

Overton Neighbourhood Development Plan – Appendix C

1. Important Views in the Overton Parish

Significance, key features and photographs of the Important Views

Number on map	View
1	River Test and Flashetts
1a	Polhampton Meadows
1b	River Test looking west from Straight Lane Bridge
1c	River Test looking west from Station Road at Quidhampton
1d	Bridleway alongside wet woodland
1e	River Test looking west at Kingsclere Road
1f	River Test looking east at Bridge Street
1g	River Test looking east at Southington Lane
1h	River Test looking west towards Southington Mill
2	Church and North Field from a variety of locations
2a	North Field from Court Drove
2b	North Field from Kingsclere Road
2c	North Field from Overton Hill
2d	North Field from Winchester Street
3	View from Willesley Warren
4	View from the railway bridge by David's Wood
5	View from Sapley Lane Playing Field
6	View from footpath 14 across village and Church to North Wessex Downs National Landscape
7	Overton Hill greenspace panorama
8	From the Harrow Way
8a	Near footpath 2
8b	Nutley Bottom
9	Silk Mill Lane
10	Views from Dellands

Table D1. Important views

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1. River Test and Flashetts

There are valued views of the River Test and its setting from 5 bridges in the parish; Straight Lane, Station Road, Kingsclere Road, Bridge Street and Southington Lane. These views are significant because they allow the public to see and appreciate this world-class chalk stream and its tranquil setting. With the exception of views near the source of the river at Ashe, fields around Polhampton, the Flashetts bridleway and a glimpse from the road between Southington and Northington there are no other areas along the River Test in the parish where this is possible.

The meadows around the ford at Polhampton are particularly tranquil and can be enjoyed from footpaths 8 and 9.

The bridleway (FP4) between Station Road and Kingsclere Road runs partly along the River Test and partly along an area of wet woodland. Key features of the views here are of a path with trees forming a tunnel vista with the river flowing along the edge. The view is one of tranquillity with mature trees and other vegetation. Only two dwellings are part of these views, Quidhampton Mill and Flashetts House. Neither detracts from the views but are an integral part of it. At the wet woodland section of the bridleway the key features of the view are of the trees themselves, many covered in moss with the water very slowly weaving its way amongst the trunks and roots.

The River Test can be viewed from the bridge at the junction of Silk Mill Lane and Southington Lane. In both directions the river and banks are in a very tranquil setting. To the west can be viewed the historic Southington Mill. To the east are particularly verdant banks of this world-famous chalk stream. The bridge itself adds to the significance of the view being white cast iron, in keeping with this rural spot.

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View 1a Polhampton meadow

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View 1b River Test looking west from Straight Lane bridge

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View 1c River Test at Quidhampton

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View 1d Bridleway alongside wet woodland



View 1e River Test looking west at Kingsclere Road

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View 1f River Test looking east at Bridge Street

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View 1g River Test looking east at Southington Lane bridge

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View 1h River Test looking west towards Southington Mill

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2. Church and North Field from a variety of locations

The Church and North Field views can be seen from a) all around the higher parts of the village and b) from a closer perspective from the Kingsclere Road and from the footpath from Kingsclere Road to Court Drove. These views encapsulate for many people their impression of Overton – a rural village in a countryside setting. The North Field running from the railway line down to St. Mary’s Church is a ‘finger of green’ that connects the village centre with the North Wessex Downs National Landscape. This finger can be appreciated as a view from Dellands, from the top of Overton Hill Neighbourhood Park and from Court Drove. The spire of St. Mary’s Church with its North Field backdrop is part of the significance of this view when descending into Overton from the south, east and from the railway line in the north.



View 2a North Field from Court Drove

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View 2b North Field from Kingsclere Road



View 2c North Field from Overton Hill

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View 2d North Field from Winchester Street

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3. View from Willesley Warren

This is a far reaching view from Willesley Warren to the south. The village of Overton nestles in the landscape. The arable fields of the North Wessex Downs National Landscape are in the foreground.



View 3 from Willesley Warren

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4. View from the railway bridge by David's Wood

This 180-degree view of fields, hedgerows and tree lines with Overton sitting in the valley floor epitomises what local people value highly.



View 4 from the railway bridge by David's Wood

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5. View from Sapley Lane Playing Field

The importance of the view from Sapley Lane Playing Field is that it can be enjoyed by all the villagers when they are making use of the facilities at the playing field. The view forms a calming backdrop to both the energies given off in the skate park or the keep fit classes held there as well as those just partaking of a picnic among the newly planted Jubilee tree avenue.



View 5 from Sapley Lane Playing Field

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6. View from footpath 14 across the village and Church to North Wessex Downs National Landscape

The significance of this view is that it is from the high ground to the south of the village into the North Wessex Downs National Landscape. There are few public vantage points as good as this. On a clear day one can see as far as Beacon Hill.



View 6 from footpath 14 across village and Church to North Wessex Downs National Landscape

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7. Overton Hill greenspace panorama

The significance of the views around and from the Overton Hill green space is formed in two parts a) as a green finger reaching into the centre of the village and b) views to the church and north field behind, especially from higher up at Upper Meadow and from the neighbourhood park to the east of the Overton Hill development. From here the views are panoramic of fields and tree-lines, the only interruption being the chimneys at the old Portals Mill.



View 7 Overton Hill greenspace panorama

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8. From the Harrow Way

There are glimpses of countryside from all along the Harrow Way in Overton Parish. This historic way is much walked by local people and the views valued for their tranquillity. The views are of both north into the North Wessex Downs National Landscape and south looking over the village towards Whitehill Farm and Cobley Wood. Of particular scenic value are the views from the Harrow Way near footpath 2 and at what is locally called Nutley Bottom.



View 8a from Harrow Way on footpath 2

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View 8b From Harrow way looking north west at Nutley Bottom

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9. Silk Mill Lane

Silk Mill Lane is popular for walkers doing a circle around the village. Its key features are the tunnel effect created by overhanging trees and glimpses of the River Test to the south. At the western end of the lane there are some houses which are of a scale in keeping with this country lane. These dwellings also have good sized, well-planted front gardens that contribute to the green feel of the lane. Silk Mill Lane and the Town Meadow Golf Course provide a good green gap between Overton and the hamlet of Southington.



View 9 east up Silk Mill Lane

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10. Views from Dellands

From the junction of Dellands and Sapley Lane the views looking north are of Red Lion Lane and the village in the foreground, St. Mary’s Church, Court Farmhouse and the North Field in the middle ground and distant views into the North Wessex Downs National Landscape. From this point the significance of the view is of open fields, tree belts and hedgerows encircling the village of Overton. Dwellings along Greyhound Lane (near the junction with Dellands) are either single storey or set lower than the road leaving ample room to see over the houses and through the gaps in the houses.



View 10 from Dellands/Red Lion Lane junction