

South Gloucestershire Landscape Character Assessment

Annex II: Strategic Viewpoints

South Gloucestershire Council

Final Draft Report for Adoption Chapter 27

Prepared by LUC

September 2024



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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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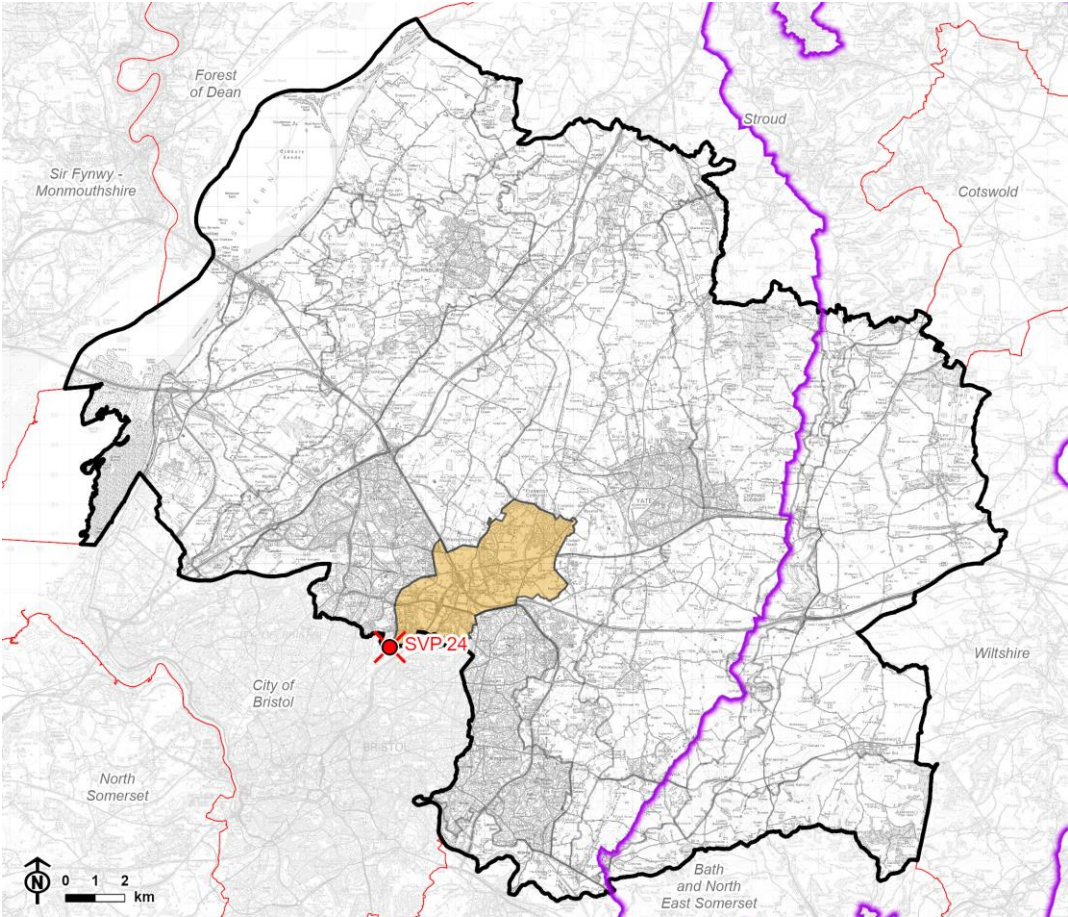
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Chapter 27

Strategic Viewpoint 24: Stoke Park

Figure 27.1: Location of Strategic Viewpoint 24 and landscape character context

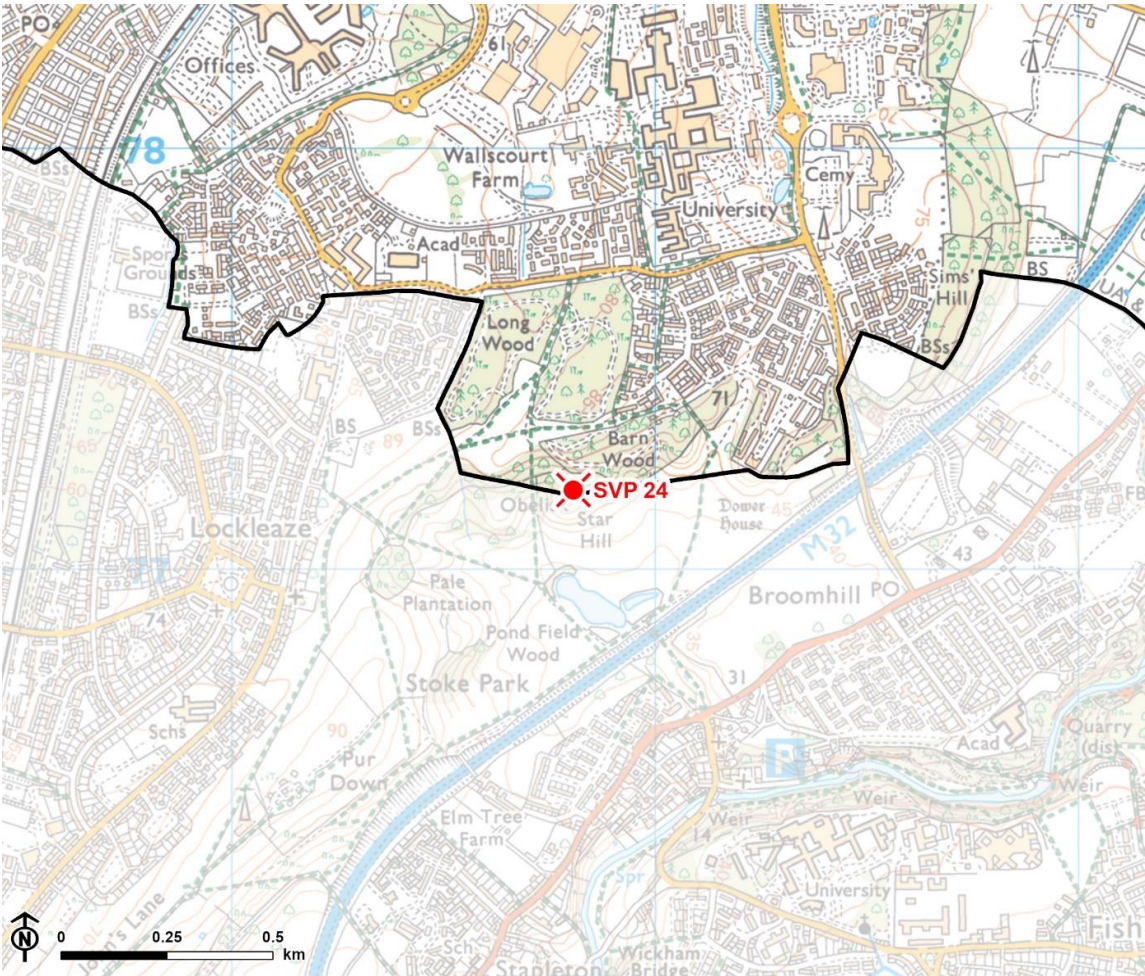


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


CB:HS, EB:shayler, h LUC 12274_FiguresUpdates_MayJune2024 07/06/2024
Source: LUC, SGDC, NE, OS

-  Council boundary
-  Neighbouring local authority
-  Cotswolds National Landscape (AONB) boundary
-  LCA 13: Frome Valley
-  Strategic viewpoint and angle

Figure 27.2: Detailed map of the location of Strategic Viewpoint 24



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



Viewpoint Information

Grid reference: ST 61803 77187

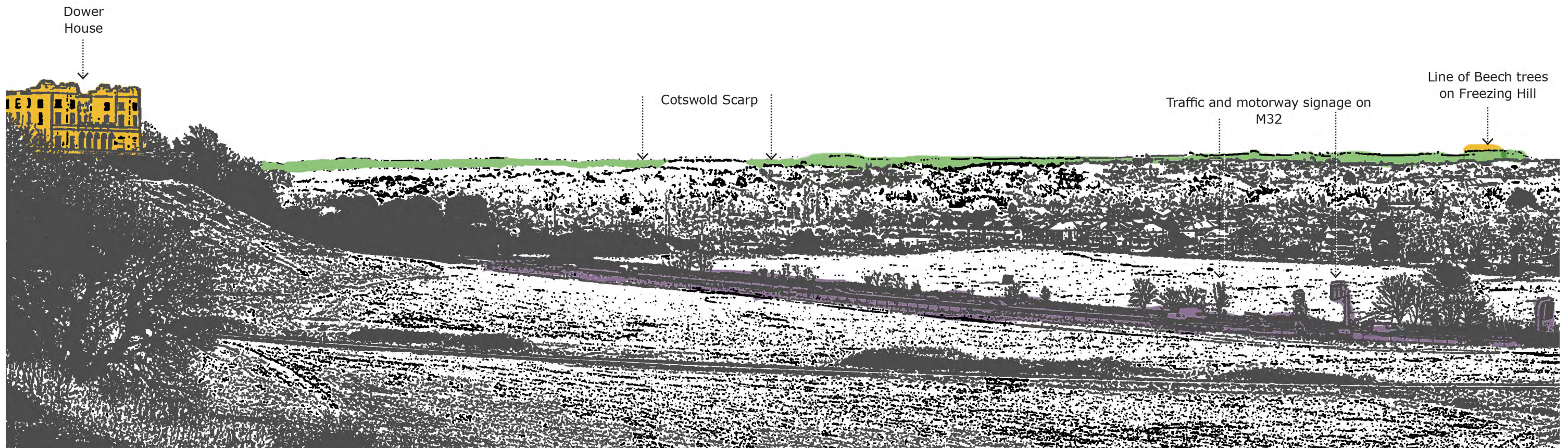
View location: Obelisk on Star Hill, Stoke Park.

View direction: Views south, east and west into LCA 13: Frome Valley and across LCA 14: Kingswood.

Relationship with Visually Important Hillside (VIH): The viewpoint is located approximately 180m west of Sims Hill VIH which can be seen within the view.

Experienced by: Visitors to Stoke Park Estate, accessible via public footpaths LSG/26/20 and LSG/26/60.

Figure 27.3: View Composition of Strategic Viewpoint 24 (view north-east)

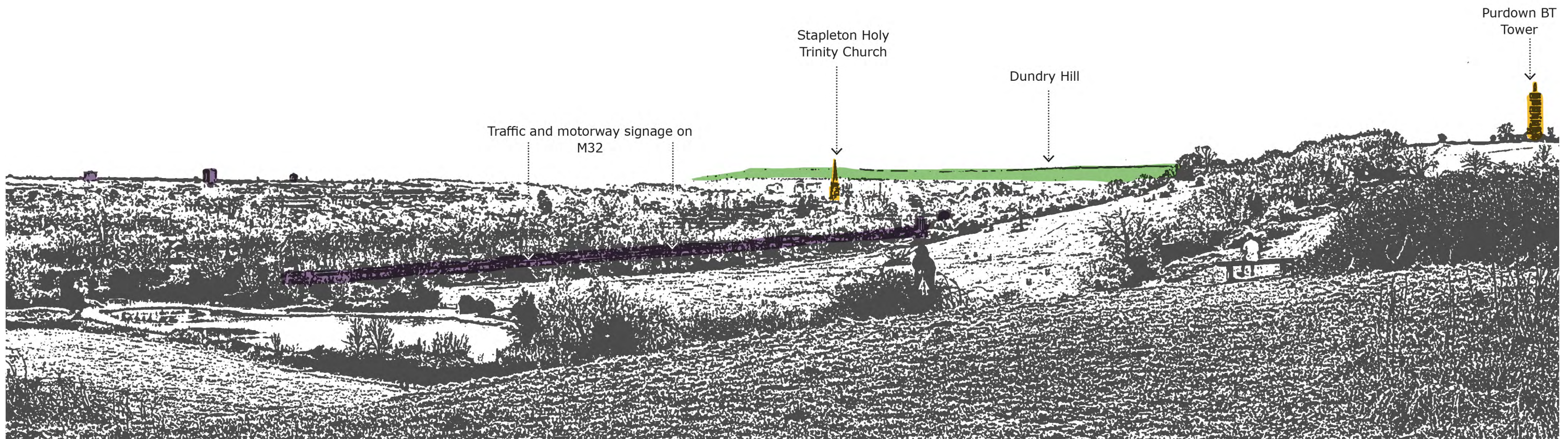


 Key landscape feature

 Landmark / historic feature

 Detractive feature

Figure 27.4: View Composition of Strategic Viewpoint 24 (view south-east)



 Key landscape feature

 Landmark / historic feature


 Detractive feature

Figure 27.5: Full Panoramic Photograph of Strategic Viewpoint 24



Strategic Viewpoint 24: Stoke Park



Strategic Viewpoint 24 (continued)

Characteristics

Popularity, access and facilities

- The viewpoint is located within the Stoke Park Estate, a Grade II listed Registered Park and Garden, and public park managed by Bristol City Council. It is marked on Google Maps as 'Lady Elizabeth Somerset's Obelisk' and is likely to attract many visitors as a result.
- Public footpaths LSG/26/20 and LSG/26/60 provide further public access to the viewpoint.
- A bench is provided near the viewpoint to facilitate enjoyment of the view.

Relationship with the Cotswolds National Landscape (CNL)

- The viewpoint is located outside the Cotswolds National Landscape but offers 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

- The viewpoint occupies an elevated position within the park and provides a panoramic (180°) view south, east and west east over Fishponds, Stapleton, and the edge of Bristol.
- The Cotswold Scarp is visible on the skyline in long distance views to the east (including the distinctive line of beech trees on Freezing Hill), whilst Dundry Hill (in North Somerset) forms the horizon in views to the south-east. Views to the south extend across Stoke Park Estate towards the edge of Bristol.
- The distinctive yellow Dower House (Grade II* listed) located on a small hill within the park (0.4km away) is a prominent landmark feature in views to the

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east, as is the Purdown BT Tower (1.4km away) in views to the south-west.

Other landmarks include the clock tower at UWE Glenside Campus (1km away), the spires of the Grade II* listed Stapleton Holy Trinity Church (1.2km away), the Grade II listed St Mary's Church in Fishponds (1.8km away), and the clocktower of Cossham Hospital in Hillfields (2km away) which forms a prominent vertical skyline feature that is notably higher than the surrounding buildings.

- The viewpoint is located within the designed landscape of Stoke Park (Grade II Registered Park and Garden).
- The busy M32 dual carriageway is visible immediately to the south-east and detracts from the overall composition of the view.

Summary

The Stoke Park viewpoint is categorised as a SVP as it meets most of the criteria to some extent. It is a popular and well-known viewpoint and likely to attract many visitors being within Stoke Park; it is located on a public footpath with a bench provided to facilitate enjoyment of the view; it allows an appreciation of the Cotswolds National Landscape; it provides a panoramic view that takes in the notable landscape features of the Stoke Park Estate, Dundry Hill and the Cotswold Scarp, and the landmark features of Dower House, Purdown BT Tower, clock tower at UWE Glenside Campus, Stapleton Holy Trinity Church, St Mary's Church and the clocktower of Cossham Hospital in Hillfields; and is a designed viewpoint from a Registered Park and Garden..

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