

Policy	Summary
Policy CC1: Climate change – mitigation	Policy CC1 focuses on mitigating climate change in the Cotswolds National Landscape through sustainable land management, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and supporting renewable energy. Key actions include increasing tree and hedgerow cover, improving soil carbon storage, and encouraging low-carbon construction and energy-efficient building practices. It also promotes sustainable transport options, including active travel, public transport, and electric vehicle infrastructure. Additionally, the policy encourages reducing emissions from food production by supporting local food networks and minimising food miles, all while ensuring actions align with the conservation of the landscape's natural beauty. Stakeholders are expected to work towards achieving national climate targets, including net zero emissions by 2050 and increasing woodland cover.
Policy CC2: Climate change – adaptation	Policy CC2 emphasises reducing the risks of climate change in the Cotswolds National Landscape through adaptive measures in development, infrastructure, and land management. It promotes incorporating climate resilience into new projects, supporting sustainable land management, and using research to better understand and respond to climate impacts. Collaboration and informed decision-making are encouraged to ensure the landscape's special qualities are preserved and enhanced.
Policy CC3: Compliance with section 85 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act	Policy CC3 requires public bodies and statutory undertakers to actively consider and support the conservation and enhancement of the natural beauty of the Cotswolds National Landscape, in accordance with Section 85 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000.
Policy CC4: Working in partnership	Policy CC4 encourages stakeholders, communities, and businesses to collaborate in conserving and enhancing the Cotswolds National Landscape, promoting its special qualities, and supporting local economic and social wellbeing. It also emphasises fostering pride in the area's national recognition and contributing to its preservation.

Policy CE1: Landscape	Policy CE1 emphasises conserving and enhancing the landscape character and scenic quality of the Cotswolds National Landscape. Proposals should align with the Landscape Character Assessment, avoiding the loss of key features. It also supports incorporating landscape conservation into land management practices and promoting traditional rural skills like dry stone walling and hedge laying to maintain the area's distinct character.
Policy CE2: Geology and Geomorphology	Policy CE2 focuses on conserving and enhancing the geological and geomorphological features of the Cotswolds National Landscape. Proposals should align with these goals, while management practices should support their protection. Additionally, efforts should promote public awareness and understanding, alongside encouraging further research to inform conservation and management.
Policy CE3: Natural and cultural capital – principles	Policy CE3 emphasises the importance of recognising, assessing, and valuing the natural and cultural capital of the Cotswolds National Landscape. It encourages the use of capital accounting to understand the impact of decisions, promotes awareness of the benefits these assets provide, and calls for their conservation and enhancement. Additionally, natural and cultural capital should be integral to environmental and rural development initiatives.
Policy CE4: Local distinctiveness	Policy CE4 promotes the conservation and enhancement of the Cotswolds' local distinctiveness by ensuring new developments respect the area's landscape character, settlement patterns, and traditional building styles using appropriate materials like Cotswold limestone. It supports innovative, locally informed designs and encourages the creation of evidence-based design guidance. Additionally, limestone quarrying is permitted at a suitable scale for maintaining local character, provided it avoids significant environmental harm and supports site restoration for nature recovery or renewable energy use.
Policy CE5: Tranquillity	Policy CE5 aims to conserve and enhance the tranquillity of the Cotswolds National Landscape by minimising noise and visual disturbances. Developments should avoid or reduce negative impacts on tranquillity, while existing sources of disturbance should be addressed where possible. Proposals should align with the CNL Board's Tranquillity Position Statement.

Policy CE6: Dark skies	Policy CE6 focuses on conserving and enhancing the dark skies of the Cotswolds National Landscape by minimising light pollution. Developments should avoid or reduce lighting impacts, while efforts should be made to remove or reduce existing light sources. Proposals should follow relevant guidance and best practices, and consideration will be given to formally designating areas with minimal light pollution as dark sky zones.
Policy CE7: Historic environment and cultural heritage	Policy CE7 focuses on conserving and enhancing the historic environment and cultural heritage of the Cotswolds National Landscape. Proposals should respect the historical elements of the landscape and be assessed for potential impacts through Heritage and Cultural Heritage Impact Assessments. Both designated and non-designated heritage assets should be protected, and effective management should be applied. Opportunities for promoting awareness and understanding of heritage assets should be pursued, and stakeholders are encouraged to work towards targets for reducing heritage assets at risk.
Policy CE8: Nature recovery and biodiversity	Policy CE8 focuses on conserving and enhancing biodiversity in the Cotswolds National Landscape (CNL) by establishing a nature recovery network. This involves aligning with local nature recovery plans and strategies, and prioritising species and habitats listed in relevant documents. Proposals impacting biodiversity should support conservation efforts, such as through Environmental Land Management, biodiversity net gain, and ecosystem services. Stakeholders are encouraged to meet specific biodiversity targets, including restoring wildlife-rich habitats and improving the condition of Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs).
Policy CE9: Water	Policy CE9 focuses on the management and conservation of water resources in the Cotswolds National Landscape (CNL). It aims to improve water quality, ensure adequate water supply, and contribute to flood management. New developments should assess and minimise flood risks, adopt sustainable drainage systems (SuDS), and implement water efficiency measures. The policy emphasises minimising sewage pollution, phosphorus treatment in sewage treatment works, and ensuring sufficient sewage infrastructure. It also promotes practical measures to improve water quality, such as restoring river habitats, reducing runoff, and implementing soil conservation techniques. Additionally, proposals near watercourses should aim to re-naturalise water features and create buffer zones.
Policy CE10: Farming and land management	Policy CE10 focuses on ensuring that farming and land management in the Cotswolds National Landscape (CNL) contribute to the conservation and enhancement of its natural

	<p>beauty and special qualities. It emphasises alignment with the CNL Management Plan and related guidance, including the CNL Landscape Strategy, Nature Recovery Plan, and Climate Change Strategy. Woodland creation and tree planting should complement the landscape and nature recovery network, avoid harming historic sites, and align with canopy cover goals. The policy also stresses the importance of accessible, clear advice and support for farmers and land managers, including fair access to markets and environmental service payments.</p>
Policy CEI1: Problem species, pests and diseases	<p>Policy CEI1 focuses on managing problem species, pests, and diseases within the Cotswolds National Landscape (CNL). It highlights the need for coordinated control of grey squirrels and deer at a landscape scale. The policy also emphasises following national and CNL Board guidance on managing Ash Dieback to protect the landscape, as well as adhering to national and local guidance on invasive non-native species, pests, and diseases, with a focus on promoting biosecurity measures.</p>
Policy CEI2: Soils	<p>Policy CEI2 focuses on managing soils within the Cotswolds National Landscape (CNL) to prevent and reverse degradation, prioritising soil health that supports resilient ecosystems and sustainable farming. Key principles for soil management include minimising disturbance, maintaining living roots, increasing biodiversity, mitigating compaction, and integrating livestock and grazing. Soil management should be incorporated into farm management plans and supported by agri-environment schemes and rural development mechanisms.</p>
Policy CEI3: Development and infrastructure – principles	<p>Policy CEI3 emphasises that development and infrastructure proposals in the Cotswolds National Landscape (CNL) should prioritise the conservation and enhancement of the area's natural beauty and special qualities. Proposals should align with the CNL Management Plan and relevant guidance, support the local community's wellbeing, and comply with national planning policies. A landscape-led approach is essential, addressing the natural beauty, local character, and access to green spaces throughout the development process. The cumulative impacts of development on the landscape must be fully assessed, and opportunities to enhance the natural beauty should be sought.</p>
Policy CEI4: Major development	<p>Policy CEI4 establishes that major development within the Cotswolds National Landscape (CNL) should be refused unless it meets exceptional circumstances and can be</p>

	<p>demonstrated as being in the public interest, as outlined in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). Stakeholders must assess whether a development constitutes major development using the provided checklist and apply the NPPF's 'major development tests'. Local authorities should ensure that these tests are rigorously applied and document the reasoning. Development proposals must address exceptional need in a way that minimises environmental and landscape impacts, and applications should be refused unless they meet these strict criteria.</p>
Policy CE15: Development priorities and evidence of need	<p>Policy CE15 prioritises affordable housing in the Cotswolds National Landscape (CNL), particularly for social rented housing. It encourages local planning authorities to set policies ensuring at least 50% affordable housing in market developments, 100% on Rural Exception Sites (with exceptions), and on-site affordable housing for small developments. The policy also emphasises the importance of supporting local community amenities, services, and employment opportunities. It acknowledges that national housing need assessments may not be fully applicable in the CNL due to local constraints, and that the area is unlikely to accommodate unmet needs from adjacent non-designated areas. Windfall housing should only be supported with strong evidence of local need, and policies should consider ensuring new market housing is used as a primary residence.</p>
Policy CE16: Waste management and the circular economy	<p>Policy CE16 focuses on waste management and the circular economy within the Cotswolds National Landscape (CNL). It emphasises the importance of following the waste hierarchy, prioritising waste prevention, reuse, and recycling. The policy discourages the establishment of new landfill sites or large-scale waste facilities in the CNL, especially those importing waste from urban areas. If waste management facilities are allowed, they must minimise environmental impact and serve local waste needs. Additionally, land-based waste recovery activities like land raising or bunding are only permitted in limited circumstances where they offer significant benefits to the CNL's conservation and comply with environmental regulations.</p>
Policy UE1: Health and wellbeing	<p>Policy UE1 focuses on enhancing health and wellbeing in the Cotswolds National Landscape (CNL), especially for communities facing health and social inequalities. It encourages the creation of accessible green and blue spaces, walking, cycling, and riding</p>

	<p>routes, and opportunities for nature interaction, volunteering, and personal development. The policy also advocates for environmental education for children and young people and encourages the healthcare and voluntary sectors to utilise the CNL's natural resources, particularly through green prescribing initiatives, to improve the health of residents and visitors.</p>
Policy UE2: Access and recreation	<p>Policy UE2 focuses on improving access and recreational opportunities in the Cotswolds National Landscape (CNL) while preserving its natural beauty. It encourages providing opportunities for residents, visitors, and local communities to engage with and enjoy the landscape, with a focus on reaching those who are less engaged, particularly from urban or deprived areas. The policy supports maintaining and enhancing a safe, accessible, and well-connected public rights of way network and promoting open access land. It also advocates for sustainable funding for national trails and accessible resources for various activities. Additionally, it emphasises the importance of ensuring that recreational use does not harm the landscape, wildlife, or historic sites, and promotes responsible behaviour through the Countryside Code.</p>
Policy UE3: Sustainable tourism	<p>Policy UE3 focuses on promoting sustainable tourism within the Cotswolds National Landscape (CNL) while conserving its natural beauty. It emphasises managing tourism in a way that minimises greenhouse gas emissions and supports local volunteering to help preserve the landscape. The policy encourages the <i>Caring for the Cotswolds</i> visitor giving scheme to raise funds for conservation and education efforts. It advocates for a variety of accommodation options that align with the natural beauty of the area and minimising air travel to the Cotswolds. Additionally, it supports sustainable transport initiatives and aims to spread tourism activity more evenly across the CNL.</p>