

South Gloucestershire Landscape Character Assessment

Annex II: Strategic Viewpoints

South Gloucestershire Council

Final Draft Report for Adoption Chapter 25

Prepared by LUC

September 2024



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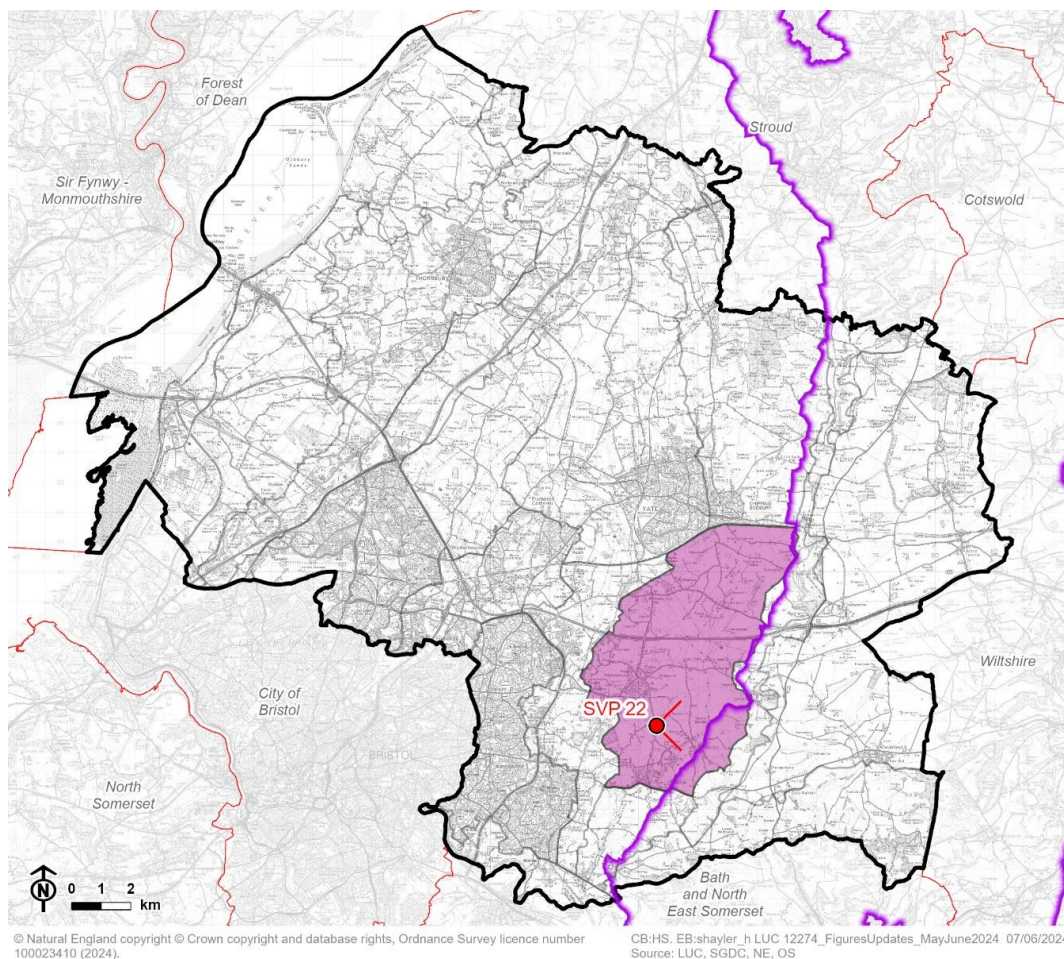
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Chapter 25

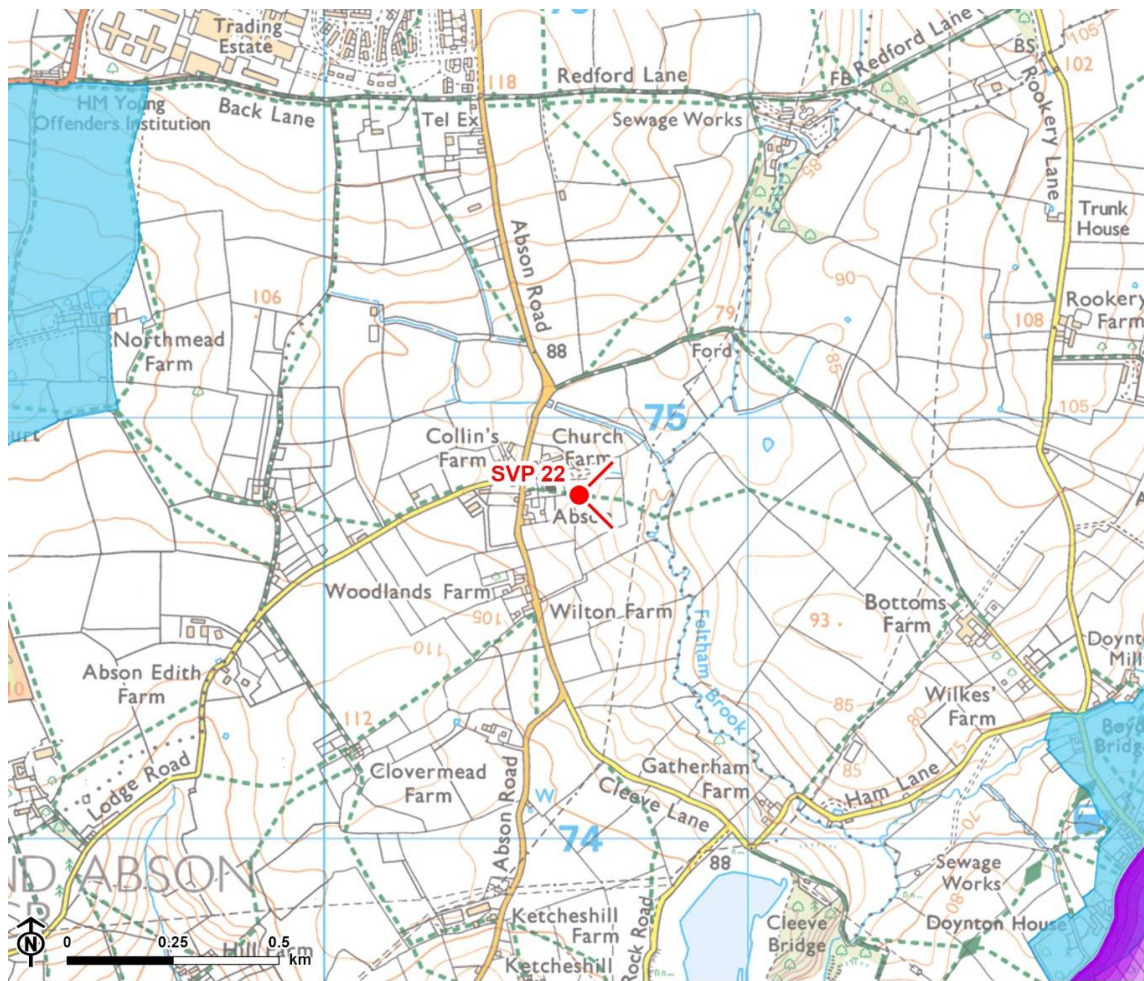
Strategic Viewpoint 22: St James' Church (Abson)

Figure 25.1: Location of Strategic Viewpoint 22 and landscape character context



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

Figure 25.2: Detailed map of the location of Strategic Viewpoint 22



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



Viewpoint Information

Grid reference: ST 70603 74830

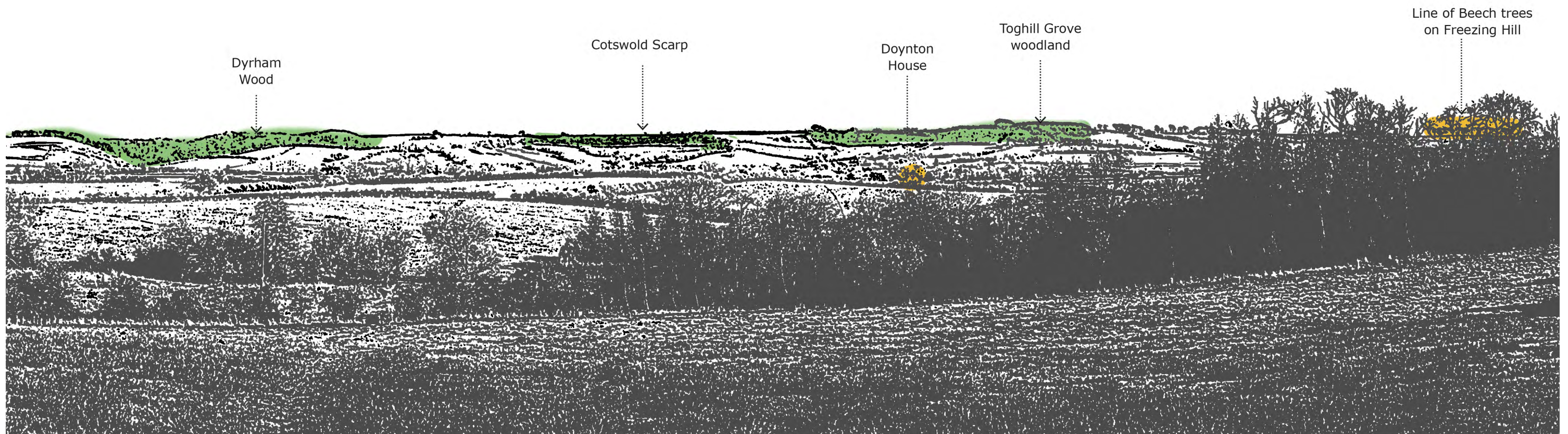
View location: Public footpath LWA/31/10 to the rear of St James' Church, Abson.

View direction: View east across the Feltham Brook valley and LCA 6: Pucklechurch Ridge and Boyd Valley , 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: Visitors to St James' Church (Grade I listed), and recreational users of public footpath LWA/31/10 to the rear of the church.

Figure 25.3: View Composition of Strategic Viewpoint 22



 Key landscape feature

 Landmark / historic feature

Figure 25.4: Full Panoramic Photograph of Strategic Viewpoint 22



Strategic Viewpoint 22: Abson Church



Strategic Viewpoint 22 (continued)

Characteristics

Popularity, access and facilities

- The viewpoint is publicly accessible, located on public footpath LWA/31/10 which can be accessed via St James' Church, and from Bottoms Farm Lane to the east.
- A small car parking area is provided on Abson Road, adjacent to the church.

Relationship with the Cotswolds National Landscape (CNL)

- The viewpoint is not located within the CNL but offers panoramic views east towards the Cotswold Scarp.
- 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 that affords open panoramic (180°) views across the Feltham Brook valley and the Boyd Valley (characterised by small-scale pastoral fields defined by hedgerows with hedgerow trees, small blocks of woodland and a sparse settlement pattern of occasional farmsteads invoking a strong rural character and sense of time depth), that extends east to the rolling foothills of the Cotswold Scarp. Upon the scarp a large area of woodland (Dyrham Wood and Toghill Grove) clothes the slopes of an incised stream valley.
- In views to the south-east, Doynton Conservation Area (1.4km away) can be seen nestled amongst mature vegetation at the foot of the Cotswold Scarp, with the chimneys of Doynton House (Grade II listed) providing a distinctive feature. To the north-east, a planted avenue of trees lining the main drive of Dyrham Park can be seen 4km away, although the manor house is concealed by surrounding woodland.

Chapter 25 Strategic Viewpoint 22: St James' Church (Abson)

- To the south-east, the distinctive line of beech trees on Freezing Hill can be seen in glimpsed views through intervening woodland, providing a landmark feature within the view.
- This is a strongly rural, undisturbed view arising from its rural setting and absence of detractive features or modern development.

Summary

The St James' Church (Abson) viewpoint is categorised as a SVP as it meets most of the criteria to some extent. It is located on a public footpath with parking provided to facilitate enjoyment of the view; it allows an appreciation of the Cotswolds National Landscape; and it provides a panoramic view that takes in the notable landscape features of the Feltham Brook valley, the Boyd Valley, the Cotswold Scarp and Doynton Conservation Area, and the landmark features of Doynton House and line of beech trees on Freezing Hill.

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