

South Gloucestershire Landscape Character Assessment

Annex II: Strategic Viewpoints

South Gloucestershire Council

Final Draft Report for Adoption Chapter 14

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



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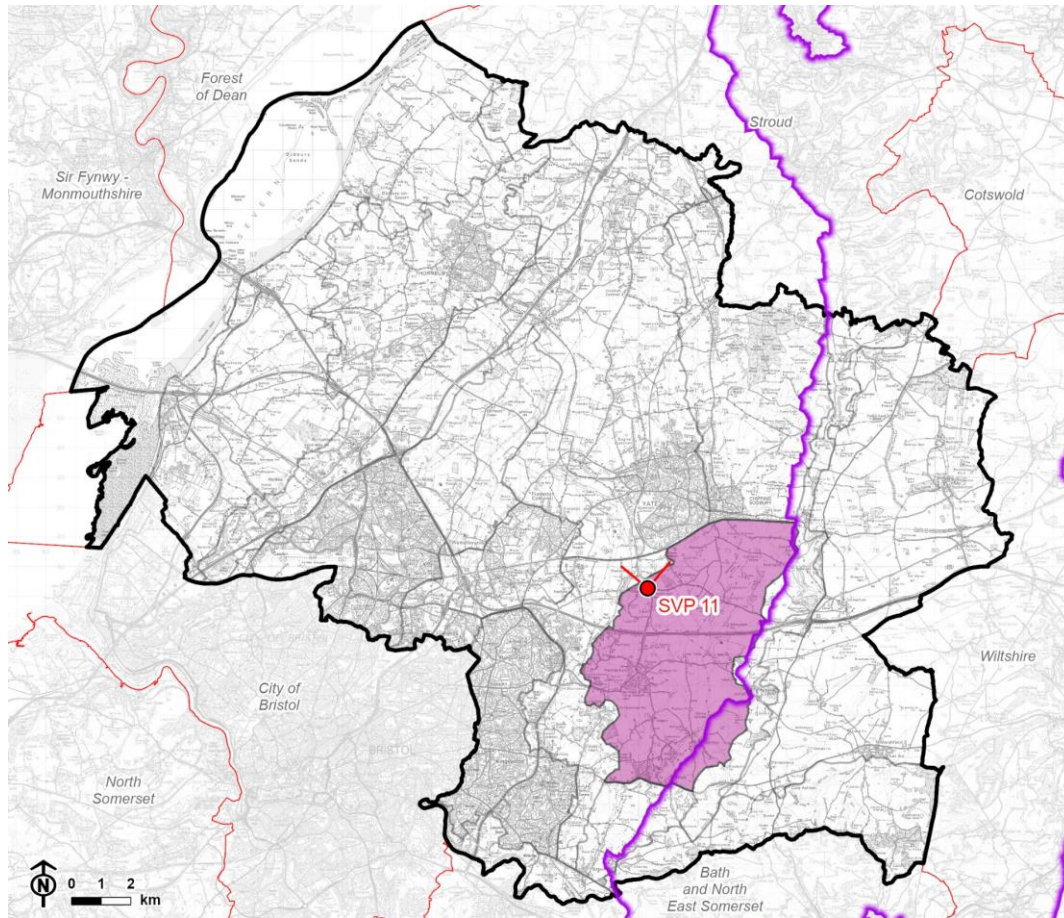
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Chapter 14

Strategic Viewpoint 11: Westerleigh Hill

Figure 14.1: Location of Strategic Viewpoint 11 and landscape character context



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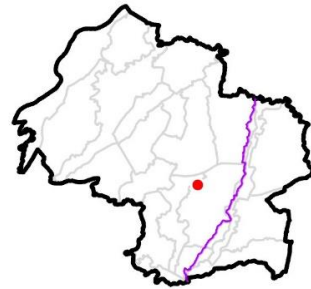
-  Council boundary
-  Neighbouring local authority
-  Cotswolds National Landscape (AONB) boundary
-  LCA 6: Pucklechurch Ridge and Boyd Valley
-  Strategic viewpoint and angle

Figure 14.2: Detailed map of the location of Strategic Viewpoint 11



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



Viewpoint Information

Grid reference: ST 70319 79248

View location: Westerleigh Hill, north-east Bristol.

View direction: View north and west over LCA12: Westerleigh Vale and Oldland Ridge, and LCA 8: Yate Vale.

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

Experienced by: Residents along Westerleigh Road, recreational users of public footpath LWE/44/10 and transient views for cyclists and motorists travelling along Westerleigh Road.

Figure 14.3: View Composition of Strategic Viewpoint 11

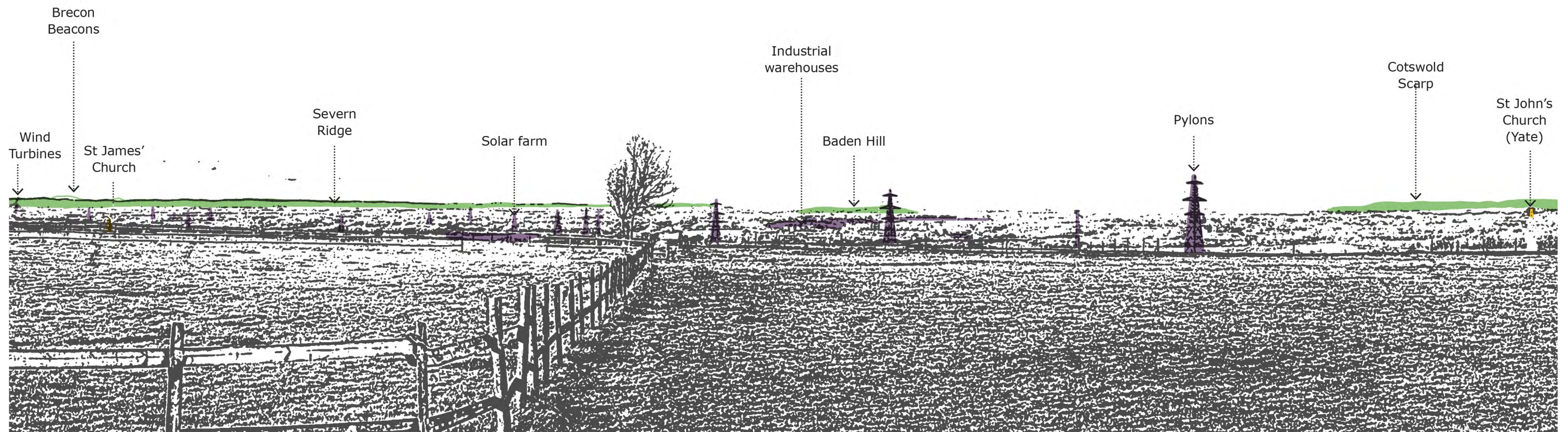


Figure 14.4: Full Panoramic Photograph of Strategic Viewpoint 11



Strategic Viewpoint 11:Westerleigh Hill



Strategic Viewpoint 11 (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 "*panoramic views over the adjacent Westerleigh Vale are possible, particularly from...footpaths along the scarp edge*".
- The viewpoint is publicly accessible, located on footpath LWE/44/10, off Westerleigh Road.

Relationship with the Cotswolds National Landscape (CNL)

- The viewpoint is not within the CNL but there are intermittent glimpsed views of the Cotswold Scarp between woodland on the horizon in views to the north-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

- An elevated viewpoint located on the Pucklechurch Ridge VIH, enabling a panoramic view (180°) north across the adjacent lower-lying vale landscape (characterised by flat, small and regular fields with mature hedgerows, hedgerow trees, blocks of woodland and dispersed settlement).
- The Severn Ridges VIH forms a backdrop to the north-west, with the distant Brecon Beacons in South Wales partially visible beyond. The lower, rounded hillside of Baden Hill, clothed in woodland, can be seen to the north, forming a notable landscape feature.
- The viewpoint provides views of landmark features including the top of St James Church tower (Grade I listed) in Westerleigh (0.5km away) to the north-west, and

Chapter 14 Strategic Viewpoint 11: Westerleigh Hill

the square tower of St John's Church (Grade I listed) in Yate Conservation Area which rises above surrounding development to the north-east 3.8km away.

- The rural landscape is punctuated by built development including large-scale warehouses, houses, solar farms, a locally distinctive group of three wind turbines on Tytherington Plain, and numerous pylon lines that form detractive features to the overall composition of the view.

Summary

The Westerleigh Hill 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 public footpath; it provides some appreciation of the Cotswold National Landscape; and it provides a panoramic view that takes in the notable landscape features of the vale, the Severn Ridges (including Baden Hill), the hills of South Wales, and the landmark features of St James Church and St John's Church.

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