

Field Survey

- A.2.9 Detailed field survey work for this LVIA has further identified landscape elements and features that contribute to the landscape character of the area and visual receptors that will have potential views of the site.
- A.2.10 A series of representative photographs were taken during the field work. The photographs were taken with a digital camera with a 50mm lens (equivalent focal length). These are presented as both a series of contextual panoramic photographs with a 60° horizontal field of view (HFoV), supplemented by a full-size single image centred on the site, with a 39.6° HFoV and a 27° vertical field of view (VFoV), as advised by the Landscape Institute Technical Guidance Note 06/19. These have been used to inform the assessment of both landscape and visual impacts.

Assessment of Effects

- A.2.11 Having established the relevant baseline position the assessment process then completes the following specific stages:
- Evaluate the sensitivity of the landscape receptors and visual receptors, specifically in response to the type of proposed development (sensitivity of landscape resources is not standard and depends on the nature and type of development proposed);
 - Identify the potential magnitude of impact on the physical landscape, on landscape character and on visual receptors; and
 - Combine professional judgments on the nature of the receptor (sensitivity) and the nature of the change or impact (magnitude) to arrive at a clear and transparent judgment of significance.
- A.2.12 For both landscape and visual effects, the final conclusions on significance are based on the combination of sensitivity and magnitude. The overall judgment on significance is based on the combination of each of the criteria. The rationale for the balance and justification for each judgement is expressed in the detailed analysis.
- A.2.13 To draw a distinction between different levels of significance, a scale for the degrees of significance, along with criteria and definitions, have been developed. These provide a structure for making judgements which are clear and objective. However, it is necessary to remember that landscapes and interactions in the landscape are both complex and subtle; as such an element of subjectivity remains. No landscape will fit wholly into any one definition and to try would require extensive and complex criterion.

A.2.14 Consequently, professional judgements draw in conclusions in respect of sensitivity, magnitude and significance are fully and clearly described by the detailed written analysis presented in the LVIA, supported by descriptive thresholds and criteria for each of these stages in relation to landscape impacts and, separately, visual impacts are set out in the following sections.

A.3. ASSESSMENT OF LANDSCAPE EFFECTS

Overview of landscape sensitivity

A.3.1 Although landscape has some intrinsic sensitivity, different landscape receptors have different elements and features that can accommodate a variety of development types.

A.3.2 To reliably inform detailed assessment of impacts, landscape sensitivity needs to be determined with reference to the changes arising from the specific type of development in question. Therefore, landscape sensitivity is assessed combining judgements on the value attached to a landscape and the susceptibility to the type of change and nature of the development proposed.

Landscape value

A.3.3 Landscape value is the relative value attached to a potentially affected landscape. Landscape value will vary in relation to the different stakeholders and different parts of society that use or experience a landscape.

A.3.4 Although factors such as formal designations are an important component when determining value, other aspects are also considered as part of the judgement process.

A.3.5 These include issues related to landscape quality (condition), scenic quality (visual appeal), rarity, representativeness, presence of conservation interests (natural or heritage assets), recreation value and perceptual aspects (sense of place, seclusion, etc.).

A.3.6 Even where a landscape is included in the boundaries of a formal designation, landscape value will vary in response to the specific landscape that is being considered based on its condition, sense of seclusion or isolation, the presence or absence of detracting features, the presence or absence of rare or distinctive elements and features, and, the degree to which these form key characteristics.

A.3.7 Factors that have been considered in making judgements on landscape value include designations (both national and local), local planning documents, status of features (e.g.

TPOs or Conservation Areas) and local community and interests (for example local green spaces, village greens or allotments).

A.3.8 The following table sets out the criteria that have been considered for determining landscape value. These are informed by the factors identified in Box 5.1 of the GLVIA3¹.

Table A.1: Criteria for landscape value

Value	Criteria
High	<p>Designated areas at an International or National level (including, but not limited to, World Heritage Site, National Parks, AONB's) and also considered an important component of the country's character, experienced by high numbers of tourists.</p> <p>Landscape condition is good and components are generally regularly maintained to a high standard.</p> <p>Rare or distinctive elements and features are a key component that contribute to the character of the area.</p> <p>In terms of seclusion, enclosure by land use, traffic and movement, light pollution and presence / absence of major infrastructure, the landscape has an elevated level of tranquillity.</p> <p>Extensive and promoted opportunities are available for recreation within the landscape.</p>
Medium	<p>Designated areas at a Regional or County level (including, but not limited to, green belt, regional scale parks, designated as open space or a Conservation Area in local planning documents) and also considered a distinctive component of the region/county character experienced by a large proportion of its population.</p> <p>Landscape condition is fair and components are generally relatively well maintained.</p> <p>Rare or distinctive elements and features are a notable component that contribute to the character of the area.</p> <p>In terms of seclusion, enclosure by land use, traffic and movement, light pollution and presence / absence of major infrastructure, the landscape has moderate levels of tranquillity.</p> <p>Opportunities are available for recreation within the landscape, some of which is incidental.</p>

¹ Page 84, Landscape Institute and Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (April 2013) Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment 3rd Edition

Value	Criteria
Low	<p>No formal designations but a landscape of local relevance (including, but not limited to, public or semi-public open spaces, village greens or allotments) and also green infrastructure and open spaces within residential areas likely to be visited and valued by the local community.</p> <p>Landscape condition is poor and components are generally poorly maintained or damaged.</p> <p>Rare or distinctive elements and features are not a notable component that contribute to the character of the area.</p> <p>In terms of seclusion, enclosure by land use, traffic and movement, light pollution and presence / absence of major infrastructure, the landscape has limited levels of tranquillity.</p> <p>There are few/no opportunities for recreation within the landscape.</p>

Landscape susceptibility

A.3.9 The second component of landscape sensitivity relates to susceptibility. Landscape susceptibility to change is the ability of a landscape to accommodate change without undue consequences for the maintenance of the baseline situation. In this context, the term landscape receptors can be expanded to cover character areas, particular landscape character types or an individual landscape element or feature. Landscape susceptibility will vary in response to the specific landscape that is being considered and to the nature or type of change that may occur.

A.3.10 The following table sets out the criteria that have been considered for determining landscape susceptibility.

Table A.2: Criteria for landscape susceptibility

Susceptibility	Criteria
High	<p>Scale of enclosure – landscapes with a low capacity to accommodate the type of development proposed due to the interactions of topography, vegetation cover and built form.</p> <p>Nature of land use – landscapes with no or very little existing reference or context to the type of proposed development.</p> <p>Nature of existing elements – landscapes with components that are not easily replaced or substituted (e.g. ancient woodland, mature trees, historic parkland).</p> <p>Nature of existing features – landscapes where detracting features or major infrastructure is not present or where these are present but their influence on the landscape is limited.</p>

Susceptibility	Criteria
Medium	<p>Scale of enclosure – landscapes with a medium capacity to accommodate the type of development proposed due to the interactions of topography, vegetation cover and built form.</p> <p>Nature of land use – landscapes with some existing reference or context to the type of proposed development.</p> <p>Nature of existing elements – landscapes with components that are easily replaced or substituted.</p> <p>Nature of existing features – landscapes where detracting features or major infrastructure is present and the influence of these on the landscape is noticeable.</p>
Low	<p>Scale of enclosure – landscapes with a high capacity to accommodate the type of development proposed due to the interactions of topography, vegetation cover and built form.</p> <p>Nature of land use – landscapes with extensive existing reference or context to the type of proposed development.</p> <p>Nature of existing elements – landscapes with components that are easily replaced or substituted, or where there are few/no existing elements present (e.g. cleared brownfield sites).</p> <p>Nature of existing features – landscapes where detracting features or major infrastructure is present and the influence of these on the landscape is dominant.</p>

Landscape sensitivity

- A.3.11 Landscape sensitivity is a term applied to specific receptors, combining judgements of the susceptibility of the receptor to the specific type of change or development proposed and the value related to that receptor. Receptors can include specific elements or features or may be judged at a wider scale and include landscape character parcels, types or areas.
- A.3.12 Having considered in detail the contributing factors to landscape value and the susceptibility of the site and surrounding area to the type of the development proposed, conclusions on landscape sensitivity can be drawn by balancing the judgements on value and susceptibility.
- A.3.13 As advocated in the GLVIA3, professional judgement is used to balance judgements on value and susceptibility in order to determine sensitivity. Each of these aspects of the analysis will vary subject to the scale and detail of the assessment. Overall judgements on landscape sensitivity are subsequently described as; 'very high', 'high', 'medium', 'low' or 'negligible'.

Magnitude of landscape impacts

A.3.14 The effect on landscape receptors is assessed in relation to the size or scale of impact, the geographical extent of the change and the duration and the reversibility of the impact. The magnitude of landscape effects has been assessed in accordance with the criteria set out in the following table.

Table A.3: Criteria for determining magnitude of landscape impacts

Magnitude	Criteria
Very high	<p>The size and scale of change is considered very large due to the extent and proportion of loss of existing landscape elements or the degree of alteration to aesthetic or perceptual aspects.</p> <p>The nature and scale of change to key characteristics which are critical to character is considered very large.</p> <p>Where the geographical extent would have a very substantial influence on the landscape at a regional scale, i.e. across several landscape character areas/types.</p> <p>Duration of impacts would be considered very long term and where the potential reversal of the impact is not likely and in practical terms would be very difficult to achieve.</p>
High	<p>The size and scale of change is considered large due to the extent and proportion of loss of existing landscape elements or the degree of alteration to aesthetic or perceptual aspects.</p> <p>The nature and scale of change to key characteristics which are critical to character is considered large.</p> <p>Where the geographical extent would have a substantial influence on the landscape at a regional scale, i.e. across several landscape character areas/types.</p> <p>Duration of impacts would be considered long term and where the potential reversal of the impact is not likely and in practical terms would be very difficult to achieve.</p>
Medium	<p>The size and scale of change is considered moderate due to the extent and proportion of loss of existing landscape elements or the degree of alteration to aesthetic or perceptual aspects.</p> <p>The nature and scale of change to key characteristics which are critical to character is considered moderate.</p> <p>Where the geographical extent would influence the landscape at a local scale, i.e. a single landscape character area/type (or potentially multiple areas/types where a site is located on the boundary between areas).</p> <p>Duration of impacts would be considered midterm and where the potential reversal of the impact is likely and in practical terms would be difficult to achieve.</p>

Magnitude	Criteria
Low	<p>The size and scale of change is considered small due to the extent and proportion of loss of existing landscape elements or the degree of alteration to aesthetic or perceptual aspects</p> <p>The nature and scale of change to key characteristics which are critical to character is considered small</p> <p>Where the geographical extent would influence the landscape in the immediate setting of the site, i.e. limited to the influence of part of a single landscape character area/type</p> <p>Duration of impacts would be considered short term and where the potential reversal of the impact is more likely and in practical terms would easily be achieved</p>
Negligible	<p>The size and scale of change is considered very small due to the extent and proportion of loss of existing landscape elements or the degree of alteration to aesthetic or perceptual aspects</p> <p>The nature and scale of change to key characteristics which are critical to character is considered very small</p> <p>Where the geographical extent would substantially influence the landscape of the site only</p> <p>Duration of impacts would be considered very short term and where the potential reversal of the impact is very likely or committed and in practical terms would very easily be achieved</p>

A.3.15 These judgements are then taken forward to an assessment of the significance of landscape effects.

A.4. ASSESSMENT OF VISUAL EFFECTS

A.4.1 Visual receptors include a particular person or groups of people likely to be affected at a specific viewpoint or series of viewpoints.

Visual sensitivity

A.4.2 Sensitivity of visual receptors is determined through balancing judgements on the value attached to a particular view against the receptors susceptibility to change in a view or visual amenity. Given the need to address the specific issues of the proposed development these factors in the context of visual sensitivity are considered as part of the assessment of visual effects.

A.4.3 The value attached to a view includes recognition of value through formal designations (for example planning designations or heritage assets), indicators of value attached to views by visitors (for example inclusion on maps/guidebooks, provision of facilities, presence of interpretation).

- A.4.4 For example, views of higher value are likely to be from designated landscapes where the condition or scenic quality of the view is higher and where distinctive elements or features form a prominent part of a view; views of lower value are likely to be from area of landscapes where the condition and scenic quality of the view is poorer, where there is no reference to distinctive elements or features and where detracting features are prominent in the view.
- A.4.5 The susceptibility of different visual receptors to changes in views and visual amenity is judged based on the activity of people experiencing the view at any given time or location and the extent to which their attention would be focused on the view and visual amenity rather than on the activity being undertaken.
- A.4.6 For example, views more susceptible to change are likely to be permanent views, in unenclosed or elevated positions in the landscape and where the landscape forms a primary focus for the activity of the receptor; views less susceptible to change are likely to be transient or temporary views, located in enclosed areas of the landscape where the landscape is a secondary focus or consideration to the activity of the receptor.
- A.4.7 The following table sets out the definitions of sensitivity for different visual receptors.

Table A.4: Criteria for visual sensitivity

Sensitivity	Definition
Very high	Designated or protected views or views from publicly accessible locations in protected landscapes Tourists and visitors to heritage assets, or other attractions, where views of the surroundings are an important contributor to the experience and visit
High	Occupiers of residential properties People who are engaged in outdoor recreation whose attention is likely to be focussed on the landscape People travelling through the landscape on roads, rail or other transport routes where this involves recognised scenic routes and an awareness of views and visual amenity
Medium	People travelling more generally through the landscape on roads, rail or other transport routes People staying in hotels and healthcare institutions People at work and in educational institutions where visual amenity is an important contributor to the setting and quality of working life

Sensitivity	Definition
Low	<p>People at work and in educational institutions where the visual setting is not important to the quality of working life</p> <p>People engaged in formal sports where the visual setting may play a role, but attention is focused on the activity</p> <p>Views from publicly accessible locations in degraded landscapes</p>

A.4.8 It should be noted that as professional judgement is applied to the balance of value and susceptibility of visual receptors, there may be some instances where a typical receptor is defined a different degree of sensitivity to the guidance included in the table, above.

Magnitude of visual impacts

A.4.9 The effect on visual receptors is also assessed in relation to the size or scale of change, the geographical extent of the change, the duration of the change and the reversibility of the impact. The magnitude of visual impacts has been assessed in accordance with the criteria set out in the following table.

Table A.5: Criteria for determining magnitude of visual impacts

Magnitude	Criteria
Very High	<p>The size and scale of change is considered very substantial due to the extent of loss, addition or alteration of features, the changes to the composition of the view including the proportion of the view occupied by the proposal, the degree of contrast and the nature of the experience</p> <p>The geographical extent in relation to the angle, distance and proportion of visibility is considered as very extensive</p> <p>Duration of impacts would be considered long term and where the potential reversal of the impact is not likely and in practical terms would not be achievable</p> <p>Alteration in very close proximity</p>
High	<p>The size and scale of change is considered substantial due to the extent of loss, addition or alteration of features, the changes to the composition of the view including the proportion of the view occupied by the proposal, the degree of contrast and the nature of the experience</p> <p>The geographical extent in relation to the angle, distance and proportion of visibility is considered as extensive</p> <p>Duration of impacts would be considered long term and where the potential reversal of the impact is not likely and in practical terms would be very difficult to achieve</p> <p>Alteration in close proximity</p>

Magnitude	Criteria
Medium	<p>The size and scale of change is considered fair due to the extent of loss, addition or alteration of features, the changes to the composition of the view including the proportion of the view occupied by the proposal, the degree of contrast and the nature of the experience</p> <p>The geographical extent in relation to the angle, distance and proportion of visibility is considered as small or intermediate</p> <p>Duration of impacts would be considered medium term and where the potential reversal of the impact is likely and in practical terms would be difficult to achieve</p>
Low	<p>The size and scale of change is considered small due to the extent of loss, addition or alteration of features, the changes to the composition of the view including the proportion of the view occupied by the proposal, the degree of contrast and the nature of the experience</p> <p>The geographical extent in relation to the angle, distance and proportion of visibility is considered as limited</p> <p>Duration of impacts would be considered short term and where the potential reversal of the impact is very likely and in practical terms would easily be achieved</p>
Negligible	<p>The size and scale of change is considered very small due to the extent of loss, addition or alteration of features, the changes to the composition of the view including the proportion of the view occupied by the proposal, the degree of contrast and the nature of the experience</p> <p>The geographical extent in relation to the angle, distance and proportion of visibility is considered as very limited</p> <p>Duration of impacts would be considered very short term and where the potential reversal of the impact is very likely or committed and in practical terms would very easily be achieved</p>
Nil	There is no view of the proposed development in the view

A.4.10 These judgements are then taken forward to an assessment of the significance of visual effects.

A.5. DEFINING SIGNIFICANCE OF EFFECTS

A.5.1 For both landscape and visual effects, the final conclusion on the significance of an effect is based on the combination of sensitivity of receptor and magnitude of change (or impact). The rationale for the overall judgement on significance is based on the combination of each of the criteria individually leading to the balance and justification of these.

A.5.2 Detailed assessment is a means of drawing together, in a systematic way, an assessment of the likely significant environmental effects of a proposed development; however not all landscape and visual effects arising will be significant.