Winchcombe lies in a gap in the dramatic Cotswold escarpment close to Cleeve Hill, the highest point in the Cotswolds. With the neighbouring parish of Sudeley, it is surrounded by hills, creating a secluded landscape, distinct from neighbouring communities. That landscape is well wooded and the agriculture is mixed, with an emphasis on sheep farming reflecting the region's wool producing past.

The two parishes share a common geography and history. Winchcombe benefits from the surrounding countryside and from the visitor attraction of nationally celebrated Sudeley Castle. People living in the surrounding area come to Winchcombe for essential services. It therefore makes sense to create a Neighbourhood Plan covering both parishes - Winchcombe and Sudeley.

Winchcombe: a town for locals and visitors too

About 4,500 people live in the town, and about 100 in Sudeley. Winchcombe was once a regional capital, and now it is a thriving small town, where residents and visitors alike benefit from a variety of shops, restaurants and pubs. Informed by our Tourist Information Centre, our visitors can enjoy two museums, a pottery, and stay in B&Bs, holiday cottages and second homes.

Community facilities serving local people include a medical centre, a pharmacy, the fire service, two dentists, chiropodists, chiropractors, hairdressers and beauty therapists.

There is a range of clubs and halls, four churches, pre-school facilities, a primary and secondary school, a community centre, a day centre for older people, a youth club, a library and a sports hall.

Winchcombe town centre is a Conservation Area in which special planning rules apply. A high proportion of stone-built properties line the main streets, hiding a patchwork of private gardens.

The town also boasts an ancient Saxon defensive mound, of national importance.

An Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

Tough development criteria set down by the Government apply in the Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, which includes all of the Sudeley Parish and most of Winchcombe. The only area not covered is a segment between Broadway Road and Gretton Road, which is designated by Tewkesbury Borough Council as a Special Landscape Area to protect the setting of the AONB.