



# Kemble Landscape Appraisal

Prepared by Tyler Grange LLP on behalf of  
Kemble Parish Council

September 2017



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Schedule of revisions



# Introduction

This document has been prepared by a team of professional landscape architects from Tyler Grange LLP working in collaboration with Kemble Parish Council and members of the community. This document considers the landscape context and setting of Kemble village and should be read alongside the Kemble and Kemble Station Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Guidance (September 2016) prepared by Montagu Evans <sup>[1]</sup> which deals with the built environment of Kemble.

## Purpose

The purpose of this appraisal is to explore the character of the existing landscape, identify what matters to the community, how the landscape is valued and provide recommendations for the protection and enhancement of positive attributes and the improvement of negative elements within the landscape.

The approach taken through engagement with the local community will enable this document to be reviewed and updated by the community.

## Methodology

So that the community can review and develop this evidence base the methodology adopted in preparing this document has sought to avoid an overly complex and technical approach. The characterisation of the landscape has followed the guidance set out publications prepared by the Countryside Agency <sup>[2]</sup> and Natural England <sup>[3]</sup>. The analysis of the landscape value considers those attributes set out in the Landscape Institute's assessment guidance Box 5.1 <sup>[4]</sup>. To identifying the attributes of the landscape and their value to the community the approach utilised the methodology set out in 'What Matters and Why Environmental Capital' <sup>[5]</sup>.

The Tyler Grange team undertook desktop analysis and fieldwork in accordance with the published guidance and facilitated three stakeholder events to pose the question and record the community's response to the question 'What Matters and Why?'

The stakeholders who attended the events represented community groups or groups of individuals. They collated views from those people they represented to ensure the widest possible community input.

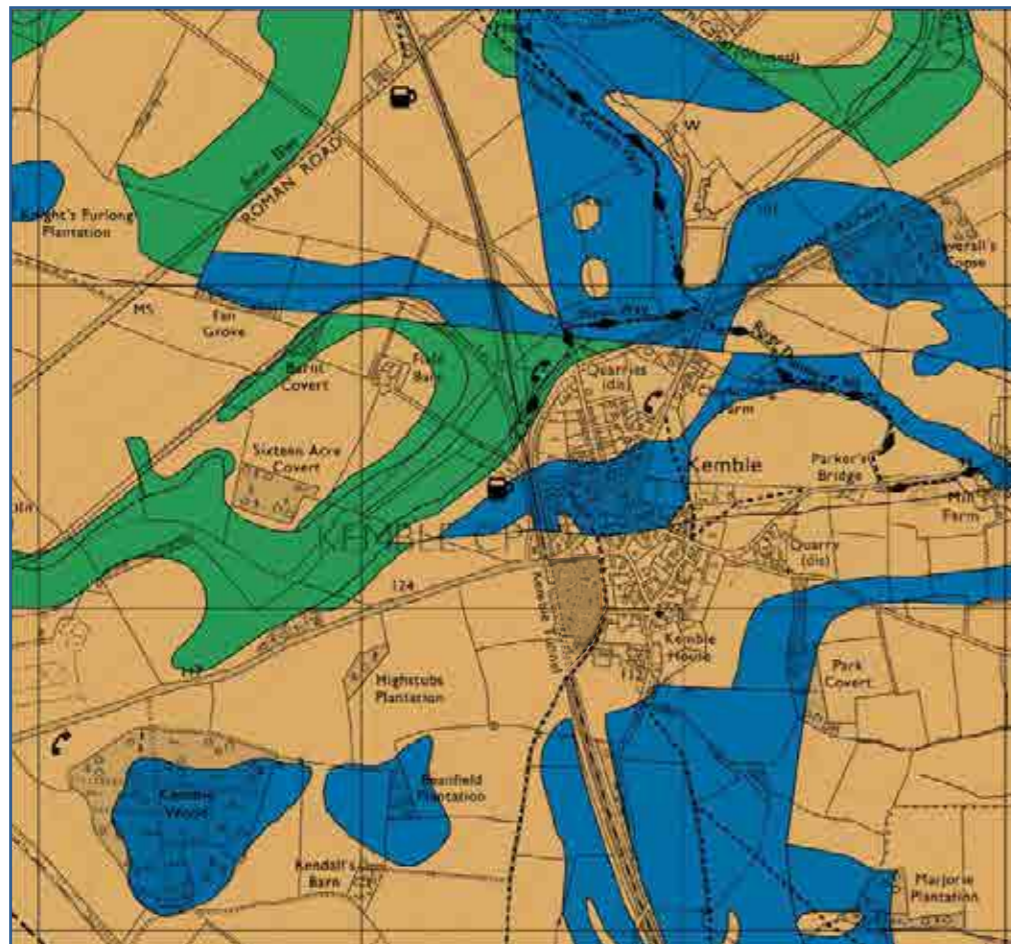
## Summary of the Study Area

Kemble is a village in Gloucestershire located approximately 4 miles from Cirencester. It lies close to the source of the River Thames. The village has grown from its agricultural roots to now include the mainline railway line and more modern development. The older parts of the village are, in the main, centred around the All Saints Parish Church. Despite the more recent developments, the village and its setting retains its rural and farming character. A full history and evaluation of the village and its evolution is contained in the Montagu Evans report and is not repeated here.



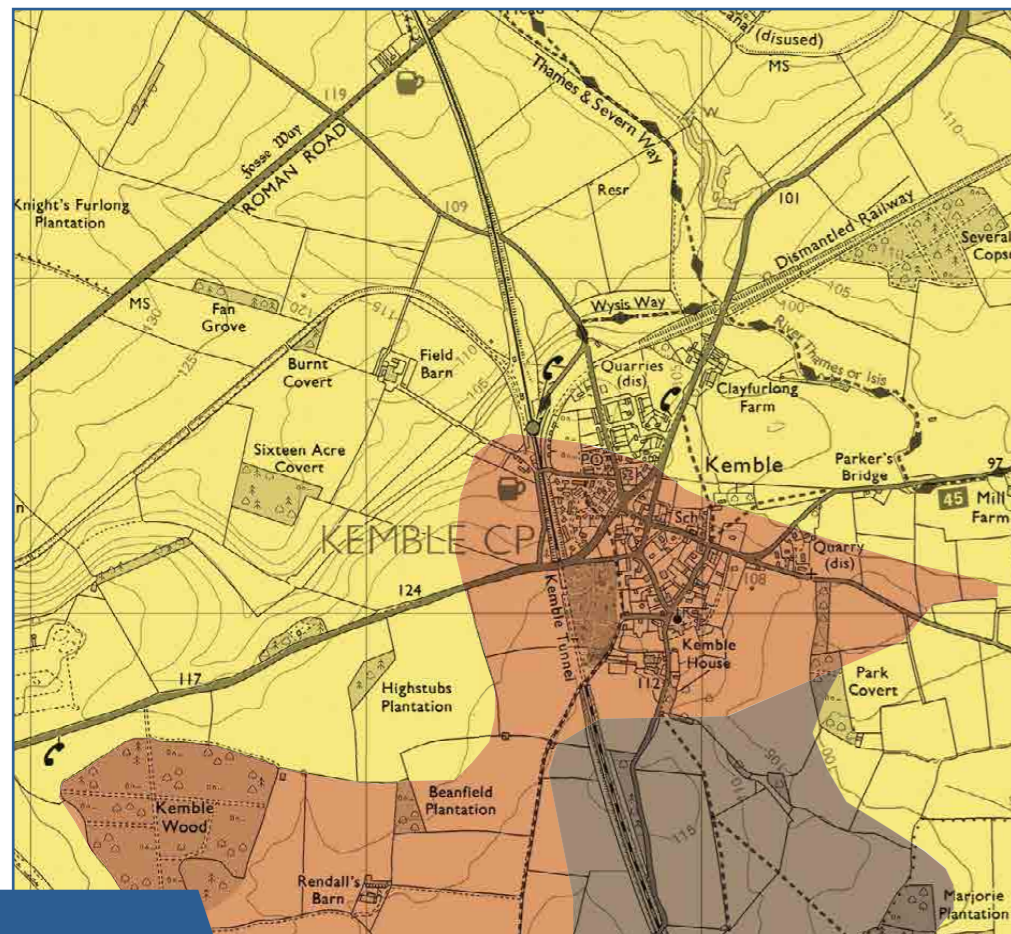


# Natural Environment



- LIMESTONE
- LIMESTONE, OOIDAL
- MUDSTONE

BGS\_DigMapGB-50: Mapping taken from the British Geological Survey (BGS) [6]



- Lime-rich loamy and clayey soils with impeded drainage
- Shallow lime-rich soils over chalk or limestone
- Slowly permeable seasonally wet slightly acid but base-rich loamy and clayey soils

Mapping taken from the UKSO Soils map viewer [7]

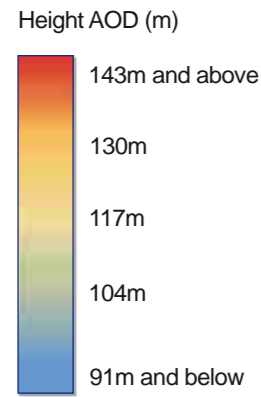
## Geology

The geology of the area is dominated by various formations of sedimentary limestone bedrock. The underlying geology has a significant effect on the landform and land uses of the landscape. A large proportion of the village is positioned on a localised area of sedimentary mudstone, although this does not extend far into the landscape setting of the village. Along existing and dry river corridors there are superficial alluvium deposits overlying the bedrock geology.

## Soils

To the north, east and west of the village the soils are generally lime-rich, loamy free draining soils. Centrally and associated with the underlying mudstones the soils tend to be lime-rich loamy and clayey soils with impeded drainage. To the south the soils are typically slowly permeable seasonally wet, slightly acid loamy and clayey soils. The nature of the soils and drainage of the area is critical in respect of the subsequent use and management of the landscape and ultimately its character.



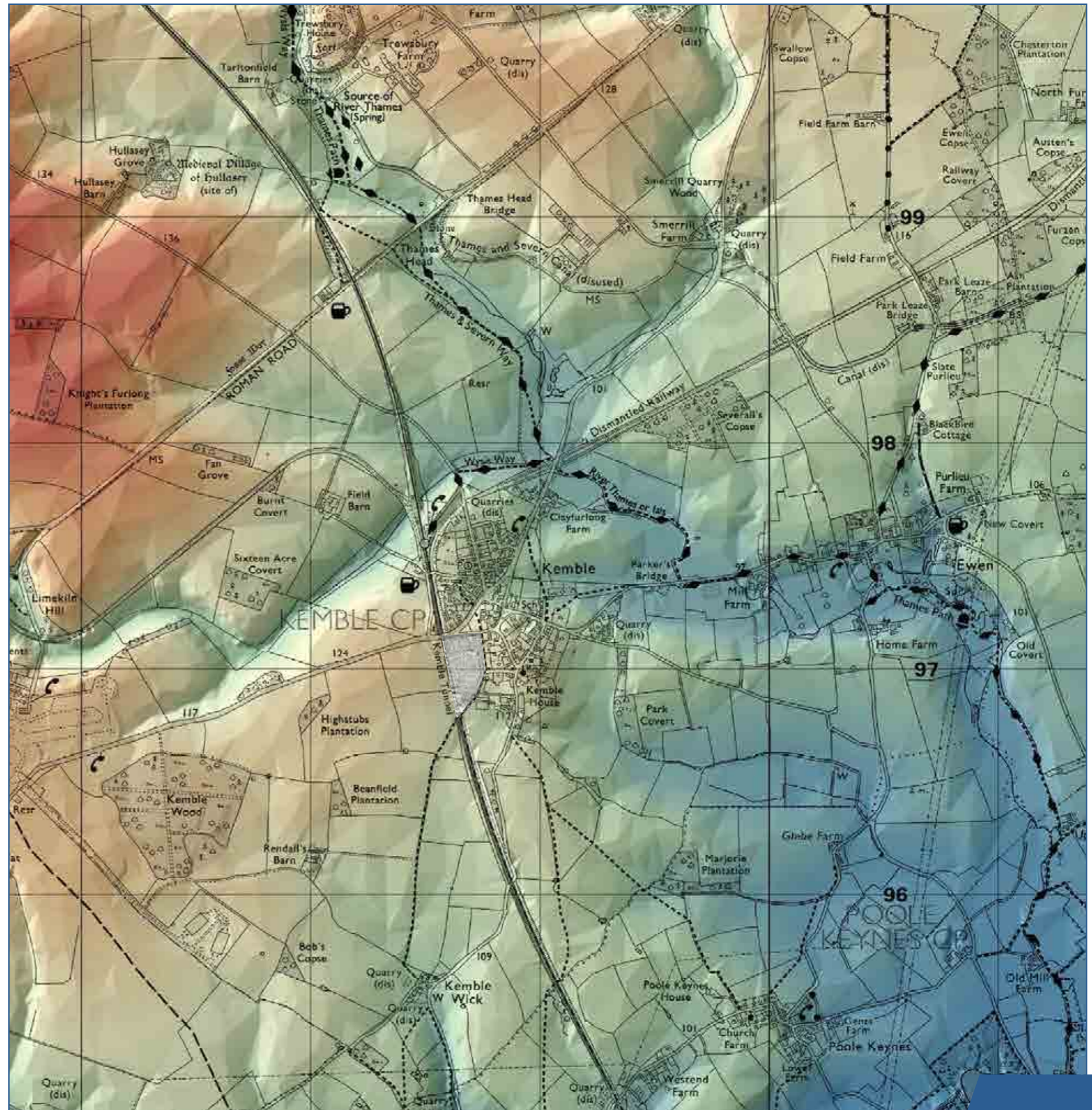


## Hydrology

The existing and former river and drainage systems play a part in shaping the landscape. Kemble lies close to the source of the River Thames, and within a landscape characterised by valley formations. For the local community the rivers and dry valleys around Kemble are important reference features as to the height of the water table and accessibility of the landscape for walking and recreation. It is the one of the visual mechanisms for connecting people with their environment lending value to the valley landscape.

## Landform

The interaction of the geology and hydrology has created an undulating landscape with distinct valleys to the north, west and east and the broad and relatively flat floodplain of the River Thames to the south of the village. Landform is often one of the main influences on the landscape character of an area, this is particularly pertinent in the consideration of Kemble and its landscape context.





# Natural Environment

## Flora and fauna

The landscape in the area immediately around Kemble is dominated by smaller scale pasture enclosures, primarily for grazing animals including sheep and dairy cattle. To the west and further out from the village, the land cover is increasingly under arable crops.

Mature and well-managed stone walls and hedgerows define the field pattern around the settlement. Scattered through the landscape are a number of managed wooded features ranging from small linear tree belts (Park Covert) to medium sized woodland blocks (Sixteen Acre Covert) and occasional large areas of woodland (Kemble Wood and Severall's Copse).

In addition to native species which populate the area the Farm Estate manages the landscape to the west of Kemble for game to support the farm diversification. This continues a historic pattern of land management in and around Kemble.

Within the settlement Lime trees are notable assets to the street scene creating 'tunnels' and containing vistas as well as being prominent features in the townscape. In addition to the Lime trees apple trees have historically been important species within scattered orchards. These orchards are in decline but apple trees are still considered to be significant in the character of Kemble.

Whilst woodlands are not extensive they are important features primarily broad leaf but with some mixed composition. Kemble Wood is the most notable, an area designated as ancient semi natural woodland and a designated Key Wildlife Site.

Prominent tree lines and wildlife habitats have developed within some of the dismantled railway corridors to provide connectivity with hedgerow boundaries and woody features in the landscape surrounding Kemble. Some of the railway corridors have notable vegetative associations and have been designated as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) in recognition of their wildlife value.

The presence of the following in the landscape suggests a potentially wide range of flora and fauna: wetland habitat associated with the River Thames and other water courses; woodland habitat associated with the numerous large to small scale woodland features; vegetated railway corridors; hedgerow networks; farm land; settlement green spaces including gardens, allotments and other green spaces.

Given the wide array of habitats, it is anticipated that the species included in the list "Priority Species found in Gloucestershire 2009" will be represented within the landscapes around Kemble.





## Land Use

The agricultural land uses around Kemble result from the underlying landform, hydrology and soils, ensuring the most appropriate and productive use for the physical opportunities provided by the land. To the west and north-west the fields are medium to large scale, reflecting the nature of the landform and the drainage. The loamy dry valleys, in contrast comprise a series of smaller fields, which are used for permanent grazing pasture.

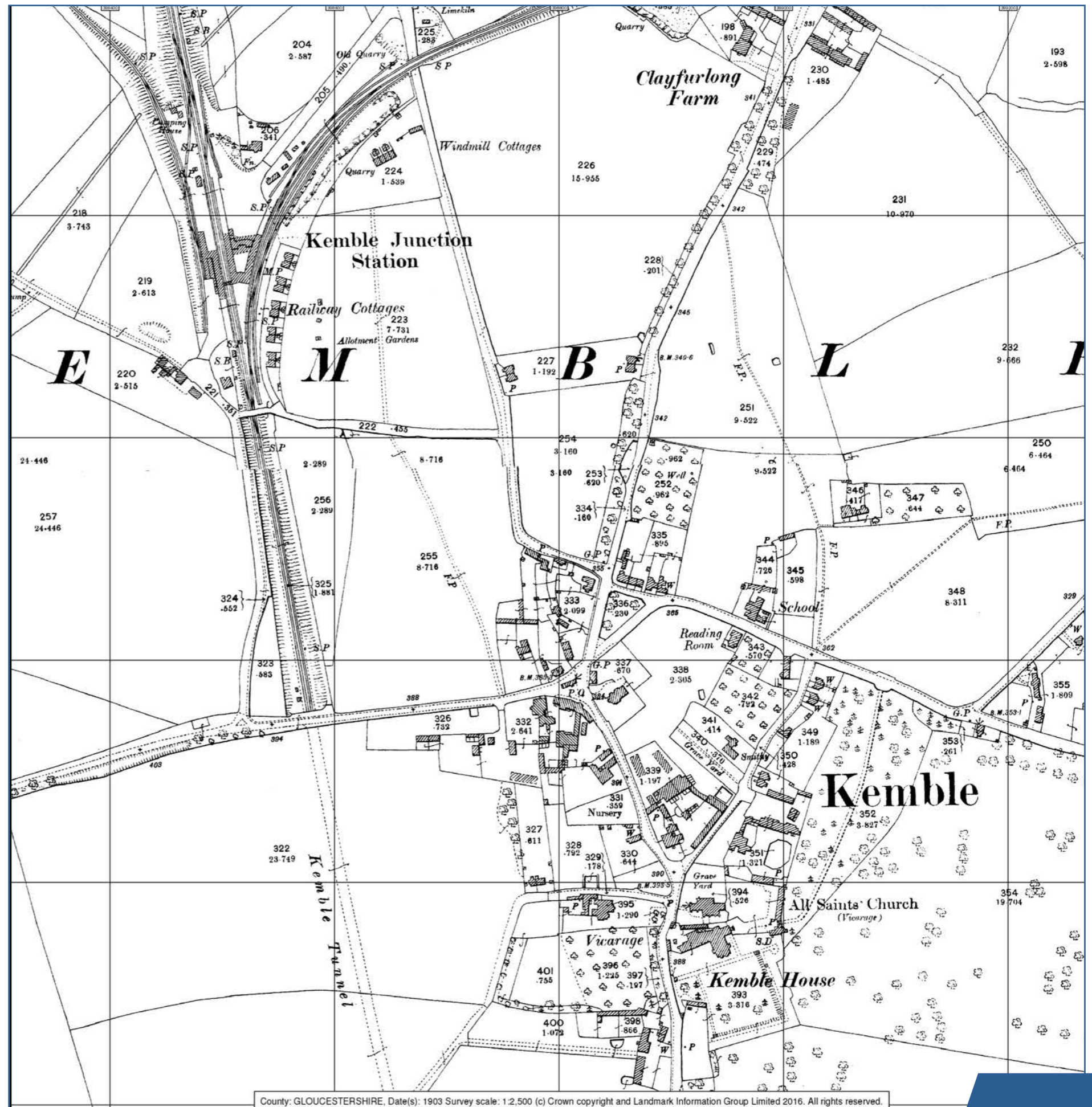
To the west this grazing is primarily for lambs. To the north and east the grazing relates to the dairy operations within the estate. The relatively small fields which retain the historic boundaries are ideal for this level of use and the nature of the grazing providing for sward management and rotational grazing.

To the north-west the larger, more open and level fields are used for arable crops. This plateau landscape has the benefit of free draining soils above the water table and the landform and size of the fields is appropriate for the necessary machinery.

Generally, to the west the sporting operations of the estate, utilising the open fields and woodland coverts, mean that public access is very limited to avoid conflict between the rearing of game and public recreation and dog-walking.

To the north, east and south there are a number of public rights of way and designated quiet lanes that create a quieter character to the landscape with obvious and well used recreational opportunities. This contrast in accessibility enables the farming operations to co-exist with the recreational desires of the community and avoid unnecessary conflict of uses.

It should be recorded that the dismantled branch railway lines are used for informal access but these are not definitive or permissive rights of way.





## Settlement

The history and background to the form and pattern of the settlement is described in the Montagu Evans report [1]. In respect of the relationship of the settlement to the landscape the most important and influential aspect is farming. Kemble, managed from Kemble House, was the centre of a single large agricultural estate, which extended to include the settlements and landscapes associated with Ewen to the east, Poole Keynes to the south and Coates to the north. The farming operations were central to the village and the housing grew to meet the needs of the estate. The closeness of the relationship of the settlements is still evident in the numbering of the properties. New dwellings were numbered in accordance with the order they were built in, hence Nos. 90 and 91 are in Ewen and No. 120 is in Kemble. Whilst challenging for the modern postal system these references to the past assist with understanding the importance of this collection of rural villages and by contrast their individual qualities resulting from their separation and agricultural setting.

The farming operations have now moved away from the centre of the village to avoid the conflict of modern machinery and disturbance from the agricultural operations and the quiet residential qualities of the rural settlement. Despite this change in location, the estate and its management of the land is fundamental in conserving the rural setting to Kemble.

The arrival of the railway line in the 1880's has led to some increase in development and expansion of the settlement; however its character is still distinctly rural.



Village Pump. Photo Credit: Anne Wilton



Kemble Station. Photo Credit: Anne Wilton



View of Church Spire. Photo Credit: Anne Wilton



Allotments. Photo Credit: Anne Wilton





View towards “pump bottom”. Photo Credit: Anne Wilton



Trees adjacent to Kemble Station. Photo Credit: Anne Wilton



Children's equipped play space. Photo Credit: Anne Wilton  
Kemble Landscape Appraisal | September 2017



Kemble Station and water tower. Photo Credit: Anne Wilton

Within the settlement there are a number of small green spaces which contribute to the form and character of Kemble. These are important to a range of people including children, parents and other adults and cater for both active and more relaxing past-time pursuits.

Some of these spaces have been designated as Local Green Space, others did not reach the defined criteria for designation but continue to be valued by the community. Collectively these spaces provide for food production, education, sport and recreation and places to gather, these spaces include:




- Community Gardens
- Allotments
- Children's equipped play space
- Children's informal play – utilising the disused railway line adjoining the play space which generates a sense of independence and adventure
- The churchyard
- Remnant orchards
- School Grounds
- Pub Garden – The Tavern is considered to be an asset to the community with special views across the valley

In addition to the estate linkages, Ewen and Kemble share a number of community and social events such as the WI and church events. However, the physical separation and distinct “Thames Valley” landscape between these settlements ensures that they continue to retain their own distinctive identities as they have managed to do over many centuries.





# Cultural and Social Environment

## Public Rights of Way (PRoW)

-  Public Footpaths
-  National Trail
-  Public Bridleways

Note: Information extracted from Gloucestershire Public Right of Way Interactive Map. Source: <https://gloucestershire.firmstep.com/default.aspx/RenderForm?F.Name=B75apJt4Qgo&Hide.Toolbar=1>

-  Permissive Footpaths
-  Local Walks

Note: Information extracted from [www.kemble.co.uk](http://www.kemble.co.uk)

-  Designated Quiet Lane

## Accessibility- Recreational

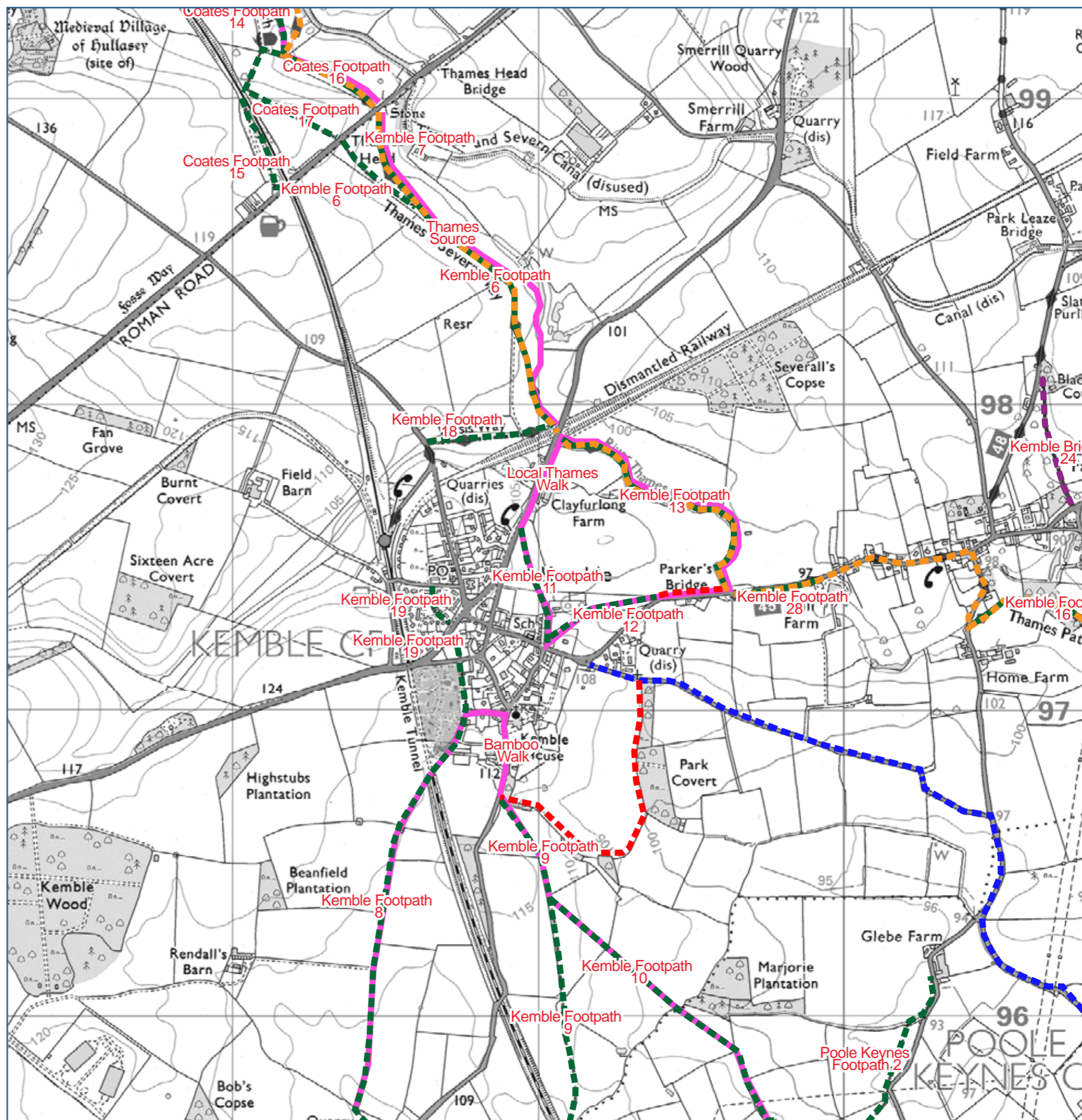
As well as national routes and pathways the area benefits from several local footpaths and Washpool Lane, designated as a Quiet Lane. The aim of this designation, which is a reflection of the low flow of motorised vehicles and low vehicle speeds, is to maintain the character of minor roads and encourage a change in behaviour of road users so the road can be shared by a variety of users, including walkers, cyclists, horse riders and other vehicles. This level of provision results in a variety of safe and connected circular and linear walks which are suitable for families with young children and more challenging walks for visitors or active members of the community. Due to the land management for game/shooting public access to the land west of the village is restricted and limited to roads.

## Enclosure

The landscape to the east and south east of Kemble is defined by the relatively small scale field pattern and the presence of the intact and mature hedgerows and tree belts. As a result, this landscape is well contained and enclosed, giving rise to a sense of intimacy, particularly notable to the east of Kemble in the vicinity of Washpool Lane.

To the south west, west and north the landscape comprises larger fields, which are similarly well contained and defined by hedgerows and notable woodland blocks. Whilst this landscape is relatively more open it retains a sense of enclosure within the fieldscape.

Further west Kemble airfield is, by its nature an expansive open landscape with limited enclosure.





## *Memories*

The source of the River Thames is considered to be an iconic element in the national context, this was reinforced by the inclusion of aerial shoots of the river corridor north of Kemble which featured in the opening ceremony for the 2012 London Olympic Games. This and its associated Thames Path are local attractions and points of interest for visitors to the area. This indicates the importance of the Thames and its source in the national, as well as locale, psyche.

The presence of the airfield to the west is important in terms of the historic use and RAF base, this adds to the sense of modern history experienced by local residents.

## *Associations*

From 680AD until it was dissolved in 1539, Kemble and Ewen Manors belonged to Malmesbury Abbey. From the 16th century until the Second World War, Kemble and Poole Keynes became part of one large estate, owned by families living in Kemble House.

The Industrial Revolution had a great impact on Kemble and Ewen. The Thames and Severn Canal was opened in 1789, and though now disused, crossed the northern part of the parish. The railway was built in 1841 which created a main line to Gloucester and a branch line to Cirencester and Tetbury.

Kemble Airport was later built in 1938 and as a consequence, the A429 which had originally crossed the site of the airport from Jackaments Bottom was closed and the main road moved to its current route through the village. In 1962, a new section of road was constructed which now splits the village in two. This leaves the school, church, village hall and doctors surgery on one side and the shop/post office, station and playing field on the other side. As expressed during the workshops, this road influences the perception of residents and visitors in terms of the relationship and sense of place of the communities on each side of the road.

## *Sounds and Smells*

The stakeholder input to this project highlighted a number of positive sounds which are experienced by the community and visitors to the local area. Two 'bells' were considered to be attractive highlights marking the passage of time and providing audible legibility to the community; these are the school bell marking the start of the day at 8:45am and lunchtime at 12:00 from Monday to Friday; and secondly, the church bells which create a sense of tradition and can be heard on practice night and Sunday's.

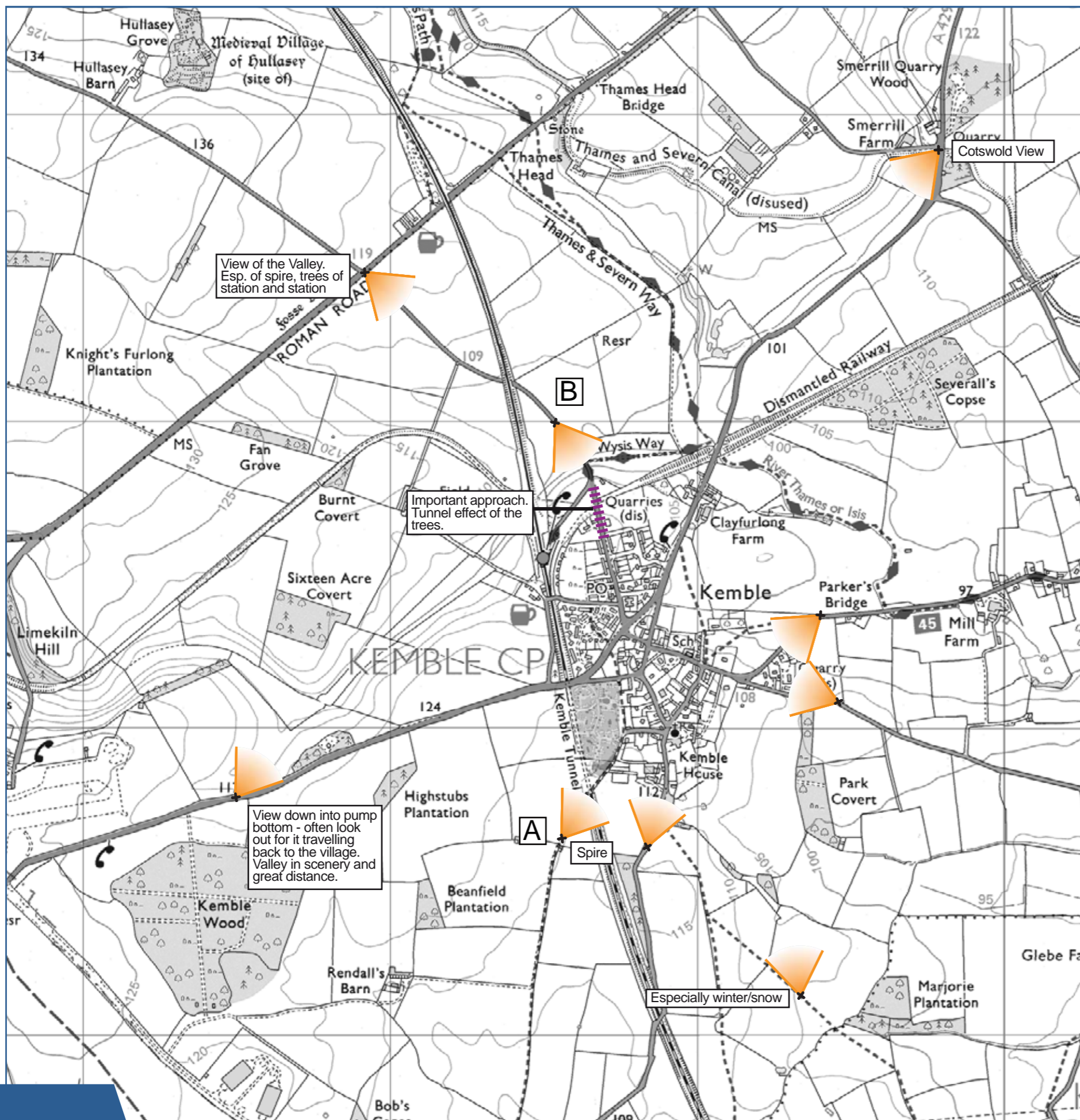
Most significantly it is the absence of sound and audible disturbance which allows the community to engage with and enjoy its landscape. The tranquil nature of the landscape is such that it is possible for example in the area nearby to hear the river running.

A negative sound is the overhead noise associated with planes flying into and out of Kemble airfield.



Turning to smells, the only issue highlighted by the community was the smell generated from time to time by the dairy operations to the north of the village.



# Perceptual and Aesthetic Qualities



Key approaches to the village

-  Key Physical Approach to the Village
-  Key Visual Approach to the Village

## Views

The visual appreciation of Kemble and its landscape is experienced from a wide range of locations. These relate to inter alia:

- Key approaches to the village;
- Views out from the village; particularly where there are opportunities to linger;
- General views moving through the landscape.

There are a number of classic 'Cotswold Views' which include stone bridges, dry valleys, grazing animals and settlement landmarks set beyond a foreground of open pastoral landscape.

The location and character of some of these views is illustrated on the next few figures. The views illustrated are representative of these various locations; they should not be taken as being the only significant or important views.

### Approaching the village – Illustrative views

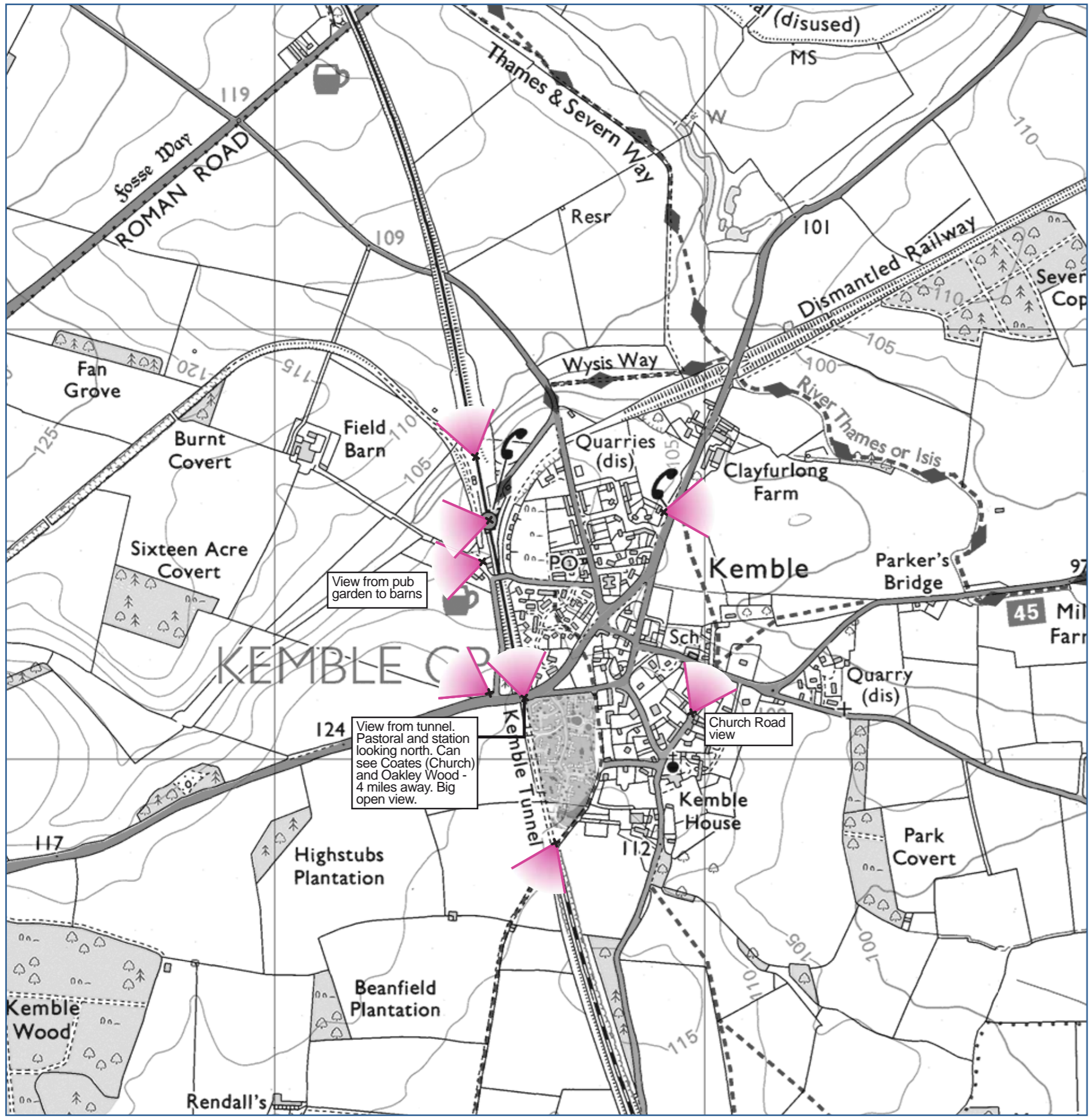
The valley landscape and quintessential Cotswold character typical of the AONB landscape is evident in several views creating a rural approach to the village, through which glimpsed views of the spire of All Saints Church add to the attraction and legibility of the landscape.

From the east, the open and unspoilt landscape between Ewen and Kemble is evident in the views. The treed riparian corridor of the River Thames creates a natural 'tunnel' across the road which creates a distinct enclosed sense of place which moving towards Kemble then opens to give uninterrupted views of the village seen over the open and rural foreground. These contrasting and 'controlled' views reinforce the distinction of character and visual gap between the settlements.


Also from the east, views of the Methodist church on the Washpool Lane approach creates a distinct sense of place and indicates a historic and 'non-conformist' aspect to the character of the settlement, with the church being located outside of the village.

From the north, the landform and vegetation are such that one only becomes fully aware of the settlement when emerging from the locally recognised lime tree 'tunnel' on Windmill Road, despite occasional glimpsed views of the church spire. The nature of the landscape presents a fundamentally rural and unspoilt context to the approach.





Views out from the village

 Location of illustrative views out from the village

### Views out from the Village – Illustrative views

Kemble benefits from a number of locations on its perimeter from which it is possible to stop and appreciate the wider landscape. The enclosed and intimate nature of the settlement contrasts with the breadth of views and sense of openness which is experienced looking out from the village.

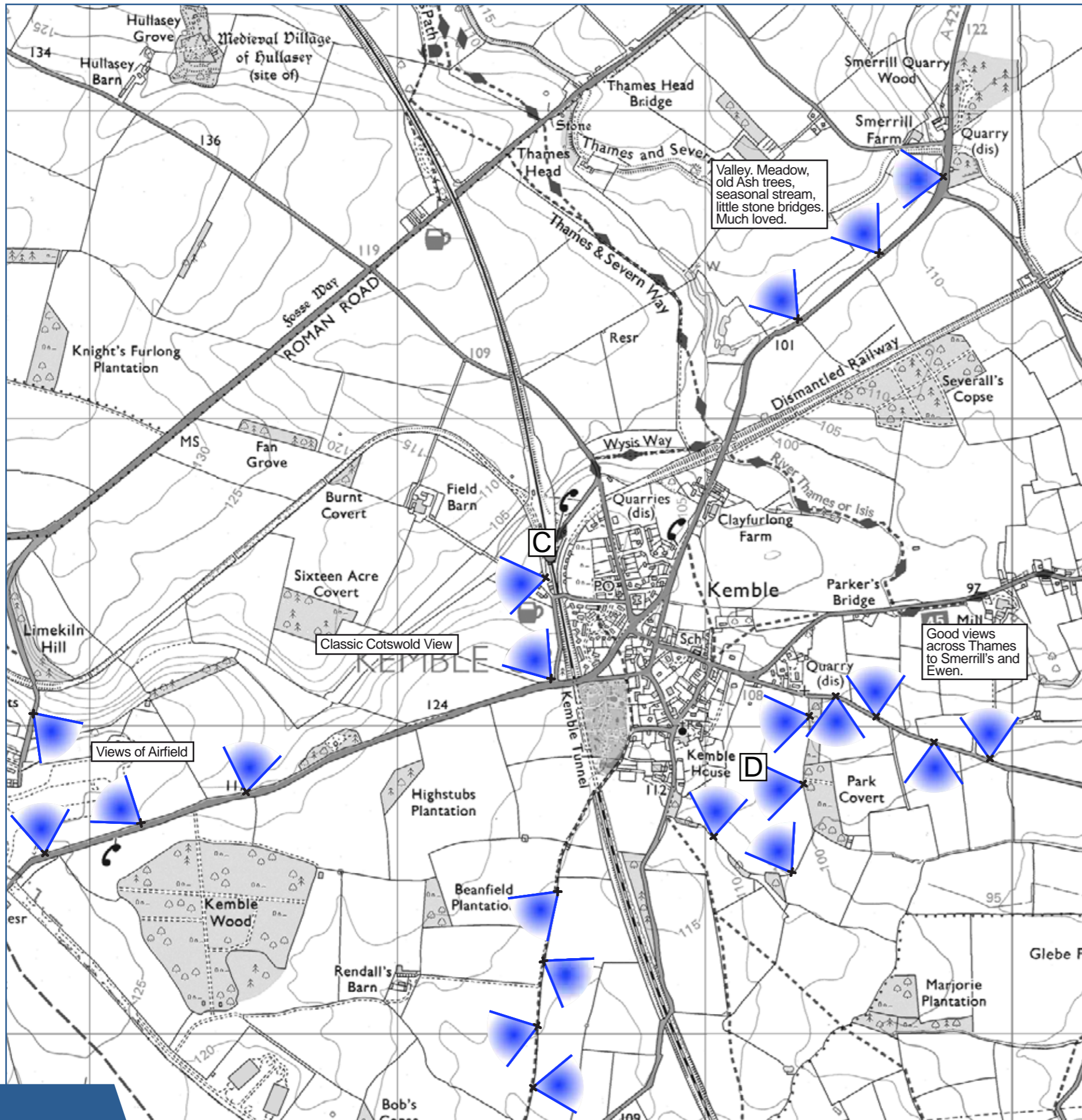
Views from the Tavern gardens, across the rolling landscape to the west of Kemble, allow an appreciation of large skies and the open and well-vegetated pastoral landscape.

Church Road creates a vista out of the village framing views of the outlying dwellings and heavily vegetated rising ground of the Thames valley.


From the minor road (south of School Road) there are opportunities for broad views across the Thames Valley landscape. Glimpsed views of Ewen are possible, although this is a distinct element in the view.



# Perceptual and Aesthetic Qualities



General views moving through the landscape

 Location of illustrative views

## Views moving through the landscape – Illustrative views

The changes in the landform, hydrology and land use creates a varied and changing visual experience moving through the landscape. The wooded, riparian character of the river corridor contrasts with the open, rolling pasture landscape. The absence of significant development creates a strongly rural composition to views.

Within views incidental elements such as stone bridges, historical railway features and isolated dwellings add to the aesthetics of the views positively. The views are typically experienced from quiet locations which provide a distinct sense of peace and tranquillity enhancing the experience.





View from the south of Kemble, looking towards the Church Spire (page 10, view A).



View from near the tavern towards Kemble Airport (page 12, view C)



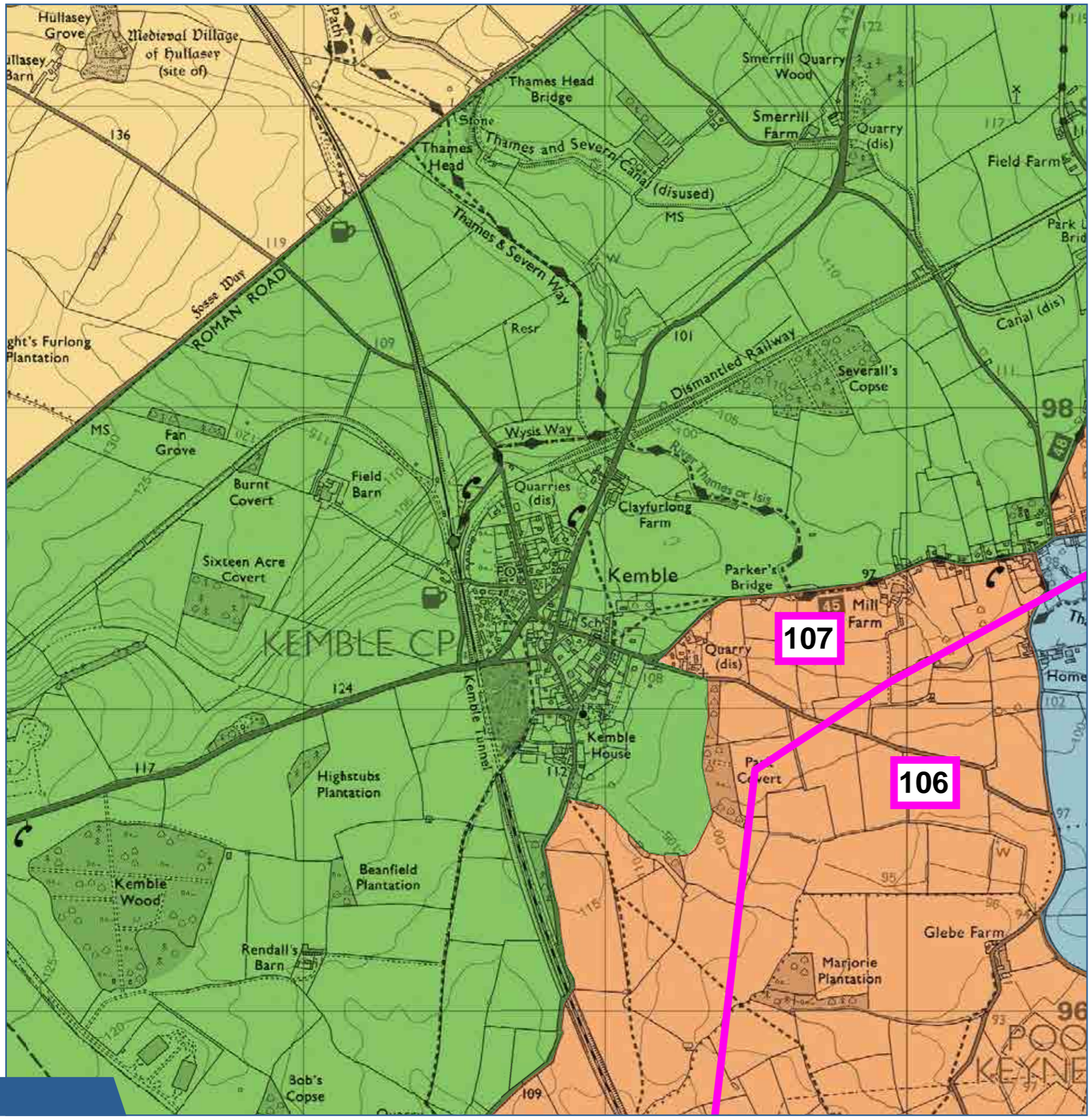
View from the north of Kemble, highlighted as an "important approach" (page 10, view B).  
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View into the parkland character landscape located to the east of Kemble House (page 12, view D).



# Landscape Character



National Landscape Character

- 107 NCA 107: Cotswolds
- 106 NCA 108: Upper Thames Clay Vales

Gloucestershire Landscape Character Assessment

- River Basin Lowland  
TV1A Somerford Keynes
- Combrash Lowlands  
TV2A Poole Keynes and Ewen Lowlands
- Dip Slope Lowland  
TV3A Kemble Dip Slope

Cotswold Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Landscape Character Assessment

- 11: Dip Slope Lowland
- 11A: South and Mid Cotswolds Lowland



## Published Landscape

The Landscape Character Assessment process draws an important distinction between the two stages:

- *“the relatively value-free process of characterisation;*
- *the subsequent making of judgements based on knowledge of landscape character.”*

The classification and description of distinct landscape character areas does not in itself confer any specific value on the landscape.

In accordance with good practice and encouraged by national planning policy the Council has prepared a landscape character assessment of the District.

Within the published Gloucestershire Landscape Character Assessment (GLCA) the landscape within which Kemble is immediately located is classified as Dip Slope Lowlands. Further south the landscape is classified as Combrash Lowlands and to the north the Dip Slope Lowlands of the Cotswolds Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The relevant extracts are contained at Annexe A.

The key characteristics (as noted within the GLCA) which are typically present in the landscape associated with Kemble are:

### Dip Slope Lowlands

- *“Broad area of gently sloping, undulating lowland with a predominantly south easterly fall;*
- *Lowland landform gently dissected by infrequent small streams flowing towards the River Thames and its principal tributaries, and often inconspicuous within the landscape;*
- *Well-managed productive landscape with a general predominance of medium to large scale arable fields and smaller scale improved pastures;*

- *Seasonal variations in colour and texture associated with mixed arable farming;*
- *Boundaries comprise a network of hedgerows of varying quality, together with stone walls and post and wire fencing;*
- *Occasional woodland copses and shelterbelts, mainly geometric in form; and*
- *Settlement pattern of intermittent linear and nucleated villages, hamlets and isolated farmsteads.”*







### Cornbrash Lowlands

- *“Very gently sloping landform with subtle undulations linked to small scale tributary valleys that cross the area;*
- *Network of tributary streams draining from the Dip-Slope Lowland towards the River Thames, their course often marked by scattered lines and groups of trees;*
- *Predominance of large scale arable fields bounded by a network of hedgerows of varying quality and occasional stone walls;*
- *Vertical elements such as hedgerow trees gain visual prominence;*
- *Fertile soils derived from the Cornbrash Formation bedrock;*
- *Dispersed settlement pattern of mainly linear or nucleated villages, hamlets and farmsteads;*
- *Occasional mainly geometric woodland copses, comprising broadleaf and coniferous plantations;*
- *Single principal road bounds or crosses the area together with a limited number of local, and generally straight rural roads”*








# Landscape Character




## Developed Landscape

-  Historic Core (1990 Conservation Area)
-  Infill/Recent Development (20-21st Century)
-  Kemble Railway Station (1990 Conservation Area)
-  Agricultural Buildings/Paddocks
-  Recent Agricultural Conversions
-  Ewen






## Undeveloped Landscape Areas

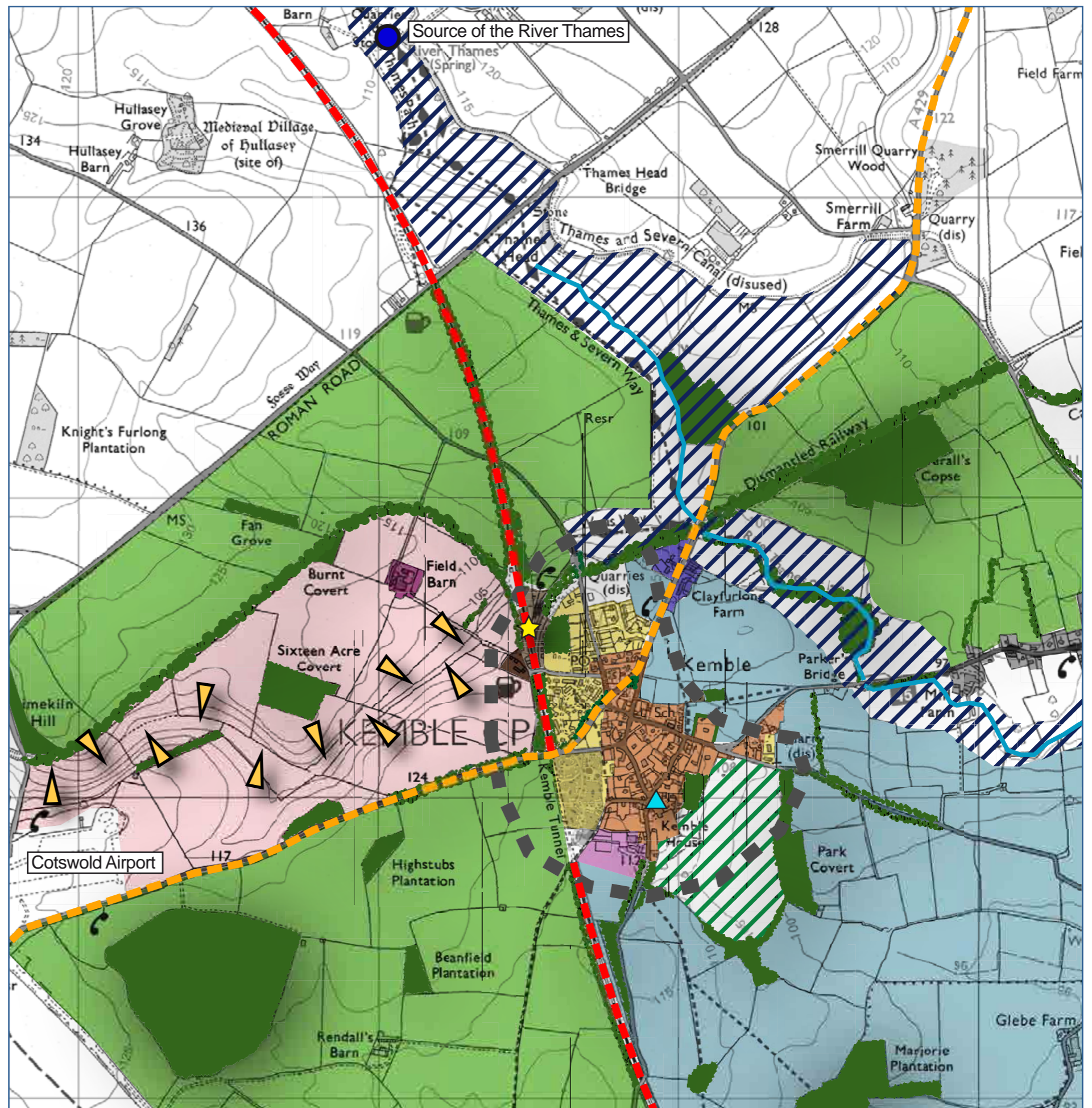
-  Area 1 - Pastoral Valley
-  Area 2 - Large Scale Farmland
-  Area 3 - Small Scale Farmland
-  Area 4 - River Thames Corridor
-  Area 5 - Parkland

## Landscape Features

-  The Thames Path
-  Sloping Topography
-  Significant Areas of Vegetation (Providing a Sense of Enclosure)

## Other Features

-  Area in which Small Field Pattern Occurs around Kemble
-  Railway Corridor (Well Vegetated, in Cutting and on Embankment)
-  A429 Road Corridor (Significant Transport Route. Source of Audible and Visual Intrusion)
-  Kemble Railway Station
-  The Parish Church of All Saints Kemble





## Local Landscape

Good practice guidance <sup>[3]</sup> notes that “Where greater detail is required a Landscape Character Assessment may be carried out at a more detailed level, such as 1:10,000, e.g. to inform...place based decision making - e.g. Local Landscape Character Assessment are increasingly being undertaken by local community groups;”

The same guidance recognises “At the more local scale local people can play a very important role in the characterisation process - communities of place. Not least, they will be able to discuss their views on the draft boundaries between different character types.”

On this basis, the work contained within this section has been the subject of further stakeholder discussion.

This report does not analyse the townscape/built environment but recognises variations in the character of Kemble. What is evident is that the settlement has well defined edges and is focussed and contained, Kemble does not ‘bleed’ into the landscape the delineation between settlement and landscape is distinct.

Based on the desktop analysis and field work undertaken by Tyler Grange LLP, and further informed by the stakeholder workshops these character areas can be refined and described in more detail at a local level as:

### Area 1: Pastoral Valley

- Valley, sloping topography
- Mixed field sizes and variety of field enclosures
- Pastoral
- “Typical Cotswold Views”
- Tranquil, un-disturbed, free from human activity
- One farmstead
- Blocks of woodland and linear groups of trees

- Watercourse at valley bottom
- Visual connection with wider landscape and Kemble Airport
- No public access
- Disturbed by close proximity to Kemble Airport

### Area 2 - Large Scale Farmland

- Gently undulating
- Large scale fields, predominantly enclosed by hedgerows
- Mixed use
- Actively farmed; sporting, game, farming
- One farmstead
- Numerous blocks of woodland and trees, connected to hedgerows
- Limited public access

### Area 3 - Small Scale Farmland

- Gently undulating
- Predominantly small fields; enclosed by hedgerows with scattered trees
- Mixed use
- Scattered trees and small wooded features
- Many public footpath and lanes cross the landscape

### Area 4 - River Thames Corridor

- Seasonal wetland, dished river corridor
- Meandering watercourse
- Varied field pattern

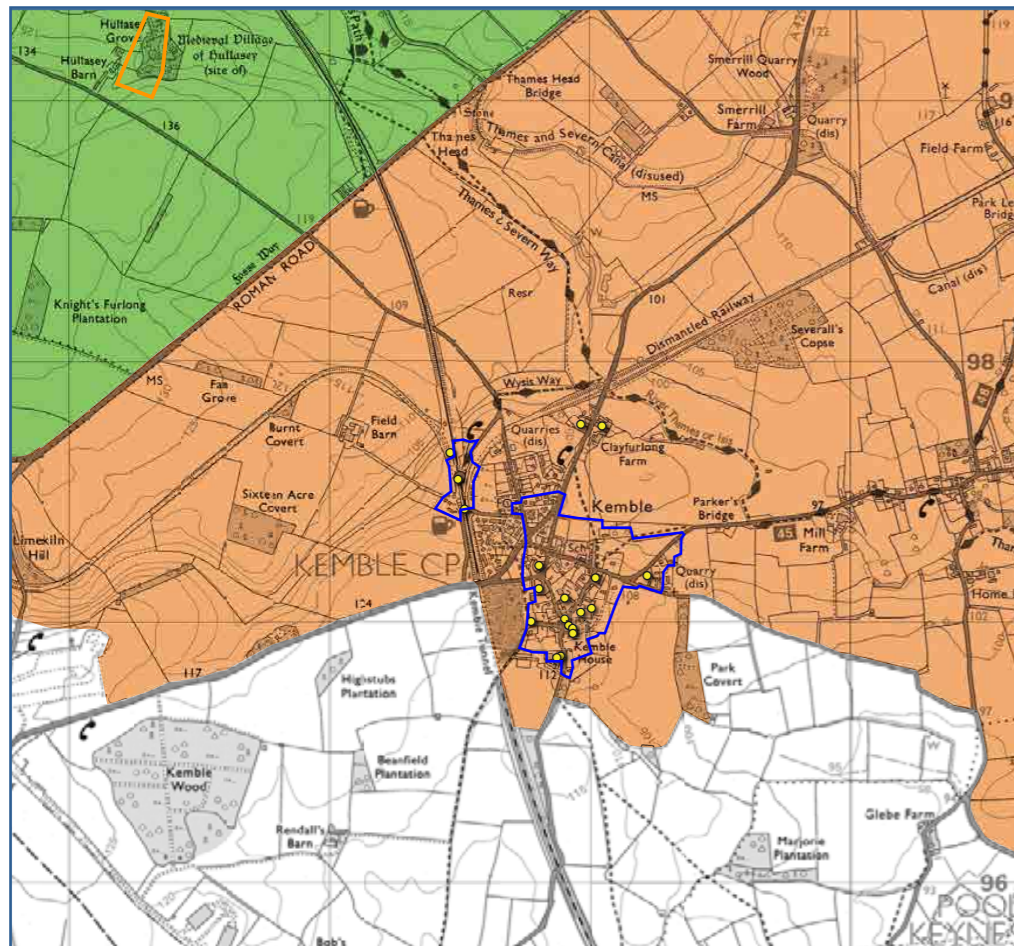
- Riverine trees and associated vegetation, focussed along watercourse
- Recreational route; visitor attraction

### Area 5 - Parkland

- Gently sloping
- Parkland character
- Woodland blocks with isolated large stature trees
- Permissive footpath allows public access



# Landscape Value



Landscape Planning Policy Plan

Cotswold District Local Plan 2001 – 2011  
Adopted – April 2006

- Kemble/Ewen Special Landscape Area (Policy 8)
- Kemble and Kemble Station Conservation Areas (Policy 15)

Other Designations

- Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)
- Scheduled Ancient Monuments
- Listed Buildings (within close proximity to Kemble)

## Value

Having established the variation in the character of the landscape around Kemble the next step is the judgement making process of attaching relative value to the landscape.

In a policy context, the landscape around Kemble is the subject of a local landscape designation, reflecting its value at a district level, namely it is protected under Policy 8 of the Cotswold District Local Plan 2001-2011 as a Special Landscape Area (SLA). Policy 8 states:

*“Within Special Landscape Areas, shown on the Proposals Map and Insets, development that meets the economic and social needs of communities will be permitted provided it does not unacceptably harm the area’s landscape character or appearance.”*

As an indicator of valued landscape the work undertaken in the preparation of this Appraisal fully supports the SLA designation within the study area, notwithstanding the period that has elapsed since it was originally designated.

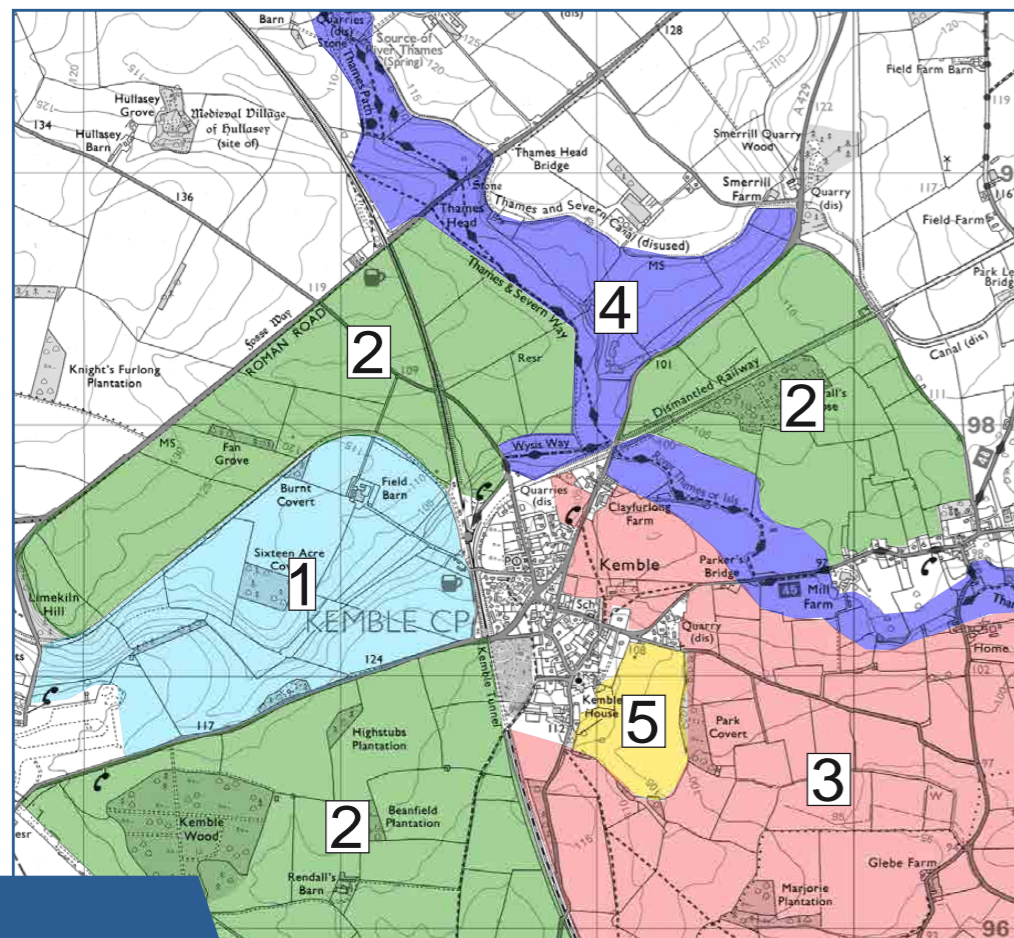
Further to the north the landscape is part of the Cotswold AONB which indicates its value as a nationally important landscape resource. Both the AONB and SLA designations cover a number of landscape character areas and landscape types including the River Basin Lowland, Cornbrash Lowlands and Dip Slope Lowlands around Kemble. Importantly, value is not limited to or by the character of an area.

The landscape is currently valued at a district level for its positive character and the contribution it makes as an important environmental asset. The qualities and attributes, which resulted in the SLA and AONB designations being conferred on these landscapes, have remained consistent, demonstrated by the longevity of the designations.

## Local Value

In addition to formal designations, this appraisal demonstrates that the landscape is valued by different communities of interest for different reasons, recognising the individual and collective qualities. Local value expresses local consensus on the special qualities. The analysis below considers those attributes which underpin value judgements as determined through the stakeholder events.

As noted above, the analysis supports the designation, within the study area, as a Special Landscape Area. The variation in character reflects the underlying physical nature of the land and the uses that occur within the local area. Read as a whole the landscape, recognising and embracing the differences in character, creates a collective sense of place and local value for the community. In some instances, the value is primarily related to the tranquillity of the landscape, in other instances the value is driven by the quality and condition of the land, despite a relatively high level of activity.

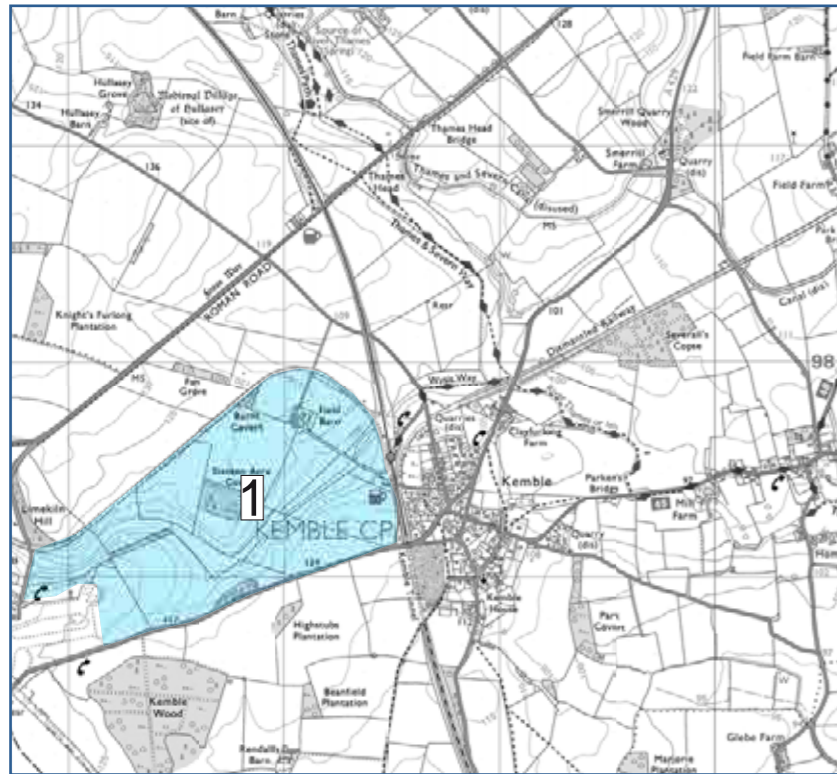


Local Landscape Character Location Plan

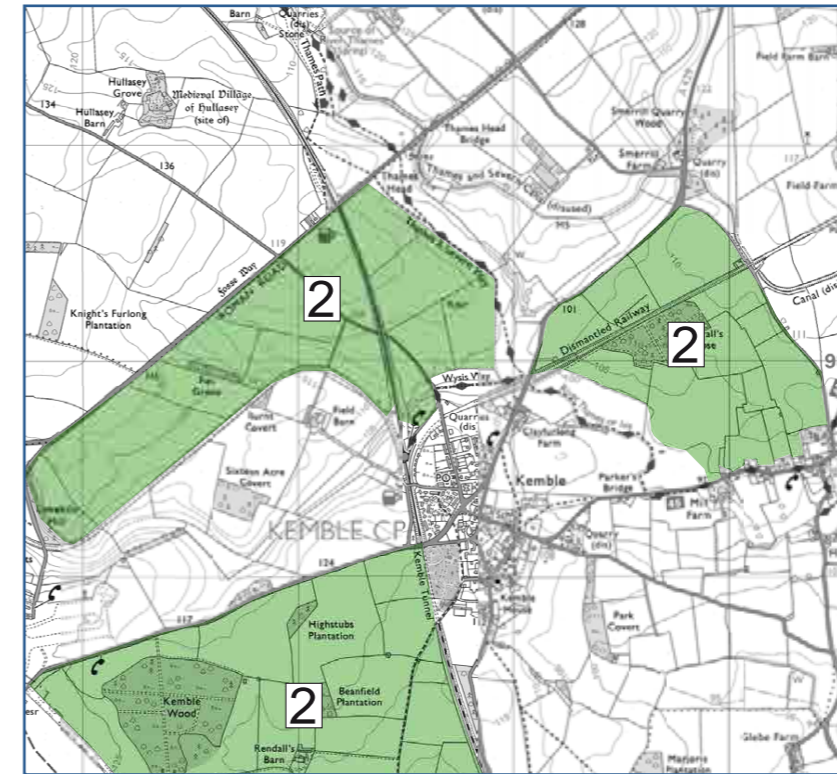
Undeveloped Landscape Areas

- Area 1 - Pastoral Valley
- Area 2 - Large Scale Farmland
- Area 3 - Small Scale Farmland
- Area 4 - River Thames Corridor
- Area 5 - Parkland





Area 1 – Pastoral Valley



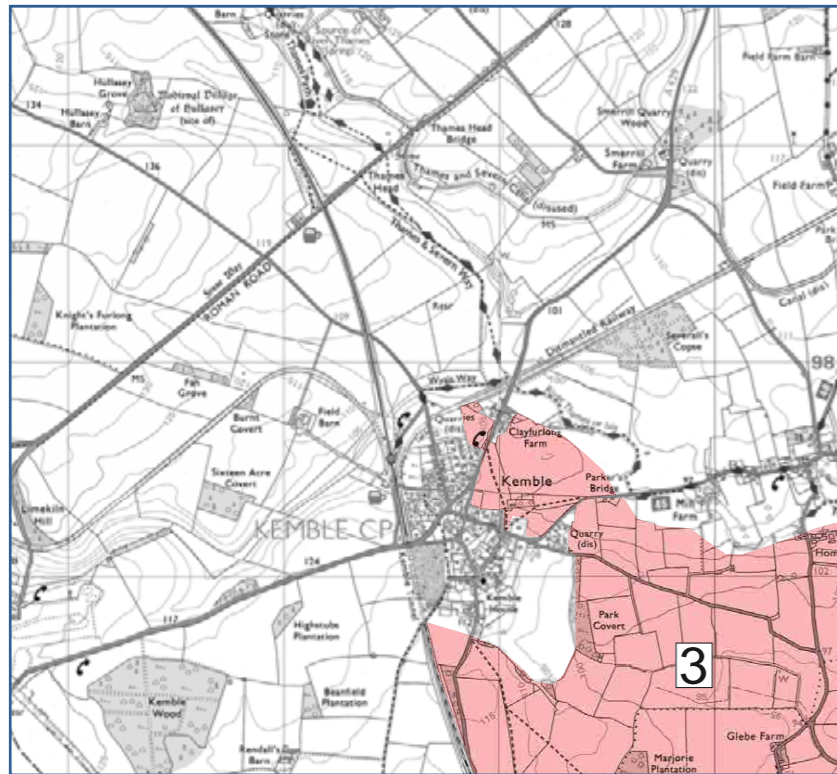
Area 2 – Large Scale Farmland

Factors aiding in the identification of valued landscapes	
Landscape Quality/Condition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pastoral valley fieldscape recognised locally as a high quality landscape</li> <li>Intact landscape</li> <li>Strong woodland structure with connectivity</li> </ul>
Scenic Quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recognised locally as a 'Typical Cotswold View'</li> <li>Occasional views to aircraft considered to be either attractive or unattractive, depending on receptor</li> </ul>
Rarity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Typical Cotswold farmed landscape, no other especially rare features or elements</li> </ul>
Representativeness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contains characteristic features i.e. small scale, valley formation with woodland blocks</li> </ul>
Conservation Interests	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mixed land use and presence of features (i.e. woodland and watercourse) are likely to provide conservation interest</li> <li>The Kemble railway cutting within this area is a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)</li> </ul>
Recreational Value	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No public access but visible from the Tavern Public House</li> </ul>
Perceptual Aspects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Locally recognised for its tranquillity (although perhaps some aerial interference) and appreciated in views from the Tavern Public House</li> <li>Presence of aircraft in views may be considered as either positive or negative features</li> </ul>
Associations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Associations of the area between Kemble Airport and Kemble Station</li> </ul>

Factors aiding in the identification of valued landscapes	
Landscape Quality/Condition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mostly Intact landscape</li> <li>Strong woodland structure with connectivity</li> </ul>
Scenic Quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Large scale fields of mixed farming</li> <li>Occasional views to aircraft considered to be either attractive or unattractive, depending on receptor</li> </ul>
Rarity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Typical farmed landscape, limited rare features or elements</li> <li>Kemble Wood is an Ancient Woodland</li> </ul>
Representativeness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contains characteristic features i.e. large scale fields with woodland blocks</li> </ul>
Conservation Interests	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mixed land use and presence of features (i.e. woodland and hedgerows) are likely to provide conservation interest</li> <li>Disused railway line in particular in combination with connectivity to other features (woodlands and hedgerows) represents good opportunities for wildlife</li> <li>Kemble Wood is semi-natural ancient woodland</li> </ul>
Recreational Value	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Limited public access, one footpath within but bounded by the Thames Path</li> <li>Shooting operations within Kemble Wood and surrounding area</li> <li>Children use the dismantled railway close to the recreation ground to play within</li> </ul>
Perceptual Aspects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Area of limited public access, retention of the farmed landscape</li> <li>Presence of aircraft in views may be considered as either positive or negative features</li> </ul>
Associations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Kemble railway tunnel and the area to the south west part of the perceived landscape driven by the earlier owner of Kemble House (see Montagu Evans report)</li> </ul>

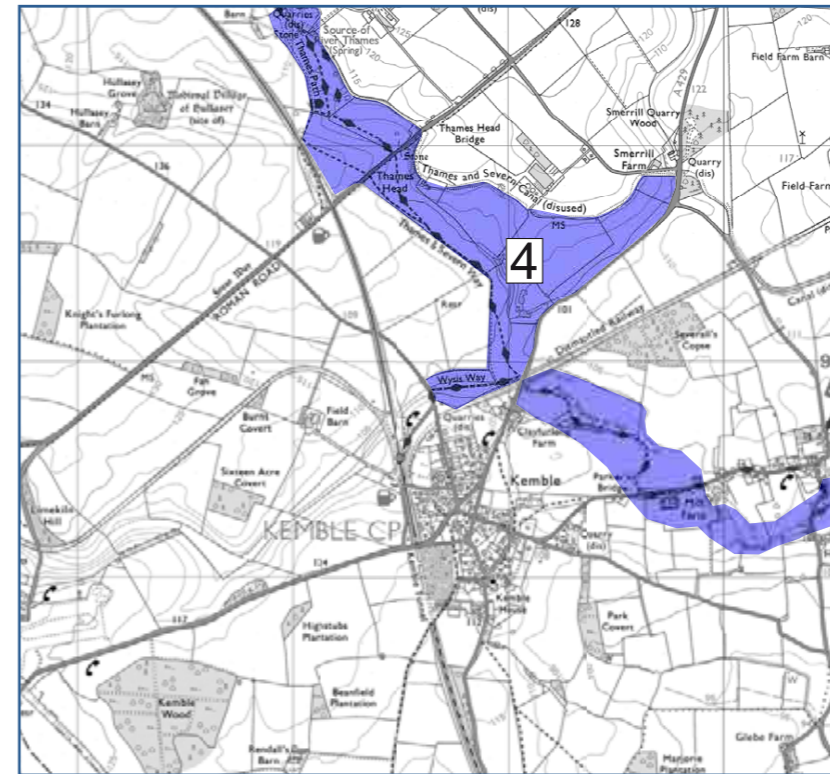


# Landscape Value



Area 3 – Small Scale Farmland

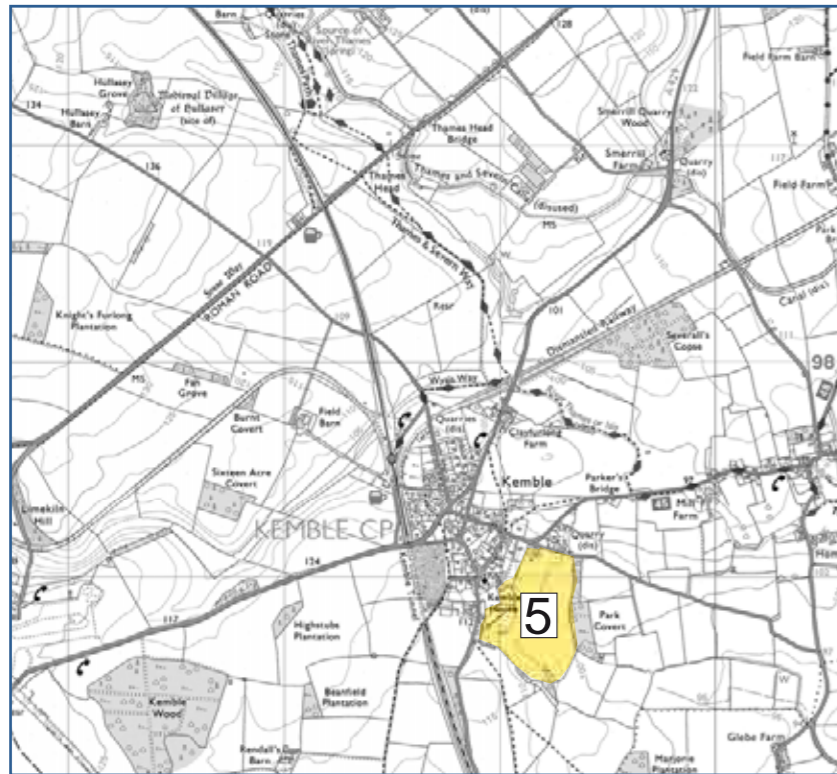
Factors aiding in the identification of valued landscapes	
Landscape Quality/Condition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Intact landscape; historic field pattern</li> <li>Scattered trees and small wooded features</li> </ul>
Scenic Quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Small scale fields of mixed farming</li> <li>Lanes and footpaths cross the landscape</li> </ul>
Rarity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Typical farmed landscape, no rare features or elements</li> </ul>
Representative-ness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contains characteristic features i.e. small scale fields defined by hedgerows with hedgerow trees</li> </ul>
Conservation Interests	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mixed land use and presence of features (i.e. trees and hedgerows) are likely to provide conservation interest</li> </ul>
Recreational Value	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There are public footpaths within this area</li> <li>A quiet lane allows for pedestrian access within this area</li> </ul>
Perceptual Aspects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No known perceptual aspects</li> </ul>
Associations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No known associations</li> </ul>



Area 4 – River Thames Corridor

Factors aiding in the identification of valued landscapes	
Landscape Quality/Condition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Riverine fieldscape with vegetation focussed around the wet areas</li> <li>Varied field pattern</li> </ul>
Scenic Quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Seasonal wetland, creates interest year-round (however it is mostly dry)</li> </ul>
Rarity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Source of the River Thames and associated watercourse</li> </ul>
Representativeness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contains characteristic features for a riverine landscape i.e. meandering watercourse, wetland vegetation</li> </ul>
Conservation Interests	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Riverine landscape along with trees and vegetation can provide opportunities for wildlife</li> </ul>
Recreational Value	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Thames and Severn Way (a National Trail) follows the watercourse within this area</li> <li>The National Trail is well used by both the local community and wider recreational footpath users. It is sign posted from the Railway Station</li> </ul>
Perceptual Aspects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Local people view the watercourse as an indicator of the state of the seasons</li> </ul>
Associations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The source of the River Thames is a national tourist attraction</li> </ul>





Area 5 – Parkland

Factors aiding in the identification of valued landscapes	
Landscape Quality/Condition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Parkland veteran trees within the area; enclosed by a wooded boundary</li> </ul>
Scenic Quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Parkland character; historic links to the designed landscape to Kemble House</li> </ul>
Rarity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Designed landscape to Kemble House</li> </ul>
Representativeness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contains characteristic features for a parkland landscape i.e. large stature trees set within a relatively open environment, enclosed by a wooded boundary adjacent to Kemble House</li> </ul>
Conservation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Grazed pasture with one hedgerow limits the potential for wildlife</li> </ul>
Interests	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The wooded boundary provides the potential for wildlife</li> </ul>
Recreational Value	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A well used permissive footpath circles the edge of this area</li> </ul>
Perceptual Aspects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Large stature parkland trees give the impression of a designed landscape</li> </ul>
Associations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Historical connection to Kemble House</li> </ul>



## Future Development

The consideration of new housing is outside of the remit of the Kemble Landscape Appraisal, however, this appraisal does illustrate those locations where development would be likely to harm valued landscape areas and components.

Future development around the village between Kemble and Ewen will need to be very carefully controlled to avoid the loss of valued landscape features. There have been some significant additions to Kemble which have influenced its setting and the landscape around it, not always positively. The Landscape Value section of this appraisal and the nature of the character areas identified support the SLA designation which would make any larger scale development difficult to accommodate consistent with the protection of valued landscapes.

## Recommendations

- Undertake a periodic review to update the village appraisal to ensure it remains a live, and relevant document used to inform future decisions and objectives for the village;
- There should be on-going dialogue between the residents and farming community to ensure the historic relationship between the village and its landscape setting is maintained through an understanding of the respective priorities and objectives;
- Conservation of designated and non-designated intact and historic assets;
- Retain and where possible enhance those landscape assets which are of benefit to the quiet enjoyment of the rural landscape by residents and the community;
- Maintain the physical and visual separation between Kemble and Ewen to retain the sense of identity of the distinct settlements;
- Reinforce the Thames valley landscape in respect of its recreational value and visual amenity creating a quiet and tranquil valued rural landscape;
- Field pattern and enclosing elements should be maintained and where possible enhanced;
- Enhancement of landscape features which are in decline or poor condition, avoid further erosion of the landscape/farmed edge of village.



## Glossary

- **Analysis** The process of breaking the landscape down into its component parts to understand how it is made up.
- **Baseline Studies** Studies of existing environmental conditions which are designed to establish the baseline conditions against which any future changes can be measured or predicted.
- **Classification** A process of sorting the landscape into different types using selected criteria, but without attaching relative values to the different kinds of landscape.
- **Element** A component part of the landscape (for example, roads, hedges, woods).
- **Enhancement** Landscape improvement through restoration, reconstruction or creation.
- **Landcover** Combinations of land use and vegetation that cover the land surface.
- **Landform** Combinations of slope and elevation of the land conditioned by knowledge and identity with a place.
- **Landscape Character** The distinct and recognisable pattern of elements that occurs consistently in a particular type of landscape, and how this is perceived by people. It reflects particular combinations of geology, landform, soils, vegetation, land use and human settlement. It creates the particular sense of place of different areas of the landscape.
- **Landscape Feature** A prominent eye-catching element, for example, wooded hilltop or church spire.
- **Landscape Quality (or condition)** Is based on judgements about the physical state of the landscape, and about its intactness, from visual, functional, and ecological perspectives. It also reflects the state of repair of individual features and elements which makes up the character in any one place.
- **Land Use** The primary use of the land, including both rural and urban activities.
- **Landscape Value** The relative value or importance attached to a landscape (often as a basis for designation or recognition), which expresses national or local consensus, because of its quality, special qualities including perceptual aspects such as scenic beauty, tranquillity or wildness, cultural associations or other conservation issues.
- **Perception (of landscape)** The psychology of seeing and possibly attaching value and/or meaning to landscape.
- **Sense of Place (genius loci)** The essential character and spirit of an area; *genius loci* literally means 'spirit of the place'.
- **Visual Amenity** The value of a particular area or view in terms of what is seen.



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[1] Montagu Evans (August 2016) *Kemble and Kemble Station, Conservation Areas, Appraisal and Management Guidance*

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[3] Christine Tudor, Natural England (October 2014) *An Approach to Landscape Character Assessment*

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[5] CAG Consultants and Land Use Consultants (1997) *What Matters and Why Environmental Capital: A New Approach*

[6] <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>

[7] <http://mapapps2.bgs.ac.uk/ukso/home.html?layer=NSRISoilscapes>

## Acknowledgements:

The members of the Tyler Grange landscape team involved with this project were:

- Clare Brockhurst FLI
- Jennifer Cawood CMLI
- Anneliese Walker LMLI

They wish to thank the following for their enthusiastic participation in the stakeholder workshops and engagement with the wider Kemble community.

- Pat Ayres
- Nicky Baber
- David Ball
- Tony Berry
- Suzanna Hill
- Lester Napper
- Mike Patch
- Roger Petit
- Giles Pink
- Graeme Reay
- Alistair Wilkinson
- Anne Wilton





