





This chapter explores the historical dimension of the character of landscape of the Cotswolds AONB, tracing its evolution in terms of social, cultural, and economic events that shaped the countryside we see today. After an historical introduction, the development of the landscape is described under the headings of:

- Farming, forestry and woodland
- Quarrying and delving
- Transportation
- Settlement and built form

Each heading is explored in terms of its history, and how this history impacted on the appearance of landscape in a discernible, tangible way. The chapter ends with an illustrated time-line summary.



HILL FORT AT LITTLE SODBURY

### 3.01 Historical Background

Although hunter-gatherers are known to have been in the area during the interglacial periods, it is only after the retreat of the glaciers and the establishment of the 'wildwood' (self-sown, uncultivated woodland) that settlers arrived. These peoples were succeeded by later immigrants who brought with them techniques of agriculture and animal husbandry, as well as the idea of communal living in small groups, and the production of cloth-making and pottery. The use of metals appeared

around 1800BC, mainly bronze traded from the west. Iron-working was introduced by the Celtic peoples who drifted-in from the continent. A rising population, worsening climatic conditions and social unrest encouraged a greater degree of communal living, and the establishment of defensible village sites. The final wave of Iron Age peoples to settle in the area were the Dobunni, a Belgic tribe who established a capital (oppidum) at Bagendon.

The Roman invasion of the area met with little resistance and a frontier was quickly established along the hills on the line of the Fosse Way. An advance auxiliary camp was established at Kingsholm near Gloucester, though Roman routes focused on a spot near the Dobunni oppidum, which soon developed into Corinium (Cirencester). Stability and prosperity came to the Cotswolds area, which became a place favoured by wealthy Roman settlers for the establishment of their estates. Large flocks of sheep were reared for their wool; the origins of the wool-trade that in later years was to make the Cotswolds famous. Gloucester developed from a simple army camp into a town, Cirencester grew into one of the great cities of Europe, and Bath became a Spa of national importance.

With the withdrawal of the legions at the end of the fourth century, the slow break-down of the Roman province began. Life went on, but without a strong administrative structure, society reverted to a more tribal organisation, probably based on the old Roman estates. It was not long before the area attracted the attention of the Anglo-Saxons who, after some minor incursions and the Battle of Dyrham in 577, seized control and replaced the native tribal chiefs with their own aristocracy. Many of the



REMNANTS OF HAILES ABBEY

profound social changes that date from this time remain with us in some form today.

The new masters probably settled those Romano-British estates that had survived relatively intact and hence could be readily turned to production, though it was not long before most of the area was brought into use - it is believed that some 133 local parishes are Saxon in origin. Estates were organised around a manor with land apportioned to the population in 'hides' (the area of a hide was enough to support a family: 30 to 120 acres depending on nature of the ground). There were normally 20 to 50 hides to an estate, though some were much bigger and later sub-divided into two manors (e.g. Upper and Lower Slaughter). Manor boundaries were described in charters; it is these boundaries that later defined the ecclesiastical parishes, some of which survive as modern civil parishes.

In return for the use of the land, the inhabitants of the manor had duties to perform for the benefit of the Lord, and through him, the King in whose name the land was held. The inhabitants themselves resided in a 'vill' a group of dwellings that might today be described as a village - many modern place names have their origins in the names of Saxon villas. Each manor was answerable to a royal manor which collected and handled produce due to the King. A royal manor comprised about a hundred families; the Hundred became the next tier of administrative organisation. Another level was added in response to the Viking incursions of the 9th century: the 'burhs', fortified areas that could act as bases to repel attack. Gloucester, Bath, Malmesbury, Cricklade and Oxford were all Burhs. The area was reorganised into Shires (the Wessex model) early in the 10th century.

By the end of the 7th century, land was being granted for the foundations of monasteries. Religious communities in the Cotswolds area built-up large estates, exerting a strong influence for centuries to come. Minster churches were also founded and later still, parish churches. The Norman invaders replaced the Saxon aristocracy with their own, the old ruling class being killed or dispossessed. Order was established and enforced via the many castles that were raised. Churches were rebuilt on a more impressive scale. However, close contacts with the European continent were maintained (many overlords held land on both sides of the Channel), leading to a growth in the importance of exports, wool and woollen cloth being especially valuable. Some lords set up new markets in key locations, encouraging traders to setup businesses in 'burgage' plots along the road. These traders were Freemen who paid rent to the lord and did not owe service like the Villeins (villagers). Stow-on-the-Wold and other market towns date from this period.

In 1348-9 came the Black Death. This had a profound effect, reducing the pool of labour available for cultivation and leading to land being turned-over to sheep grazing. Some villages were deserted or destroyed by the landlords (e.g. Pinnock, Caslett and Lower Harford). Wool and cloth production became the mainstay of the Cotswolds economy, though by the 1400s cloth exports were dominant (raw wool exported to the Continent carried a heavy duty, finished cloth did not). Many folk were employed in spinning and weaving, with the mechanically-aided finishing of the cloth being carried out in fulling mills built on local streams, or converted from corn mills. This was a time of great prosperity, especially in the west where the fast-flowing streams of clear water favoured the establishment of mills: Wickwar, Dursley, Wotton-under-Edge and Stroud all grew and prospered.



STANWAY HOUSE

While the dissolution of the monasteries in 1536 and 1539 destabilised much of the rural economy, it also brought new opportunities within the Cotswolds, with steady inflation (the result of an influx of Spanish gold and silver from the Americas) making many of those who traded with the Continent very wealthy. Many landowners and wealthy wool merchants made vast fortunes and set themselves up as Gentry, building great mansions surrounded by parkland (e.g Stanway, Nymphsfield and Dyrham).

The Thirty Years War (1618-48) had a disastrous effect on the wool trade, with much unemployment amongst the spinners and weavers. It was not until new products, colours and techniques imported from the continent were assimilated that trade revived. The other conflicts to have an impact on the area were the English Civil Wars (1642-46 and 1648-51), the area that is now the AONB being of vital strategic importance (the first full-scale engagement was at Edge Hill). Farmers saw their livestock plundered as both armies crossed and re-crossed the area and the decline of the cloth trade in areas such as Painswick, Pitchcombe and the Slad Valley.

The 'age of enclosure' came at the same time as a rapid growth in the population of England, especially in the towns, increasing the demand for food. Improvements in farming methods therefore offered greater profits for the landowner, though often at the price of the farm worker who - outside of the industrial area around Stroud - now had little opportunity for employment other than as a farm labourer. Wages dropped to starvation levels. The Napoleonic Wars (1800-15) boosted agriculture for a short time, encouraging most of the 'waste' land to be put to the plough, though corn prices slumped as soon as the wars were over. The remainder of the nineteenth century was a period of serious rural decline, the result of which was a semi-deserted landscape by-passed by the industrial revolution. It was this landscape that so enchanted artist and designers such as William Morris and Ernest Gimson, who were the forerunners of the Arts and Crafts movement that was eventually to enrich the area with new skills and sensibilities.

Agriculture was again revived by the First World War (1914-18), as the nation - no longer able to import foodstuffs - turned to its own resources. Mills that had once produced cloth were turned into engineering works manufacturing agricultural and similar equipment, industries that continued to thrive post-war as mechanisation came to farming. Roads were surfaced and with the coming of the motor coach came the tourists, and by the 1930s places like Bourton-on-the-Water were inundated with visitors, bringing much needed income to

the area. The Second World War (1939-45) saw another awakening of the lands as agriculture was again asked to fill the national larder.

Unlike the situation after the First World War, agriculture did not decline after the cessation of hostilities in 1945. The austerity years of an effectively bankrupt nation meant that home-produced meat and cereals continued to be in demand and, with new techniques and a heavy investment in mechanisation, farms continued to prosper. Since then however, there have been many changes in the area, a reflection of national trends in population growth, further increases in mechanisation, greater personal affluence, and increased mobility and leisure time. The Cotswolds AONB is no longer the rural backwater that it has been for the greater part of its history.

### 3.02

#### Farming, Forestry and Woodland

The efficient and sustainable management of the land has been the concern of landholders for millennia and, until quite recently, there were three essential elements to a thriving estate: Arable land to grow crops, pasture and grazing land to feed stock and woodland. Changing



BEECHWOODS NEAR BIRDLIP



economic and social circumstances over time may have altered the balance between these elements, but without access to all three an estate could not survive.

The area of the AONB has been farmed since Neolithic times. Archaeological evidence indicates that in a remarkably short space of time the majority of land on the Wolds had been cleared of the wildwood and, even before the introduction of metal tools, the thin soils were being cultivated by ox-drawn 'ard' ploughs and animals were being grazed in cleared pastures. Woodland (i.e. the wildwood managed via woodmanship) remained on the steeper slopes and the heavier clay soils of the valleys, an essential resource for the local inhabitants: Houses were made from wood and essentials such as baskets, hurdles, fences, tools and fuel were all the product of woodland. Cattle, sheep, goats and pigs are all known to have been grazed. Crops provided food and - via the cultivation of flax and hemp - enabled the production of cord and ropes. Sheep provided both food and wool for processing into cloth. Agriculture was as much concerned with raw materials as it was with food.

Although little is known of the Celtic agricultural system it appears that, by the time of the Iron Age, some fields were being enclosed. Fields close to settlements ('in fields') were small and irregular in shape, and were planted with crops. Those further away ('out fields') were used for grazing and only brought into cultivation as and when needed, and after the fertility of the soil had been raised by concentrations of animal dung. Remnants of Celtic field systems survive around Aldsworth, Badminton, Bibury, Eastleach and Todmorton.

Villa estates were established by the Romans, who increased the area of arable land at the expense of woodland. Romano-British farming aimed for great surpluses of grain and wool; necessary supplies for the army and the urban populations of Cirencester, Bath and Gloucester. The sites of many of these estates are scattered all over the area, Woodchester and Chedworth being just two examples. Corn was the principal crop, especially in the north of the area. Estates also included livestock, fruit and vegetables for home consumption - pigs, poultry and geese were kept, and vines and figs grown. Nut trees would be planted near farm buildings. Vegetables for the kitchen would have included cabbage, carrots, parsnips and celery. The Romans introduced the quick-growing Sycamore tree, perhaps in response to the heavy demands placed on woodland by their love of heated rooms and baths.

After the end of the Roman occupation and the decline of the urban centres, the great surpluses of the villa estates were no longer necessary, though it is likely that family or tribal groups kept farms in some form of productive use. Less arable land was needed and to some extent there would have been a regeneration of woodland, especially on distant or less-favoured fields.

The Saxons brought with them a new heavy-weight agricultural system, designed to cope with the deep clay soils of northern Europe. They transformed the landscape to such an extent that, by the time of the Domesday survey in 1086, virtually all potentially productive land had been brought into use.

Small agricultural communities based on mixed farming practice worked together under the control of a Lord. A 'two field' system was employed, where arable land was cropped every other year, the fallow year being used to fold animals whose droppings would fertilize the soil for the coming year. Each field was divided into strips, allocated individually amongst the villagers and other landholders. The strips were distributed so that no one holder would have an exclusive holding of the best land, each having a share of the differing types of land available. The Lord would too have a holding (either among the strips or separated out in a 'home farm'), farmed by the villagers as 'rent' for their own holdings. Livestock was grazed on 'waste' ground, usually open rough pasture where the soil was too thin for cultivation. Meadow land would lie along the banks of rivers and streams. This would be cropped for hay to feed the animals in winter, then grazed. Villagers would keep ploughs and teams of oxen in co-operation with other members of the community (the Domesday Book indicated the potential output of an estate in terms of the number of ploughs it possessed).



RIDGE-AND-FURROW ADJACENT BOURTON-ON-THE-HILL

The heavy Saxon plough was fifteen foot (4.5 metres) long and required a team of eight oxen, and as a such was not easy to turn - the ploughman had to swing off to one side as he proceeded down the furrow to 'set up' the turn, which was performed in a deep 'headland' at the end of each run; these headlands were ploughed last. Ploughing of a strip would start at the centre and work outwards, the action of the mould board throwing soil over to one side, which in time produced a 'humped' look of the ridge-and-furrow that is still visible in fields across the whole of the AONB (the 'S' shape of the strips came from the mechanics of the turn). Barley, oats, wheat and rye were the main crops, which provided the staple food - bread - and supplemented the feed of animals during the winter. Livestock included cows, oxen, sheep, pigs and poultry with the pig providing the bulk of the meat eaten by the villagers. But by far the most useful animal was the sheep, which produced not only wool but also cheese and - in the end - meat. Even its skin could be used for parchment.

It is difficult to over-emphasise the influence of the Saxons on the landscape of the AONB. Remove the dividing walls and hedges, fill in the woods a little and remove buildings that stand in isolated groups and you have a Saxon landscape. The network of lanes though the fields are mostly Saxon too, and in the north-east where soil was overlaid with poor-draining clay, woodland cover was preserved as forest hunting by the kings.

The Norman conquest did not generally change the organisation and style of agriculture in England. It simply put in place a new set of masters. However, there were changes on or near the royal manors, the result of the way that the king and his retinue governed the country 'on the move', relying on the local Lord for hospitality, entertainment and - above all - hunting. This was not unusual; the Saxons had also loved hunting. What was new was that the Norman aristocracy reserved the hunting for itself alone, establishing Forest Law to protect the 'venison' (creature that were hunted) and the 'vert' (the environment in which these creatures lived). The areas of countryside subject to Forest Law embraced fields, villages and even whole towns, and not only woodland; the term 'forest' was a legal definition that differs from the modern meaning of the word. Protection of the venison and vert meant that ordinary folk were no longer able to supplement their diet with hunted meat, a pressure that was compounded by the enlargement of woodland to accommodate the 'Kings sport' and the discouragement of 'assarting' (the clearing of woodland to provide new agricultural land).

Continued contact with the Continent and a thriving export trade meant that, under the Normans, the economic importance of wool as a commodity was paramount, and as time went by the hold on the Forest was relaxed. Land began to be seen as an asset rather than the preserve of the King. Assarting again took place and rights to hunt were sold or rented out to landholders. Once more the woodland began to shrink in favour of agricultural land, as an ever-growing population forced the expansion of arable fields onto marginal land of low fertility.

The Black Death struck a farming population that was already weakened and impoverished by poor weather, bad harvests and widespread disease in livestock. The resultant shortage of labour meant that even traditionally fertile arable land was turned over to sheep pasture, and that farm workers - who were now in demand - became far more mobile, often choosing to rent their land rather than render service. Peasants began to prosper and take on labour, rising in time to become farmers holding their land in lease from the Lord. Other workers gave up the land and turned to trades such as spinning and weaving. The Saxon ridge-and-furrow pattern became 'fossilised' in the higher fields and the openness of common land began to succumb to enclosure - some estates were consolidated into blocks rather than being held in strips. Sheep farming on the Wolds was now a major occupation, especially on the ecclesiastical estates, prompting a large influx of tenants and labourers into the area. Great barns were built to store the wool, such as can be seen at Frocester and Stanway.

As important as wool was to the economy of the AONB, estates still had to produce food, not only to support themselves and pay tithes, but also to support the growing number of people who were becoming urban dwellers.



SHEEP BY THE CHURCH, GUITING POWER C 1930

The growing of grain on the cornbrash soils to the east of the area was still important, as was the rearing of cattle, especially in the Ironstone country to the north. Crops were also grown to support the cloth trade including teasels (a prickly plant used for raising a fine 'nap' on the cloth), woad and other dyestuff plants. It was against the background of sheep and crops that woodland again suffered, the only extensive stands remaining being those along the face of the scarp.

The dissolution of the monasteries came at the height of prosperity for wool merchants and other major landowners, many of whom built great houses and surrounded themselves with country parks. This had negative consequences for agriculture. Enclosure and new crops such as sainfoin enabled the intensification of sheep-rearing, allied to which were increasing rents and the transformation of long-established traditions of land management into 'economic' activity. The Thirty Years War also closed outlets for most of the local output of cloth; the industry in places like Cirencester and Malmesbury never recovered. It was a time of great distress for farming and the ordinary folk of the countryside within the area of the AONB. There were however gains in the area of woodland as the new parks were planted with trees; for shelter, to line drives, provide fuel and to give cover for game, and sometimes just to create a 'pleasing vista'.

At the time of the plundering of farm stocks during the English Civil Wars, much of the land within the AONB was held by 'copyholders', villagers who were the successors to the medieval villains and whose right to hold land was recorded on the 'copy rolls' held in the manor court. The trend from this time was to move landholding to 'lifeholds', meaning that farmers now leased their land from the Lord of the Manor for named period of time (three lives was a common length) and for a set rent. This gradually lead to fewer tenants farming larger portions of land, employing labourers who would have formerly held land in their own rights - in essence, the modern farming system of today.

It had long been recognised that farming by the dictates of custom was an obstacle to innovation and change in agricultural practice. Drainage of wet areas was impossible on open fields, and the choice of crops, methods of cultivation and the control of stock were all influenced by tradition. Landholders were frustrated in their ambitions to improve the output of their land and saw enclosure as a way of consolidating their holdings into a single unit.



THE LANDSCAPE OF ENCLOSURE AT FARMCOTE

Although the enclosure had been happening for some time, some three-quarters of parishes in the area were still unenclosed at the start of the 18th century. The next 100 years was to see vast changes in the appearance of the countryside as lands were enclosed by acts of parliament, causing the construction of hundreds of miles of hedges and - most importantly for the landscape of the AONB - stone walls. New farms complete with barns, animal shelters and other buildings appeared in the landscape, as people moved out of village farmhouses and onto their land. Streams were diverted and the new farms connected by new 'enclosure' roads, whose wide verges encouraged trees and shrubs to take root, softening what must have at first appeared a very barren landscape. Trees were also planted to shelter the new farms and to line their driveways. The newly enclosed fields of the AONB became famous for the quality of their barley, both for malting and as a feed for livestock. Dairy farming and cheese making also gained in importance.



STEAM-DRIVEN THRESHING MACHINE IN ACTION

The down-side of enclosure within the AONB was that enclosed and improved grassland coarsened the fleece of the sheep, reducing the demand for wool and woollen products (the effects of this decline were to an extent mitigated by the increasing demand for mutton by the large cities). Also, there was now an absence of employment in any area other than agriculture, leaving many now landless labourers in grinding poverty, a situation that was not alleviated by the prosperity enjoyed by the landowners during the Napoleonic Wars. Soldiers and sailors returning from the wars made the employment situation even worse and there was much discontent in the countryside, wages in the Cotswolds being as low as anywhere in England. All of which served to reinforce the view that only with efficient farming practices could agriculture survive - 'scientific farming' became the watchword (the Royal Agricultural College at Cirencester was set up in 1846, the aim being to give a 'sound scientific education' to the sons of tenant farmers). However, the greater efficiency of the enclosed farms meant that fewer labourers were needed and the introduction of the threshing machine eliminated perhaps a quarter of all the labour requirements of the farm.

Poor weather and harvests, along with price slumps and the increasing availability of imported food from America pressed down on the farmer, who was left no option to cut-back on the outlay of capital on anything but essentials. Many families left the land, some choosing to settle overseas. It was a time of poverty and dereliction within the area of the AONB - arable land shrank by a quarter, walls fell into disrepair, cottages were abandoned and fields left to run to waste. The outbreak of the First World War brought temporary respite, with some improvement following the introduction of traction engines and the surfacing of roads. These did not last and the area once again fell into decline, so much so that some farms and cottages were totally abandoned. Pastures were put to the plough during the Second World War, the Ministry directing that as much agricultural land as could be managed should be revived (35,000 additional acres were cropped for the 1940 harvest).

Since 1945 both agriculture and woodland management have become much more controlled and rationalised. Increasing mechanisation and the introduction of machines such as the combine harvester prompted the construction of large sheds in the landscape, the widening of field entrances and - in some instances - the removal of field boundaries altogether.

A massive conversion of permanent pasture for sheep grazing to arable cultivation has changed the appearance of the landscape significantly, particularly in the High Wold

and the Dip Slope (in 1983 only 2% of the land in the AONB was given over to pasture, compared to 40% prior to World War II). What were once open pastures are now arable fields with seasonal variations reflected in the changing pattern of ploughed fields and cereal crops. Sheep have also been supplanted by the intensive rearing of beef and dairy cattle, manifest in the landscape as large-scale milking parlours and feeding sheds close to traditional farmsteads. Financial incentive and subsidies have also encouraged farmers to plant crops such as oilseed rape and linseed, the arresting colours of these crops having a noticeable, albeit seasonable impact on the landscape. There has also been much neglect of dry stone walls and a loss of hedgerows due to field amalgamation and the decline in traditional methods of hedgerow management.

Intensive agricultural and forestry production has also led to a loss of ancient woodland, notably during the 1960s and 70s. Planting of geometric coniferous woodland and shelterbelts has also continued, particularly in the large-scale landscapes of the High Wold and the Dip Slope. The loss of English Elms due to the outbreak of Dutch Elm disease in the 1970s and early 80s has also had a profound effect on the appearance of the landscape. A deterioration of some of the beechwoods on the escarpment has also occurred. On a more positive note, the maturation of many post-enclosure beech and conifer copses, shelterbelts and roadside trees has created important new elements in the landscape; their loss would have a significant impact on landscape character. Incentive schemes have resulted in the planting of much new woodland which, while welcome in some ways, has led to the use of species of tree and forms of plantation that are inappropriate to their landscape setting.

### 3.03

#### Quarrying and Delving

The limestones that underlie the AONB area have been used throughout history, the visual unity of the landscape being in part a product of the wide and easy availability of a building material of exceptional quality. The rocks were deposited between 100 and 170 million years ago in a shallow sub-tropical sea that covered the centre of what is now England. Sediments of limestone formed on the bottom of the warm waters, producing the great thickness of Middle Jurassic rocks that appear at Cleeve Hill before thinning out to the north-east and south-west. The limestone rests on another layer of rock, the Lias. The limestone is generally of a type known as 'oolite' or egg-stone (though a significant area of 'ironstone' underlies the northernmost part of the AONB), so called because a snapped piece has the surface appearance of fish roe.





known as 'Cheltenham Stone' - becomes softer and yellower, the most famous source being the quarry at Leckhampton; the underground quarries of Whittington are also of note. Further to the north are the Guiting stones that are still being extracted today. All of the stone extracted from along the scarp is from the inferior oolite (inferior meaning lower, not lesser quality), the tilting of the land mass having raised the hills so that degradation took place along the scarp side of the Cotswolds. Right in the north of the AONB is the centuries-old Horton quarry, from which is extracted the greenish-blue or brown ironstone that is used in Ratley and the surrounding area. The quarries of the south around Bradford-on-Avon and Bath, and in the north east around Burford, are from the 'superior' oolite. Their importance to the area is illustrated by the fact that in 1893, one of the biggest quarries - Corsham Down - employed 1,025 quarrymen and 350 masons (the mines even had their own underground rail head). The quarries around Burford - especially Taynton - have a well-documented history due to the records kept at Oxford Colleges, major consumers since the 14th century. Underground working was used at Barrington and Windrush quarries, mainly to avoid an overburden of sticky clay. The freestones here are creamy white.

The use of oolitic stone slates for roof covering can be traced back to Roman times, though for most of the history of the area roofs are more likely to have been thatched with various forms of wheat straw (including stubble for poorer buildings). Slates are found in two forms, 'presents' and 'pendles'.

Presents are used just as they come from the ground - they are dug, shaped a little, pierced with a fixing hole, graded and used. Pendles are a little more labour intensive. The stone is thicker but has a grain running through it so that on exposure to frost the water in the stone freezes, splitting it into thin sheets which can then be prepared for use. It is important that water is preserved in the stone until a hard frost is expected, at which time the whole stock is spread-out in a field. Such labour intensive and weather-dependant operations make these tiles expensive and hence discourage their use (recent experiments with mechanical deep-freezers may provide a solution for the future).

The history of quarrying in the Cotswolds AONB is a long one with evidence of quarries near just about every village or hamlet in the area. Most of these village quarries are now buried among trees and bushes, a haven for wildlife and lime-loving plants. A few are used as dumps for rusting refrigerators and other rubbish. Less obvious - until the eye is tuned to find them - are old delves: scoops and



QUARRY FACE NEAR FORD (TEMPLE GUITING)

basins in the corner of fields, or shallow trenches alongside walls (all since filled with turf) attest to where the stone was lifted.

Quarries in the Cotswolds are generally cut into hillsides to avoid the removal of too much overburden, rendering them almost invisible in places. In other situations, where the valleys are more broad of where stone has been taken directly from the Scarp, they can appear as a massive scar on the landscape, especially when viewed with their associated sheds and mechanical equipment.

As recently as the 1930s quarries were still worked by hand, though in the post-war period a number of large-scale mechanical quarries have been established in response to an increasing demand for crushed aggregates, as well as the continuing demand for 'dimensioned' (i.e. sawn and worked) stone for building. The number of quarries now working is small, and delving as a means of extraction has disappeared, a victim of both economics and minerals planning policy. Most large, working quarries are situated away from centres of population, near main roads (to avoid the overuse of narrow lanes by heavy lorries). However, quarrying is still an environmentally sensitive issue and the conflict between the desire for the continued use of stone as a building material and a strong resistance to quarrying has yet to be resolved.

## 3.04 Transportation

Right up until the 18th century, transportation within the Cotswolds AONB was by old roads that were notorious for their poor condition, especially in winter. River transportation was all but non-existent, access to and from both the Severn and the Thames being difficult. This explains why, to a large extent, the area remained



very much as it was at the time of its zenith in the 15th century. It was only with the coming of an improved road, network supplemented by canals and - later - railways - that the area began to lose its isolation, and the pace of change in the landscape started to quicken.

The earliest routes through the area were the ancient tracks that followed the easiest routes across the higher ground, fording rivers and streams and using gentle inclines wherever possible, most notably the Jurrassic Way which continued on to present-day Lincolnshire. Planned roads were introduced by the Roman invaders whose military roads also kept to the high ground, and which established the alignment of many routes that are still in use today. The Fosse Way linking Morton-in-Marsh through Stow-on-the-Wold past Northleach to Cirencester, and the Ermine Street which links Cirencester to Gloucester are but two of the more well-known examples. Other, less engineered roads linked these great military highways to the many villas and farms scattered about the countryside.

In the post-Roman period, the Roman road system was supplemented by the 'salt ways', packhorse tracks that lead from the salt-producing area at Droitwich across the High Wold to Cirencester and Bath. These routes existed to distribute the salt that was necessary for preserving meat for the winter, and their memory still survives in names like Salt Way and Salter's Lane. The establishment of Saxon estates with their open field system and vill settlement pattern, resulted in another set of lanes and tracks which can be traced around the edges of the great fields. Roads were also constructed to connect the land to fortified burhs such as Cricklade and Winchcombe.

The growth of more nucleated villages and the rise of market towns during the Medieval period necessitated roads that would encourage trade, which lead to the



SALT WAY RISING UP FROM THE SCARP NEAR HAILES



KENNET AND AVON CANAL NEAR LIMPLEY STOKE

building of stone bridges in lieu of many existing fords. Medieval bridges usually have sharp pointed cutwaters on the supporting piers and narrow, triangular spaces for pedestrians to escape the passage of wagons. Packhorse bridges were also erected, narrower in width and of single span with a low parapet (to prevent damage to the packs on the animals).

Maintenance of the roads was the responsibility of the local parish, and was often neglected. Also, land-hungry peasants were not above encroaching on a road in order to enlarge their fields, leaving a strip so narrow that it soon reduced to quagmire by the passage of livestock and wagons. This led to an act of Parliament in 1663 which allowed Justices to levy tolls for the upkeep of roads, which in turn led to the formation of Turnpike Trusts in the 18th century. The first roads to be turnpiked during the 1740s and 50s were the main roads over the High Wold plateau, probably at the same time as enclosure. Road alignment was often altered, generally to the advantage of landowners that were financing the upgrade. Some Trusts were set up to provide entirely new routes rather than just upgrade existing ones e.g. the Nailsworth - Dudbridge Turnpike (1780) that was proposed and administered by people connected with the cloth trade. Other new roads were gradually built to serve the concentration of mills in the Stroud and other valleys where milling and manufacturing were of economic importance.

By the end of the 18th century coach and wagon services had been established to transport goods and travellers throughout the area, with a growing number of inns to

service the dozens of coaches, wagons and fly vans that passed each day through the towns and villages. However, such travel was still slow and relatively expensive, particularly for freight - clothiers might spend £10 a ton to send their cloth to London by wagon or £15 a ton by stage. It was this situation that in part inspired the enthusiasms for canals and, later, railways.

Early plans to make the River Frome navigable from the Severn to Stroud were thwarted by mill owners who were opposed to anything that might interrupt the flow of water on which their enterprises relied. Not until 1776-79 was the Stroudwater Canal built, linking the Severn to Wallbridge, a suburb of Stroud. It was a great success, especially for bringing coal and other heavy goods into the area, and inspired a plan to link across to the Thames and hence London. The Thames and Severn Canal came into use in 1789, though traffic never lived up to the hoped-for levels. In the very south of the area, the Kennet and Avon Canal created a link between Bristol and London, the western part opening in 1796 and the remainder in 1810, at the time of the completion of the connecting Wiltshire and Berkshire Canal. These canals facilitated the export of stone from the quarries and mines surrounding Bath, boosting the fortunes of the area that sits within the southernmost tip of the AONB. Another canal that featured in this area was the Somerset Coal Canal, built to carry coal from the north Somerset coal fields to the Kennet and Avon and thence to Bath and beyond.

The Somerset Coal Canal was brought-up by a railway company and closed in 1898, a similar fate befalling both the Kennet and Avon Canal and the Wiltshire and Berkshire Canal - both had essentially ceased in use by the turn of the twentieth century. The Stroudwater Canal outlived its commercial use and technical difficulties with the Thames and Severn, including a leaking bed and a



RAILWAY NEAR FRAMPTON MARSHALL

poor water supply at the head of its route, led to its final abandonment in 1933.

Railways in the vicinity of the Cotswolds AONB have their origin in the tramways that were constructed to carry stone down from the hills to the urban centres below. For example, tramways took stone from the Leckhampton quarry to Cheltenham and from the mines on Combe Down to the Kennet and Avon Canal near Bathampton; they were an essential component in a system that was then heavily reliant on transportation by water.

In terms of the steam era, the Cotswolds area itself had little attraction for the railwaymen. It was thinly populated, poor, and the opportunities for carrying freight in or out of the area were limited. The only reason to build railways in the area was to cross it to somewhere more profitable. Brunel's Great Western Railway of 1841 cuts-across the southern part of the AONB, with a branch line from Swindon serving Cirencester and eventually Kemble. Another line along the foot of the Scarp was opened in 1844, linking Gloucester to Bristol, and in 1847 the Cheltenham and Western Union joined the line from Kemble down to Cheltenham via Stroud. The line between Oxford and Worcester was completed in 1853 and, in time, other routes that penetrated deeper into the area were constructed. However, many of these routes proved to be uneconomic and one - the line linking Cheltenham to Swindon via places like Cricklade and Chedworth was in the hands of the receiver before it even opened! Few of these later lines survived the Beeching cuts of the 1960s.

Overall, the influence of the canals and railways on the landscape of the AONB was limited, other than in one important respect: the importation into the area of goods, service and materials of a type and on a scale that would have been unthinkable in the past. Bricks, Welsh slate, corrugated iron, clay tiles, post and wire fencing and other products that are alien to the area were all imported, changing radically the age-old appearance of many elements in the landscape. This was the start of a process that continued with the coming of mechanised road transport and the surfacing of roads which, as well as bringing materials such as concrete blocks and tiles, extended the area of influence of other materials beyond the immediate vicinity of canals or railway stations.

Mechanised road traffic and the improvement of the road system - including the driving of the M4 through the south of the AONB and the construction of the M5 and M40 along its perimeters - has also had the effect of opening-up the area to tourism and commuting, both welcome from an economic point of view but also the source of great pressure on the landscape. Roads have





SECOND WORLD WAR AIRCRAFT HANGER AT ASTON DOWN

been widened, bends straightened and, in some places, abandoned as unsuitable for motor traffic. The pressure on the road system has also been exacerbated by the closure of most of the network of railway lines in the 1960s, though remnants of the system are still visible in the landscape, and the railway perimeters have often become rich in wildlife.

Roads were also improved (and removed from the landscape) to permit the construction during World War II of military airfields on the Cotswolds plateau, about 18 in all. Some airfields are still in use, many have reverted to agricultural use and a few such as Aston Down and Staveton have been transferred to civilian use. Nonetheless, there are still some very large areas of the landscape devoted to airfields with their high-visibility structures and perimeter fences. From a leisure perspective, the digging of gravel for the airfield runways has provided the only large areas of open water within the AONB, encouraging the development of water parks and other recreational facilities. Even the old canals have found a future in leisure. The Stroudwater has been renovated in part and a scheme is in hand to resurrect the Thames and Severn. Extensive restoration has saved the Kennet and Avon and even a short stretch of the connecting Somerset Coal Canal had been re-dug to provide mooring facilities.

### 3.05 Settlement and Built Form

It is ironic that, although designated an area of outstanding *natural* beauty, much of what makes the landscape of the Cotswolds AONB so distinctive is the product of human endeavour, the prime example being settlement and built form (discussed in detail in Chapter 04).

The early settlement on the AONB was dictated by the ease with which the scrub could be cleared and the

availability of water. Prehistoric settlers therefore favoured spring-line sites along the face of the Scarp, though archaeological evidence shows that the iron age population was spread fairly evenly over the area. The most favoured sites were in the more sheltered valleys - the spring line between the Oolite and the Lias clay meant a plentiful supply of fresh water, and the silt carried by the streams gave fertile meadows. The Romans also chose to site their villas in the same location, though they also established the first truly urban centres at Cirencester (*Corinium*) and Gloucester (*Glevum*).

Roman towns developed as circumstances changed. At first, the settlement would be no more than a strong defensive position. Then it would become a centre for organising further conquest and administration. Cirencester developed from the camp at Chesterton and Gloucester from the military camp at Kingsholm. By the second century AD, Cirencester was the capital of *Britannia Prima*, one of the four sub-provinces of Britain under Diocletian. Contained within stone-faced earthen banks, the town was divided into fifteen blocks and, in addition to the public buildings, there were shops and houses built of timber, stone or brick. Gloucester was to develop from a fortress of turf and clay to a colony for retired veterans, surrounded by defensive stone walls. Bath (*Aquae Sulis*) was the other great urban centre that grew up within the vicinity of the AONB, a place dedicated to Minerva and with a sumptuous array of hot and cold baths.

The large populations of the urban centres were supported by the agricultural produce of the villa estates in the countryside, sites of which have been discovered across the whole of the area. Many of these sported splendid houses for the landowner, built from stone, brick and tiles,



REMAINS OF THE ROMAN VILLA AT CHEDWORTH

and complete with baths, outbuildings, barns and stores. Humbler dwellings would invariably have been of wood. Following the withdrawal of the legions, the grand villas became derelict, but the sites continued to be occupied perhaps by the descendants of the villa owners in kinship groups, still farming the land of their ancestors. There is also evidence of iron age fort sites being re-occupied (e.g. Kemerton on Bredon Hill). The Anglo-Saxons then took over the existing settlements and reorganized them into their vills.

By the end of the 7th century, Minster churches were being built at Bath, Gloucester, Tetbury and Withington, and around them grew collections of dwellings. Monasteries were founded at Malmesbury, Bibury, Hawkesbury and Winchcombe during the 8th century; these too attracted settlement. Smaller parish churches were built to serve the vills (parish churches were often founded as private chapels by the Lord of the manor, and hence sited adjacent to the home farm which, being on the spring line, explains the uniform elevation of many churches across the AONB). Royal manors were settled at Cirencester, Bradford, Winchcombe, Shipton-under-Wychwood, Charlbury, Wootton, Bloxam and Deddington. The establishment of the burhs lead to the expansion of a number of towns, all of which developed into important trading centres with regular market days and the occasional fair.

The Normans expanded the market towns, and established more where the possibility of trade existed, often at the crossing point of important highways, or where rivers were navigable. Burgage plots within these towns were generally long, narrow strips some 5-6 yards wide and running-back from the roadside. Shops would sit beside the road, with workshops, stables and vegetable plots behind. To rear of the plots would be narrow lanes giving



WILLIAM GREVEL'S HOUSE, CHIPPING CAMPDEN



ALMS HOUSES, NORTHLEACH

access to yards - these 'back lanes' can still be found in many market towns. Houses were generally of wood with thatched roofs, though stone buildings began to appear in the 14th century (the first 'modern' stone houses are actually recorded as having been constructed in Winchcombe in 1221). The export of wool reached its peak during the middle of the century, and the fortunes of the great wool merchants were invested in the first of the grand stone houses, such as Grevel's house in Chipping Campden. Wealth was also directed towards the great re-building of many parish churches, Fairford and Northleach being just two examples.

In the mid 15th century, when the importance of cloth overtook that of raw wool, there was a rise in number of families making their living using their home as a workshop. Mother and daughters would spin the raw wool, and father would weave the broadcloth at his own loom. As broadcloth was 60 inches wide and 26-28 yards long, the room to operate these machines needed to be larger than normal, and to be relatively well lit. Often it would be on the first floor with larger than normal windows for extra light. This was a key factor in the development of the 'Cotswold Style', with its steeply pitched roofs and large, windowed gables and dormers.

After the dissolution of the monasteries some clothiers moved their weavers into church buildings. For example, William Stumpe at Malmesbury filled the abbey halls with looms and tenements for his workers, demolished the chancel and transepts to provide stone for his own house, and sold or gave the six remaining bays of the abbey church to the town for use a parish church. It was also at this time that the wealthy merchants commenced the building of great mansions, buildings that utilised a number of late-Tudor features were to be adapted and reproduced in humbler form along the whole of the limestone belt (e.g. stone mullioned windows, label moulds, coped gables and decorative finials).



Wool merchants continued to make money during the 16th and 17th centuries, though they now chose to spend their money establishing almshouses and schools; examples can be seen in Wooton-under-Edge and Chipping Campden. Between 1790 and 1825 over two hundred new mills were opened in the South Cotswold area and dozens of small settlements sprung up to house cloth workers (e.g. around Minchinhampton Common). These new settlements were generally on land unsuited to agriculture use, and often utilised the steep valley sides or waste ground. Settlements in the valleys were often cut-into the hillside, enabling lengths of cloth to be stretched out on 'tenter' frames. Chalford, with its mix of mills, terraces of workers cottages and big houses for the wealthy, is a good example. Cottages also begun to be built by speculators, for rent to clothing workers, quarrymen and other artisans, though these were often of poor construction, using bricks which could now be imported by canal.

Bath, had a somewhat separate history. Neglected after its abandonment by the Romans and never sharing in the wool-generated wealth of the northern part of the AONB, it remained a backwater until its 'discovery' in the 18th century and transformation into one of the great classical cities of the world. Wealth came to the area and, the southern part of the AONB was subject to serious development.

The industrial revolution did not bring great wealth to the area, the woollen industry being left behind in the age of rapid mechanisation. Even where power looms were introduced, transport was still a problem and the number of workers engaged in the clothing industry dropped to 6,700 by 1861 and to 3,900 by 1890. This, coupled with the collapse of the rural economy, put an end to virtually all development within the area, the fabric of which was now in serious decline.

Despite some revival of building activity towards the end of the 19th century, partially a result of the interest shown in the area by the Arts and Crafts Movement, the impetus to build within the bounds of the Cotswolds AONB did not return until after the World War II. Leisure, tourism and a desire to live in the country and commute to the cities (and to own second homes) has meant that there has probably been more development over the last sixty years than for centuries. This has led to the rapid expansion of many towns and villages, masking the direct relationship between geology, landform and land use and - in some instances - compromising the unity and charm of the area. Large scale modern farm buildings, the importation of 'outside' building materials, and the






ARTS AND CRAFTS ARCHITECTURE: NETHER SWELL MANOR  
BY GUY DAWBER




creeping 'suburbanisation' of the landscape have all impacted on its unique appearance.



### 3.06 Summary

The landscape of the Cotswolds AONB has evolved over millennia, and is the product of a wide array of social, cultural and economic forces. Poverty and depression have often been rife, the peak of 'Cotswold' prosperity having been reached in the sixteenth century. Hence the predominantly late medieval and Tudor character of places such as Northleach, Tetbury and Chipping Campden, all exemplars in the use of the stone that lays below the surface of the ground. That said, one cannot discount the accretive - and often subtle - impact on the landscape of what came before and after. Roman roads, Saxon farming, enclosure, Georgian Bath, industrialisation, canals, railways and the motor car have all played their part in determining the appearance of landscape as it is seen today. Spread over the following pages is a table that summarises this evolutionary process in the form of a 'timeline'.


	Period	Event	Impact	Evidence and examples	
Pre-Norman	100,000 BC	Hunter gatherers move into the south of the area.		Hand axes found near Bourton-on-the-Water and Gloucester.	
	10,000 - 6,000 BC	Forest Folk (Maglemosians) from northern Europe drift across swampy area that was to become the North sea and settle.	Clearings in wildwood, the felling of trees and fire used to clear the undergrowth.	Tools found in the southern valleys and many microliths (small flint tools) found on high wolds.	
	3000 BC	Immigrants from the continent introduce the cultivation of cereals and the husbandry of animals - especially pigs.	Creation of trackways and the construction of long barrows. First evidence of building using dry stone walling.	The Jurassic Way, Belas Knap, Hetty Peglar's Tump etc.	PORTAL OF BELAS KNAP LONG BARROW
	1600 BC	Introduction of metalworking for tools and weapons - Bronze Age.	Round barrows.	Many examples of round barrows throughout the area.	
	700 BC	Settled farming - Iron Age.	The erection of hill forts, establishment of villages, clearing scrub on the Wolds, and small enclosed arable fields.	Forts at Uley, Salmonsbury, Bredon, Cleeve etc. Field system at Aldsworth. Village at Crickley Hill.	
	47 AD	Roman Invasion - Stabilised administration continues as Romano - British until Legions withdrawn.	Roads, towns, villa estates. Further clearance of the woodland. Sheep raising. Corn produced on a bigger than self sufficient scale.	Ermin Street, Fosse Way, Bath, Cirencester, Chedworth and Woodchester villas.	ROMAN VILLA REMAINS AT NORTH LEIGH
	577 AD	Development of the 'Midland' open field system of agriculture. 'Strip fields'. Introduction of the heavy plough. Manor estates established. Settlement in 'Vills' Woollen cloth exported to Europe. Small fortified towns - Boroughs established.	Churches, monasteries, monastic & royal estates. Villages, lanes, open field system, Woollen cloth production, Parishes, Hundreds, Shires. Boroughs, Place names, More woodland clearance. Mills built.	Many churches with fragments but best complete church at Bradford-on-Avon. Monasteries at Malmesbury, Bath, Gloucester. Estates at Colesbourne, Compton Abdale, Whittington. Most villages. Most lanes. Field strips in many locations - e.g. Wood Stanway, Hailes. Parishes - as estates above. Hundreds - Tibblestone Hundred. Shires: Gloucestershire, Winchcombeshire. Boroughs at Winchcombe, Gloucester, Bath, Malmesbury, Cricklade. Names like Whittington = 'Widia's Dun' = 'the hill pasture belonging to Widia'. Mills known from Domesday at Stonehouse and Lower Slaughter.	
					SITE OF CASTLE AT ELMLEY CASTLE






Medieval	Period	Event	Impact	Evidence and examples	
	1066	Estates taken over by Norman Lords, Many grants of land to ecclesiastic bodies.	Castles built in strategic places. Forest Law established Markets set up in towns, fairs granted. Churches and Monasteries built or enlarged.	Beverstone Castle built. Relics at Elmley Castle, Castle Combe, Ascot-under-Wychwood. Forest Law established at Wychwood, Kingswood, Michaelwood, Oakley wood. Markets set up at Bradford, Cirencester, Malmesbury, Winchcombe, Bloxham, Deddington, Burford, Stow-on-the-Wold, Northleach etc. Fairs held at, Burford, Cirencester, Chipping Norton, Banbury etc. Churches built at Gloucester, Cirencester, Kingswood and many more - good example at Elkstone 1160.	 ELKSTONE CHURCH
	1200's	Increasing population.	Pressure on agricultural land. Villages established in cleared woodland.	Villages settled at Cranham, Stockwell, etc.	
	1221	Fire at Winchcombe Abbey - many wooden buildings destroyed.	First stone built domestic buildings recorded.	Documentary evidence, Winchcombe.	
	1247 - on	Expansion of wool exports to Europe - especially by Abbeys etc.	Great Barns built near manors or monasteries.	Barns at Farmcote, Siddington, Stanway, Calcot, etc.	TITHE BARN, STANWAY
	before 1400	Rise of Wool Merchants - intermediaries in export of wool to Europe.	Houses being built of stone for wealthy merchants.	Six houses built at Burford. William Grevel's house and Woolstaplers Hall at Chipping Campden.	
	1348 - 49	Poor harvests and bad weather - failure of crops on high wolds arable fields. Plague breaks out.	Black Death kills a third of the population - Some villages deserted, others cleared for converting to sheep pasture. Some piecemeal enclosure of open fields to consolidate holdings.	Deserted villages of Pinnock, Caslett, Hawling, Lower Harford, Aylworth, Upton and many more on OS maps.	
		Contraction of arable farming expansion of sheep rearing. Export of cloth rather than raw wool.  Prosperity especially in western Cotswolds.	Mills for fulling cloth built or converted from grain mills.  New Churches being built and additions to existing Churches - towers etc.	Growth of cloth mills at Wickwar, Dursley, Stroud, Wotton-under-Edge.  New and altered Churches at Gloucester, Northleach, Chipping Campden, Cirencester, Winchcombe etc.	CIRENCESTER CHURCH

	Period	Event	Impact	Evidence and examples	
Tudor and Stuart	1517	Commission of enquiry into agrarian distress. Found recent enclosure of 3,843 acres and the process is continuing.	Some landowners buying out freeholders and enclosing land for sheep runs.	Sezincote, Stowell, Earl of Bathurst at Cirencester.	
	1536 - 1539	Dissolution of the Monasteries - Monastic land coming into private hands.	More than a quarter of the land in the Cotswolds changes hands from Church to lay ownership,	'Newark' built nr Ozleworth with stone from Kingswood Abbey.	
	1600s	Rise of the Country Gentry - wealthy men not of aristocratic descent.	Building of mansions and parks - Boom years for clothiers.	Mansions built at - Southam, Horton, Stanway, The Hall, Bradford, Parks at - Nympsfield (1690) Deer parks - Dyrham, Berkeley.	
	1618 - 48	Thirty Years' War in Low Countries	Collapse of cloth exports.		
	1642 - 46 & 1648 - 51	English Civil Wars.	Hardship in country - deprecations from passing armies.		
	1660	Restoration of the Monarchy - Stability reestablished.	Recovery in cloth trade, building of larger cloth mills. Decline of smaller mills in some areas.	Decline of mills at Painswick, Pitchcombe, Slad valleys.	
	1670	Recognised that road transport hampered by very poor road system.	Badminton Park developed.		 <p>CHASTLETON HOUSE</p>
Georgian and Regency	1726	Causeway and bridge built at Swinford over swampy area.	East Cotswolds road connection to London improved.	Swinford Bridge and Causeway.	
	1746 - 56	Turnpike Trust roads established.	Great improvement in transport - rise of coach and wagon services for passengers and freight both within and passengers and freight both within and Burford, Cheltenham, Cirencester, Stow, Stroud, Moreton etc.	A40, A429, A419, A433 and many more local roads.	 <p>BADMINTON PARK</p>





Georgian and Regency	Period	Event	Impact	Evidence and examples	
	1760 onwards	Enclosure of open fields and later common land. Big landholders move out of village farmhouses and build new houses on the farmland. Many trees planted.	Building of boundary drystone walls, hedges, new roads, streams realigned. Building of farm houses on the wolds. Cottages built, barns and other farm buildings. Development of 'Cotswold Style'. Market towns rebuilt in stone - some older mansions refashioned to 'Classical' style.	All over region.  Most market towns. Mansions - Eygpt Mill House, Cassey Compton, Withington.	 <p>THE BREWERY, DONNINGTON</p>
		Industrial Villages appear, Mills built or enlarged to cope with larger scale cloth processing.	Growth of industrial scale development in Stroudwater area.	Stroud valleys, Chalford, etc.	
		Drive to make farming more profitable - agriculture as an economic activity.  Pace of enclosure increases.	Water meadows established to improve grazing. Field drainage.	Water meadows in Windrush valley and along stream at Burford.	
		More grain crops planted - especially barley for brewing.	Breweries established for malting and brewing. Demand from towns.	Breweries at Burford, Cirencester, Stroud, Donnington, Banbury.	
	1776 - 79	Stroudwater Canal built.	Transport of coal and alien building materials into Stroud area.	Canal partially restored.	 <p>THAMES AND SEVERN CANAL: SAPPERTON TUNNEL</p>
	1786 - 89	Thames and Severn Canal built.	Link from Severn to Thames. Transport of coal and outside materials cheaply deep into heart of Cotswold. Sapperton Tunnel built.	Route and fragments exist - restoration plan exists.	
	1796	Kennet and Avon Canal (part) built	Link from South West area to Thames. Especially important for stone quarries around Bath.	Restored canal.	
	1798	Tramway built from Leckhampton Quarry to Cheltenham.	Transporting of stone for the development of Cheltenham.	Quarry and part of route still exist.	
	1803	Napoleonic Wars.  Urban Population growth.	Expansion of arable farming - growth of 'scientific' farming, experiment and changes in traditional practices. Use of fertilisers. Demand for food from urban centres drives need for more productive farming.	Many of the high open wold pastures ploughed up at this time.	

	Period	Event	Impact	Evidence and examples	
Georgian and Regency	1800 - 40	Virtual completion of enclosures, including 'wastes' and commons.  Growth of agricultural machine manufacturing in the Stroud valleys.  Some building of cottages for agricultural workers. More farmhouses built on open fields.	Arable (grain) farming on wastes and commons.		 ROEL: HIGH WOLD PUT TO THE PLOUGH
	1815	First steam powered wool mills.	Playnes of Minchinghampton.	Longford Mill near Minchinghampton	
	1826	Tramroad developed.	Commuting in north of area.	Moreton to Stratford-on-Avon.	
	1830's	Cloth industry in decline due to competition from more mechanised north.	Change of use of some mills to engineering.		
	1833	Great Western Railway formed.	Start of railway building in area.		ROYAL AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE, CIRENCESTER
Victorian	1841	Swindon - to Kemble line opened with a branch to Cirencester. (broad gauge) continued through Stroud to Gloucester and Cheltenham.	Severe blow to canal trade - spelled end of Thames and Severn Canal.	Lines still in operation.	
	1842	Royal Agricultural College opened at Cirencester.	Agriculture seen as a business - scientific approach needed.	Flourishes today.	
	1843	Oxford to Worcester/ Wolverhampton line opened. (mix of broad and narrow gauge).	North Wolds connected to Midlands and London (via Oxford).		
	1846 - 53	Broad gauge abandoned.			
	Late 1850 - 1870	Improvements in transport lead to import of cheap grain from USA to Britain.  Land settlement Act.	Depression develops in agriculture unable to compete with price of 'hard' wheat from prairies of USA. Farms eventually deserted, cottages left to crumble, small farmers in particular affected. Small towns affected. Corn mills close down.  Some young people leave area and emigrate to colonies.		 GREAT WESTERN RAILWAY: BOX TUNNEL



	Period	Event	Impact	Evidence and examples	
Victorian	1871	William Morris buys Kelmscott Manor.	Artists of Arts and Crafts Movement become interested in Cotswolds - influx of artists, craftsmen, architects into area, Restoration of some houses, building of some new houses. Influx of middle classes - area becomes fashionable with intelligentsia.	Restorations at Pinbury Park, Sapperton - Daneway House, Parish Hall, Kelmscott - Campden, Broadway, Painswick. New houses at Rodmarton Manor, Hilles nr. Harescombe.  John Burt establishes a socialist self supporting community at Whiteway above Stroud - still in existence though changed aims.	 KELMSCOTT MANOR
	1914 - 18	World War I.	Rapid clearing of land for crops. More cloth mills close and change to engineering. Mechanisation of agriculture. Threshing machines, reapers. Traction engines.		
Twentieth Century	1930's	Depression.	Depression in farming.  Growth of tourism and day trippers.  Minor roads surfaced.	Growth of Bourton-on-the-Water.	 BOURTON-ON-THE-WATER
	1939 - 45	World War II.	Agriculture expanded again. Downs ploughed again, trees felled - Building of Airfields. Engineering in Stroud area expands.	Airfields at Brize Norton, Faiford, Kemble, Moreton-in-the-Marsh etc.	
	1949	National Parks and access to the Countryside Act.		Cotswold way National Trail (designated 1998).	 COUNCIL HOUSES, CHIPPING CAMPDEN
	1950s	Post War Austerity.	Agriculture mechanises and expands, softwood trees planted by Forestry Commission, Productivity raised. Some stark utilitarian buildings raised. Some airfields continue in use.  Open commons come into protection as recreational or environmentally important.	Cleeve Common, Charlton Hill Common, Minchinghampton, Rodborough etc.	

Twentieth Century	Period	Event	Impact	Evidence and examples	
	1960s - 70s	National recovery.	Building of private and council housing. Especially round towns and larger villages.	Various - Winchcombe, Cirencester etc.	 <p>CONVERTED BARN, EPWELL</p>
	1966	Designation of Cotswolds AONB.			
	1973	EEC Membership.	EEC Grants for agriculture. Extensive grain fields, smaller fields enlarged.		
	1980s-date	Improved motorway and major road links.	Cottages and barns being bought for renovation and adapting to residential use. Villages become 'smart' places to live with use of motor car to commute.	Extension of M40; A40 bypass Northleach. Suburban expansion of Stow, Moreton, etc.	
	1990	Extension of area of Cotswolds AONB.	Cotswolds AONB Partnership established (1999).	Preparation of management plan and landscape character assessment (2003).	 <p>TRAFFIC IN CHIPPING CAMPDEN</p>
	2002	Countryside and Rights of Way Act.	Cotswolds AONB Partnership agrees to become a Conservation Board (2004)	Greater public enjoyment of the countryside?	