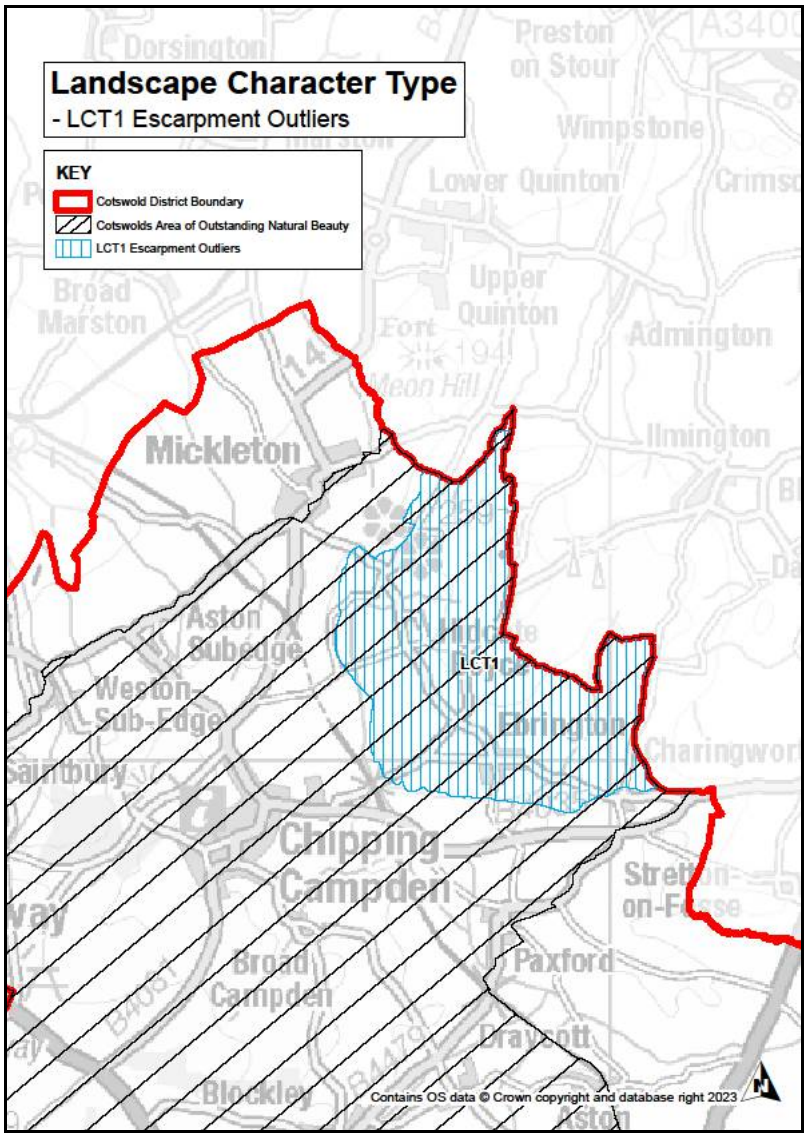
Annex F

Appendix E: Cotswold District Council Landscape Sensitivity Assessment for the Cotswold National Landscape

This appendix presents the results of a Landscape Sensitivity Assessment (LSA) of wind turbine and solar PV development for those areas within Cotswold District that fall within the Cotswold National Landscape. This was produced by Cotswold District Council in September 2023, and was based on the methodology used by LUC to undertake the LSA for those areas within the District that fall outside the Cotswold National landscape, as presented in Appendix C.

Landscape Character Type 1: Escarpment Outliers



Landscape Sensitivity Assessment

Criteria	Description	Sensitivity Score	
		Wind	Solar
Landform and Scale (including sense of openness/enclosure)	- Distinctive Hills detached from the main Cotswolds escarpment and rising above the neighbouring vale forming prominent landscape features visible from great distances. - Varied and sometimes steeply sloping topography reflecting localised differences in geology.	H	H
Landcover (including field and settlement pattern)	- Areas of rough grassland and scrub occur on some sections of the upper slopes and areas of steep landform often supporting remnants of ancient species rich grasslands and providing important habitats for many species of flora and fauna. - Woodlands and belts of trees often occupy steeper slopes of the outliers and also border the gullies of brooks draining radially into the vale. Veteran trees, scrub and ancient woodlands provide important habitats for a range of species. - Lower, gentler slopes cloaked in improved pastures and arable farmland, divided by a network of hedgerows and some dry stone walls.	H	H
Historic Landscape Character	- Sparsely settled. Small wayside villages on lower slopes give way to isolated farmsteads and dwellings linked by narrow winding lanes on upper slopes and contribute to the generally remote character. - Hilltops often the site of prehistoric hillforts or other defensive enclosures indicating a long history of settlement and a reminder of the strategic importance they held in the wider landscape.	H	H
Visual Character (including skylines/intervisibility)	- Dramatic panoramic views from upper slopes possible over the Severn Vale to the Welsh borders and Eastwards to the Cotswolds Escarpment	H	H
Perceptual Qualities	- The Outliers are a distinctive, highly visible landscape type that retains a remote character. As a result, the hills are highly sensitive to change that	H	H

	would introduce built elements to otherwise agricultural landscapes.		
Scenic and Special Qualities	- Dramatic panoramic views emphasise the remoteness and inaccessibility of many parts of the outliers. - Displays special qualities for which the AONB was designated.	H	H

Overall Assessment of Landscape Sensitivity to Development Scenarios

Please note: Landscape sensitivity often varies within an LCA, with areas exhibiting higher and lower sensitivity. It is therefore very important to take note of the explanatory text supporting the assessments in each Landscape Character Type profile, particularly the box entitled 'notes on any variations in landscape sensitivity'. Whilst the Landscape Sensitivity Assessment results provide an initial indication of landscape sensitivity, they should not be interpreted as definitive statements on the suitability of individual sites for a particular development. All proposals will need to be assessed on their own merits through the planning process, including – where required – through proposal-specific Landscape and Visual Impact Assessments (LVIAs).

Development Scenario	**Sensitivity**				
Very Small Wind Installation (up to 25m)					H
Small Wind Installation (25m to 60m)					H
Medium Wind Installation (60m to 100m)					H
Large Wind Installation (100m to 150m)					H
Very Large Wind Installation (150m to 200m)					H
Very Small Solar PV Installation (up to 1 hectare)					H
Small Solar PV Installation (1 to 5 hectares)					H
Medium Solar PV Installation (5 to 20 hectares)					H
Large Solar PV Installation (20 to 50 hectares)					H
Very Large Solar PV Installation (50 to 120 hectares)					H

Summary of Landscape Sensitivity

The Outliers are a distinctive, highly visible landscape type that often retains a remote character. As a result, the hills are highly sensitive to change that would introduce built elements to otherwise agricultural landscapes or interrupt the existing balance of rough pasture and woodland on their upper slopes.

Care should be taken to respect the character of each individual outlier and the various characteristics that are present on different faces of the same hill.

Variation to Overall LCT scores at the LCA level

- Only a small part of the LCT is present within the Cotswold District administrative area (LCA 1F Meon and Ebrington Hills).

Recommendations and Guidance for Future Developments within the LCT

Wind Energy Developments

Overall Recommendations:

- All turbine development is likely to be highly sensitive given the presence of the Cotswold AONB and its inherent sensitivities;
- The Cotswolds escarpment is identified as one of the AONBs special qualities. The LCT is therefore likely to be highly sensitive to this form of development; and
- Neighbouring LCTs would be visually sensitive to this form of development.

Strategic Landscape Guidance:

- Conserve the open, remote character by objecting to the development of vertical elements on the skyline or where these would adversely affect views across to and from the outliers;
- Ensure the development of vertical elements in neighbouring areas beyond the AONB or in adjacent LCTs do not adversely affect views to and from the Escarpment Outliers;
- Maintain the rural character of the landscape and ensure that cumulative development does not impact on the undeveloped skyline;
- Ensure the development of vertical elements in neighbouring LCTs and areas beyond the AONB do not adversely affect views to and from the Escarpment Outliers;
- Bury cables underground and seek opportunities to bury existing power lines;
- Avoid use of visually prominent urban security fencing and CCTV masts;
- Ensure a comprehensive LVIA is undertaken (including potential cumulative effects); and
- Ensure full assessment of heritage setting impacts and appropriate measures undertaken.

Solar PV Developments

Overall Recommendations:

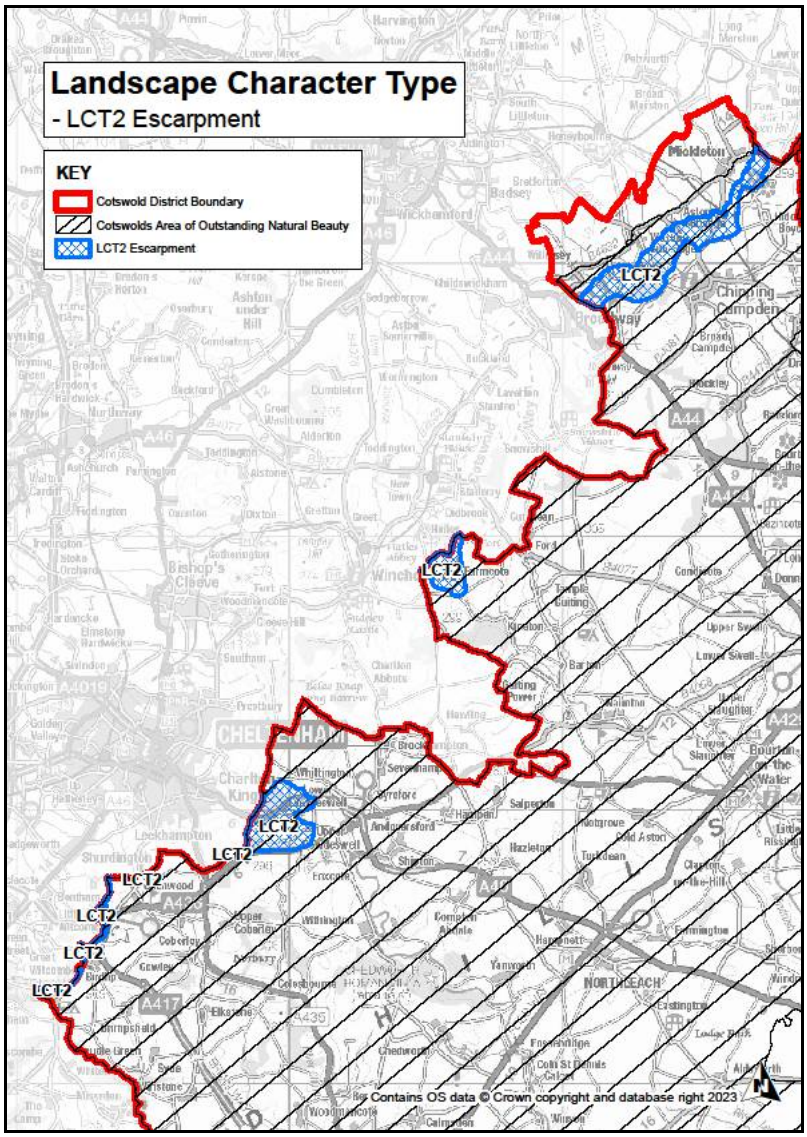
- All solar PV development is likely to be highly sensitive given the presence of the Cotswold AONB and its inherent sensitivities;
- The Cotswolds escarpment is identified as one of the AONBs special qualities. The LCT is therefore likely to be highly sensitive to this form of development; and
- Neighbouring LCTs would be visually sensitive to this form of development.

Strategic Landscape Guidance:

- Prevent proposals for solar farms that will impact negatively on landscape character and/or intrude into views to and/or from the outliers;
- Avoid proposals that will result in the loss or harm to landscape features such as Strip Lynchets, Ridge and Furrow, hedgerows and walls;
- Maintain the rural character of the landscape and ensure that cumulative development does not impact on the undeveloped skyline;
- Ensure a comprehensive LVIA is undertaken (including potential cumulative effects);
- Ensure a glint/glare assessment is undertaken to determine the heliographic impact on receptors;
- Reduce landscape impact with appropriate screening;
- Bury cables underground and seek opportunities to bury existing power lines;
- Keep supporting infrastructure to a minimum and ensure it is in keeping with landscape character;
- Ensure removal and restoration on temporary construction access;
- Avoid the inclusion of any security lighting proposals; and

- Seek appropriate landscape enhancement to field boundaries and margins within solar farm development proposals.

Landscape Character Type 2: Escarpment



Landscape Sensitivity Assessment

Criteria	Description	Sensitivity Score	
		Wind	Solar
Landform and Scale (including sense of openness/enclosure)	- Steep exposed and elevated west facing escarpment slope, partly cloaked in semi-natural broadleaved woodland. - Gentler landform on lower slopes below the spring line dissected by numerous streams and characterised by hummocky areas of former landslip, ridge and furrow and areas of arable farming blurring the transition with the surrounding vale.	H	H
Landcover (including field and settlement pattern)	- Generally poor soils and steep sloping relief of the escarpment not suited to arable farming. Primarily used for pasture or woodland. - Limited areas of Registered Common Land on upper scarp slopes merging into the more extensive areas on the High Wold represent an important landscape resource often of nationally important nature conservation and cultural heritage value. - Woodlands, hedgerows, scrub and isolated trees give the impression of a well wooded landscape.	H	H
Historic Landscape Character	- Rock outcrops often mark the site of former quarries. - Settlement generally confined to lower, shallower slopes, in sheltered locations and adjacent to spring lines. - Numerous prehistoric sited and follies are located on promontories and elevated sections of the escarpment indicating their symbolic and strategic importance.	H	H
Visual Character (including skylines/intervisibility)	- Strong sense of elevation with dramatic panoramic views over the Severn Vale and beyond. - The escarpment forms a dramatic relief feature visible from the Forest of Dean and Malverns. The escarpment is seen as a backdrop to the neighbouring lowlands. - Summit of the escarpment slopes often marked by dramatic linear beech hangers. These are often viewed as a silhouette against the skyline from the vale below.	H	H

Perceptual Qualities	- The open areas on the upper escarpment contrast with the more intimate landscapes at lower elevations. - The escarpment is a distinctive and dramatic landscape. The combination of its elevation, and the steep slopes rising from the lowlands, make it a highly visible feature and is therefore very sensitive to change.	H	H
Scenic and Special Qualities	- Continuity of escarpment face interrupted by a series of major valleys and embayments creating dramatic relief features and local interest. - A number of large towns and cities located at, or in the vicinity of the foot of the escarpment. The scarp forms a rural backdrop to urban development and limits eastward expansion.	H	H

Overall Assessment of Landscape Sensitivity to Development Scenarios

Please note: Landscape sensitivity often varies within an LCA, with areas exhibiting higher and lower sensitivity. It is therefore very important to take note of the explanatory text supporting the assessments in each Landscape Character Type profile, particularly the box entitled 'notes on any variations in landscape sensitivity'. Whilst the Landscape Sensitivity Assessment results provide an initial indication of landscape sensitivity, they should not be interpreted as definitive statements on the suitability of individual sites for a particular development. All proposals will need to be assessed on their own merits through the planning process, including – where required – through proposal-specific Landscape and Visual Impact Assessments (LVIAs).

Development Scenario	**Sensitivity**				
Very Small Wind Installation (up to 25m)					H
Small Wind Installation (25m to 60m)					H
Medium Wind Installation (60m to 100m)					H
Large Wind Installation (100m to 150m)					H
Very Large Wind Installation (150m to 200m)					H
Very Small Solar PV Installation (up to 1 hectare)					H
Small Solar PV Installation (1 to 5 hectares)					H
Medium Solar PV Installation (5 to 20 hectares)					H
Large Solar PV Installation (20 to 50 hectares)					H
Very Large Solar PV Installation (50 to 120 hectares)					H
Summary of Landscape Sensitivity					
The escarpment is a distinctive and dramatic landscape. The combination of its elevation, and the steep slopes rising from the lowlands, make it a highly visible feature and is therefore very sensitive to change, particularly where this would introduce built elements within the otherwise agricultural landscapes, or interrupt the balance of rough grassland, species rich calcareous grassland and broadleaved woodland on the upper escarpment slopes.					

The undulating lower escarpment slopes, at the junction of the vale, are visually less prominent than the upper escarpment slopes and generally more widely settled.

Variation to Overall LCT Scores at the LCA Level

- Only a small part of the LCT is present within the Cotswold District administrative area (LCA 2D Cooper's Hill to Winchcombe, 2E Winchcombe to Dover's Hill and 2F Dover's Hill to Mickleton).

Recommendations and Guidance for Future Developments within the LCT

Wind Energy Developments

Overall Recommendations:

- All turbine development is likely to be highly sensitive given the presence of the Cotswold AONB and its inherent sensitivities;
- The Cotswolds escarpment is identified as one of the AONBs special qualities. The LCT is therefore likely to be highly sensitive to this form of development; and
- Neighbouring LCTs would be visually sensitive to this form of development.

Strategic Landscape Guidance:

- Conserve the open, remote character by objecting to the development of vertical elements on the skyline or where these would adversely affect views along the escarpment or from the neighbouring vales and Cotswolds LCTs;
- Ensure the development of vertical elements in neighbouring areas beyond the AONB or in adjacent LCTs do not adversely affect views to, from and along the escarpment and across the adjacent LCTs;
- Maintain the rural character of the landscape and ensure that cumulative development does not impact on the undeveloped skyline;
- Ensure the development of vertical elements in neighbouring LCTs and areas beyond the AONB do not adversely affect views to and from the Escarpment Outliers;
- Bury cables underground and seek opportunities to bury existing power lines;
- Avoid use of visually prominent urban security fencing and CCTV masts;
- Ensure a comprehensive LVIA is undertaken (including potential cumulative effects); and
- Ensure full assessment of heritage setting impacts and appropriate measures undertaken.

Solar PV Developments

Overall Recommendations:

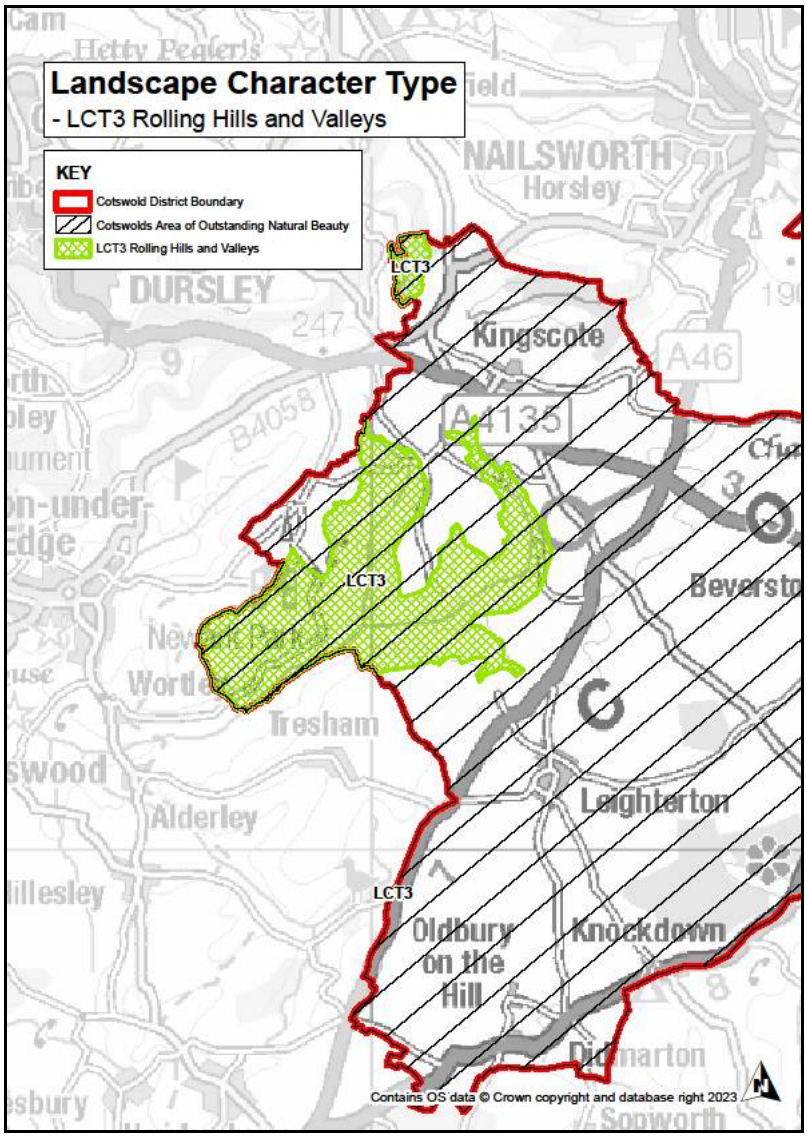
- All solar PV development is likely to be highly sensitive given the presence of the Cotswold AONB and its inherent sensitivities;
- The Cotswolds escarpment is identified as one of the AONBs special qualities. The LCT is therefore likely to be highly sensitive to this form of development; and
- Neighbouring LCTs would be visually sensitive to this form of development.

Strategic Landscape Guidance:

- Prevent proposals for solar farms that will impact negatively on landscape character and/or intrude into views to and/or from the escarpment;

- Avoid proposals that will result in the loss or harm to landscape features such as Strip Lynchets, Ridge and Furrow, hedgerows and walls;
- Maintain the rural character of the landscape and ensure that cumulative development does not impact on the undeveloped skyline;
- Ensure a comprehensive LVIA is undertaken (including potential cumulative effects);
- Ensure a glint/glare assessment is undertaken to determine the heliographic impact on receptors;
- Reduce landscape impact with appropriate screening;
- Bury cables underground and seek opportunities to bury existing power lines;
- Keep supporting infrastructure to a minimum and ensure it is in keeping with landscape character;
- Ensure removal and restoration on temporary construction access;
- Avoid the inclusion of any security lighting proposals; and
- Seek appropriate landscape enhancement to field boundaries and margins within solar farm development proposals.

Landscape Character Type 3: Rolling Hills and Valleys



Landscape Sensitivity Assessment

Criteria	Description	Sensitivity Score	
		Wind	Solar
Landform and Scale (including sense of openness/enclosure)	- Relatively enclosed and secluded 'secret' character in upper sections of the valleys and narrow valley bottoms, contrasts to more open landscapes on the neighbouring High Wold and High Wold Dip-Slope and in the Unwooded Vale below. - Broader and more open valley form and developed character where valleys meet the vale. - Steep sided concave valleys with steeper upper slopes often dominated by woodland, contribute to the area's rural and secretive character.	H	M-H
Landcover (including field and settlement pattern)	- Area principally under pastoral use, together with some scattered areas under arable cultivation, mainly within the valley slopes and bottom. Areas of scrubby pasture often evident on upper slopes. - Fields generally small-scale, mainly enclosed with hedgerows, with hedgerow trees being frequent on valley slopes creating a patchwork effect. - Post and wire fences frequent throughout the landscape break up the patterns created by hedgerows.	M-H	M-H
Historic Landscape Character	- Contrasting settlement patterns with larger settlements with more pronounced urban influences at valley mouths, and smaller and deeply rural settlements along valley bottoms upper valley slopes. - Grade 2 listed Park and Garden at Newark Park. - Grade 1 listed Newark Park plus other listings around the Newark Park estate. - Grade 2* listed Ozleworth Park and Church of St Nicholas plus other listings around the Ozleworth estate.	H	H
Visual Character (including skylines/intervisibility)	- The highly visible landscapes on the upper slopes of the valleys and spurs of land separating the valleys are highly sensitive to change.	H	H
Perceptual Qualities	- The upper valley sections represent quiet rural landscapes with strong	H	H

		associations of peace, tranquillity and a sense of remoteness.		
Scenic and Special Qualities	-	Landscape character is strong, and these sections of the valleys are highly sensitive to developments that may compromise these characteristics (quiet, rural, peaceful, tranquil and remoteness).	H	H

Overall Assessment of Landscape Sensitivity to Development Scenarios

Please note: Landscape sensitivity often varies within an LCA, with areas exhibiting higher and lower sensitivity. It is therefore very important to take note of the explanatory text supporting the assessments in each Landscape Character Type profile, particularly the box entitled 'notes on any variations in landscape sensitivity'. Whilst the Landscape Sensitivity Assessment results provide an initial indication of landscape sensitivity, they should not be interpreted as definitive statements on the suitability of individual sites for a particular development. All proposals will need to be assessed on their own merits through the planning process, including – where required – through proposal-specific Landscape and Visual Impact Assessments (LVIAs).

Development Scenario	**Sensitivity**				
Very Small Wind Installation (up to 25m)					H
Small Wind Installation (25m to 60m)					H
Medium Wind Installation (60m to 100m)					H
Large Wind Installation (100m to 150m)					H
Very Large Wind Installation (150m to 200m)					H
Very Small Solar PV Installation (up to 1 hectare)				M-H	
Small Solar PV Installation (1 to 5 hectares)				M-H	
Medium Solar PV Installation (5 to 20 hectares)					H
Large Solar PV Installation (20 to 50 hectares)					H
Very Large Solar PV Installation (50 to 120 hectares)					H

Summary of Landscape Sensitivity

The upper valley sections represent quiet rural landscapes with strong associations of peace, tranquillity and a sense of remoteness. Landscape character is strong, and these sections of the valleys are highly sensitive to developments that may compromise these characteristics. Of similar sensitivity are the highly visible landscapes on the upper slopes of the valleys and spurs of land separating the valleys.

The more expansive and heavily settled mouths of the valleys are generally less sensitive although change should reflect the form, massing and layout of the existing valley settlements. New development should be avoided on highly visible valley sides.

Variation to Overall LCT Scores at the LCA Level

- Only a small part of the LCT is present within the Cotswold District administrative area.
- Areas which are strongly overlooked from the surrounding elevated LCAs have higher levels of sensitivity to all the renewable energy development scenarios considered as part of this LSA.

- Steep slopes which lack woodland coverage and screening, including those on the valley sides, have higher levels of sensitivity due to visual prominence in these areas.

Recommendations and Guidance for Future Developments within the LCT

Wind Energy Developments

Overall Recommendations:

- All turbine development is likely to be highly sensitive given the presence of the Cotswold AONB and its inherent sensitivities;
- The upper valley sections represent quiet rural landscapes with strong associations of peace, tranquillity and a sense of remoteness;
- The setting of a number of highly listed country houses and parks is an important consideration; and
- Neighbouring LCTs would be visually sensitive to this form of development.

Strategic Landscape Guidance:

- Conserve the secluded character and open spurs by objecting to the development of vertical elements on the skyline and valley rims or where they would adversely affect views within, to and from the Rolling Hills and Valleys;
- Maintain the rural character of the landscape and ensure that cumulative development does not impact on the undeveloped skyline;
- Ensure the development of vertical elements in neighbouring LCTs and areas beyond the AONB do not adversely affect views to and from the valleys;
- Bury cables underground and seek opportunities to bury existing overhead cables;
- Avoid use of visually prominent urban security fencing and CCTV masts;
- Consider other renewable energy technologies; and
- Ensure full assessment of heritage setting impacts and appropriate measures undertaken.

Solar PV Developments

Overall Recommendations:

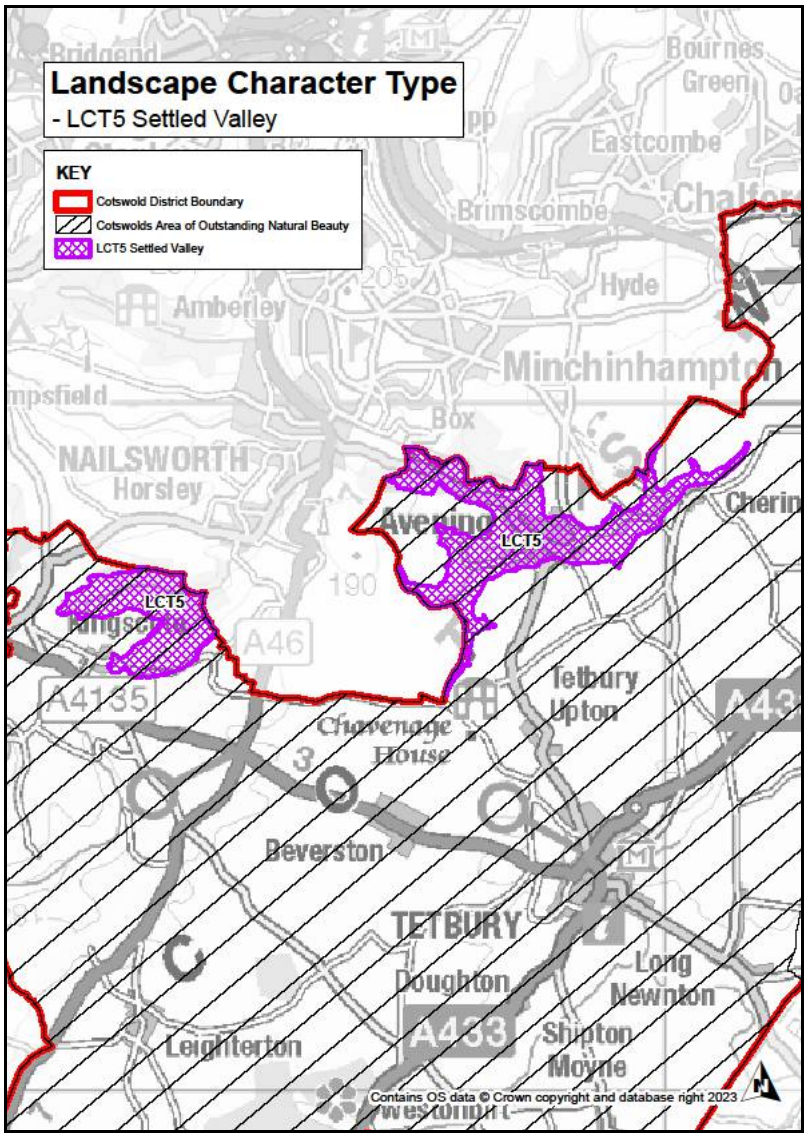
- There may be opportunities to locate solar PV developments (up to and including 5ha) within more sheltered fields where they are bound by tall hedgerows or riparian vegetation;
- Anything larger than this is considered to be highly sensitive given the presence of the Cotswold AONB and its inherent sensitivities;
- The setting of a number of highly listed country houses and parks is an important consideration; and
- PV developments should be sited within farmland, not semi-natural habitat to retain naturalistic characteristics and habitat interest.

Strategic Landscape Guidance:

- Prevent proposals for solar farms that will impact negatively on landscape character and/or intrude into views or result in loss or harm to landscape features such as hedgerows, trees and Ridge and Furrow;
- Maintain the rural character of the landscape and ensure that cumulative development does not impact on the relatively undeveloped skyline;
- Reduce landscape and visual impact with appropriate screening;

- Ensure a comprehensive LVIA is undertaken (including potential cumulative effects);
- Ensure a glint/glare assessment is undertaken to determine the heliographic impact on receptors;
- Bury cables underground and seek opportunities to bury existing power lines;
- Keep supporting infrastructure to a minimum and ensure it is in keeping with landscape character;
- Ensure removal and restoration on temporary construction access;
- Avoid the inclusion of any security lighting proposals; and
- Seek appropriate landscape enhancement to field boundaries and margins within solar farm development proposals.

Landscape Character Type 5: Settled Valley



Landscape Sensitivity Assessment

Criteria	Description	Sensitivity Score	
		Wind	Solar
Landform and Scale (including sense of openness/enclosure)	- Steep sided, concave, narrow valleys with upper sections forming an abrupt break of slope with the High Wold and High Wold Dip-Slope. - Strong sense of enclosure provided by the steep-sided valley profile and presence of woodland.	H	M-H
Landcover (including field and settlement pattern)	- Predominantly pastoral land use with scattered areas of arable land enclosed by a network of hedgerow boundaries providing a rural backdrop to urban forms. - Relatively well wooded with deciduous species predominating, with a large proportion of ancient woodland. - Stone walls are common features within the valley bottoms particularly surrounding settlements and create distinctive field patterns.	M-H	M-H
Historic Landscape Character	- Sequence of settlements along the valley bottoms and sides resulting in a settled character. - Strong evidence of industrial past from communications infrastructure and mills and stone built civic buildings confined primarily to valley floors. - Historic associations with industrial period apparent, with terraces of houses following contours close to the sites of mills. - Grade 2 listed Gatcombe Park and Garden present.	H	H
Visual Character (including skylines/intervisibility)	- The settled valleys are under particular pressure from the outward expansion of existing urban areas onto the steep, highly visible valley sides.	H	H
Perceptual Qualities	- A strong sense of enclosure is provided by the valley sides and tall hedges, many of which contain mature trees. - In most places there are high levels of tranquillity, although urban development can detract from this. - The valleys are sensitive to the coalescence of settlements along the valley floor, resulting in the loss of their distinctive identity.	H	H

Scenic and Special Qualities	- Extensive road network within the majority of valleys connecting settlements and areas within the valleys to the High Wold. - Land exhibits special qualities of the AONB. - The steep valley sides have limited development and the landscape has retained much of its traditional rural character. - Isolated and deeply rural character survives in remoter tributary valleys.	H	H

Overall Assessment of Landscape Sensitivity to Development Scenarios

Please note: Landscape sensitivity often varies within an LCA, with areas exhibiting higher and lower sensitivity. It is therefore very important to take note of the explanatory text supporting the assessments in each Landscape Character Type profile, particularly the box entitled 'notes on any variations in landscape sensitivity'. Whilst the Landscape Sensitivity Assessment results provide an initial indication of landscape sensitivity, they should not be interpreted as definitive statements on the suitability of individual sites for a particular development. All proposals will need to be assessed on their own merits through the planning process, including – where required – through proposal-specific Landscape and Visual Impact Assessments (LVIAs).

Development Scenario	**Sensitivity**				
Very Small Wind Installation (up to 25m)					H
Small Wind Installation (25m to 60m)					H
Medium Wind Installation (60m to 100m)					H
Large Wind Installation (100m to 150m)					H
Very Large Wind Installation (150m to 200m)					H
Very Small Solar PV Installation (up to 1 hectare)				M-H	
Small Solar PV Installation (1 to 5 hectares)				M-H	
Medium Solar PV Installation (5 to 20 hectares)					H
Large Solar PV Installation (20 to 50 hectares)					H
Very Large Solar PV Installation (50 to 120 hectares)					H
Summary of Landscape Sensitivity					
The settled valleys are under particular pressure from the outward expansion of existing urban areas onto the steep, highly visible valley sides. Such development would detract from the characteristic wooded, rural backdrop of valley towns and their typical linear form. The valleys are also sensitive to the coalescence of settlements along the valley floor, resulting in the loss of their distinctive identity. Despite the close proximity of large urban areas, some valleys retain an isolated rural character. The remoter sections of these valleys are highly sensitive to change that would promise their intrinsic character.					
Variation to Overall LCT Scores at the LCA Level					

- Only a small part of the LCT is present within the Cotswold District administrative area.
- Areas which are strongly overlooked from the surrounding elevated LCAs have higher levels of sensitivity to all the renewable energy development scenarios considered as part of this LSA.
- Steep slopes which lack woodland coverage and screening, including those on the valley sides, have higher levels of sensitivity due to visual prominence in these areas.

Recommendations and Guidance for Future Development Within the LCT

Wind Energy Developments

Overall Recommendations:

- All turbine development is likely to be highly sensitive given the presence of the Cotswold AONB and its inherent sensitivities;
- The areas of Settled Valley LCT present within the Cotswold District have limited settlement present. This enhances the rural and tranquil character of the LCT;
- The setting of Gatcombe Park is an important consideration; and
- Likely to affect views from neighbouring LCTs.

Strategic Landscape Guidance:

- Conserve the often open character of the valleys by objecting to the development of vertical elements on the skyline or where these would adversely affect views to and from the valley slopes along the valleys;
- Maintain the rural character of the landscape and ensure that cumulative development does not impact on the undeveloped skyline;
- Ensure the development of vertical elements in neighbouring LCTs and areas beyond the AONB do not adversely affect views to and from the valleys;
- Bury cables underground and seek opportunities to bury existing overhead cables;
- Avoid use of visually prominent urban security fencing and CCTV masts;
- Consider other renewable energy technologies; and
- Ensure full assessment of heritage setting impacts and appropriate measures undertaken.

Solar PV Developments

Overall Recommendations:

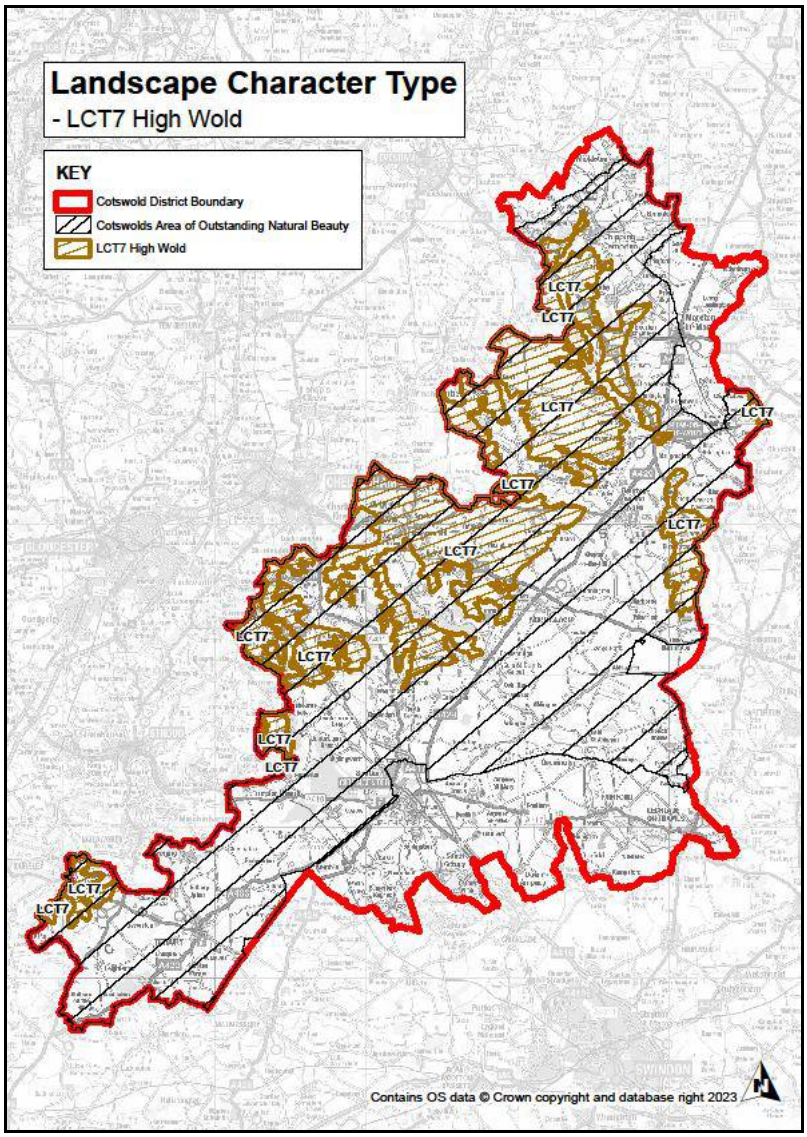
- There may be opportunities to locate solar PV developments (up to and including 5ha) within more sheltered fields where they are bound by tall hedgerows or riparian vegetation;
- Anything larger than this is considered to be highly sensitive given the presence of the Cotswold AONB and its inherent sensitivities;
- The setting of Gatcombe Park is an important consideration; and
- PV developments should be sited within farmland, not semi-natural habitat to retain naturalistic characteristics and habitat interest.

Strategic Landscape Guidance:

- Prevent proposals for solar farms that will impact negatively on landscape character and/or intrude into views across or along the valleys;
- Avoid proposals that will result in the loss or harm to landscape features such as hedgerows and walls;

- Maintain the rural character of the landscape and ensure that cumulative development does not impact on the relatively undeveloped skyline;
- Reduce landscape and visual impact with appropriate screening;
- Ensure a comprehensive LVIA is undertaken (including potential cumulative effects);
- Ensure a glint/glare assessment is undertaken to determine the heliographic impact on receptors;
- Bury cables underground and seek opportunities to bury existing power lines;
- Keep supporting infrastructure to a minimum and ensure it is in keeping with landscape character;
- Ensure removal and restoration on temporary construction access;
- Avoid the inclusion of any security lighting proposals; and
- Seek appropriate landscape enhancement to field boundaries and margins within solar farm development proposals.

Landscape Character Type 7: High Wold



Landscape Sensitivity Assessment

Criteria	Description	Sensitivity Score	
		Wind	Solar
Landform and Scale (including sense of openness/enclosure)	- Broad, elevated, gently undulating plateau dissected by a network of dry valleys with distinctive convex profile valley sides. - large areas of open landscape with big skies.	H	M-H
Landcover (including field and settlement pattern)	- Predominantly arable land use with some improved pasture/grass leys, and very limited permanent pasture mainly confined to valley bottoms. - Large scale, regular fields mainly enclosed by dry stone walls, together with hedgerows with very occasional hedgerow trees, and post and wire fencing create a patchwork effect across wide areas of the landscape. - Small to moderate size geometric farm woodlands, many comprising small coniferous and broadleaved plantations and shelterbelts, and plantations bordering roads provide shelter across areas of otherwise open landscape.	M-H	M
Historic Landscape Character	- Evidence of a long period of occupation of the landscape, with many Neolithic and Bronze Age barrows and Iron Age hillforts. - Settlement limited to small villages and hamlets, generally within valleys, and isolated farmsteads and individual dwellings.	M-H	M-H
Visual Character (including skylines/intervisibility)	- Expansive long distance views across the open plateau and to distant hills beyond the Severn Vale. - Prominent telecommunication masts and power lines gain visual prominence as vertical elements in otherwise vast sweeping landscapes.	H	H
Perceptual Qualities	- Low density of settlement resulting in a sense of tranquillity and areas of dark skies.	H	H
Scenic and Special Qualities	- An expansive, large-scale landscape with long views and an impression of cohesion that belies its fragmentation. - Displays special qualities for which the AONB was designated.	H	H

Overall Assessment of Landscape Sensitivity to Development Scenarios

Please note: Landscape sensitivity often varies within an LCA, with areas exhibiting higher and lower sensitivity. It is therefore very important to take note of the explanatory text supporting the assessments in each Landscape Character Type profile, particularly the box entitled 'notes on any variations in landscape sensitivity'. Whilst the Landscape Sensitivity Assessment results provide an initial indication of landscape sensitivity, they should not be interpreted as definitive statements on the suitability of individual sites for a particular development. All proposals will need to be assessed on their own merits through the planning process, including – where required – through proposal-specific Landscape and Visual Impact Assessments (LVIAs).

Development Scenario	Sensitivity				
Very Small Wind Installation (up to 25m)					H
Small Wind Installation (25m to 60m)					H
Medium Wind Installation (60m to 100m)					H
Large Wind Installation (100m to 150m)					H
Very Large Wind Installation (150m to 200m)					H
Very Small Solar PV Installation (up to 1 hectare)			M		
Small Solar PV Installation (1 to 5 hectares)				M-H	
Medium Solar PV Installation (5 to 20 hectares)				M-H	
Large Solar PV Installation (20 to 50 hectares)					H
Very Large Solar PV Installation (50 to 120 hectares)					H

Summary of Landscape Sensitivity

Despite its predominantly agricultural character, the wide, elevated, gently undulating plateau landscape retains a strong sense of remoteness and tranquillity contributing to its high sensitivity. Wide panoramic views, a high degree of inter-visibility, and limited woodland cover also add to the sensitivity of the High Wold landscape to development, particularly tall vertical elements, such as wind turbines.

The High Wold contains a large number of Prehistoric monuments including funerary monuments dating to the Neolithic and Bronze Age and defensive enclosures dating to the Iron Age. These are an important component of the landscape and highly sensitive to development that may affect their landscape setting and material remains.

Variation to Overall LCT Scores at the LCA Level

- None

Recommendations and Guidance for Future Development Within the LCT

Wind Energy Developments

Overall Recommendations:

- All turbine development is likely to be highly sensitive given the presence of the Cotswold AONB and its inherent sensitivities; and
- Neighbouring LCTs would be visually sensitive to this form of development.

Strategic Landscape Guidance:

- Conserve the open, remote character by objecting to the development of vertical elements on the skyline or where these would adversely affect views across and to the High Wold;
- Ensure the development of vertical elements in neighbouring LCTs and areas beyond the AONB do not adversely affect views to, from and across the High Wold;
- Maintain the rural character of the landscape and ensure that cumulative development does not impact on the undeveloped skyline;
- Bury cables underground and seek opportunities to bury existing power lines;
- Avoid use of visually prominent urban security fencing and CCTV masts;
- Ensure a comprehensive LVIA is undertaken (including potential cumulative effects); and
- Ensure full assessment of heritage setting impacts and appropriate measures undertaken.

Solar PV Developments

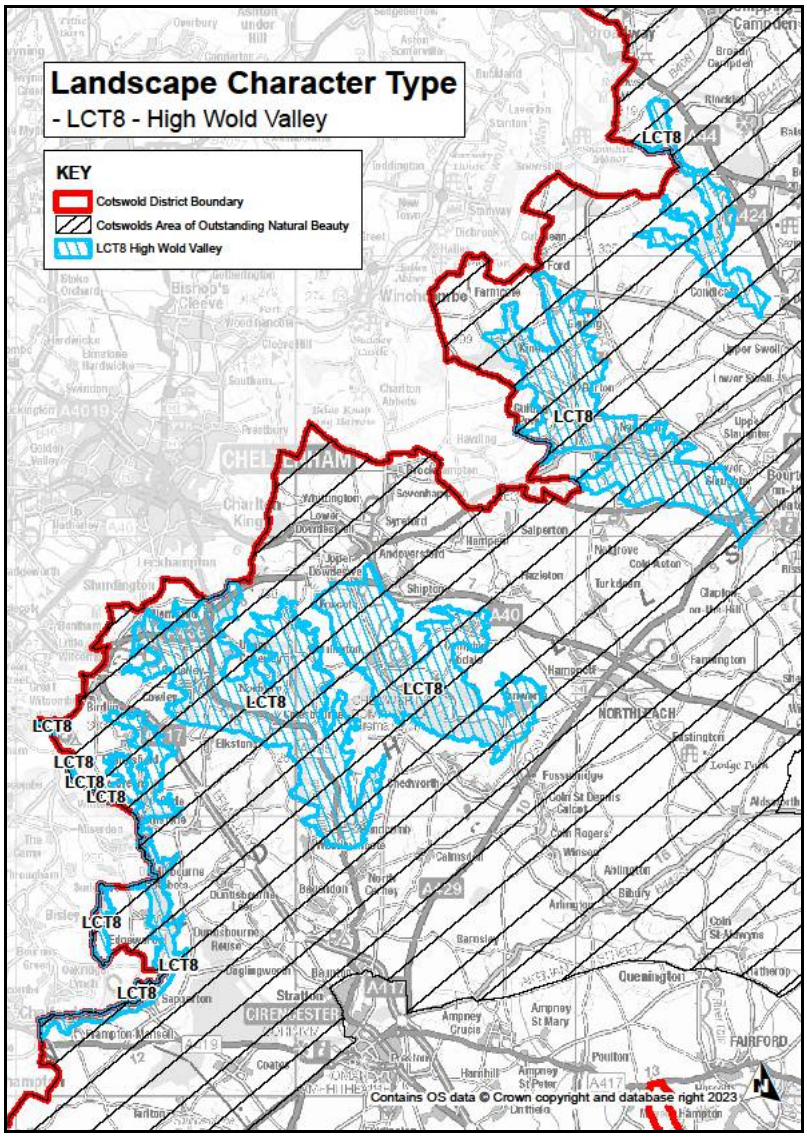
Overall Recommendations:

- There may be opportunities to locate solar PV developments (up to and including 20ha) within more sheltered fields where they are bound by characteristic hedgerows;
- Anything larger than this is considered to be highly sensitive given the presence of the Cotswold AONB and its inherent sensitivities;
- The setting of heritage assets is an important consideration; and
- PV developments should be sited within farmland, not semi-natural habitat to retain naturalistic characteristics and habitat interest.

Strategic Landscape Guidance:

- Prevent proposals for solar farms that will impact negatively on landscape character and/or intrude into views;
- Avoid proposals that will result in the loss or harm to landscape features such as Strip Lynchets, hedgerows and walls;
- Maintain the rural character of the landscape and ensure that cumulative development does not impact on the undeveloped skyline;
- Reduce landscape and visual impact with appropriate screening;
- Ensure a comprehensive LVIA is undertaken (including potential cumulative effects);
- Ensure a glint/glare assessment is undertaken to determine the heliographic impact on receptors;
- Bury cables underground and seek opportunities to bury existing power lines;
- Keep supporting infrastructure to a minimum and ensure it is in keeping with landscape character;
- Ensure removal and restoration on temporary construction access;
- Avoid the inclusion of any security lighting proposals; and
- Seek appropriate landscape enhancement to field boundaries and margins within solar farm development proposals.

Landscape Character Type 8: High Wold Valley



Landscape Sensitivity Assessment

Criteria	Description	Sensitivity Score	
		Wind	Solar
Landform and Scale (including sense of openness/enclosure)	- Predominantly dry or ephemeral flow headwater valleys with generally broad valley form and shallow slope profiles. - Incised valley form below heads of valleys with often steep, convoluted valley sides dissected by minor watercourses and distinctive convex profile at transition with the High Wold and forming dramatic landscape features and contrast to the open landscapes characteristic of the neighbouring High Wold.	H	M-H
Landcover (including field and settlement pattern)	- Areas of open pastoral farmland extend between the wooded slopes, and along valley bottoms, together with pockets of arable land, particularly on the shallower slopes indicative of a well-settled and long farmed landscape.	M-H	M
Historic Landscape Character	- Occasional private parklands and gardens associated with country houses add to the wooded and historic character of the valleys. - Intermittent stone villages occupying secluded locations in valley bottoms, often in association with a bridging point, indicate a long history of settlement in the valleys.	M-H	M-H
Visual Character (including skylines/intervisibility)	- Extensive areas of predominantly broadleaved woodland cloaking sections of the valley sides, particularly across the steeper sections, create visual containment and add to the secluded, secretive character of many stretches of the valleys.	H	M-H
Perceptual Qualities	- A strong sense of enclosure is provided by the valley sides and tall hedges, many of which contain mature trees. - The sheltered landscapes of the valleys provide a relative sense of enclosure and seclusion in comparison to the surrounding more open and exposed High Wold.	H	M-H
Scenic and Special Qualities	- The steep valley sides have limited development and the landscape has retained much of its traditional rural character.	H	H

	- The geology of the area is reflected in building materials, with many traditional houses, farm buildings and walls constructed in Cotswold limestone, as well as the presence of dry stone walls.		

Overall Assessment of Landscape Sensitivity to Development Scenarios

Please note: Landscape sensitivity often varies within an LCA, with areas exhibiting higher and lower sensitivity. It is therefore very important to take note of the explanatory text supporting the assessments in each Landscape Character Type profile, particularly the box entitled 'notes on any variations in landscape sensitivity'. Whilst the Landscape Sensitivity Assessment results provide an initial indication of landscape sensitivity, they should not be interpreted as definitive statements on the suitability of individual sites for a particular development. All proposals will need to be assessed on their own merits through the planning process, including – where required – through proposal-specific Landscape and Visual Impact Assessments (LVIAs).

Development Scenario	**Sensitivity**				
Very Small Wind Installation (up to 25m)					H
Small Wind Installation (25m to 60m)					H
Medium Wind Installation (60m to 100m)					H
Large Wind Installation (100m to 150m)					H
Very Large Wind Installation (150m to 200m)					H
Very Small Solar PV Installation (up to 1 hectare)			M		
Small Solar PV Installation (1 to 5 hectares)			M		
Medium Solar PV Installation (5 to 20 hectares)				M-H	
Large Solar PV Installation (20 to 50 hectares)					H
Very Large Solar PV Installation (50 to 120 hectares)					H

Summary of Landscape Sensitivity

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

Variation to Overall LCT Scores at the LCA Level

- None

Recommendations and Guidance for Future Development Within the LCT

Wind Energy Developments

Overall Recommendations:

- All turbine development is likely to be highly sensitive given the presence of the Cotswold AONB and its inherent sensitivities; and
- Neighbouring LCTs would be visually sensitive to this form of development.

Strategic Landscape Guidance:

- Conserve the character by opposing the development of wind turbines where these would adversely affect views along the valleys and from the valley sides and on valley rims;
- Ensure the development of vertical elements in neighbouring LCTs and areas beyond the AONB do not adversely affect views to, from and across or along the valleys;
- Maintain the rural character of the landscape and ensure that cumulative development does not impact on the undeveloped skyline;
- Bury cables underground and seek opportunities to bury existing power lines;
- Avoid use of visually prominent urban security fencing and CCTV masts;
- Ensure a comprehensive LVIA is undertaken (including potential cumulative effects); and
- Ensure full assessment of heritage setting impacts and appropriate measures undertaken.

Solar PV Developments

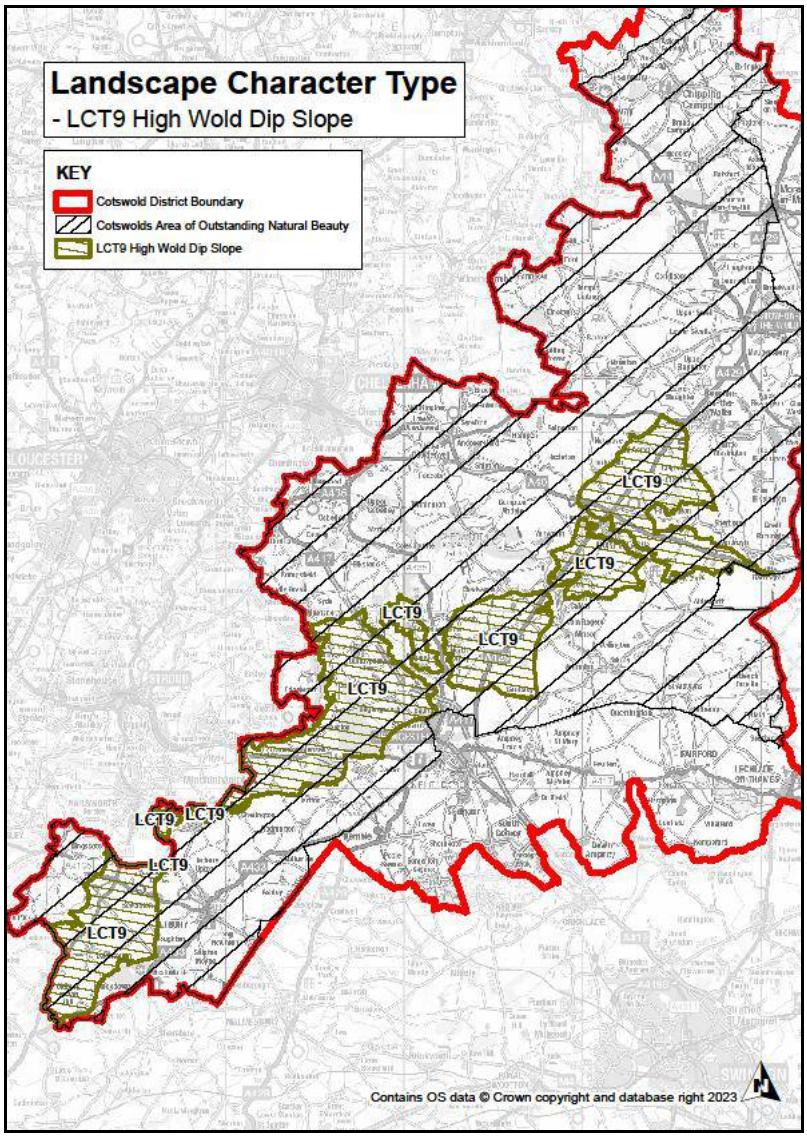
Overall Recommendations:

- There may be opportunities to locate solar PV developments (up to and including 20ha) within more sheltered fields where they are bound by characteristic hedgerows;
- Anything larger than this is considered to be highly sensitive given the presence of the Cotswold AONB and its inherent sensitivities;
- The setting of heritage assets is an important consideration; and
- PV developments should be sited within farmland, not semi-natural habitat to retain naturalistic characteristics and habitat interest.

Strategic Landscape Guidance:

- Prevent proposals for solar farms that will impact negatively on landscape character and/or intrude into views;
- Avoid proposals that will result in the loss or harm to landscape features such as hedgerows and walls;
- Maintain the rural character of the landscape and ensure that cumulative development does not impact on the undeveloped skyline;
- Reduce landscape and visual impact with appropriate screening;
- Ensure a comprehensive LVIA is undertaken (including potential cumulative effects);
- Ensure a glint/glare assessment is undertaken to determine the heliographic impact on receptors;
- Bury cables underground and seek opportunities to bury existing power lines;
- Keep supporting infrastructure to a minimum and ensure it is in keeping with landscape character;
- Ensure removal and restoration on temporary construction access;
- Avoid the inclusion of any security lighting proposals; and
- Seek appropriate landscape enhancement to field boundaries and margins within solar farm development proposals.

Landscape Character Type 9: High Wold Dip Slope



Landscape Sensitivity Assessment

Criteria	Description	Sensitivity Score	
		Wind	Solar
Landform and Scale (including sense of openness/enclosure)	- Soft, gently undulating landscape with a south-easterly fall dissected by a series of predominantly south-east flowing rivers.	H	M-H
Landcover (including field and settlement pattern)	- Widespread arable farming lends it a well maintained, productive character, with a strong framework of hedges and woodland defining a complex mosaic of small scale arable and pasture land. - Network of dry valley systems provide intimate pastoral landscapes within the wider arable landscape.	M-H	M
Historic Landscape Character	- Airfields on shallow sloping elevated landscapes are evidence of their former strategic role in the defence of Britain in World War II. - Designed parklands and gardens exert a subtle influence over the landscape.	M-H	M-H
Visual Character (including skylines/intervisibility)	- Intermittent long distance views towards the High Wold and across neighbouring lowlands in which the subtle but distinctive slope profiles of the landscape can be discerned.	H	M-H
Perceptual Qualities	- A strong sense of openness. - Where arable farming predominates and fields are large, there is a sense of a prairie type landscape which can contribute to a sense of remoteness.	H	H
Scenic and Special Qualities	- Landscape displays many of the characteristics of the neighbouring High Wold and Dip-Slope Lowland landscape between the two. - Stone walls less prevalent than on the High Wold although still make a significant contribution to landscape character.	H	H

Overall Assessment of Landscape Sensitivity to Development Scenarios

Please note: Landscape sensitivity often varies within an LCA, with areas exhibiting higher and lower sensitivity. It is therefore very important to take note of the explanatory text supporting the assessments in each Landscape Character Type profile, particularly the box entitled 'notes on any variations in landscape sensitivity'. Whilst the Landscape Sensitivity Assessment results provide an initial indication of landscape sensitivity, they should not be interpreted as definitive statements on the suitability of individual sites for a particular development. All proposals will need to be assessed

on their own merits through the planning process, including – where required – through proposal-specific Landscape and Visual Impact Assessments (LVIAs).

Development Scenario	Sensitivity				
Very Small Wind Installation (up to 25m)					H
Small Wind Installation (25m to 60m)					H
Medium Wind Installation (60m to 100m)					H
Large Wind Installation (100m to 150m)					H
Very Large Wind Installation (150m to 200m)					H
Very Small Solar PV Installation (up to 1 hectare)			M		
Small Solar PV Installation (1 to 5 hectares)				M-H	
Medium Solar PV Installation (5 to 20 hectares)				M-H	
Large Solar PV Installation (20 to 50 hectares)					H
Very Large Solar PV Installation (50 to 120 hectares)					H

Summary of Landscape Sensitivity

The wide, elevated, gently undulating Dip-Slope landscape is sensitive to landscape change. Characteristic features such as wide panoramic views, a high degree of intervisibility and limited woodland cover increase the sensitivity of the landscape. It is particularly sensitive to large scale developments or elements that may introduce tall vertical elements.

In view of the brownfield status of decommissioned airfields, they are particularly susceptible to proposals for new large-scale development that has the potential to have a widespread impact on landscape character and visual amenity over large areas of the surrounding landscape. Such sites may offer some capacity for development, however, due to the established use of existing development, but nevertheless require careful site planning and mitigation.

Variation to Overall LCT Scores at the LCA Level

- None

Recommendations and Guidance for Future Development Within the LCT

Wind Energy Developments

Overall Recommendations:

- All turbine development is likely to be highly sensitive given the presence of the Cotswold AONB and its inherent sensitivities; and
- Neighbouring LCTs would be visually sensitive to this form of development.

Strategic Landscape Guidance:

- Conserve the open and often remote character by objecting to the development of turbines where these would adversely affect the skyline and views along and to the High Wold Dip-slope;
- Ensure the development of vertical elements in neighbouring LCTs and areas beyond the AONB do not adversely affect views to and from the southern scarp area and from the panoramic south and south east views;
- Maintain the rural character of the landscape and ensure that cumulative development does not impact on the undeveloped skyline;
- Bury cables underground and seek opportunities to bury existing power lines;
- Avoid use of visually prominent urban security fencing and CCTV masts; and

- Ensure a comprehensive LVIA is undertaken (including potential cumulative effects).

Solar PV Developments

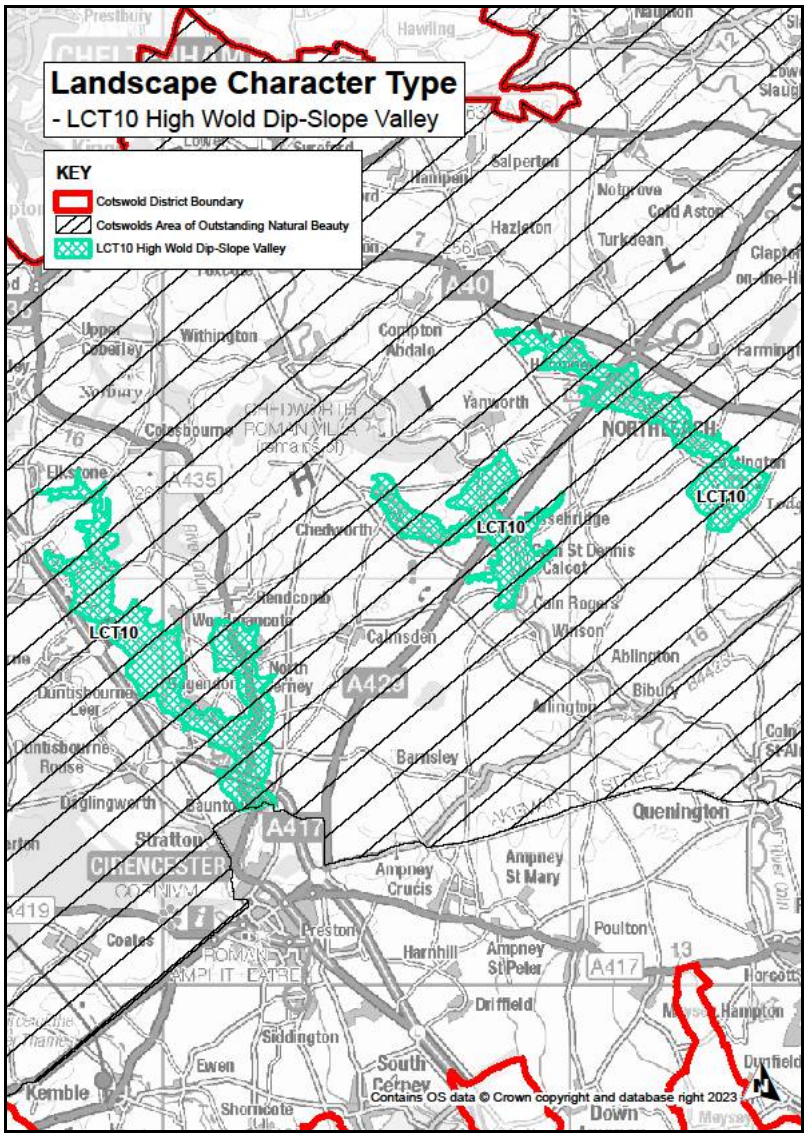
Overall Recommendations:

- There may be opportunities to locate solar PV developments (up to and including 20ha) within more sheltered fields where they are bound by characteristic hedgerows;
- Anything larger than this is considered to be highly sensitive given the presence of the Cotswold AONB and its inherent sensitivities; and
- PV developments should be sited within farmland, not semi-natural habitat to retain naturalistic characteristics and habitat interest.

Strategic Landscape Guidance:

- Prevent proposals for solar farms that will impact negatively on landscape character and/or intrude into views;
- Avoid proposals that will result in the loss or harm to landscape features such as Strip Lynchets, hedgerows and walls;
- Maintain the rural character of the landscape and ensure that cumulative development does not impact on the undeveloped skyline;
- Reduce landscape and visual impact with appropriate screening;
- Ensure a comprehensive LVIA is undertaken (including potential cumulative effects);
- Ensure a glint/glare assessment is undertaken to determine the heliographic impact on receptors;
- Bury cables underground and seek opportunities to bury existing power lines;
- Keep supporting infrastructure to a minimum and ensure it is in keeping with landscape character;
- Ensure removal and restoration on temporary construction access;
- Avoid the inclusion of any security lighting proposals; and
- Seek appropriate landscape enhancement to field boundaries and margins within solar farm development proposals.

Landscape Character Type 10: High Wold Dip Slope Valley



Landscape Sensitivity Assessment

Criteria	Description	Sensitivity Score	
		Wind	Solar
Landform and Scale (including sense of openness/enclosure)	- Well-defined, gentle concave valley forms with intermittently very steep and indented sides dissected by minor watercourses represent the mid sections of valleys that rise on the High Wold and drain south-eastwards through the Dip-Slope Lowlands to the Thames. - Parts of the valley floor have an intimate, small-scale character due to enclosure from surrounding wooded valley slopes and hedgerows.	H	M-H
Landcover (including field and settlement pattern)	- Predominance of pastoral farmland of improved grassland extend between small woodlands on slopes, and along valley bottoms, together with pockets of arable land, particularly on the shallower slopes which together define a productive farmland character where landform permits. - Intermittent areas of predominantly broadleaved and mixed woodland extend across sections of the valley sides, particularly across the steeper sections form a backdrop to valley settlements and add texture to the otherwise smooth verdant pastures.	M-H	M-H
Historic Landscape Character	- Intermittent stone built villages occupy sheltered locations in valley bottoms, often in association with a bridging point indicate a long history of settlement in the valleys. - Numerous conservations areas, listed structures and registered parks and gardens present within the LCT - Private parklands within or adjacent to the valley influence the local character of the landscape in the form of estate architecture and formal planned planting.	H	H
Visual Character (including skylines/intervisibility)	- Sheltered, visually contained and intimate valley systems provide a contrast to the more open landscapes on the neighbouring High Wold Dip-Slope. - Views over the valleys from upper slopes are extensive and the farmed	M-H	M

	valley slopes form a backdrop to views from the valley floors.		
Perceptual Qualities	- The valleys retain a rural and tranquil agricultural character, with large areas only accessible on foot, increasing the perception of remoteness. - The A435 and A417 has an urbanising effect on LCA 10a.	H	M-H
Scenic and Special Qualities	- These valleys, like the High Wold Dip Slope through which they cut, form a transitional zone between the High Wold Valleys and the Dip-Slope Lowland Valleys.	H	H

Overall Assessment of Landscape Sensitivity to Development Scenarios

Please note: Landscape sensitivity often varies within an LCA, with areas exhibiting higher and lower sensitivity. It is therefore very important to take note of the explanatory text supporting the assessments in each Landscape Character Type profile, particularly the box entitled 'notes on any variations in landscape sensitivity'. Whilst the Landscape Sensitivity Assessment results provide an initial indication of landscape sensitivity, they should not be interpreted as definitive statements on the suitability of individual sites for a particular development. All proposals will need to be assessed on their own merits through the planning process, including – where required – through proposal-specific Landscape and Visual Impact Assessments (LVIAs).

Development Scenario	**Sensitivity**				
Very Small Wind Installation (up to 25m)					H
Small Wind Installation (25m to 60m)					H
Medium Wind Installation (60m to 100m)					H
Large Wind Installation (100m to 150m)					H
Very Large Wind Installation (150m to 200m)					H
Very Small Solar PV Installation (up to 1 hectare)			M		
Small Solar PV Installation (1 to 5 hectares)				M-H	
Medium Solar PV Installation (5 to 20 hectares)				M-H	
Large Solar PV Installation (20 to 50 hectares)					H
Very Large Solar PV Installation (50 to 120 hectares)					H

Summary of Landscape Sensitivity

The soft pastoral landscape of the High Wold Dip-Slope Valleys are sensitive to development that would compromise their rural character. Whilst the agricultural landscape appears profitable and well managed, areas of nature conservation interest exist in the form of riparian and riverine habitats along watercourses at the base of the valleys and areas of ancient broadleaved woodland and calcareous grassland on steep landform beyond the limits of grazing stock. These are particularly sensitive to direct change brought about by development.

Variation to Overall LCT Scores at the LCA Level

- The A435 and A417 has an urbanising effect on LCA 10a.
- LCA 10b and 10c heavily influenced by conservation areas and other historic designations.

Recommendations and Guidance for Future Development Within the LCT

Wind Energy Developments

Overall Recommendations:

- All turbine development is likely to be highly sensitive given the presence of the Cotswold AONB and its inherent sensitivities.

Strategic Landscape Guidance:

- Conserve the open and often remote character by objecting to the development of turbines where these would adversely affect views from valley sides and on valley rims;
- Conserve the secluded character of the High Wold Dip-Slope Valleys by objecting to the development of turbines where these would adversely affect views to and from valley sides and rims;
- Ensure the development of vertical elements in neighbouring LCTs do not adversely affect views across or along the valleys;
- Maintain the rural character of the landscape and ensure that cumulative development does not impact on the undeveloped skyline;
- Bury cables underground and seek opportunities to bury existing power lines;
- Avoid use of visually prominent urban security fencing and CCTV masts;
- Ensure a comprehensive LVIA is undertaken (including potential cumulative effects); and
- Ensure full assessment of heritage setting impacts and appropriate measures undertaken.

Solar PV Developments

Overall Recommendations:

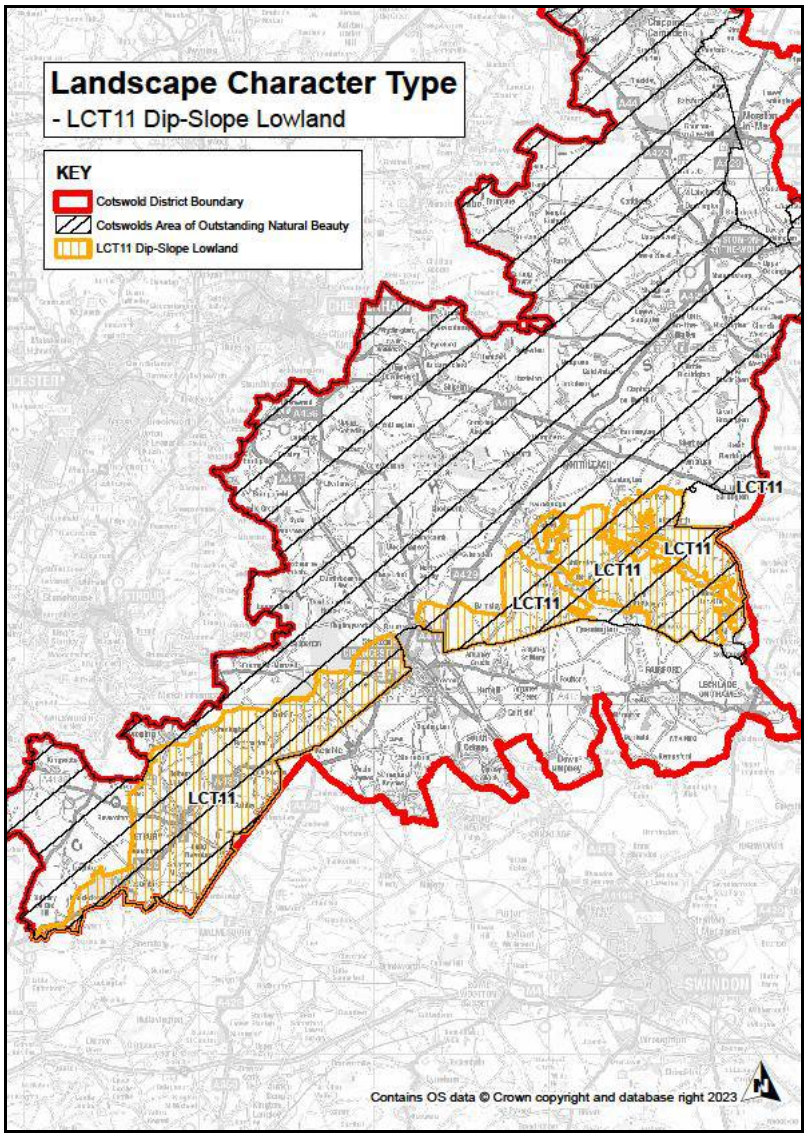
- There may be opportunities to locate solar PV developments (up to and including 20ha) within more sheltered fields where they are bound by characteristic hedgerows;
- Anything larger than this is considered to be highly sensitive given the presence of the Cotswold AONB and its inherent sensitivities; and
- PV developments should be sited within farmland, not semi-natural habitat to retain naturalistic characteristics and habitat interest.

Strategic Landscape Guidance:

- Prevent proposals for solar farms that will impact negatively on landscape character and/or intrude into views;
- Avoid proposals that will result in the loss or harm to landscape features such as Strip Lynchets, hedgerows and walls;
- Maintain the rural character of the landscape and ensure that cumulative development does not impact on the undeveloped skyline;
- Reduce landscape and visual impact with appropriate screening;
- Ensure a comprehensive LVIA is undertaken (including potential cumulative effects);
- Ensure a glint/glare assessment is undertaken to determine the heliographic impact on receptors;
- Bury cables underground and seek opportunities to bury existing power lines;
- Keep supporting infrastructure to a minimum and ensure it is in keeping with landscape character;
- Ensure removal and restoration on temporary construction access;
- Avoid the inclusion of any security lighting proposals; and

- Seek appropriate landscape enhancement to field boundaries and margins within solar farm development proposals.

Landscape Character Type 11: Dip Slope Lowland



Landscape Sensitivity Assessment

Criteria	Description	Sensitivity Score	
		Wind	Solar
Landform and Scale (including sense of openness/enclosure)	- Broad area of gently sloping, undulating lowland with a predominantly south-easterly fall represents a transition between the landscape of the High Wold Dip-Slope to the north and west and the low lying landscapes in the Thames basin to the south east. - Lowland landform gently dissected by infrequent small watercourses flowing into the main rivers that cross the area, reinforcing the general grain of the topography. - Open character but smaller in scale than the High Wold and High Wold Dip Slope.	M-H	M
Landcover (including field and settlement pattern)	- Well-managed, productive agricultural landscape of mixed arable and improved pasture, together with more limited areas of permanent pasture, mainly within the valley bottoms. - Medium to large scale regular fields predominate, mainly enclosed by hedgerows, with hedgerow trees, together with some stone walls or post and wire fencing indicating strong similarities with the High Wold and High Wold Dip Slope landscape to the north and west. - Woodland cover limited to intermittent copses and shelterbelts within agricultural landscapes. - Settlement pattern of intermittent small nucleated villages, hamlets and isolated farmsteads, together with occasional larger settlements, contribute to the strong rural character.	M-H	M
Historic Landscape Character	- Distinctive pattern of large estates and associated planned parkland landscape and woodland occurring throughout the area. - Evidence of long period of occupation.	M-H	M
Visual Character (including skylines/intervisibility)	- Open and often expansive views extend across the almost flat landscape, screened by flat boundaries and shelterbelts.	M-H	M

	- Dip Slope Lowland makes an important contribution to the wider character of the landscape due to the influences of designed parkland and planned woodland planting which often form a backdrop to long distance views across the otherwise open landscape.		
Perceptual Qualities	- A largely quiet landscape with a rural and remote agricultural character. - Busy roads including the B4425 and A433 produce localised sound and visual disruption. - The settlement of Tetbury is a prominent feature within the south of the LCT.	M-H	M
Scenic and Special Qualities	- Attractive agricultural landscape punctuated with linear road corridors and settlement. - Demonstrates a number of the special qualities for which the AONB was designated. This includes high levels of tranquillity, distinctive settlements and areas of dark skies.	H	H

Overall Assessment of Landscape Sensitivity to Development Scenarios

Please note: Landscape sensitivity often varies within an LCA, with areas exhibiting higher and lower sensitivity. It is therefore very important to take note of the explanatory text supporting the assessments in each Landscape Character Type profile, particularly the box entitled 'notes on any variations in landscape sensitivity'. Whilst the Landscape Sensitivity Assessment results provide an initial indication of landscape sensitivity, they should not be interpreted as definitive statements on the suitability of individual sites for a particular development. All proposals will need to be assessed on their own merits through the planning process, including – where required – through proposal-specific Landscape and Visual Impact Assessments (LVIAs).

Development Scenario	**Sensitivity**				
Very Small Wind Installation (up to 25m)				M-H	
Small Wind Installation (25m to 60m)				M-H	
Medium Wind Installation (60m to 100m)					H
Large Wind Installation (100m to 150m)					H
Very Large Wind Installation (150m to 200m)					H
Very Small Solar PV Installation (up to 1 hectare)		L-M			
Small Solar PV Installation (1 to 5 hectares)			M		
Medium Solar PV Installation (5 to 20 hectares)				M-H	
Large Solar PV Installation (20 to 50 hectares)					H
Very Large Solar PV Installation (50 to 120 hectares)					H
Summary of Landscape Sensitivity					

The strongly structured cultivated Dip Slope Lowland landscape is sensitive to large scale development that might interrupt wide views across the landscape and in particular to development that would introduce tall vertical elements such as turbines.

However, the presence of more intensively managed landscapes makes Dip Slope Lowlands generally less sensitive than remoter and more elevated landscape on the High Wold and High Wold Dip-Slope. Areas where a strong woodland framework exists are particularly suited to accommodate development. Development proposals should avoid extensive woodland planting, as this would compromise the open character of the landscape and long views across the Dip-Slope Lowlands.

Parkland landscapes are particularly sensitive to developments that might compromise their historic character and the contribution they make to the wider landscape of the Dip Slope Lowlands. Care should be taken to ensure that developments do not compromise elements that constitute the wider setting of designed parklands such as estate villages and tree plantations.

Variation to Overall LCT Scores at the LCA Level

- The settlement of Tetbury within LCA 11a is a prominent feature.

Recommendations and Guidance for Future Development Within the LCT

Wind Energy Developments

Overall Recommendations:

- There may be opportunities for the siting of wind turbines up to 60m within the larger-scale, open landscape away from more intimate areas of smaller scale pasture (ensuring the guidance below is followed); and
- The scattering of turbines should be minimised to avoid significant cumulative impacts on landscape character from arising.

Strategic Landscape Guidance:

- Conserve the open and often remote character of the Dip-Slope Lowland by objecting to the development of turbines where these would adversely affect panoramas and views along and to the Dip-Slope Lowland;
- Ensure that any new developments are similar in terms of siting, layout and relationship to key landscape characteristics, so as to present a simple image that relates clearly to landscape character;
- Avoid close juxtaposition of different turbine designs and heights within the height category, aiming instead for a consistent design and height in any given area;
- Ensure the development of vertical elements in neighbouring LCTs do not adversely affect views across or along the valleys;
- Maintain the rural character of the landscape and ensure that cumulative development does not impact on the relatively undeveloped skyline;
- Ensure wind energy development does not detract from historic landmarks such as scheduled monuments, villages with conservation areas and the setting of listed buildings, including church spires that are often locally important skyline features;
- Consider views from local settlements and popular recreational routes/areas;
- Bury cables underground and seek opportunities to bury existing power lines;
- Avoid use of visually prominent urban security fencing and CCTV masts;
- Ensure a comprehensive LVIA is undertaken (including potential cumulative effects); and
- Ensure full assessment of heritage setting impacts and appropriate measures undertaken.

Solar PV Developments

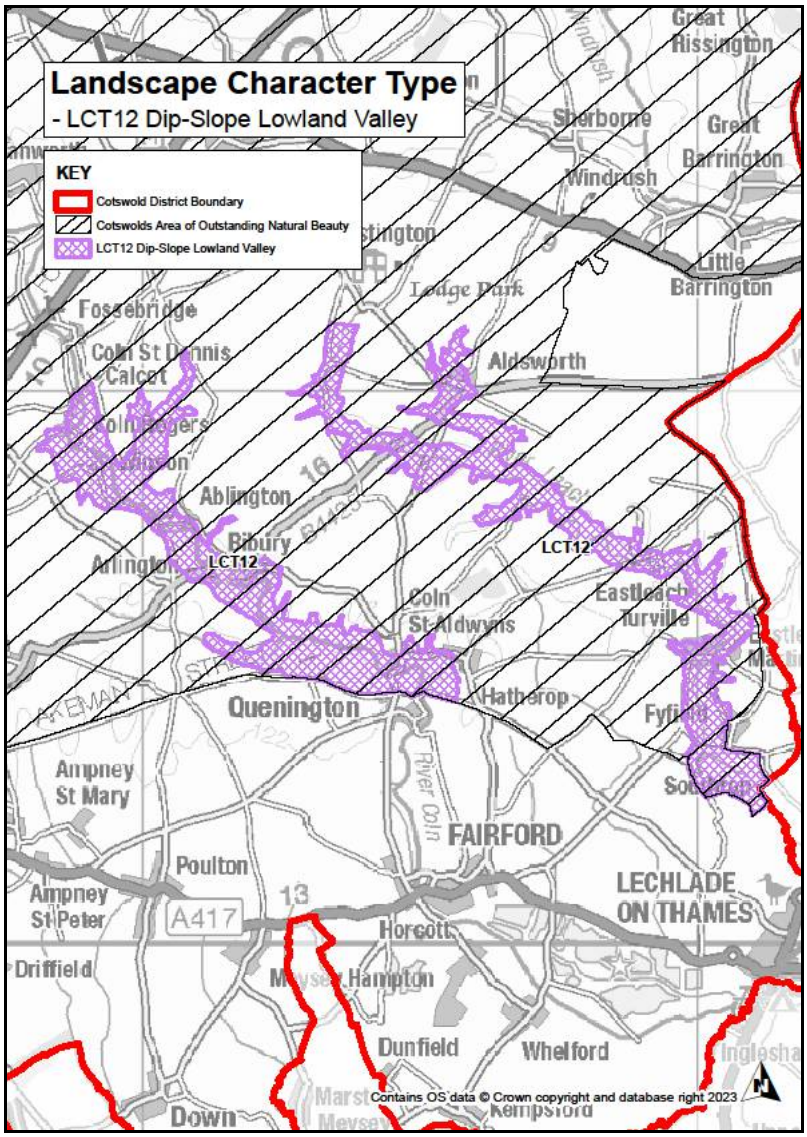
Overall Recommendations:

- There may be opportunities to locate solar PV developments (up to and including 20ha) within more sheltered fields where they are bound by characteristic hedgerows;
- Anything larger than this is considered to be highly sensitive given the presence of the Cotswold AONB and its inherent sensitivities; and
- PV developments should be sited within farmland, not semi-natural habitat to retain naturalistic characteristics and habitat interest.

Strategic Landscape Guidance:

- Prevent proposals for solar farms that will impact negatively on landscape character and/or intrude into views;
- Avoid proposals that will result in the loss or harm to landscape features such as Strip Lynchets, hedgerows and walls;
- Maintain the rural character of the landscape and ensure that cumulative development does not impact on the undeveloped skyline;
- Reduce landscape and visual impact with appropriate screening;
- Ensure a comprehensive LVIA is undertaken (including potential cumulative effects);
- Ensure a glint/glare assessment is undertaken to determine the heliographic impact on receptors;
- Bury cables underground and seek opportunities to bury existing power lines;
- Keep supporting infrastructure to a minimum and ensure it is in keeping with landscape character;
- Ensure removal and restoration on temporary construction access;
- Avoid the inclusion of any security lighting proposals; and
- Seek appropriate landscape enhancement to field boundaries and margins within solar farm development proposals.

Landscape Character Type 12: Dip Slope Lowland Valley



Landscape Sensitivity Assessment

Criteria	Description	Sensitivity Score	
		Wind	Solar
Landform and Scale (including sense of openness/enclosure)	- Well-defined valley form with convex slope profile at transition onto the adjacent Dip Slope Lowland landscape. - Progressively shallower and more open valley form within the lower reaches of the Thames tributaries extending into the very gently undulating landscape of the Thames Basin.	H	M-H
Landcover (including field and settlement pattern)	- Predominance of open pastoral farmland of improved grassland between intermittent wooded slopes and along valley bottoms, together with pockets of arable land, particularly on the shallower slopes extending onto the neighbouring Dip Slope Lowlands providing seasonal variations in texture and colour. - Linear belts of mixed and broadleaved woodland follow steeper landform and often extend up to the river edge. These often combine with hedgerow and hedgerow trees to create the impression of a well-wooded landscape and represent important green ways linking the river to the wider landscape.	M-H	M-H
Historic Landscape Character	- Sequence of stone built villages occupying secluded locations in valley bottoms, often in association with a bridging point and on valley sides. - High density of historic features, including traditional villages with conservation areas and concentrations of listed buildings.	H	H
Visual Character (including skylines/intervisibility)	- Intimate, small scale, settled landscape character with landform and woodlands restricting long views out of the valleys. - Views over the valleys from upper slopes are extensive and the farmed valley slopes form a backdrop to views from the valley floors.	H	M-H
Perceptual Qualities	- The valleys retain a rural and tranquil agricultural character, with large areas only accessible on foot, increasing the perception of remoteness.	H	H
Scenic and Special Qualities	- Some areas of the valleys, including tributary valleys are only accessible on	H	H

	foot and retain a remote rural character.		

Overall Assessment of Landscape Sensitivity to Development Scenarios

Please note: Landscape sensitivity often varies within an LCA, with areas exhibiting higher and lower sensitivity. It is therefore very important to take note of the explanatory text supporting the assessments in each Landscape Character Type profile, particularly the box entitled 'notes on any variations in landscape sensitivity'. Whilst the Landscape Sensitivity Assessment results provide an initial indication of landscape sensitivity, they should not be interpreted as definitive statements on the suitability of individual sites for a particular development. All proposals will need to be assessed on their own merits through the planning process, including – where required – through proposal-specific Landscape and Visual Impact Assessments (LVIAs).

Development Scenario	**Sensitivity**				
Very Small Wind Installation (up to 25m)					H
Small Wind Installation (25m to 60m)					H
Medium Wind Installation (60m to 100m)					H
Large Wind Installation (100m to 150m)					H
Very Large Wind Installation (150m to 200m)					H
Very Small Solar PV Installation (up to 1 hectare)			M		
Small Solar PV Installation (1 to 5 hectares)				M-H	
Medium Solar PV Installation (5 to 20 hectares)					H
Large Solar PV Installation (20 to 50 hectares)					H
Very Large Solar PV Installation (50 to 120 hectares)					H

Summary of Landscape Sensitivity

The Dip Slope Lowland Valleys are deeply rural and are therefore sensitive to developments that might compromise this characteristic. A number of deeply incised stretches of the valleys and some tributaries are inaccessible other than on foot and are therefore highly sensitive to development that might erode their remote character. These stretches also often contain significant areas of semi-natural broadleaved ancient woodland and species rich grassland, which in view of their national importance are highly sensitive to all forms of development that might result in their loss or damage.

In the more developed sections of their valleys, and where a strong woodland framework exists, the landscape is less sensitive due to tree cover offering opportunities to successfully integrate small scale developments into their surroundings. However, development should avoid the sensitive and more visually prominent upper valley slopes and areas of floodplain bordering the river channel.

Existing valley settlements also have a reduced sensitivity to change. However, consideration should be given to the contribution that sections of the valleys sides make to landscape and townscape character, particularly where these sensitive landscapes form a rural backdrop to the setting of valley villages.

Variation to Overall LCT Scores at the LCA Level

- None

Recommendations and Guidance for Future Development Within the LCT

Wind Energy Developments

Overall Recommendations:

- All turbine development is likely to be highly sensitive given the presence of the Cotswold AONB and its inherent sensitivities.

Strategic Landscape Guidance:

- Conserve the intimate character of the Dip-Slope Lowland Valley by objecting to the development of vertical elements where these would adversely affect views along the valleys;
- Ensure the development of vertical elements in neighbouring LCTs do not adversely affect views across or along the valleys;
- Maintain the rural character of the landscape and ensure that cumulative development does not impact on the undeveloped skyline;
- Bury cables underground and seek opportunities to bury existing power lines;
- Avoid use of visually prominent urban security fencing and CCTV masts;
- Ensure a comprehensive LVIA is undertaken (including potential cumulative effects); and
- Ensure full assessment of heritage setting impacts and appropriate measures undertaken.

Solar PV Developments

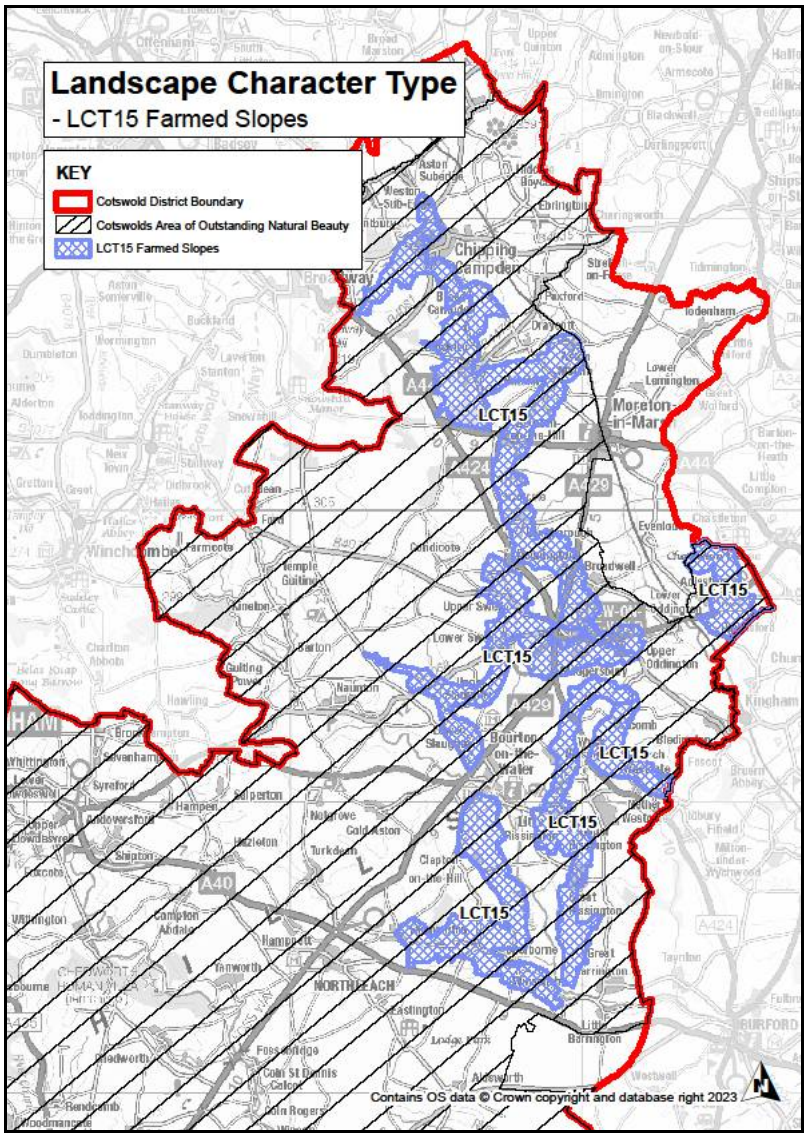
Overall Recommendations:

- There may be opportunities to locate solar PV developments (up to and including 5ha) within more sheltered fields where they are bound by characteristic hedgerows;
- Anything larger than this is considered to be highly sensitive given the presence of the Cotswold AONB and its inherent sensitivities; and
- PV developments should be sited within farmland, not semi-natural habitat to retain naturalistic characteristics and habitat interest.

Strategic Landscape Guidance:

- Prevent proposals for solar farms that will impact negatively on landscape character and/or intrude into views;
- Avoid proposals that will result in the loss or harm to landscape features such as Strip Lynchets, hedgerows and walls;
- Maintain the rural character of the landscape and ensure that cumulative development does not impact on the undeveloped skyline;
- Reduce landscape and visual impact with appropriate screening;
- Ensure a comprehensive LVIA is undertaken (including potential cumulative effects);
- Ensure a glint/glare assessment is undertaken to determine the heliographic impact on receptors;
- Bury cables underground and seek opportunities to bury existing power lines;
- Keep supporting infrastructure to a minimum and ensure it is in keeping with landscape character;
- Ensure removal and restoration on temporary construction access;
- Avoid the inclusion of any security lighting proposals; and
- Seek appropriate landscape enhancement to field boundaries and margins within solar farm development proposals.

Landscape Character Type 15: Farmed Slopes



Landscape Sensitivity Assessment

Criteria	Description	Sensitivity Score	
		Wind	Solar
Landform and Scale (including sense of openness/enclosure)	- Transitional landscape between the large fields and exposed nature of the High Wold and High Wold Dip Slope and the more sheltered and verdant, intimate landscapes of the Pastoral Lowland Vales. - Smooth gentle landform on lower slopes and sense of exposure on some upper slopes - Landform has a consistent north-south orientation following the course of the Evenlode and Windrush giving the landscape a well-defined grain and prodiving a general sense of orientation when in the vales.	H	M-H
Landcover (including field and settlement pattern)	- Productive arable and pasture farmland merging with areas of arable farming on the High Wold and High Wold Dip Slope and pasture farming in the lowland vale. - Strong pattern of hedgerows divide the farmed slopes into a patchwork of fields of sometime contrasting colours and textures.	M-H	M
Historic Landscape Character	- Areas of ridge and furrow on lower slopes indicate a long history of farming on the drier slopes above the less well-drained landscapes in the Vale. - Significant number of historic parks, sited to take advantage of the dramatic landform and extensive views, and often bordered by deciduous woodland.	M-H	M-H
Visual Character (including skylines/intervisibility)	- Some views across wide areas of the Pastoral Lowland Vales from upper slopes. - Small stone villages and hamlets climbing the slopes above the level of the wetter lowland vale are clearly visible from within the neighbouring lowlands and often afford wide views over the pastoral vales from their outer limits.	H	M-H
Perceptual Qualities	- The landscape has a rural and tranquil agricultural character.	H	H

	- A network of public rights of way cross the landscape, including a number of long distance promoted routes.		
Scenic and Special Qualities	- The landscape demonstrates a number of the special qualities for which the AONB was designated. Including 'big' skies, long distance views, dark skies, tranquillity and is an accessible landscape for quiet recreation.	H	H

Overall Assessment of Landscape Sensitivity to Development Scenarios

Please note: Landscape sensitivity often varies within an LCA, with areas exhibiting higher and lower sensitivity. It is therefore very important to take note of the explanatory text supporting the assessments in each Landscape Character Type profile, particularly the box entitled 'notes on any variations in landscape sensitivity'. Whilst the Landscape Sensitivity Assessment results provide an initial indication of landscape sensitivity, they should not be interpreted as definitive statements on the suitability of individual sites for a particular development. All proposals will need to be assessed on their own merits through the planning process, including – where required – through proposal-specific Landscape and Visual Impact Assessments (LVIAs).

Development Scenario	**Sensitivity**				
Very Small Wind Installation (up to 25m)					H
Small Wind Installation (25m to 60m)					H
Medium Wind Installation (60m to 100m)					H
Large Wind Installation (100m to 150m)					H
Very Large Wind Installation (150m to 200m)					H
Very Small Solar PV Installation (up to 1 hectare)			M		
Small Solar PV Installation (1 to 5 hectares)				M-H	
Medium Solar PV Installation (5 to 20 hectares)				M-H	
Large Solar PV Installation (20 to 50 hectares)					H
Very Large Solar PV Installation (50 to 120 hectares)					H

Summary of Landscape Sensitivity

Although gentler and shallower than the escarpment, the Farmed Slopes are in many respects similar, particularly with regard to their sensitivity to development.

Rising from the lowlands, the elevated and sloping landform of the Farmed Slopes makes them a highly visible feature and therefore very sensitive to change, particularly where this would introduce built elements to the otherwise agricultural landscape, or interrupt the strong patchwork patterns created by hedged pasture and arable fields.

The gentler lower slopes, at the junction of the Pastoral Vales, are visually less prominent than the upper slopes and generally more widely settled, decreasing their sensitivity to change and development.

Variation to Overall LCT Scores at the LCA Level

- None

Recommendations and Guidance for Future Development Within the LCT

Wind Energy Developments

Overall Recommendations:

- All turbine development is likely to be highly sensitive given the presence of the Cotswold AONB and its inherent sensitivities; and
- Neighbouring LCTs would be visually sensitive to this form of development.

Strategic Landscape Guidance:

- Conserve the open, remote character by objecting to the development of vertical elements particularly on the upper slopes and crest or where they would adversely affect views to and from the Farmed Slopes;
- Ensure the development of vertical elements in neighbouring LCTs and areas beyond the AONB do not adversely affect views to, from and across the Farmed Slopes;
- Maintain the rural character of the landscape and ensure that cumulative development does not impact on the undeveloped skyline;
- Bury cables underground and seek opportunities to bury existing power lines;
- Avoid use of visually prominent urban security fencing and CCTV masts;
- Ensure a comprehensive LVIA is undertaken (including potential cumulative effects); and
- Ensure full assessment of heritage setting impacts and appropriate measures undertaken.

Solar PV Developments

Overall Recommendations:

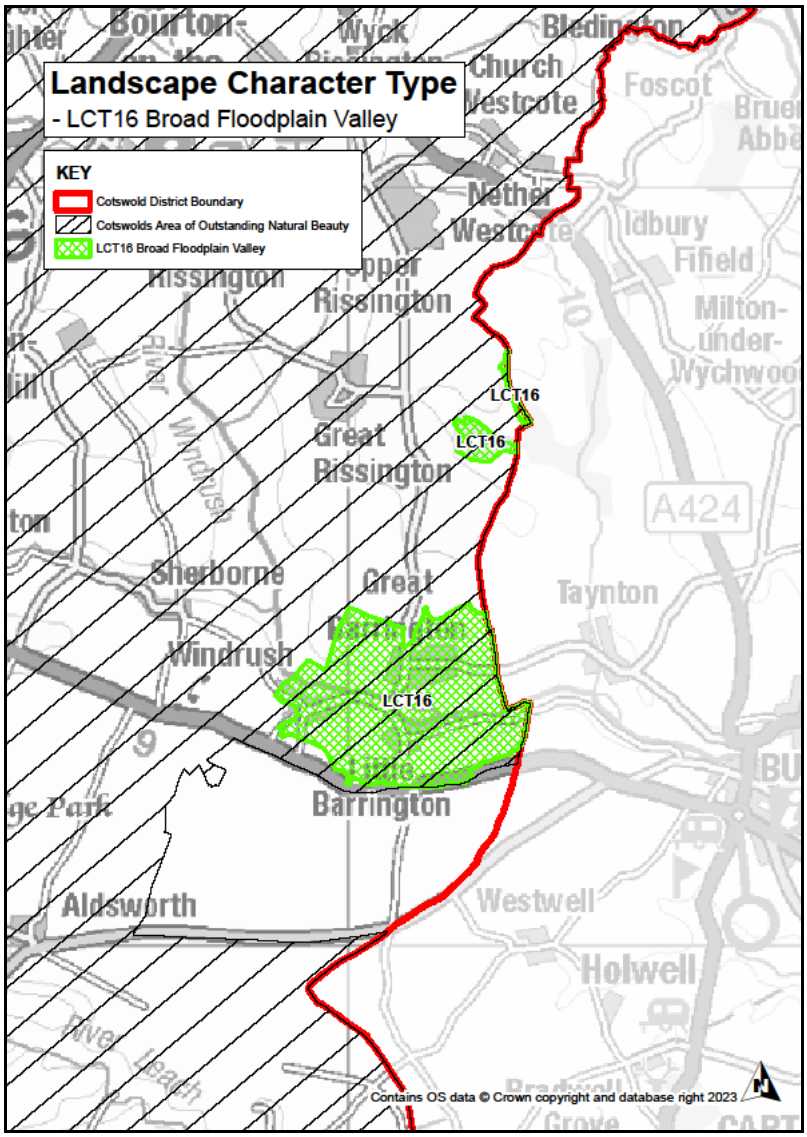
- There may be opportunities to locate solar PV developments (up to and including 20ha) within more sheltered fields where they are bound by characteristic hedgerows;
- Anything larger than this is considered to be highly sensitive given the presence of the Cotswold AONB and its inherent sensitivities;
- The setting of heritage assets is an important consideration; and
- PV developments should be sited within farmland, not semi-natural habitat to retain naturalistic characteristics and habitat interest.

Strategic Landscape Guidance:

- Avoid proposals for solar farms that will impact negatively on landscape character and/or intrude into views or result in loss or harm to landscape features such as hedgerows, trees and ridge and furrow;
- Maintain the rural character of the landscape and ensure that cumulative development does not impact on the undeveloped skyline;
- Reduce landscape and visual impact with appropriate screening;
- Ensure a comprehensive LVIA is undertaken (including potential cumulative effects);
- Ensure a glint/glare assessment is undertaken to determine the heliographic impact on receptors;
- Bury cables underground and seek opportunities to bury existing power lines;
- Keep supporting infrastructure to a minimum and ensure it is in keeping with landscape character;
- Ensure removal and restoration on temporary construction access;
- Avoid the inclusion of any security lighting proposals; and

- Seek appropriate landscape enhancement to field boundaries and margins within solar farm development proposals.

Landscape Character Type 16: Broad Floodplain Valley



Landscape Sensitivity Assessment

Criteria	Description	Sensitivity Score	
		Wind	Solar
Landform and Scale (including sense of openness/enclosure)	- Intimate, small scale settled and relatively busy landscape, contrasts with the more remote neighbouring areas of High Wold.	M-H	M-H
Landcover (including field and settlement pattern)	- Land use within valley floor and floodplain dominated by pasture although some extensive areas of arable land also occur on areas less prone to flooding offering contrasting land use elements and seasonal variations in colour and texture. - Valley sides cloaked in improved pasture and arable land forming a backdrop to the valley floor landscape and settlements. - Fields defined by hedgerows and some stone walls although the robust framework is eroded by hedgerow loss and the use of post and wire fencing. - River floodplain features such as meanders, water meadows, ponds, old river channel and islands provide visual interest and variety to the floodplain landscape.	M-H	M
Historic Landscape Character	- This LCT has a limited presence within the Cotswold District. The LCT within the district has a high concentration of conservation areas, registered parks and gardens (Barrington Park Grade 2*) and listed buildings. - Among the numerous listed buildings are Grade 1 listed Barrington Park and the Church of St Peter. - Linear settlements often located at ancient bridging and fording points established in the Saxon and Medieval period. - Historic character of villages evident in their distinctive layout, building styles and use of Oolitic limestone. - Prolific archaeological remains likely to be hidden by fluvial and human activity.	H	H
Visual Character (including skylines/intervisibility)	- Small in scale and relatively 'busy', the valleys have a well-defined profile that limits distant views and creates and impression of intimacy.	H	M-H

Perceptual Qualities	- Network of public rights of way present through the limited LCT area within the Cotswold District. These allow for quiet recreation within the area. - River corridor marked by main transport routes through the valley introduce movement and noise to an otherwise quiet, rural landscapes.	H	M-H
Scenic and Special Qualities	- Attractive agricultural landscape surrounds characteristic settlement and designed parkland. - Many of the special qualities of the AONB are present within the limited area present within the district.	H	H

Overall Assessment of Landscape Sensitivity to Development Scenarios

Please note: Landscape sensitivity often varies within an LCA, with areas exhibiting higher and lower sensitivity. It is therefore very important to take note of the explanatory text supporting the assessments in each Landscape Character Type profile, particularly the box entitled 'notes on any variations in landscape sensitivity'. Whilst the Landscape Sensitivity Assessment results provide an initial indication of landscape sensitivity, they should not be interpreted as definitive statements on the suitability of individual sites for a particular development. All proposals will need to be assessed on their own merits through the planning process, including – where required – through proposal-specific Landscape and Visual Impact Assessments (LVIAs).

Development Scenario	**Sensitivity**				
Very Small Wind Installation (up to 25m)					H
Small Wind Installation (25m to 60m)					H
Medium Wind Installation (60m to 100m)					H
Large Wind Installation (100m to 150m)					H
Very Large Wind Installation (150m to 200m)					H
Very Small Solar PV Installation (up to 1 hectare)			M		
Small Solar PV Installation (1 to 5 hectares)				M-H	
Medium Solar PV Installation (5 to 20 hectares)					H
Large Solar PV Installation (20 to 50 hectares)					H
Very Large Solar PV Installation (50 to 120 hectares)					H
Summary of Landscape Sensitivity					
The broad valleys retain a quiet, rural character. The landscape along the valley floor has an intimate, enclosed character with views limited by vegetation and landform. Wide views from the upper valley slopes and over long stretched of the valley are possible, thus increasing the sensitivity of the valleys to large scale built development that might interrupt views or impact on their rural character. Limited woodland cover in the valleys further reduces the capacity of the valleys to accommodate development as there is little to integrate new structures to their surroundings. The gently sloping valley sides also have limited development capacity as they often form an agricultural backdrop to views from the valley floor.					

The floodplain and valley floor are highly sensitive to development. The natural river profile is also an important feature of the landscape that should be protected and enhanced wherever possible.

Existing settlements along the valley floor and on the valley sides may have some capacity for built development although new buildings should respect local building styles and materials, ensuring that key views along the valleys to and from prominent features such as churches are retained and that settlement forms are perpetuated in the layout and location of new development.

Variation to Overall LCT Scores at the LCA Level

- Very limited part of the LCT is present within the Cotswold District.

Recommendations and Guidance for Future Development within the LCT

Wind Energy Developments

Overall Recommendations:

- All turbine development is likely to be highly sensitive given the presence of the Cotswold AONB and its inherent sensitivities; and
- Neighbouring LCTs would be visually sensitive to this form of development.

Strategic Landscape Guidance:

- Conserve the intimate, pastoral character and open valley floors of the Broad Floodplain Valley by objecting to the development of wind turbines where these would adversely affect views;
- Ensure the development of vertical elements in neighbouring LCTs and areas beyond the AONB do not adversely affect views to, from and across the Farmed Slopes;
- Maintain the rural character of the landscape and ensure that cumulative development does not impact on the undeveloped skyline;
- Bury cables underground and seek opportunities to bury existing power lines;
- Avoid use of visually prominent urban security fencing and CCTV masts;
- Ensure a comprehensive LVIA is undertaken (including potential cumulative effects); and
- Ensure full assessment of heritage setting impacts and appropriate measures undertaken.

Solar PV Developments

Overall Recommendations:

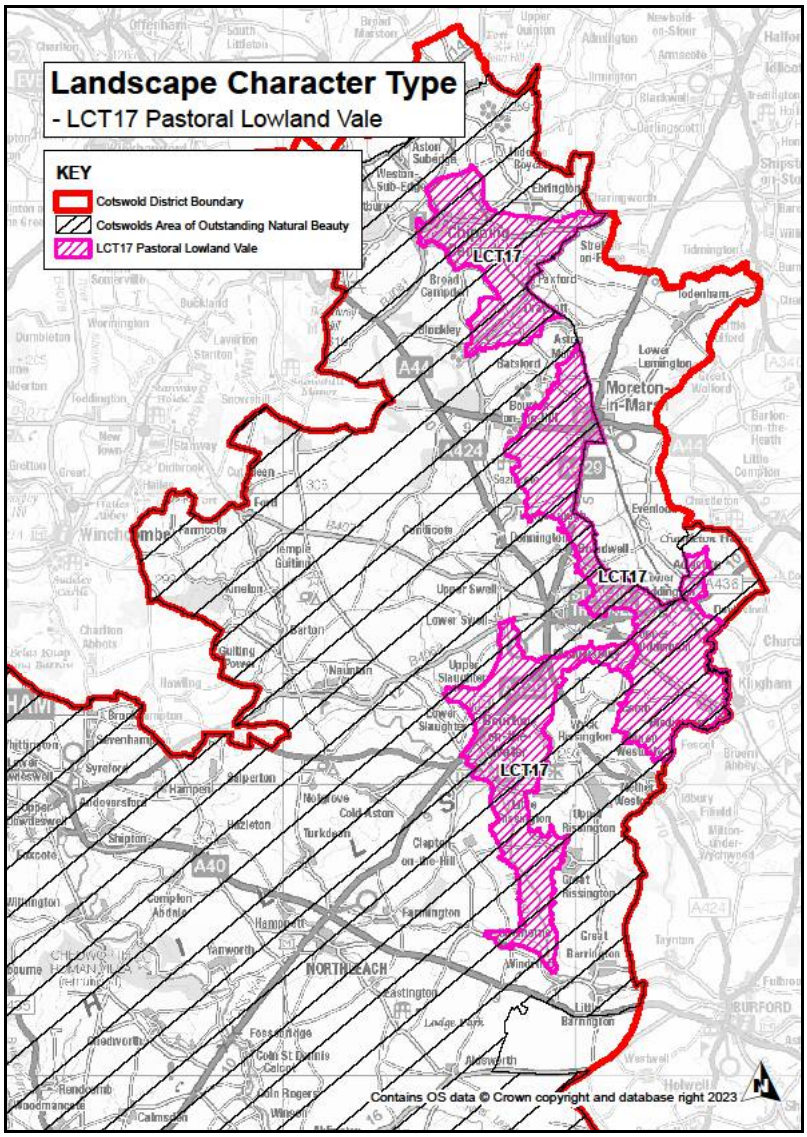
- There may be opportunities to locate solar PV developments (up to and including 5ha) within more sheltered fields where they are bound by characteristic hedgerows;
- Anything larger than this is considered to be highly sensitive given the presence of the Cotswold AONB, heritage assets and their inherent sensitivities;
- The setting of heritage assets is an important consideration; and
- PV developments should be sited within farmland, not semi-natural habitat to retain naturalistic characteristics and habitat interest.

Strategic Landscape Guidance:

- Avoid proposals for solar farms that will impact negatively on landscape character and/or intrude into views including from the adjacent High Wold and Dip-Slope landscape types;

- Maintain the rural character of the landscape and ensure that cumulative development does not impact on the undeveloped skyline;
- Reduce landscape and visual impact with appropriate screening;
- Ensure a comprehensive LVIA is undertaken (including potential cumulative effects);
- Ensure a glint/glare assessment is undertaken to determine the heliographic impact on receptors;
- Bury cables underground and seek opportunities to bury existing power lines;
- Keep supporting infrastructure to a minimum and ensure it is in keeping with landscape character;
- Ensure removal and restoration on temporary construction access;
- Avoid the inclusion of any security lighting proposals; and
- Seek appropriate landscape enhancement to field boundaries and margins within solar farm development proposals.

Landscape Character Type 17: Pastoral Lowland Vale



Landscape Sensitivity Assessment

Criteria	Description	Sensitivity Score	
		Wind	Solar
Landform and Scale (including sense of openness/enclosure)	- Extensive pastoral vale defined by the neighbouring Farmed Slopes LCT with flat or gently undulating landform fringed by distinctive shallow slopes. - Generally human scale intimate landscape, but with intermittent open expansive character and expansive views in some areas.	M-H	M
Landcover (including field and settlement pattern)	- Productive and verdant landscape of lush improved and semi-improved pastures. - Network of hedgerows of varying height and quality with intermittent hedgerow trees and occasional stone walls create a neat patchwork of fields. - Sparse settlement pattern emphasises the landscapes rural, agricultural character.	M-H	M-H
Historic Landscape Character	- Limited woodland cover including ancient woodland indicative of a long history of clearance and intensive agriculture within the vale. - Extensive drift deposits mask underlying solid geology, reflected in the relative absence of stone as a building material. - Chipping Campden present in the north of the LCT. Numerous listed structures and a scheduled ancient monument present.	H	M-H
Visual Character (including skylines/intervisibility)	- Views often limited by intervening vegetation and undulating landform. - Views possible across flat landscapes bordering river channels where vegetation cover is minimal from areas of raised landform. - Grade 1 listed Church of St James in Chipping Campden a prominent feature in views within the north of the LCT.	H	M-H
Perceptual Qualities	- Limited woodland cover, a strong rural character, sparse settlement pattern and the proximity to elevated viewing opportunities on the neighbouring Farmed Slopes increases the sensitivity of the Pastoral Lowland Vale landscape to large scale built development.	H	M-H

Scenic and Special Qualities	- Sparse settlement pattern. - Rural agricultural character. - Displays special qualities for which the AONB was designated.	H	H

Overall Assessment of Landscape Sensitivity to Development Scenarios

Please note: Landscape sensitivity often varies within an LCA, with areas exhibiting higher and lower sensitivity. It is therefore very important to take note of the explanatory text supporting the assessments in each Landscape Character Type profile, particularly the box entitled 'notes on any variations in landscape sensitivity'. Whilst the Landscape Sensitivity Assessment results provide an initial indication of landscape sensitivity, they should not be interpreted as definitive statements on the suitability of individual sites for a particular development. All proposals will need to be assessed on their own merits through the planning process, including – where required – through proposal-specific Landscape and Visual Impact Assessments (LVIAs).

Development Scenario	**Sensitivity**				
Very Small Wind Installation (up to 25m)					H
Small Wind Installation (25m to 60m)					H
Medium Wind Installation (60m to 100m)					H
Large Wind Installation (100m to 150m)					H
Very Large Wind Installation (150m to 200m)					H
Very Small Solar PV Installation (up to 1 hectare)			M		
Small Solar PV Installation (1 to 5 hectares)			M		
Medium Solar PV Installation (5 to 20 hectares)				M-H	
Large Solar PV Installation (20 to 50 hectares)					H
Very Large Solar PV Installation (50 to 120 hectares)					H

Summary of Landscape Sensitivity

Limited Woodland cover, a strong rural character, sparse settlement pattern and the proximity to elevated viewing opportunities on the neighbouring Farmed Slopes increases the sensitivity of the Pastoral Lowland Vale landscape to large scale built development.

Existing vale settlements may have the capacity to accommodate some development where this does not interfere with or detract from their landscape setting.

Variations to Overall LCT Scores at the LCA Level

- None

Recommendations and Guidance for Future Development within the LCT

Wind Energy Developments

Overall Recommendations:

- All turbine development is likely to be highly sensitive given the presence of the Cotswold AONB and its inherent sensitivities.
- Likely to affect views from neighbouring LCTs.

Strategic Landscape Guidance:

- Conserve the open, agricultural character of the Pastoral Lowland Vale by objecting to the development of vertical elements where these would adversely affect views;
- Maintain the rural character of the landscape and ensure that cumulative development does not impact on the relatively undeveloped skylines;
- Ensure the development of vertical elements in neighbouring LCTs and areas beyond the AONB do not adversely affect views to and from the Pastoral Lowland Vale;
- Bury cables underground and seek opportunities to bury existing overhead cables;
- Avoid use of visually prominent urban security fencing and CCTV masts;
- Consider other renewable energy technologies; and
- Ensure full assessment of heritage setting impacts and appropriate measures undertaken.

Solar PV Developments

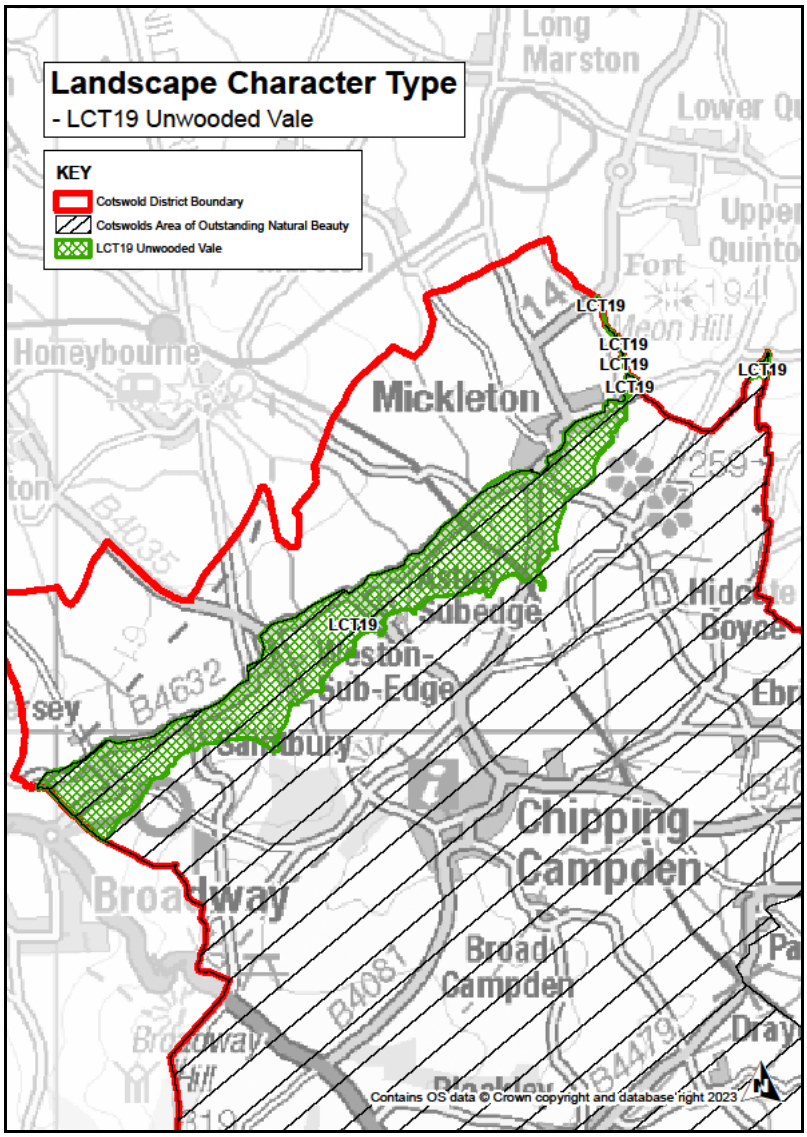
Overall Recommendations:

- There may be opportunities to locate solar PV developments (up to and including 20ha) within more sheltered fields where they are bound by tall hedgerows or riparian vegetation;
- Anything larger than this is considered to be highly sensitive given the presence of the Cotswold AONB and its inherent sensitivities; and
- PV developments should be sited within farmland, not semi-natural habitat to retain naturalistic characteristics and habitat interest.

Strategic Landscape Guidance:

- Prevent proposals for solar farms that will impact negatively on landscape character and/or intrude into views including from the adjacent Farmed Slopes and High Wold;
- Developments should be clearly separated so that collectively they do not have a defining influence on the overall experience of the landscape;
- Maintain the rural character of the landscape and ensure that cumulative development does not impact on the relatively undeveloped skylines;
- Ensure a comprehensive LVIA is undertaken (including potential cumulative effects);
- Avoid proposals that will result in the loss or harm to landscape features such as ridge and furrow, hedgerows and walls;
- Ensure a glint/glare assessment is undertaken to determine the heliographic impact on receptors;
- Reduce landscape impact with appropriate screening;
- Bury cables underground and seek opportunities to bury existing overhead cables;
- Keep supporting infrastructure to a minimum and ensure it is in keeping with landscape character;
- Ensure removal and restoration on temporary construction access;
- Avoid inclusion of any security lighting proposals;
- Seek appropriate landscape enhancements to field boundaries and margins within solar farm development proposals;
- Consider views from public rights of way when considering the siting and design of solar PV development in the landscape; and
- Promote the use of roof space for photovoltaic panels particularly on modern farm buildings.

Landscape Character Type 19: Unwooded Vale



Landscape Sensitivity Assessment

Criteria	Description	Sensitivity Score	
		Wind	Solar
Landform and Scale (including sense of openness/enclosure)	- A flat to gently undulating landscape except for a low ridge at Norton Hall which crosses the landscape north-west to south east. - The land rises gently towards the foot of the Cotswold escarpment.	M-H	M
Landcover (including field and settlement pattern)	- Wide, open, settled agrarian landscape cloaked in pasture and arable fields appear well maintained and productive. - Well maintained hedgerows, some of great antiquity, form an extensive network throughout the vale defining field patterns indicative of different episodes of enclosure. When viewed from the neighbouring uplands, hedgerows give the expansive vale a strong sense of visual unity. - Numerous mature field and hedgerow oaks, riverside trees and small farm woodlands give the sense of a well treed landscape when viewed from ground level. - Woodland is limited.	M-H	M-H
Historic Landscape Character	- Remnants of ancient open fields and moated sites in the wider vale landscape indicate the long history of farming in the vale. - Some remnant ridge and furrow. - Settlement present within the LCT. Willersey, Weston Subedge, Aston Subedge and parts of Mickleton. - The historic core of Mickleton is a conservation area containing several listed buildings including the grade 1 listed Church of St Lawrence.	M-H	M
Visual Character (including skylines/intervisibility)	- The Cotswolds escarpment, as well as the escarpment outliers, provide a dramatic backdrop to many easterly views across the vale and provides a valuable orientation point from within the vale landscape. - Adjacent steep escarpment landform and associated woodlands generally limit views and create an intimate landscape although long views to	H	M-H

	distant hills are possible from more elevated areas of the vale. - The spire of the Church of St Lawrence is a locally distinctive landmark.		
Perceptual Qualities	- Public rights of way cross the area including the Heart of England Way.	M-H	M-H
Scenic and Special Qualities	- Quiet winding lanes link numerous isolated farms and hamlets, and emphasise the rural character of the landscape. - Modern agriculture enterprise a common feature. - The LCT has strong intervisibility with the wooded escarpment of the Dover's Hill to Mickleton escarpment, a key characteristic of the AONB.	M-H	M-H

Overall Assessment of Landscape Sensitivity to Development Scenarios

Please note: Landscape sensitivity often varies within an LCA, with areas exhibiting higher and lower sensitivity. It is therefore very important to take note of the explanatory text supporting the assessments in each Landscape Character Type profile, particularly the box entitled 'notes on any variations in landscape sensitivity'. Whilst the Landscape Sensitivity Assessment results provide an initial indication of landscape sensitivity, they should not be interpreted as definitive statements on the suitability of individual sites for a particular development. All proposals will need to be assessed on their own merits through the planning process, including – where required – through proposal-specific Landscape and Visual Impact Assessments (LVIAs).

Development Scenario	**Sensitivity**				
Very Small Wind Installation (up to 25m)					H
Small Wind Installation (25m to 60m)					H
Medium Wind Installation (60m to 100m)					H
Large Wind Installation (100m to 150m)					H
Very Large Wind Installation (150m to 200m)					H
Very Small Solar PV Installation (up to 1 hectare)		L-M			
Small Solar PV Installation (1 to 5 hectares)			M		
Medium Solar PV Installation (5 to 20 hectares)				M-H	
Large Solar PV Installation (20 to 50 hectares)					H
Very Large Solar PV Installation (50 to 120 hectares)					H
Summary of Landscape Sensitivity					
The sparsely settled and deeply rural Unwooded Vale landscape type is highly sensitive to change, particularly in agricultural areas not currently associated with development. Despite this, even in rural areas the screening effects of landform, farm woodlands, hedgerows and shelterbelts provide a framework in which some opportunities for small-scale development exist. Vale landscapes bordering upland areas with wide vantage points such as the Escarpment and Escarpment Outliers landscape types are particularly sensitive to the effects of large scale built development such as agricultural sheds and light industrial units as these are difficult to screen					

from elevated vantage points. These landscapes are also highly sensitive to development that may disturb the strong field patterns created by hedgerows as these are best perceived from higher ground.

Variations to Overall LCT Scores at the LCA Level

- None

Recommendations and Guidance for Future Development within the LCT

Wind Energy Developments

Overall Recommendations:

- All turbine development is likely to be highly sensitive given the presence of the Cotswold AONB and its inherent sensitivities;
- The Cotswolds escarpment forms an elevated backdrop to the LCT. Turbines are likely to appear as clutter within the view;
- The setting of the Grade 1 listed St Lawrence's Church is an important consideration; and
- Likely to affect views from neighbouring LCTs.

Strategic Landscape Guidance:

- Conserve the open, agricultural character of the Unwooded Vale by objecting to the development of vertical elements where these would adversely affect views;
- Maintain the rural character of the landscape and ensure that cumulative development does not impact on the relatively undeveloped skylines;
- Ensure the development of vertical elements in neighbouring LCTs and areas beyond the AONB do not adversely affect views to and from the Unwooded Vale;
- Bury cables underground and seek opportunities to bury existing overhead cables;
- Avoid use of visually prominent urban security fencing and CCTV masts;
- Consider other renewable energy technologies; and
- Ensure full assessment of heritage setting impacts and appropriate measures undertaken.

Solar PV Developments

Overall Recommendations:

- There may be opportunities to locate solar PV developments (up to and including 20ha) within more sheltered fields where they are bound by tall hedgerows or riparian vegetation;
- Anything larger than this is considered to be highly sensitive given the presence of the Cotswold AONB and its inherent sensitivities; and
- PV developments should be sited within farmland, not semi-natural habitat to retain naturalistic characteristics and habitat interest.

Strategic Landscape Guidance:

- Prevent proposals for solar farms that will impact negatively on landscape character and/or intrude into views including from the adjacent scarp landscapes;
- Consider views from more elevated areas, particularly the Norton Hall SLA and Cotswolds AONB escarpment when considering the siting and design of solar PV development in the landscape;

- Developments should be clearly separated so that collectively they do not have a defining influence on the overall experience of the landscape;
- Maintain the rural character of the landscape and ensure that cumulative development does not impact on the relatively undeveloped skylines;
- Ensure a comprehensive LVIA is undertaken (including potential cumulative effects);
- Avoid proposals that will result in the loss or harm to landscape features such as ridge and furrow, hedgerows and walls;
- Ensure a glint/glare assessment is undertaken to determine the heliographic impact on receptors;
- Reduce landscape impact with appropriate screening;
- Bury cables underground and seek opportunities to bury existing overhead cables;
- Keep supporting infrastructure to a minimum and ensure it is in keeping with landscape character;
- Ensure removal and restoration on temporary construction access;
- Avoid inclusion of any security lighting proposals;
- Seek appropriate landscape enhancements to field boundaries and margins within solar farm development proposals;
- Consider views from public rights of way which include the Heart of England Way National Trail, when considering the siting and design of solar PV development in the landscape; and
- Promote the use of roof space for photovoltaic panels particularly on modern farm buildings.