

South Gloucestershire Landscape Character Assessment

Annex II: Strategic Viewpoints

South Gloucestershire Council

Final Draft Report for Adoption Chapter 5

Prepared by LUC

September 2024



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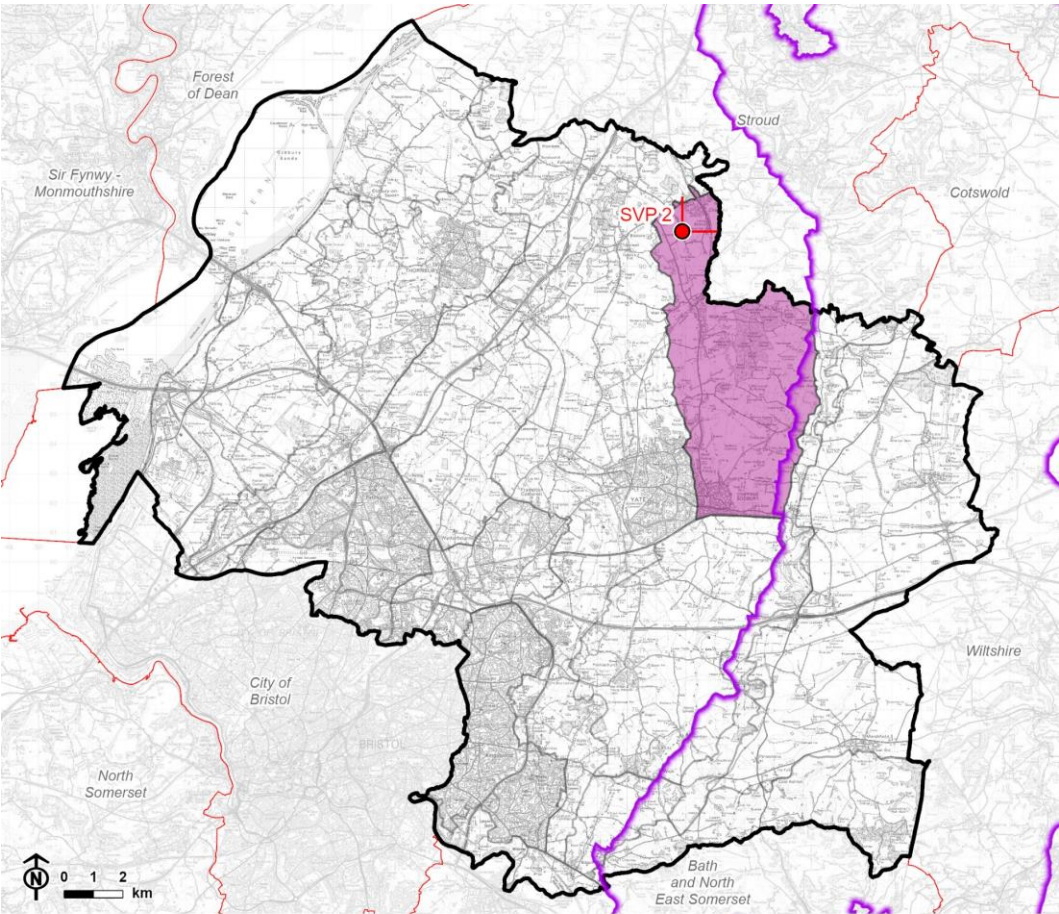
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Chapter 5

Strategic Viewpoint 2: Churchend

Figure 5.1: Location of Strategic Viewpoint 2 and landscape character context



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-  Council boundary
-  Neighbouring local authority
-  Cotswolds National Landscape (AONB) boundary
-  LCA 5: Wickwar Ridge and Vale
-  Strategic viewpoint and angle

Figure 5.2: Detailed map of the location of Strategic Viewpoint 2



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



Viewpoint Information

Grid reference: ST 71870 91179

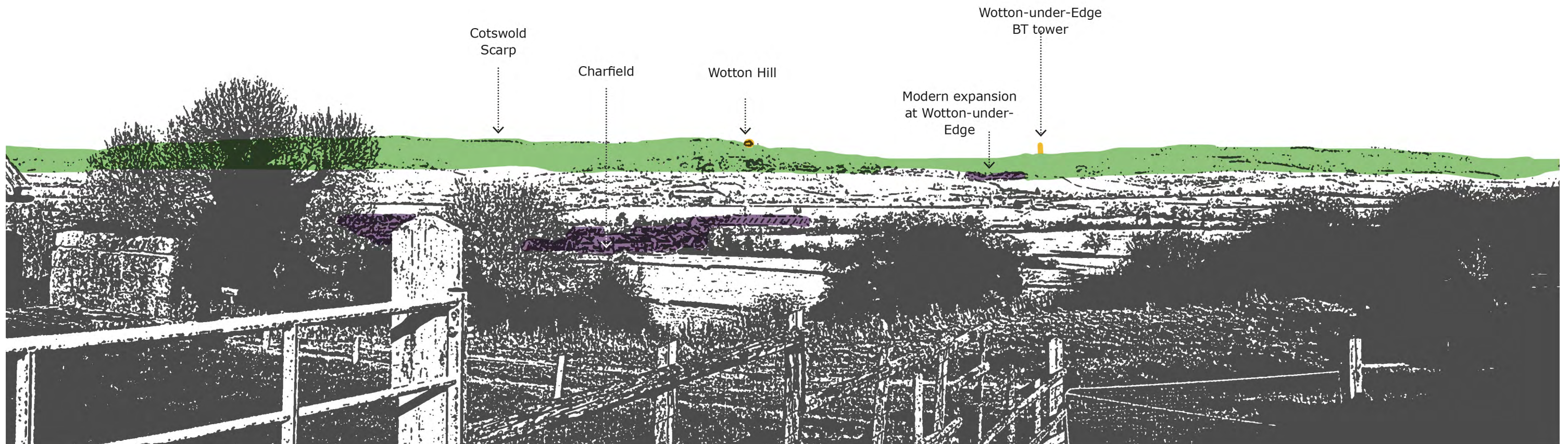
View location: Public footpath OCH/20/10, adjacent to the burial ground of St James' Church in Churchend.

View direction: View north, east and south-east across LCA 5: Wickwar Ridge and Vale, and Little Avon Valley, towards LCA 4: Cotswold Scarp.

Relationship with Visually Important Hillside (VIH): The viewpoint is located on the Churchend Ridge VIH and provides views towards the Cotswold Scarp VIH.

Experienced by: Residents and pedestrians along Churchend Lane, visitors to the church and burial ground, recreational users of nearby public footpaths (including OCH/20/10) and transient views for cyclists and motorists travelling along Churchend Lane.

Figure 5.3: View Composition of Strategic Viewpoint 2



 Key landscape feature

 Landmark / historic feature

 Detractive feature

Figure 5.4: Full Panoramic Photograph of Strategic Viewpoint 2



Strategic Viewpoint 2: Churchend



Strategic Viewpoint 2 (continued)

Characteristics

Popularity, access and facilities

- The viewpoint location is noted in LCA 5: Wickwar Ridge and Vale, which states that *"Relatively open views north-east are afforded more widely from the Churchend Ridge, overlooking the Little Avon Valley with skyline features at Wotton-under-Edge and the Cotswold Scarp (both beyond the LCA) seen beyond"*.
- The viewpoint is publicly accessible, located on footpath OCH/20/10 which runs east off Churchend Lane, adjacent to the burial ground of St James' Church.
- A small lay-by opposite the viewpoint is provided to facilitate enjoyment of the view.

Relationship with the Cotswolds National Landscape (CNL)

- The viewpoint is not within the CNL but provides views of the Cotswold Scarp to the north and east including Wotton Hill with its distinctive clump of trees, and Little Tor Hill which provide notable landscape features.
- 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 viewpoint located on the Churchend Ridge VIH (on the edge of the Little Avon Valley) that provides a wide view north, east, and south-east across the shallow ridge landscape (characterised by rural fields defined by a strong hedgerow framework and dispersed settlement), with the distinctive landform of the Cotswold Scarp forming a prominent backdrop in views.

Chapter 5 Strategic Viewpoint 2: Churchend

- Traditional stone-built farmhouses and the Grade I listed St James' Church nearby provide notable features in the foreground (vegetation within the burial ground of the church partially screens near-distance views in the summer months). The historic settlement of Wotton-under-Edge (Conservation Area) is visible on the hillside to the north (within Stroud District).
- The Wotton-under-Edge BT Tower forms a vertical landmark feature on the skyline in views to the north-east (located approximately 7.9km from the viewpoint).
- Modern residential development in Charfield to the north-east, slightly detracts from the overall composition of the view.

Summary

The Churchend 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 parking is available to facilitate enjoyment of the view; it allows an appreciation of the Cotswolds National Landscape; and it provides a broad view that takes in the notable landscape features of the Little Avon Valley and Cotswold Scarp, and the landmark features of St James' Church and Wotton-under-Edge BT Tower.

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