

South Gloucestershire Landscape Character Assessment

Annex II: Strategic Viewpoints

South Gloucestershire Council

Final Draft Report for Adoption Chapter 9

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
2	Draft Report	L Jewitt V Kakar	E White	K Davies	16.05.2023
3	Draft Report	E White L Jewitt	E White	K Davies	14.07.2023
4	Final Draft	E White L Jewitt	E White	K Davies	01.11.2023
5	Final Draft (updated following New Local Plan Phase 3 consultation)	L Jewitt	E White	K Davies	12.06.2024
6	Final Draft Report for Adoption	L Jewitt	E White	K Davies	11.09.2024



Land Use Consultants Limited

Registered in England. Registered number 2549296. Registered office: 250 Waterloo Road, London SE1 8RD. Printed on 100% recycled paper

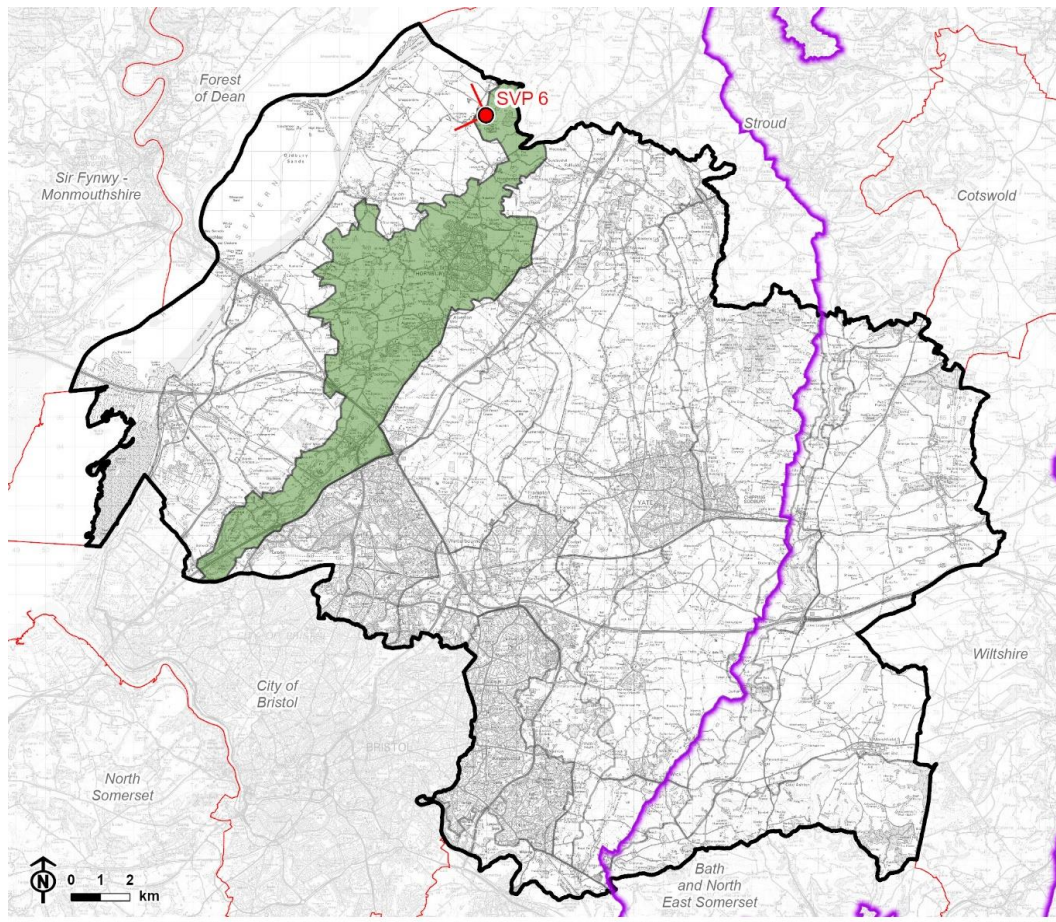
Contents

Chapter 9	54
Strategic Viewpoint 6: St Michael's Church (Hill Court)	
Characteristics	59
Summary	60
References	61

Chapter 9

Strategic Viewpoint 6: St Michael's Church (Hill Court)

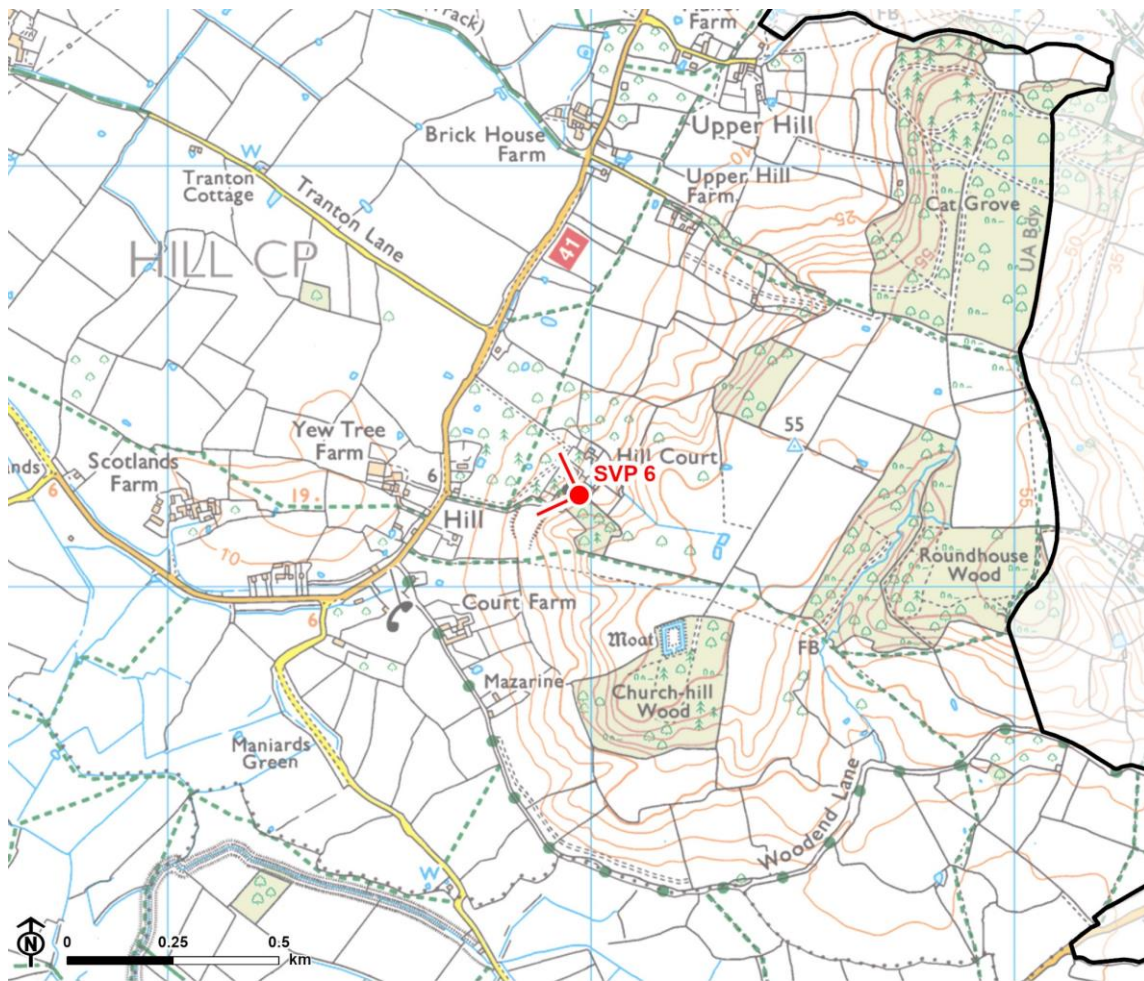
Figure 9.1: Location of Strategic Viewpoint 6 and landscape character context






© Natural England copyright © Crown copyright and database rights, Ordnance Survey licence number 100023410 (2024). 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 18: Severn Ridges
-  Strategic viewpoint and angle

Figure 9.2: Detailed map of the location of Strategic Viewpoint 6



© Natural England. © Historic England. Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database rights, Ordnance Survey licence number 100023410, 2024.

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



Viewpoint Information

Grid reference: ST 64928 95181

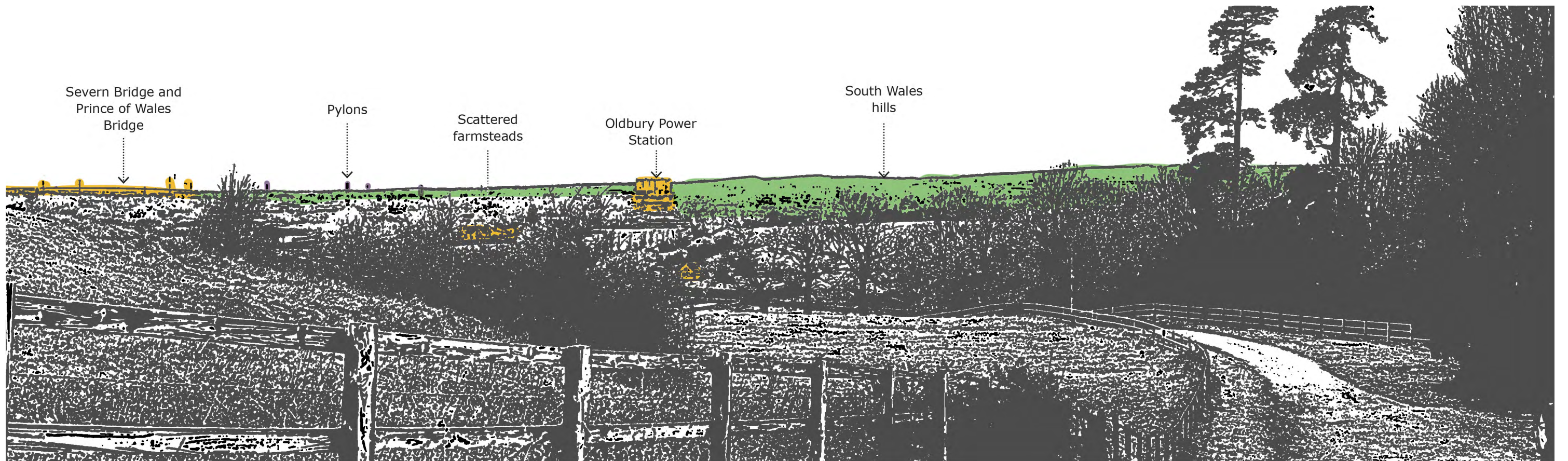
View location: St Michael's Church, Hill Court, Hill.


View direction: View west and south-west across LCA 19: Oldbury Levels, and towards LCA 21: Severn Shoreline and Estuary.

Relationship with Visually Important Hillside (VIH): Viewpoint is located along the Upper Hill VIH.

Experienced by: Visitors to St Michael's Church and recreational users of public footpath OHL/12/20.

Figure 9.3: View Composition of Strategic Viewpoint 6



 Key landscape feature

 Landmark / historic feature

 Detractive feature

Figure 9.4: Full Panoramic Photograph of Strategic Viewpoint 6



Strategic Viewpoint 6: Hill Court



Strategic Viewpoint 6 (continued)

Characteristics

Popularity, access and facilities

- The view is mentioned in a local walking route leaflet (A Forgotten Landscape - Route 1: 'Hill Hike') which notes that *"As you go up out of Hill, there are wonderful views down river towards the Severn Bridges"* [See reference 1].
- The viewpoint is publicly accessible, located on public footpath OHL/12/20.
- A bench and small parking area is provided adjacent to the churchyard to facilitate the enjoyment of the view.

Quality, value and features of the view

- An elevated viewpoint located along the Upper Hill VIH, that provides a panoramic view (270°) west and south-west over the surrounding lower-lying 'levels' landscape (characterised by flat, small and regular fields with mature hedgerows, hedgerow trees, blocks of woodland, scattered traditional farmsteads, and absence of modern development invoking a sense of time-depth), extending to the Severn Estuary, with the distinctive wooded hillsides of the Wye Valley and South Wales forming a prominent backdrop in views.
- Oldbury Power Station (located on the edge of the estuary 4km away) forms a prominent landmark feature in the view to the west, with its distinctive large-scale pale striped cooling towers seen in context of the surrounding small-scale pastoral farmland.
- The towers of the Severn Bridge and the Prince of Wales Bridge form distant landmark features on the skyline, rising above the intervening wooded farmland (located 10km and 15km away respectively) in views to the south-west.
- The viewpoint is located within the designed landscape of Hill Court (a locally registered historic park), and represents views experienced from the gardens and parkland. St Michael's Church (Grade II* listed) is located adjacent to the viewpoint.

Chapter 9 Strategic Viewpoint 6: St Michael's Church (Hill Court)

- Several pylon lines cross the skyline and slightly detract from the overall composition of the view.

Summary

The St Michael's Church (Hill Court) 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; it is located on a public footpath with a bench and parking provided to facilitate enjoyment of the view; it provides a panoramic view that takes in the notable landscape features of the levels, the Severn Estuary and the hills of the Wye Valley and South Wales, and the landmark features of Oldbury Power Station, the Severn Bridge and the Prince of Wales Bridge; and is a designed viewpoint from the locally registered historic park of Hill Court.

References

References

- 1 A Forgotten Landscape 'Hill Hike' walking route guide. (No date). Available at: <https://www.aforgottenlandscape.org.uk/projects/hill-hike/>

Report produced by LUC

Report produced by LUC

Bristol

12th Floor, Colston Tower, Colston Street, Bristol BS1 4XE

0117 929 1997

bristol@landuse.co.uk

Cardiff

16A, 15th Floor, Brunel House, 2 Fitzalan Rd, Cardiff CF24 0EB

0292 032 9006

cardiff@landuse.co.uk

Edinburgh

Atholl Exchange, 6 Canning Street, Edinburgh EH3 8EG

0131 202 1616

edinburgh@landuse.co.uk

Glasgow

37 Otago Street, Glasgow G12 8JJ

0141 334 9595

glasgow@landuse.co.uk

London

250 Waterloo Road, London SE1 8RD

020 7383 5784

london@landuse.co.uk

Manchester

6th Floor, 55 King Street, Manchester M2 4LQ

0161 537 5960

manchester@landuse.co.uk

landuse.co.uk

Landscape Design / Strategic Planning & Assessment

Development Planning / Urban Design & Masterplanning

Environmental Impact Assessment / Landscape Planning & Assessment

Landscape Management / Ecology / Historic Environment / GIS & Visualisation