

DETAILED METHODOLOGY

Introduction

1. This Landscape and Visual Appraisal (LVA) has been undertaken with reference to best practice, as outlined in the following published guidance:
 - Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (3rd edition) - Landscape Institute/ Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (2013)
 - GLVIA3 Statement of Clarification 1/13
 - An Approach to Landscape Character Assessment – Natural England (2014)
 - Technical Guidance Note 02/21 – Assessing landscape value outside national designations – The Landscape Institute
2. The proposed scheme is assessed for the purposes of the landscape and visual analysis.
3. As outlined in paragraph 1.11 of GLVIA3, though the processes used to undertake them are very similar, the term Landscape and Visual Appraisal has been used to distinguish this standalone report from a Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment which normally constitutes part of a larger, formal, EIA document.

Study Area

4. The initial study area for the LVA is taken to be a 5km radius from the site. Unless otherwise stated, the main focus of the assessment is taken as a radius of 2km from the site as it is considered that beyond this distance, even with good visibility, the proposed development would not be perceptible in the composite landscape.
5. The effects on settings of heritage assets or ecological/environmental assets are not considered within this LVA.

Nature of Effects

6. An impact is an action e.g. building a wall. An effect is the consequence of a particular action on the integrity of the landscape, feature or view.
7. The nature of any effect will be adverse beneficial or neutral and are summarised as:
 - Adverse - where on balance there is a negative effect on the quality, integrity or key characteristics of the landscape or visual receptor

- Beneficial - where on balance there is a positive effect on the quality, integrity or key characteristics of the landscape or visual receptor
- Neutral – where on balance the effect would maintain the quality, integrity or key characteristics of the landscape or visual receptor or where the change is different but represents neither a deterioration nor enhancement

8. Unless expressly noted, effects are deemed to be adverse in nature.

Landscape Elements and Character Assessment Methodology

9. A baseline landscape assessment is carried out to determine the current elements and character of the landscape within and surrounding the site. This involved an initial desktop study of but not necessarily limited to:

- Ordnance survey maps at 1:50,000, 1:25,000 scales
- Aerial photographs of the site and surrounding area
- Datasets for rural designations from the MAGIC website (Multi Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside)
- Relevant planning policy
- National and local scale landscape character assessments

Visual Assessment Methodology

10. The assessment of visual effects is undertaken on the basis of viewpoint analysis as recommended in best practice guidelines. The viewpoints which are in different directions from the site and are at varying distances and locations were selected to represent a range of views and visual receptor types.

11. The viewpoints are representational and not exhaustive. They are taken from publicly accessible land and not from any third party, private, land.

12. The viewpoints were used as the basis for determining the effects of visual receptors within the entire study area. The viewpoints were photographed at 1.6 metres above ground level.

Sensitivity of Landscape Elements and Features

13. The sensitivity attributed to a landscape element or feature is determined by a combination of the value that is attached to a particular landscape element feature and the susceptibility of the landscape element/feature to changes that would arise as a result of the Proposed Development as outlined in pages 88-90 of GLVIA3. Both value and susceptibility are assessed as high, medium or low.

Table 1: Value of Landscape Elements and Features

Low	Ones that: • have no or little rarity and/or, • make no and/or make only a limited contribution to the character and local visual and amenity value and/or • are of such poor condition that the element/feature has lost its ability to contribute effectively to the character of the landscape
Medium	Ones that: • are notable in the landscape, with some visual and/or amenity interest but, • do not make a particularly strong or important contribution to the character of the landscape and/or, • ones that are an intrinsic element of landscape but in poor condition
High	Ones that: • make an important contribution to the character of the landscape and/or • have particular historical or cultural reference and/or • are distinctive or rare and typically of good condition

Table 2: Susceptibility of Landscape Elements and Features

Susceptibility to change	Criteria
High	A very limited ability of the landscape element of feature to accommodate the type of development being proposed – a particular susceptibility. Few opportunities for mitigation and enhancement.
Medium	A moderate ability of the landscape element of feature to accommodate the type of development being proposed – some susceptibility. Some opportunities for mitigation and enhancement .
Low	A well-defined ability of the landscape element of feature to accommodate the type of development being proposed – little susceptibility. Good opportunities for mitigation and enhancement .

Susceptibility of Landscape Elements and Features

14. The susceptibility criteria of landscape elements and features is given in Table 2 but a judgement has been made by linking back to the evidence gathered at the baseline stage.

Table 3: Sensitivity of Landscape Elements and Features

	VALUE			
SUSCEPTIBILITY		HIGH	MEDIUM	LOW
	HIGH	High	High	Medium
	MEDIUM	High	Medium	Low
	LOW	Medium	Low	Low

Magnitude of Change on Landscape Elements and Features

15. Professional judgement, using the criteria given in Table 4 , and also considering geographic extent and the duration and reversibility of the effect, has been used to determine the magnitude of direct physical impacts on individual existing landscape elements and features

Table 4: Criteria for magnitude of change for landscape elements and features

NB Alterations may include the addition of new elements and features

Negligible	No loss or very minor alteration to part of an existing landscape element and/or feature
Low	Minor loss or alteration to part of an existing landscape element and or feature
Medium	Some loss or alteration to part of an existing landscape element and/or feature
High	Total/major loss or alteration of an existing landscape element and/or feature

Sensitivity of Landscape Character

16. Sensitivity is determined by a combination of the value that is attached to a landscape and the susceptibility of the landscape to changes that would arise as a result of the Proposed Development as outlined in pages 88-90 of GLVIA3. Both value and susceptibility are assessed as high, medium or low.
17. Table 5 below provides a series of criteria by which the ‘value’ of the landscape is assessed. Such criteria are based upon Box 5.1 on page 84 of GLVIA3.

Table 5: Value of Landscape Character

Low	An area that is in a recognisably poor condition/quality and/or with a weak strength of character that typically has a clear indication of being damaged and/or contains a high number of detractors, and/or is of limited visual cohesion; rare or distinctive elements and features are not a notable component that contribute to the character of the area. No known associations with cultural/historic people.
Medium	An area is recognisable as being in reasonable condition/quality and/or with a strength of character but likely to exhibit some damage or deterioration and/or some visual cohesion and interest; rare or distinctive elements and features make some contribution to the character of the area. Possible or limited associations with cultural/historic people.
High	Areas with international or national landscape designations, i.e. National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty or occasionally landscapes non-designated landscape in particularly good condition/quality and/or strong strength of character or of particular local value and/or with few visual detractors; rare or distinctive elements and features are likely to be a key component that contribute to the character of the area. Recorded associations with cultural/historic people may be present.

Table 6: Susceptibility of Landscape Character

Susceptibility to change	Criteria
High	A very limited ability of the landscape to accommodate the type of development being proposed – a particular susceptibility. Few opportunities for mitigation and enhancement.
Medium	A moderate ability of the landscape to accommodate the type of development being proposed – some susceptibility. Some opportunities for mitigation and enhancement .
Low	A well-defined ability of the landscape to accommodate the type of development being proposed – little susceptibility. Good opportunities for mitigation and enhancement .

Susceptibility of Landscape Elements and Features

18. The susceptibility criteria of landscape elements and features is given in Table 6 but a judgement has been made by linking back to the evidence gathered at the baseline stage.

Table 7: Sensitivity of Landscape Character

	VALUE			
SUSCEPTIBILITY		HIGH	MEDIUM	LOW
	HIGH	High	High	Medium
	MEDIUM	High	Medium	Low
	LOW	Medium	Low	Low

Magnitude of Change on Landscape Character

19. Professional judgement using Table 8, and also considering geographic extent and the duration and reversibility of the effect, has been used to determine the magnitude change on landscape character

Table 8: Criteria for magnitude of change for landscape character

Negligible	No notable introduction of new elements into the landscape or change to the scale, landform, land cover or pattern of landscape
Low	Introduction of minor new elements into the landscape or some minor change to the scale, landform, land cover or pattern of landscape
Medium	Introduction of some notable elements into the landscape or some notable change to the scale, landform, land cover or pattern of landscape

High	Introduction of major elements into the landscape or some major change to the scale, landform, land cover or pattern of landscape
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Sensitivity of Visual Receptors

20. Sensitivity is determined by a combination of the value that is attached to a view and the susceptibility of the receptor to changes in that view that would arise as a result of the Proposed Development as outlined in pages 113-114 of GLVIA3. Both value and susceptibility are assessed as high, medium or low.

21. GLVIA3 says a judgement should be made as to the value of a particular view being experienced. In making a professional judgement as to the value attached to a view, the following criteria have helped guide the process. Not all the criteria have to apply to a particular view and the criteria are not in a hierarchy.

Table 9: Criteria for judging levels of visual value

Low	- Views from within or towards undesignated landscapes and/or features of either importance to the site only or of no importance - View has little aesthetic merit e.g. has numerous visual detractors, is badly degraded etc. - View makes a limited contribution to the understanding of the function or wider pattern of the landscape - Views with no known social, cultural or historic associations - Views from locations that are not necessarily destination points or that are infrequently visited
Medium	- Views from within or towards undesignated landscapes and/or features of local importance - View with some limited aesthetic appeal - View makes a reasonable contribution to the understanding of the

	function or wider pattern of the landscape • Views with some known local social, cultural or historic associations • Views from locations that are locally popular destination points or that are frequently visited by locals but not necessarily by visitors from further afield
High	• Views from within or towards designated landscapes and/or features of importance at district level and above • View with great aesthetic appeal • View makes an important contribution to the understanding of the function or wider pattern of the landscape • Views with some known national or international social, cultural or historic associations especially to art and literature • Views from locations that are popular regional, national or international destination points or that are frequently visited by large numbers of visitors from further afield

Susceptibility of Visual Receptors

22. GLIVA3 advises (on page 113) that susceptibility of a particular visual receptor (observer) to change in a view is mainly a function of the nature of the activity or occupation of the person or people experiencing a view at a particular location and the extent to which their interest or attention is drawn to the view.

23. In general, it is considered that occupiers of residential properties and people using public rights of way (where enjoyment is primarily drawn from the view) have a high susceptibility to change. Users of roads, railways and open space or engaged in an activity where an appreciation of the view forms a part of the experience are considered to be of medium susceptibility. People engaged in formal sport or occupiers of commercial premises or in areas of employment, where the view has limited importance to the activity being undertaken, are considered to be of low susceptibility to change.

Table 10: Sensitivity of Visual Receptors

	VALUE			
SUSCEPTIBILITY		HIGH	MEDIUM	LOW
	HIGH	High	High	Medium
	MEDIUM	High	Medium	Low
	LOW	Medium	Low	Low

Magnitude of Change on Visual Amenity

24. Professional judgement has been used to determine the magnitude change on landscape character based upon the criteria outline in Table 11 but also considering the size and scale of change (including the loss or addition of features, changes in visual composition etc.) , the geographic influence of the change (orientation and angle of view in relation to the visual receptor, distance of the viewpoint from the main development, extent of area over which change would occur etc.) and, the duration and potential reversibility of any change (short term 0-5 years, medium term 5-10 years, long term 20 years +, temporary, permanent, intermittent, continuous and whether the views will be full, partial or glimpsed).

Table 11: Criteria for magnitude of change for visual receptors

Negligible	No notable change in the view
Low	Some change in the view that is not prominent / few visual receptors affected
Medium	Some change in the view that is clearly visible and forms an important but not defining element in the view
High	Major change in the view that has a defining influence on the overall view / many visual receptors affected

Scale of Effects

25. The scale of the landscape and visual effects is determined by cross referencing the sensitivity of the landscape feature, landscape character or view with the magnitude of change. The scale of effects is described as major, moderate, minor or negligible.

Table 12: Scale of effect thresholds for landscape character, landscape elements/features and visual receptors

		Magnitude of Change			
Sensitivity		High	Medium	Low	Negligible
	High	Major	Major	Moderate	Minor
	Medium	Major	Moderate	Minor	Negligible
	Low	Moderate	Minor	Negligible	Negligible