access, and motivated to give something back to help look after the landscape. This should be a place where the landscape, nature, and people work in harmony with each other.

The Cotswolds will be a place that will inspire generations of people to look after it – now and in the years ahead.

Aims & Policies

CROSS CUTTING AIM: Tackling 21st century issues through progressive partnerships.

Outcome 1 – Climate action: We are on target to achieve net zero (or better) within the Cotswolds National Landscape by 2050 (or sooner), as a result of stakeholders implementing a clearly defined pathway to net zero, whilst also adapting to the consequences of climate change.

POLICY CC1: Climate Change – Mitigation

CC1.1. Climate change mitigation including the sequestration of carbon should be a key component of land management practices and

	<p>Environmental Land Management, and rural development support mechanisms in the National Landscape. Examples include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase canopy cover through increased tree cover and woodland and hedgerow creation. • Measures that capture and store carbon in soil such as using herb-rich leys, minimising cultivation and wildflower grassland restoration. • Extensive grazing and integrating extensive livestock systems with arable production. <p>CC1.2. Greenhouse gas emissions should be minimised through reducing energy demand in existing and new buildings and infrastructure by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Improving energy efficiency, for example, by retrofitting existing buildings. Where traditional buildings including listed buildings are retrofitted and this effects the fabric of the building, this must be undertaken by historic building specialists and in a manner that is compatible with the purpose of National Landscape (AONB) designation; ○ Reducing embodied carbon through the use of sustainably sourced timber and secondary and recycled materials within all construction unless demonstrably unachievable on technical and practical grounds; ○ Utilising passive measures, for example the orientation of buildings, passive house design and the provision of high levels of insulation; ○ Additional glazing, solar panels, heating systems (e.g. air or water source heat pumps) and low carbon driveway materials should be considered. ○ Sustainable construction methods and management plans to reduce and manage construction waste should be implemented ; ○ Incentivising voluntary sustainability standards, for example BREEAM, Building with Nature, and One Planet Living principles. <p>CC1.3. Greenhouse gas emissions should be minimised through reducing emissions from both residents’ and tourists’ transport and travel by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Reducing car use for example, through increasing green and active travel including public transport and increasing shared mobility through car sharing schemes; ○ Reducing the need to travel for example by encouraging home working and affordable housing provision close to sources of employment, services and facilities; ○ Improving the sustainability of travel through for example; a comprehensive bus service linked to public transport hub promotion/integration and information. ○ Prioritise the provision of walking, cycling and public transport use, including adequate cycle parking and safe cycle routes.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Providing sufficient infrastructure for the charging of electric vehicles, scooters and bikes; ○ Promoting messages aimed at minimising air travel by Cotswolds residents. ○ Developers should be encouraged to evidence how their development will support active travel and public transportation use. This includes incorporation of cycle storage, workplace lockers, changing, dry room and shower facilities to encourage staff active travel, car club provisions, EV charging points that go above and beyond the current Building Regulations. <p>CC1.4. Greenhouse gas emissions should be minimised through generating and distributing energy from low carbon sources in a manner consistent with the purpose of National Landscape (AONB) designation, this plan and associated guidance including the CNL Renewable Energy Position Statement (June 2023):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ All developments, should have a net zero operational carbon balance and 100% energy provided by low carbon sources. ○ Support community-led renewable energy production, in line with the CNL Renewable Energy Position Statement. <p>CC1.5 Greenhouse gas emissions from food production should be minimised by supporting the development of community food networks, linking farmers and businesses to each other and consumers; promote the purchasing locally produced food products and services and encouraging small-scale vegetable growing in gardens and allotments.</p> <p>CC1.6. Climate action should be undertaken in a way that is compatible with and seeks to further the conservation and enhancement of the natural beauty of the Cotswolds National Landscape.</p> <p>CC1.7. Stakeholders should work towards the delivery of the relevant targets for climate change within the national Protected Landscapes Targets and Outcomes Framework.</p> <p>Target 6. Reduce net greenhouse gas emissions in Protected Landscapes to net zero by 2050 relative to 1990 levels.</p> <p>Target 8. Increase tree canopy and woodland cover (combined) by 3% of total land area in Protected Landscapes by 2050 (from 2022 baseline).</p> <p>Target 7 has been excluded as it concerns the area of peat restored.</p> <p>Target 8 is currently being apportioned across protected landscapes nationally and will additionally be further informed by local woodland opportunity mapping. The local target is likely to exceed the apportioned national target.</p>
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<p>POLICY CC2: Climate Change - Adaptation</p>	<p>CC2.1. The risks posed by the consequences of climate change should be reduced through a range of adaptation measures, including those identified in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • relevant policies of this Management Plan. (references added in final version) • the CNL Climate Change Strategy (2022) • The CNL Climate Change Adaptation Plan (to be published by XXXX) <p>CC2.2. Climate change adaptation should be a significant driver in the design of all new development, infrastructure and transport provision .</p> <p>CC2.3. Climate change adaptation should be a key component of land management practices and Environmental Land Management and rural development support mechanisms, in the National Landscape.</p> <p>CC2.4. Further research into the predicted impacts of climate change on the CNL should be undertaken. This research should be used to advise and inform sustained behavioural change to adapt to climate change and conserve and enhance the National Landscape and its special qualities.</p>
<p>Outcome 2 – Working together: Through collaborative partnerships and a shared understanding, the purposes of the Cotswolds National Landscape and its Board are applied consistently across the whole area.</p>	
<p>POLICY CC3: Compliance with section 85 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act</p>	<p>CC3.1. Relevant authorities, including public bodies and statutory undertakers, must seek to further the purpose of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the CNL, in line with Section 85 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000.</p>
<p>POLICY CC4: Working in partnership</p>	<p>CC4.1. Stakeholders should work in partnership to support the purposes of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the Cotswolds National Landscape (CNL) and increasing the understanding and enjoyment of its special qualities. Stakeholders should also cooperate in fostering the economic and social wellbeing of communities in and around the National Landscape.</p> <p>CC4.2. Communities and businesses within and around the CNL should be encouraged to value and celebrate being part of a nationally recognised landscape and to contribute to the purpose of national landscape designation.</p>
<p>CONSERVE & ENHANCE AIM: Influencing and delivering for landscape, nature and climate.</p>	
<p>Outcome 3 – Landscape: The evolving landscape and much-loved character of the Cotswolds is better understood and at the heart of all we do and the decisions we make.</p>	
<p>POLICY CE1: Landscape</p>	<p>CE1.1. Proposals that are likely to impact on, or create change in, the landscape of the Cotswolds National Landscape (CNL), should be delivered in a way that is compatible with and seek to further the conservation and enhancement of the landscape character of the location, as described by the CNL Board’s Landscape Character Assessment and Landscape Strategy and Guidelines. There should be a presumption against the loss of key characteristics identified in the landscape character assessment.</p> <p>CE1.2. Proposals that are likely to impact on, or create change in, the landscape of the CNL, should seek to further the conservation and enhancement of the scenic quality of the location and its setting, views,</p>

	<p>including those into and out of the National Landscape and visual amenity.</p> <p>CE1.3. Conserving and enhancing landscape character should be a key objective of Environmental Land Management and rural development support mechanisms in the Cotswolds National Landscape.</p> <p>CE1.4. Rural skills training and the utilisation of those skills – such as dry stone walling, stone-masonry, woodland creation and management and hedgelaying – should be supported to ensure the long-term retention, creation and management of the key features of the Cotswolds National Landscape.</p>
<p>POLICY CE2: Geology and Geomorphology</p>	<p>CE2.1. Proposals that are likely to impact on the geological and geomorphological features of the Cotswolds National Landscape (CNL) should be delivered in a way that is compatible with and seek to further the conservation and enhancement of these features.</p> <p>CE2.2. The geological and geomorphological features of the CNL should be conserved and enhanced through effective management.</p> <p>CE2.3. Opportunities should be sought to promote awareness and understanding of the geological and geomorphological features of the CNL.</p> <p>CE2.4. Exploration and research into the geology and geomorphology of the CNL should be continued in order to improve understanding of the landscape, and of the geological resource and its importance to inform the conservation and management of geological and geomorphological sites.</p>
<p>POLICY CE3: Natural & Cultural Capital – Principles</p>	<p>CE3.1. The natural and cultural capital of the Cotswolds National Landscape (CNL), and the services they provide, should continue to be assessed and evaluated.</p> <p>CE3. 2. The use of natural and cultural capital accounting should be encouraged in order to fully understand the implications of investment, development and management decisions.</p> <p>CE3.3. The financial and non-financial benefits of natural and cultural capital and the services they provide should be promoted.</p> <p>CE3.4. Proposals affecting the CNL should have regard to – and seek to conserve and enhance – the natural and cultural capital of the CNL and the services they provide.</p> <p>CE3.5. Natural and cultural capital and the services they provide should be key components of Environmental Land Management and rural development support mechanisms in the CNL.</p>
<p>Outcome 4 – Local distinctiveness: In a world of constant and rapid change, the local distinctiveness of the National Landscape is valued, conserved and enhanced.</p>	
<p>POLICY CE4: Local Distinctiveness</p>	<p>CE4.1. Proposals that are likely to impact on the local distinctiveness of the Cotswolds National Landscape (CNL) should be delivered in a way that is compatible with and seek to further the conservation and enhancement of this local distinctiveness. This should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • being compatible with the CNL Board’s Landscape Character Assessment, Landscape • Strategy and Guidelines, Local Distinctiveness and Landscape Change and any relevant • position statement or guidance published by the Board.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • being designed to respect local settlement patterns, building styles, scale and materials • and in accordance with design guidance prepared by local planning authorities; • using an appropriate colour of Cotswold limestone to reflect local distinctiveness. <p>CE4.2. Innovative designs, compatible with the conservation of natural beauty – which are informed by local distinctiveness, character and scale – should be welcomed.</p> <p>CE4.3. The development of design guidance – which is supported by a robust evidence base and which reflects relevant guidance published by the CNL Board – will be encouraged.</p> <p>CE4.4. Provision should be made for the quarrying of limestone, at an appropriate scale, in order to provide building materials that help maintain and enhance the local distinctiveness of the National Landscape. Any production of aggregate and agricultural lime should only be as by-product for local use (within the CNL) and only for essential operational purposes, with sufficient material being left to deliver the agreed restoration plan (or a more natural landform) without relying on imported material. Any such mineral sites should be required to demonstrate that they do not have any significant adverse effects on the natural beauty of the National Landscape including its special qualities or the integrity of existing wildlife sites. Where there are multiple quarries in close proximity to each other, consideration should be given to cumulative impacts, including the impact of HGV movements.</p>
<p>Outcome 5 – Tranquillity: Noise pollution and visual disturbance are minimised to maintain tranquillity across the Cotswolds National Landscape.</p>	
<p>POLICY CE5: Tranquillity</p>	<p>CE5.1. Proposals that are likely to impact on the tranquillity of the Cotswolds National Landscape (CNL) should be delivered in a way that is compatible with and seek to further the conservation and enhancement of this tranquillity, by seeking to avoid and where avoiding is not possible, minimise noise and other aural and visual disturbance.</p> <p>CE5.2. Measures should be taken to remove and where removal is not possible, minimise existing sources of noise and other aural and visual disturbance in order to enhance the tranquillity of the CNL.</p> <p>CE5.3. Proposals that are likely to impact on the tranquillity of the CNL should have regard to – and be compatible with – the CNL Board’s Tranquillity Position Statement.</p>
<p>Outcome 6 – Dark skies: Fewer areas of the Cotswolds National Landscape are affected by light at night.</p>	
<p>POLICY CE6: Dark Skies</p>	<p>CE6.1. Proposals that are likely to impact on the dark skies of the Cotswolds National Landscape (CNL) should be delivered in a way that is compatible with and seek to further the conservation and enhancement of these dark skies, by seeking to avoid and where avoiding is not possible, minimise lighting.</p> <p>CE6.2. Measures should be taken to increase the area of dark skies in the CNL by removing and, where removal is not possible or appropriate, reducing existing sources of lighting.</p> <p>CE6.3. Proposals that are likely to impact on the dark skies or dark landscapes of the CNL should have regard to and be compatible with:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • best practice standards and guidance, in particular, that published by the Institution of Lighting Professionals and the Commission for Dark Skies. • the National Landscapes Board’s Dark Skies & Artificial Light Position Statement. <p>CE6.4. Consideration will be given to seeking a formal dark sky designation for those parts of the Cotswolds National Landscape that are least affected by light pollution.</p>
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Outcome 7 – Historic environment and cultural heritage: The historic environment and cultural heritage of the Cotswolds National Landscape is better understood, conserved and enhanced.

POLICY CE7: Historic Environment and Cultural Heritage

CE7.1. Proposals that are likely to impact on the historic environment and cultural heritage of the Cotswolds National Landscape (CNL) should be delivered in a way that is compatible with and seek to further the conservation and enhancement of these heritage assets and their setting. This should include respecting the historical elements of landscape character including features such as; buildings, sites, layout and context, including the relationship between the existing feature or settlement and the landscape.

CE7.2. Heritage and Cultural Heritage Impact Assessments should be used when considering any change to a heritage asset and to influence decisions regarding the management of the historic environment and cultural heritage assets.

CE7.3. The historic environment and cultural heritage of the CNL, both designated and non-designated, should be conserved and enhanced through effective management.

CE7.4. Designated historic environment sites, such as scheduled monuments and listed buildings, and non-designated heritage assets of equivalent significance, should be protected, in line with national policy and guidance.

CE7.5. Historic environment and cultural heritage should be a key component of Environmental Land Management and rural development support mechanisms in the CNL.

CE7.6. Opportunities should be sought to promote the awareness, understanding and use of Historic Environment Records, Conservation Area Appraisals, Historic Landscape Characterisation and Heritage Strategies and Action Plans. These should be used to influence decisions regarding the management of the CNL’s historic environment and cultural heritage.

CE7.7. The cultural heritage of the Cotswolds should be better understood and celebrated in arts, cultural, and social activities across the National Landscape.

CE7.8. Stakeholders should work towards the delivery of the relevant targets for heritage assets within the national Protected Landscapes Targets and Outcomes Framework. The indicators for monitoring this target are outlined in appendix 6.

Target 10 Decrease the number of nationally designated heritage assets at risk in Protected Landscapes.

Outcome 8 – Nature recovery and biodiversity: There is concerted unified action for a widespread recovery of nature – conserving, restoring and enhancing a connected mosaic of distinctly Cotswolds habitats and species.

<p>POLICY CE8: Nature Recovery and Biodiversity</p>	<p>CE8.1. Biodiversity (including the abundance of wildlife) in the Cotswolds National Landscape (CNL) should be conserved and enhanced by establishing a coherent and resilient nature recovery network across the CNL and in its setting. This should be achieved in accordance with the outcomes, priorities, targets and measures within the Cotswolds Nature Recovery Plan and Local Nature Recovery Strategies (LNRs), and focus on the priority species and habitats listed in Appendix 8. The relevant LNRs are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Gloucestershire Add Link when final version published ii. Oxfordshire Add Link when final version published iii. Warwickshire Add Link when final version published iv. West of England Add Link when final version published v. Wiltshire Add Link when final version published vi. Worcestershire Add Link when final version published <p>CE8.2. Policy and strategic documents that are likely to impact on the biodiversity of the CNL should have regard to the CNL Management Plan and guidance including the Cotswolds Nature Recovery Plan and position statements. This includes but is not limited to, the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Local Plans. ii. Local Nature Recovery Strategies iii. Neighbourhood Development Plans. iv. Green Infrastructure Strategies. v. Tree and Woodland Strategies. vi. Ecological Emergency and Climate Change Strategies. <p>CE8.3. Proposals that are likely to impact on the biodiversity of the National Landscape should seek to further the conservation and enhancement of this biodiversity. They should have regard to – and be consistent with the CNL Management Plan and guidance including the Cotswolds Nature Recovery Plan. This would include, but is not limited to, the following delivery mechanisms:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Environmental Land Management and other grant schemes and rural development support mechanisms; ii. Biodiversity Net Gain; iii. Payment for Ecosystem Services including but not limited to carbon sequestration and storage, flood management, water supply and water quality improvements. <p>CE8.4. Stakeholders should work towards the delivery of the relevant targets for nature recovery within the national Protected Landscapes Targets and Outcomes Framework. The apportioned targets for the Cotswolds to be achieved are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Target 1. Restore or create more than is 28,079 hectares of a range of wildlife-rich habitats outside protected sites by 2042 (from a 2022 baseline). Interim target based on Nature Recovery Plan. Target 2. 80% Percent of SSSIs in favourable condition by 2042 Target 3. 60% Percent of SSSIs assessed as having ‘actions on track’ to achieve favourable condition by 31 January 2028.
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	<p>Target 4. Continuing favourable management of all existing priority habitat already In favourable condition outside of SSSIs (from a 2022 baseline) and increasing to include all newly restored or created habitat through agri-environment schemes by 2042.</p> <p>Target 5. 65% to 80% of land managers adopting nature-friendly farming on at least 10% to 15% of their land by 2030.</p> <p>Target 8. Increase tree canopy and woodland cover (combined) by 3% of total land area in Protected Landscapes by 2050 (from 2022 baseline).</p> <p>Target 8 is currently being apportioned across protected landscapes nationally and will additionally be further informed by local woodland opportunity mapping. The local target is likely to exceed the apportioned national target.</p> <p>CE8.5. A mitigation hierarchy should be applied to development proposals whereby adverse impacts on biodiversity are: (i) avoided; (ii) mitigated; and (iii) compensated for. Development proposals should provide a net gain in biodiversity of at least 20% particularly with regard to the species and habitats listed in Appendix 8.</p> <p>CE8.6. Damage or loss of irreplaceable habitat should be avoided. Irreplaceable habitat includes but is not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I. Ancient and veteran trees II. Ancient woodland (continually wooded since 1600) ; III. Ancient unimproved grassland (surviving since 1945); IV. Ancient hedgerows (present since before the Enclosure Acts, passed mainly between 1720 and 1840). <p>This will be reviewed in the light of the outcome of the proposed Defra consultation.</p> <p>CE8.7. Development near the habitats listed in appendix 8 should secure significant gains in the form of enhancing existing habitat condition, buffering the habitat and improving greater connectivity between similar habitats.</p> <p>CE8.8. Measures to conserve and restore biodiversity including the outcomes, priorities, targets and measures within the Cotswolds Nature Recovery Plan should be delivered in a way that is compatible with conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the Cotswolds National Landscape.</p>
<p>Outcome 9 - The water environment: Watercourses and bodies of water within the Cotswolds National Landscape have good ecological and chemical status.</p>	
<p>POLICY CE9: Water</p>	<p>CE9.1. Water resources should be managed and conserved to: improve water quality; ensure adequate aquifer recharge; ensure adequate river flows; and contribute to natural flood management systems.</p> <p>CE9.2. Development (new and existing sites) should assess and minimise flood risk and implement sustainable drainage schemes, adopt high water efficiency standards in line with RIBA 2030 Climate Challenge and domestic water use targets, and water conservation measures, for example rainwater harvesting and/or water recycling and grey water systems.</p>

	<p>CE9.3. New development that links to the sewerage system should not be commenced until the sewerage infrastructure (including the relevant sewage treatment works) has sufficient capacity to cope with the additional load, including future loads resulting from changing rainfall patterns.</p> <p>CE9.4. Sewage pollution from storm overflows and continuous outfalls should be minimised and be at least within legal and regulatory requirements.</p> <p>CE9.5. Phosphorus treatment should be provided at all sewage treatment works to achieve good Water Framework Directive (WFD) status for Phosphate.</p> <p>CE9.6. Planning conditions such as the provision of appropriate manure storage facilities for farming and/or equestrian sites, including disposal frequency and method etc. can be explored to help mitigate run off and subsequent water contamination. Similar conditions can be imposed to septic tanks and cess pits, to prevent degradation and overflow and subsequent contamination.</p> <p>CE9.7. Practical measures to improve water quality and quantity should be implemented including:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> I. The restoration of river and wetland habitats. New wetland habitats could be sited to intercept runoff from roads and reedbeds can be created to filter potentially polluted water from settlements before it is discharged to rivers. II. Minimising soil erosion and run off by implementing soil conservation measures including habitat creation. III. Minimising pesticide and artificial fertiliser use and implementing measures to reduce pollution from agriculture IV. Promote individual measures and behaviours in the home and workplace that protect water volume and quality in rivers. V. Citizen science programmes to monitor water quality. <p>CE9.8. For proposals on sites incorporating or located adjacent to watercourses, opportunities should be sought through careful design and landscaping to re-naturalise the water courses where possible, including restoration of the bankside and instream habitats and leaving an undeveloped buffer zone of at least 10 metres width</p>
<p>Outcome 10 – Farming and land management: Farming and land management conserves and enhances the natural beauty of the Cotswolds National Landscape in ways which balance the needs of recovering nature, climate action, food production, supporting livelihoods and public access.</p>	
<p>POLICY CE10: Farming and Land Management</p>	<p>CE10.1. Farming and land management in the Cotswolds National Landscape (CNL) and in the setting of the CNL should be compatible with and seek to further the conservation and enhancement of the natural beauty of the CNL. It should also help increase the understanding and enjoyment of the CNL’s special qualities.</p> <p>CE10.2. Farming and land management in the CNL and in the setting of the CNL should be compatible with and seek to further the CNL Management Plan. It should also be compatible with and seek to further guidance produced by the CNL Board, including the:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. CNL – Landscape Strategy and Guidelines ii. CNL – Landscape Character Assessment iii. CNL Local Distinctiveness and Landscape Change

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> iv. CNL Board Position Statements v. Cotswolds Nature Recovery Plan vi. CNL Pathway to Net Zero and Climate Change Strategy <p>CE10.3. Woodland creation and tree planting proposals (including natural colonisation) should be compatible with seek to further the conservation and enhancement of the natural beauty of the CNL in accordance with guidance produced by the CNL Board. In particular they should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Work with the landscape character of their setting and compliment the open views that people enjoy from viewpoints, roads and public rights of way. ii. Be located where they best meet the objectives of the nature recovery network, improving the connectivity of woodland habitats whilst avoiding damaging other habitats and their potential to be better connected. iii. Be located in accordance with the CNL canopy cover opportunity mapping. <p>CE10.4. Farmers and land managers should have access to clear and consistent sources of advice, guidance and support, including fair access to markets and payments for environmental services.</p>
<p>POLICY CE11: Problem Species, Pests and Diseases</p>	<p>CE11.1. The population of grey squirrel and deer in the Cotswolds National Landscape (CNL) should continue to be controlled and managed. This should be undertaken and coordinated at a landscape scale.</p> <p>CE11.2. National guidance – and guidance produced by the CNL Board – on Ash Dieback should be followed to ensure any measures implemented will conserve and enhance the qualities of the landscape.</p> <p>CE11.3. National and local guidance – including guidance from Government Agencies and the Non-Native Species Secretariat – on invasive non-native species, pests and diseases should be followed and appropriate biosecurity measures promoted.</p>
<p>POLICY CE12: Soils</p>	<p>CE12.1. Soil degradation should be halted and reversed by managing soils in a way that: (i) increases organic content, water retention and carbon sequestration; and (ii) minimises erosion, water pollution and compaction.</p> <p>CE12.2. Soil management should remain a key component of Environmental Land Management and rural development support mechanisms in the Cotswolds National Landscape (CNL).</p>
<p>Outcome 11 – Development and transport: Development and transport schemes positively contribute to the purpose of national landscape designation and also play a key role in facilitating the economic and social wellbeing of local and rural communities.</p>	
<p>POLICY CE13: Development & Transport - Principles</p>	<p>CE13.1. Development and transport proposals in the Cotswolds National Landscape (CNL) and its setting should be delivered in a way that is compatible with and seek to further the conservation and enhancement of the natural beauty of the CNL including its special qualities. In doing so, they should have regard to – and be compatible with the CNL Management Plan and guidance produced by the CNL Board, including the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) CNL – Landscape Strategy and Guidelines (ii) CNL – Landscape Character Assessment (iii) Cotswolds Nature Recovery Plan

	<p>(iv) CNL - Local Distinctiveness and Landscape Change</p> <p>(v) CNL Board Position Statements</p> <p>(vi) CNL Pathway to Net-Zero</p> <p>CE13.2. Development and transport proposals in the CNL should be delivered in a way that is compatible with and seek to further the purpose of increasing the understanding and enjoyment of the CNL’s special qualities. They should also contribute to the economic and social wellbeing of CNL communities, in a way that is compatible with conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the CNL.</p> <p>CE13.3. Development and transport proposals in the CNL and its setting should comply with relevant national planning policy and guidance, particularly with regards to those paragraphs of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) that relate to national landscapes.</p> <p>CE13.4. The purposes of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the CNL and increasing the understanding and enjoyment of the CNL special qualities should be identified as strategic priorities in Local Plans, Neighbourhood Plans, Local Transport Plans and other relevant plans and strategies. These plans and strategies should explicitly identify the CNL Management Plan as a material consideration.</p> <p>CE13.5. The cumulative impacts of development proposals on the natural beauty of the CNL should be fully assessed.</p> <p>CE13.6. A landscape-led approach should be applied to development and transport proposals in the CNL and its setting, proportionate to the type and scale of development being proposed, whereby proposals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) address the natural beauty of the CNL as primary consideration at all stages of the development process (including design), from initial conception through to implementation b) address all of the factors that contribute to the natural beauty of the area c) address access to natural beauty including the character of the public rights of way network and its role within wider green infrastructure d) reflect and enhance the character of the local area e) avoid adverse effects where possible and, if adverse effects can’t be avoided, minimise them f) seek opportunities to enhance the natural beauty of the CNL and g) deliver substantially more beneficial effects than adverse effects for the natural beauty of the CNL. <p>This landscape-led approach is particularly important for major development .</p>
<p>POLICY CE14: Major Development</p>	<p>CE14.1. In line with national planning policy, permission should be refused for major development within the Cotswolds National Landscape (CNL), in the context of paragraph 183 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), other than in exceptional circumstances and where it can be demonstrated that the development is in the public interest.</p> <p>CE14.2. Relevant stakeholders should fully assess relevant site allocations and development proposals to see if they constitute major development.</p>

	<p>In considering or deciding whether a proposed development constitutes major development, relevant stakeholders should have regard to the major development checklist in Appendix 5 of the Board’s Landscape-led Development Position Statement.</p> <p>CE14.3. Local authorities and other relevant stakeholders should explicitly state whether they consider relevant allocations and development proposals to be major development.</p> <p>CE14.4. The mandatory major development ‘tests’ specified in paragraph 183 of the NPPF should be rigorously applied and documented for all allocations and development proposals that are deemed to be major development.</p> <p>CE14.5. When relevant stakeholders are considering or applying the major development ‘tests’ specified in paragraph 183 of the NPPF, it should be recognised that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ‘exceptional need’ does not necessarily equate to ‘exceptional circumstances’; • no permission should be given for major development save to the extent the development was needed in the public interest, met a need that could not be addressed elsewhere or in some other way and met that need in a way that to the extent possible, moderated detrimental effect on the environment, landscape and recreational opportunities. <p>CE14.6. When making decisions on major development proposals, local authorities (and/or other relevant decision makers) should not simply weigh all material considerations in a balance, but should refuse an application unless they meet the exceptional circumstances and public interest criteria.</p>
<p>POLICY CE15: Development Priorities & Evidence of Need</p>	<p>CE15.1. Housing delivery in the Cotswolds National Landscape (CNL) should be focused on meeting affordable housing requirements, particularly housing that is affordable in perpetuity such as social rented housing.</p> <p>CE15.2. When local planning authorities are reviewing their Local Plans, they should give consideration to setting policies for affordable housing provision in the CNL that require:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • at least 50% affordable housing in market housing developments • 100% affordable housing on Rural Exception Sites, with a lower percentage only • being permitted in exceptional circumstances and the absolute minimum being 75% • on-site affordable housing provision for housing developments of five units or fewer <p>CE15.3. Priority should be given to maintaining and enhancing local community amenities and services and improving access to these amenities and services. Priority should also be given to supporting local employment opportunities.</p> <p>CE15.4. It should be recognised that:</p> <p>a) The housing need figure derived from the Government’s ‘standard method’ for calculating housing need is an unconstrained</p>

	<p>assessment of housing need and does not present a target for housing provision.</p> <p>b) The decision on how many homes should be planned for (i.e., the ‘housing requirement’ figure in Local Plans) should only be made after consideration of the constraints that the local authority faces, including the AONB designation, and consideration of the land that is actually available for development. As such, when these constraints are factored in, the ‘housing requirement’ could potentially be smaller than the standard method’s ‘housing need’ figure.</p> <p>c) The application of national planning policies relating to national landscapes may mean that it is not possible to meet objectively assessed needs (OAN) in full in local authority areas that overlap with the CNL.</p> <p>(d) The CNL is unlikely to be a suitable area for accommodating unmet needs from adjoining, non-designated areas. In the context of the CNL, this includes unmet needs relating to adjacent urban areas and unmet needs arising in local authority areas that do not overlap with the CNL.</p> <p>(e) Meeting housing need is never a reason to cause unacceptable harm to the CNL.</p> <p>(f) The scale and extent of development in the CNL should be limited.</p> <p>CE15.5. Consideration should be given to whether the constraints relating to the national landscape designation merit ‘exceptional circumstances’ which may justify using an alternative approach to the standard method for assessing housing need.</p> <p>CE15.6. When the allocation of sites is being considered in the Local Plan process, regard should be given to the evidence of need specific to: (i) the settlement/parish where the allocation is being proposed; and (ii) the CNL ‘sub-area’ within which the allocation is being proposed.</p> <p>CE15.7. Within the CNL, windfall housing proposals on undeveloped land adjoining, or outside of, built up area boundaries (or equivalent) should only be supported where there is robust evidence of a specific local housing need such as needs identified through a neighbourhood plan or affordable housing needs specific to a particular settlement.</p> <p>CE15.8. Where choice-based lettings systems, such as Homeseeker Plus, are used as part of the evidence base for affordable housing need:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the ‘local connection’ component of the choice-based lettings system should be applied consistently; and • data from the choice-based lettings systems should not be used explicitly as a measure of affordable housing need unless the data has been verified and there is a clear local connection to – and preference for – the settlement in question. <p>CE15.9. When local authorities are reviewing their Local Plans, they should give consideration to setting policies that ensure that new market housing is used as a principal residence rather than as a second home or holiday home.</p>
<p>POLICY CE16: Waste Management and the Circular Economy</p>	<p>CE16.1. Waste management should align with the following hierarchy, as set out in the Government’s Waste Management Plan 2021:</p> <p>a. Prevention</p>

	<p>b. Prepare for reuse c. Recycling d. Other recovery e. Disposal</p> <p>CE16.2. Measures that help to deliver a circular, or closed-loop, economy, in which waste generation is avoided, should be encouraged.</p> <p>CE16.3. Proposals for new landfill sites and strategic waste facilities should not normally be permitted in the Cotswolds National Landscape (CNL), especially where they involve importing significant amounts of waste into the CNL (for example, waste generated in neighbouring urban areas).</p> <p>CE16.4. Any waste management facilities that are permitted in the CNL should: (i) be sited in such a way that adverse environmental impacts are minimised, in line with relevant permitting regimes; and (ii) be primarily to receive waste that arises within the CNL (within close proximity to the proposed facility).</p> <p>CE16.5. The management or use of waste by way of depositing it to land as an inert ‘recovery’ operation, land raising and bunding or for further restoration of previous landfill operations, should only be allowed: (i) in very limited circumstances within environmental limits; (ii) where it can demonstrate a significant net-benefit for the conservation and enhancement of the natural beauty of the CNL; and (iii) where it complies with the policies of the relevant Waste Local Plan and relevant environmental regulations.</p>
<p>INCREASING UNDERSTANDING & ENJOYMENT AIM: Ensuring access, learning and wellbeing opportunities are for everyone.</p>	
<p>Outcome 12 – Health and wellbeing: The Cotswolds National Landscape plays a full part in improving the nation’s health, benefitting the mental and physical wellbeing of those who experience it.</p>	
<p>POLICY UE1: Health and Well-being</p>	<p>UE1.1. Further opportunities for improving health and wellbeing in the Cotswolds National Landscape (CNL) should be created, improved and promoted, including, where appropriate, the provision of: green spaces or water within easy reach of communities; walking, cycling and riding routes, including routes for disabled people; opportunities to access and interact with nature; and volunteering and personal development opportunities.</p> <p>UE1.2. Children and young people resident within and around the CNL should be provided with environmental education opportunities to experience the CNL through direct contact with the natural environment.</p> <p>UE1.3. The health sector should make greater use of the benefits that the National Landscape provides for the health and wellbeing of residents and visitors, for example, by prescribing exercise in the CNL countryside.</p>
<p>Outcome 13 – Access and recreation: The Cotswolds is recognised as a welcoming place, where barriers to access are being removed and everyone feels connected to the landscape.</p>	
<p>POLICY UE2: Access & Recreation</p>	<p>UE2.1. A safe, pleasant, accessible, clearly waymarked and well-connected Public Rights of Way network that welcomes people of all abilities should be maintained, enhanced and promoted across the Cotswolds National Landscape (CNL) and into surrounding communities.</p> <p>UE2.2. Improvements to access and recreation provision including rights of way should be undertaken in a way that is compatible with and</p>

seeks to further the conservation and enhancement of the natural beauty of CNL. Innovative ways of providing named routes without introducing additional signage should be explored. This should be balanced with the needs of groups that lack confidence in exploring the countryside, sensitive sites and of landowners and farmers who need to keep people on designated routes.

UE2.3. Open Access Land and other land including Country Parks, that is open to public access should be maintained, enhanced and promoted across the CNL. Where appropriate, more land should be made available for public access.

UE2.4. Sustainable funding for National Trails, including the Cotswold Way and Thames Path, should be secured.

UE2.5. Visitors, residents and local communities should be provided with opportunities to increase their understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of the CNL.

UE2.6. A priority for engagement in the CNL should be individuals who are not currently enjoying or engaged with the benefits of the landscape. Particularly those from within the CNL and from the surrounding urban areas, especially those from areas of high deprivation and those that are not traditional visitors to the Cotswolds.

UE2.7. Easily accessible online, downloadable and onsite resources for walking, cycling, horse riding, volunteering and educational activities should be provided in the CNL to help promote access to the area and understanding and appreciation of its special qualities.

UE2.8. Visitor facilities and routes that are accessible to those of all abilities should be provided.

UE2.9. Guided walks and activities for those who are not confident walking in the countryside should be provided to increase confidence and share knowledge of the CNL and its special qualities.

UE2.10. Arts and cultural experiences should be provided to encourage people to deepen their emotional connection to the landscape and support the engagement of new and existing audiences.

UE2.11. The Countryside Code should be promoted to educate visitors and communities to act appropriately in the countryside and to improve understanding between visitors and those living and working in the area.

UE2.12. The provision of new, and level of use of existing, access and recreational opportunities should be delivered in a way that is compatible with and seeks to further the conservation and enhancement of the natural beauty of the CNL. Where recreational use is having or is likely to have, an adverse impact on the natural beauty of the National Landscape or on the integrity of existing wildlife and historic sites, steps should be taken to evaluate, prevent or mitigate these impacts. Such steps can include enhanced maintenance and wayfinding, onsite engagement, legal restrictions, and the provision and promotion of access and recreational opportunities in new alternative suitable locations.

UE2.13. Where there is a conflict between (i) conservation and enhancement of natural beauty and (ii) public enjoyment of this natural beauty in the CNL, the conservation and enhancement of natural beauty should be given greater weight.

UE2.14. Stakeholders should work towards the delivery of the relevant target for access and recreation within the national Protected

	<p>Landscapes Targets and Outcomes Framework. The indicators for monitoring this target are outlined in appendix 6.</p> <p>Target 9 Improve and promote accessibility to and engagement with Protected Landscapes for all using existing metrics in our Access for All programme.</p>
<p>Outcome 14 – Sustainable tourism: Businesses and visitors have a shared commitment to contribute to the conservation and enhancement of the natural beauty of the National Landscape.</p>	
<p>POLICY UE3: Sustainable Tourism</p>	<p>UE3.1. Tourism within the Cotswolds National Landscape (CNL) should be delivered and managed in a way that is compatible with and seeks to further the conservation and enhancement of the natural beauty of CNL and should minimise the emission of greenhouse gases in accordance with policy CC1.</p> <p>UE3.2. Visitors, residents, local businesses and communities should be provided with opportunities to directly contribute to conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the CNL and improve access to the area through local individual, community and employee volunteering opportunities.</p> <p>UE3.3. The ‘Caring for the Cotswolds’ visitor giving scheme will raise awareness of the CNL and generate funds from visitors to directly help to look after it by supporting projects which conserve habitats and species, look after heritage and landscape, improve access, and help provide education resources encouraging people to understand the landscape and nature better.</p> <p>UE3.4. Visitors should be provided with a variety of accommodation options over a range of prices. The siting and design of visitor accommodation should be compatible with conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the CNL including its special qualities.</p> <p>UE3.5. Air travel arising from the Cotswolds as a destination should be minimised.</p> <p>UE3.6. Existing sustainable and integrated transport initiatives should be supported and new initiatives developed to help facilitate the car free visitor experience.</p>

Appendix 4: Cotswolds National Landscape Management Plan HRA First Sieve

Appendix 4a: Test for no negative effects

Guidance on Habitats Regulations Appraisal of plans – Classifying No Negative Effect					
A1	Options / policies that will not themselves lead to development e.g., because they relate to design or other qualitative criteria for development, or they are not a land use planning policy.				
A2	Options / policies intended to protect the natural environment, including biodiversity				
A3	Options / policies intended to conserve or enhance the natural, built or historic environment, where enhancement measures will not be likely to have any negative effect on a Natura 2000 Site				
A4	Options / policies that positively steer development away from Natura 2000 Sites and associated sensitive areas				
A5	General policy statements or policies that only express general intentions or political aspirations.				
Draft Policies	Category A?	Type	Next stage?	Comment	
POLICY CC1: Climate Change – Mitigation	CC1.1. Climate change mitigation including the sequestration of carbon should be a key component of land management practices and Environmental Land Management, and rural development support mechanisms in the National Landscape. Examples include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase canopy cover through increased tree cover and woodland and hedgerow creation. • Measures that capture and store carbon in soil such as using herb-rich leys, minimising cultivation and wildflower grassland restoration. • Extensive grazing and integrating extensive livestock systems with arable production. 	YES	A5	NO	A general policy statement
	CC1.2. Greenhouse gas emissions should be minimised through reducing energy demand in existing and new buildings and infrastructure by:	YES	A1	NO	A policy relating to design and qualitative criteria for development

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving energy efficiency, for example, by retrofitting existing buildings. Where traditional buildings including listed buildings are retrofitted and this effects the fabric of the building, this must be undertaken by historic building specialists and in a manner that is compatible with the purpose of National Landscape (AONB) designation; • Reducing embodied carbon through the use of sustainably sourced timber and secondary and recycled materials within all construction unless demonstrably unachievable on technical and practical grounds; • Utilising passive measures, for example the orientation of buildings, passive house design and the provision of high levels of insulation; • Additional glazing, solar panels, heating systems (e.g. air or water source heat pumps) and low carbon driveway materials should be considered. • Sustainable construction methods and management plans to reduce and manage construction waste should be implemented ; • Incentivising voluntary sustainability standards, for example BREEAM, Building with Nature, and One Planet Living principles. 				
	<p>CC1.3. Greenhouse gas emissions should be minimised through reducing emissions from both residents’ and tourists’ transport and travel by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reducing car use for example, through increasing green and active travel including public transport and increasing shared mobility through car sharing schemes; • Reducing the need to travel for example by encouraging 	YES	A5	NO	A general policy statement

	<p>home working and affordable housing provision close to sources of employment, services and facilities;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving the sustainability of travel through for example; a comprehensive bus service linked to public transport hub promotion/integration and information. • Prioritise the provision of walking, cycling and public transport use, including adequate cycle parking and safe cycle routes. • Providing sufficient infrastructure for the charging of electric vehicles, scooters and bikes; • Promoting messages aimed at minimising air travel by Cotswolds residents. • Developers should be encouraged to evidence how their development will support active travel and public transportation use. This includes incorporation of cycle storage, workplace lockers, changing, dry room and shower facilities to encourage staff active travel, car club provisions, EV charging points that go above and beyond the current Building Regulations. 				
	<p>CC1.4. Greenhouse gas emissions should be minimised through generating and distributing energy from low carbon sources in a manner consistent with the purpose of National Landscape (AONB) designation, this plan and associated guidance including the CNL Renewable Energy Position Statement (June 2023):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All developments, should have a net zero operational carbon balance and 100% energy provided by low carbon sources. 	<p>YES</p>	<p>A1</p>	<p>NO</p>	<p>A policy relating to design and qualitative criteria for development</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support community-led renewable energy production, in line with the CNL Renewable Energy Position Statement. 				
	<p>CC1.5 Greenhouse gas emissions from food production should be minimised by supporting the development of community food networks, linking farmers and businesses to each other and consumers; promote the purchasing locally produced food products and services and encouraging small-scale vegetable growing in gardens and allotments.</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>A5</p>	<p>NO</p>	<p>A general policy statement</p>
	<p>CC1.6. Climate action should be undertaken in a way that is compatible with and seeks to further the conservation and enhancement of the natural beauty of the Cotswolds National Landscape.</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>A3</p>	<p>NO</p>	<p>An aspiration to conserve and enhance natural beauty</p>
	<p>CC1.7. Stakeholders should work towards the delivery of the relevant targets for climate change within the national Protected Landscapes Targets and Outcomes Framework.</p> <p>Target 6. Reduce net greenhouse gas emissions in Protected Landscapes to net zero by 2050 relative to 1990 levels.</p> <p>Target 8. Increase tree canopy and woodland cover (combined) by 3% of total land area in Protected Landscapes by 2050 (from 2022 baseline).</p> <p>Target 7 has been excluded as it concerns the area of peat restored.</p> <p>Target 8 is currently being apportioned across protected landscapes nationally and will additionally be further informed by local woodland opportunity mapping. The local target is likely to exceed the apportioned national target.</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>A5</p>	<p>NO</p>	<p>A general policy statement</p>

POLICY CC2: Climate Change - Adaptation	CC2.1. The risks posed by the consequences of climate change should be reduced through a range of adaptation measures, including those identified in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • relevant policies of this Management Plan. (references added in final version) • the CNL Climate Change Strategy (2022) • The CNL Climate Change Adaptation Plan (to be published by XXXX) 	YES	A5	NO	An aspiration
	CC2.2 Climate change adaptation should be a significant driver in all new development, infrastructure and transport provision.	YES	A5	NO	A general policy statement
	CC2.3. Climate change adaptation should be a key component of land management practices and Environmental Land Management and rural development support mechanisms, in the National Landscape.	YES	A2	NO	A general policy statement that will protect National Network sites by controlling the modification of ecosystems
	CC2.4. Further research into the predicted impacts of climate change on the CNL should be undertaken. This research should be used to advise and inform sustained behavioural change to adapt to climate change and conserve and enhance the National Landscape and its special qualities.	YES	A1	NO	Not a land use policy
POLICY CC3: Compliance with section 85 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act	CC3.1 Relevant authorities, including public bodies and statutory undertakers, must seek to further the purpose of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the CNL, in line with Section 85 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000.	YES	A5	NO	A general policy statement
	CC4.1. Stakeholders should work in partnership to support the purposes of	YES	A5	NO	A general policy statement

POLICY CC4: Working in partnership	conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the Cotswolds National Landscape (CNL) and increasing the understanding and enjoyment of its special qualities. Stakeholders should also cooperate in fostering the economic and social wellbeing of communities in and around the National Landscape.				
	CC4.2. Communities and businesses within and around the CNL should be encouraged to value and celebrate being part of a nationally recognised landscape and to contribute to the purpose of national landscape designation.	YES	A5	NO	An aspiration
POLICY CE1: Landscape	CE1.1. Proposals that are likely to impact on, or create change in, the landscape of the Cotswolds National Landscape (CNL), should be delivered in a way that is compatible with and seek to further the conservation and enhancement of the landscape character of the location, as described by the CNL Board’s Landscape Character Assessment and Landscape Strategy and Guidelines. There should be a presumption against the loss of key characteristics identified in the landscape character assessment.	YES	A1	NO	A policy relating to qualitative criteria for development
	CE1.2. Proposals that are likely to impact on, or create change in, the landscape of the CNL, should seek to further the conservation and enhancement of the scenic quality of the location and its setting, views, including those into and out of the National Landscape and visual amenity.	YES	A1	NO	A policy relating to qualitative criteria for development

	CE1.3. Conserving and enhancing landscape character should be a key objective of Environmental Land Management and rural development support mechanisms in the Cotswolds National Landscape.	YES	A3	NO	An aspiration to conserve and enhance natural beauty
	CE1.4. Rural skills training and the utilisation of those skills – such as dry stone walling, stone-masonry, woodland creation and management and hedgelaying – should be supported to ensure the long-term retention, creation and management of the key features of the Cotswolds National Landscape.	YES	A5	NO	A general policy statement
POLICY CE2: Geology and Geomorphology	CE2.1. Proposals that are likely to impact on the geological and geomorphological features of the Cotswolds National Landscape (CNL) should be delivered in a way that is compatible with and seek to further the conservation and enhancement of these features.	YES	A3	NO	A general policy statement that supports the conservation of National Network sites
	CE2.2. The geological and geomorphological features of the CNL should be conserved and enhanced through effective management.	YES	A3	NO	An aspiration
	CE2.3. Opportunities should be sought to promote awareness and understanding of the geological and geomorphological features of the CNL.	YES	A5	NO	A general policy statement
	CE2.4. Exploration and research into the geology and geomorphology of the CNL should be continued in order to improve understanding of the landscape, and of the geological resource and its importance to inform the	YES	A5	NO	A general policy statement

	conservation and management of geological and geomorphological sites.				
POLICY CE3: Natural & Cultural Capital – Principles	CE3.1. The natural and cultural capital of the Cotswolds National Landscape (CNL), and the services they provide, should continue to be assessed and evaluated.	YES	A3	NO	A general intent that supports the conservation of National Network sites
	CE3. 2. The use of natural and cultural capital accounting should be encouraged in order to fully understand the implications of investment, development and management decisions.	YES	A1	NO	A policy relating to qualitative criteria for development
	CE3.3. The financial and non-financial benefits of natural and cultural capital and the services they provide should be promoted.	YES	A5	NO	A general intent
	CE3.4. Proposals affecting the CNL should have regard to – and seek to conserve and enhance – the natural and cultural capital of the CNL and the services they provide.	YES	A3	NO	A general intent that supports the conservation of National Network sites
	CE3.5. Natural and cultural capital and the services they provide should be key components of Environmental Land Management and rural development support mechanisms in the CNL.	YES	A3	NO	A general policy statement that will support the conservation of National Network sites by maintaining the integrity of ecosystems
POLICY CE4: Local Distinctiveness	CE4.1. Proposals that are likely to impact on the local distinctiveness of the Cotswolds National Landscape (CNL) should be delivered in a way that is compatible with and seek to further the conservation and enhancement of this local distinctiveness. This should include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • being compatible with the CNL Board’s Landscape Character Assessment, Landscape 	YES	A1	NO	A policy relating to design and qualitative criteria for development

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategy and Guidelines, Local Distinctiveness and Landscape Change and any relevant • position statement or guidance published by the Board. • being designed to respect local settlement patterns, building styles, scale and materials • and in accordance with design guidance prepared by local planning authorities; • using an appropriate colour of Cotswold limestone to reflect local distinctiveness. 				
	<p>CE4.2. Innovative designs, compatible with the conservation of natural beauty – which are informed by local distinctiveness, character and scale – should be welcomed.</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>A5</p>	<p>NO</p>	<p>A general policy statement</p>
	<p>CE4.3. The development of design guidance – which is supported by a robust evidence base and which reflects relevant guidance published by the CNL Board – will be encouraged.</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>A1</p>	<p>NO</p>	<p>A policy relating to design</p>
	<p>CE4.4. Provision should be made for the quarrying of limestone, at an appropriate scale, in order to provide building materials that help maintain and enhance the local distinctiveness of the National Landscape. Any production of aggregate and agricultural lime should only be as by-product for local use (within the CNL) and only for essential operational purposes, with sufficient material being left to deliver the agreed restoration plan (or a more natural landform) without relying on imported material. Any such mineral sites should be required to demonstrate that they do</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>A2</p>	<p>NO</p>	<p>An aspiration - quarrying can affect the National Network sites through extraction of limestone, disturbance, dust in the air and changes to groundwater and water flow. This policy will protect the National Network sites. Hydraulic effects are limited. Most identified sites are separated from the NL by the Rivers Severn and Thames, and so</p>

	not have any significant adverse effects on the natural beauty of the National Landscape including its special qualities or the integrity of existing wildlife sites. Where there are multiple quarries in close proximity to each other, consideration should be given to cumulative impacts, including the impact of HGV movements				cannot be affected.
POLICY CE5: Tranquillity	CE5.1. Proposals that are likely to impact on the tranquillity of the Cotswolds National Landscape (CNL) should be delivered in a way that is compatible with and seek to further the conservation and enhancement of this tranquillity, by seeking to avoid and where avoiding is not possible, minimise noise and other aural and visual disturbance.	YES	A2	NO	A general intent that will protect National Network sites by reducing noise disturbance
	CE5.2. Measures should be taken to remove and where removal is not possible, minimise existing sources of noise and other aural and visual disturbance in order to enhance the tranquillity of the CNL.	YES	A2	NO	An aspiration that will protect National Network sites by reducing noise disturbance
	CE5.3. Proposals that are likely to impact on the tranquillity of the CNL should have regard to – and be compatible with – the CNL Board’s Tranquillity Position Statement.	YES	A5	NO	A general policy statement
POLICY CE6: Dark Skies	CE6.1. Proposals that are likely to impact on the dark skies of the Cotswolds National Landscape (CNL) should be delivered in a way that is compatible with and seek to further the conservation and enhancement of these dark skies, by seeking to avoid and where avoiding is not possible, minimise lighting.	YES	A2	NO	A general intent that will protect National Network sites by reducing urbanisation

	CE6.2. Measures should be taken to increase the area of dark skies in the CNL by removing and, where removal is not possible or appropriate, reducing existing sources of lighting.	YES	A5	NO	A general policy statement
	CE6.3. Proposals that are likely to impact on the dark skies or dark landscapes of the CNL should have regard to and be compatible with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • best practice standards and guidance, in particular, that published by the Institution of Lighting Professionals and the Commission for Dark Skies. • the National Landscapes Board’s Dark Skies & Artificial Light Position Statement. 	YES	A1	NO	A policy relating to design and qualitative criteria for development
	CE6.4. Consideration will be given to seeking a formal dark sky designation for those parts of the Cotswolds National Landscape that are least affected by light pollution.	YES	A5	NO	A general intent
POLICY CE7: Historic Environment and Cultural Heritage	CE7.1. Proposals that are likely to impact on the historic environment and cultural heritage of the Cotswolds National Landscape (CNL) should be delivered in a way that is compatible with and seek to further the conservation and enhancement of these heritage assets and their setting. This should include respecting the historical elements of landscape character including features such as; buildings, sites, layout and context, including the relationship between the existing feature or settlement and the landscape.	YES	A1	NO	A policy relating to design and qualitative criteria for development
	CE7.2. Heritage and Cultural Heritage Impact Assessments should be used when considering any change to a heritage asset	YES	A3	NO	An aspiration

	and to influence decisions regarding the management of the historic environment and cultural heritage assets.				
	CE7.3. The historic environment and cultural heritage of the CNL, both designated and non-designated, should be conserved and enhanced through effective management.	YES	A3	NO	An aspiration
	CE7.4. Designated historic environment sites, such as scheduled monuments and listed buildings, and non-designated heritage assets of equivalent significance, should be protected, in line with national policy and guidance.	YES	A3	NO	A general intent that will support the conservation of National Network sites
	CE7.5. Historic environment and cultural heritage should be a key component of Environmental Land Management and rural development support mechanisms in the CNL.	YES	A3	NO	A general intent that will support the conservation of National Network sites through traditional management
	CE7.6. Opportunities should be sought to promote the awareness, understanding and use of Historic Environment Records, Conservation Area Appraisals, Historic Landscape Characterisation and Heritage Strategies and Action Plans. These should be used to influence decisions regarding the management of the CNL’s historic environment and cultural heritage.	YES	A1	NO	A policy relating to qualitative criteria for development
	CE7.7. The cultural heritage of the Cotswolds should be better understood and celebrated in arts, cultural, and social activities across the National Landscape.	YES	A3	NO	An aspiration
	CE7.8. Stakeholders should work towards the delivery of the relevant targets for heritage assets within the national Protected	YES	A5	NO	A general policy statement

	<p>Landscapes Targets and Outcomes Framework. ...</p> <p>Target 10 Decrease the number of nationally designated heritage assets at risk in Protected Landscapes.</p>				
<p>POLICY CE8: Nature Recovery and Biodiversity</p>	<p>CE8.1. Biodiversity (including the abundance of wildlife) in the Cotswolds National Landscape (CNL) should be conserved and enhanced by establishing a coherent and resilient nature recovery network across the CNL and in its setting. This should be achieved in accordance with the outcomes, priorities, targets and measures within the Cotswolds Nature Recovery Plan and Local Nature Recovery Strategies (LNRSs), and focus on the priority species and habitats listed in Appendix 8. The relevant LNRS's are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Gloucestershire Add Link when final version published ii. Oxfordshire Add Link when final version published iii. Warwickshire Add Link when final version published iv. West of England Add Link when final version published v. Wiltshire Add Link when final version published vi. Worcestershire Add Link when final version published 	<p>YES</p>	<p>A2</p>	<p>NO</p>	<p>A general intent to protect National Network sites by maintaining the integrity of ecosystems</p>
	<p>CE8.2. Policy and strategic documents that are likely to impact on the biodiversity of the CNL should have regard to the CNL Management Plan and guidance including the Cotswolds Nature Recovery Plan and position statements. This includes but is not limited to, the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Local Plans. ii. Local Nature Recovery Strategies 	<p>YES</p>	<p>A5</p>	<p>NO</p>	<p>A general policy statement</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> iii. Neighbourhood Development Plans. iv. Green Infrastructure Strategies. v. Tree and Woodland Strategies. vi. Ecological Emergency and Climate Change Strategies. 				
	<p>CE8.3. Proposals that are likely to impact on the biodiversity of the National Landscape should seek to further the conservation and enhancement of this biodiversity. They should have regard to – and be consistent with the CNL Management Plan and guidance including the Cotswolds Nature Recovery Plan. This would include, but is not limited to, the following delivery mechanisms:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Environmental Land Management and other grant schemes and rural development support mechanisms; ii. Biodiversity Net Gain; iii. Payment for Ecosystem Services including but not limited to carbon sequestration and storage, flood management, water supply and water quality improvements. 	YES	A1	NO	Not a land use policy
	<p>CE8.4. Stakeholders should work towards the delivery of the relevant targets for nature recovery within the national Protected Landscapes Targets and Outcomes Framework. The apportioned targets for the Cotswolds to be achieved are:</p> <p>Target 1. Restore or create more than is 28,079 hectares of a range of wildlife-rich habitats outside protected sites by 2042 (from a 2022 baseline). Interim target based on Nature Recovery Plan.</p>	YES	A5	NO	A general policy statement

	<p>Target 2. 80% Percent of SSSIs in favourable condition by 2042</p> <p>Target 3. 60% Percent of SSSIs assessed as having ‘actions on track’ to achieve favourable condition by 31 January 2028.</p> <p>Target 4. Continuing favourable management of all existing priority habitat already In favourable condition outside of SSSIs (from a 2022 baseline) and increasing to include all newly restored or created habitat through agri-environment schemes by 2042.</p> <p>Target 5. 65% to 80% of land managers adopting nature-friendly farming on at least 10% to 15% of their land by 2030.</p> <p>Target 8. Increase tree canopy and woodland cover (combined) by 3% of total land area in Protected Landscapes by 2050 (from 2022 baseline).</p> <p>Target 8 is currently being apportioned across protected landscapes nationally and will additionally be further informed by local woodland opportunity mapping. The local target is likely to exceed the apportioned national target.</p>				
	<p>CE8.5. A mitigation hierarchy should be applied to development proposals whereby adverse impacts on biodiversity are: (i) avoided; (ii) mitigated; and (iii) compensated for. Development proposals should provide a net gain in biodiversity of at least 20% particularly with regard to the species and habitats listed in Appendix 8.</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>A1</p>	<p>NO</p>	<p>Not a land use policy</p>
	<p>CE8.6. Damage or loss of irreplaceable habitat should be avoided. Irreplaceable habitat includes but is not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I. Ancient and veteran trees II. Ancient woodland (continually wooded since 1600) ; III. Ancient unimproved grassland (surviving since 1945); 	<p>YES</p>	<p>A5</p>	<p>NO</p>	<p>An aspiration</p>

	<p>IV. Ancient hedgerows (present since before the Enclosure Acts, passed mainly between 1720 and 1840). This will be reviewed in the light of the outcome of the proposed Defra consultation.</p>				
	<p>CE8.7. Development near the habitats listed in appendix 8 should secure significant gains in the form of enhancing existing habitat condition, buffering the habitat and improving greater connectivity between similar habitats.</p>	YES	A2	NO	An aspiration to protect biodiversity
	<p>CE8.8. Measures to conserve and restore biodiversity including the outcomes, priorities, targets and measures within the Cotswolds Nature Recovery Plan should be delivered in a way that is compatible with conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the Cotswolds National Landscape.</p>	YES	A3	NO	An aspiration to conserve and enhance natural beauty
POLICY CE9: Water	<p>CE9.1. Water resources should be managed and conserved to: improve water quality; ensure adequate aquifer recharge; ensure adequate river flows; and contribute to natural flood management systems.</p>	YES	A3	NO	An aspiration that supports the conservation of National Network sites
	<p>CE9.2. Development (new and existing sites) should assess and minimise flood risk and implement sustainable drainage schemes, adopt high water efficiency standards in line with RIBA 2030 Climate Challenge and domestic water use targets, and water conservation measures, for example rainwater harvesting and/or water recycling and grey water systems.</p>	YES	A5	NO	A general policy statement
	<p>CE9.3. New development that links to the sewerage system should not be</p>	YES	A5	NO	A general policy statement

	<p>commenced until the sewerage infrastructure (including the relevant sewage treatment works) has sufficient capacity to cope with the additional load, including future loads resulting from changing rainfall patterns.</p>				
	<p>CE9.4. Sewage pollution from storm overflows and continuous outfalls should be minimised and be at least within legal and regulatory requirements.</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>A5</p>	<p>NO</p>	<p>An aspiration</p>
	<p>CE9.5. Phosphorus treatment should be provided at all sewage treatment works to achieve good Water Framework Directive (WFD) status for Phosphate.</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>A5</p>	<p>NO</p>	<p>A general policy statement</p>
	<p>CE9.6. Planning conditions such as the provision of appropriate manure storage facilities for farming and/or equestrian sites, including disposal frequency and method etc. can be explored to help mitigate run off and subsequent water contamination. Similar conditions can be imposed to septic tanks and cess pits, to prevent degradation and overflow and subsequent contamination.</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>A5</p>	<p>NO</p>	<p>A general policy statement</p>
	<p>CE9.7. Practical measures to improve water quality and quantity should be implemented including:</p> <p>I. The restoration of river and wetland habitats. New wetland habitats could be sited to intercept runoff from roads and reedbeds can be created to filter potentially polluted water from settlements before it is discharged to rivers.</p> <p>II. Minimising soil erosion and run off by implementing soil conservation measures including habitat creation.</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>A2</p>	<p>NO</p>	<p>An aspiration to protect the natural environment</p>

	<p>II. Minimising pesticide and artificial fertiliser use and implementing measures to reduce pollution from agriculture</p> <p>IV. Promote individual measures and behaviours in the home and workplace that protect water volume and quality in rivers.</p> <p>V. Citizen science programmes to monitor water quality.</p>				
	<p>CE9.8. For proposals on sites incorporating or located adjacent to watercourses, opportunities should be sought through careful design and landscaping to re-naturalise the water courses where possible, including restoration of the bankside and instream habitats and leaving an undeveloped buffer zone of at least 10 metres width</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>A5</p>	<p>NO</p>	<p>A general policy statement</p>
<p>POLICY CE10: Farming and Land Management</p>	<p>CE10.1. Farming and land management in the Cotswolds National Landscape (CNL) and in the setting of the CNL should be compatible with and seek to further the conservation and enhancement of the natural beauty of the CNL. It should also help increase the understanding and enjoyment of the CNL’s special qualities.</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>A5</p>	<p>NO</p>	<p>An aspiration</p>
	<p>CE10.2. Farming and land management in the CNL and in the setting of the CNL should be compatible with and seek to further the CNL Management Plan. It should also be compatible with and seek to further guidance produced by the CNL Board, including the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. CNL – Landscape Strategy and Guidelines ii. CNL – Landscape Character Assessment 	<p>YES</p>	<p>A1</p>	<p>NO</p>	<p>Not a land use policy</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> iii. CNL Local Distinctiveness and Landscape Change iv. CNL Board Position Statements v. Cotswolds Nature Recovery Plan vi. CNL Pathway to Net Zero and Climate Change Strategy 				
	<p>CE10.3. Woodland creation and tree planting proposals (including natural colonisation) should be compatible with seek to further the conservation and enhancement of the natural beauty of the CNL in accordance with guidance produced by the CNL Board. In particular they should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Work with the landscape character of their setting and compliment the open views that people enjoy from viewpoints, roads and public rights of way. ii. Be located where they best meet the objectives of the nature recovery network, improving the connectivity of woodland habitats whilst avoiding damaging other habitats and their potential to be better connected. iii. Be located in accordance with the CNL canopy cover opportunity mapping. 	YES	A3	NO	An aspiration to conserve and enhance natural beauty
	<p>CE10.4. Farmers and land managers should have access to clear and consistent sources of advice, guidance and support, including fair access to markets and payments for environmental services.</p>	YES	A5	NO	A general policy statement
POLICY CE11: Problem Species, Pests and Diseases	<p>CE11.1. The population of grey squirrel and deer in the Cotswolds National Landscape (CNL) should continue to be controlled and managed. This should be undertaken and coordinated at a landscape scale.</p>	YES	A2	NO	A general policy statement to protect National Network sites (as identified in the Cotswolds Beechwoods SAC SIP)

	CE11.2. National guidance – and guidance produced by the CNL Board – on Ash Dieback should be followed to ensure any measures implemented will conserve and enhance the qualities of the landscape.	YES	A2	NO	A general policy statement to protect National Network sites – identified in three SIPs for sites within the NL
	CE11.3. National and local guidance – including guidance from Government Agencies and the Non-Native Species Secretariat – on invasive non-native species, pests and diseases should be followed and appropriate biosecurity measures promoted.	YES	A2	NO	A general policy statement to protect National Network sites (as identified in the Cotswolds Beechwoods SAC SIP)
POLICY CE12: Soils	CE12.1. Soil degradation should be halted and reversed by managing soils in a way that: (i) increases organic content, water retention and carbon sequestration; and (ii) minimises erosion, water pollution and compaction.	YES	A2	NO	A general policy statement that will protect National Network sites where issues of cultivation or changes in conditions are a concern
	CE12.2. Soil management should remain a key component of Environmental Land Management and rural development support mechanisms in the Cotswolds National Landscape (CNL).	YES	A2	NO	A general policy statement that protects National Network sites by controlling the modification of ecosystems
POLICY CE13: Development & Transport - Principles	CE13.1. Development and transport proposals in the Cotswolds National Landscape (CNL) and its setting should be delivered in a way that is compatible with and seek to further the conservation and enhancement of the natural beauty of the CNL including its special qualities. In doing so, they should have regard to – and be compatible with the CNL Management Plan and guidance produced by the CNL Board, including the: i. CNL – Landscape Strategy and Guidelines	YES	A1	NO	A policy relating to design and qualitative criteria for development

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ii. CNL – Landscape Character Assessment iii. Cotswolds Nature Recovery Plan iv. CNL - Local Distinctiveness and Landscape Change v. CNL Board Position Statements vi. CNL Pathway to Net-Zero 				
	<p>CE13.2. Development and transport proposals in the CNL should be delivered in a way that is compatible with and seek to further the purpose of increasing the understanding and enjoyment of the CNL’s special qualities. They should also contribute to the economic and social wellbeing of CNL communities, in a way that is compatible with conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the CNL.</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>A5</p>	<p>NO</p>	<p>A general policy statement</p>
	<p>CE13.3. Development and transport proposals in the CNL and its setting should comply with relevant national planning policy and guidance, particularly with regards to those paragraphs of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) that relate to national landscapes.</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>A5</p>	<p>NO</p>	<p>A general policy statement</p>
	<p>CE13.4. The purposes of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the CNL and increasing the understanding and enjoyment of the CNL special qualities should be identified as strategic priorities in Local Plans, Neighbourhood Plans, Local Transport Plans and other relevant plans and strategies. These plans and strategies should explicitly identify the CNL Management Plan as a material consideration.</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>A5</p>	<p>NO</p>	<p>A general policy statement</p>

	CE13.5. The cumulative impacts of development proposals on the natural beauty of the CNL should be fully assessed.	YES	A5	NO	A general policy statement
	<p>CE13.6. A landscape-led approach should be applied to development and transport proposals in the CNL and its setting, proportionate to the type and scale of development being proposed, whereby proposals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) address the natural beauty of the CNL as primary consideration at all stages of the development process (including design), from initial conception through to implementation b) address all of the factors that contribute to the natural beauty of the area c) address access to natural beauty including the character of the public rights of way network and its role within wider green infrastructure d) reflect and enhance the character of the local area e) avoid adverse effects where possible and, if adverse effects can't be avoided, minimise them f) seek opportunities to enhance the natural beauty of the CNL and g) deliver substantially more beneficial effects than adverse effects for the natural beauty of the CNL. <p>This landscape-led approach is particularly important for major development</p>	YES	A5	NO	A general policy statement
POLICY CE14: Major Development	CE14.1. In line with national planning policy, permission should be refused for major development within the Cotswolds National Landscape (CNL), in the context of paragraph 183 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), other	YES	A1	NO	A general intent

	than in exceptional circumstances and where it can be demonstrated that the development is in the public interest.				
	CE14.2. Relevant stakeholders should fully assess relevant site allocations and development proposals to see if they constitute major development. In considering or deciding whether a proposed development constitutes major development, relevant stakeholders should have regard to the major development checklist in Appendix 5 of the Board’s Landscape-led Development Position Statement.	YES	A1	NO	A policy relating to qualitative criteria for development
	CE14.3. Local authorities and other relevant stakeholders should explicitly state whether they consider relevant allocations and development proposals to be major development.	YES	A5	NO	A general policy statement
	CE14.4. The mandatory major development ‘tests’ specified in paragraph 183 of the NPPF should be rigorously applied and documented for all allocations and development proposals that are deemed to be major development.	YES	A5	NO	A general policy statement
	CE14.5. When relevant stakeholders are considering or applying the major development ‘tests’ specified in paragraph 183 of the NPPF, it should be recognised that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ‘exceptional need’ does not necessarily equate to ‘exceptional circumstances’; • no permission should be given for major development save to the extent the development was needed in the public interest, met a need that 	YES	A5	NO	A general policy statement

	could not be addressed elsewhere or in some other way and met that need in a way that to the extent possible, moderated detrimental effect on the environment, landscape and recreational opportunities.				
	CE14.6. When making decisions on major development proposals, local authorities (and/or other relevant decision makers) should not simply weigh all material considerations in a balance, but should refuse an application unless they meet the exceptional circumstances and public interest criteria.	YES	A5	NO	An aspiration
POLICY CE15: Development Priorities & Evidence of Need	CE15.1. Housing delivery in the Cotswolds National Landscape (CNL) should be focused on meeting affordable housing requirements, particularly housing that is affordable in perpetuity such as social rented housing.	YES	A1	NO	A policy relating to qualitative criteria for development
	CE15.2. When local planning authorities are reviewing their Local Plans, they should give consideration to setting policies for affordable housing provision in the CNL that require: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • at least 50% affordable housing in market housing developments • 100% affordable housing on Rural Exception Sites, with a lower percentage only • being permitted in exceptional circumstances and the absolute minimum being 75% • on-site affordable housing provision for housing developments of five units or fewer 	YES	A5	NO	An aspiration
	CE15.3. Priority should be given to maintaining and enhancing local community	YES	A5	NO	A general policy statement

	<p>amenities and services and improving access to these amenities and services. Priority should also be given to supporting local employment opportunities.</p>				
	<p>CE15.4. It should be recognised that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) The housing need figure derived from the Government’s ‘standard method’ for calculating housing need is an unconstrained assessment of housing need and does not present a target for housing provision. b) The decision on how many homes should be planned for (i.e., the ‘housing requirement’ figure in Local Plans) should only be made after consideration of the constraints that the local authority faces, including the AONB designation, and consideration of the land that is actually available for development. As such, when these constraints are factored in, the ‘housing requirement’ could potentially be smaller than the standard method’s ‘housing need’ figure. c) The application of national planning policies relating to national landscapes may mean that it is not possible to meet objectively assessed needs (OAN) in full in local authority areas that overlap with the CNL. d) The CNL is unlikely to be a suitable area for accommodating unmet needs from adjoining, non-designated areas. In the context of the CNL, this includes unmet needs relating to adjacent urban areas and unmet needs arising in local authority areas that do not overlap with the CNL. e) Meeting housing need is never a reason to cause unacceptable harm to the CNL. 	<p>YES</p>	<p>A1</p>	<p>NO</p>	<p>A policy relating to qualitative criteria for development</p>

	f) The scale and extent of development in the CNL should be limited.				
	CE15.5. Consideration should be given to whether the constraints relating to the national landscape designation merit ‘exceptional circumstances’ which may justify using an alternative approach to the standard method for assessing housing need.	YES	A5	NO	A general policy statement
	CE15.6. When the allocation of sites is being considered in the Local Plan process, regard should be given to the evidence of need specific to: (i) the settlement/parish where the allocation is being proposed; and (ii) the CNL ‘sub-area’ within which the allocation is being proposed.	YES	A1	NO	A policy relating to qualitative criteria for development
	CE15.7. Within the CNL, windfall housing proposals on undeveloped land adjoining, or outside of, built up area boundaries (or equivalent) should only be supported where there is robust evidence of a specific local housing need such as needs identified through a neighbourhood plan or affordable housing needs specific to a particular settlement.	YES	A1	NO	A policy relating to qualitative criteria for development
	CE15.8. Where choice-based lettings systems, such as Homeseeker Plus, are used as part of the evidence base for affordable housing need: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the ‘local connection’ component of the choice-based lettings system should be applied consistently; and • data from the choice-based lettings systems should not be used explicitly as a measure of affordable housing need unless the data has been verified and there is a clear local 	YES	A5	NO	A general policy statement

	connection to – and preference for – the settlement in question.				
	CE15.9. When local authorities are reviewing their Local Plans, they should give consideration to setting policies that ensure that new market housing is used as a principal residence rather than as a second home or holiday home.	YES	A5	NO	A general policy statement
POLICY CE16: Waste Management and the Circular Economy	CE16.1 Waste management should align with the following hierarchy, as set out in the Government’s Waste Management Plan 2021: a. Prevention b. Prepare for reuse c. Recycling d. Other recovery e. Disposal	YES	A5	NO	A general policy statement
	CE16.2 Measures that help to deliver a circular, or closed-loop, economy, in which waste generation is avoided, should be encouraged.	YES	A5	NO	A general intent
	CE16.3 Proposals for new landfill sites and strategic waste facilities should not normally be permitted in the Cotswolds National Landscape (CNL), especially where they involve importing significant amounts of waste into the CNL (for example, waste generated in neighbouring urban areas).	YES	A5	NO	A general policy statement
	CE16.4 Any waste management facilities that are permitted in the CNL should: (i) be sited in such a way that adverse environmental impacts are minimised, in line with relevant permitting regimes; and (ii) primarily to waste that arises within the CNL.	YES	A5	NO	A general policy statement

	(Within close proximity to the proposed facility).				
	CE16.5 The management or use of waste by way of depositing it to land as an inert ‘recovery’ operation, land raising and bunding or for further restoration of previous landfill operations, should only be allowed: (i) in very limited circumstances within environmental limits; (ii) where it can demonstrate a significant net-benefit for the conservation and enhancement of the natural beauty of the CNL; and (iii) where it complies with the policies of the relevant Waste Local Plan and relevant environmental regulations.	YES	A3	NO	A general policy statement
POLICY UE1: Health and Well-being	UE1.1. Further opportunities for improving health and wellbeing in the Cotswolds National Landscape (CNL) should be created, improved and promoted, including, where appropriate, the provision of: green spaces or water within easy reach of communities; walking, cycling and riding routes, including routes for disabled people; opportunities to access and interact with nature; and volunteering and personal development opportunities.	UNCERTAIN	n/a	NO	NEXT STAGE (Appendix 4b) Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities are an issue identified in the SIPs but this impact can only apply to National Network sites that lie within the National Landscape. Only 3 of these sites identify recreation & access as an issue.
	UE1.2. Children and young people resident within and around the CNL should be provided with environmental education opportunities to experience the CNL through direct contact with the natural environment.	YES	A5	NO	An aspiration
	UE1.3. The health sector should make greater use of the benefits that the National Landscape	YES	A5	NO	An aspiration

	provides for the health and wellbeing of residents and visitors, for example, by prescribing exercise in the CNL countryside.				
POLICY UE2: Access & Recreation	UE2.1. A safe, pleasant, accessible, clearly waymarked and well-connected Public Rights of Way network that welcomes people of all abilities should be maintained, enhanced and promoted across the Cotswolds National Landscape (CNL) and into surrounding communities.	YES	A2	NO	A general policy statement that protects National Network sites by reducing inadvertent trespass off rights of way
	UE2.2. Improvements to access and recreation provision including rights of way should be undertaken in a way that is compatible with and seeks to further the conservation and enhancement of the natural beauty of CNL. Innovative ways of providing named routes without introducing additional signage should be explored. This should be balanced with the needs of groups that lack confidence in exploring the countryside, sensitive sites and of landowners and farmers who need to keep people on designated routes.	YES	A2	NO	A general policy statement that will protect habitats as framed within the special qualities
	UE2.3. Open Access Land and other land including Country Parks, that is open to public access should be maintained, enhanced and promoted across the CNL. Where appropriate, more land should be made available for public access.	UNCERTAIN	n/a	NO	NEXT STAGE (Appendix 4b) Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities are an issue identified in the SIPs but this impact can only apply to National Network sites that lie within the National Landscape. Only 3 of these sites identify recreation & access as an issue.

					Paragraph 12 of this policy offers very strong protection to National Network sites.
	UE2.4. Sustainable funding for National Trails, including the Cotswold Way and Thames Path, should be secured.	YES	A5	NO	An aspiration
	UE2.5. Visitors, residents and local communities should be provided with opportunities to increase their understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of the CNL.	YES	A5	NO	A general intent
	UE2.6. A priority for engagement in the CNL should be individuals who are not currently enjoying or engaged with the benefits of the landscape. Particularly those from within the CNL and from the surrounding urban areas, especially those from areas of high deprivation and those that are not traditional visitors to the Cotswolds.	YES	A5	NO	A general policy statement
	UE2.7. Easily accessible online, downloadable and onsite resources for walking, cycling, horse riding, volunteering and educational activities should be provided in the CNL to help promote access to the area and understanding and appreciation of its special qualities.	YES	A1	NO	Not a land use policy
	UE2.8. Visitor facilities and routes that are accessible to those of all abilities should be provided.	UNCERTAIN	n/a	NO	NEXT STAGE (Appendix 4b) Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities are an issue identified in the SIPs but this impact can only apply to National Network sites that

					lie within the National Landscape. Only 3 of these sites identify recreation & access as an issue. Paragraph 12 of this policy offers very strong protection to National Network sites.
	UE2.9. Guided walks and activities for those who are not confident walking in the countryside should be provided to increase confidence and share knowledge of the CNL and its special qualities.	YES	A5	NO	A general policy statement
	UE2.10. Arts and cultural experiences should be provided to encourage people to deepen their emotional connection to the landscape and support the engagement of new and existing audiences.	YES	A5	NO	A general intent
	UE2.11. The Countryside Code should be promoted to educate visitors and communities to act appropriately in the countryside and to improve understanding between visitors and those living and working in the area.	YES	A5	NO	A general policy statement
	UE2.12. The provision of new, and level of use of existing, access and recreational opportunities should be delivered in a way that is compatible with and seeks to further the conservation and enhancement of the natural beauty of the CNL. Where recreational use is having or is likely to have, an adverse impact on the natural beauty of the National Landscape or on the integrity of existing wildlife and historic sites, steps	YES	A4	NO	A general intent that will modify any negative interactions arising from recreation and access. Will move activities away from sensitive National Network sites.

	should be taken to evaluate, prevent or mitigate these impacts. Such steps can include enhanced maintenance and wayfinding, onsite engagement, legal restrictions, and the provision and promotion of access and recreational opportunities in new alternative suitable locations.				
	UE2.13. Where there is a conflict between (i) conservation and enhancement of natural beauty and (ii) public enjoyment of this natural beauty in the CNL, the conservation and enhancement of natural beauty should be given greater weight.	YES	A2	NO	A general intent that will modify any negative interactions arising from recreation and access. Will move activities away from sensitive National Network sites.
	UE2.14. Stakeholders should work towards the delivery of the relevant target for access and recreation within the national Protected Landscapes Targets and Outcomes Framework. ... Target 9 Improve and promote accessibility to and engagement with Protected Landscapes for all using existing metrics in our Access for All programme.	YES	A5	NO	A general policy statement
POLICY UE3: Sustainable Tourism	UE3.1. Tourism within the Cotswolds National Landscape (CNL) should be delivered and managed in a way that is compatible with and seeks to further the conservation and enhancement of the natural beauty of CNL and should minimise the emission of greenhouse gases in accordance with policy CC1.	YES	A5	NO	An aspiration
	UE3.2. Visitors, residents, local businesses and communities should be provided with opportunities	YES	A5	NO	A general policy statement

	to directly contribute to conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the CNL and improve access to the area through local individual, community and employee volunteering opportunities.				
	UE3.3. The ‘Caring for the Cotswolds’ visitor giving scheme will raise awareness of the CNL and generate funds from visitors to directly help to look after it by supporting projects which conserve habitats and species, look after heritage and landscape, improve access, and help provide education resources encouraging people to understand the landscape and nature better.	YES	A5	NO	A general policy statement
	UE3.4. Visitors should be provided with a variety of accommodation options over a range of prices. The siting and design of visitor accommodation should be compatible with conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the CNL including its special qualities.	YES	A5	NO	An aspiration
	UE3.5. Air travel arising from the Cotswolds as a destination should be minimised.	YES	A5	NO	An aspiration
	UE3.6. Existing sustainable and integrated transport initiatives should be supported and new initiatives developed to help facilitate the car free visitor experience.	YES	A2	NO	A general policy statement that will protect National Network sites by reducing air pollution

Appendix 4b: Test for any likely significant effects

As a part of two policies, three paragraphs may have an impact on the National Site network. Each paragraph relates to increasing public access to land. As written, the paragraphs can only affect sites within the National Landscape; and only three National Sites in the National Landscape show public access, disturbance or the direct impact from third parties as an issue (see Appendix 2). These are:

- Bath & Bradford SAC
- Cotswolds Beechwoods SAC
- Rodborough Common SAC

NL Policy POLICY UE1: Health and Well-being						
Paragraph 1: Further opportunities for improving health and wellbeing in the Cotswolds National Landscape (CNL) should be created, improved and promoted, including, where appropriate, the provision of: green spaces or water within easy reach of communities; walking, cycling and riding routes, including routes for disabled people; opportunities to access and interact with nature; and volunteering and personal development opportunities.						
National site name	Qualifying feature	Issues ¹⁵ [& remedial measures]	Likely effects	Likely significant effects	Comments	Need for an appropriate assessment
Bath & Bradford SAC	S1303 Lesser horseshoe bat, S1304 Greater horseshoe bat, S1323 Bechstein`s bat	1 Planning Permission: general There is currently difficulty in determining cumulative impacts of development across such a wide area and across local authority boundaries, including operations carried out under an European Protected Species license. This applies to both the developments themselves and the surveys which are needed to inform the planning application process. There is currently no formal way of assessing the cumulative impacts	None	None		NO

¹⁵ Identified in the 2015 Natural England Site Improvement Plans; numbered in priority order
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		of "high disturbance" level surveys (e.g. mist netting, harp trapping, radiotracking) being carried out outside the SAC boundary which may have cumulative impacts on the features of the SAC. Similarly, there is no formal way of assessing cumulative impacts on the SAC from permissions granted by the different competent authorities. Need to produce and promote advice and guidance on development control and strategic planning.				
		2 Change in land management Land ownership is fragmented and management has lapsed, particularly around the urban fringe of Bath. Need to provide information regarding appropriate management of habitat for bats.	None	None		NO
		3 Direct impact from third party One-off acts of vandalism or impacts of recreational pursuits could have a devastating effect if done in close proximity to roosting bats. There have been impacts at Brown's Folly, Box Mine and Bathampton Down Mines, specifically from third parties gaining access for inappropriate purposes. Need to reduce vandalism and impacts of recreational activities.	More people may be encouraged to enter land	None	The development of new areas for access may reduce pressure on the SAC. Paragraph 11 of POLICY UE2: Access & Recreation promotes the Countryside code to educate visitors and communities to act appropriately in the countryside. This may reduce third party impacts and moderate the effects of this paragraph. Paragraph 12 of POLICY UE2: Access & Recreation	NO

					includes the statement “Where recreational pressure is having an adverse impact on the special qualities of the National Landscape or on the integrity of existing wildlife sites, steps should be taken to evaluate, prevent or mitigate these impacts.” This moderates the effects of this paragraph.	
S1323 Bechstein`s bat	4 Feature location/ extent/ condition unknown There is a lack of knowledge about the population of Bechstein's bat within the SAC and its relationship to roosts within the wider landscape. There is very little data to show which component sites are used by Bechstein's and in what way, and even less foraging/commuting data. This is a risk because it is difficult to determine the impacts of plans and projects on Bechstein's bat. Need to investigate Bechstein's bat to improve knowledge of local population activity.	None	None			NO
S1303 Lesser horseshoe bat, S1304 Greater horseshoe bat, S1323 Bechstein`s bat	5 Offsite habitat availability/ management There is a lack of knowledge as to usage of the wider landscape by the SAC species. For example whether there are certain critical	None	None			NO

		<p>bat corridors which link the component sites, other bat SAC sites or non-designated roosts, or particularly important areas or routes used for feeding, 'swarming' or other activity between sites is unknown. Lack of knowledge compromises the ability to respond appropriately to threats such as development pressure and opportunities such as the use of agri-environment schemes in locations that will most greatly benefit bats. Need to investigate bat species use of surrounding habitat.</p>				
		<p>6 Public Access/Disturbance It is very difficult to close the sites to public access, potentially causing disturbance. This is a pressure in terms of continuous long-term disturbance by visitors, however the sites are managed in such a way that it does not present a significant pressure unless the volume and frequency of visitors were to increase. The threat to the sites come from one-off events such as: fire juggling near to the maternity colony; use of aerosol spray paints underground; use of fuel of any type underground, and bonfires at the mine entrances. Need to review access arrangements and implement improved management of access.</p>	<p>More people may be encouraged to enter land</p>	<p>None</p>	<p>The development of new areas for access may reduce pressure on the SAC. Paragraph 11 of POLICY UE2: Access & Recreation promotes the Countryside code to educate visitors and communities to act appropriately in the countryside. This may reduce third party impacts and moderate the effects of this paragraph. Paragraph 12 of POLICY UE2: Access & Recreation includes the statement "Where recreational pressure is having an adverse impact on the special qualities of the National Landscape or on</p>	<p>NO</p>

					the integrity of existing wildlife sites, steps should be taken to evaluate, prevent or mitigate these impacts.” This moderates the effects of this paragraph.	
		<p>7 Change to site conditions</p> <p>All component areas of the SAC have the potential risk of collapse as they are abandoned mines and their status with regards to stability is largely unknown. Mine instability is particularly relevant at entrances where a collapse could make it unusable by bats. A collapse is likely to alter the entrance dimensions thereby affecting ventilation, temperature and humidity within the mines, and/or may cause bats to be killed or become entrapped. Due to mine instability it is also difficult to monitor bats effectively. Need to investigate the stability of mine and cave systems and feasibility for stabilisation.</p>	None	None		NO
		<p>8 Inappropriate designation boundary</p> <p>Several undesignated sites support important populations of SAC bats. Some of these are under threat, and others are located in areas/landscapes where they could be offered greater protection and enhanced</p>	None	None		NO

		management of surrounding habitats if they were known to be special sites. Consultation zones for planning have been agreed far beyond the bounds of the current component sites, and evaluating the importance of new sites relative to the currently designated ones will validate and improve the series. Need to review series of SAC sites and consider new sites for notification.				
Cotswolds Beechwoods SAC	H9130 Beech forests on neutral to rich soils	<p>1 Invasive species</p> <p>The dumping of garden waste and the consequent spread of invasive plants is an on-going threat but one that the land managers largely have under control. However, the spread of the non-native sycamore provides more of a challenge and has made particular use of canopy gaps created by storm damage. Although sycamore is considered an acceptable component of woodlands, including beechwoods, on the continent, in the Cotswolds it tends to dominate understorey and canopy to the detriment of other (native) tree species. Its control is costly and time consuming and often unpopular with woodland owners who find it useful to "deflect" squirrel damage from the beech trees. This together with the ever increasing risk to native tree species from plant disease and climate change makes</p>	None	None		NO

		the sycamore issue all the more acute. Need to reduce invasive sycamore, especially in the canopy.				
		2 Deer Deer browsing of regenerating trees (and possibly ground flora) remains a major threat to favourable condition throughout the beechwoods. Whilst deer control does take place, this work needs to be monitored and coordinated to ensure deer populations are adequately managed. Need to reduce deer browsing pressure.	None	None		NO
		3 Invasive species Grey squirrel numbers have increased sharply over the past decade or so and now cause significant damage to tree species, in particular beech. In places, this can lead to pole stage beech being systematically ring barked and killed. Control measures are widely applied but the numbers and associated damage persists. This also dissuades woodland owners from favouring the retention of beech. Need to reduce squirrel damage to trees.	None	None		NO
		4 Disease Although not known to be present in the Cotswolds as yet, Chalara (ash disease) is a major future threat to the beechwoods. Natural	None	None		NO

		<p>regeneration tends to favour ash although beech does also regenerate but at a slower rate. This has enabled an acceptable mix of beech/ash canopy with other minor species. However, the other main regeneration tree is the non-native sycamore. If ash starts to die out then the woodlands are likely to become dominated by sycamore, hence the need for a strategy to prepare for ash dieback. Need to produce a strategy to deal with potential ash dieback.</p>				
		<p>5 Public Access/Disturbance Public use of the Beechwoods has grown considerably over recent years and damage is becoming more widespread. A particular increase has been the use of mountain bikes and horseriding which use the woods far beyond the limited network of bridleways. This has created numerous additional trackways and so increasing the erosion of the ground flora and potentially opportunities for water erosion. Although the routes away from bridleways are not usually permitted, much of the SAC woodland is NNR or has public access by foot. Hence efforts have been made to provide agreed permissive routes with local bike groups with the aim of minimising</p>	<p>More people may be encouraged to enter land</p>	<p>None</p>	<p>The development of new areas for access may reduce pressure on the Beechwoods. Paragraph 11 of POLICY UE2: Access & Recreation promotes the Countryside code to educate visitors and communities to act appropriately in the countryside. This may reduce third party impacts and moderate the effects of this paragraph. Paragraph 12 of POLICY UE2: Access & Recreation includes the statement “Where recreational pressure is having an adverse impact on the special qualities of the National Landscape or on</p>	<p>NO</p>

		<p>damage whilst still allowing some use. This is still experimental and much will depend on the scale of use and whether the users stick to the permissive routes. This approach could also be tried with horseriders. Additionally, dog walking has increased within the SAC especially at Coopers Hill where car parking is available. This has become a particular issue where professional dog walkers release large numbers of dogs (up to 12) to run uncontrolled through the woods. This causes disturbance to wildlife as well as local nutrification through dog faeces. Need to minimise impact of recreational use, especially mountain biking, horse riding and dog walking.</p>			<p>the integrity of existing wildlife sites, steps should be taken to evaluate, prevent or mitigate these impacts.” This moderates the effects of this paragraph.</p>	
		<p>6 Changes in species distributions There is a risk that global warming will increase the risk of drought to beech trees (which are shallow rooted). Whilst this risk should be acknowledged, it should be noted that no evidence of drought amongst beech trees has been noted in the Cotswolds as yet and the nature of the soils (limestone rather than chalk) and the (wetter) westerly location may help to prevent the risk. Need to monitor the effects of drought on beech trees.</p>	None	None		NO

	H6210 Dry grasslands and scrublands on chalk or limestone (important orchid sites), H9130 Beech forests on neutral to rich soils	7 Air Pollution: impact of atmospheric nitrogen deposition Nitrogen deposition exceeds site relevant critical loads. High atmospheric nitrogen levels could affect the SAC features through: changes in ground vegetation and mycorrhiza; nutrient imbalance; changes to soil fauna; increase in tall grasses; decline in diversity; increased mineralization; N leaching; or surface acidification. Need to control, reduce and ameliorate atmospheric nitrogen impacts.	None	None		NO
Rodborough Common SAC	H6210 Dry grasslands and scrublands on chalk or limestone (important orchid sites)	1 Under grazing Under grazing is an issue due to the reliance on the rights of commoners to turn out cattle. The number of stock have dropped over the years to the point that additional cattle now need to be electric fenced on to the most species-rich areas on the slopes. Of key importance is the lack of cattle grids on minor roads which means that Commoners are less inclined to push the cattle on to the lower slopes where they may escape onto busy surrounding roads. It is these lower slopes that are the most species-rich and are suffering from a lack of grazing. A better evidence base (NVC survey, see action 2A) relating to the state of the site's grasslands is desirable to support the case for improved	None	None		NO

		grazing. Need to increase grazing pressure in key areas.				
		<p>2 Public Access/Disturbance</p> <p>The common is very close to Stroud and recreational use has greatly increased over the past few decades. This has created many new paths and parking areas which cause soil compaction to the detriment of the surrounding sward. Dog faeces is a particular issue which also damages the sward but also poses a real disease risk to the cattle which are vital to the management of the Common. New and proposed housing continues to add to the problem. Need to reduce the impact of recreational use.</p>	More people may be encouraged to enter land	None	<p>The development of new areas for access may reduce pressure on the common.</p> <p>Paragraph 10 of POLICY UE2: Access & Recreation promotes the Countryside code to educate visitors and communities to act appropriately in the countryside. This may reduce third party impacts and moderate the effects of this paragraph.</p> <p>Paragraph 11 of POLICY UE2: Access & Recreation includes the statement “Where recreational pressure is having an adverse impact on the special qualities of the National Landscape or on the integrity of existing wildlife sites, steps should be taken to evaluate, prevent or mitigate these impacts.” This moderates the effects of this paragraph.</p>	NO
		<p>3 Air Pollution: risk of atmospheric nitrogen deposition</p> <p>Nitrogen deposition exceeds the site-relevant critical load for ecosystem protection and hence</p>	None	None		NO

		there is a risk of harmful effects, but the sensitive features are currently considered to be in favourable condition on the site. This requires further investigation. Need to further investigate potential atmospheric nitrogen impacts.				
NL Policy POLICY UE2: Access & Recreation						
Paragraph 3: Open Access Land and other land including Country Parks, that is open to public access should be maintained, enhanced and promoted across the CNL. Where appropriate, more land should be made available for public access.						
National site name	Qualifying feature	Issues ¹⁶ [& remedial measures]	Likely effects	Likely significant effects	Comments	Need for an appropriate assessment
Bath & Bradford SAC	S1303 Lesser horseshoe bat, S1304 Greater horseshoe bat, S1323 Bechstein`s bat	1 Planning Permission: general There is currently difficulty in determining cumulative impacts of development across such a wide area and across local authority boundaries, including operations carried out under an European Protected Species license. This applies to both the developments themselves and the surveys which are needed to inform the planning application process. There is currently no formal way of assessing the cumulative impacts of "high disturbance" level surveys (e.g. mist netting, harp trapping, radiotracking) being carried out outside the SAC boundary which may have cumulative impacts on	None	None		NO

¹⁶ Identified in the Natural England Site Improvement Plan 2014; numbered in priority order
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		<p>the features of the SAC. Similarly, there is no formal way of assessing cumulative impacts on the SAC from permissions granted by the different competent authorities. Need to produce and promote advice and guidance on development control and strategic planning.</p>				
		<p>2 Change in land management Land ownership is fragmented and management has lapsed, particularly around the urban fringe of Bath. Need to provide information regarding appropriate management of habitat for bats.</p>	None	None		NO
		<p>3 Direct impact from third party One-off acts of vandalism or impacts of recreational pursuits could have a devastating effect if done in close proximity to roosting bats. There have been impacts at Brown’s Folly, Box Mine and Bathampton Down Mines, specifically from third parties gaining access for inappropriate purposes. Need to reduce vandalism and impacts of recreational activities.</p>	More people may be encouraged to enter land	None	<p>Paragraph 11 of POLICY UE2: Access & Recreation promotes the Countryside code to educate visitors and communities to act appropriately in the countryside. This may reduce third party impacts and moderate the effects of this paragraph.</p> <p>Paragraph 12 of POLICY UE2: Access & Recreation includes the statement “Where recreational pressure is having an adverse impact on the special qualities of the National Landscape or on the integrity of existing wildlife sites, steps should</p>	NO

					be taken to evaluate, prevent or mitigate these impacts.” This moderates the effects of this paragraph.	
	S1323 Bechstein`s bat	4 Feature location/ extent/ condition unknown There is a lack of knowledge about the population of Bechstein’s bat within the SAC and its relationship to roosts within the wider landscape. There is very little data to show which component sites are used by Bechstein’s and in what way, and even less foraging/commuting data. This is a risk because it is difficult to determine the impacts of plans and projects on Bechstein’s bat. Need to investigate Bechstein’s bat to improve knowledge of local population activity.	None	None		NO
	S1303 Lesser horseshoe bat, S1304 Greater horseshoe bat, S1323 Bechstein`s bat	5 Offsite habitat availability/ management There is a lack of knowledge as to usage of the wider landscape by the SAC species. For example whether there are certain critical bat corridors which link the component sites, other bat SAC sites or non-designated roosts, or particularly important areas or routes used for feeding, ‘swarming’ or other activity between sites is unknown. Lack of knowledge compromises the ability to respond	None	None		NO

		appropriately to threats such as development pressure and opportunities such as the use of agri-environment schemes in locations that will most greatly benefit bats. Need to investigate bat species use of surrounding habitat.				
		<p>6 Public Access/Disturbance</p> <p>It is very difficult to close the sites to public access, potentially causing disturbance. This is a pressure in terms of continuous long-term disturbance by visitors, however the sites are managed in such a way that it does not present a significant pressure unless the volume and frequency of visitors were to increase. The threat to the sites come from one-off events such as: fire juggling near to the maternity colony; use of aerosol spray paints underground; use of fuel of any type underground, and bonfires at the mine entrances. Need to review access arrangements and implement improved management of access.</p>	More land may be opened up to people	None	The SIP identifies specific threats that are not the intent of this paragraph. In any case, paragraph 12 of POLICY UE2: Access & Recreation includes the statement “Where recreational pressure is having an adverse impact on the special qualities of the National Landscape or on the integrity of existing wildlife sites, steps should be taken to evaluate, prevent or mitigate these impacts.” This moderates the effects of this paragraph.	NO
		<p>7 Change to site conditions</p> <p>All component areas of the SAC have the potential risk of collapse as they are abandoned mines and their status with regards to stability is largely unknown. Mine instability is particularly relevant at entrances where a collapse could</p>	None	None		NO

		make it unusable by bats. A collapse is likely to alter the entrance dimensions thereby affecting ventilation, temperature and humidity within the mines, and/or may cause bats to be killed or become entrapped. Due to mine instability it is also difficult to monitor bats effectively. Need to investigate the stability of mine and cave systems and feasibility for stabilisation.				
		8 Inappropriate designation boundary Several undesignated sites support important populations of SAC bats. Some of these are under threat, and others are located in areas/landscapes where they could be offered greater protection and enhanced management of surrounding habitats if they were known to be special sites. Consultation zones for planning have been agreed far beyond the bounds of the current component sites, and evaluating the importance of new sites relative to the currently designated ones will validate and improve the series. Need to review series of SAC sites and consider new sites for notification.	None	None		NO
Cotswolds Beechwoods	H9130 Beech forests on	1 Invasive species The dumping of garden waste and the consequent spread of invasive	None	None		NO

	neutral to rich soils	<p>plants is an on-going threat but one that the land managers largely have under control. However, the spread of the non-native sycamore provides more of a challenge and has made particular use of canopy gaps created by storm damage. Although sycamore is considered an acceptable component of woodlands, including beechwoods, on the continent, in the Cotswolds it tends to dominate understorey and canopy to the detriment of other (native) tree species. Its control is costly and time consuming and often unpopular with woodland owners who find it useful to “deflect” squirrel damage from the beech trees. This together with the ever increasing risk to native tree species from plant disease and climate change makes the sycamore issue all the more acute. Need to reduce invasive sycamore, especially in the canopy.</p>				
		<p>2 Deer Deer browsing of regenerating trees (and possibly ground flora) remains a major threat to favourable condition throughout the beechwoods. Whilst deer control does take place, this work needs to be monitored and coordinated to ensure deer populations are adequately</p>	None	None		NO

		managed. Need to reduce deer browsing pressure.				
		<p>3 Invasive species</p> <p>Grey squirrel numbers have increased sharply over the past decade or so and now cause significant damage to tree species, in particular beech. In places, this can lead to pole stage beech being systematically ring barked and killed. Control measures are widely applied but the numbers and associated damage persists. This also dissuades woodland owners from favouring the retention of beech. Need to reduce squirrel damage to trees.</p>	None	None		NO
		<p>4 Disease</p> <p>Although not known to be present in the Cotswolds as yet, Chalara (ash disease) is a major future threat to the beechwoods. Natural regeneration tends to favour ash although beech does also regenerate but at a slower rate. This has enabled an acceptable mix of beech/ash canopy with other minor species. However, the other main regeneration tree is the non-native sycamore. If ash starts to die out then the woodlands are likely to become dominated by sycamore, hence the need for a strategy to prepare for ash dieback. Need to produce a</p>	None	None		NO

		strategy to deal with potential ash dieback.				
		<p>5 Public Access/Disturbance</p> <p>Public use of the Beechwoods has grown considerably over recent years and damage is becoming more widespread. A particular increase has been the use of mountain bikes and horseriding which use the woods far beyond the limited network of bridleways. This has created numerous additional trackways and so increasing the erosion of the ground flora and potentially opportunities for water erosion. Although the routes away from bridleways are not usually permitted, much of the SAC woodland is NNR or has public access by foot. Hence efforts have been made to provide agreed permissive routes with local bike groups with the aim of minimising damage whilst still allowing some use. This is still experimental and much will depend on the scale of use and whether the users stick to the permissive routes. This approach could also be tried with horseriders. Additionally, dog walking has increased within the SAC especially at Coopers Hill where car parking is available. This has become a particular issue where professional dog walkers release large numbers of dogs (up</p>	More land may be opened up to people	None	<p>The development of new areas for access may reduce pressure on the Cotswolds Beechwoods SAC.</p> <p>Paragraph 11 of POLICY UE2: Access & Recreation promotes the Countryside code to educate visitors and communities to act appropriately in the countryside. This may reduce third party impacts and moderate the effects of this paragraph.</p> <p>Paragraph 12 of POLICY UE2: Access & Recreation includes the statement “Where recreational pressure is having an adverse impact on the special qualities of the National Landscape or on the integrity of existing wildlife sites, steps should be taken to evaluate, prevent or mitigate these impacts.” This moderates the effects of this paragraph.</p>	NO

		to 12) to run uncontrolled through the woods. This causes disturbance to wildlife as well as local nutrification through dog faeces. Need to minimise impact of recreational use, especially mountain biking, horse riding and dog walking.				
		6 Changes in species distributions There is a risk that global warming will increase the risk of drought to beech trees (which are shallow rooted). Whilst this risk should be acknowledged, it should be noted that no evidence of drought amongst beech trees has been noted in the Cotswolds as yet and the nature of the soils (limestone rather than chalk) and the (wetter) westerly location may help to prevent the risk. Need to monitor the effects of drought on beech trees.	None	None		NO
	H6210 Dry grasslands and scrublands on chalk or limestone (important orchid sites), H9130 Beech forests on neutral to rich soils	7 Air Pollution: impact of atmospheric nitrogen deposition Nitrogen deposition exceeds site relevant critical loads. High atmospheric nitrogen levels could affect the SAC features through: changes in ground vegetation and mycorrhiza; nutrient imbalance; changes to soil fauna; increase in tall grasses; decline in diversity; increased mineralization; N leaching; or surface acidification. Need to control, reduce and	None	None		NO

		ameliorate atmospheric nitrogen impacts.				
Rodborough Common SAC	H6210 Dry grasslands and scrublands on chalk or limestone (important orchid sites)	<p>1 Under grazing</p> <p>Under grazing is an issue due to the reliance on the rights of commoners to turn out cattle. The number of stock have dropped over the years to the point that additional cattle now need to be electric fenced on to the most species-rich areas on the slopes. Of key importance is the lack of cattle grids on minor roads which means that Commoners are less inclined to push the cattle on to the lower slopes where they may escape onto busy surrounding roads. It is these lower slopes that are the most species-rich and are suffering from a lack of grazing. A better evidence base (NVC survey, see action 2A) relating to the state of the site's grasslands is desirable to support the case for improved grazing. Need to increase grazing pressure in key areas.</p>	None	None		NO
		<p>2 Public Access/Disturbance</p> <p>The common is very close to Stroud and recreational use has greatly increased over the past few decades. This has created many new paths and parking areas which cause soil compaction to the detriment of the surrounding sward. Dog faeces is a particular issue which also damages the</p>	More people may be encouraged to enter land	None	The development of new areas for access may reduce pressure on the common. Paragraph 11 of POLICY UE2: Access & Recreation promotes the Countryside code to educate visitors and communities to act appropriately in the	NO

		<p>sward but also poses a real disease risk to the cattle which are vital to the management of the Common. New and proposed housing continues to add to the problem. Need to reduce the impact of recreational use.</p>			<p>countryside. This may reduce third party impacts and moderate the effects of this paragraph.</p> <p>Paragraph 12 of POLICY UE2: Access & Recreation includes the statement “Where recreational pressure is having an adverse impact on the special qualities of the National Landscape or on the integrity of existing wildlife sites, steps should be taken to evaluate, prevent or mitigate these impacts.” This moderates the effects of this paragraph.</p>	
		<p>3 Air Pollution: risk of atmospheric nitrogen deposition</p> <p>Nitrogen deposition exceeds the site-relevant critical load for ecosystem protection and hence there is a risk of harmful effects, but the sensitive features are currently considered to be in favourable condition on the site. This requires further investigation. Need to further investigate potential atmospheric nitrogen impacts.</p>	None	None		NO
<p>NL Policy POLICY UE2: Access & Recreation</p>						
<p>Paragraph 8: Visitor facilities and routes that are accessible to those of all abilities should be provided.</p>						

National site name	Qualifying feature	Issues ¹⁷ [& remedial measures]	Likely effects	Likely significant effects	Comments	Need for an appropriate assessment
Bath & Bradford SAC	S1303 Lesser horseshoe bat, S1304 Greater horseshoe bat, S1323 Bechstein`s bat	1 Planning Permission: general There is currently difficulty in determining cumulative impacts of development across such a wide area and across local authority boundaries, including operations carried out under an European Protected Species license. This applies to both the developments themselves and the surveys which are needed to inform the planning application process. There is currently no formal way of assessing the cumulative impacts of "high disturbance" level surveys (e.g. mist netting, harp trapping, radiotracking) being carried out outside the SAC boundary which may have cumulative impacts on the features of the SAC. Similarly, there is no formal way of assessing cumulative impacts on the SAC from permissions granted by the different competent authorities. Need to produce and promote advice and guidance on development control and strategic planning.	None	None		NO
		2 Change in land management	None	None		NO

¹⁷ Identified in the Natural England Site Improvement Plan 2014; numbered in priority order
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		Land ownership is fragmented and management has lapsed, particularly around the urban fringe of Bath. Need to provide information regarding appropriate management of habitat for bats.				
		3 Direct impact from third party One-off acts of vandalism or impacts of recreational pursuits could have a devastating effect if done in close proximity to roosting bats. There have been impacts at Brown’s Folly, Box Mine and Bathampton Down Mines, specifically from third parties gaining access for inappropriate purposes. Need to reduce vandalism and impacts of recreational activities.	More people may be encouraged to enter land	None	Paragraph 11 of POLICY UE2: Access & Recreation promotes the Countryside code to educate visitors and communities to act appropriately in the countryside. This may reduce third party impacts and moderate the effects of this paragraph. Paragraph 12 of POLICY UE2: Access & Recreation includes the statement “Where recreational pressure is having an adverse impact on the special qualities of the National Landscape or on the integrity of existing wildlife sites, steps should be taken to evaluate, prevent or mitigate these impacts.” This moderates the effects of this paragraph.	NO
	S1323 Bechstein’s bat	4 Feature location/ extent/ condition unknown There is a lack of knowledge about the population of Bechstein’s bat within the SAC and its relationship	None	None		NO

		to roosts within the wider landscape. There is very little data to show which component sites are used by Bechstein's and in what way, and even less foraging/commuting data. This is a risk because it is difficult to determine the impacts of plans and projects on Bechstein's bat. Need to investigate Bechstein's bat to improve knowledge of local population activity.				
	S1303 Lesser horseshoe bat, S1304 Greater horseshoe bat, S1323 Bechstein`s bat	5 Offsite habitat availability/ management There is a lack of knowledge as to usage of the wider landscape by the SAC species. For example whether there are certain critical bat corridors which link the component sites, other bat SAC sites or non-designated roosts, or particularly important areas or routes used for feeding, 'swarming' or other activity between sites is unknown. Lack of knowledge compromises the ability to respond appropriately to threats such as development pressure and opportunities such as the use of agri-environment schemes in locations that will most greatly benefit bats. Need to investigate bat species use of surrounding habitat.	None	None		NO

		<p>6 Public Access/Disturbance</p> <p>It is very difficult to close the sites to public access, potentially causing disturbance. This is a pressure in terms of continuous long-term disturbance by visitors, however the sites are managed in such a way that it does not present a significant pressure unless the volume and frequency of visitors were to increase. The threat to the sites come from one-off events such as: fire juggling near to the maternity colony; use of aerosol spray paints underground; use of fuel of any type underground, and bonfires at the mine entrances. Need to review access arrangements and implement improved management of access.</p>	<p>More people may be encouraged to enter land</p>	<p>None</p>	<p>The development of new areas for access may reduce pressure on the SAC. Paragraph 11 of POLICY UE2: Access & Recreation promotes the Countryside code to educate visitors and communities to act appropriately in the countryside. This may reduce third party impacts and moderate the effects of this paragraph.</p> <p>Paragraph 12 of POLICY UE2: Access & Recreation includes the statement “Where recreational pressure is having an adverse impact on the special qualities of the National Landscape or on the integrity of existing wildlife sites, steps should be taken to evaluate, prevent or mitigate these impacts.” This moderates the effects of this paragraph.</p>	<p>NO</p>
		<p>7 Change to site conditions</p> <p>All component areas of the SAC have the potential risk of collapse as they are abandoned mines and their status with regards to stability is largely unknown. Mine instability is particularly relevant at entrances where a collapse could</p>	<p>None</p>	<p>None</p>		<p>NO</p>

		make it unusable by bats. A collapse is likely to alter the entrance dimensions thereby affecting ventilation, temperature and humidity within the mines, and/or may cause bats to be killed or become entrapped. Due to mine instability it is also difficult to monitor bats effectively. Need to investigate the stability of mine and cave systems and feasibility for stabilisation.				
		8 Inappropriate designation boundary Several undesignated sites support important populations of SAC bats. Some of these are under threat, and others are located in areas/landscapes where they could be offered greater protection and enhanced management of surrounding habitats if they were known to be special sites. Consultation zones for planning have been agreed far beyond the bounds of the current component sites, and evaluating the importance of new sites relative to the currently designated ones will validate and improve the series. Need to review series of SAC sites and consider new sites for notification.	None	None		NO
Cotswolds Beechwoods	H9130 Beech forests on	1 Invasive species The dumping of garden waste and the consequent spread of invasive	None	None		NO

	neutral to rich soils	<p>plants is an on-going threat but one that the land managers largely have under control. However, the spread of the non-native sycamore provides more of a challenge and has made particular use of canopy gaps created by storm damage. Although sycamore is considered an acceptable component of woodlands, including beechwoods, on the continent, in the Cotswolds it tends to dominate understorey and canopy to the detriment of other (native) tree species. Its control is costly and time consuming and often unpopular with woodland owners who find it useful to "deflect" squirrel damage from the beech trees. This together with the ever increasing risk to native tree species from plant disease and climate change makes the sycamore issue all the more acute. Need to reduce invasive sycamore, especially in the canopy.</p>				
		<p>2 Deer Deer browsing of regenerating trees (and possibly ground flora) remains a major threat to favourable condition throughout the beechwoods. Whilst deer control does take place, this work needs to be monitored and coordinated to ensure deer populations are adequately</p>	None	None		NO

		managed. Need to reduce deer browsing pressure.				
		<p>3 Invasive species</p> <p>Grey squirrel numbers have increased sharply over the past decade or so and now cause significant damage to tree species, in particular beech. In places, this can lead to pole stage beech being systematically ring barked and killed. Control measures are widely applied but the numbers and associated damage persists. This also dissuades woodland owners from favouring the retention of beech. Need to reduce squirrel damage to trees.</p>	None	None		NO
		<p>4 Disease</p> <p>Although not known to be present in the Cotswolds as yet, Chalara (ash disease) is a major future threat to the beechwoods. Natural regeneration tends to favour ash although beech does also regenerate but at a slower rate. This has enabled an acceptable mix of beech/ash canopy with other minor species. However, the other main regeneration tree is the non-native sycamore. If ash starts to die out then the woodlands are likely to become dominated by sycamore, hence the need for a strategy to prepare for ash dieback. Need to produce a</p>	None	None		NO

		strategy to deal with potential ash dieback.				
		<p>5 Public Access/Disturbance</p> <p>Public use of the Beechwoods has grown considerably over recent years and damage is becoming more widespread. A particular increase has been the use of mountain bikes and horseriding which use the woods far beyond the limited network of bridleways. This has created numerous additional trackways and so increasing the erosion of the ground flora and potentially opportunities for water erosion. Although the routes away from bridleways are not usually permitted, much of the SAC woodland is NNR or has public access by foot. Hence efforts have been made to provide agreed permissive routes with local bike groups with the aim of minimising damage whilst still allowing some use. This is still experimental and much will depend on the scale of use and whether the users stick to the permissive routes. This approach could also be tried with horseriders. Additionally, dog walking has increased within the SAC especially at Coopers Hill where car parking is available. This has become a particular issue where professional dog walkers release large numbers of dogs (up</p>	More people may be encouraged to enter land	None	<p>The development of new areas for access may reduce pressure on the Beechwoods.</p> <p>Paragraph 11 of POLICY UE2: Access & Recreation promotes the Countryside code to educate visitors and communities to act appropriately in the countryside. This may reduce third party impacts and moderate the effects of this paragraph.</p> <p>Paragraph 12 of POLICY UE2: Access & Recreation includes the statement “Where recreational pressure is having an adverse impact on the special qualities of the National Landscape or on the integrity of existing wildlife sites, steps should be taken to evaluate, prevent or mitigate these impacts.” This moderates the effects of this paragraph.</p>	NO

		to 12) to run uncontrolled through the woods. This causes disturbance to wildlife as well as local nutrification through dog faeces. Need to minimise impact of recreational use, especially mountain biking, horse riding and dog walking.				
		6 Changes in species distributions There is a risk that global warming will increase the risk of drought to beech trees (which are shallow rooted). Whilst this risk should be acknowledged, it should be noted that no evidence of drought amongst beech trees has been noted in the Cotswolds as yet and the nature of the soils (limestone rather than chalk) and the (wetter) westerly location may help to prevent the risk. Need to monitor the effects of drought on beech trees.	None	None		NO
	H6210 Dry grasslands and scrublands on chalk or limestone (important orchid sites), H9130 Beech forests on neutral to rich soils	7 Air Pollution: impact of atmospheric nitrogen deposition Nitrogen deposition exceeds site relevant critical loads. High atmospheric nitrogen levels could affect the SAC features through: changes in ground vegetation and mycorrhiza; nutrient imbalance; changes to soil fauna; increase in tall grasses; decline in diversity; increased mineralization; N leaching; or surface acidification. Need to control, reduce and	None	None		NO

		ameliorate atmospheric nitrogen impacts.				
Rodborough Common SAC	H6210 Dry grasslands and scrublands on chalk or limestone (important orchid sites)	<p>1 Under grazing Under grazing is an issue due to the reliance on the rights of commoners to turn out cattle. The number of stock have dropped over the years to the point that additional cattle now need to be electric fenced on to the most species-rich areas on the slopes. Of key importance is the lack of cattle grids on minor roads which means that Commoners are less inclined to push the cattle on to the lower slopes where they may escape onto busy surrounding roads. It is these lower slopes that are the most species-rich and are suffering from a lack of grazing. A better evidence base (NVC survey, see action 2A) relating to the state of the site's grasslands is desirable to support the case for improved grazing. Need to increase grazing pressure in key areas.</p>	None	None		NO
		<p>2 Public Access/Disturbance The common is very close to Stroud and recreational use has greatly increased over the past few decades. This has created many new paths and parking areas which cause soil compaction to the detriment of the surrounding sward. Dog faeces is a particular issue which also damages the</p>	More people may be encouraged to enter land	None	The development of new areas for access may reduce pressure on the common. Paragraph 11 of POLICY UE2: Access & Recreation promotes the Countryside code to educate visitors and communities to act appropriately in the	NO

		<p>sward but also poses a real disease risk to the cattle which are vital to the management of the Common. New and proposed housing continues to add to the problem. Need to reduce the impact of recreational use.</p>			<p>countryside. This may reduce third party impacts and moderate the effects of this paragraph.</p> <p>Paragraph 12 of POLICY UE2: Access & Recreation includes the statement “Where recreational pressure is having an adverse impact on the special qualities of the National Landscape or on the integrity of existing wildlife sites, steps should be taken to evaluate, prevent or mitigate these impacts.” This moderates the effects of this paragraph.</p>	
		<p>3 Air Pollution: risk of atmospheric nitrogen deposition</p> <p>Nitrogen deposition exceeds the site-relevant critical load for ecosystem protection and hence there is a risk of harmful effects, but the sensitive features are currently considered to be in favourable condition on the site. This requires further investigation. Need to further investigate potential atmospheric nitrogen impacts.</p>	None	None		NO

Appendix 5: List of relevant plans & policies

INTERNATIONAL

Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International importance, especially waterfowl habitat (1971)

www.ramsar.org

Bern Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (1979) (came into force on 1 June 1982)

www.coe.int/t/dg4/cultureheritage/nature/bern/default_en.asp

Paris Agreement United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (2015)

http://unfccc.int/paris_agreement/items/9485.php

EUROPEAN

The Birds Directive (Directive on Conservation of Wild Birds) (79/409/EEC) (Adopted 1979)

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/legislation/birdsdirective/index_en.htm

The Convention for the Protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe (Granada Convention) Council of Europe (121) 1985

<http://conventions.coe.int/Treaty/Commun/QueVoulezVous.asp?NT=121&CM=1&CL=ENG>

European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage (revised 1985)

<http://conventions.coe.int/Treaty/en/Treaties/Html/143.htm>

Nitrates Directive (91/676/EEC) (1991)

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:1991:375:0001:0008:EN:PDF>

The Habitats Directive (Directive on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and Wild Fauna and Flora) (Directive 92/43/EC) (1992)

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/legislation/habitatsdirective/index_en.htm

The Landfill Directive (99/31/EC) (1999)

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/waste/landfill_index.htm

The Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC) (2000)

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/water-framework/index_en.html

The Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive (2001/42/EC) (2001)

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2001:197:0030:0037:EN:PDF>

The Environmental Noise Directive (2002/49/EC) (2002)

<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/noise/directive.htm>

The Landscape Convention 20 October 2000 (ratified by UK in November 2006)

www.coe.int/t/dg4/cultureheritage/heritage/landscape/default_en.asp

Renewed EU Sustainable Development Strategy (June 2006)

<http://register.consilium.europa.eu/pdf/en/06/st10/st10917.en06.pdf>

Our life insurance, our natural capital: an EU biodiversity strategy to 2020, European Commission (2011)

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/biodiversity/comm2006/pdf/2020/1_EN_ACT_part1_v7%5B1%5D.pdf

NATIONAL

Legislation

Historic Buildings and Ancient Monuments Act 1953

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/Eliz2/1-2/49/contents>

Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979

www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1979/46/pdfs/ukpga_19790046_en.pdf

The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)

www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1981/69

Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 (as amended)

www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1990/9/pdfs/ukpga_19900009_en.pdf

The Ancient Monuments (Class Consents) Order 1994 SI 1381

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/1994/1381/contents/made>

Countryside and Rights of Way (CRoW) Act 2000

www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2000/37/contents

Natural Environment & Rural Communities Act 2006

www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2006/16/contents

Planning Act 2008

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2008/29/contents>

Climate Change Act 2008

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2008/27/contents>

Localism Act 2011

www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2011/20/contents

The Conservation (Natural Habitats) Regulations 1994 (Habitats Regulation) as amended in 1997, 2000 (in England only) and 2017 (SI 1012)

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2017/1012/contents/made>

European Union (Notification of Withdrawal) Act 2017

www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2017/9/pdfs/ukpga_20170009_en.pdf

National Planning Policy Framework (DLUHC 2023)

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/65a11af7e8f5ec000f1f8c46/NPPF_December_2023.pdf

Environment Act 2021

https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2021/30/pdfs/ukpga_20210030_en.pdf

Levelling-up and Regeneration Act 2023 c. 55

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2023/55/section/245>

Policies, Strategies and Plans

Securing the Future – UK Government Sustainable Development Strategy (Defra 2005)

www.defra.gov.uk/publications/2011/03/25/securing-the-future-pb10589/

Conservation Principles, Policies and Guidance for the Sustainable Management of the Historic Environment (English Heritage 2008)

www.english-heritage.org.uk/content/publications/publicationsNew/guidelines-standards/conservation-principles-sustainable-management-historic-environment/conservationprinciplespoliciesandguidanceapril08web.pdf

Water for people and the environment - Water Resources Strategy for England and Wales, Environment Agency 2009

<http://a0768b4a8a31e106d8b0-50dc802554eb38a24458b98ff72d550b.r19.cf3.rackcdn.com/geho0309bpx-e-e.pdf>

Making Space for Nature: A review of England's Wildlife Sites and Ecological Network, (Chaired by Professor Sir John Lawton CBE FRS) Defra 2010

<http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20130402170324/http://archive.defra.gov.uk/environment/biodiversity/documents/201009space-for-nature.pdf>

Biodiversity 2020: A strategy for England's wildlife and ecosystem services (Defra 2011)

www.defra.gov.uk/publications/2011/08/19/pb13583-biodiversity-strategy-2020/

Strategic Framework for Tourism in England 2010 – 2020 (Visit England 2011)

www.visitengland.org/strategicframework/

'The Natural Choice', the Natural Environment White Paper (Defra 2012)

www.defra.gov.uk/environment/natural/whitepaper/

Healthy lives, healthy people: Improving outcomes and supporting transparency (DH 2012)

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_132358

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