

South Gloucestershire Landscape Character Assessment

Annex II: Strategic Viewpoints

South Gloucestershire Council

Final Draft Report for Adoption Chapter 11

Prepared by LUC

September 2024



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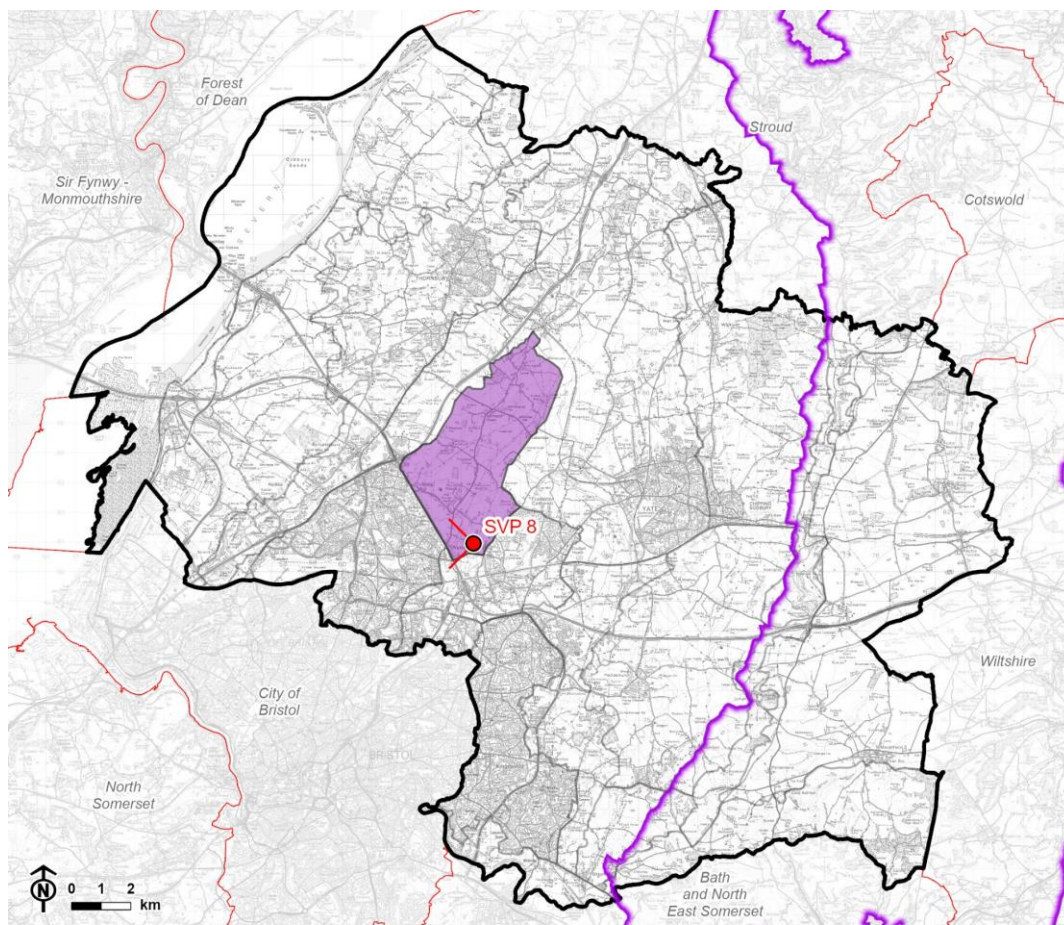
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Chapter 11

Strategic Viewpoint 8: Church Lane (Winterbourne)

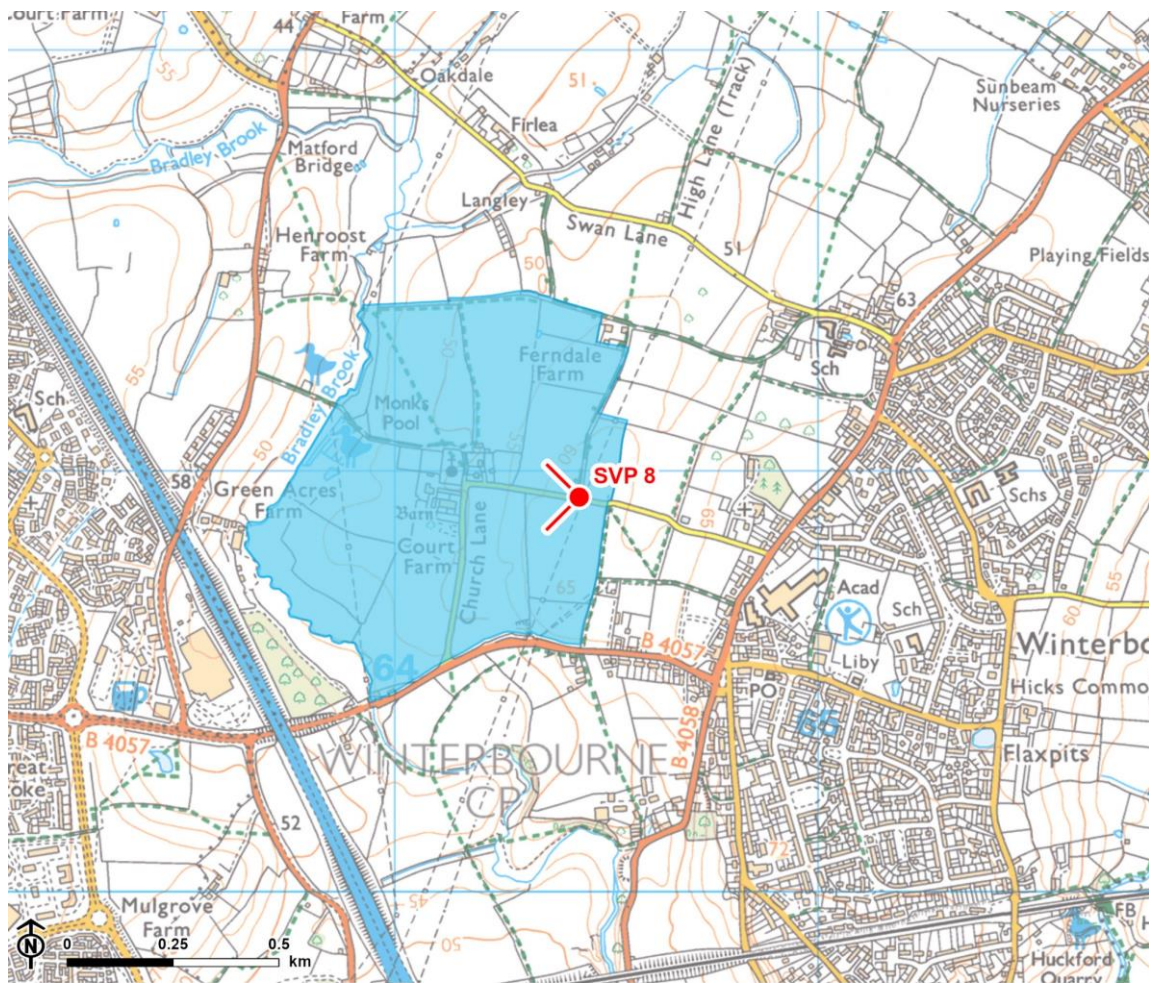
Figure 11.1: Location of Strategic Viewpoint 8 and landscape character context



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-  Council boundary
-  Neighbouring local authority
-  Cotswolds National Landscape (AONB) boundary
-  LCA 10: Earthcott Vale
-  Strategic viewpoint and angle

Figure 11.2: Detailed map of the location of Strategic Viewpoint 8



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-  Council boundary
-  Cotswolds National Landscape (AONB) boundary
-  Conservation area
-  Strategic viewpoint and angle



Viewpoint Information

Grid reference: ST 64422 80952

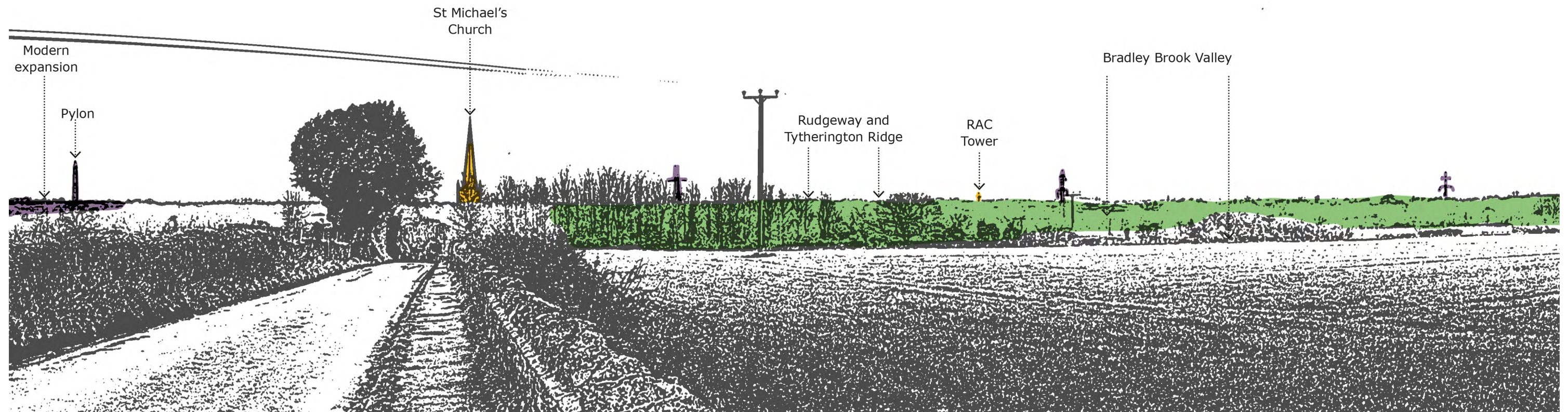
View location: Church Lane/Green Lane junction, Winterbourne.

View direction: View north, west and south-west across LCA 10: Earthcott Vale and the Bradley Brook Valley.

Relationship with Visually Important Hillside (VIH): The viewpoint is not located along a VIH, however the Severn Ridges VIH can be seen on the horizon in views to the north-west.

Experienced by: Pedestrians along Church Lane, recreational users of nearby public footpaths (including LWB46/10 and LWB47/10) and Green Lane Restricted Byway (LWB/29/50). Transient views for cyclists and motorists travelling west along Church Lane.

Figure 11.3: View Composition of Strategic Viewpoint 8



Key landscape feature

Landmark / historic feature

Detractive feature

Figure 11.4: Full Panoramic Photograph of Strategic Viewpoint 8



Strategic Viewpoint 8: Church Lane (Winterbourne)



Strategic Viewpoint 8 (continued)

Characteristics

Popularity, access and facilities

- The viewpoint is referenced within Church Lane Winterbourne Conservation Area appraisal [See reference 1] as being an 'important view' with the open fields in the foreground being important to the setting of St Michaels Church (Grade I listed) and the Conservation Area.
- Views from this viewpoint are representative of those described in LCA 10: Earthcott Vale, which notes that *“the open setting and position of Winterbourne Church and Court complex, above the Bradley Brook valley, form a striking local landmark, from which relatively wide views are available looking west across Bradley Brook Valley.”*
- The viewpoint can be accessed from Church Lane, as well as via a number of public rights of way adjoining the road (including LBW/29/50, LBW/46/10 and LWB/47/10).

Quality, value and features of the view

- A slightly elevated viewpoint above the Bradley Brook Valley, that provides a panoramic view (180°) west across the valley towards the edge of Stoke Gifford (Bristol) with urban development seen on the skyline, and north across the vale landscape (characterised by large mixed fields with hedgerows and hedgerow trees) towards the Rudge Way and Tytherington Ridge.
- The viewpoint provides a view of St Michael's Church (Grade I listed) and glimpses of Winterbourne Court within the Church Lane Winterbourne Conservation Area, located 300 metres to the west, and enables an appreciation of these assets within their wider landscape setting. The spire of the church forms an important local landmark feature (although views are partially obscured by intervening vegetation, particularly in summer months).
- The RAC Tower (4km away) and the Purdown BT Tower (5.5km away) form relatively distant landmark features on the skyline in views to the north-west and south-west respectively.

Chapter 11 Strategic Viewpoint 8: Church Lane (Winterbourne)

- A locally distinctive group of three wind turbines near Tytherington, several pylon lines, and the urban edge of Stoke Gifford on the skyline (which contrasts with the surrounding rural landscape), detract from the overall composition of the view.

Summary

The viewpoint at Church Lane (Winterbourne) is categorised as a SVP as it meets most of the criteria to some extent. It is a recorded viewpoint (referred to in the Conservation Area appraisal); it is noted in the South Gloucestershire Landscape Character Assessment as being a natural observation point from which to appreciate the landscape; it is located adjacent to public rights of way; and it provides a panoramic view that takes in the landmark feature of St Michael's Church and its setting within the Church Lane Winterbourne Conservation Area, as well as the RAC Tower and the Purdown BT Tower.

References

References

- 1 Church Lane Winterbourne Conservation Area SPD (2006). Available at:
<https://beta.southglos.gov.uk/static/267b863791edb0c998480fa9de702263/Church-lane-Winterbourne-Conservation-Area-SPD-April-2006.pdf>

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