

View to a Hill

Final Report
March 2023





1. The Quantock Hills as seen from Vellow Wood Cross

“The long line of hills can be seen, across the traditional farmed landscape of pasture and arable fields divided by hedgerows, always changing with the light, weather and seasons, punctuated by the occasional passing of a steam train”

Public consultation response

View to a Hill

This report has been commissioned by the Quantock Landscape Partnership Scheme, funded through the National Lottery Heritage Fund. It has been prepared by Fiona Fyfe Associates and Untitled Practice with contributions from local volunteers. The View to a Hill project has taken place over the course of a year, from April 2022 to March 2023. All photographs have been taken by Fiona Fyfe unless acknowledged otherwise.



Contents

	Page
PART 1 Introduction	5
1.1 View to a Hill	6
1.2 Methodology	6
PART 2 Viewpoint profiles	11
A Kilve Coast Path	12
B Stogursey	20
C Nether Stowey Castle	26
D Wilstock, Bridgwater	32
E Halswell	38
F Maidenbrook Country Park	44
G Cotford St Luke	50
H West Deane Way, near Lydeard St Lawrence	56
I Beacon Field, Stogumber	62
J Coleridge Way, near Sampford Brett	68
K Beacon Hill	74
L Helwell Bay Steps, Watchett	80
PART 3 Looking ahead	87
3.1 Landscape changes	88
3.2 Vulnerabilities and opportunities	90
3.3 Landscape monitoring	94

Part 1: Introduction

1.1 ‘View to a Hill’

About the project and report

The estate and farmland setting of the Quantock Hills is an essential part of their appeal, but, being outside the AONB boundary, its landscape significance has received little attention until now. This project aims to redress the balance.

The magnificent views from the tops of the Quantock Hills have been well known and celebrated since the late-18th Century. The importance of the views from the surrounding areas towards the Hills has been much less recognised, despite the fact that most people view them most often from the settlements and roads round about their base. This is reflected in the tightly-drawn AONB boundary line, in planning policy, and in the way that recreational pressures are concentrated on the ridgeline car parks.

This project aims to emphasise the importance of views of the Hills from the surrounding parishes in the Landscape Partnership Scheme area. It engages with local residents living in those areas; explores the significance of their view of the Hills to local people, and develops guidance about how to maintain and enhance the Quantock setting. It will also gather information, experience and locations that can be used to promote the recreational opportunities in the more accessible surrounding lowland areas, as a way of diverting recreational pressures from the hilltop honeypot sites.

The report is structured in three sections. Part 1 sets out the background to the report and the project methodology. Part 2 contains a series of profiles which describe in detail the 12 viewpoints identified by the project. Part 3 looks ahead, considering how the views are changing, and giving recommendations on their future protection and enhancement. The final section contains a toolkit for future monitoring of the viewpoints.

1.2 Methodology

Stage 1: Public consultation and identification of long-list of viewpoints

The first stage of the project took place in April-June 2022, with the purpose of getting as many people as possible engaged with the project. Digital contacts, social media and printed questionnaires were used to reach the broadest possible spread of local residents. For example, social media and email messages were sent to QLPS social media followers, parish councils, ‘The Friends of the Quantocks’, AONB and QLPS volunteers, local history and interest groups, and village newsletters.

Paper questionnaires were available at shops, libraries, pubs etc. around the study area, and were also handed out at several QLPS events, including the Quantocks Walking Festival.

A web page was set up with a simple questionnaire, which asked people to locate their favourite view towards the Quantock Hills on a map, and to briefly explain:

- 1) Where is your favourite view towards the Quantock Hills
- 2) Why do you like it?
- 3) Is it changing? If so, how?

People were asked to provide their email address if they were interested in finding out more about becoming a volunteer for the project.

The paper surveys asked the same questions, and included a map on which respondents could mark their favourite viewpoints. It could then be posted to the QLPS office, where QLPS staff transferred the information onto the website database.

There was a hugely successful response, with 88 favourite viewpoints identified. 79 of these were submitted through the public consultation, with the remainder suggested by QLPS staff. Some of the responses to the ‘why do you like it’ question are set out on the following page, and others are included in the relevant viewpoint profiles.

“From this location you see the whole of the western scarp slope... and also the fringing farmland at the bottom of the scarp slope, and the interplay between the vale and the hills.”

“I cycle this way quite often and love the view as you look across to the Quantocks. Just something about the sweep of the hill and sky.”

“You can see the wilderness of heather and gorse, and the footpaths and tracks that criss-cross through it. No sign of any buildings, people, power lines etc.”

“[Seven Sisters] can be seen from many miles away, from Exmoor, The Blackdowns, M5 motorway, Vale of Taunton Deane...I knew we were coming home when I could see it”

“It reminds us how lucky we are to live in such a beautiful landscape.”

“It provides me with an uplifting view of unspoilt landscape which gives me pleasure and relaxes me. With binoculars I can often see red deer in the distance, grazing in the fields above Plainsfield.”

“Changes sometimes by the minute, with clouds and mist. Stunning in the evening light.”

“Because it’s constantly changing. The rolling hills and the sunsets. Just beautiful at any time of day.”

Stage 2: Identification of short list of viewpoints

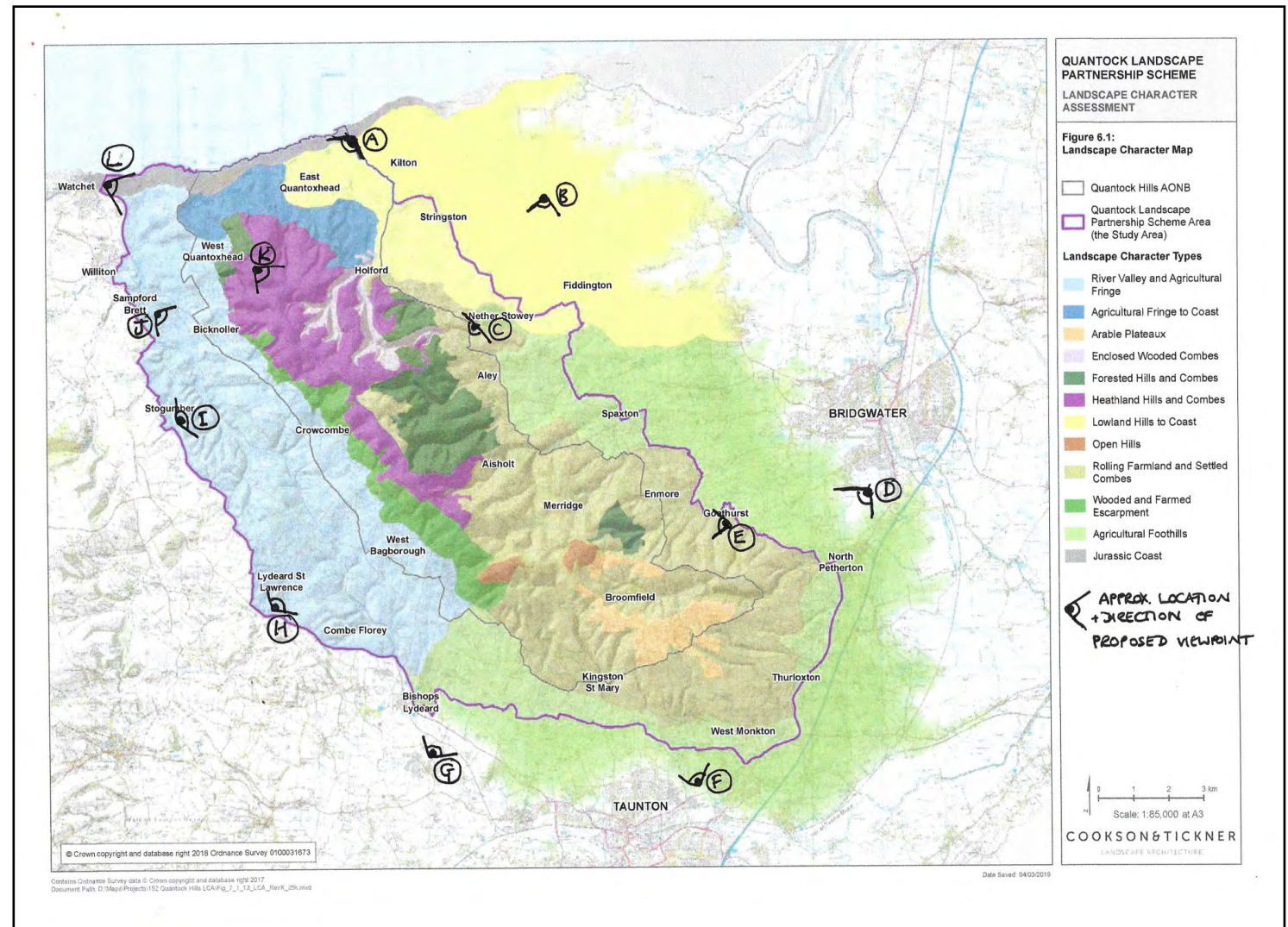
The consultant team visited all of the publically-accessible viewpoints suggested. Private views were discounted, but if a surveyor was nearby they checked if there was a publically-accessible alternative. Sometimes the map marker from the consultation had been placed on the object of the view rather than the location of the viewer. In these situations the surveyor tried to work out where the viewer would need to be standing to experience the view as described, and visited that location instead.

Fieldwork took place from 14th-16th June 2022 during a period of sunny weather. During the fieldwork all the suggested viewpoints outside the AONB were visited and photographed, and precise GPS co-ordinates were recorded. Viewpoints within the AONB were also visited where the response referred specifically to a view towards the Quantock Hills, rather than a view from the Quantock Hills. Once all the viewpoints had been visited, a shortlist of 12 were taken forward for further analysis and recording. The following factors were taken into account when selecting the shortlisted viewpoints:

- The ‘wow factor’ experienced when seeing the view.
- Covering a good geographic spread in terms of direction, elevation and distance from the Quantock Hills.
- Covering the range of Landscape Character Types identified in the Quantock Landscape Partnership Landscape Character Assessment (See following map).
- Not being within another protected landscape (Exmoor National Park, Blackdown Hills AONB or Mendip Hills AONB).
- Proximity to local communities, or to long-distance or well-used footpaths.
- The features visible within the view, emphasising different aspects of the Quantock Hills’ natural and cultural history.
- The context in which the Quantock Hills are seen (e.g. from the coast, from the Levels),
- Safety of the viewpoint in terms of safe parking, crossing main roads, distance from traffic, etc.

The 12 viewpoints are shown on the adjacent map, and are as follows:

- A:** Kilve Coast Path
- B:** Stogursey
- C:** Nether Stowey Castle
- D:** Wilstock Way, Bridgwater
- E:** Halswell
- F:** Maidenbrook Country Park, Taunton
- G:** Footpath from Cotford St Luke to Bishop's Lydeard
- H:** West Deane Way above Lydeard St Lawrence
- I:** Beacon Field, Stogumber
- J:** Coleridge Way near Sampford Brett
- K:** Beacon Hill
- L:** Helwell Bay Steps, Watchet



View to a Hill Viewpoints on a base showing Landscape Character Types taken from the Quantock Landscape Partnership Landscape Character Assessment

Stage 3: Volunteer Involvement

Training

Everyone who had expressed an interest in finding out more about the project was invited to a training day on 1st July. The day included four sessions:

- Introduction to the project and volunteering
- How to analyse a view
- Research techniques and how to find information
- Field trip to Nether Stowey Castle to practise view analysis
- Introduction to the 12 viewpoints and an opportunity to sign up to ‘adopt’ the view.

The training sessions and materials were also made available online for those unable to attend the in-person session.



Volunteers' training day at Nether Stowey



The volunteers' packs provided more information about the project tasks and how to complete them, as well as recording forms, and high-quality images of the views to aid the analysis. Volunteers' 'drop in' sessions were held on Zoom throughout the project to discuss any issues arising and to pass on additional skills or information if required (for example how to stitch panoramas together using photoshop).

Tasks

Between August – February, the volunteers visited their viewpoints three times to record them photographically in the changing seasons. They also identified the features visible in the foreground, middle ground and background of the view, and undertook more detailed research into some of the features identified. The photos and information recorded by the volunteers have been incorporated into the profiles in Part 2 of this report.

Looking ahead

An online 'looking ahead' workshop on 27th January 2023, when volunteers discussed the current and potential changes affecting their viewpoints, and shared ideas for enhancing the viewpoints in the future.



“Shows much of the north-west of the AONB. Stunning views of England’s first AONB.”

From this location you see the whole of the western scarp slope but as you are at a relatively high elevation you also see the fringing farmland at the bottom of the scarp and the interplay between the vale and the hills.”

The Quantock Hills from Beech Tree Cross, near Monksilver



“The view of Stowey nestling in the lee of the Quantocks opens up as the hedges drop away.”

“Having seen the familiar shape of the hills and Dowsborough all the way from the M5 at Clevedon...This view finally feels like the sanctuary of the hills has been reached; home.”

“It’s a great view, and my mother said she never forgot the thrill of the view when my father brought her here for the first time in 1944.”

The Quantock Hills from the A39 east of Nether Stowey



“It’s tranquil and it gives me a sense of space.”

The Quantock Hills from Bishop’s Lydeard



“It gives a fantastic panoramic view of the Quantocks from Over Stowey around to Enmore with Spaxton in the distance”

The Quantock Hills from Charlynch Churchyard

Part 2: Viewpoint Profiles

View A - Kilve Coast Path



Panorama from England Coast Path near Kilve, looking south-west, June 2022



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Viewpoint location map

View Summary

This is where the Quantock Hills meet the sea. The view includes the cliffs and beach at Kilve, the area around Kilve and East Quantoxhead, and the northern part of the Quantock Hills.

Location: England Coast Path approx. 500m east of Kilve Pill.

Grid Reference: ST 14857, 44563

Co-ordinates: Lat. 51.193406 Long. -3.218579

Direction of view: South to west

How to find the viewpoint

If travelling by car, turn north off the A39 at Kilve along Sea Lane, and park at the Kilve Beach car park. Walk to the cliff top, then head east along the Coast Path for about 500m until you reach a small promontory with the remains of a WWII pill box. The pill box will be behind you when looking at the view.

Alternatively you can approach the viewpoint on foot along the Coast Path, from east or west.

Viewshed

The graphic on the right shows (in light green) the land surface which can theoretically be seen from this viewpoint. This is known as the 'viewshed'. It is shown out to a distance of 10km. This is the 'bare ground' visibility, which means that it doesn't take account of vegetation or buildings. In reality, trees, hedges or buildings may block the view, and so less land may be visible than shown on the graphic.

The parts of the viewshed which do not look towards the Quantock Hills have been shaded out. Some key landmarks have been added to the map to aid orientation. The white line is the boundary of the Quantock Hills AONB.

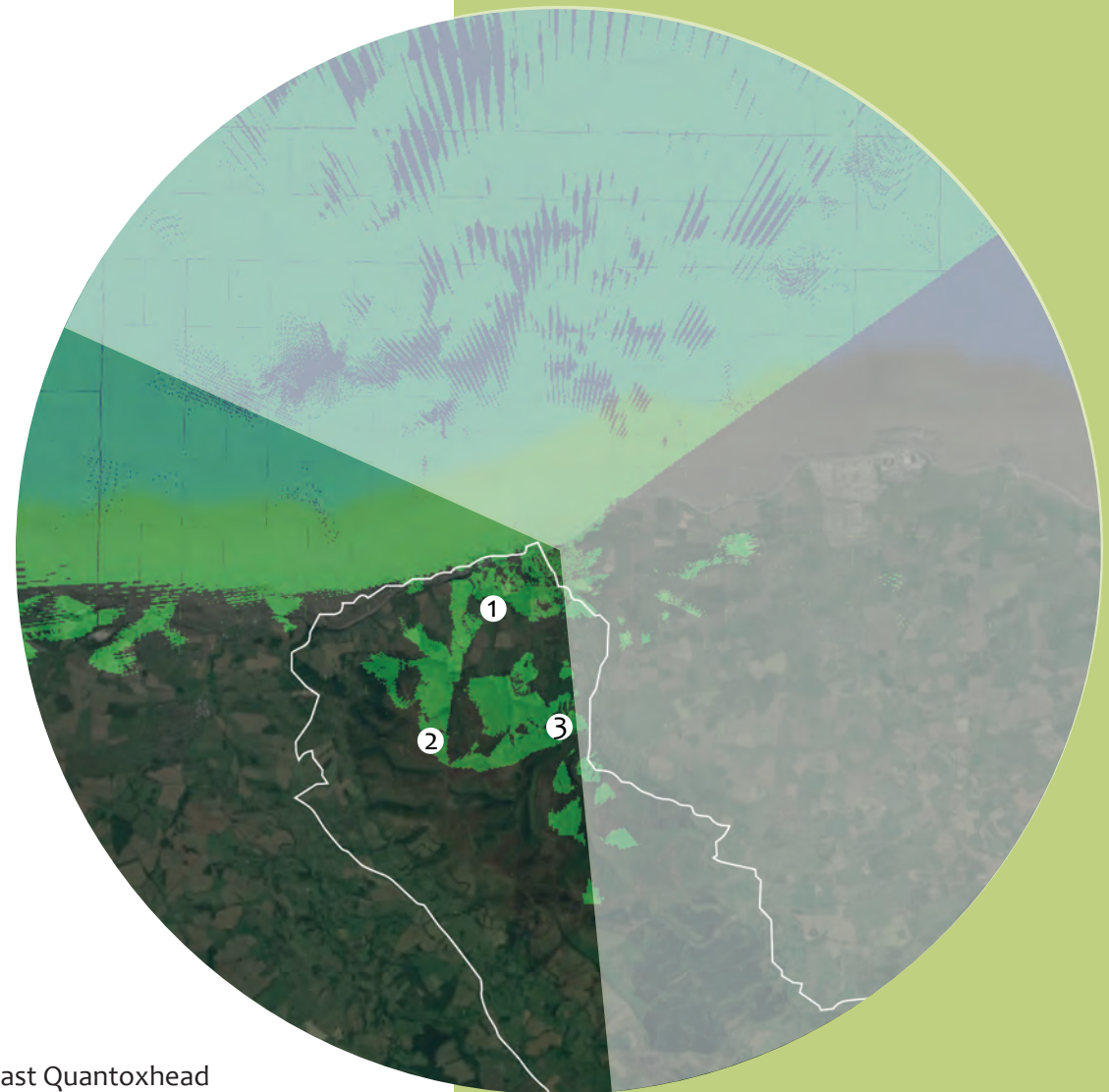
Viewshed from Kilve Coast Path

Closest to the viewpoint viewshed encompasses a large sweep of the relatively flat coastal plain which forms the foreground to the view (*Lowland Hills to Coast Landscape Character Type (LCT)*). It also includes a long stretch of coast, as well as the intertidal area and the Bristol Channel (*Jurassic Coast LCT*).

As the landform becomes more undulating in the middle ground of the view, the viewshed becomes more broken up, as areas are blocked by hills. This area includes the villages of Kilve and East Quantoxhead, and parts of the *Agricultural Fringe to Coast LCT*.

The viewshed becomes more continuous over the higher ground of the north-eastern Quantock Hills, including Beacon Hill, Longstone Hill and Dowsborough. This area encompasses *Heathland Hills and Combes*, and *Forested Hills and Combes LCTs*. There are also views up the valleys such as Holford Combe, which form the *Enclosed Wooded Combes LCT*.

In the far distance are glimpses further round the coast to Watchet, and beyond that the hills of Exmoor National Park can be seen. See section 1.2 for a map of the LCTs and their relationship to the viewpoints.



1. East Quantoxhead
2. Beacon Hill
3. Holford Combe

Seasonal photographs



Summer (September 2022)



Autumn (November 2022)



Winter (February 2023)

This series of photographs have been taken over the course of a year to illustrate the changing seasons, as observed from the viewpoint. The spring image is shown on the first page of this profile.

View description - Foreground



Coastal Grassland

The clifftop vegetation is coastal grassland, which forms a margin between the arable land and the sea. Within the coastal grassland are many different flowers, grasses and other plants. The visually-dominant plants vary throughout the year, and include buttercups, orchids, cow parsley, thistles, clover and blackberries.

World War II defensive structure

The brick structure behind the viewer at this viewpoint was constructed in WWII. It was a look-out post, and formed part of a sequence of defensive pill-boxes and look-outs which lined the Bristol Channel.

A feast for the senses

This viewpoint is on the England Coast Path, and cannot be reached by car. It is therefore quieter than many of the other viewpoints, and the visitor has to make contact with nature in order to visit it. Sounds here include the calls of rooks and seabirds, and of waves crashing over rocks. Colours and textures change throughout the year, particularly in the coastal grassland. The pillbox evokes a sense of history, and is a reminder of less peaceful times.



1. Orchid in coastal grassland



2. WWII look out on cliff top, with views across the Bristol Channel

View description - Midground



'Kilve's delightful shore'

This is how the Romantic poet William Wordsworth described the coast at Kilve in his poem 'Anecdote for Fathers', in which he recalls a conversation with his young son discussing the time they spent living at nearby Alfoxton (also in this view):

*My thoughts on former pleasures ran;
I thought of Kilve's delightful shore,
Our pleasant home when spring began
A long long year before.*

The coast at Kilve brings together great beauty with rich natural and cultural heritage. As such it is a popular location for recreation, and for educational trips from local schools and Kilve Court Activity Centre. There are beach heritage and natural history trails for the public to enjoy, and much creative inspiration to be found. Local people and visitors come here to create music, art, poetry and photographs. The beach at nearby East Quantoxhead was used as the filming location for Bryan Adams' music video for 'Everything I do I do it for you' in 1991.



Kilve Seascape by Judy Willoughby (b. 1949)
from the Musgrove Park Hospital Collection.

Reproduced with kind permission of Judy Willoughby (Artist)



School trip at Kilve, June 2022

View description - Midground

The Jurassic Coast

The coast at Kilve is part of the Blue Anchor - Lillstock Coast Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). It is designated for its geology, fossils and coastal features. The SSSI is of international importance for its sections through the Lower Lias rocks, which date from the Jurassic era. It is possible to see the boundaries between the layers of rocks (known as bedding planes) and also how the rocks have been folded by heat and pressure since they were originally laid down approx. 200 million years ago.

Within the rocks are numerous fossils, varying in size from small ammonites to large marine reptiles such as Ichthyosaurs. Perhaps it was an ichthyosaur fossil which gave rise to the local legend of the Kilve dragon known as 'Blue Ben'.

Over thousands of years, the rocks have been worn away by the waves of the Bristol Channel. Gradually coastal platforms have formed, where the harder rocks, which are more resistant to erosion, have remained, but the softer rocks above them have been washed away. The detail and patterns within the platform reflect their variable resistance to erosion. These are some of the best examples of coastal platforms in Britain, and are visible at low tide.



1-3 Details of coastal geology at Kilve and East Quantoxhead

Coastal Industrial Heritage

Although the coast at Kilve is quiet today, in the past it would have sometimes been a hive of industrial activity. Kilve Pill was a stream and tiny port used from the middle ages until the 19th Century. Coal was brought ashore here to provide fuel for the limekiln, where limestone was burnt to create 'slaked lime' which was spread on the fields to improve the productivity of the soil. It was also used in building work (in lime plaster, limewash and lime cement). The limekilns remain at Kilve and East Quantoxhead, but are now ruinous.

The Pill has a long association with smuggling. Local legend describes how barrels of spirits were hidden in the nearby Chantry (see next page) where they could be set alight if the Inland Revenue officers appeared on the scene.

Another industrial building is much later, from the 1920s, and is the Retort House (constructed to convert shale to oil) from an abandoned scheme to extract shale oil and limestone in Kilve. Had the project gone ahead, Kilve would probably look very different today.



4. Limekiln at Kilve Pill



5. Oil Retort at Kilve (Listed Building)

View description - Midground

Historic villages of Kilve and East Quantoxhead

Away from the coast, the midground of this viewpoint encompasses the villages of Kilve and East Quantoxhead, which nestle into the *Lowland Hills to Coast* and *Agricultural Fringe to Coast* LCTs. A mosaic of agricultural fields and woodlands provide a seasonally-changing backdrop.

Both villages are thriving communities which are rich in history. They contain many historic buildings within an historic landscape setting.

Kilve Chantry is on Sea Lane, towards Kilve Pill. It is a Scheduled Monument and dates from the 14th Century. It is partially ruined but recently repaired. The chantry was founded in 1329 by Sir Simon de Furneaux as part of the manor house, in order for five priests to pray for his soul in Kilve church. From the 17th Century it was known as the 'Old Mansion' but by the 19th Century it was a farmhouse, and several buildings were gutted by fire. Today it is used as a private dwelling with a tea garden in the grounds.

Further inland, Kilve Court is a Georgian mansion now used as a Residential Centre providing outdoor education. It is a major employer in the village.

Kilve cricket pitch and pavilion is located close to the coast, and is an important social space for the village.

Court House in East Quantoxhead is the seat of the Luttrell family, and has been for the last 700 years. The Luttrell Estate covers land and property at East Quantoxhead and Kilve, including the coast. Within the estate are gardens, woodland and farmland. Court House is a Grade I Listed Building, with parts dating back to the 15th Century. Its appearance has changed very little in the last 100 years.

The Jubilee Beacon is located in a high cliff-top position, where it can be seen from the viewpoint, and is inter-visible with other beacons along the Bristol Channel. It was lit in 1897 for Queen Victoria's diamond jubilee, and has been lit in 1977, 2002, 2012 and 2022 for Queen Elizabeth's Silver, Diamond, Golden and Platinum Jubilees.



3. Beacon Lighting for Queen Elizabeth's Platinum Jubilee, June 2022



1. Kilve Chantry under repair



2. Millpond and Mill in East Quantoxhead

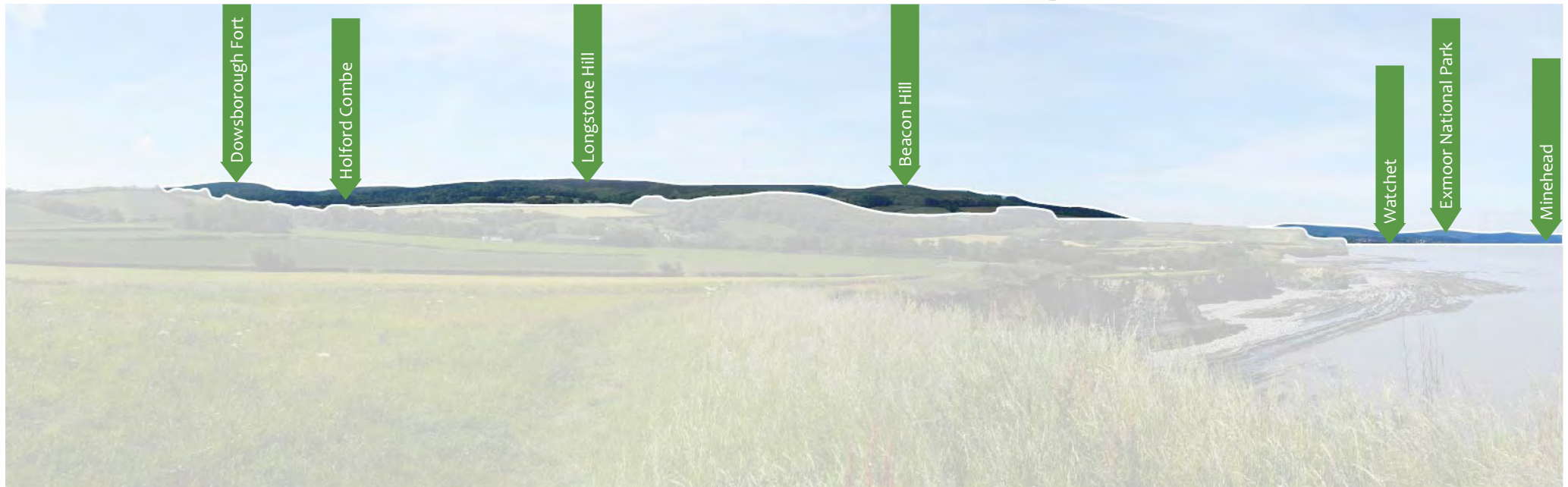


4. Court House Gardens



5. East Quantoxhead Church and Court House

View description - Background



The Quantock Hills

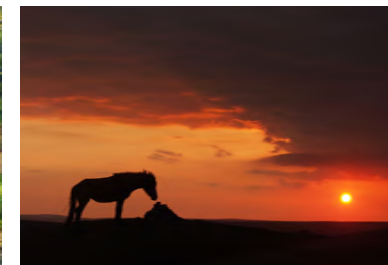
The near skyline is formed by the north-eastern part of the Quantock Hills, including Beacon Hill (Viewpoint K), West Hill, Longstone Hill and Weacombe Hill. In summer, when the heather is in bloom, these create a dramatic purple ridge within the landscape. Some of the lower slopes are forested, including the deer park at St Audries.

The far distance

In the far right of the view, over the Bristol Channel, it is possible to see Watchet (described more fully in Viewpoint L), and beyond Watchet, Minehead and the hills of Exmoor National Park, including (on a clear day) North Hill and Dunkery Beacon.



1 Deer at St Audries Park



2 Exmoor Pony on Dunkery Beacon



3. View east from North Hill over Minehead towards the Quantock Hills

View B - Stogursey



Panorama from footpath along field edge near Stogursey, facing south-west, June 2022



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Viewpoint location map

View Summary

The view takes in the edge of Stogursey village, looking towards Stogursey brook towards the Quantocks over mostly arable land and woodland

Location: Footpath on the east side of Stogursey village

Grid Reference: ST 20602, 42764

Co-ordinates: Lat. 51.178068 Long. -3.135990

Direction of view: South to west

How to find the viewpoint

If travelling by car, park at Stogursey Church. Follow the path through the churchyard and out of the gate on the east side. Continue south along the path which now runs alongside a road (Priory Hill). Cross over a farm entrance and you will see a gate with a footpath sign. Go through the gate and turn left, following the hedge. You will see a view immediately, but follow the path for a few metres until it opens up to the west and appears as in the panorama above.

"A stunning view looking over a farmer's gate."

Public consultation response

Viewshed

The graphic on the right shows (in light green) the land surface which can theoretically be seen from this viewpoint. This is known as the 'viewshed'. It is shown out to a distance of 10km. This is the 'bare ground' visibility, which means that it doesn't take account of vegetation or buildings. In reality, trees, hedges or buildings may block the view, and so less land may be visible than shown on the graphic.

The parts of the viewshed which do not look towards the Quantock Hills have been shaded out. Some key landmarks have been added to the map to aid orientation. The white line is the boundary of the Quantock Hills AONB.

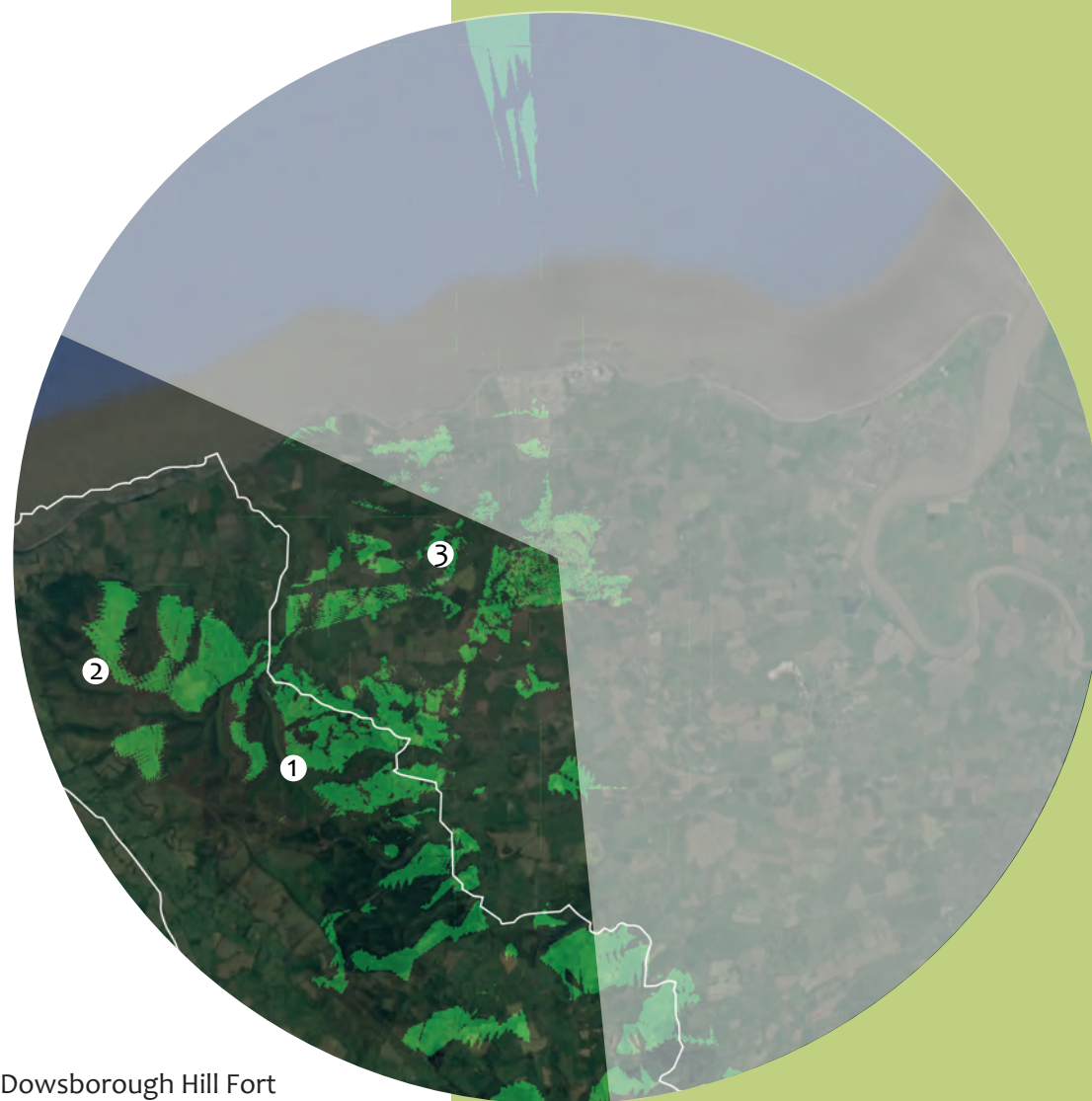
Viewshed from Stogursey

Closest to the viewpoint the viewshed is fairly continuous, and is made up of the fields around Stogursey Village which form the foreground of the view.

In the middle ground the viewshed is much more broken up, reflecting the undulating topography and lower landform in this area, which comprises the *Lowland Hills to Coast* and *Agricultural Foothills* Landscape Character Types (LCTs). Much of the land is associated with the Fairfield Estate.

The background is formed by the higher land of the Quantock Hills, comprising the *Heathland Hills and Combes*, *Rolling Farmland and Settled Combes*, and *Forested Hills and Combes* LCTs. The different colours and textures of these LCTs can be seen from the viewpoint. The *Forested Hills and Combes* LCT is particularly noticeable in this view, as it includes the extensive areas of the wooded north-east facing hillside around Dowsborough. Most of the combes cannot be seen from here because they are hidden by surrounding higher land.

See section 1.2 for a map of the LCTs and their relationship to the viewpoints.



1. Dowsborough Hill Fort
2. Beacon Hill
3. Fairfield House and Estate

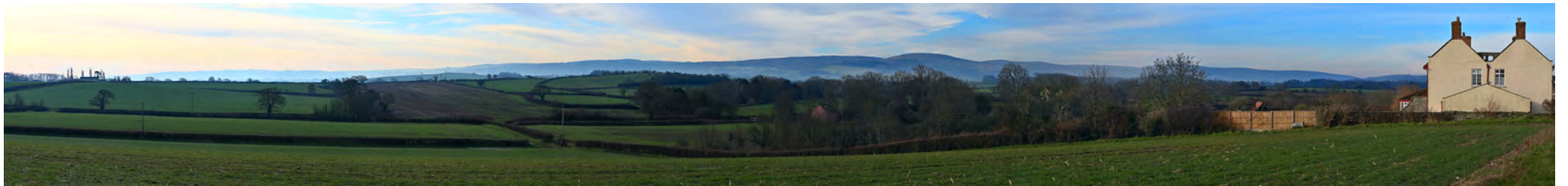
Seasonal photographs



Summer (August 2022)



Autumn (November 2022)



Winter (January 2023)

This series of photographs have been taken over the course of a year to illustrate the changing seasons, as observed from the viewpoint. The spring image is shown on the first page of this profile.

View description - Foreground



St Andrew's Church

Parts of the church date back to the 12th century, when the church formed part of a Benedictine Priory. After the monastery was dissolved, it became a parish church. The church has been extended and altered at numerous points in time, and contains distinctive carved pew ends, which are a feature of Somerset churches.

Stogursey C of E Primary School

Built c.1860 by John Norton in local Quantock stone with Bath stone dressings. The gothic style, with tall spires, was chosen to create a focal point for the area, with glades being cut through the woods on the Fairfield estate to create clear views across to the school.

Priory Farm, Orchard and Dovecote

The farm occupies farmland that once formed part of the Benedictine Priory. Stone from the priory now forms part of the farmhouse. The outbuildings include a Grade II listed thatched dovecote, rebuilt in the 1920s but with original medieval steps. Some scattered trees remain of the orchard that was present in 1903. The surrounding fields form part of the working farm.



1. Stogursey c.1902



2. Stogursey Primary School



5. Dovecote



3 & 4 St Andrew's Church



6. Pew End

1. <https://maps.nls.uk/view/106020860>

2. <https://www.archiseek.com/2013/schools-stogursey-somerset/>

3. Angela Wensley

4. Peter Williams

6. Peter Williams

View description - Midground



Arable Land

Much of the land surrounding Stogursey is used as working farm land, with a mix of crops and livestock grazing. These fields are divided by established hedgerows, patches of woodland, and brooks. Stogursey brook flows through the edge of the village and supplies the moat of Stogursey Castle.

Stogursey Castle

The first castle on the site was established in the 11th century by a supporter of William the Conqueror, and was replaced by the mottle and bailey structure that is visible today. The castle has a long history, passing between the crown and private owners, including two wives of Henry VIII. The castle was burned down during the War of the Roses, repaired, but later fell into disrepair again. By the 16th Century the castle was used for raising rabbits and growing potatoes. The 16th Century timber gatehouse is now used as holiday accommodation, and encompasses the remains of two medieval drum towers. All that remains of the rest of the castle is the 12th century curtain wall.

Fairfield Woods

The woods are remnants of a once larger forest that formed part of the Fairfield estate's extensive Tudor deer park. The Grade II listed estate has been in the same family since the 12th Century.



1. Stogursey Castle and moat



2. Stogursey Castle showing ruins

View description - Background

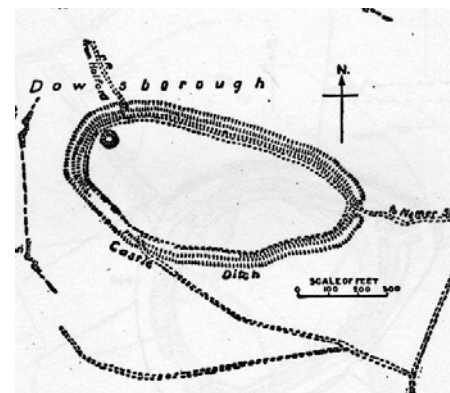


The Quantocks Ridge

The horizon is formed by the smooth, unbroken line of the Quantock Hills. Despite their distance from the viewer, they still form a prominent feature, and contribute strongly to the sense of place. A key landmark on the ridge in this view is Dowsborough, described below.

Dowsborough Hillfort

The Iron Age hillfort on top of Dowsborough Hill is a scheduled monument. It comprises an oval enclosure of approx 2.7 ha. The defences follow the natural contours of the hill, and include an inner rampart c. 1.5m high, a ditch with a drop of 2-3m, and an outer rampart. Within the site is a round mound which is believed to have been an earlier Bronze Age round barrow (burial mound) later repurposed for use as fire beacon. The site has outstanding views over the Bristol channel and the surrounding area.



1. Dowsborough Hillfort Earthworks



2. Dowsborough hillfort earthworks

View C - Nether Stowey Castle



Panorama from Nether Stowey Castle facing south-west to north-west, June 2022



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Viewpoint location map

View Summary

This is a magnificent 360 degree view from an historic viewpoint. From here the Quantock Hills appear cloaked in woodland.

Location: Earthworks of Nether Stowey Castle

Grid Reference: ST 18689, 39554
Co-ordinates: Lat. 51.148940 Long. -3.162629

Direction of view: South-west to north-west

How to find the viewpoint

If travelling by car, park in the car park by the Thomas Poole Library in the centre of Nether Stowey. Walk up Castle Hill to the top of the hill (it's steep) and you will find a gate into the castle on your right.

The Coleridge Way Long Distance Path diverts into the castle, so you can follow the waymark signs.

The viewpoint is in the centre of the castle site, so you will need to cross the outer earthworks and follow a path up to the highest point.

"A brilliant 360 degree view."

Public consultation response

Viewshed

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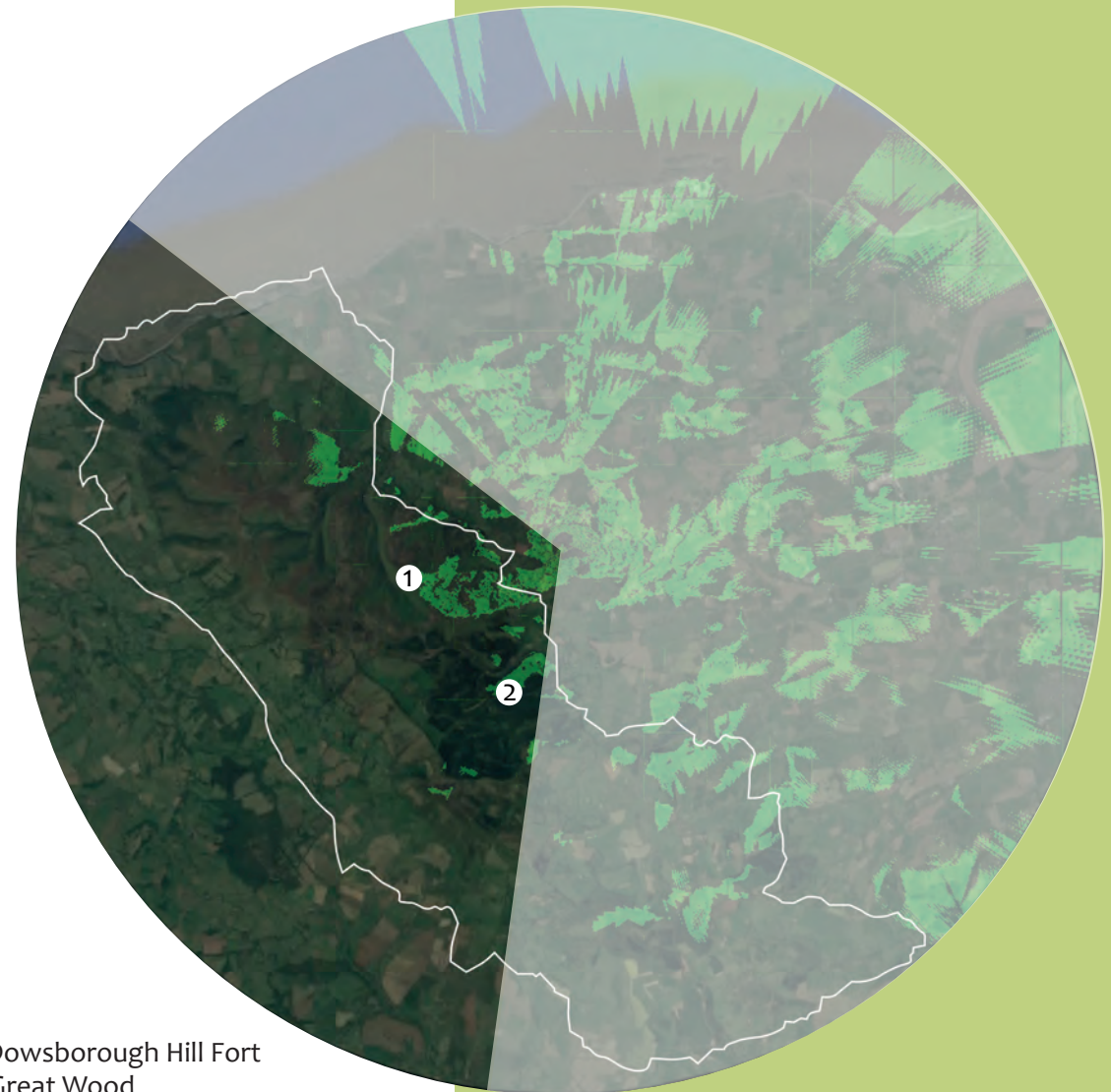
Viewshed from Nether Stowey Castle

This viewpoint has magnificent views in all directions, and it is worth taking time to appreciate the views north across the Bristol Channel, and east over Somerset towards the Mendip Hills.

For this project, we are focussing on the view in an arc from south to north-west, towards the Quantock Hills. Because this is a high viewpoint, the view over the foreground and mid-ground is fairly continuous. It comprises the agricultural land and woodland of the *Rolling Farmland and Settled Combes* Landscape Character Type (LCT).

Beyond this, the land starts to rise up on the eastern side of the Quantock Hills, and from this viewpoint the most wooded parts of the Quantock Hills can be seen, namely the *Forested Hills and Combes* and *Enclosed Wooded Combes* LCTs. These include Dowsborough Hillfort, Great Wood and Bin Combe. Further north there are distant views towards the *Heathland Hills and Combes* LCT, where the smooth outline of the hills provides contrasting colour and texture with the more wooded hillsides.

See section 1.2 for a map of the LCTs and their relationship to the viewpoints.



1. Dowsborough Hill Fort
2. Great Wood

Seasonal photographs

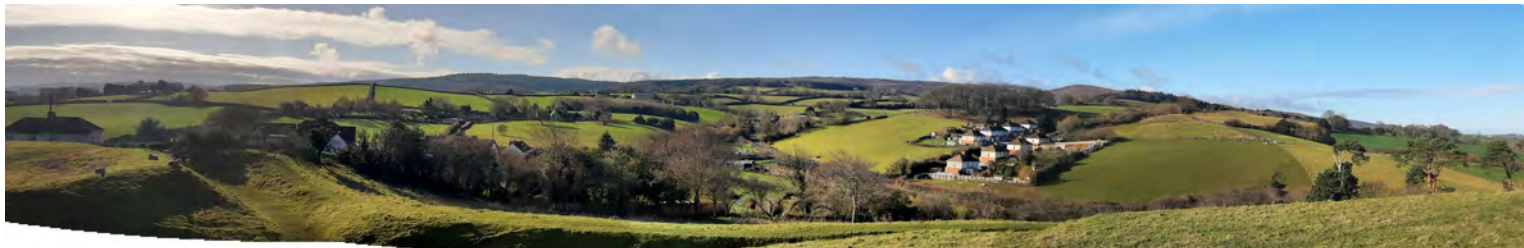


Summer (September 2022)

This series of photographs have been taken over the course of a year to illustrate the changing seasons, as observed from the viewpoint. The spring image is shown on the first page of this profile.



Autumn (November 2022)



Winter (February 2023)

View description - Foreground



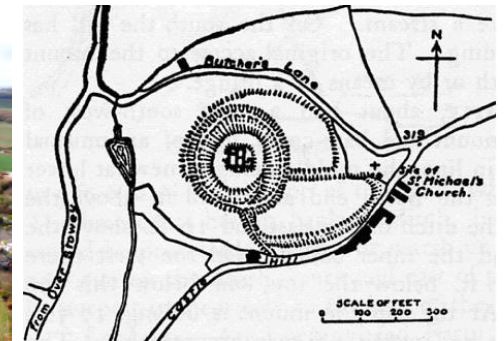
Stowey Castle

Stowey Castle dates from the 11th or early 12th Century, soon after the Norman conquest, and occupies a strong defensive position with excellent views across the surrounding landscape. The castle would have comprised a motte (mound) on which stood a stone keep. The remains of its foundations can be seen at the top of the motte. Surrounding the motte was a deep outer defensive ditch, and beyond that were two baileys (enclosures). A smaller bailey contained the manor's great hall and perhaps a chapel. A larger bailey contained other living accommodation, stables and stores. The castle gradually fell into ruin in the 15th Century. By 1497 the Audley family (then lords of the manor) were constructing Stowey Court at the other end of the village as a new residence, partly using stone salvaged from the castle.

The Castle (and the Pottery Field below) is a Scheduled Monument. Its grassland also provides important wildlife habitat, particularly for grassland plants and insects. It has recently been fenced, which means that sheep can be grazed here. The sheep help to control growth of scrub and bracken, which can damage the archaeology.



1. Aerial view of Stowey Castle



2. Map of Stowey Castle earthworks

View description - Midground



Pottery Field

Pottery Field lies beyond the stream which flows past the castle, and has long been known for turning up sherds of pottery. In 1969 the remains of a medieval kiln was discovered on the site, including the footings of a stone chimney and further pottery debris. In the same field is a stone-lined pond and feeder channel which marks the location of the medieval mill associated with the castle complex. It is included in the castle's Scheduled Monument designation.

Site of medieval deer park

The landscape around the castle would have been managed as wood pasture and a deer park. It is likely that many of the mature trees and small parcels of mature woodland which dot the landscape today are remnants of the medieval deer park. Other placenames provide clues to its past manorial uses. For example 'Warren Farm' indicates that this is where rabbits (a luxury item in medieval times) were kept and reared. This is a historic landscape, and many of its components

(scattered farms, winding lanes and small fields) date from medieval times.

In the 18th and early 19th Centuries copper mining took place at Dodington, to the west of Nether Stowey. The Counting House (dating from c. 1750) remains (it is now a house), along with ruined engine houses.



1. The deer park area in 1886



2. Copper mine engine house, Dodington

View description - Background



The Quantocks Woodlands

From here there are good views of the extensive woodlands which cloak the eastern side of the Quantock Hills. These include areas of ancient Atlantic Oak woodlands such as Shervage Wood and Bin Combe. These are part of the Exmoor and Quantock Oak Woodlands Special Area of Conservation, which is designated for the international importance of these habitats. The trunks of the trees are twisted into fantastical shapes, and coated with moss and lichen. Known locally as the 'pixie wood', they form important habitats for a very wide range of species.

Some areas of ancient woodland – including Seven Wells Wood and Great Wood - were planted with deciduous and coniferous timber plantations in the 19th and early 20th Century, resulting in a mosaic of trees including groves of mature oaks and close-planted firs. These areas are also popular for recreation, with numerous paths and trails.



1. Atlantic Oak Woodland, Bin Combe



2. Great Wood from Cockercombe

View D - Wilstock Way, Bridgwater



Panorama from Wilstock Way, Bridgwater, facing south-west, June 2022



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Viewpoint location map

View Summary

The view is a broad panorama, in which the Quantock Hills are seen in the context of low-lying land on the edge of the Somerset Levels.

Location: Wilstock Way, Bridgwater

Grid Reference: ST 29688, 34753

Co-ordinates: Lat. 51.107226 Long.

-3.004549

Direction of view: South to west

How to find the viewpoint

If travelling by car, it is easiest to park in the nearby residential streets on the Wilstock or Stockmoor estates and walk back to the viewpoint. The viewpoint is on the south side of Wilstock Way - opposite Wilstock Country Park.

“With the Country Park, which feels very much like a ‘Levels’ landscape - lots of waterways, reeds, flat etc., you can look and see the green connection to the foothills of the Quantocks.”

Public consultation response

Viewshed

The graphic on the right shows (in light green) the land surface which can theoretically be seen from this viewpoint. This is known as the 'viewshed'. It is shown out to a distance of 10km. This is the 'bare ground' visibility, which means that it doesn't take account of vegetation or buildings. In reality, trees, hedges or buildings may block the view, and so less land may be visible than shown on the graphic.

The parts of the viewshed which do not look towards the Quantock Hills have been shaded out. Some key landmarks have been added to the map to aid orientation. The white line is the boundary of the Quantock Hills AONB.

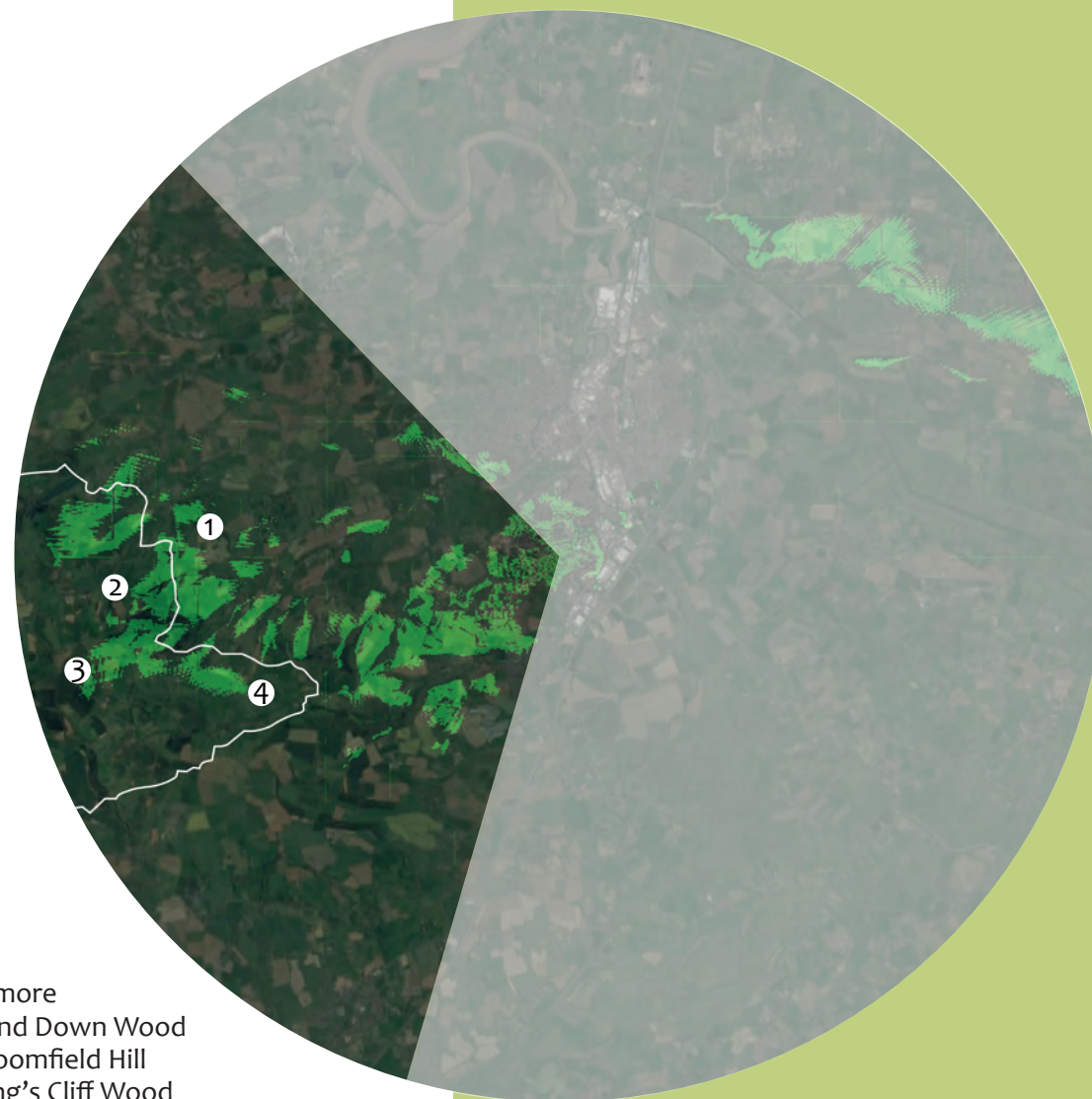
Viewshed from Wilstock Way, Bridgwater

The flat nature of the landform in the foreground and middle ground of the viewpoint means that the viewshed is fairly continuous. However, it is cut off to the south by the ridge of high land on which North Petherton is built, and which forms a local watershed between the broad, flat basin around Bridgwater, and the steep valley which runs east from Fyne Court.

The foreground of the view comprises the low-lying land of Stock Moor, and is outside the area covered by the QLPS Landscape Character Assessment. The middle ground comprises a long and fairly continuous view over the *Agricultural Foothills* Landscape Character Type (LCT) which wraps around the south-eastern end of the Quantock Hills.

Beyond this, an arc of the Quantock Hills from Kings Cliff Wood to Enmore forms the background to the view. Most of this elevated area is covered by the *Rolling Farmland and Settled Combes* LCT.

See section 1.2 for a map of the LCTs and their relationship to the viewpoints.



1. Enmore
2. Wind Down Wood
3. Broomfield Hill
4. King's Cliff Wood

Seasonal photographs



Summer (August 2022)



Autumn (November 2022)



Winter (February 2023)

This series of photographs have been taken over the course of a year to illustrate the changing seasons, as observed from the viewpoint. The spring image is shown on the first page of this profile.

View description - Foreground



Stockmoor

This is naturally low-lying and seasonally-flooded land on the edge of the Somerset Levels. Historic maps show it as a series of small regular-shaped fields drained by ditches. Seasonal flooding would have deposited sediment, resulting in rich soils.

In recent years the area has seen much development, and the moor has either been built over (Wilstock and Stockmoor estates, Bridgwater motorway services and industrial units) or changed to recreational use (Stockmoor Country Park).

The foreground of the viewpoint is part of the Sustainable Urban Drainage System (SUDS) for the Wilstock Estate, where water is held in basins from where it can gradually soak into the soil. This reduces the amount of water flowing through the storm drain system, and therefore helps to alleviate flooding. The basins support native plants which thrive in damp conditions, including reeds, sedges and willows.



1. Stockmoor in the late 19th Century and today (from National Library of Scotland side-by-side mapping)

1. <https://maps.nls.uk/geo/explore/side-by-side>

View description - Midground



Rich Agricultural Land

The middle ground of the view comprises the farmland which forms the transition between the low-lying ground of the Somerset Levels and the high land of the Quantock Hills. It contains a number of long-established farms including Rhode Farm, Huntstile Farm and Greenway Farm. Historic maps show them surrounded by orchards. Place-names such as 'Floodgate Farm' and 'Withybed Copse' illustrate the watery nature of the lower-lying parts of the area.

North Petherton Village

Before it became a town, North Petherton was the largest village in England. It was an important settlement as far back as Saxon times and archaeologists have found plenty to interest them on the site of the current church, St Mary The Virgin, which has one of the tallest, most elaborate towers in the region. North Petherton has a number of claims to fame including the fact that the poet and civil servant Geoffrey Chaucer was Deputy Forester at the royal estate of Petherton Park. A chance 'find' nearby centuries later brought the town more fame as it turned out

to be one of the most important this country has unearthed. It was the Alfred Jewel – now in the Ashmolean Museum – which is thought to be the top of a ninth century pointing stick for reading, a skill King Alfred was keen to promote.



1-3. St. Mary's Church, North Petherton



1-3. Angela Wensley

View description - Background



The South-eastern Quantock Hills

Despite their distance from the viewpoint, the south-eastern part of the Quantock Hills can be seen very clearly from this viewpoint, and their height appears to be accentuated by the flat nature of the foreground and middle ground. 'Dancing Hill' leads up from North Petherton onto Broomfield Hill.

The south-eastern Quantock Hills have a softer and less dramatic appearance than some other parts of the ridge. Here, the *Rolling Farmland and Settled Combes* LCT is characterised by a patchwork of arable and pastoral fields, woodland, copses and some plantation. It forms the setting for villages including Goathurst and Enmore, which are in the far distance in this view. Kings Cliff Wood and the forested dome of Wind Down can be seen on the horizon.



1. Kings Cliff Wood



2. The village of Goathurst

View E - Halswell



Panorama from footpath along driveway to Halswell House, looking west to north, June 2022



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Viewpoint location map

View Summary

In this view, the Quantock Hills become part of a picturesque composition: the view from Halswell House across Halswell Park.

Location: Footpath following the drive to Halswell House

Grid Reference: ST 25357, 34025

Co-ordinates: Lat. 51.100129 Long. -3.066155

Direction of view: west to north

How to find the viewpoint

If travelling by car, park in Goathurst village. On the south side of the village a stone gateway and thatched lodge mark the northern end of the main drive to Halswell (pronounced 'Haswell') House. Follow the drive (it is a public footpath) for 400m. The viewpoint is just before the driveway bends more sharply. Halswell House is behind you and the Temple of Harmony can be seen across the field in front of you.

Viewshed

The graphic on the right shows (in light green) the land surface which can theoretically be seen from this viewpoint. This is known as the 'viewshed'. It is shown out to a distance of 10km. This is the 'bare ground' visibility, which means that it doesn't take account of vegetation or buildings. In reality, trees, hedges or buildings may block the view, and so less land may be visible than shown on the graphic.

The parts of the viewshed which do not look towards the Quantock Hills have been shaded out. Some key landmarks have been added to the map to aid orientation. The white line is the boundary of the Quantock Hills AONB.

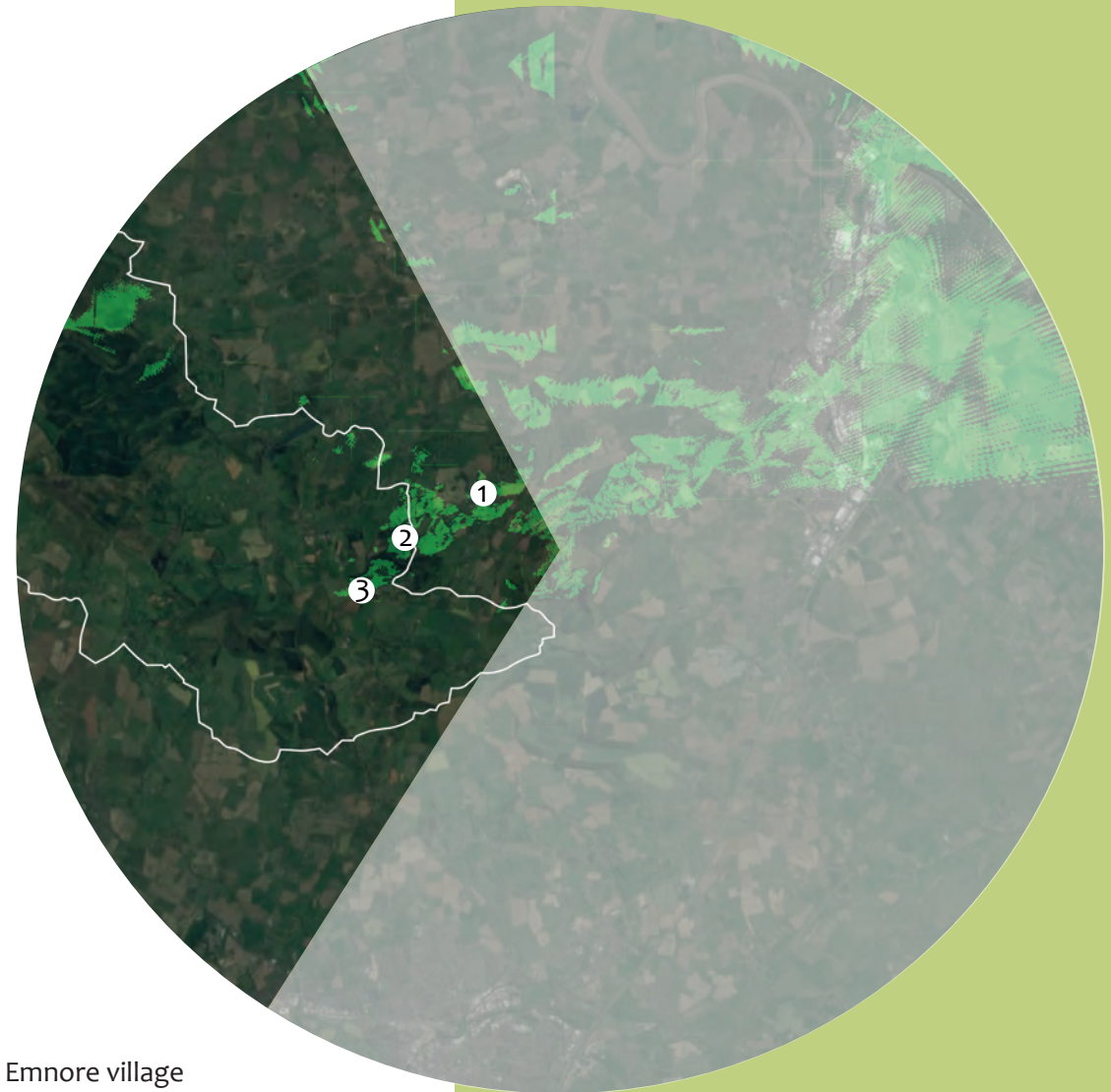
Viewshed from Halswell

The topography, which drops away from the viewpoint, means that the foreground is fairly limited. However, the foreground comprises the historic designed landscape of Halswell Park, and has a number of elements of interest.

In the middle ground the land rises steeply around Enmore village, and the tower of Enmore Church appears on the summit of the ridge. Like the foreground, the middle ground comprises the *Rolling Farmland and Settled Combes* Landscape Character Type (LCT).

The background is formed by the Quantocks ridge. Although the extent visible is limited, it includes several LCTs, including *Forested Hills and Combes* (around Wind Down), *Open Hill* (Broomfield Hill) and *Arable Plateaux* (east of Broomfield Hill).

See section 1.2 for a map of the LCTs and their relationship to the viewpoints.



1. Enmore village
2. Wind Down
3. Broomfield Hill

Seasonal photographs



Summer (September 2022)



Autumn (October 2022)



Winter (February 2023)

This series of photographs have been taken over the course of a year to illustrate the changing seasons, as observed from the viewpoint. The spring image is shown on the first page of this profile. Note the 'Temple of Harmony' on the right hand side of the images.

View description - Foreground



Halswell Park

The Halswell family constructed a stone Manor House here in 1536. This Tudor wing later became the kitchens when the symmetrical North Range was built in 1689. Halswell Hall is a Grade I Listed building in private ownership.

The grounds are a Registered Park and Garden. In the second half of the 18th Century they were transformed into a naturalised landscape of lawns, parkland, trees, woodland and waterbodies. A series of ornamental structures with sentimental or mythological themes were placed around the grounds to create focal points. These included the neo-classical Temple of Harmony (visible from this viewpoint), the rotunda temple on the lawn, 'Robin Hood's Hut' (a banqueting house) and various statues, grottos and so on.

The stream through Mill Wood became a series of five lakes, with the spring feeding them enclosed by a grotto. The stream represented a journey from the 'gloomy and confined' source to a cheerful vale around the Temple of Harmony. In the 19th Century the squire opened up the grounds for local people to enjoy. The estate was split in the 1950s. More information can be found in the exhibition in the temple.



1. 1771 Parish map showing Halswell Park. The tree-lined driveway is partially constructed.



2. Halswell House from viewpoint



3. Halswell canal dam

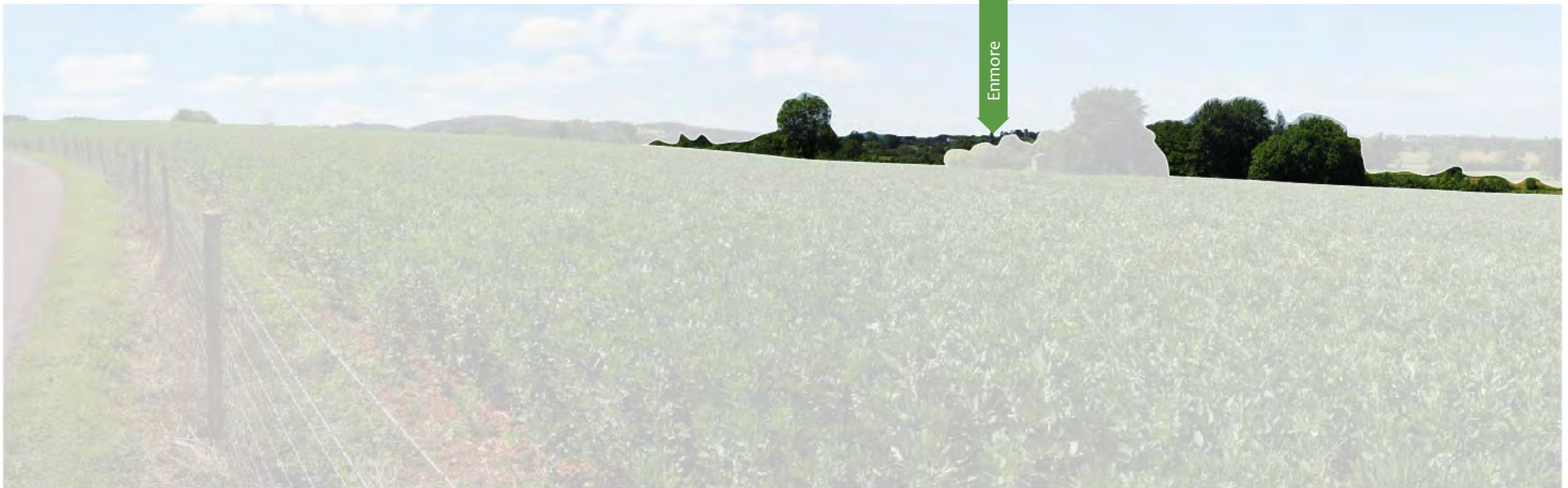


4. Temple of Harmony



5. Terpsichore statue

View description - Midground



Enmore

The village of Enmore can be seen in the middle ground of the view, with the tower of St Michael's church visible on the horizon behind the Temple of Harmony. The earliest surviving parts of the church are the doorways - the south door has a rounded arch which dates from the 11th Century, and the west door is Early English in design, dating from the 12th Century. Most of the church (including the tower) dates from the 16th Century. Inside there are many memorials to members of local families, including one to the Malet family, spanning 22 generations from 1130-1621. Another local family was the Jeanes family, who lived at Barford House, just north of the church. They built their country house in 1710 on the site of an earlier farmhouse, and it was later extended, including by the later owners - the Evered family - who are also mentioned in plaques in the church.

The Tynte Arms pub in Enmore village is named after another well-known local family who were responsible for much of the re-landscaping of the Halswell estate as described on the previous page.



1. St Michael's Church, Enmore

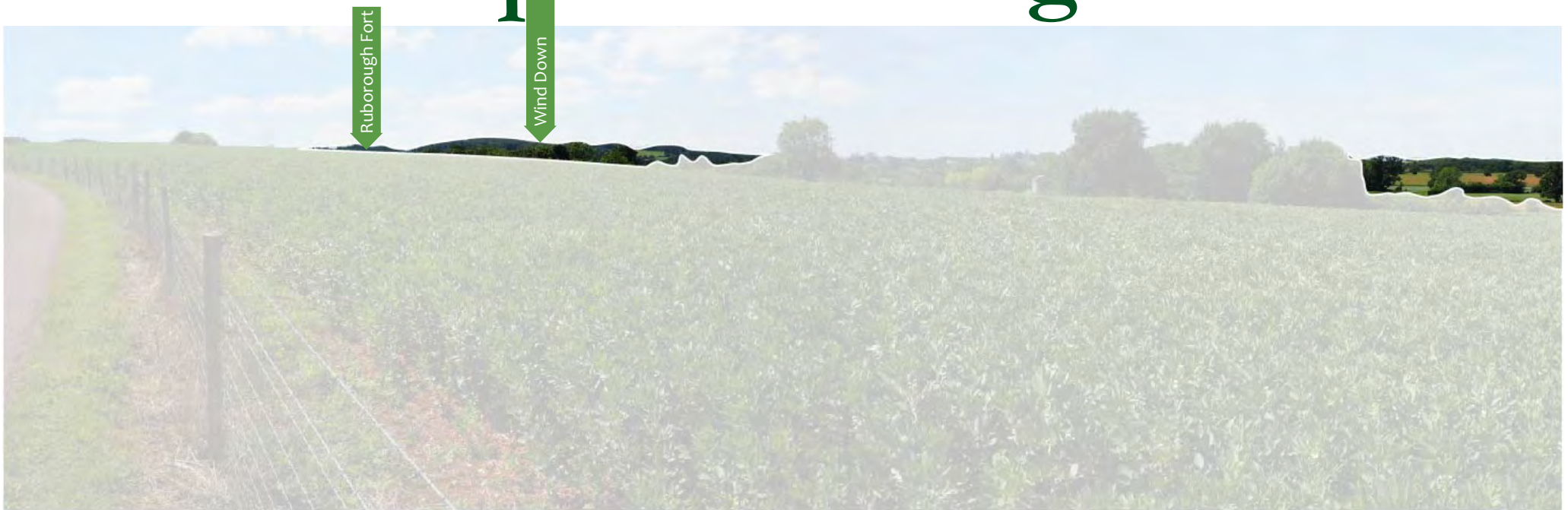


2. 1912 postcard of Barford House, Enmore



3. Memorial plaque to the Jeanes family of Barford Court

View description - Background



Ruborough Hillfort

On the hill to the left of the view is Ruborough Camp - an iron age hill fort. The fort is on an easterly spur from the main Quantock ridge, with steep natural slopes to the north and south-east. It is triangular in shape, with a single rampart and ditch, enclosing 1.8 hectares (4.4 acres). There is a linear outer work about 120 m away, parallel to the westerly rampart, which encloses another 1.8 ha.

A tunnel (now filled in) provided safe access to a fresh-water spring.

In the Medieval period, it was common for ancient hill forts to be reused as pens for domesticated animals. At Ruborough there is documentary evidence that the hillfort became a 'porcheria', or piggery, owned by the Saxon domain of Somerton.



1. Plan of Ruborough Hillfort earthworks



2. Ruborough hillfort earthworks

View F - Maidenbrook Country Park



Panorama from northern edge of Maidenbrook Country Park, looking north, June 2022



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View Summary

The view is towards the Quantock Hills from the south, and includes the Hestercombe estate. It is easily accessible from new communities on the edge of Taunton.

Location: Path along the northern edge of Maidenbrook Country Park

Grid Reference: ST 24789, 26875

Co-ordinates: Lat. 51.035767 Long. -3.072781

Direction of view: north-west to north-east

How to find the viewpoint

If travelling by car, park at the Maidenbrook Country Park and walk up towards the northern boundary. Near a storage container you will see a gap in the hedge. This is the viewpoint.

Viewpoint location map

Viewshed

The graphic on the right shows (in light green) the land surface which can theoretically be seen from this viewpoint. This is known as the 'viewshed'. It is shown out to a distance of 10km. This is the 'bare ground' visibility, which means that it doesn't take account of vegetation or buildings. In reality, trees, hedges or buildings may block the view, and so less land may be visible than shown on the graphic.

The parts of the viewshed which do not look towards the Quantock Hills have been shaded out. Some key landmarks have been added to the map to aid orientation. The white line is the boundary of the Quantock Hills AONB.

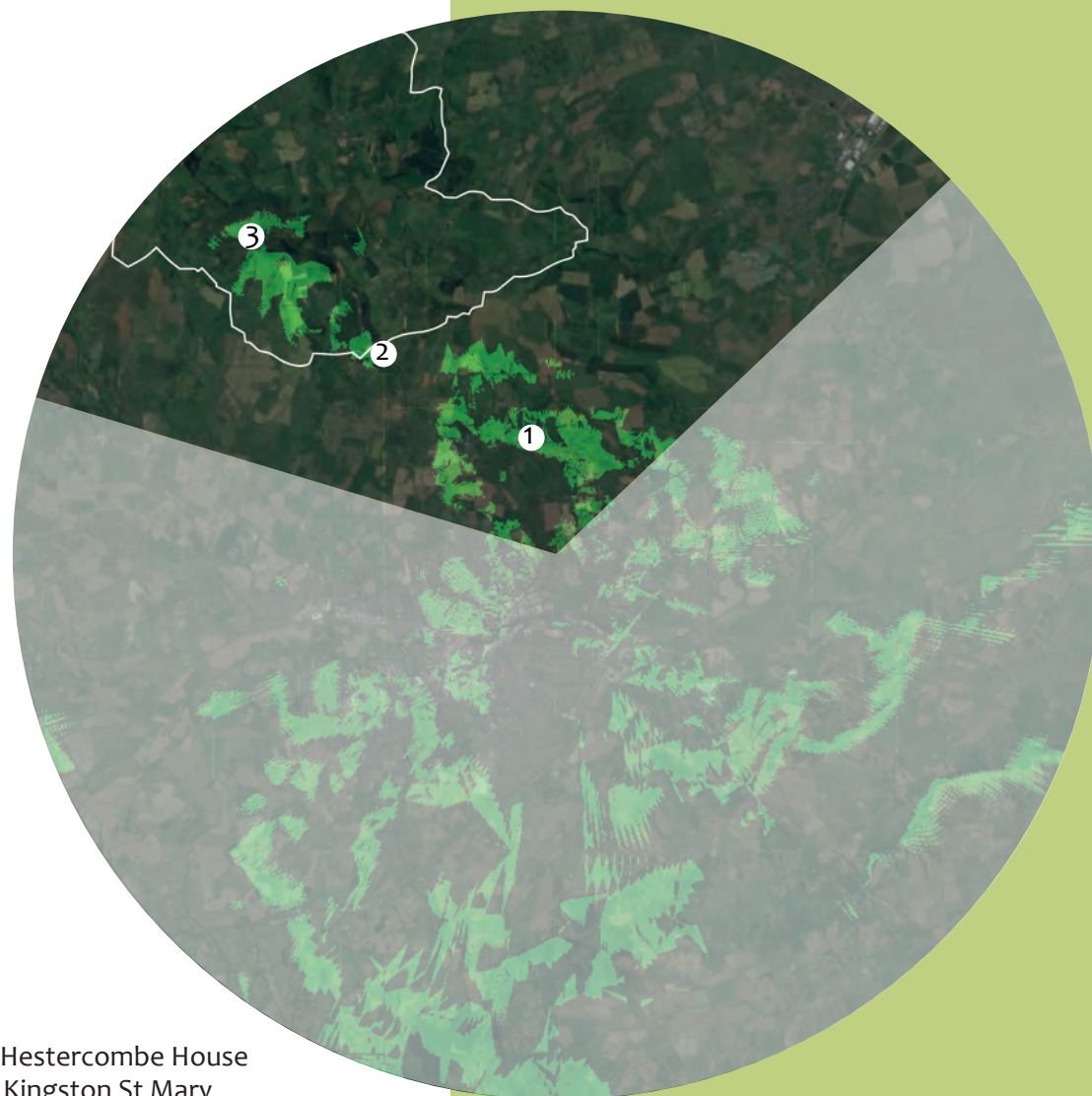
Viewshed from Maidenbrook Country Park

The hedge in the foreground of the view is the northern boundary of Maidenbrook Country Park, on the northern edge of Taunton. The country park, and associated Somerset Wood, have been recently created on former farmland, and this farmland (within the *Agricultural Foothills* Landscape Character Type (LCT)) continues into the foreground of the view.

The middle ground comprises the Hestercombe estate, which is situated on rising land. Hestercombe House commands a sweeping view to the south over the Vale of Taunton, and is located within the *Rolling Farmland and Settled Combes* LCT.

The background is formed by the highest land in the southern part of the Quantock Hills. It is mostly a continuation of the *Rolling Farmland and Settled Combes* LCT, but the distinctive summit of Cothelstone Hill is within the *Open Hills* LCT.

See section 1.2 for a map of the LCTs and their relationship to the viewpoints.

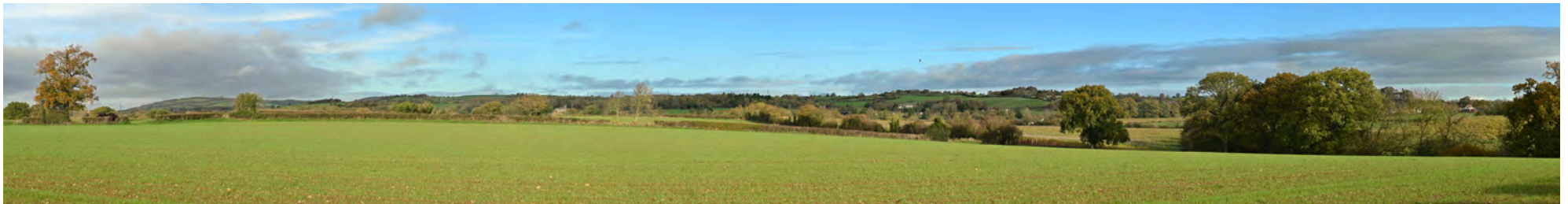


1. Hestercombe House
2. Kingston St Mary
3. Cothelstone Hill

Seasonal photographs



Summer (September 2022)



Autumn (November 2022)



Winter (January 2023)

This series of photographs have been taken over the course of a year to illustrate the changing seasons, as observed from the viewpoint. The spring image is shown on the first page of this profile.

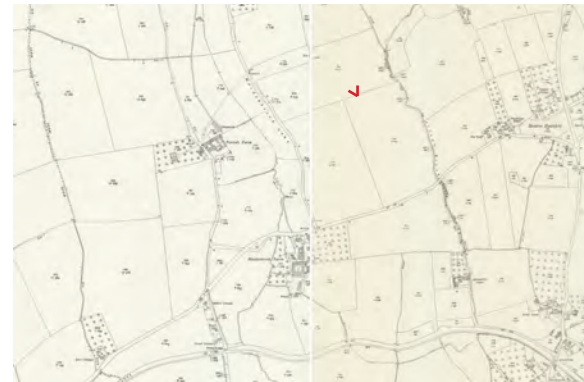
View description - Foreground



Maidenbrook Country Park

Maidenbrook Country Park is comprised of public grassland and woodland (Somerset Wood), on land purchased from the Crown Estate by Taunton Deane District Council in 2018. Somerset Wood has recently been planted and is a memorial to those from Somerset who served and died in the First World War. Future plans for the Country Park include a pond and an outdoor theatre space.

The fields were formerly part of Maidenbrook Farm, which date back to at least the 13th Century, although the surviving farmhouse (Listed Grade II) date from the 17th-19th Centuries. Together with its associated farm buildings, the farmhouse is located south-west of the Country Park and is now surrounded by modern development. The Country Park is on the edge of the floodplain of the River Tone, and bordered by Allen's Brook. The brook is a tributary of the River Tone that rises in the south of the Quantock Hills.

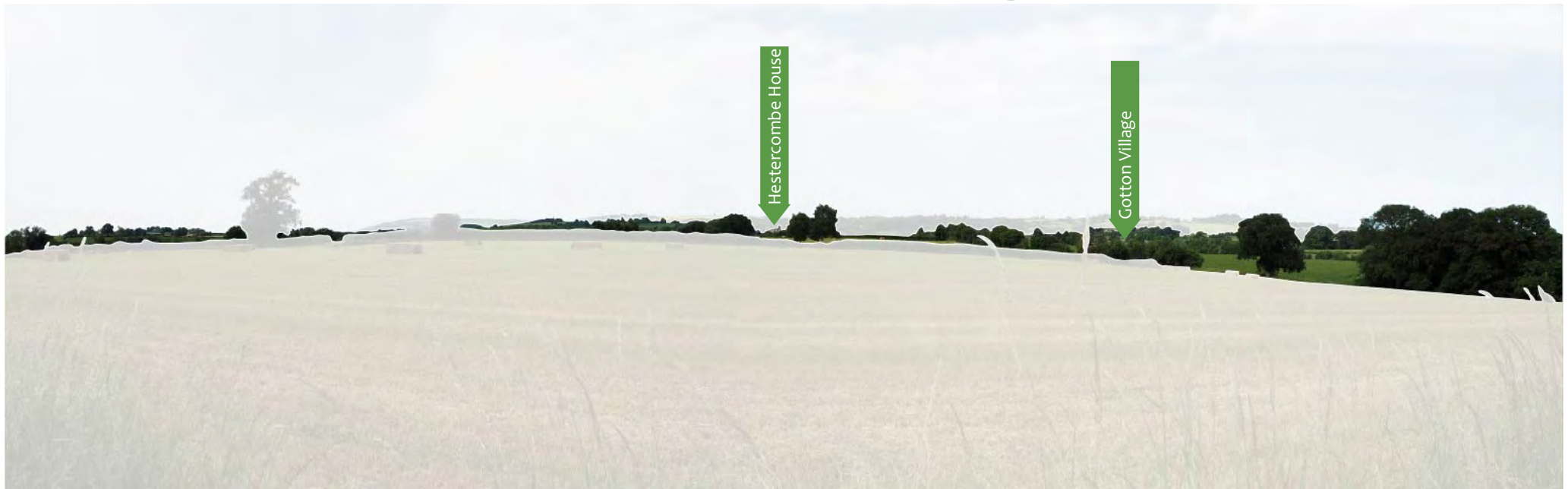


1. The area in c.1914, with viewpoint in red



2. Maidenbrook Farmhouse

View description - Midground



Hestercombe

Hestercombe has a very long history, being first mentioned in a Saxon charter from 897. The Warre family lived at Hestercombe from 1391 and built and re-built the house over the subsequent centuries. A major rebuilding took place in the 1680s, and again between 1725-1750, when the medieval house was re-fronted with a symmetrical facade. Further work took place in 1872 and 1895. Hestercombe house is Grade II* listed, and today houses an art gallery and is used for a wide range of arts, crafts, classes and events. It is owned and managed by the Hestercombe Trust.

Hestercombe is famous for its gardens, which were first mentioned in a medieval document dating from 1249. Today, the gardens contain elements from many different periods. The landscape garden dates from c. 1750 and includes parkland, trees, a lake and a temple. The Victorian Terrace was laid out in 1873, and in 1903 a formal garden to the south of the house was designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens, with a planting scheme by Gertrude Jekyll. The Gardens are a Grade I Registered Historic

Park and Garden, and the formal gardens and the orangery are also Grade I Listed Buildings. During WWII the estate was the headquarters of the VIII Corps, who were responsible for defending Somerset, Devon, Cornwall and Bristol. During this time Hestercombe's lawns were used for barrack huts. The estate also contains a Site of Special Scientific Interest, designated for its population of roosting lesser horseshoe bats.

To the east of Hestercombe House is the village of Gotton, which can also be seen from this viewpoint.



1. Hestercombe House and Gardens

View description - Background



The southern part of the Quantock Hills

The horizon is formed by the southern part of the Quantock Hills. On the left is Cothelstone Hill (described in more detail in viewpoint G). The southern part of the Quantock Hills is softer and more gentle than the north, and is covered with trees and farmland (including some estates), rather than common.

Broomfield

Just below Buncombe Wood is the small historic village of Broomfield, composed of scattered farms and a parish church. The village used to be attached to the Fyne Court Estate, which was most notably home to Andrew Crosse (known locally as Wizard Crosse), an amateur scientist who had a particular fascination with electricity and lightning. He is most remembered for being accused of having created life, after a sealed experiment became infested with mites. Legend has it that his experiments inspired Mary Shelley,

who was a close friend, to write 'Frankenstein', although this is unlikely as the experiment took place two decades after the publication of the book. Fyne Court House burnt down in 1894, but the other surviving buildings and the estate are now managed by the National Trust.



1. Folly at Fyne Court, Broomfield



2. Fyne Court pre-1894

View G - Cotford St Luke



Panorama from footpath between Cotford St Luke and Bishops Lydeard, facing north, June 2022



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Viewpoint location map

View Summary

This is a long view of the Quantocks Ridge from the south-west, with several features of interest in the setting, including Cotford St Luke Hospital buildings, and Bishops Lydeard church.

Location: Footpath on the north side of Cotford St Luke

Grid Reference: ST 17091, 27599

Co-ordinates: Lat. 51.047215 Long. -3.182722

Direction of view: north-west to north-east

How to find the viewpoint

If travelling by car, park in Cotford St Luke. Walk to the north edge of the village, along the road leading to the A358. At the edge of the village you will see a footpath on the north side of the road, which leads to Tithill and Bishops Lydeard. The viewpoint is a few metres along the footpath, on the north side.

The viewpoint can also be approached along the footpath from Bishops Lydeard.

“A short walk from the village and you are in the fields, looking across to the aqua rocks, often with the sounds of steam trains in the background at Bishops Lydeard.”

“The [Seven Sisters] glade looks like a space module.”

Public consultation response

Viewshed

The graphic on the right shows (in light green) the land surface which can theoretically be seen from this viewpoint. This is known as the 'viewshed'. It is shown out to a distance of 10km. This is the 'bare ground' visibility, which means that it doesn't take account of vegetation or buildings. In reality, trees, hedges or buildings may block the view, and so less land may be visible than shown on the graphic.

The parts of the viewshed which do not look towards the Quantock Hills have been shaded out. Some key landmarks have been added to the map to aid orientation. The white line is the boundary of the Quantock Hills AONB.

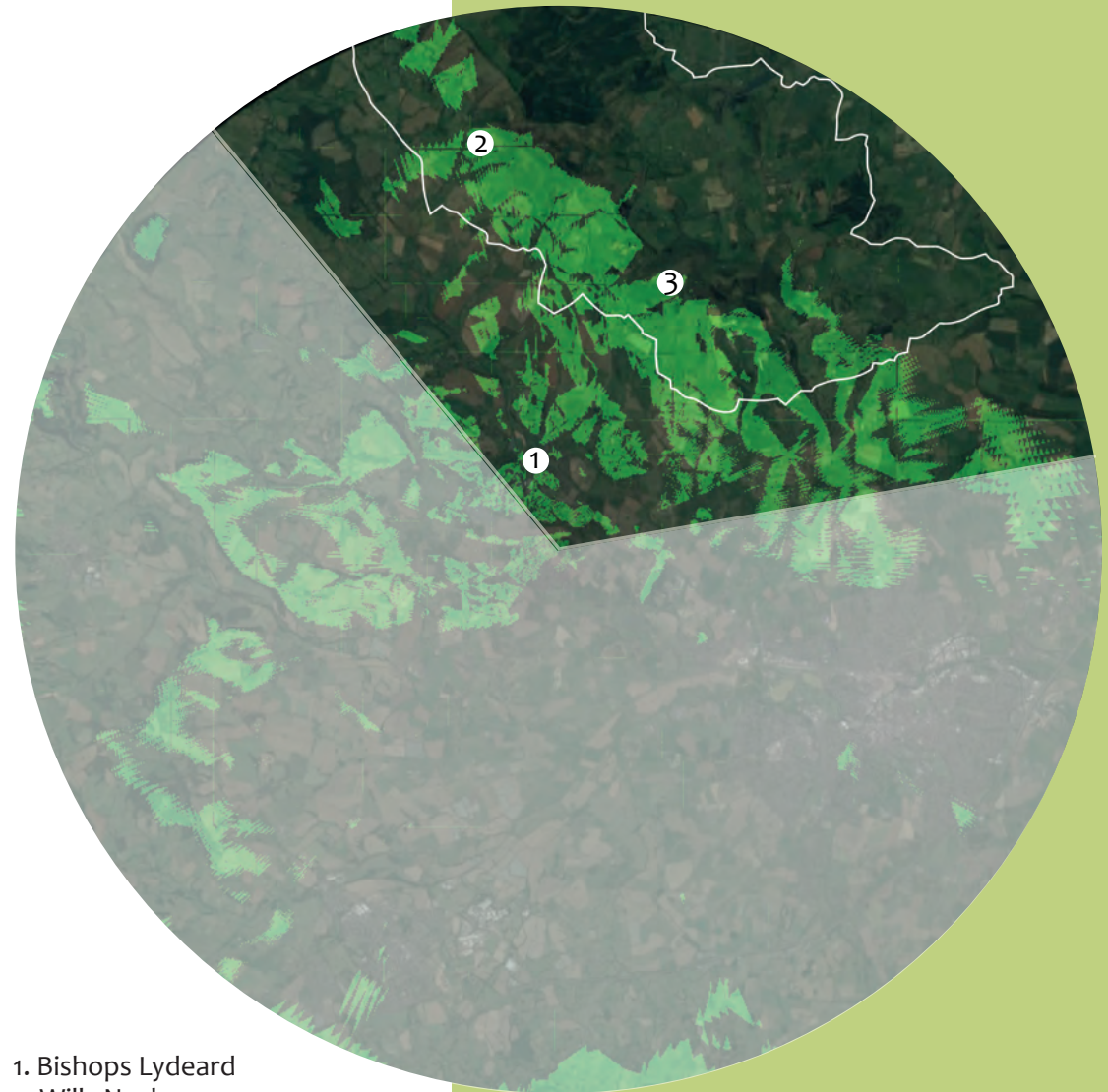
Viewshed from Cotford St Luke

Closest to the viewpoint the ground rises then drops away, limiting visibility. This part of the view is outside the Landscape Character Assessment prepared for the Quantock Landscape Partnership Scheme.

Around Bishops Lydeard the ground starts to rise, and the area visible becomes greater. This area, between Bishops Lydeard and the higher land of the Quantock Hills, forms the middle ground of the view, and is mostly within the Agricultural Foothills Landscape Character Type (LCT).

The background comprises the steep south-western side of the Quantock Hills ridge. From here there is near-continuous visibility of the ridge from Wills Neck south-eastwards. Its variety of vegetation and land use is reflected in the various LCTs visible: *Wooded and Farmed Escarpment*, *Heathland Hills and Combes*, *Open Hills* (Cothelstone Hill) and *Rolling Farmland and Settled Combes*.

See section 1.2 for a map of the LCTs and their relationship to the viewpoints.



1. Bishops Lydeard
2. Wills Neck
3. Cothelstone Hill

Seasonal photographs



Autumn (October 2022)



Winter (January 2023)

These photographs have been taken to illustrate the changing seasons, as observed from the viewpoint. A spring image is shown on the first page of this profile.

View description - Foreground



Footpath to Bishops Lydeard

Former matron's House

Cotford Hospitals

The present village of Cotford St Luke is recent, and has been built on the site of a major former hospital, built in 1897 to house 1,000 patients and then named the Somerset and Bath Asylum. It was later known as Tone Vale Hospital. At its closure in 1995 there were just nine patients to be found new accommodation, with the days of padded cells long gone. The Asylum was a complete community, with its own farm, orchards, chapel, water supply, sewage system, and cemetery. An isolation hospital stood to the north of the hospital site. In the 1950s a separate children's unit was established.

Most of the hospital buildings have now been demolished, but the administration block remains. The cream house in the right of the foreground was the matron's house, and the distinctive Grade 2 listed former hospital chapel (a Listed Building) is now a restaurant in the village.

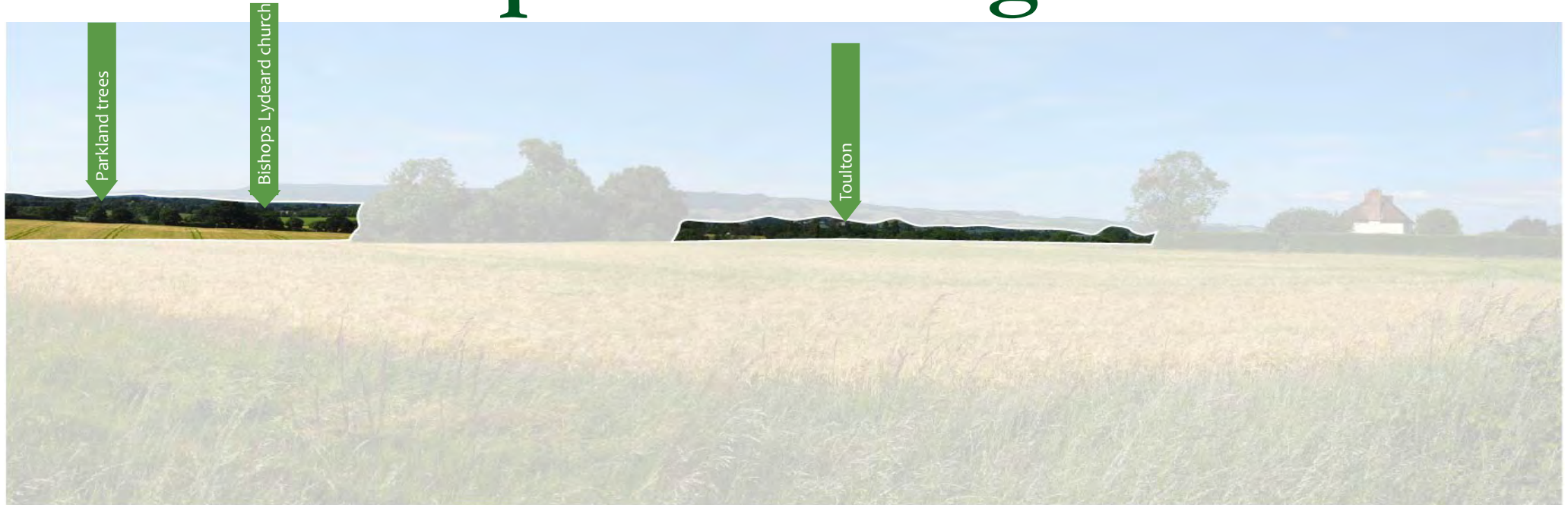


1. Somerset and Bath Lunatic Asylum site, late C.19th



2. Former hospital administration block

View description - Midground



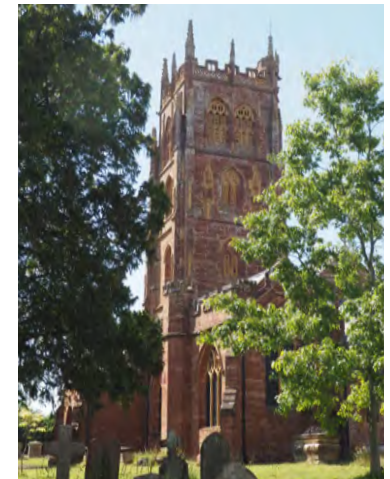
Bishops Lydeard

The village of Bishops Lydeard is in the midground of the view, with the church tower visible from here. The church of St Mary is listed Grade 1, and has a distinctive 4 stage tower decorated with both buttresses and pinnacles and using different colours of sandstone in its decoration. It is one of the earliest of the Taunton group of towers, dating from 1450. The church interior has been restored with the 16th century screen an outstanding feature. The benches have ornamental backs, ends and fronts and include carvings of a windmill and a medieval sailing ship. There are 2 crosses in the churchyard, including the former market cross.

Within the village is a Grade 2 listed watermill with an overshot waterwheel dating from the 18th century. The site is incorporated into the Rural Life Museum.

Parkland

Country estates with large houses surrounded by parkland and mature trees contribute to the character of the countryside around Bishops Lydeard. These include Sandhill Park and former Watts House (now a health farm). The trees are visible in the midground of the view. Sandhill Park, home of the Lethbridge family among others, has had a varied history including being a P.O.W. camp and a military hospital. The derelict building was badly damaged by fire in 2011. Now part of the estate has been developed for housing.



1. St Mary's church, Bishops Lydeard

View description - Background



Cothelstone Hill

Cothelstone Hill is a high point on the Quantock Hills (though not the highest) with magnificent views in all directions. Its importance dates back to prehistory, with Neolithic flint and bronze age barrows found here, together with cross-ridge dykes and other features. It is owned by the South-west Heritage Trust and managed by the Quantock Hills AONB. There are also later estate features associated with the Cothelstone Manor Estate, including medieval pillow mounds (artificial rabbit warrens) and tree ring enclosures. A 10 m. high folly, known as Beacon Tower, was built as a viewing tower around 1770. It was demolished in the early 20th Century.

With its ancient woodland, including hazel coppice, and open grassland grazed by Exmoor ponies, Cothelstone Hill is well known for its biodiversity. There are rare fungi, bats, dormice and butterflies. Lots of birds provide food for the raptors which soar into the skies.

The Seven Sisters, a group of beech trees on the highest point, were originally part of

a designed planting scheme intended to draw the eye to the hilltop. Their sculptural forms still create a distinctive feature on the horizon, although the group now contains fewer trees than it did originally.



1. Seven Sisters, Cothelstone Hill

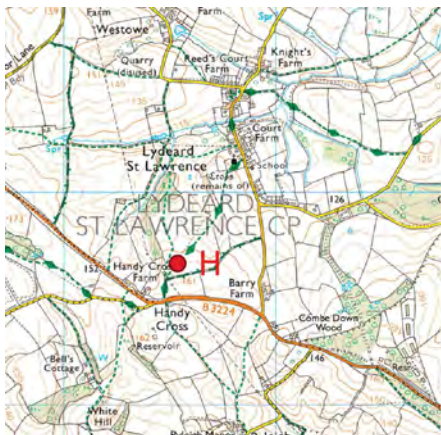


2. Exmoor ponies, Cothelstone Hill

View H - Lydeard St Lawrence



Panorama from the West Deane Way above Lydeard St Lawrence, Looking east, June 2022



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Viewpoint location map

View Summary

A magnificent view of almost the entire length of the Quantocks ridge, from West Quantoxhead in the north to Cothelstone in the south, seen in its western setting.

Location: West Deane Way Long Distance Footpath north-east of Handycross Farm.

Grid Reference: ST 12501, 31631

Co-ordinates: Lat. 51.076787 Long. -3.249157

Direction of view: North-east to south-east

How to find the viewpoint

From Lydeard St Lawrence village, take the footpath through the churchyard, and follow waymarkers across three fields until you look back and see the view.

The closest parking to this viewpoint is a small pull-in on the B3224 just east of Handy Cross Farm. From here you can follow a waymarked track under the pylons and into the field. The track turns sharply to the right (and becomes a Bridleway) but the West Deane Way continues across an open field. The viewpoint is a short distance into the field.

“Up at the highest part of the hill on this footpath, you can see the entire stretch of the Quantocks from Cothelstone to Kilve. In the early morning, the mist in the valley makes it look as though the hills are floating.”

Public consultation response

Viewshed

The graphic on the right shows (in light green) the land surface which can theoretically be seen from this viewpoint. This is known as the 'viewshed'. It is shown out to a distance of 10km. This is the 'bare ground' visibility, which means that it doesn't take account of vegetation or buildings. In reality, trees, hedges or buildings may block the view, and so less land may be visible than shown on the graphic.

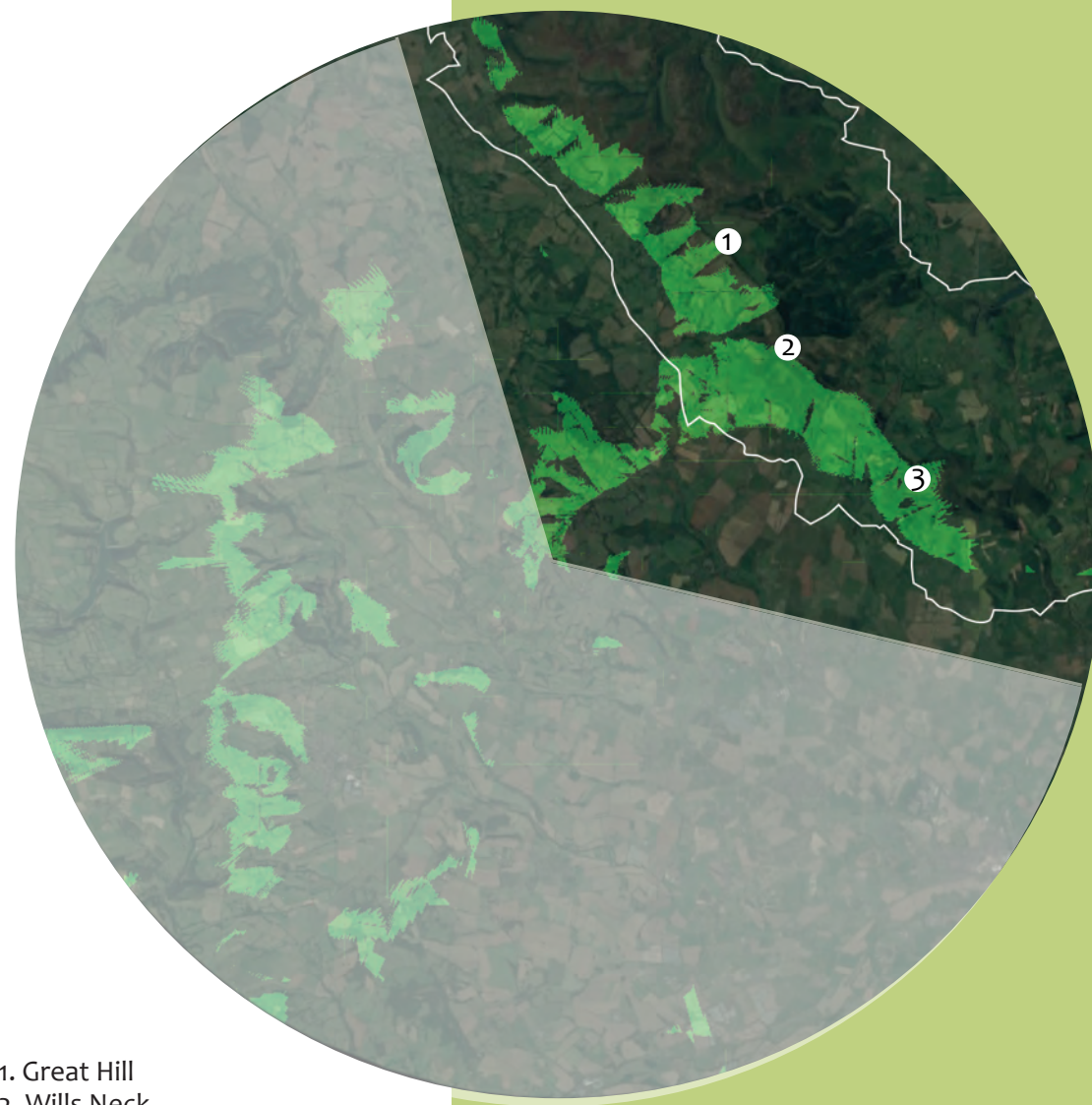
The parts of the viewshed which do not look towards the Quantock Hills have been shaded out. Some key landmarks have been added to the map to aid orientation. The white line is the boundary of the Quantock Hills AONB.

Viewshed from West Deane Way above Lydeard St Lawrence

The gentle downward slope of the foreground enables a sweeping view to the east towards Lydeard St Lawrence village. It continues into the mid-ground of the view, which includes the western side of the Crowcombe Heathfield ridge and the western parts of the undulating lower slopes of the Quantock Hills. The complex topography means that the valley between Crowcombe Heathfield and the Quantock Hills is obscured. The foreground and middle ground comprise the *River Valley and Agricultural Fringe* Landscape Character Type (LCT).

As the land rises to form the steep western escarpment of the Quantock Hills, the viewshed becomes more continuous, covering about 9 miles of the Quantocks ridge. It encompasses *Heathland Hills and Combes*, *Wooded and Farmed Escarpment* and *Open Hills* LCTs. This range of LCTs reflect the diversity of the land cover, and adds great visual variety within the view.

See section 1.2 for a map of the LCTs and their relationship to the viewpoints.



1. Great Hill
2. Wills Neck
3. Cothelstone Hill

Seasonal photographs



Summer (September 2022)



Autumn (November 2022)



Winter (January 2023)

This series of photographs have been taken over the course of a year to illustrate the changing seasons, as observed from the viewpoint. The spring image is shown on the first page of this profile.

View description - Foreground



Lydeard St Lawrence

There are glimpses of the historic village of Lydeard St Lawrence through the trees on the far side of the sweeping field which dominates the foreground of the view. The origins of the 'Lydeard' place name are thought to be 'Grey Hill' in early Welsh, possibly referring to the grey-coloured slate geology visible at Cothelstone Hill above the village. The village is linear in form, with houses on both sides of the main street, which runs north-south, dropping down into a valley containing a spring-fed stream, before rising again on the far side.

Within the village there are numerous buildings constructed from the local red Wiveliscombe sandstone, many of which have weathered to grey, silver or rose-pink in colour. Several of the historic cottages and farms are Listed Buildings. The church of St Lawrence stands on high ground at the southern end of the village, and is a Grade I Listed Building. The oldest parts (the chancel and the nave) date from c. 1350. The simple but elegant tower dates from about 100 years later. Within the church are finely carved bench ends from the 16th Century.



1. Church of St Lawrence



2. Lydeard St Lawrence primary school

View description - Midground



An agricultural patchwork

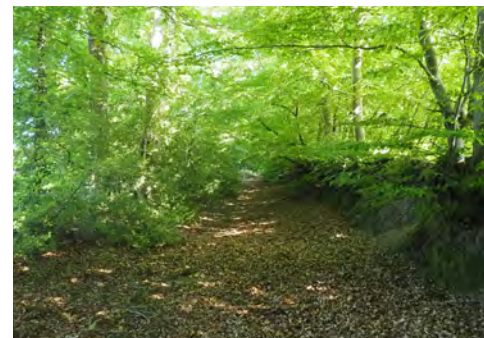
The middle ground of the view comprises an expansive patchwork of hedged fields and trees within the *River Valley and Agricultural Fringe* LCT. Scattered throughout are numerous historic farms, hamlets and villages including Shopnoller and West Bagborough. These are linked by an intricate network of deep narrow lanes.

The ridge of high land around Crowcombe Heathfield can be clearly seen in the middle ground. This was an area of common which was extensively planted with conifers in the 19th Century. Hidden behind Crowcombe Heathfield is a valley containing the A358 main road between Taunton and Minehead and the West Somerset Railway. This is a heritage steam railway, with associated puffs of steam and the sound of train whistles.

Triscombe House

Visible beyond the ridge is Triscombe House (Listed Grade II), an Edwardian house designed in a neo-classical style by Sir Ernest Newton. It was completed in 1905 for

Francis Henry Cheetham - a master of the Quantocks Stag Hounds, and was recently rebuilt following a major fire.



1. Historic trackway, presumably used for driving animals to/from the common, Crowcombe Heathfield



2. Triscombe House

View description - Background



The Quantocks Ridge

The background and horizon of the view is dominated by the steep western escarpment of the Quantocks Ridge, of which about 9 miles can be seen from this viewpoint. There are particularly good views of the *Wooded and Farmed Escarpment* LCT around Crowcombe and West Bagborough, where steep wooded slopes rise up from the valley. Despite the distance, the vegetation on the horizon can be clearly seen, with the smooth outlines of the moorland commons in the north contrasting with the lines of beech trees and the woodlands in the centre and south. Great Hill, Wills Neck and Cothelstone Hill are prominent landmarks.

Crowcombe Court and Park

Crowcombe is one of a series of historic estates along the higher land on the western side of the Quantocks, sited to take advantage of the stunning views. Crowcombe Court is a Grade I listed country house from the mid-18th Century,

constructed on the site of an earlier manor house. The pleasure grounds included lawns, plantations, picturesque follies, carriage drives and walks. They replaced an earlier more formal landscape layout.



1. Beech trees line the ridge-top track on Great Hill, near Crowcombe Combe



2. Archaeological dig at Crowcombe Court

View I - Beacon Field, Stogumber



Panorama from Beacon Field, Stogumber, facing east, June 2022



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Viewpoint location map

View Summary

This view looks east over the houses in the upper part of Stogumber village and towards the western escarpment of the Quantock Hills

Location: Beacon Field, Stogumber. Standing beside the beacon.

Grid Reference: ST 09940, 36974

Co-ordinates: Lat. 51.124433 Long. -3.287042

Direction of view: North-east to south-east

How to find the viewpoint

If travelling by car, park at the carpark adjacent to Beacon Field (off Station Road), on the south side of Stogumber village. If arriving on foot from the village, walk up Station Road then across Beacon Field to the beacon.

“From one lovely spot we see the alluring view of another, even more beautiful. ...Stogumber Primary School often start or finish our weekly nature walks here, gazing out to Wales, the Brendons or the Quantocks.”

“Because the light plays differently on the hills depending on the time of day, and it’s a view I see every day.”

“It gives you an overview of the hills and the varied landscape.”

Public consultation responses

Viewshed

The graphic on the right shows (in light green) the land surface which can theoretically be seen from this viewpoint. This is known as the 'viewshed'. It is shown out to a distance of 10km. This is the 'bare ground' visibility, which means that it doesn't take account of vegetation or buildings. In reality, trees, hedges or buildings may block the view, and so less land may be visible than shown on the graphic.

The parts of the viewshed which do not look towards the Quantock Hills have been shaded out. Some key landmarks have been added to the map to aid orientation. The white line is the boundary of the Quantock Hills AONB.

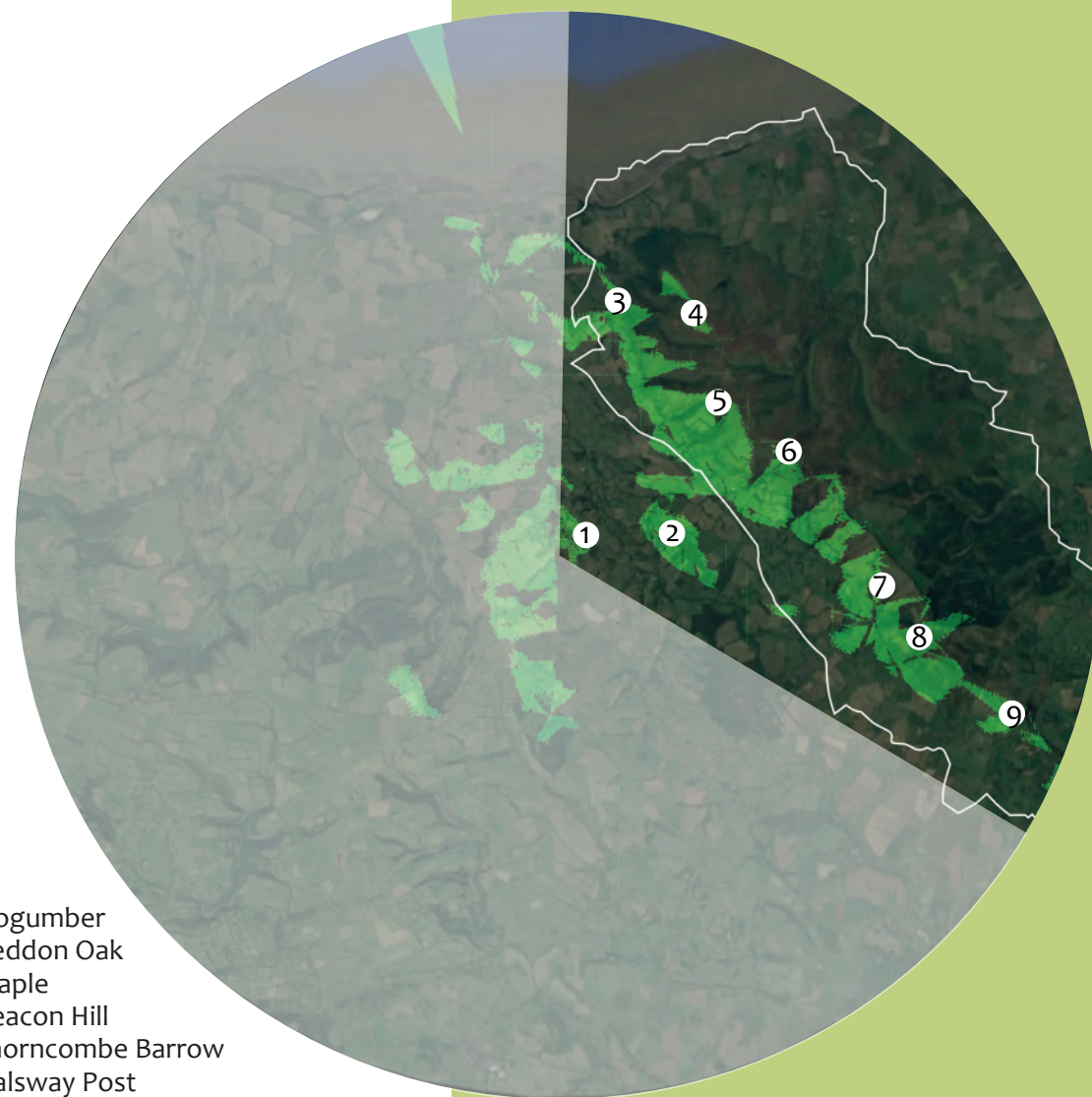
Viewshed from Stogumber

The foreground of the viewpoint is the gentle slope of Beacon Field, with houses in the upper part of Stogumber village visible beyond. Stogumber is within the *River Valley and Agricultural Fringe Landscape Character Type (LCT)*.

The undulating ground, and the presence of the low-lying Doniford valley, means that the viewshed of the middle ground is more broken up. It includes elevated land around Heddon Oak, and the lower slopes of the western escarpment of the Quantock Hills. The middle ground is mainly within the *River Valley and Agricultural Fringe LCT* and reflects its characteristic mosaic of irregular small fields, woodland and scattered farms.

The background comprises the *Wooded and Farmed Escarpment* and *Heathland Hills and Combes LCTs* which form the western escarpment of the Quantock Hills. This is the most continuous part of the viewshed and extends from Staple in the north to Lydeard Hill in the south. The straight tree lines of the estate planting are particularly noticeable from this viewpoint.

See section 1.2 for a map of the LCTs and their relationship to the viewpoints.



1. Stogumber
2. Heddon Oak
3. Staple
4. Beacon Hill
5. Thorncombe Barrow
6. Halsway Post
7. Great Hill Cairn
8. Wills Neck
9. Lydeard Hill Car Park

Seasonal photographs



Summer (August 2022)



Winter (January 2023)



Early Spring (March 2023)

This series of photographs have been taken over the course of a year to illustrate the changing seasons, as observed from the viewpoint. The spring image is shown on the first page of this profile.

View description - Foreground



Beacon Field, Stogumber

Beacon Field is much-loved by the community of Stogumber. It is regularly visited by local people who appreciate the space and the panoramic views. The school uses it for nature walks and forest school activities, and much work has been done to enhance it as a community resource, including installation of a wooden shelter and informal seating. The beacon is lit on nationally-significant occasions and brings the community together. A copse and community orchard have been planted, and the grassland is managed to encourage meadow flowers, grasses and insects.

In January, children and villagers gather here for a traditional Wassail, when songs are sung and gifts presented to the apple trees, to encourage a good harvest in the coming year, and to awaken nature (and people) and chase off troubles. It is a celebration of life at a dark time of the year, full of laughter and imagination. The 'winter' photo on the preceding page was taken during the Wassail celebrations on 13th January 2023.



1. Apple tree bearing wassail gifts



2. Shelter in Beacon Field

View description - Midground



Halsway Manor Centre for Folk Arts

Halsway Manor nestles at the base of the western scarp of the Quantock Hills. It is home to the National Centre for Folk Arts, with year round residential courses in folk music, folk dancing, craft and associated arts such as storytelling and instrument making. Although it concentrates on the English folk heritage this is not exclusive, and musicians and tutors come from across the world. It holds the 2nd largest collection in the country of about 10,000 books and recordings of traditional folk music, song, dance and folklore.

The manor is listed in the Domesday Book as part of the lands granted to Roger de Courcelles. The eastern part of the building partially dates from the 15th Century, when the manor house was rebuilt. A 1991 survey indicated that it had previously been a medieval hall house with cross wings and a tower. The building was further altered and extended in the late 19th Century when the west wing was built in a medieval style to complement the earlier building. The building is Listed grade II*.



1. Halsway Manor

View description - Background



Estate Enclosures

One of the most striking features of the western side of the Quantock Hills are the straight lines of beech hedgebanks which appear to march up the sides of the hills, joining along the tops to create defined shapes on the hillside. They are associated with the larger estate houses sited in sheltered ground below them: Thorncombe House, Halsway Manor and Crowcombe Court. Crowcombe Court's enclosure marks the edge of the designed landscape (see viewpoint H) but the purpose of the others is less clear. They may have been planted to mark the boundary between the estates and the surrounding common, or perhaps intended for improvement and agriculture. Alternatively they may have been intended to form background features to designed landscapes associated with the houses below. However, late 19th Century maps show them as containing rough grazing land, with no trace of ornamental planting or improved fields, so they may well simply have been boundary features. The beech trees have become over-mature due to lack of management in the 20th Century.



1. Estate enclosures seen in the evening light from the Silverdown Hill, near Ashbeer



2. Close up view of estate enclosures as seen from the A358 between Halsway and Thorncombe

View J - Coleridge Way Sampford Brett



Panorama from Coleridge Way south of Sampford Brett looking north-east to south-east, June 2022



Viewpoint location map

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View Summary

This is a view from the floor of the Doniford Valley, looking up at the Quantock Hills

Location: Coleridge Way long-distance footpath south of Sampford Brett, near Woolston

Grid Reference: ST 09306, 39579
Co-ordinates: Lat. 51.147746 Long. -3.296759

Direction of view: north-east to south-east

How to find the viewpoint

If travelling by car, it is easiest to park in Sampford Brett village. Follow the track off Croft Meadow for about 400m, past a farm and through the edge of a small wood. The path will then cross a field, and the viewpoint is about half way across the field.

The viewpoint can also be approached on foot along the Coleridge Way/Macmillan Way West footpath. This follows a track north from a crossroads east of Vellow Wood Cross. Parking is difficult around here, and it is important not to block farm access.

“Full view of the hills in all their glory from a public footpath through farmland.”

Public consultation response

Viewshed

The graphic on the right shows (in light green) the land surface which can theoretically be seen from this viewpoint. This is known as the 'viewshed'. It is shown out to a distance of 10km. This is the 'bare ground' visibility, which means that it doesn't take account of vegetation or buildings. In reality, trees, hedges or buildings may block the view, and so less land may be visible than shown on the graphic.

The parts of the viewshed which do not look towards the Quantock Hills have been shaded out. Some key landmarks have been added to the map to aid orientation. The white line is the boundary of the Quantock Hills AONB.

Viewshed from Coleridge Way south of Sampford Brett

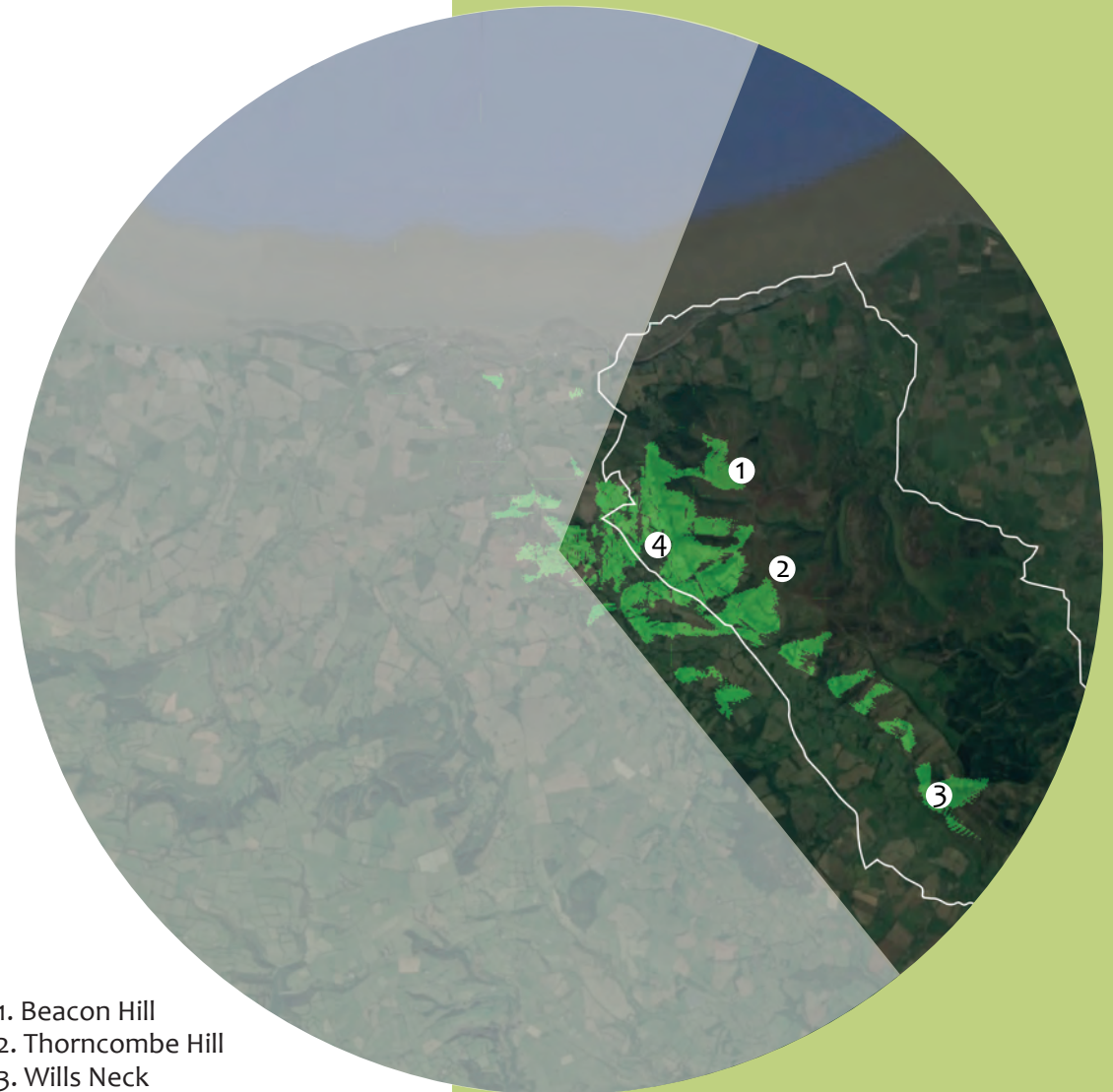
Closest to the viewpoint there is a largely uninterrupted view of the floor of the Doniford Valley, within the *River Valley and Agricultural Fringe Landscape Character Type (LCT)*.

The middle ground comprises the lower slopes of the Quantock Hills around Staple, Weacombe, Bicknoller and Halsway. It encompasses land in the *River Valley and Agricultural Fringe LCT*, as well as the *Wooded and Farmed Escarpment LCT*.

The background is extensive, extending from Staple in the north to Wills Neck in the south (a distance of about 8km/5 miles). It is formed by the higher land of the Quantock Hills, comprising the *Heathland Hills and Combes*, and *Forested Hills and Combes LCTs*.

Several of the hill summits are visible on the skyline, including Beacon Hill, Weacombe Hill, Thorncombe Hill and Will's Neck.

See section 1.2 for a map of the LCTs and their relationship to the viewpoints.



1. Beacon Hill
2. Thorncombe Hill
3. Wills Neck
4. Bicknoller

Seasonal photographs



Summer (September 2022)

This series of photographs have been taken over the course of a year to illustrate the changing seasons, as observed from the viewpoint. The spring image is shown on the first page of this profile.



Autumn (November 2022)



Winter (February 2023)

View description - Foreground



The Doniford Valley

The Doniford Stream rises near Crowcombe Heathfield and is joined by numerous spring-fed tributaries. Some tributaries flow westwards down the western side of the Quantock Hills, and some flow eastwards from the high land around Stogumber and Willet Hill. From Crowcome Heathfield, the Doniford stream runs north for about 10km / 7 miles to the coast at Doniford. Several villages, hamlets and farms have grown up in the Doniford valley, the largest of which is Sampford Brett.

The flat valley floor contains rich pastures which traditionally have been used for meadows, although arable crops are now also grown. Historic field patterns have survived relatively well within the valley. The stream can be picked out by the line of trees which follow its meandering course.

The valley provided a relatively easy route for a stretch of the West Somerset Railway

between Taunton and Minehead (see view L for more information) and also a line of electricity pylons. Old roads cross the stream on historic stone bridges.



1. The Doniford Valley from near Crowcombe Heathfield Station



2. Historic bridge over the Doniford Stream near Cottiford

View description - Midground



Woolston Quarry

The red sandstone of this former quarry face creates a dramatic feature above the Doniford Valley. It can be seen particularly well from the West Somerset Railway. The rock is sandstone of the Chester Formation and dates from the Triassic period, approx. 250 million years ago. It was laid down in semi-arid desert conditions, but bands of pebbles found in some layers of the rock indicate flash flooding. Examples of Chester formation rocks can be seen across the west of England, from the coast of south Devon to St Bees Head in Cumbria.

The Coleridge Way

Romantic poet Samuel Taylor Coleridge lived in Nether Stowey with his wife and daughter between January 1797 and Autumn 1798. Often in the company of his friend the poet William Wordsworth, he roamed the Quantock Hills and what is now the eastern part of Exmoor National Park. During this time he wrote some of his most highly-regarded poetry, including *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner*, *Kubla Khan*, *Frost at Midnight*, and *The Nightingale*. The Coleridge Way is a long-distance

footpath covering 51 miles between Nether Stowey and Lynmouth, taking in some of the landscapes and coastal scenery which were inspirational to Coleridge. The section visible in the midground runs between Bicknoller and West Quantoxhead.



1. Woolston Quarry



2. Coleridge Cottage, Nether Stowey (now owned by the National Trust, and open to the public)

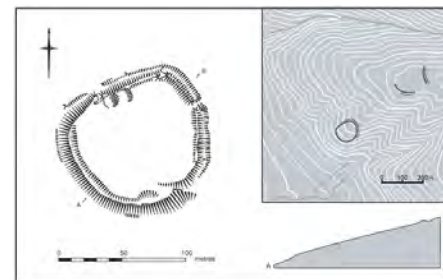
View description - Background



The Trendle Ring

The Trendle Ring is a hill-slope enclosure on a western spur of Bicknoller Hill. Hill-slope enclosures are relatively common in south-west England, and there are four surviving as earthworks within the Quantock Hills. They are formed of quite substantial earthwork banks and ditches, but are not easily defended as they are overlooked from the upslope side. The Trendle Ring is above the village of Bicknoller. It is in a highly-visible location and can be seen for several miles within the Doniford Valley. It also has good views over the surrounding area, and may have been used as a look-out, or had symbolic significance.

The feature is thought to be late-prehistoric in date. It covers 0.7ha, defined by a steep bank and ditch on its north and east sides, and by a steep scarp on its west and south sides. It slopes steeply, but within the ring are two areas which appear to have been levelled and which may have contained roundhouses. It is shown as an enclosure on a map of 1802, suggesting later use, probably as a stock enclosure.



1. Plan of earthworks at The Trendle Ring



2. The Trendle Ring earthworks, above Bicknoller

View K - Beacon Hill



Panorama from hilltop trig. point looking south-east, June 2022



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Viewpoint location map

View Summary

This is a close-up view of the Quantock Commons, looking along the length of the ridge.

Location: Trig. point on the summit of Beacon Hill.

Grid Reference: ST 12452, 40994

Co-ordinates: Lat. 51.1616 Long. -3.2536

Direction of view: South to east

How to find the viewpoint

If travelling by car, the nearest car park is at Staple Plain. From here the shortest route to the top is to follow a broad track and then a footpath straight up the hill. A less steep option is to follow the 'Great Road' (signposted as a bridleway from the carpark) to the ridge, then head north at a crossroads of bridleways to the summit of Beacon Hill, which is marked by a trig. point on a burial mound.

"The views are panoramic - across to Dunkery Beacon and Exmoor, across the Bristol Channel to Wales, along the channel including Steep Holm and Flat Holm to Weston, and along the ridge of the Quantocks. Sadly the blot on the landscape is Hinkley."

Public consultation response

Viewshed

The graphic on the right shows (in light green) the land surface which can theoretically be seen from this viewpoint. This is known as the 'viewshed'. It is shown out to a distance of 10km. This is the 'bare ground' visibility, which means that it doesn't take account of vegetation or buildings. In reality, trees, hedges or buildings may block the view, and so less land may be visible than shown on the graphic.

The parts of the viewshed which do not look towards the Quantock Hills have been shaded out. Some key landmarks have been added to the map to aid orientation. The white line is the boundary of the Quantock Hills AONB.

Viewshed from Beacon Hill

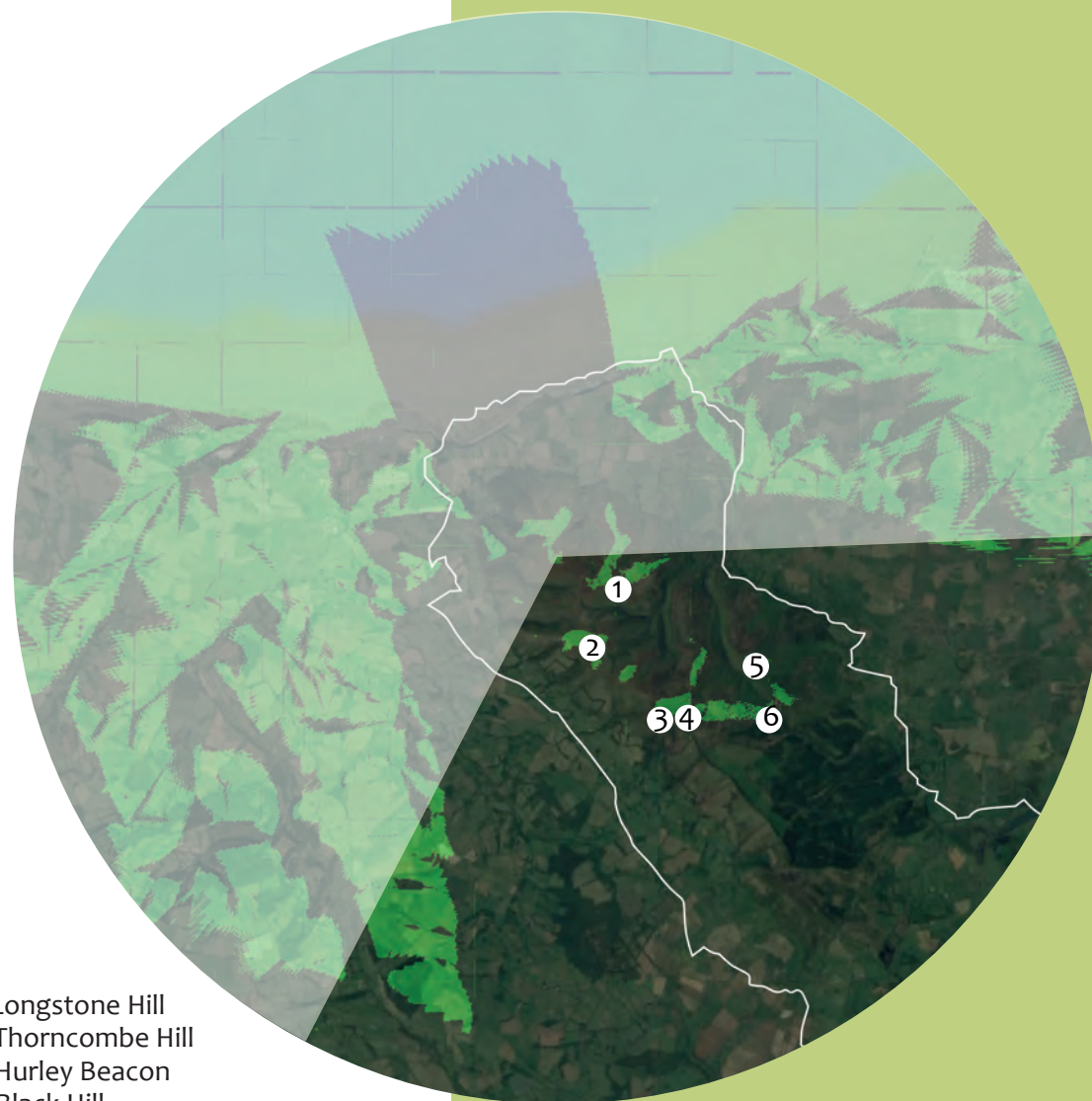
The land drops away from the viewpoint quite quickly, meaning that the foreground is very limited.

The middle ground is made up of moorland (part of the Quantock Commons) on the slopes of Longstone Hill, within the *Heathland Hills and Combes* Landscape Character Type (LCT).

In the distance can be seen the highest parts of Black Hill, including Hurley Beacon and the cairn. The visible area of the *Heathland Hills and Combes* LCT extends eastwards along the watershed ridge between Lady's Combe and Ram's Combe as far as Dead Woman's Ditch. The wooded slope of Dowsborough Hillfort (*Forested Hills and Combes* LCT) can also be seen.

See section 1.2 for a map of the LCTs and their relationship to the viewpoints.

Although this project is focussing on the view along the ridge of the Quantock Hills, there are panoramic views in all directions, encompassing the Doniford Valley, eastern parts of Exmoor National Park, the Bristol Channel, and the mouth of the River Parrett. Five other viewpoints can be seen from here: A - Kilve, B - Stogursey, I - Stogumber, J - Sampford Brett and L - Helwell Bay Watchet.



1. Longstone Hill
2. Thorncombe Hill
3. Hurley Beacon
4. Black Hill
5. Dowsborough Hillfort
6. Dead Woman's Ditch

Seasonal photographs



Autumn (November 2022)



Winter (December 2022)

These photographs have been taken to illustrate the changing seasons, as observed from the viewpoint. A spring image is shown on the first page of this profile.

View description - Foreground



Beacon Hill Triangulation Pillar (Trig. point)

The concrete (or occasionally cemented stone) pillars seen on hilltops throughout the country were constructed by surveyors from the Ordnance Survey to create accurate maps of the British Isles.

The triangulation survey of Britain began in 1791, using a baseline at Hounslow Heath (now under Heathrow airport) mapped out by William Roy. The original intention of the Ordnance Survey was to create accurate maps for the British military to use. The southern coast was seen as the most vulnerable to invasion from France, so Kent was surveyed first, with the map published in 1801. Other areas followed over the next 50 years. Re-triangulation began in 1935 with 6,500 “trig pillars” being built on peaks. In 2003 a new digital system was introduced called OS Net (accurate to 1-2cm), so the trig pillars are now redundant.

Beacon Hill on the Quantocks is 310m high. The trig point sits on top of a prehistoric

burial mound known as a barrow (see the ‘background’ description for more information on barrows). The surface has been eroded by the feet of people and animals. People concentrate here because it is a summit with fine views, and animals congregate because the surface is relatively dry.



1. and 2. Historic images of triangulation survey

View description - Midground



The Quantocks Commons

A large tract of common land covers the heathland and woodlands in the northern part of the Quantock Hills, and there are some smaller patches of common land in the south. Common land is owned by an individual or organisation, but specific groups of people (such as the residents of a particular parish) have rights on the common, including grazing animals or gathering wood for fuel. Often the rights are carefully set out (for example limiting the number of animals which can be grazed) in order to ensure that the common land remains in good condition.

Boundary fences/walls and cattle grids prevent animals straying out of the common. The moorland we see today is the result of hundreds of years of controlled grazing and clearance of vegetation. Swathes of purple heather carpet the moors, punctuated by bright yellow gorse and patches of moor grass, which has a lighter colour and catches the light and appears to 'ripple' in the wind.

Healthy moorland has a mosaic of habitats, which together support a wide range

of birds, insects, plants and reptiles. However, it is necessary to manage moorland to ensure that the vegetation regenerates and to encourage new young growth. You will therefore see vegetation being cleared through cutting or managed burning. This helps to prevent wildfires, and also helps to prevent the moorland becoming dominated by bracken, which is a much less ecologically rich habitat.



1. A recent controlled burn on Beacon Hill. The soil and ground surface underneath the burned area are undamaged.



2. Healthy young heather re-growing in an area which had a controlled burn the previous year.

View description - Background



Prehistoric Burial Monuments

Most of the hill summits of the Quantock Hills contain prehistoric burial monuments, often shown on OS maps as 'tumuli'. Some mounds are composed of stones piled up loosely together, which are known as cairns. Others are formed of piled-up earth and are called barrows. There are over 120 prominent barrows and cairns within the Quantock Hills, with a particularly impressive string of monuments along the top of the western scarp, between Beacon Hill and Cothelstone Hill. Several of them can be seen from here.

Most of the monuments date from the late Bronze Age (c.1500BC), with some being re-used. Some of the monuments, such as Thorncombe Barrow, are isolated features, but others cluster together to form a barrow cemetery. An impressive group is on Black Hill, where 21 barrows and different types of cairns form a linear group approx. 2km long between Dead Woman's Ditch and Hurley Beacon. Today many are subtle features within the heather, but there are also some fine surviving examples, including on the summit of Black Hill.



1. Hurley Beacon. Originally a Bronze Age barrow, the site has been used since as a fire beacon. The stones are protecting the underlying archaeology



2. Group of monuments forming skyline features on Black Hill

View L - Helwell Bay Steps, Watchet



Panorama from Helwell Bay Steps, looking south-east, June 2022



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Viewpoint location map

View Summary

This view is of the Quantock Hills across Helwell Bay. The hills are seen in the context of coastal geology, the Bristol Channel and Hinkley Point

Location: On the steps leading down to Helwell Bay from the Coast Path

Grid Reference: ST07809, 43368
Co-ordinates: Lat. 51.181575 Long. -3.319129

Direction of view: West to south

How to find the viewpoint

If travelling by car, park in one of the many car parks in Watchet and walk to the coast. Follow the signs for the Coast Path heading east and follow it until you reach the steps to Helwell Bay.

Note that there is a gap in the Coast Path beyond this point at high tide, so to access this footpath from the east via the Coast Path you will need to wait until low tide. Be mindful of the state of the tide and do not let yourself get cut off.

“The steam train runs alongside Helwell Bay before bending inland to Williton; a beautiful sight of the steam engine heading towards the hills. Also, when the tide is in and you look inland, you can feel like you’re on a boat looking back at the hills.”

Public consultation response

Viewshed

The graphic on the right shows (in light green) the land surface which can theoretically be seen from this viewpoint. This is known as the 'viewshed'. It is shown out to a distance of 10km. This is the 'bare ground' visibility, which means that it doesn't take account of vegetation or buildings. In reality, trees, hedges or buildings may block the view, and so less land may be visible than shown on the graphic.

The parts of the viewshed which do not look towards the Quantock Hills have been shaded out. Some key landmarks have been added to the map to aid orientation. The white line is the boundary of the Quantock Hills AONB.

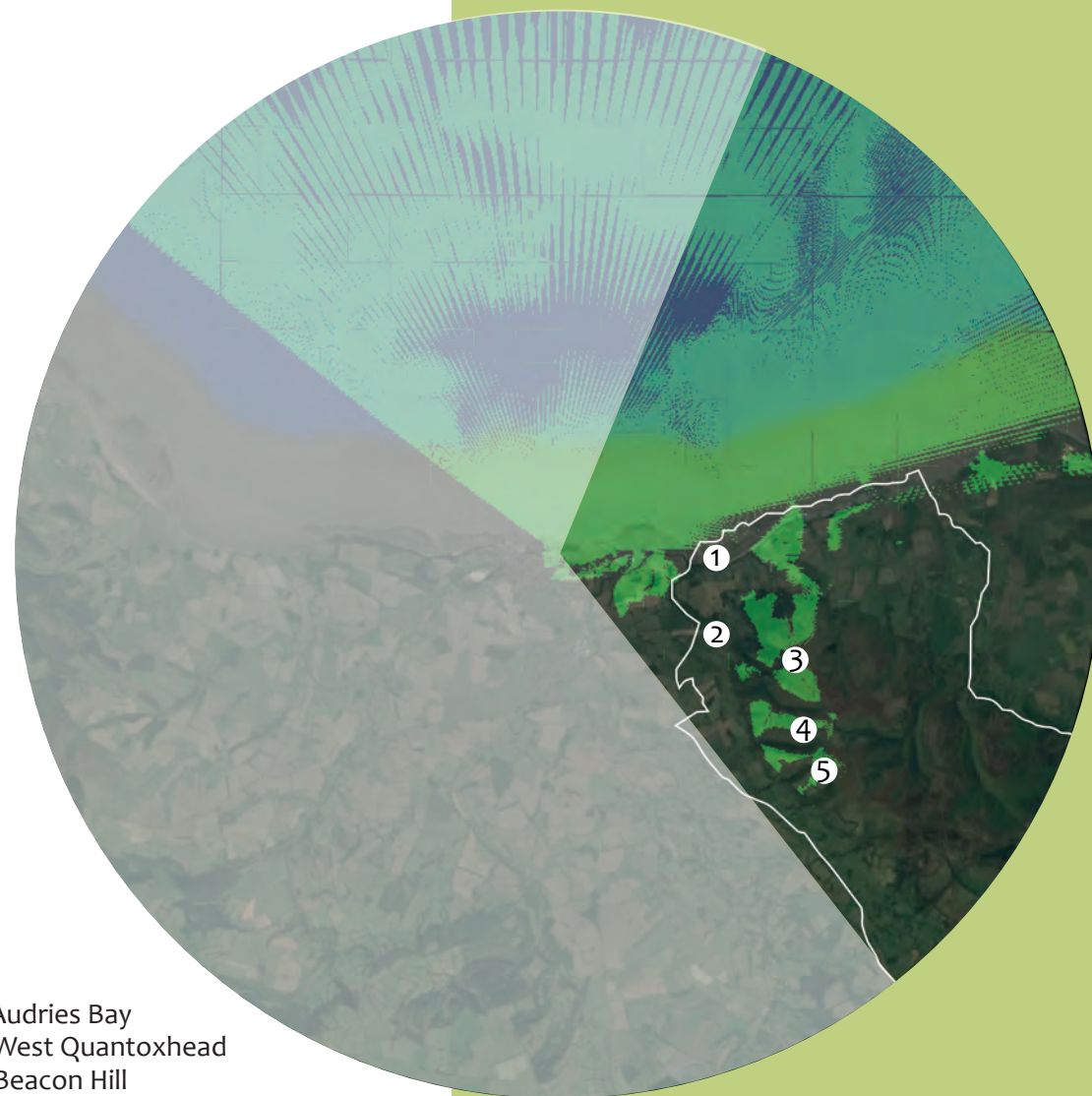
Viewshed from Helwell Bay Steps, Watchet

The foreground comprises a continuous view of Helwell Bay and the cliffs beyond, within the *Jurassic Coast Landscape Character Type (LCT)*.

In the middle ground the viewshed is much more disjointed, reflecting the undulating topography where the Quantock Hills run down to the coast. The middle ground contains three different LCTs: *River Valley and Agricultural Fringe* in the east (closest to Watchet), then the *Agricultural Fringe to Coast*, and the *Lowland Hills to Coast* in the west. The caravan parks around St Audries Bay can be seen clearly in the middle ground from here.

The background comprises parts of the highest land of the Quantock Hills, namely the north-facing slopes and summits of Beacon Hill, Weacombe Hill and Thorncombe. These are all within the *Heathland Hills and Combes LCT*. Below these, the forest slopes around West Quantoxhead (within the *Forested Hills and Combes LCT*) are visible.

In the far distance (beyond the area shown) the construction site of Hinkley Point Power Station can be seen on the horizon. See section 1.2 for a map of the LCTs and their relationship to the viewpoints.



1. Audries Bay
2. West Quantoxhead
3. Beacon Hill
4. Weacombe Hill
5. Thorncombe Hill

Seasonal photographs

This series of photographs have been taken over the course of a year to illustrate the changing seasons, as observed from the viewpoint. The spring image is shown on the first page of this profile.



Summer (September 2022)



Autumn (October 2022)



Winter (January 2023)

View description - Foreground



Helwell Bay, Doniford Beach and Coastal Geology

This is a brilliant viewpoint to appreciate the stunning coastline of the Quantock Hills. Helwell Bay in front of you is also known as 'Fossil Bay' due to the variety and number of fossils found here.

The steps on which you're standing mark a fault line between the rocks, known as the 'Watchet Fault'. On the left (north) of the steps are red and green striped rocks called Mercia Mudstones. They were laid down in an ancient desert near the equator. On the right (south) of the steps are grey mudstones of the Helwell Marls. These rocks are younger (dating from about 200 million years ago) and were formed under shallow seas. The contrasting red and grey rocks can be seen in the cliffs right along the coast.

Some of this rock is relatively soft and has resulted in quite fragile areas of cliff at the back of Helwell Bay and Doniford Bay beyond, which endanger some of the infrastructure to the edge of the bay.



1. Mercia Mudstone layers at Helwell Bay cliffs



3. Rock strata exposed at low tide at Helwell Bay

View description - Foreground

Fossils

Daniel Defoe visited the town of Watchet in c. 1725, and descended the steps of Helwell Bay also known as 'Fossil Beach'. Defoe observed the fossils of the area and wrote

Walking on the shore at Watchet I discovered amongst the large gravel great numbers of stone, fluted in imitation of shells and fishes of all kinds. Some I have seen as broad as a pewter dish, and again others no bigger than a peppercorn. they lie there in great plenty.



1. Family fossil-hunting at Helwell Bay

The main fossil types found in the Helwell and Doniford Bays are as follows:-

Ammonites are perhaps the most widely known fossil, possessing the typically ribbed spiral-form shell. These creatures lived in the seas between 240 – 65 million years ago, when they became extinct along with the dinosaurs. The flat, spiral shells of ammonites are commonly found near the cliffs of Helwell Bay. These are often white because of the calcite that now shows the shell or are imprints that are the same colour as the rock. The ammonites used their shell's chambers to control their depth in a similar way to submarines today.

Psiloceras Ammonites fossils that can be found in Watchet are very important as they are Britain's oldest ammonites. To distinguish them from their younger ancestors, look for a very flat shell without the 'ribs' commonly found on other ammonites



2. 3. Ammonites at Helwell Bay



Gryphaea (Devil's toenail) This ancient bivalve is very deep compared to its width with many ridges along its strongly curved underside that formed with each separate layer of shell building. The creature itself sat in the mud with the majority of its shell in the sand to prevent sinking.

Protocardia These bivalves are again small but are much older and have no ribs. Instead they have a smooth, non-symmetric shell. They often occur in groups and can be found in mudstones and shales close to the steps at Helwell bay.

Jurassic Bivalves Other Jurassic bivalves vary a lot in appearance. Some have ribs, others show prominent growth ridges, whilst some have smooth shells like Protocardia. The often defining characteristic of almost all species of bivalves is a lack of symmetry when viewed from above. The shells evolved to be non-symmetric to give the creatures direction when burrowing in the sand.

Crinoids These animals looked more like plants when alive but could move across the sea bed and are closely related to starfish. Their stems and arms were made of many hollow rings called ossicles and these can be seen in segments of multiple rings 'stacked up' or individually on Helwell Bay. If you find a star-shaped fossil, this is the point at which the crinoid's stem divided into its five arms.

Cenoceras Similar to ammonites, this fossil shows a coiled shell however it does not have the 'ribs' seen on ammonites and coils around much more tightly than ammonites. Cenoceras was a type of nautilus, a family of molluscs closely related to but distinct from the Ammonoids.

View description - Midground



West Somerset Railway

The railway line between Taunton and Watchet opened in 1856, engineered by Isambard Kingdom Brunel's assistant James Burke. His route followed a tributary of the River Tone up to the watershed at Crowcombe Heathfield then the valley of the Doniford Stream down to the coast, before following the clifftop to Watchet. The line was extended to Minehead in 1874, responding to the growing tourist market.

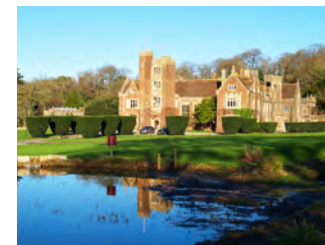
That market continued to expand in the 20th Century, particularly after Butlins opened at Minehead. However, although the line was busy in the summer, it was very quiet in the winter, and overall made a loss. It was closed as part of the 'Beeching cuts' in 1971. It re-opened under private ownership for a short while, but in the 1980s the section between Bishop's Lydeard and Minehead became a heritage railway. Today it carries over 200,000 passengers a year, making it one of the largest tourist attractions in the south-west. The bridge at Doniford Halt (request stop above Doniford Beach) is visible from this viewpoint.

St Audries Park

St Audries manor dates back to the 14th Century, although the present house is from the 19th Century. St Ethelreda's Church on the estate was also rebuilt then. The property was divided in 1934, and caravan parks have been established along the coast. The estate deer park, woodland, lakes and driveway remain, and the house is run as an events venue.



1. Doniford Halt on the West Somerset Railway



2. St Audries Park House and Lake



3. St Ethelreda's Church on the St Audries Park Estate

View description - Background



The Quantocks Commons

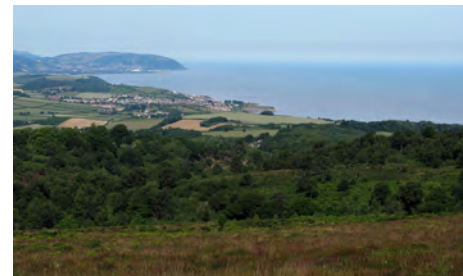
The horizon is dominated by the high land of the Quantock Commons. These hills (including Beacon Hill, Weacombe Hill and Thorncombe) are formed of resistant rocks from the early Devonian period, known as Hangman Grits. These rocks support moorland habitats including heather, bracken and grasses.

Hinkley Point Power Stations

Hinkley Point A was one of three Magnox nuclear power stations around the Bristol Channel, with construction beginning in 1957. In 1988 reactor 2 set a world record for the longest continuous period of power generation from a nuclear reactor (700 days + 7 hours). Hinkley Point B was the UK's first Advanced Gas Cooled Reactor and was the most productive nuclear power station in the UK prior to its closure in August 2022.

Hinkley Point C is still under construction and will comprise two pressurised water reactors. Their construction uses the world's largest moveable crane,

the Saran SGC 250 (named 'Big Carl') which can be seen from this viewpoint. Its modules arrived on site in 400 separate deliveries, and it is used to lift the site's heaviest components, including the steel containment liner and dome. The reactor bases use approx. 18,000 cubic metres of concrete. The new reactor is currently due to be commissioned in 2027, with a projected lifetime of 60 years.



1. View towards Helwell Bay and Watchet from the summit of Beacon Hill



2. Zoom shot of Hinkley Point C under construction, as seen from Nether Stowey Castle (Viewpoint C) January 2023.

Part 3: Looking Ahead

3.1 Landscape Changes

Introduction

This project aims to record the changes which are happening within the views in the short, seasonal and longer-term, and to consider the effects of climate change on these views. This process aids understanding of the vulnerabilities of the views going forward, and informs the recommendations for their protection and enhancement in the future, as well as how the changes in the views can be monitored over time. Each of the viewpoint profiles in Part 2 contains a series of panoramas which capture how the view is changing over the course of a few months.

Short-term changes

These are the changes which occur over the space of a few hours, or even minutes, as the result of ephemeral conditions such as tides and weather. The coastal viewpoints (Kilve and Hewell Bay Steps) experience great changes with the rising and falling tides. At low tide coastal platforms and beaches are visible, their patterns and textures adding great variety to the view.

Changing weather affects views from all the viewpoints, but is particularly dramatic where the highest, wildest land at the north end of the Quantocks ridge is visible. As the photos within the viewpoint profiles show, the weather profoundly affects what is visible, and also the mood which is evoked.

Seasonal changes

The changes associated with the cycle of the seasons are perhaps the most familiar to those who visit a viewpoint many times over the course of a year.

Seasonal changes in colour and texture are experienced at all the viewpoints. The winter shapes of deciduous trees are visible everywhere, sometimes with ridge-top beech trees particularly striking features on the skyline. In winter the contrast between the dark green coniferous trees and the brown branches of deciduous woodland is particularly noticeable, and of course the autumn colours of deciduous trees are seasonal features. In spring, blackthorn and then hawthorn blossom in hedges catches the eye and emphasises the hedge patterns. In low-lying viewpoints (such as Wilstock Way in Bridgwater) the viewer is aware of the seasonally-changing water levels.

The Quantock commons are visible from many of the viewpoints, and form a seasonally-changing colourful backdrop, from green in spring, to purple heather and yellow gorse in summer, to bronze bracken in autumn, to the yellow-brown grass of winter.

Crops also change seasonally, with high-growing maize occasionally blocking views for a few weeks in the summer, just before it is cut. Bright yellow fields of oil seed rape catch the eye in spring and early summer. Spring and autumn (just after harvesting) are the best times to appreciate the different colours of the soils, resulting from variations in underlying geology. For example, compare the brown soils at Stogursey (viewpoint B) with the red soils near Sampford Brett (Viewpoint J). These variations used to also be apparent in winter, but now farmers tend to plant cover crops to reduce the exposure of soil (to help prevent soil erosion) over the winter so there is less soil visible. This creates a more uniformly-green appearance. Soil erosion also occurs where there are concentrations of people or animals, such as paths or hilltops, particularly at times of heavy rain or drought.



1. Distinctive red soils in the foreground of a view of the Quantock Hills near Williton in April



2. Oil seed rape forms a bright yellow foreground to this view of the Quantock Hills north-east of Monksilver

Long term changes

Long term changes may be sudden or incremental. They may be natural (such as coastal erosion, or the establishment of trees on land which is not managed) or they may be the result of human activity either through land management (e.g. planting new hedges) or development (such as a new road, building or mast). Tree diseases such as ash dieback are affecting the species of trees present in views, and it is highly likely that ash trees will largely disappear from views of the Quantock Hills over the coming years.

The late 19th and early 20th Century saw extensive areas of conifer plantation established over large areas of the Quantock Hills (including in areas of existing ancient deciduous woodland). This has had a profound effect on many views, but as these conifers reach maturity, it is likely that views will change again as it is now Forestry England policy to re-establish deciduous woodland on former ancient woodland sites.

The second half of the 20th Century also saw a lot of hedgerow loss as fields were amalgamated to make arable farming easier and more efficient. This drive for agricultural efficiency also saw the removal of many orchards (particularly those with tall trees which were difficult to spray); an increase in the area of land being cultivated, and an increase in use of artificial fertilizers and weedkillers, which changed the colour and texture of fields as well as reducing biodiversity. There has also been an extension of arable land use into areas of higher land, which affects views. Today, targeting of agricultural grants to promote biodiversity, and the implementation of Nature Recovery Strategies, means that some of these past detrimental changes may be reversed over the coming years.

Lack of management of beech hedgebanks during the 20th Century means that today many of them are over-mature, forming straight lines of beech trees within the landscape, particularly on the western side and summit of the Quantocks ridge. It is too late to recommence traditional management of the beech hedges (which involves cutting on rotation), and so they will eventually fail - due to old age, disease or wind-throw - and disappear from the landscape. This will result in a profound landscape change, particularly if it happens suddenly.

Other long-term changes occur from development, with the most dramatic example in the area currently the new nuclear power station under construction at Hinkley Point. Other ongoing developments close to the viewpoints include residential development around Bridgwater and Nether Stowey, and close to the coast at Watchet. Older coastal developments in the form of caravan parks around St Audries Bay are very visible in coastal views.

There is demand for new mobile phone masts (which need to be sited and designed carefully to minimise their effects on views) and potentially for works to roads. The impacts of new lighting (including street lighting) is also a concern.

Climate change

Climate change will exacerbate many changes which are already happening. Natural processes such as coastal erosion happen more quickly as sea levels rise, and the increased intensity and frequency of weather events leads to increased flooding and drought, with consequences for crop choice, soil and vegetation. Beech trees are particularly vulnerable to drought. Pests and diseases (including tree diseases) are more likely to thrive in the warmer conditions.



1. Eroding cliffs, Kilve



2. New housing in Watchet seen in the context of the Quantock Hills



3. Diseased ash tree, Goathurst

3.2 Vulnerabilities and Opportunities

Key Issues

The project has identified some key past, present and future issues affecting views of the Quantock Hills. Each viewpoint is likely to be affected by a different combination of issues. Not all recommendations are relevant or appropriate for all viewpoints.

Past loss of landscape features within the view

For example hedges, deciduous woodland, moorland, orchards, and historic designed features

Lack of management of features in the view

This can result in (for example) loss of heather moorland, beech hedgebanks or archaeological features.

New foreground elements blocking views

These could be crops (usually temporary), unmanaged hedges/vegetation or buildings/structures

Loss of access to viewpoints

Due to footpaths becoming blocked or unusable (for example due to mud, nettles or cliff falls) or erosion of surfaces

Introduction of new elements into the view which draw the eye or affect the composition of the view

This could be due to their scale, colour, massing, position, shape or movement

Introduction of built form into views

Including houses, caravan parks, large farm buildings and Hinkley Point power station

Loss of tranquillity

Affecting perceptual qualities of the landscape, such as traffic or construction noise drowning out birdsong; loss of dark night skies

Recommendations: Raising awareness

Identifying the viewpoints

Ideally the viewpoints would be consistently marked/signed so members of the public are aware that they are at (or close to) a viewpoint identified in this report. The marking should not be visually intrusive, and could take the form of a simple small plaque fitted to a gate, waymarker post or structure such as a trig point. Ideally the plaque would include a QR code which links to more information, such as the viewpoint profiles found within this report.

Signage

Where viewpoints are close to villages (e.g. Viewpoints B Stogursey and I Stogumber) or close to a carpark (e.g. Viewpoint A Kilve) there may be opportunities to provide simple signage to encourage people to walk in the direction of the viewpoint.

Use of art

There is potential to use art to identify the viewpoints, such as carvings on gates or waymarkers. The example below from Ad Gefryn (Hill of Goats) archaeological site in Northumberland shows how a simple gate can be adorned to show that the location is special.



1-2 detail of gate at Ad Gefryn, Yeavinger, Northumberland

3. Existing gate near Viewpoint J (Coleridge Way near Sampford Brett)

Recommendations: Retaining access and views

Managing vegetation

Some views (such as F – Maidenbrook Country Park) are seen through gaps in hedges, or over low-growing hedges. In these cases, it will be necessary to keep gaps open/ hedges cut short in order to retain the views.

Some viewpoints (e.g. B – Stogursey) have a foreground which comprises arable fields. If tall crops – such as maize – are grown, then the view may be obscured for a few weeks immediately prior to harvesting. This is seen as part of the cycle of seasonal change, and further intervention is not considered necessary. However, if a change of land use was proposed which would obscure the view (such as woodland planting) then the presence of the viewpoint should be factored into the design – either through maintaining a view corridor or providing an alternative viewpoint.

Managing ground surfaces

Some viewpoints are on well-used paths or popular locations, and their ground surfaces can be damaged by people and/or animals congregating there. It is not always appropriate to pave paths, but it can be considered on a case-by-case basis. Ground erosion is a particular problem around the trig point at Beacon Hill (Viewpoint K). Here, it is suggested that stone is laid down over the existing ground surface to provide a solid surface and protect underlying archaeology. The right hand photo below shows a similarly popular hill-top barrow site in the Mendip Hills AONB two years after a similar scheme was put in place to protect it.



1. Existing eroded surface around trig point on barrow at Beacon Hill (Viewpoint K)



2. Resurfaced trig point on a similar barrow at Beacon Batch, Mendip Hills AONB

Recommendations: Low-key interventions

There are opportunities to enhance several of the viewpoints, providing low-key facilities to encourage people to stop and enjoy the view. These interventions need to be done in a sensitive way which does not create ‘clutter’ in the landscape, particularly in open areas.

Provision of seats/logs

Some of the viewpoints (including B Stogursey, D Wilstock, F Maidenbrook and I Stogumber) are in village-edge or country park locations where a bench or log on which to sit and enjoy the view would not look out of place. There are opportunities to integrate sculpture or interpretation into the seating, as shown in the examples below.

Provision of interpretation

Again, great care must be taken not to create clutter with interpretation, but several of the viewpoints have existing structures into which interpretation could be sensitively integrated. Examples include the shelter at Beacon Field Stogumber (Viewpoint I), existing interpretation at Nether Stowey Castle (Viewpoint C) and the trig point on Beacon Hill (Viewpoint K).

Framing the view

Viewpoint G, which has a Country Park context, would lend itself to more eye-catching treatment, such as provision of a structure to literally ‘frame’ the view, as in the example below.



3. sculpted log bench by Ron Arad



4. Interpretative bench, Crystal Palace Park

6.7. Interpretation incorporated into existing structures, Longwood Gardens, Pennsylvania USA



5. Literally framing the view, Sutton Hoo



Recommendations: Landscape management

Hedgerow Management

Hedgerow patterns are fundamental to views of the Quantock Hills, whether they are dividing ancient patchworks of fields, or straight lines of beech marching up a hillside or along a ridge. However, in order to survive, hedgerows need careful management. This may involve traditional ‘laying’ where stems are partially cut and bent to create a thick barrier. Or it may involve cutting of beech trees on a bank on rotation every few years, so new trees grow from the base to replace those removed. Traditional management of hedgerows declined from the mid-20th Century. Many hedges were removed, others (including beech banks) received no management and so grew up into lines of mature trees, and others have been tightly cut with a mechanical flail, reducing their value to wildlife.

Within these views there are opportunities to promote positive hedgerow management and to reinstate lost hedges. This is beneficial to landscape patterns, wildlife and soils (hedges prevent soil from washing or blowing off fields into roads and watercourses).

Nature Recovery Strategies

In addition to strengthening the hedgerow network, there are many opportunities to enhance both biodiversity and landscape. Examples of such projects include restoration of ancient woodland on plantation sites; linking and extending woodlands; replanting orchards; encouraging coastal grassland and arable field margins; managing unimproved grassland, and promoting healthy heather moorland. These measures can be addressed through Nature Recovery Strategies and have the potential to greatly enhance views in the process.

Restoration of other boundary features

At viewpoint E (Halswell) there is an opportunity to replace the current post-and-wire fence with traditional estate railing, which would enhance the historic estate character of the driveway, and could be used to mount a discreet marker for the viewpoint.



1. Laid hedge near Fyne Court



2. Beech bank in active management near Fyne Court



3. Driveway with estate railings, Cobham, Kent

Recommendations: Built development

Within the views identified in this report, particular care should be taken in the design and siting of new structures. Full design guidance is beyond the scope of this document, but the following recommendations are a good starting point.

Retaining an open foreground

New buildings or structures should not be sited where they will block the view. The view should be considered in the design of the scheme, either through retention of the view, or by creating an alternative, accessible and equally good viewpoint.

Avoiding visually-distracting features in the middle ground

Buildings and structures proposed in the middle ground of the view should fit comfortably into their landscape surroundings. Their colour, massing, aspect, materials and shape should respond to their context. For example, light/reflective materials should generally be avoided; rooflines of large buildings should be stepped with the contours, and use of cut and fill should be minimised. Existing vegetation (particularly hedges and woodland) should be retained and strengthened to screen/filter views of new structures and help to integrate them into their surroundings.

Treatment of boundaries is particularly important. Any screen planting should fit with the characteristic native vegetation and not involve straight lines of conifers. Suburban-style close-board fencing should be avoided as it is visually-intrusive and acts as a barrier to wildlife.

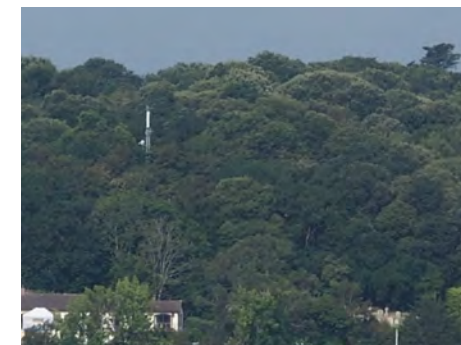
Keep skylines clear of development

Buildings or structures on the skyline are particularly noticeable in views and it is therefore important that horizons retain their undeveloped appearance. As a general rule, buildings should not breach the skyline in these views, particularly when that skyline is formed by the Quantock Hills.

Particular care needs to be taken in the siting of mobile phone masts. These should be set below ridge tops so they are not seen against the sky. This may mean that two masts are required (one on each side of a hill) rather than one (on the summit). Masts and their ancillary structures should ideally be sited within trees, and be painted dark green in order to blend in.



1. The coastal caravan parks around St Audries are visually prominent because of their light colours, regular shapes, and lack of screening vegetation



2. Mobile phone mast hidden within trees below the skyline, Jersey

Recommendations: Planning

The planning system can help to achieve the recommendations outlined above, particularly those relating to the siting or design of built development.

Views can be protected through the planning system, including through reference to this document when planning applications are received which may impact on the views identified within it.

3.3 Landscape Monitoring

Regular monitoring of the views allows longer-term landscape changes to be recorded, as well as checking the accessibility of the viewpoint and the visibility of the view.

It is suggested that each of the viewpoints is visited once every two years, ideally in June as that is when the original panoramic photos were taken.

The visit should include three tasks: photography; recording accessibility and visibility, and recording changes in the view. The monitoring visits could be undertaken by AONB staff or volunteers. A reasonably high-res camera and a pair of binoculars will be required.

Photography

The photo location and angle should match those used in this report. This can be achieved by re-using the 'Viewpoint information sheets' given to volunteers at the start of the 'View to a Hill' project. The viewpoint letter and date should be included in the filenames of the photos.

Recording accessibility and visibility

Checklist:

Can you still get to the viewpoint?

Is the footpath/access maintained?

Are gates/stiles maintained?

Is signage adequate?

Is the viewpoint still open, and not blocked by vegetation or structures?

Recording changes in the view

Monitoring form

Part of view	Any new built structures (e.g. buildings, roads, masts)	Any changes in landscape management or vegetation (e.g. extensions to woodland; new hedges)	Impacts of changes on the view (positive and/or negative)
Foreground			
Midground			
Background			
Skyline			