



Lydiard Millicent Neighbourhood Development Plan

Key Views Topic Paper
August 2026 v1.1

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1. Introduction

1. The protection and management of the rural character and landscape setting of Lydiard Millicent is a priority through the Neighbourhood Plan. As part of the contextual assessment of local character and the value people attribute to the local landscape and townscape, it is useful to understand which views local people particularly appreciate. This knowledge will help to define a sense of place and deliver good design in accordance with Section 12 of the National Planning Policy Framework and paragraph 5 of the National Design Guide (NDG).
2. The NDG explains that views, vistas, and landmarks are influencing factors defining local identity and sense of place. These views are positive elements of character of places for their users. Views may be important for a number of reasons and can help inform the character of a new development, which is a key objective of the NDP.
3. This assessment seeks to provide a robust and objective evidence-base to inform and underpin a NDP policy defining and managing key views.

2. Methodology

4. There is not an accepted definition of what constitutes a Key View (KV), in any of the published and accepted landscape guidance. The selection of views is also a result of people's perceptions, so is somewhat subjective.
5. A view is defined by the OED as '*a sight or prospect that can be taken in by the eye from a particular place*'.
6. Views can be important to the visual amenity of an area. GLVIA3 explains "*The overall pleasantness of the views people enjoy of their surroundings, which provide an attractive visual setting or backdrop for the enjoyment of activities of the people living, working, recreating, visiting or travelling through an area.*" The more people that experience a viewpoint, the higher the value that may be attributed, i.e., a view identified by numerous people as important, might be considered more valued than one selected from an isolated point in the parish that few people frequent. Views enjoyed by pedestrians using a footpath are likely to be valued over views experienced by traffic speeding past along a main road.
7. To ensure a clear and thorough methodology to assess Key Views (KVs) within the designated neighbourhood area, the following criteria developed by the Landscape Institute has been used to assess their value:
 - ✓ KVs must be accessible by the public and visible from the public highway, the rights of way network, open spaces, or proposed / designated local green space.
 - ✓ KVs should show a range of physical (natural or man-made) features and an expanse of the parish, not one particular object unless this is a building or feature of particular cultural heritage – examples may include the All Saints Church (Grade I Listed).
 - ✓ KVs should merit at least one of the following values: aesthetic, biodiversity, cultural heritage, functional, recreational, or tranquillity.
 - Aesthetic – Views with strong aesthetic qualities that appeal to the visual senses that may include memorable/distinctive views or features, or a combination of features, or landscape or townscape (such as an attractive and distinctive group of buildings).
 - Biodiversity – Views containing the presence of valued natural capital assets that contribute to ecosystems, habitats and ecological networks.
 - Cultural heritage - Presence of historic landmark structures (designated or non-designated heritage assets) or designed landscape elements / parkland.
 - Functional – Views of the landscape that have strong physical or functional links with landscape designations, including Special Landscape Areas, or are important to the appreciation of the landscape and its special qualities.
 - Recreational – From a place offering recreational opportunities where experience of a view(s) is important to the enjoyment of the activity.
 - Tranquillity – A location offering high levels of tranquillity or perceptions of tranquillity, including perceived links to nature, dark skies, wildlife/birdsong presence and relative peace and quiet. Places may also exhibit a general absence of intrusive or inharmonious development, land uses, transport and lighting.

3. Review of 2021 Made Neighbourhood Plan

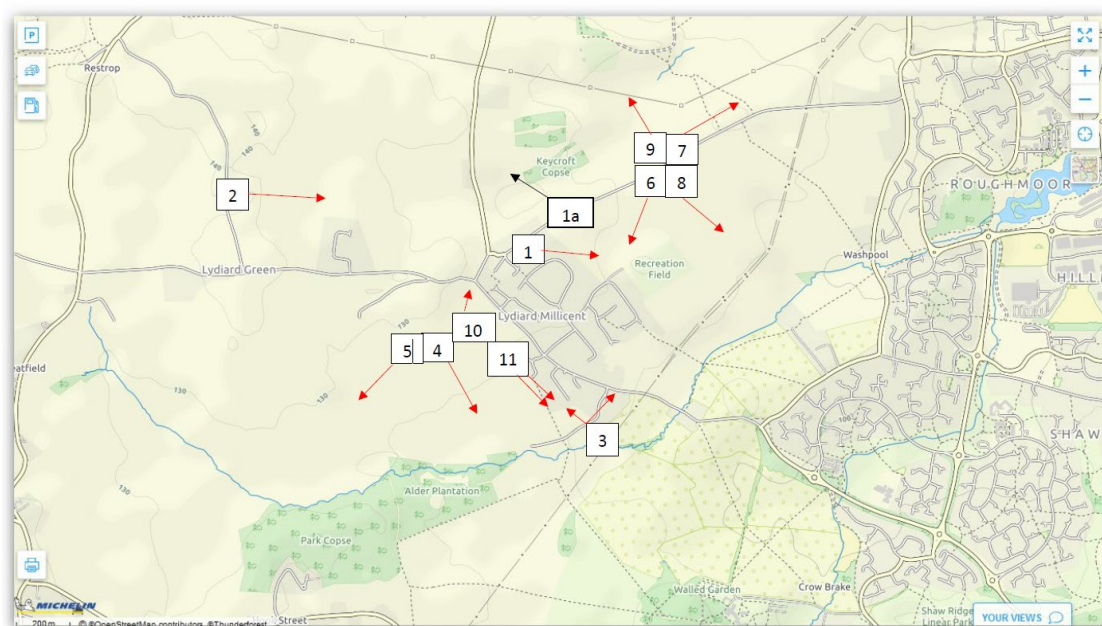
8. The current Neighbourhood Plan identifies the following principles which apply to the landscape around Lydiard Millicent and have been used to inform the original selection of Key Views. These principles continue to resonate and have been used to inform this review and update to the Neighbourhood Plan Key Views.

Any development should not diminish the significant views across open countryside. Wherever possible, development should deliver enhancements to the landscape character.

1. The overall objectives for the area are to conserve and enhance its pastoral character, and to ensure that any new development respects the grain of the dispersed settlement in the area.
2. The policy supports the greatest concern Residents expressed for the future of the village, namely coalescence with Swindon Borough. It is strongly supported by Resident feedback, and evidence from the NPPF, WCS, LSA and the Swindon Borough Local Plan.
3. This policy supports the very high value Residents place in the environment and landscape of Lydiard Millicent. This was a constant and leading theme throughout all our consultations. It is strongly supported by the NPPF, WCS, the CSAP and LSA as well as by Residents' feedback.
4. It became clear through the consultation that there were several key views that were considered 'definitive' of the village in setting the wider context of the village within its surrounding area, most especially the open spaces between Swindon Borough to the east and Lydiard Park to the south east when looking from the village. These are views Residents feel vital for separating Lydiard Millicent from Swindon Borough and are essential when defining the rural character of the village over the urban character of Swindon Borough.

4. Re-Assessment of Existing NDP Views

9. The key views proposed in the current Made Neighbourhood plan are shown in the map 1 copied below. Each of these views has been considered for continuation in the updated Neighbourhood Plan. This included a reassessment against the criteria, appraisal of the views over different seasons and reflection on feedback from the community consultation and others.
10. It is recommended that the majority of the views should be continued, with some minor reorientation where this is judged appropriate. The following changes to specific original views are suggested:
 - Original View 2 was not taken forward. This is located at the edge of the parish, mainly looking into fields within Purton; the landscape is not exceptional.
 - Original View 1 and 7 should be amalgamated and repositioned to highlight the rural context along Stone Lane (highlighted in community consultation).
 - Original View 3 should be retained but rotated to focus on Lydiard Park rather than Forge Fields housing. This highlights the “borrowed landscape”¹ contribution from fields at the edge of Lydiard Millicent gives to Lydiard Park. It now looks directly towards the designated Local Gap, which was also highlighted as a priority in the consultation.



Lydiard Millicent Neighbourhood Plan 2018-2036

Map 1. Key Views in current Lydiard Millicent “made” Neighbourhood Plan

¹ Historic England provided comments on planning application 16/06978/FUL that “the land inside the park and the ‘borrowed’ landscape to the north provides a wider rural setting to the Registered Park and Garden and the Church, creating a perception of extended estate ownership and adding to the overall sense of tranquillity.”

5. Proposals for New and Updated Views

11. The Steering Group has endorsed additional views which reflect the priorities of the Neighbourhood Plan, including impressive locations which highlight the local built environment, heritage assets and natural landscapes. The revised set of views is summarised in the Table 1 below, with detailed assessment for each view included at Appendix 1.
12. The community consultation in October 2025 was generally very supportive of the proposed additional views. It highlighted the need to maintain a number of views around Stone Lane, given its important role providing rural separation between Swindon and Lydiard Millicent village (proposed views V3-V7 cover this issue).
13. The community consultation also requested more views highlighting the value of the Local Gap. MLP planning consultants also made similar observations as part of their review of the Local Gap policy. Proposed views V8-V11 either look within or from the designated Local Gap.
14. The proposed views give greater prominence to the built environment and local heritage assets, including Lydiard Millicent Church (V2, V13, V14), conservation areas in Lydiard Millicent (V1, V2) and Lydiard Green (V16) and WW2 pillboxes (V18). Locations within Lydiard Millicent also give views of notable heritage assets outside the parish, including Ringsbury Camp (V21), Hook School House (V17) Purton Cricket Ground (V6) and Lydiard Park (V9, V11, V15); the consultation recommended that there should be more views of Lydiard Park.
15. Wiltshire Council planning officers involved in some recent contentious and contested planning applications, had commented that the original views were overly concentrated in the east of the parish, missing some important, sensitive and impressive locations to the west. Proposed views V16-V24 now cover landscapes around Lydiard Green, Great Field and Green Hill.

6. First Screening

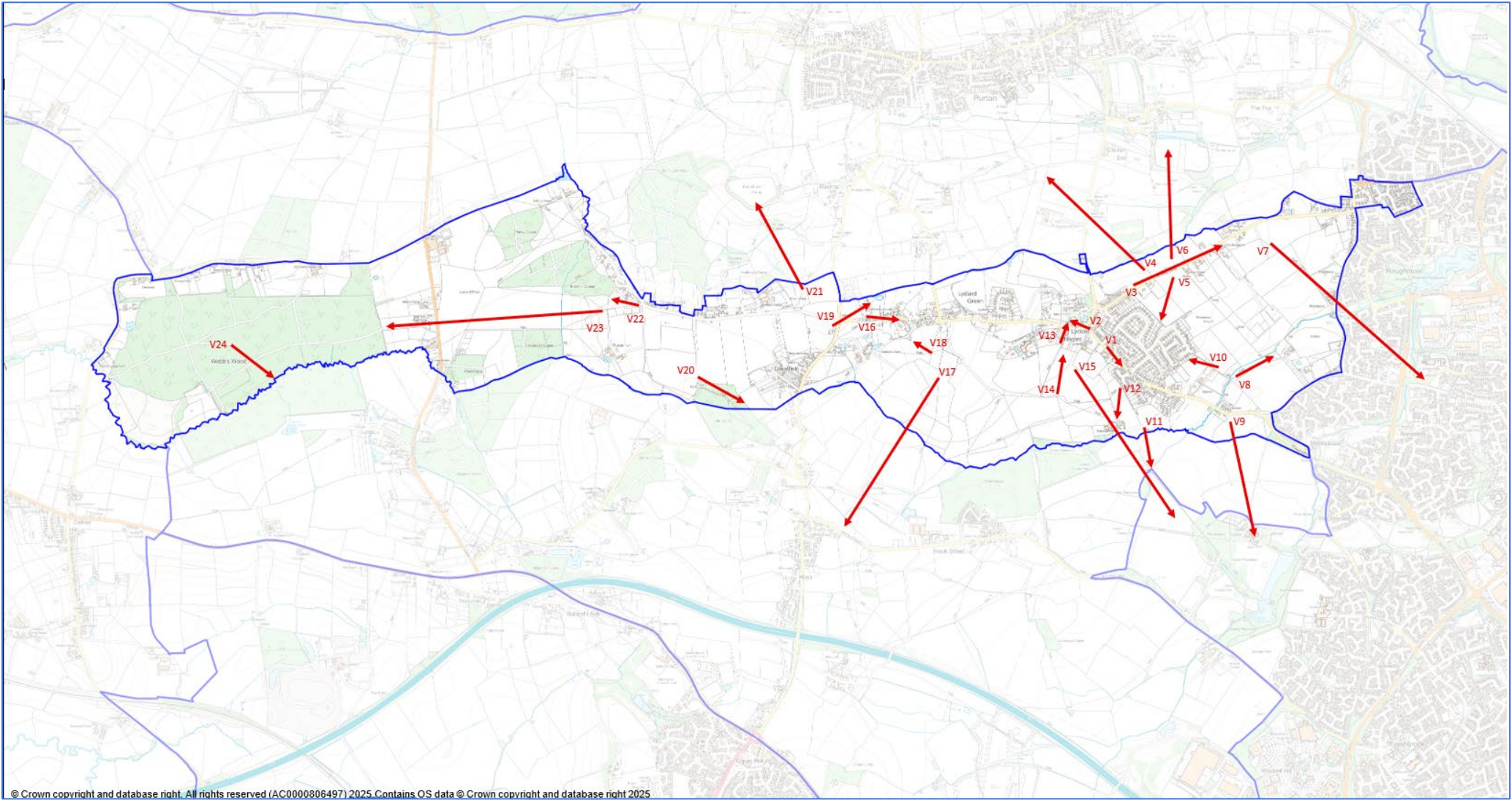
16. The updated and proposed key views were initially screened for their accordance with the criteria set out in the above section ('Methodology'). A key view must meet at least one of the identified values, and therefore those that were considered not to meet any of the values were screened out of further consideration.
17. The below table shows the initial screening process, which identifies all 24 sites being taken forward for further consideration. This detailed assessment is outlined at Appendix 1.

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Table 1. Proposed Key Views for Updated Lydiard Millicent Neighbourhood Plan

View Ref	Description	Existing LM NP	Publicly Accessible	Aesthetic	Biodiversity	Cultural Heritage	Functional Landscape	Recreational	Tranquillity	Recommend
V01	The Street in Lydiard Millicent		Y	Y		Y	Y			Y
V02	LM Church from The Street		Y	Y		Y			Y	Y
V03	Footpath LMIL along Stone Lane towards Common Platt	1/7		Y	Y			Y		Y
V04	Footpath LMIL 97 towards Manor Hill and onwards towards Purton	1a	Y		y			Y		Y
V05	Stone Lane, towards Chestnut Springs & Lydiard Millicent village centre	6	Y		Y					Y
V06	Purton Cricket Ground from Stone Lane FP	9	Y		Y			Y		Y
V07	Christchurch Steeple and Marlborough Downs from bridle way (LMIL101)	8	y	Y	Y	y		Y	Y	Y
V08	Lydiard Brook from Millenium FP		Y		Y			Y	Y	Y
V09	Lydiard Park and St Mary's Church from Holborn FP		Y	y	y	Y		Y		Y
V10	Lydiard Millicent village viewed from local gap		Y	Y	Y		Y	Y	Y	Y
V11	Forge Fields footpath to Lydiard Park	Near 3	Y	Y	Y			Y		Y
V12	Parkside Farm from Forge Fields FP	11	Y		Y	Y	Y	Y		Y
V13	LM Church from Commonwealth War Cemetery	10	Y	Y		Y	Y		Y	Y
V14	LM Church from Forge Fields FP	10	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		Y
V15	Lydiard Park from Parish Hall FP	4	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		Y
V16	Lydiard Green hamlet		Y	Y		y	Y			Y
V17	Hook School House from Lydiard Green FP	Near 5	Y	Y	y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
V18	Pill boxes from Lydiard Green FP		Y	y	Y	Y		Y	Y	Y
V19	Poplar trees from Greenhill crossroads		Y	y				Y		Y
V20	Frith Copse and Greatfield Farm from Greenhill		y		y			y		Y
V21	Ringsbury Camp from Green Hill FP		Y	Y	Y		Y	Y	Y	Y
V22	Claypits at Green Hill		Y	Y	Y	y		Y	Y	Y
V23	Lydiard plain from Greenhill ridge		Y	Y	Y			Y	Y	Y
V24	Webbs Wood		Y	y	y		Y	y	Y	Y

Map 2. Proposed Key Views for Updated Lydiard Millicent Neighbourhood Plan



Appendix 1. Detailed Assessment of Proposed Views

View Ref	V01	What3Words ref	///heap.mentioned.reason
View Direction	South East		
Description	View along The Street. This includes village cottages, pub and was the original centre for the village.		
Photo			
			
Value	Comments		
Aesthetic	The Sun Inn is an enduring defining image of the Steet. Adjacent buildings reflect historic past. There are similar vernacular buildings on The Street behind this view.		
Biodiversity			
Heritage	Gives a sense of the original village centre, before the nearby C20 th housing was built.		
Functional L'cape	The Sun Inn and adjacent houses are within designated conservation area.		
Recreational	Pub is popular community asset. Former telephone box is now the Lydiard Library		
Tranquillity			
Recommendation	Take forward as a key view in NDP		
View Management Objectives	Seek to limit development and alterations along the High Street to protect historical importance and character of the village, and limit changes to street furniture or pavements. Maintain the repurposed telephone box.		

View Ref	V02	What3Words ref	///gems.ribs.servers
View Direction	North West		
Description	View of Lydiard Millicent Parish Church from The Street, including the pond and horse watering stop.		
Photo			
			
Value	Comments		
Aesthetic	This is the historic and on-going centre for the village, with Parish Hall, School and Parish view all nearby. Behind the watering point is a large duck pond and Church Farm.		
Biodiversity	Duck pond/watering stop attracts birds and other wildlife		
Heritage	Lydiard Millicent Church of All Saints is a grade 2 listed building. It has recently had major restoration and repair.		
Functional L'cape	The area around the church is a designated conservation area.		
Recreational	Lydiard Millicent Parish Hall is opposite the Church and hosts village social events and activities.		
Tranquillity			
Recommendation	Take forward as a key view in NDP		
View Management Objectives	To protect the integrity of the historic street scene and setting of the church and Conservation Area.		

View Ref	V03	What3Words ref	///plantings.firm.slower
View Direction	West		
Description	Footpath LMIL 97 looking towards Common Platt and Ridgeway Farm. Stone lane runs along a minor ridge and the footpaths along the road have good views across valleys to both north and south.		
Photo			
Value	Comments		
Aesthetic	Stone lane has intermittent bespoke houses, separated by extended fields, meadows and woodland. This emphasises the separation between Lydiard Millicent village and the extended urban environment around Swindon.		
Biodiversity	The fields are bounded by mature trees and well managed hedgerows. Native and migrant birds and wildlife are evident.		
Heritage			
Functional L'cape			
Recreational	The footpath LMIL97 is extensively used to by walkers and ramblers to access both Swindon and Purton via Fox.		
Tranquillity			
Recommendation	Take forward as a key view in NDP		
View Management Objectives	To protect the rural landscape between Swindon and Lydiard Millicent (rural buffer) and preserve the distinct village character of Lydiard Millicent. Continue to manage land for agricultural use, environmental benefit and to ensure the rural context. Maintain existing public rights of way (LMIL97), including access and stiles.		

View Ref	V04	What3Words ref	///handbook.electrode.bonds
View Direction	North west		
Description	Footpaths LMIL 97 looking towards Manor Hill and onwards towards Purton. Stone lane runs along a minor ridge and the footpaths along the road have good views across valleys to both north and south.		
Photo			
			
Value	Comments		
Aesthetic	These large crop fields provide interest through the seasons. The location is at the top of a gentle valley, which takes in many different landscapes.		
Biodiversity	Keycroft Copse, across the valley is a significant focal point for biodiversity. The fields are bounded by mature trees and well managed hedgerows. Native and migrant birds and wildlife are evident.		
Heritage			
Functional L'cape			
Recreational	The footpath LMIL97 is extensively used to by walkers and ramblers to access both Swindon and Purton via Fox.		
Tranquillity			
Recommendation	Take forward as a key view in NDP		
View Management Objectives	To protect the rural landscape between Swindon and Lydiard Millicent (rural buffer) and preserve the distinct village character of Lydiard Millicent. Continue to manage land for agricultural use, environmental benefit and to ensure the rural context. Maintain existing public rights of way LMIL97/100, including access and stiles.		

View Ref	V05	What3Words ref	///coverage.gushes.merge
View Direction	South		
Description	Stone Lane, towards Chestnut Springs & Lydiard Millicent village centre.		
Photo			
Value	Comments		
Aesthetic	The fields on the north east edge of Lydiard Millicent are used for both crops and livestock, mainly horses. This rural boundary is important setting for Lydiard Millicent village and defining its rural character.		
Biodiversity	Fields have mixed agricultural uses and are bounded by mature managed hedgerows. It provides a good environment for native plants and wildlife.		
Heritage	Lydiard Millicent village listed in Domesday book 1070		
Functional L'cape			
Recreational	The Lydiard Millicent recreation ground is located on the far side of this field (left of picture) and is the main recreational resource for the parish.		
Tranquillity			
Recommendation	Take forward as a key view in NDP		
View Management Objectives	To protect the rural landscape between Swindon and Lydiard Millicent (rural buffer) and preserve the distinct village character of Lydiard Millicent. Continue to manage land for agricultural use, environmental benefit and to ensure the rural context.		

View Ref	V06	What3Words ref	///conforms.games.rejoiced
View Direction			
Description	View towards The Fox from Stone Lane. Footpath (LMIL97) runs parallel to Stone Lane through a wheat field, before turning towards the Cricket Ground and Purton. The view looks across a gentle valley taking in Keycroft Copse, Purton Cricket Ground, row of poplar trees and the impressive spire of St Mary's Church. The cricket ground is on an elevated field and can be seen from several locations (also LMIL96, LMIL100).		
Photo			
Value	Comments		
Aesthetic	Village cricket provides a quintessential English summer view.		
Biodiversity	The view takes in meadowland, woodland and the brook. The Dingle is adjacent to the cricket ground and is a designated Purton open green space, actively managed to promote wildlife.		
Heritage	The Cricket Club recently celebrated its bicentennial. The distinctive octagonal steeple of St Mary's Church Purton is also visible from this point, rising above the Dingle wood next to the Cricket Ground.		
Functional L'cape			
Recreational	Club is thriving and ground is used extensively over summer. The footpath runs around the edge of the ground, linking Purton and the Fox with Lydiard.		
Tranquillity	The view looks across a gentle valley, with Cricket Ground prominent above the surrounding meadows, brook and woodland		
Recommendation	Take forward as a key view in NDP		
View Management Objectives	Continue to manage land for agricultural use alongside Stone Lane and existing woodland alongside the brook and copse. Maintain existing public rights of way (LMIL97), including access and stiles.		

View Ref	V07	What3Words ref	///loans.verifying.fanfare
View Direction	South East		
Description	Christchurch Steeple and Marlborough Downs from bridle way (LMIL101). Stone lane runs along a minor ridge and the footpaths along the road have good views across valleys to the north and south.		

Photo



Value	Comments
Aesthetic	Stone lane at the top of the valley looks down onto Washpool hamlet, in the middle distance you can see the taller structures within Swindon, including Christchurch Steeple, with Marlborough Downs evident in the far distance.
Biodiversity	Extensive hedgerows along the bridle path as well as the meadows and fields support native populations of wildlife and plants.
Heritage	Christ Church is a Grade II* listed church in Old Town Swindon.
Functional L'cape	Marlborough Downs are part of The North Wessex Downs and has been designated as a National Landscape (formerly Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty) since 1972.
Recreational	Bridle path is regularly used for horse riders as well as dog walkers and ramblers. The path finishes at Washpool, where it connects though to Swindon.
Tranquillity	
Recommendation	Take forward as a key view in NDP
View Management Objectives	Continue to manage land for agricultural use between Stone Lane and Washpool. Maintain existing public rights of way, bridle path (LMIL101).

View Ref	V08	What3Words ref	///amphibian.flattens.artist
View Direction	The brook meanders in a north easterly direction from Holborn to Washpool.		
Description	View along the Millennium Path (LMIL84), running alongside Lydiard Brook from Holborn to Washpool.		

Photo



Value	Comments
Aesthetic	Lydiard Brook is significant feature within the parish rural environment. The Brook rises in Green Hill, skirts Lydiard Park, Holborn, Washpool and feeds Peatmoor Lagoon. A number of footpaths within the parish cross the brook, but here the Millenium Path (LMIL84) runs parallel to the brook for an extended distance.
Biodiversity	The brook provides a focus for wildlife and nature within agricultural meadows – native and migrating birds, mammals and insects. There is variation in vegetation and habitat along the brook.
Heritage	
Functional L'cape	This area is within the Lydiard Millicent Local Gap, which ensures rural setting between Swindon and the village. Meadows are used for mixed agricultural use – livestock, horses, pasture etc.
Recreational	A popular footpath route for walkers and dog exercise. Links LMP/Swindon footpaths.
Tranquillity	This quiet meandering valley is distant from road and housing noise
Recommendation	Take forward as a key view in NDP
View Management Objectives	To protect the rural landscape between Swindon and Lydiard Millicent (rural buffer) and preserve the distinct village character of Lydiard Millicent. Continue to manage land for agricultural use and ensure the rural context for the full passage of the brook through Lydiard Millicent. Maintain existing public rights of way (LMIL84), including access and stiles.

View Ref	V09	What3Words ref	///famous.defensive.stuff
View Direction	South East		
Description	Holborn to Lydiard Park View from the footpath at Holborn corner (LMIL93), looking towards Lydiard Country Park and St Mary's church. Although the park is within Swindon, much of the surrounding landscape is within Lydiard Millicent and Lydiard Tregoze. These fields, which rise up from Holborn to LCP, provide an essential buffer zone around the country park, which is important for Lydiard Millicent, Swindon and Wiltshire generally.		
Photo			
Value	Comments		
Aesthetic	The field rises from Holborn towards the Lydiard Park, with a seamless transition from countryside to country park.		
Biodiversity	From spring till autumn the fields are home to a semi-wild herd of horses. The open meadows are interspersed with trees and hedgerows which provide habitat for native wildlife.		
Heritage	St Mary's Parish Church has prime position at the top of the field. Lydiard House (adjacent to the church) is a grade 1 listed building which also includes the Lydiard House museum.		
Functional L'cape	This area is within the Lydiard Millicent Local Gap, which ensures rural setting between Swindon and the village. Landscape views to/from Lydiard Millicent Park are important context for this Country Park and has been acknowledged by Historic England (comments on application 16/06978/FUL)		
Recreational	Lydiard Country Park is a major public facility/venue – significant to Lydiard Millicent Swindon, Wiltshire and wider south-west		
Tranquillity			
Recommendation	Take forward as a key view in NDP		
View Management Objectives	To protect the distinctly rural landscape character of the area between Swindon and Lydiard Millicent, to preserve the distinct village character of Lydiard Millicent and to protect and maintain the rural context to Lydiard Park. Maintain existing Public Rights of Way (LMIL93), including access points and stiles.		

View Ref	V10	What3Words ref	///scrapped.watches.daydreams
View Direction	West		
Description	Lydiard Millicent village viewed from the local gap along footpath LMIL80. The path emerges from mixed agricultural fields and hedgerows, looking across meadows towards Meadow Springs, at the boundary of Lydiard Millicent.		
Photo			
Value	Comments		
Aesthetic	The trees, meadows and fields within the local gap provide a striking contrast to the developed urban environments within Swindon and Lydiard Millicent. This is particularly evident walking along footpath LMIL80. This rural and pastoral context is critical to Lydiard Millicent's identity as a small village.		
Biodiversity	Fields and hedgerows provide extended habitats for indigenous wildlife and seasonal visitors. Larger mammals including deer, foxes and badgers are resident. Birds, bats and butterflies in the air - kites, buzzard and owls.		
Heritage			
Functional L'cape	The footpath LMIL80 is a journey through the Lydiard Millicent Local Gap, which ensures rural setting between Swindon and the village.		
Recreational	The footpath is extensively used for rambling, dog walking and also to walk to Swindon for shops, services or to access transport. The alternative route to Swindon along the highway is unsuitable and unsafe for pedestrians.		
Tranquillity	Road traffic and urban noises are present at the start and finish of the footpath, but in between the footpath is well screened and peaceful.		
Recommendation	Take forward as a key view in NDP		
View Management Objectives	To protect the rural landscape between Swindon and Lydiard Millicent (rural buffer) and preserve the distinct village character of Lydiard Millicent. Continue to manage land for agricultural use, environmental benefit and to ensure the rural context. Maintain existing public rights of way (LMIL80), including access and stiles.		

View Ref	V11	What3Words ref	///monorail.diets.inversely
View Direction	South east		
Description	Footbridge to Lydiard Park, crossing Lydiard Brook with Lydiard Park gently rising behind.		
Photo			
Value	Comments		
Aesthetic	Lydiard Park is a beautiful historic estate on the western edge of Swindon, with the Palladian House, Church, Walled Garden, Hotel, Restaurant and Conference Centre set in 260 acres of parkland.		
Biodiversity	The path runs past managed hedgerows and the foot bridge crosses the Lydiard Brook. Immediately upstream the brook passes through the alder plantation, which is a major wildlife habitat within the Country Park. 2025/26 saw extensive tree planting within this part of Lydiard Park.		
Heritage	In 2025, Lydiard Park planted eighty oak trees to mark the 80th anniversary of the end of the Second World War. The trees are being planted in a classical labyrinth format, with a circle of continuous concentric paths, bordered by eighty green and red oak trees. The trees have been planted to the right of this view and will grow in stature over future years and decades.		
Functional L'cape	The view looks through to the Lydiard Park registered park and garden.		
Recreational	This is the main footpath route to Lydiard Park from Lydiard Millicent village and is extensively used by walkers, families etc to access the Country Park. The park has an extensive programme of community and recreational events.		
Tranquillity			
Recommendation	Take forward as a key view in NDP		
View Management Objectives	Maintain existing Public Rights of Way (LMIL32, 45, 48), including access points/stiles. Ensure access is maintained within Lydiard Park. Continue to manage land for agricultural use. Explore scope to improve access to Lydiard Park for cyclists?		

View Ref	V12	What3Words ref	///squares.luggage.repayment
View Direction	South		
Description	Parkside Farm from footpath at Forge Fields (LMIL66), with Lydiard Park in background.		
Photo			
Value	Comments		
Aesthetic	One of the most attractive and architecturally significant farmhouse buildings within the parish. It can be viewed from several vantage points; this shows the view of the front of the farmhouse across crop fields and hedgerows. Parkside is working farm, where the landscape changes in line with agricultural seasons.		
Biodiversity	Parkside Farm is a mixed farm, with livestock, pasture meadows and crops. It is separated from Lydiard Country Park by Lydiard Brook and runs alongside the Alder Plantation, an extended wooded copse on the boundary of Lydiard Park. It provides a good environment for British native wildlife and migrating birds.		
Heritage	The main farm building is Grade 2 listed building (Historic England: 1023142)		
Functional L'cape			
Recreational	LMIL66 is one of the most popular footpaths within the parish, regularly used by ramblers, dog walkers and others. It is one of the routes used to access Lydiard Park. LMIL46 also skirts the edge of the farm.		
Tranquillity			
Recommendation	Take forward as a key view in NDP Links to the heritage workplan.		
View Management Objectives	Protect the setting of this Grade II listed farmhouse and the view over farmland - continue to manage land for agricultural use. Maintain rural context for Lydiard Park. Maintain existing Public Rights of Way (LMIL46,66), including access points/stiles.		
View Ref	V13	What3Words ref	///equipment.district.mindset

View Direction	North
Description	View from the Commonwealth War Cemetery across the community field towards Lydiard Millicent Parish church.

Photo



Value	Comments
Aesthetic	
Biodiversity	The area contains many mature trees, shrubs and hedgerows. The cemetery is adjacent to agricultural meadows.
Heritage	Commonwealth Cemetery and the Church of All Saints have historic significance for the village.
Functional L'cape	The area around the church is a designated conservation area.
Recreational	Community assets including Parish Church and community field are within view.
Tranquillity	The Cemetery and Church retains a dignified ambiance
Recommendation	Take forward as a key view in NDP
View Management Objectives	Maintain the solemnity, privacy and dignity of the setting. Ensure nearby developments do not encroach, overlook or overshadow the cemetery.

View Ref	V14	What3Words ref	///repaying.carver.replaying
View Direction	North West		
Description	View from footpath at Forge Fields (LMIL66) of the Lydiard Millicent Parish Church, across meadows and farmland. The parish church is a strong focal point within the village urban and rural landscape.		
Photo			
			
Value	Comments		
Aesthetic	Parish Church has a significant visual impact well beyond immediate village		
Biodiversity	Significant wildlife along footpath – deer, hares, birds of prey etc. Nearby fields are used for mixed agricultural use		
Heritage	Lydiard Millicent Church of All Saints is a grade 2 listed building. It has recently had major restoration and repair.		
Functional L'cape	The area around the church is a designated conservation area.		
Recreational	One of most popular footpaths in parish, this track is regularly used by walkers, dog exercise and also to access Lydiard Park.		
Tranquillity	This setting is distant from road/urban noises.		
Recommendation	Take forward as a key view in NDP		
View Management Objectives	Ensure development doesn't block church views, using low profile and low density development where there is potential to encroach. Maintain views of the Parish Church through vegetation management as needed		

View Ref	V15	What3Words ref	///coconuts.buzzards.outbid
View Direction	South East		
Description	View from footpath (LMIL60) behind the parish hall looking towards Lydiard Park. Foreground is open meadow, Parkside Farm House in middle ground, with St Mary's Church in the distance.		
Photo			
			
Value	Comments		
Aesthetic	Lydiard Park is set in 260 acres of parkland, but is further enhanced by the “borrowed landscape” of the surrounding rural countryside. This is particularly evident here, with meadows, farmland and trees.		
Biodiversity	Lydiard Park Alder Plantation (behind Parkside Farm) provides a good environment for British native wildlife and migrating birds. It has recently been expanded with a planting of native Oak trees, as part of the Great Western Forest initiative.		
Heritage	Park Side Farm, Lydiard House and St Mary's church are all grade 2 listed buildings.		
Functional L'cape	The view looks into Lydiard Park registered park and garden.		
Recreational	LMIL66 is one of the most popular footpaths within the parish, regularly used by ramblers, dog walkers and others.		
Tranquillity			
Recommendation	Take forward as a key view in the NDP		
View Management Objectives	Maintain rural character for fields between Lydiard Millicent and Lydiard Park. Maintain existing Public Rights of Way (LMIL46,60, 66) including access points/stiles.		

View Ref	V16	What3Words ref	///condition.coconuts.comical
View Direction	View east		
Description	Entrance to Lydiard Green hamlet from the west		
Photo			
			
Value	Comments		
Aesthetic	The view into Lydiard Green shows how the fabric of the village has evolved over time, with a mixture of new and old buildings, many of which have been repurposed and updated to serve modern needs.		
Biodiversity	The hamlet is enclosed by agricultural fields and wooded areas.		
Heritage	Lydiard Green originally consisted of 9 agricultural cottages, and a small Methodist church, built in 1863. A number of pill box defences from second world war are located in fields behind houses.		
Functional L'cape	Lydiard Green includes a designated conservation area.		
Recreational	Several footpaths join the road at Lydiard Green giving walking routes to Lydiard Millicent, Greatfield, Green Hill and Purton.		
Tranquillity			
Recommendation	Take forward as a key view in the NDP		
View Management Objectives	Manage future development to ensure this is sympathetic to the character of the hamlet, consistent with its conservation status. Seek to improve access for pedestrian and cyclists (eg address gaps in pavement) through hamlet.		

View Ref	V17	What3Words ref	///spearing.megawatt.meaty
View Direction	South west		
Description	The footpath (LMIL45) near Lydiard Green has a slightly elevated position, which allows views across landscape towards Lydiard Tregoze. This view looks across agricultural fields and meadows, towards Old School House in Hook.		

Photo



Value	Comments
Aesthetic	The view takes in a patchwork of fields of mixed agriculture, crops and livestock towards the hamlet of Hook. The Old School House is a distinctive building, visible at many points along the footpath.
Biodiversity	Area is a mixed-use landscape with meadows, farmland and woodland (Park Copse), as well as the Lydiard Brook. This provides good habitats for many native and migratory species. It is home to significant population of hares, deer, red kites and buzzards.
Heritage	This former Victorian school house is now converted to hotel and restaurant. However, it retains much of its original distinctive character. Originally built in 1859 and sponsored by the St John family at Lydiard House, now Lydiard Park.
Functional Landscape	
Recreational	Several well used footpath run across this location – including connecting footpaths with Lydiard Park.
Tranquillity	Secluded location away from housing and transport noise.
Recommendation	Take forward as a key view in the NDP.
View Management Objectives	Maintain existing Public Rights of Way (LMIL45), including access points/stiles. Continue to manage land for agricultural use. limit development which could lead to coalescence between hamlets/villages.

View Ref	V18	What3Words ref	///nourished.baths.blushes
View Direction	North west		
Description	Lydiard Green has three pillboxes, which are set close together. This view shows one of the pill boxes as seen from footpath LMIL42. The other two can be seen at the village green and from LMIL38.		
Photo			
Value	Comments		
Aesthetic	The pillboxes are unusual and distinctive features which were located near to several LMP footpaths. Because of their purpose and design, most of the pillboxes are hidden from the highway. They often seem to appear unexpectedly during countryside walks.		
Biodiversity	This pill box sits in a large meadow on the edge of Lydiard Green, partially hidden by trees and shrubbery.		
Heritage	Lydiard Millicent has several pill boxes which were constructed during the second world war to provide home defences following invasion. This includes pill boxes at Manor Hill Farm, Bagbury Green Farm and three at Lydiard Green.		
Functional L'cape			
Recreational	This pillbox can be seen from 3 footpaths LMIL 32, 45 and 48 – giving views from different directions.		
Tranquillity	The footpaths here are quite secluded.		
Recommendation	Take forward as a key view in NDP.		
View Management Objectives	Preserve the distinctive network of pillboxes in this area. Continue to manage nearby land for agricultural use and to ensure rural context for pillbox Maintain existing Public Rights of Way (LMIL32, 45, 48), including access points/stiles.		

View Ref	V19	What3Words ref	///trapdoor.marching.tower
View Direction	East		
Description	The row of poplar trees in Lydiard Green viewed from Green Hill crossroads. There are several poplar rows within the parish, including Stone Lane, Bagbury and Purton Cricket Ground. This row at Lydiard Green is the largest and most complete line of trees. This distinctive landscape feature is visible from multiple settings and denotes the western approach to the settlement.		
Photo			
Value	Comments		
Aesthetic	The row of mature poplar trees is a striking feature, visible from many locations around Lydiard Green. It is shown here at Green Hill cross roads. The crossroads, signpost and direction of trees all have a strong and reinforcing geometric characteristic.		
Biodiversity	Fields are mixed agricultural and meadow lands, blending into the houses and gardens within hamlets. In addition to the poplars, there are other native trees, hedgerows and shrubbery.		
Heritage			
Functional L'cape			
Recreational	A major intersection for both road and footpath/cycleway linking the hamlets of Lydiard Green, Green Hill, Greatfield and Restrop.		
Tranquillity			
Recommendation	Take forward as a key view in NDP		
View Management Objectives	To protect the line of poplars which is a significant feature of the landscape as you approach the village from the west or south. Maintain line of sight from the cross roads towards the tree line of poplars.		

View Ref	V20	What3Words ref	///scrapped.watches.daydreams
View Direction	South East		
Description	Frith Copse and Greatfield Farm from Greenhill		
Photo			
Value	Comments		
Aesthetic	An interesting contrast between rural farmland and natural woodland. In spring, Frith Copse is covered by bluebells, while nearby fields are lambing.		
Biodiversity	Frith copse is mature woodland which is home to diverse plants, trees and wildlife. Fields are used for mixed agricultural use, with managed hedgerows which provide good natural environments.		
Heritage			
Functional L'cape			
Recreational	Footpaths are used by dog walkers and ramblers, including woodland walks through Frith Copse (LMIL15). Several footpaths running N-S and E-W come together at this location.		
Tranquillity	The woodland is quiet and secluded – distant from traffic and urban noises.		
Recommendation	Take forward as a key view in NDP		
View Management Objectives	Maintain existing routes of the Public Rights of Way (LMIL 13,16,21,22), including access points and stiles. Continue to manage land for agricultural use, maintain the wooded areas and Frith Copse.		

View Ref	V21	What3Words ref	///presses.daytime.blackbird
View Direction	North west		
Description	Green Hill to Ringsbury Camp. View from footpath at Green Hill (LMIL135), towards Ringsbury Camp (site of iron age hill fort). Although the Fort is within Purton Parish, as a hilltop site it can be viewed from wider locations including several locations within LMP Green Hill.		

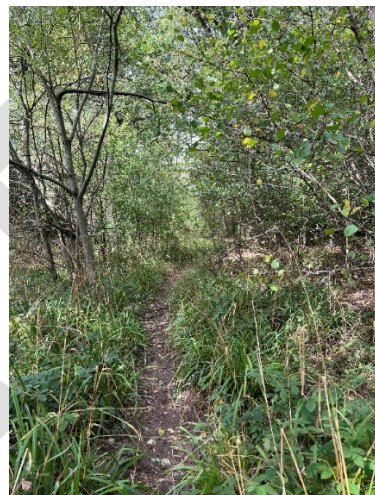
Photo



Value	Comments
Aesthetic	Hill top location has a commanding position, with views across near landscape and LM plain. Green Hill views Ringsbury across a valley.
Biodiversity	Site is protected and surrounding fields have mixed agricultural use, with Brockhurst wood also nearby. The area attracts significant native wildlife.
Heritage	Ringsbury Camp is an Iron Age hill fort, thought to date from approximately the year 50BC. However, there are signs of earlier habitation of the site and neolithic flint tools have been found within the fort.
Functional L'cape	Ringsbury iron age site is scheduled monument (1018124) of "national importance"
Recreational	LMP footpaths run from Green Hill to and around Ringsbury.
Tranquillity	
Recommendation	On the edge of the Parish, but is a significant view. Take forward as a key view in NDP.
View Management Objectives	Continue to manage land for agricultural use and limit development which would further encroach on the context to this historic hill fort.

View Ref	V22	What3Words ref	///ports.commenced.narrowest
View Direction	West		
Description	Green Hill Claypits The view from footpath LMIL134 at the Claypits, with meadows rolling down Green Hill into Lydiard Plain.		
Photo			
			
Value	Comments		
Aesthetic	Attractive meadows, initially flat but becoming quite steep as they fall away from the hill top.		
Biodiversity	The meadow is home to diverse native fauna and flora. Nearby woodland including Brockhurst wood, Brickkiln Copse and Cowleaze Copse provide extensive natural habitats.		
Heritage	The Claypits and nearby Brickkiln Copse indicate the historic industrial uses for this area.		
Functional L'cape			
Recreational	The footpath runs through the Claypits and is used for rambling and dog walking.		
Tranquillity	The footpaths in this area are peaceful and secluded.		
Recommendation	Take forward as a key view in NDP		
View Management Objectives	Maintain existing routes of the Public Rights of Way (LMIL134), including access points and stiles. Continue to manage land for agricultural use, maintain the wooded areas and copse.		

View Ref	V23	What3Words ref	///mascot.undertone.overdrive
View Direction	West		
Description	Lydiard Plain from Greenhill ridge The view from footpath LMIL134, looking down across Lydiard Plain towards Webbs Wood. The elevated position of the footpath near Green Hill takes in the north Wiltshire landscape, looking towards Brinkworth.		
Photo			
Value	Comments		
Aesthetic	The elevated position provides an excellent viewing point, giving oversight of the diverse Wiltshire landscape.		
Biodiversity	Meadows and hedgerows support native wildlife and migrating birds. Nearby woodland including Brockhurst wood, Brickkiln Copse and Cowleaze Copse provide extensive natural habitats. On the far side of Lydiard Plain is Webb's Wood, a commercial broad leaf woodland run by the Forestry Commission.		
Heritage			
Functional L'cape			
Recreational	The footpath is used for rambling and dog walking.		
Tranquillity	The footpaths in this area are peaceful and secluded.		
Recommendation	Take forward as a key view in NDP		
View Management Objectives	Maintain existing routes of the Public Rights of Way (LMIL134), including access points and stiles. Continue to manage land for agricultural use and resist development that would interrupt the long distance views.		

View Ref	V22	What3Words ref	///fakes.trifling.monument
View Direction	East		
Description	Webb's Wood is a commercial broad leaf woodland (99.94Ha) managed by the Forestry Commission. It is open to the public with bridle way and footpath access. The open paths enable multiple views of the forest. This view, near Woodbridge Brook, shows a typical woodland path through trees and vegetation.		
Photo			
Value	Comments		
Aesthetic	The woodland character changes throughout the year with the seasons. This is a large, mature native forest, with trees at every stage in their lifecycle.		
Biodiversity	Webbs Wood is an extensive woodland, home to a wide variety of native and migratory species. It has a wide variety of habitats including large areas of broadleaved woodland, blocks of conifer and open areas where the trees have been felled. There are dry areas and boggy wet areas. The plan is to return the entire site to native British woodland species as the commercial crops are harvested. Adjacent to Webbs Wood are Echo Meadows, which are managed to enhance biodiversity by Wiltshire Wildlife Trust.		
Heritage	The wood is a fragment of the former Bradon Forest. The rabbit warren, a scheduled monument, is a small but well-preserved example, which provides an important insight into the historic economy of Bradon Forest.		
Functional L'cape	The Rabbit Warren, 800m east of Woodlane Farm, is a Scheduled Ancient Monument within Webb's Wood (1019730).		
Recreational	Well managed bridle paths and footpaths are extensively used by horse riders, ramblers, dog walkers and for bird watching.		
Tranquillity	A peaceful arboreal environment, with all the sights, sounds and scents of an English forest.		
Recommendation	Take forward as a key view in NDP		
View Management Objectives	Maintain the existing rights of way and footpaths (LMIL2, LMIL130) Work with Forestry Commission to maintain access Promote Webbs Wood as a LM community green spaces asset		

6. Conclusion

18. Following this reassessment, a total of 24 key views are recommended for identification in the updated Lydiard Millicent Neighbourhood Plan (including existing views sought for retention). These views are listed below and shown on the map below:

- V01 - The Street in Lydiard Millicent
- V02 - LM Church from The Street
- V03 - Footpath LMIL along Stone Lane towards Common Platt
- V04 - Footpath LMIL 97 towards Manor Hill and onwards towards Purton
- V05 - Stone Lane, towards Chestnut Springs & Lydiard Millicent village centre
- V06 - Purton Cricket Ground from Stone Lane FP
- V07 - Christchurch Steeple and Marlborough Downs from bridle way (LMIL101)
- V08 - Lydiard Brook from Millenium FP
- V09 - Lydiard Park and St Mary's Church from Holborn FP
- V10 - Lydiard Millicent village viewed from local gap
- V11 - Forge Fields footpath to Lydiard Park
- V12 - Parkside Farm from Forge Fields FP
- V13 - LM Church from Commonwealth War Cemetery
- V14 - LM Church from Forge Fields FP
- V15 - Lydiard Park from Parish Hall FP
- V16 - Lydiard Green hamlet
- V17 - Hook School House from Lydiard Green FP
- V18 - Pill boxes from Lydiard Green FP
- V19 - Poplar trees from Greenhill crossroads
- V20 - Frith Copse and Greatfield Farm from Greenhill
- V21 - Ringsbury Camp from Green Hill FP
- V22 - Claypits at Green Hill
- V23 - Lydiard plain from Greenhill ridge
- V24 - Webbs Wood