

South Gloucestershire Landscape Character Assessment

Annex II: Strategic Viewpoints

South Gloucestershire Council

Final Draft Report for Adoption Chapter 12

Prepared by LUC

September 2024



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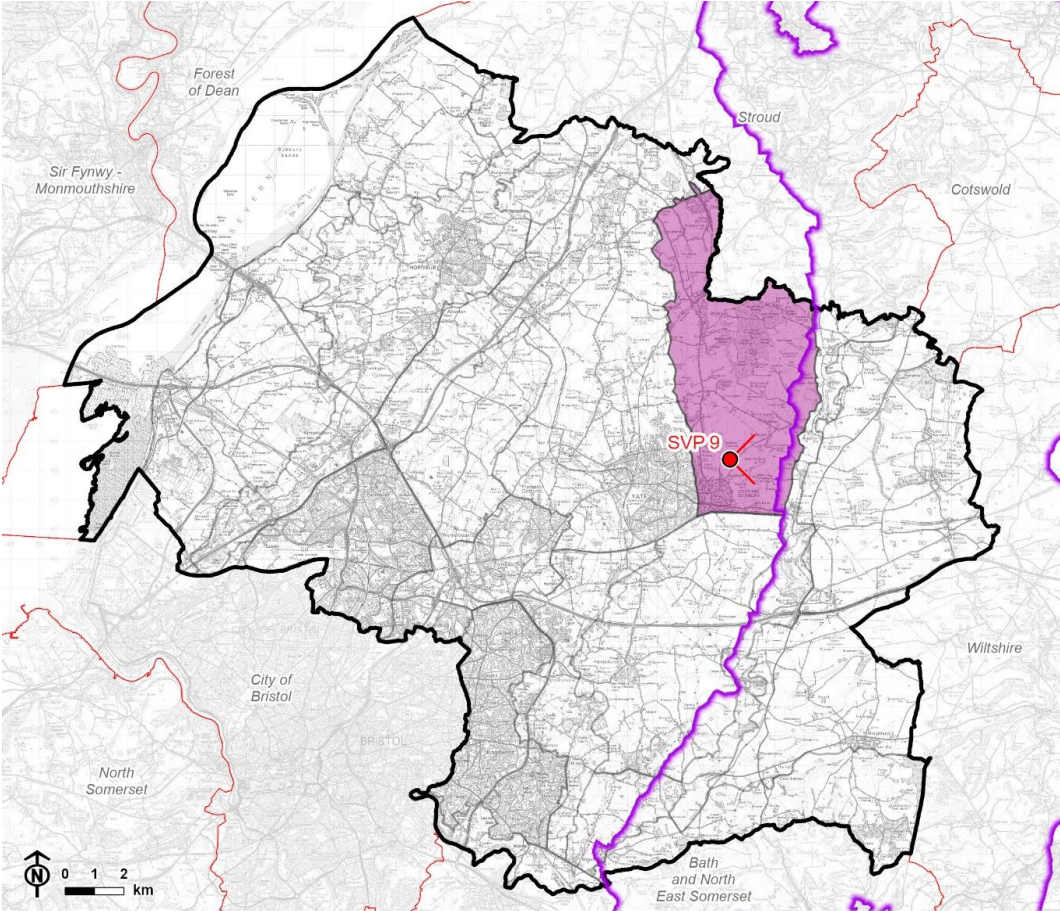
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Chapter 12

Strategic Viewpoint 9: Sodbury Common

Figure 12.1: Location of Strategic Viewpoint 9 and landscape character context



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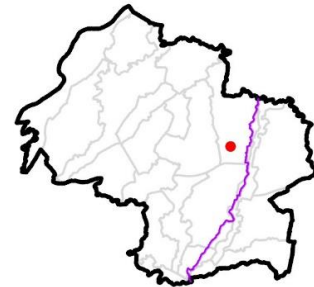
-  Council boundary
-  Neighbouring local authority
-  Cotswolds National Landscape (AONB) boundary
-  LCA 5: Wickwar Ridge and Vale
-  Strategic viewpoint and angle

Figure 12.2: Detailed map of the location of Strategic Viewpoint 9



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



Viewpoint Information

Grid reference: ST 73412 83334

View location: Sodbury Common, Chipping Sodbury.


View direction: View north, east and south-east across LCA 5: Wickwar Ridge and Vale and towards LCA 4: Cotswold Scarp.

Relationship with Visually Important Hillside (VIH): The viewpoint is not located along a VIH, however it provides views east towards the Cotswold Scarp VIH.

Experienced by: Recreational users of the open access land on Sodbury Common, as well as the public rights of way which cross the common including the Jubilee Way locally promoted route and public footpath LSO/5/10.

Figure 12.3: View Composition of Strategic Viewpoint 9 (view north)



 Key landscape feature

 Landmark / historic feature


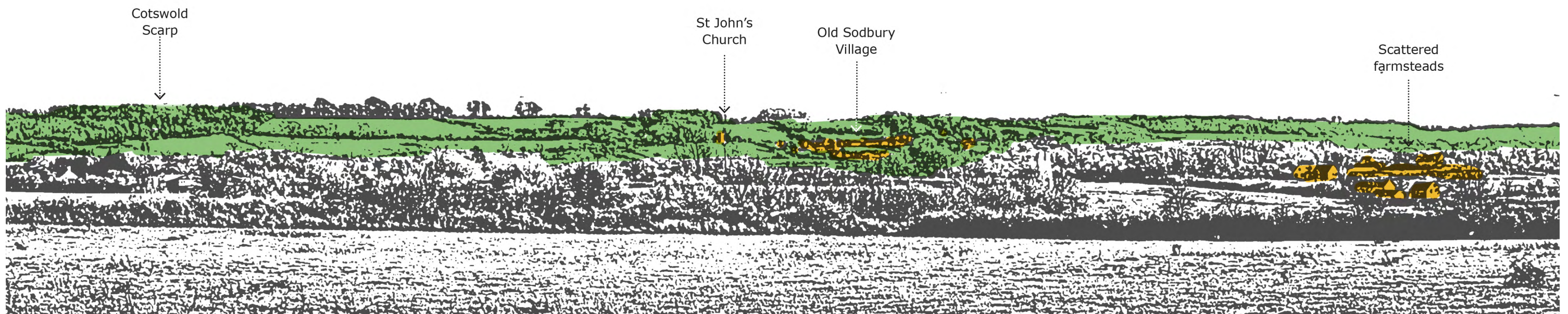

 Detractive feature

Figure 12.4: View Composition of Strategic Viewpoint 9 (view east)



 Key landscape feature

 Landmark / historic feature

Figure 12.5: Full Panoramic Photograph of Strategic Viewpoint 9



Strategic Viewpoint 9: Sodbury Common



Strategic Viewpoint 9 (continued)



Strategic Viewpoint 9 (continued)

Characteristics

Popularity, access and facilities

- LCA 5: Wickwar Ridge and Vale notes the importance of views from this viewpoint, stating that *"the large commons of Inglestone, Hawkesbury and Sodbury are distinct areas within their locality. Their open character allows extensive views both within these areas, of the adjacent landscape framework and to the Cotswold Scarp."*
- The viewpoint is publicly accessible, located on a large area of open access land at Sodbury Common. Further access is provided by public footpaths which cross the common (LSL/1/10 and LSO/5/10) including the Jubilee Way locally promoted route.

Relationship with the Cotswolds National Landscape

- The viewpoint is not located within the CNL but provides views east towards the Cotswold Scarp. In views to the north-east, Broad Hill, Birch Hill, and the wooded hillsides around Horton (including the Grade II Widden Hill House), form distinctive features. To the east, the historic village of Old Sodbury can be seen nestled on the Cotswold Scarp, with the Parish Church of St John (Grade II* listed) forming a landmark feature as it is perched in a prominent location overlooking the vale. Dodington Park (Grade II* RPG) is visible on the slopes to the south-east.
- Views of the Cotswold Scarp are considered to be a special quality of the designated landscape, as set out in the CNL Management Plan.

Quality, value and features of the view

- The viewpoint is located on open and relatively elevated ground which enables a panoramic view (180°) to the north, east and south-east across the surrounding

Chapter 12 Strategic Viewpoint 9: Sodbury Common

shallow ridge landscape (characterised by rural fields that are defined by a strong hedgerow framework and scattered farmsteads that contribute to the rural character), with the distinctive landform of the Cotswold Scarp forming a prominent backdrop in views.

- The Somerset Monument forms a vertical landmark feature on the skyline in views to the north-east (located approximately 5.6km away), whilst the Tyndale Monument (located 12km away) forms a more distant landmark feature in views to the north.
- To the west, the rising topography limits views towards the town of Chipping Sodbury, with the rooftops of residential properties partially visible above the sloping grassland forming a detracting element within the view. Pylon lines in near- and long-distance views, as well as a single wind turbine on the skyline to the south also slightly detract from the overall composition of the view.

Summary

The Sodbury Common viewpoint is categorised as a SVP as it meets most of the criteria to some extent. 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 on a promoted footpath and likely to attract many visitors; it allows an appreciation of the Cotswolds National Landscape; and it provides a panoramic view that takes in the notable landscape features of the shallow ridge landscape and Cotswold Scarp, and the landmark features of the Parish Church of St John, the Somerset Monument and the Tyndale Monument.

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