

# South Gloucestershire Landscape Character Assessment

## Annex II: Strategic Viewpoints

### South Gloucestershire Council

**Final Draft Report for Adoption Chapter 13**

Prepared by LUC

September 2024



Version	Status	Prepared	Checked	Approved	Date
1	Draft Method and Pilot	E White L Jewitt	K Davies	K Davies	03.04.2023
2	Draft Report	L Jewitt V Kakar	E White	K Davies	16.05.2023
3	Draft Report	E White L Jewitt	E White	K Davies	14.07.2023
4	Final Draft	E White L Jewitt	E White	K Davies	01.11.2023
5	Final Draft (updated following New Local Plan Phase 3 consultation)	L Jewitt	E White	K Davies	12.06.2024
6	Final Draft Report for Adoption	L Jewitt	E White	K Davies	11.09.2024



**Land Use Consultants Limited**

Registered in England. Registered number 2549296. Registered office: 250 Waterloo Road, London SE1 8RD. Printed on 100% recycled paper

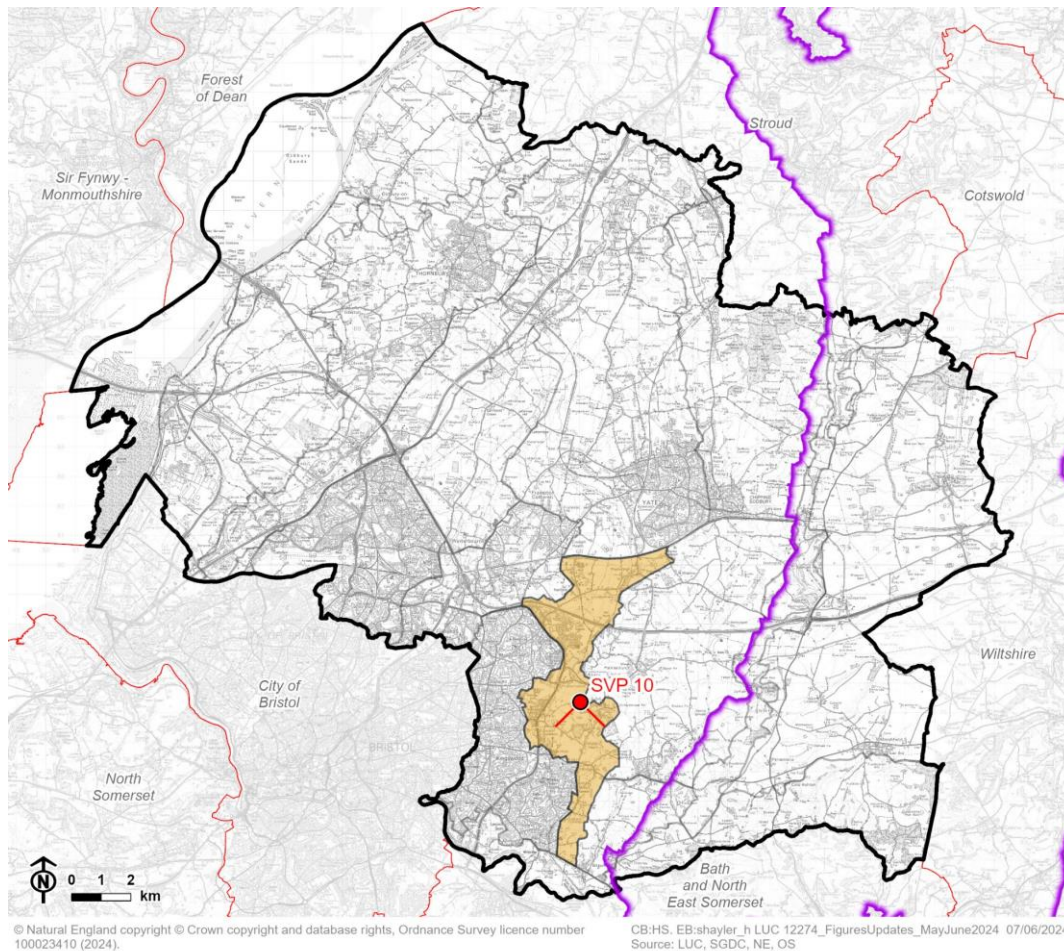
# Contents

<b>Chapter 13</b>	<b>89</b>
Strategic Viewpoint 10: Community Forest Path (Siston)	
Characteristics	94
Summary	95

# Chapter 13

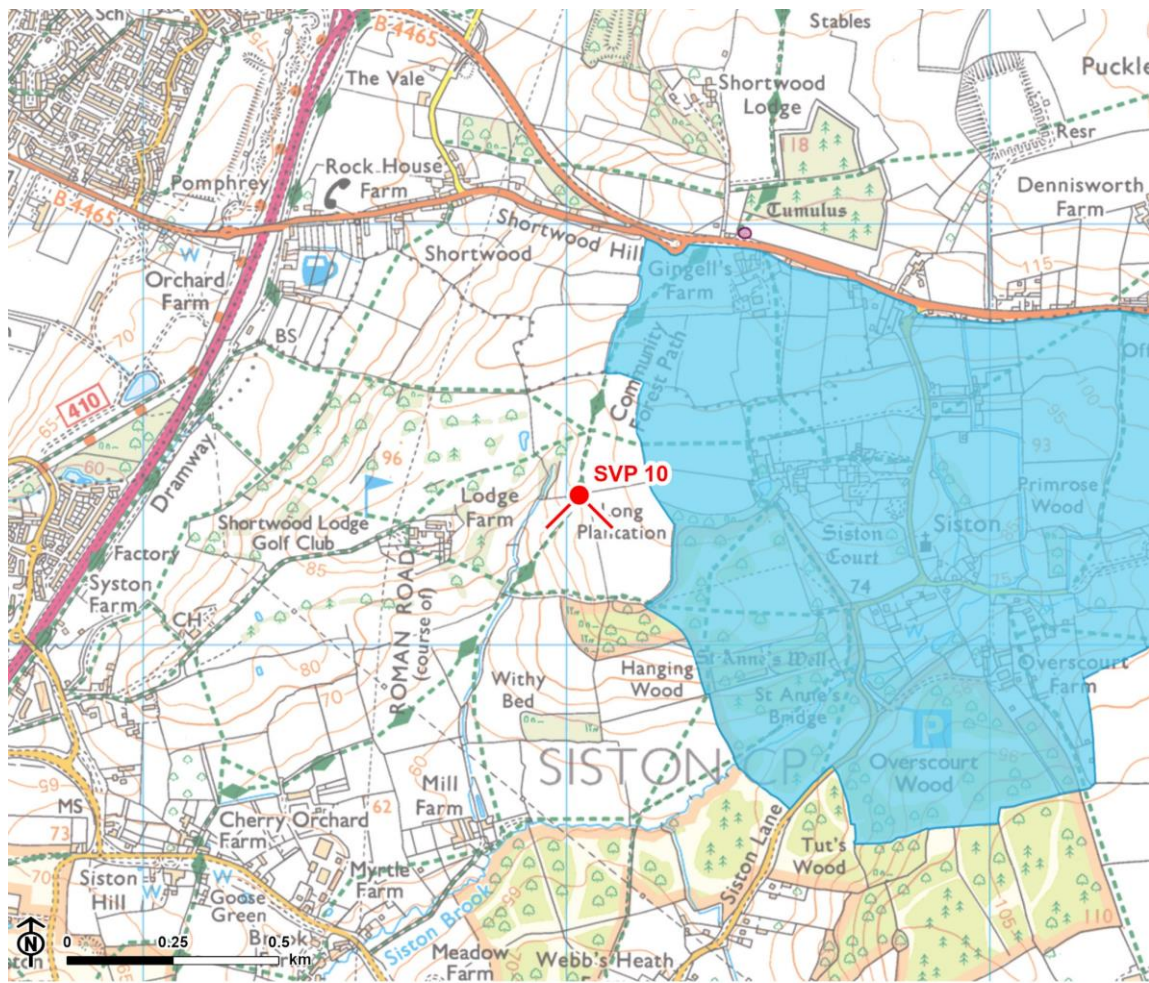
## Strategic Viewpoint 10: Community Forest Path (Siston)

**Figure 13.1: Location of Strategic Viewpoint 10 and landscape character context**




-  Council boundary
-  Neighbouring local authority
-  Cotswolds National Landscape (AONB) boundary
-  LCA 12: Westerleigh Vale and Oldland Ridge
-  Strategic viewpoint and angle

Figure 13.2: Detailed map of the location of Strategic Viewpoint 10



© Natural England. © Historic England. Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database rights, Ordnance Survey licence number 100023410, 2024.

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



## Viewpoint Information

**Grid reference:** ST 68038 75351

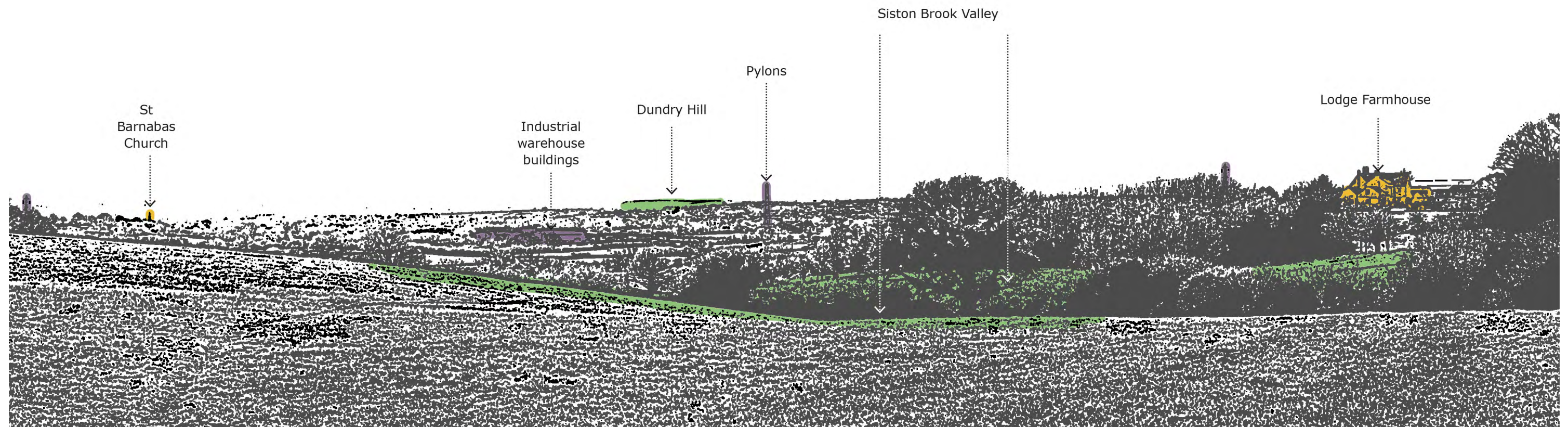
**View location:** Forest of Avon Community Forest Path long distance footpath (PSN/16/40), west of Siston Court and south of Shortwood Hill.

**View direction:** View south and west across LCA 12: Westerleigh Vale and Oldland Ridge and along the Siston Brook valley towards the Kingswood Vale (LCA 14).

**Relationship with Visually Important Hillside (VIH):** The viewpoint is located along the Pucklechurch Ridge VIH.

**Experienced by:** Recreational users of the Community Forest Path (PSN/16/40).

Figure 13.3: View Composition of Strategic Viewpoint 10



Key landscape feature

Landmark / historic feature

Detractive feature

Figure 13.4: Full Panoramic Photograph of Strategic Viewpoint 10



Strategic Viewpoint 10: Community Forest Path (Siston)



Strategic Viewpoint 10 (continued)



## Characteristics

### Popularity, access and facilities

- Views from this viewpoint are representative of those described in LCA 12: Westerleigh Vale and Oldland Ridge, which notes that the Pucklechurch Ridge *"provides expansive panoramic views over the area."*
- The viewpoint can be accessed via The Forest of Avon Community Forest Path promoted route (PSN/16/40) as well as a number of other footpaths that cross the Siston Brook Valley. The adjacent disused Shortwood Lodge golf course is popular for recreation, and a number of informal paths and tracks have been formed across the hillside.
- Car parking is available in Overscourt Wood (part of the Forest of Avon Community Forest) approximately 1km to the south-east of the viewpoint.

### Quality, value and features of the view

- An elevated viewpoint located along the Pucklechurch Ridge VIH and on the upper eastern slopes of the Siston Brook Valley, which facilitates a panoramic view (180°) south and west across the valley (characterised by undulating landform, small pastoral fields defined by a strong hedgerow structure and blocks of woodland that impart a rural character) towards the urban edges of Warmley and Kingswood (part of the Bristol conurbation) in middle-distance views.
- The spire of St Barnabas Church (Grade II listed) in Warmley (2.2km away) forms a landmark feature in views to the south. The tower of Church of the Holy Trinity (Grade II\* listed) in Kingswood (3km away) can be seen in glimpsed views above woodland to the west. In long distance views to the south, Pen Hill transmitter mast on the Mendip Hills National Landscape (AONB) is a tall vertical feature on the skyline.
- The seventeenth-century Lodge Farmhouse (Grade II listed), seen in views 0.3km to the south-west, contributes to the traditional, rural character of the view.

## Chapter 13 Strategic Viewpoint 10: Community Forest Path (Siston)

- Siston Court (Grade I listed) and Conservation Area is located 0.2km to the east; however, views of these features are limited by vegetation (including specimen trees associated with the designed parkland surrounding the historic house), although an appreciation of the landscape setting of Siston Court is still afforded.
- Light-coloured industrial warehouse buildings in near distance views, as well as a series of pylons scattered across the landscape detract from the overall composition of the view.

## Summary

The Community Forest Path (Siston) 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; and it provides a panoramic view that takes in the notable landscape features of the Siston Brook Valley, Lodge Farmhouse, the setting of Siston Court, and the landmark features of St Barnabas Church and Church of the Holy Trinity

Report produced by LUC

# Report produced by LUC

## **Bristol**

12th Floor, Colston Tower, Colston Street, Bristol BS1 4XE

0117 929 1997

bristol@landuse.co.uk

## **Cardiff**

16A, 15th Floor, Brunel House, 2 Fitzalan Rd, Cardiff CF24 0EB

0292 032 9006

cardiff@landuse.co.uk

## **Edinburgh**

Atholl Exchange, 6 Canning Street, Edinburgh EH3 8EG

0131 202 1616

edinburgh@landuse.co.uk

## **Glasgow**

37 Otago Street, Glasgow G12 8JJ

0141 334 9595

glasgow@landuse.co.uk

## **London**

250 Waterloo Road, London SE1 8RD

020 7383 5784

london@landuse.co.uk

## **Manchester**

6th Floor, 55 King Street, Manchester M2 4LQ

0161 537 5960

manchester@landuse.co.uk

## **landuse.co.uk**

Landscape Design / Strategic Planning & Assessment

Development Planning / Urban Design & Masterplanning

Environmental Impact Assessment / Landscape Planning & Assessment

Landscape Management / Ecology / Historic Environment / GIS & Visualisation