

# South Gloucestershire Landscape Character Assessment

## Annex II: Strategic Viewpoints

### South Gloucestershire Council

**Final Draft Report for Adoption Chapter 22**

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
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5	Final Draft (updated following New Local Plan Phase 3 consultation)	L Jewitt	E White	K Davies	12.06.2024
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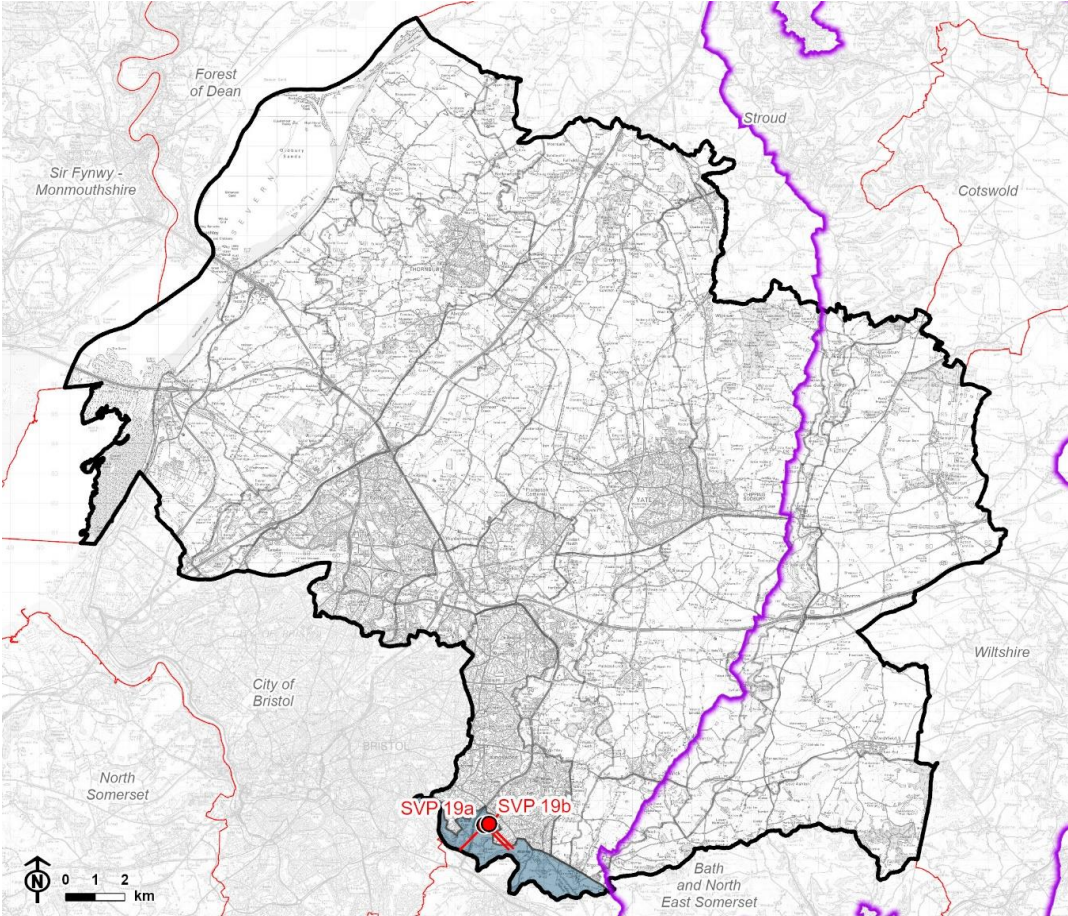
# Contents

<b>Chapter 22</b>	<b>160</b>
Strategic Viewpoint 19: Hanham Hills	
Characteristics	167
Summary	168

# Chapter 22

## Strategic Viewpoint 19: Hanham Hills

Figure 22.1: Location of Strategic Viewpoint 19 and landscape character context

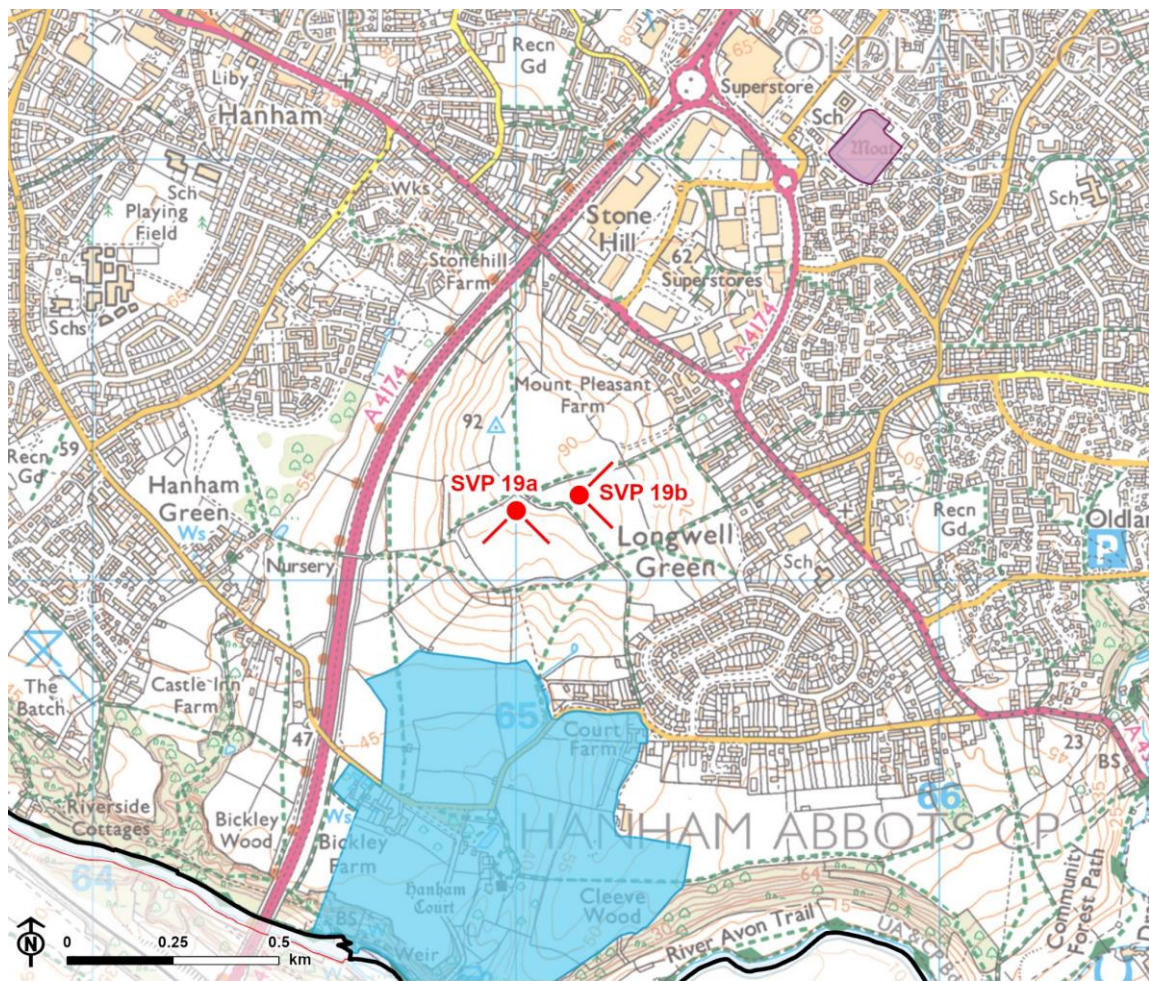


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Source: LUC, SGDC, NE, OS

-  Council boundary
-  Neighbouring local authority
-  Cotswolds National Landscape (AONB) boundary
-  LCA 16: Avon Valley
-  Strategic viewpoint and angle

Figure 22.2: Detailed map of the location of Strategic Viewpoint 19



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



## Viewpoint Information

**Grid reference:** SVP 19a: ST 65009 71174 and SVP 19b: ST 65137 71193.

**View location:** Hanham Hills, Longwell Green, Bristol.

**View direction:** SVP 19a provides views south across LCA 16: Avon Valley, east towards LCA 4: Cotswold Scarp, and west across LCA 14: Kingswood. SVP 19b provides views east over LCA 14: Kingswood, and towards LCA 4: Cotswold Scarp.

**Relationship with Visually Important Hillside (VIH):** The viewpoint is located on the Hanham Hills VIH.

**Experienced by:** Recreational users along public footpaths PHA/26/10, PHA/29/10, PHA/26/30 and PHA/27/20.

Figure 22.3: View Composition of Strategic Viewpoint 19a



 Key landscape feature

 Landmark / historic feature

 Detractive feature

Figure 22.4: Full Panoramic Photograph of Strategic Viewpoint 19a



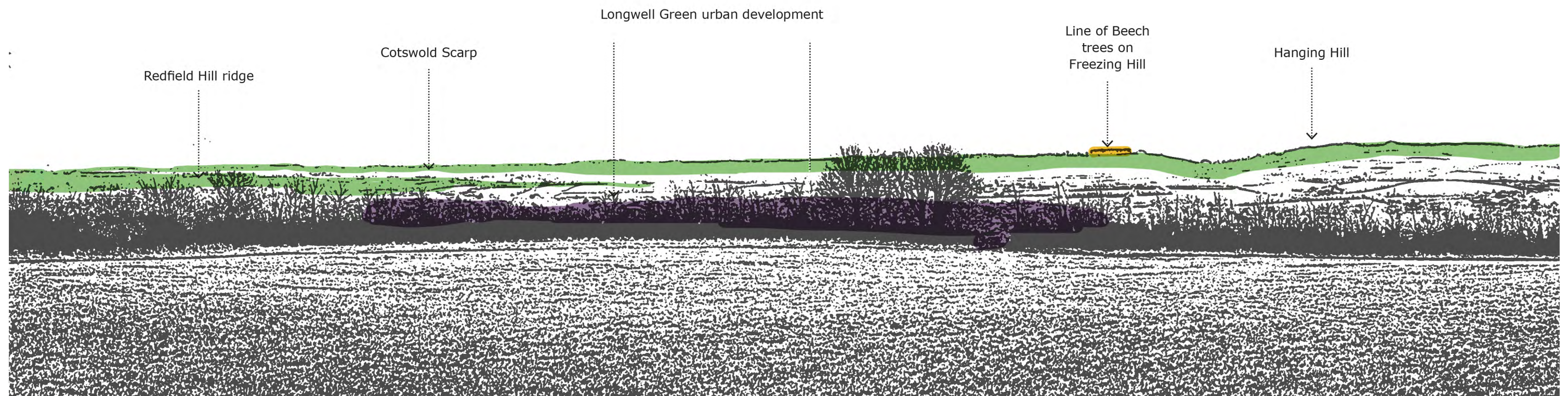
Strategic Viewpoint 19a: Hanham Hills (south)




Strategic Viewpoint 19a (continued)



Figure 22.5: View Composition of Strategic Viewpoint 19b



 Key landscape feature

 Landmark / historic feature

 Detractive feature

Figure 22.6: Full Panoramic Photograph of Strategic Viewpoint 19b



Strategic Viewpoint 19b: Hanham Hills (east)



Strategic Viewpoint 19b (continued)

## Characteristics

### Popularity, access and facilities

- The viewpoint location is marked on Google Maps as 'Hanham Hills' and is likely to attract many visitors as a result.
- The viewpoint location is noted in LCA 16: Avon Valley which notes that the *"distinct landform of the Hanham Hills rises above the urban edge, enabling panoramic views over Bristol and to the Cotswold Scarp."*
- The viewpoint is publicly accessible from the surrounding suburban areas of Hanham Green and Longwell Green via several public footpaths including PHA/26/10, PHA/29/10, PHA/26/30 and PHA/27/20.
- Several lay-bys provide informal car parking, including to the south along Abbotts Road, and to the north-east off the A431 in Longwell Green.

### Relationship with the Cotswolds National Landscape (CNL)

- The viewpoint is not located within the CNL but provides views east towards the Cotswold Scarp (from SVP 19b).
- 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 Hanham Hills VIH that affords panoramic (270°) views in different directions. SVP 19a provides views south across the Avon Valley and beyond into Bath and North East Somerset, with the Cotswold Scarp partially visible in views to the south-east. Views from SVP 19b are primarily eastwards across Longwell Green, towards the Cotswold Scarp.

## Chapter 22 Strategic Viewpoint 19: Hanham Hills

- Several distinctive landforms provide notable landscape features within the view, including the Oldland Ridge, Pucklechurch Ridge, Severn Ridges, Dundry Hill, Kelston Hill, the Ashwicke Ridges and the Cotswold Scarp,
- A group of listed buildings at Hanham Court and Court Farm (within Hanham Abbots Conservation Area, located 0.4km to the south) can be seen from SVP 19a, and are of significance for their historical associations with the ancient Kingswood Forest. The historic parkland associated with Dyrham Park on the Cotswold Scarp (10km to the east) is also visible.
- The distinctive line of beech trees on Freezing Hill (7km to the east) forms a landmark feature.
- The extensive urban influence from built development within Bristol and Keynsham detract from the overall composition of the view.

## Summary

The Hanham Hills viewpoint is categorised as a SVP as it meets most of the criteria to some extent. It is a popular, well known, and recorded viewpoint and likely to attract many visitors; 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 several public footpaths; it allows an appreciation of the Cotswold National Landscape; and it provides a panoramic view that takes in the notable landscape features of the Avon Valley, Oldland Ridge, Pucklechurch Ridge, Severn Ridges, Dundry Hill, Kelston Hill, the Ashwicke Ridges and the Cotswold Scarp, and the landmark feature of the distinctive line of beech trees on Freezing Hill.

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