

South Gloucestershire Landscape Character Assessment

Annex II: Strategic Viewpoints

South Gloucestershire Council

Final Draft Report for Adoption Chapter 30

Prepared by LUC

September 2024



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1	Draft Method and Pilot	E White L Jewitt	K Davies	K Davies	03.04.2023
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3	Draft Report	E White L Jewitt	E White	K Davies	14.07.2023
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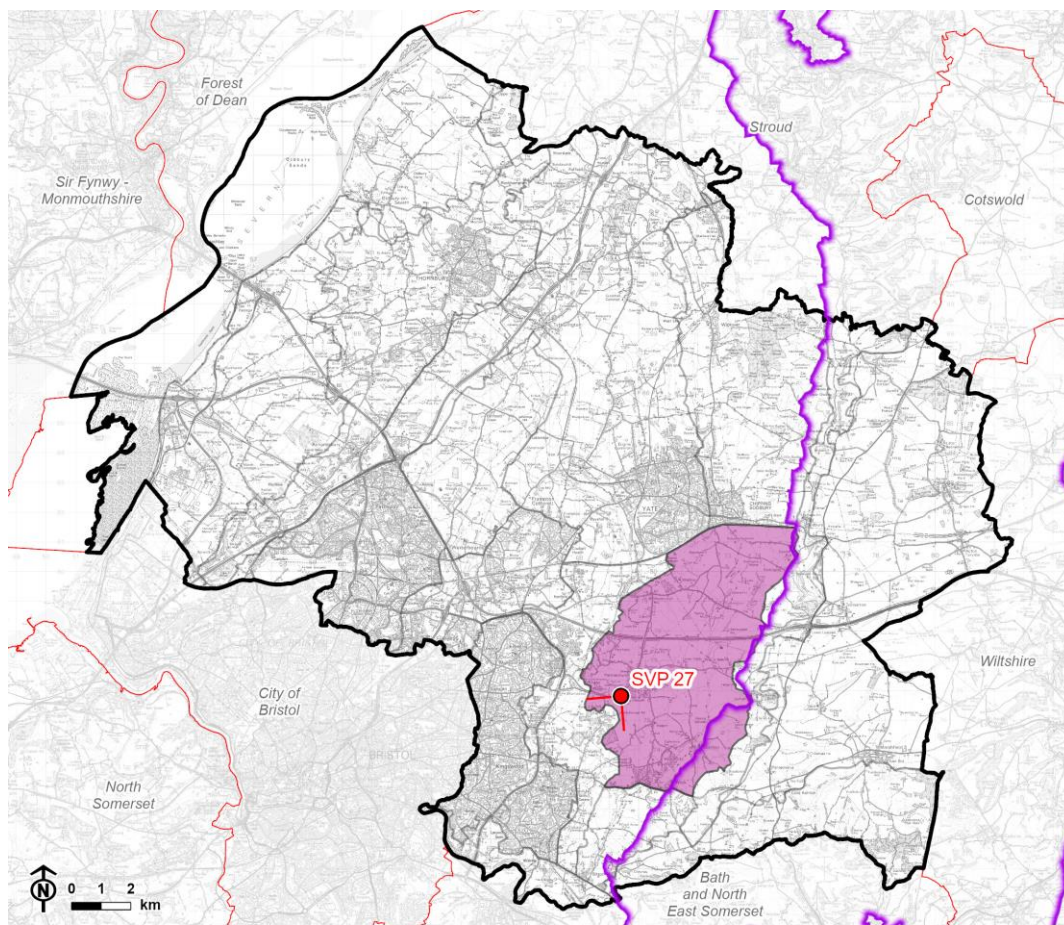
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Chapter 30

Strategic Viewpoint 27: Shortwood Hill (Pucklechurch)

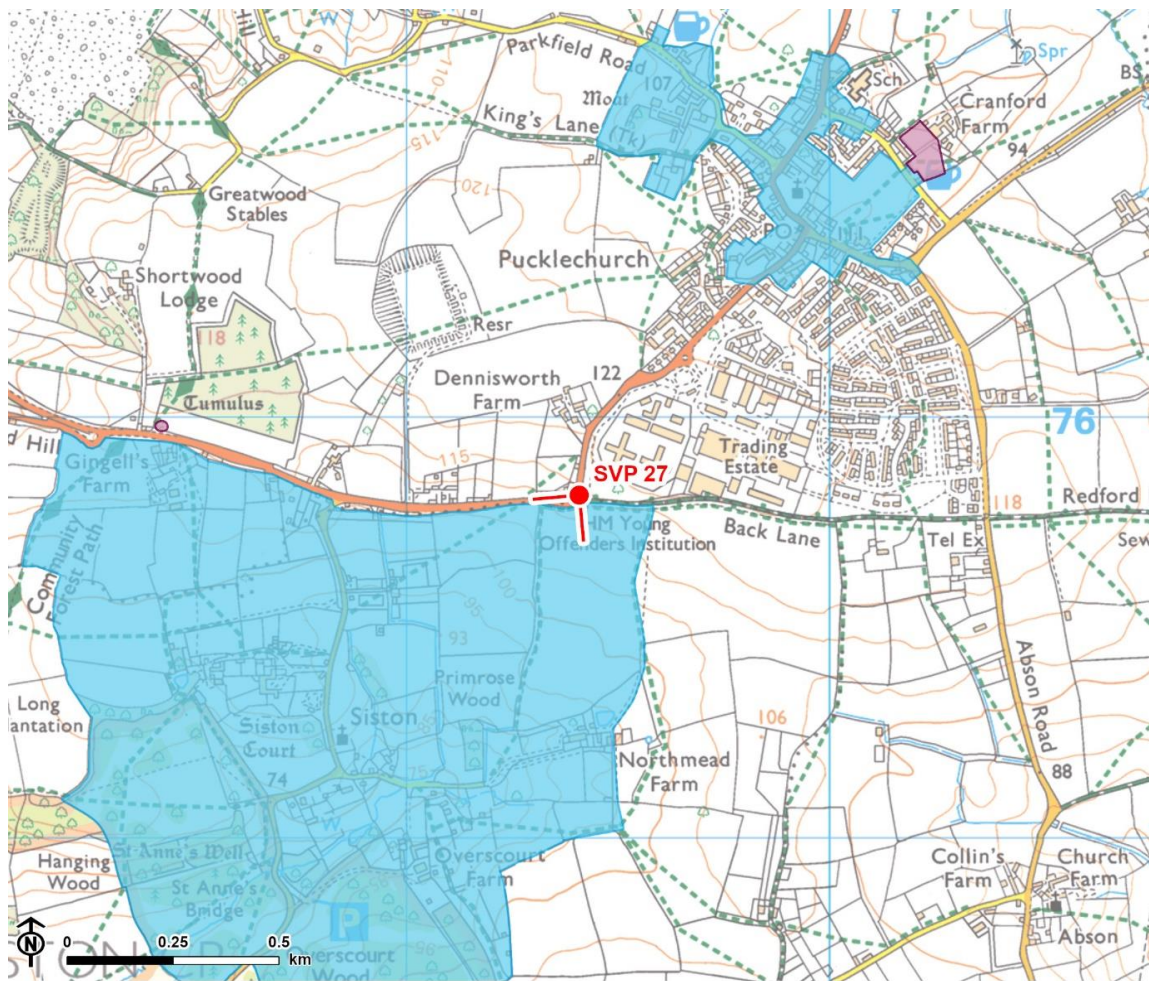
Figure 30.1: Location of Strategic Viewpoint 27 and landscape character context




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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 30.2: Detailed map of the location of Strategic Viewpoint 27



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



Viewpoint Information

Grid reference: ST 69371 75787

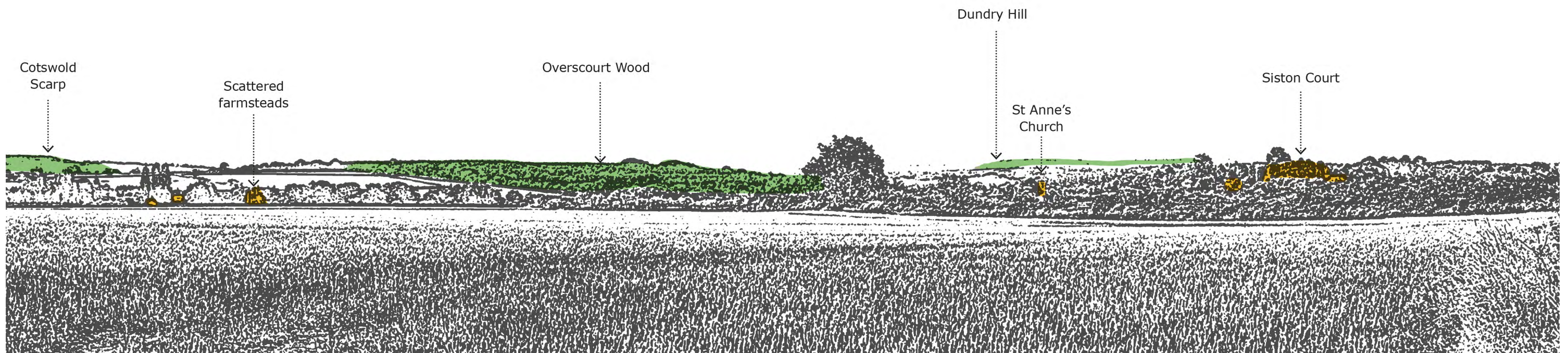
View location: Public footpath PSN/44/10 adjacent to Shortwood Road (B4465), to the south-west of Pucklechurch.


View direction: Views south and east and across the Pucklechurch Ridge and Boyd Valley (LCA 6), towards the Cotswold Scarp (LCA 4). There are intermittent views to the south-west to Westerleigh Vale and Oldland Ridge (LCA 12).

Relationship with Visually Important Hillside (VIH): The viewpoint is located approximately 300m to the north-east of the Pucklechurch Ridge VIH. The Cotswold Scarp VIH can be seen in views to the east and south-east.

Experienced by: Residents and pedestrians on Shortwood Road, recreational users of nearby public footpaths PSN/44/10 and PSN/46/10, and transient views for cyclists and motorists travelling along Shortwood Road.

Figure 30.3: View Composition of Strategic Viewpoint 27



 Key landscape feature

 Landmark / historic feature

Figure 30.4: Full Panoramic Photograph of Strategic Viewpoint 27



Strategic Viewpoint 27: Pucklechurch



Strategic Viewpoint 27 (continued)

Characteristics

Popularity, access and facilities

- Views from this viewpoint are representative of those described in LCA 6: Pucklechurch Ridge and Boyd Valley within the South Gloucestershire Landscape Character Assessment SPD, which notes that there are "*panoramic views over the adjacent Westerleigh Vale...from Shortwood Hill, and footpaths along the scarp edge.*"
- The viewpoint is publicly accessible via public footpaths PSN/44/10, PSN/46/10 and PSN/45/10.

Relationship with the Cotswolds National Landscape (CNL)

- The viewpoint is not located within the CNL, but provides long-distance views south-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

- A slightly elevated view near to the Pucklechurch Ridge VIH, that provides open panoramic (180°) views to the south, east and south-west across the Shallow Ridge landscape (characterised by medium-scale regular pastoral fields defined by hedgerows and hedgerow trees with shelterbelts and scattered farmsteads). The viewpoint also affords open views towards the large area of woodland at Overscourt Wood in the south-west, and the distinctive landform of the Cotswold Scarp provides a prominent backdrop in the view to the south-east.
- Dundry Hill forms a distinctive skyline feature in views to the south-west. The tower of St Anne's Church (Grade I listed) is located 0.8km to the south-west and can be seen nestled within woodland at Siston Court (Grade 1 listed). In views to

Chapter 30 Strategic Viewpoint 27: Shortwood Hill (Pucklechurch)

the south-east, the distinctive line of beech trees on Freezing Hill (located approximately 5. away) forms a prominent landmark feature on the skyline.

- The viewpoint is located directly adjacent to the north of the Siston Conservation Area, however views into the Conservation Area are mostly obscured by intervening mature vegetation. The Siston Conservation Area Appraisal [See reference 1] notes the importance of Shortwood Hill in providing a rural setting to the settlement: *'considered that in views into-and-out of the Conservation Area, the land beyond the original north-west boundary that leads up to Shortwood Hill was important to the rural and undeveloped setting of the Conservation Area and so was worthy of inclusion. Consequently the proposed extension of the Conservation Area to include the land to the north-west was identified as a key part of a preservation and enhancement strategy'*.
- The presence of modern infrastructure and built development in views south-eastwards towards the settlement edge of Bristol, Kingswood and Warmley detract from the rural features seen within the view.

Summary

The Shortwood Hill (Pucklechurch) 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; and it provides a panoramic view that takes in the notable landscape features of the shallow ridges landscape, the Pucklechurch Ridge, Overscourt Wood, the Cotswold Scarp (including the line of Beech trees on Freezing Hill), and the landmark features of Dundry Hill, St Anne's Church, and Siston Court.

References

References

- 1 Siston Conservation Area Appraisal SPD. (2010). Available at:
<https://beta.southglos.gov.uk/static/4614fd5c31422d22ed8ae7f48a1ef7cd/Siston-Conservation-Area-SPD-March-2010.pdf>

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