

15. Farmed Slopes – Land Use

	Local Forces for Change	Potential Landscape Implications	Outline Landscape Strategies and Guidelines
	Land use		
15.8	Agricultural intensification and in particular intensification of cattle grazing, conversion of permanent pasture to arable, the removal of semi-natural vegetation cover and the poor maintenance and subsequent loss of traditional field boundaries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction of large scale industrial style agricultural 'sheds', silos and AD plants in prominent location, dominating the valleys. • Introduction of industrial elements into the landscape. • Conversion of farm buildings to business or recreational uses. • Loss of farmstead character • Increased damage to roads, road verges, hedges and dry stone walls from large vehicles and increase in use. • Pressure to upgrade narrow lanes and highway verge crossings. • Introduction or expansion of lit elements in areas of characteristically dark valley. • Increased risk of contamination of water courses from agricultural run-off • Field amalgamation and the loss of hedgerows, dry stone walls and traditional field patterns. • Increased risk of river pollution and flooding from agricultural run-off. • Decline in hedgerow and dry stone wall management leading to a degraded or neglected landscape. • Increased use of non-characteristic field boundary treatments such as post and wire and post and rail fences • Increased conversion of pasture to arable land. • Woodland creation on permanent pasture. • Removal of semi-natural vegetation cover and the poor maintenance and subsequent loss of field boundaries • Abandonment of permanent pasture on the valleys and resulting spread of scrub and secondary woodland on otherwise open slopes and valley floor pastures. • Loss of already limited areas of ancient semi-natural broadleaved woodland and species rich grasslands on steeper slopes. • Damage to and loss of archaeological sites and field monuments from conversion of pasture to arable and from intensification of grazing • Move towards arable production on small mixed farms resulting in the removal or degradation of hedgerows and dry stone walls and/ or loss of former pasture. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conserve the views to and from the Farmed Slopes • Ensure that new farm buildings including silos and AD plants etc do not have an adverse visual impact on the valleys or on views across and along the valleys. • Maintain the appearance and characteristic of isolated farmsteads and oppose proposals that will become dominant in the landscape • Encourage the protection of traditional field patterns and encourage hedgerows and stone wall restoration and management. • Conserve dark stretches of the Farmed Slopes • Provide advice to farmers on the siting of new buildings, lighting, colour etc. • Encourage the mitigation of existing large agricultural buildings e.g by limited tree planting. • Encourage the installation of PV on the roofs of new agricultural buildings, avoiding risk of glint/glare. • Seek to conserve traditional farm buildings. • Respect traditional position of agricultural buildings and their relationship to the surrounding land. • Protect watercourses from the effects of eutrophication by ensuring farmers adopt mandatory requirements for the application of fertilisers and pesticides within NVZ, and the creation of buffer zones. • Encourage initiatives that seek to restore or enhance the quality of watercourses and their habitats • Monitor river nutrient levels. • Encourage small-scale mixed farming and encourage woodland and boundary management. • Avoid the conversion of pasture to arable particularly where archaeological sites/field monuments may be lost or damaged. • Encourage low intensity grazing or restrict access by livestock where archaeological sites/ field monuments may be lost or damaged • Encourage means and methods of reducing cultivation damage to archaeological sites and monuments (including reversion to grassland, minimal-tillage, direct drilling and other damage reduction methods). • Conserve areas of permanent pasture • Conserve hedgerow and in-field trees and seek opportunities to plant replacements • Protect remnant areas of ancient woodland, species rich grassland and ancient/veteran trees.

15. Farmed Slopes – Land Use

	Local Forces for Change	Potential Landscape Implications	Outline Landscape Strategies and Guidelines
15.9	Planting of energy crops such as Miscanthus, short rotation coppice and short rotation forestry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Loss or seasonal interruption of views particularly from roads and public rights of way Restriction of views from the Farmed Slopes Loss of remaining permanent pasture Archaeological sites, historic landscapes, geological and geomorphological sites damaged or obscured 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure energy crops are not planted where they would restrict or intrude into views, particularly views across the neighbouring landscape types. Do not plant on semi-natural habitats, permanent pasture or on sites with Section 41, NERC Act or local BAP species that could be affected in a negative way. Do not plant on sites where archaeological sites could be damaged or obscured or where significant historic landscapes would be adversely affected or on sites where features of geological or geomorphological importance would be obscured. Promote Cotswolds Conservation Board guidance
15.10	<p>Separation of farmhouse/agricultural housing from the working farm for sale with a plot of land.</p> <p>Sub-division of farmland for 'lifestyle' plots</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Suburbanisation of agricultural landscape by the introduction of gardens e.g. ornamental garden plants and boundary features, parking areas, lighting and conversion of tracks to manicured drives and ornamental gateways Loss of integrity, cohesion and character of historic farmsteads and associated farmland. Loss of agricultural context Shelterbelt planting for privacy screening Appearance and proliferation of stables and 'white tape' field boundaries for horses and ponies Sub-division of fields using post and rail fences Pressure for housing on plots of land 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Only permit new uses of traditional farm buildings that are appropriate to retain their historic character and features. Use planning conditions to restrict subdivision of fields, construction of stables etc. Consider use of Article 4 Direction. Ensure separation of housing does not prejudice the effective operation of the farm enterprise. Avoid isolated development, particularly on dark stretches of the Farmed Slopes Respect traditional position of agricultural buildings and their relationship to the surrounding land
15.11	Deterioration in condition of vernacular farm buildings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Erosion of distinctive features and loss of Cotswold character. Loss of locally historic features and erosion of the integrity of the historic landscape Decline in quality of landscape 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conserve vernacular farm buildings for their own sake and/or by developing other options for their use whilst retaining their agricultural character Raise awareness of grant availability for building restoration. Ensure best practice is followed for the protection of species associated with farm buildings e.g. bats
	Loss of traditional horticulture/agriculture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Loss of traditional orchards and local varieties of fruit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify existing traditional orchards and new potential sites. Identify historical sites of orchards Promote the appropriate management of existing traditional orchards and the planting of locally distinctive varieties
15.12	<p>Decline in grazing stock</p> <p>Abandonment of grassland</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scrub encroachment and loss of remnant species rich grassland and other permanent pasture Development of secondary woodland Loss of pasture characteristic of the Farmed Slopes Loss of the characteristic of grazing animals from the Farmed Slopes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conserve open areas of pasture and remnant unimproved grassland and limit scrub encroachment by increased grazing and management. Retain/re-introduce grazing, particularly on unimproved grasslands. Manage scrub Produce guidance on scrub management

15. Farmed Slopes – Land Use

	Local Forces for Change	Potential Landscape Implications	Outline Landscape Strategies and Guidelines
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tendency for 'abandoned land' to be targeted for conversion into arable or woodland or become earmarked for development 	
15.13	Changes in land use and management within historic parks and gardens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weakening of the integrity of designed landscapes, parks and gardens Loss of or damage to elements of designed landscapes, parks and gardens. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conserve and enhance historic parks and gardens, including their setting Develop and implement management plans Restore lost elements of historic parks and gardens to restore the integrity of the designed landscape as a whole.
15.14	Damage to field monuments and archaeological sites and the historic environment from farming operations, tree root damage, woodland management operations and tree planting.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Damage to important archaeological sites and important landscape features. Loss of traditional field patterns Loss of traditional field boundaries, particularly dry stone walls and hedgerows. Loss of locally distinctive features Damage caused by livestock Encroachment of scrub onto archaeological features 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inform landowners of important archaeological sites Protect all upstanding archaeological sites and consider the impact of development on their landscape setting. Manage/remove burrowing animals Restore the wider setting of key monuments to ensure that they do not read as islands amidst a sea of arable farming. Raise awareness of the historic environment and of the HER as a source of information Provide guidance on managing the historic environment to farmers and land owners Retain traditional field patterns and field boundaries Ensure tree planting does not take place on archaeological features. Control scrub and manage existing trees on archaeological features to minimise damage for example by root damage or wind-blow. Minimise or prevent damage to the historic environment by recreational activity by working with landowners to prepare site management plans and if necessary limit access. Repair badly eroded features such as earthworks and dry stone walls. Avoid planting new hedgerows or the development of 'volunteer hedges' adjacent to dry stone walls
15.15	Licensed spreading of waste on agricultural land	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Change in colour in the landscape. Unpleasant smells Potential impact on watercourses or aquifer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Avoid spreading waste across or adjacent to public rights of way, in close proximity to settlements or where it may impact on biodiversity or water courses. Avoid storage (e.g. sewage waste heaps) adjacent to public rights of way and roads Ensure swift incorporation
15.16	Loss of and damage to geological features due to tree growth and erosion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Loss of sites that provide an understanding of the Cotswold landscape Loss of outcrops and other visible features such as valley bulges, alluvial fans and marlstone promontories. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify important geological features and ensure they are conserved and appropriately managed.
15.17	Development of scrub and trees on roadside verges Mowing of verges at inappropriate times	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Loss of views from the public highway Loss of roadside grassland habitat Damage to hedges and walls Creation of 'lawns' on the roadside due to regular mowing for tidiness leading to a homogenised and sub-urban appearance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify key views from roads Manage/remove verge scrub and trees, particularly where views can be restored or where there are benefits for biodiversity Reintroduce appropriate verge management and mowing



15. Farmed Slopes – Land Use

	Local Forces for Change	Potential Landscape Implications	Outline Landscape Strategies and Guidelines
	New and upgraded verge crossings at entrances	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Incremental change through introduction of urban elements eroding rural character; raised kerbs, unsympathetic surfacing, creation of fenced visibility splays etc from rural roads 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure highway authority planning conditions respect and are appropriate to rural character and situation
15.18	Flood management and alleviation measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tree planting for flood management inappropriate to landscape character 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Retain and manage watercourses in their naturalistic form. Seek opportunities to restore natural meanders etc, removing engineered channels, culverts etc to restore a functioning watercourse. Consider Rural Sustainable Drainage interventions such as in-stream woody barriers to slow peak water flow particularly within woodland. Seek to influence surrounding land management such as contour ploughing, wide margins, de-compaction of soils and pasture etc. Promote the flood management function of pasture Seek opportunities for tree planting for flood management in-keeping with landscape and woodland character - see Creation of Woodland section 3.21 below