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**VOLUME 3**  
**APPENDIX 7.1**  
**LVIA ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY**

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# ISSUE SHEET

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## A1.1 INTRODUCTION

The methodology employed in carrying out this LVIA is drawn from the Landscape Institute and the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment's 'Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment' (GLVIA3) Third Edition (Routledge 2013). The method adopted follows a structured and transparent process, and is proportionate to the proposals.

The term landscape is defined as an area perceived by people, whose character is the result of the action and interaction of nature and / or human factors. It results from the way that different components of our environment – both natural and cultural / historical interact together and are perceived by us. The term does not mean just special, valued or designated landscapes and it does not only apply to the countryside. The definition of landscape can be classified as:

- All types of rural landscape, from high mountains and wild countryside to urban fringe farmland (rural landscapes);
- Marine and coastal landscapes (seascapes); and
- The landscape of villages, towns and cities (townscapes).

An LVIA provides a description of the baseline conditions and sets out how the study area and site appears, or would appear, prior to the proposed development. The baseline assessment is then used to predict the landscape and visual impacts arising from the proposed development. The assessment of impact is carried out as part of the iterative design process in order to build in mitigation measures to reduce the impacts as much as possible. The impact assessment will identify and assess effects during the stages of the Proposed Development:

- Baseline/Future Baseline
- Baseline/Future Baseline + Proposed Development

Cumulative impacts will also be assessed.

The photography and preparation of any Verified Visual Montages (VVMs) will be prepared in accordance with Technical Guidance Note 06/19 on Visual Representation of Development Proposals (Landscape Institute, 17 September 2019).

## A1.2 SUMMARY OF LVIA METHODOLOGY

Landscape and visual assessments are separate, although linked, procedures. For example, often the assemblage of landscape elements contributes to informing the Zone of Theoretical Visibility and the degree of visibility from the range of visual receptors.

The baseline assessment describes:

- Each of the landscape elements which then collectively inform landscape character for the site and its context;
- The character, amenity and degree of openness of the view from a range of visual receptors (either transient, serial or static views);
- The current and future baseline scenarios; and
- The value of each of the landscape and visual receptors.

Landscape effects derive from either direct or in-direct changes to the physical landscape which may give rise to changes to the individual landscape components. This in turn effects the landscape character and potentially changes how the landscape is experienced and valued.

Visual effects relate to the changes that arise in the composition, character and amenity of the view as a result of changes to the landscape elements.

The assessment of effects therefore systematically:

- Combines the value of the receptor with the susceptibility to the proposed change to determine the sensitivity of the receptor;
- Combines the size, scale, geographic extent, duration of the proposals and its reversibility in order to understand the magnitude of the proposal;
- Combines the sensitivity of the each of the receptors and the magnitude of effect to determine the significance of the effect;
- Presents the landscape and visual effects in a factual logical, well-reasoned and objective fashion;
- Indicates the measures proposed over and above those designed into the scheme to prevent/avoid, reduce, offset, remedy, compensate for the effects (mitigation measures) or which provide an overall landscape and visual enhancement;
- Sets out any assumptions considered throughout the assessment of effects; and
- Sets out residual effects.

Effects may be positive (beneficial) or negative (adverse) direct or indirect, residual, permanent or temporary short, medium or long term. They can also arise at different scales (national, regional, local or site level) and have different levels of significance (major, moderate, low, negligible or neutral / no change). Residual effects are those at year 15 considering any additional mitigation measures in place over and above those designed in to the scheme.

The combination of the above factors influences the professional judgement and opinion on the significance of the landscape and visual effects.

The emphasis is placed on the narrative text describing the landscape and visual effects, and the judgements made about their significance, with tables and matrices used to support and summarise the descriptive text. The criteria and thresholds set out in the methodology are used to inform the assessment of effects. Ranges of criteria and thresholds are used in the assessment where appropriate. Whilst every possible range is not defined in the methodology, each of the thresholds and criteria are clearly explained, and therefore the logic to each range can be traced.

Cumulative effects of all other known development will also be considered as set out in Chapter 2 of the ES.

The following sections set out in more detail the assessment process employed.

## A1.3 ESTABLISHING THE LANDSCAPE BASELINE

### DESK AND FIELD STUDIES

The initial step is to identify the existing landscape and visual resource in the vicinity of the proposed development – the baseline landscape and visual conditions. The purpose of the baseline study is to record and analyse the existing landscape in terms of its constituent elements, features, characteristics, geographic extent, historical and cultural associations, condition, the way the landscape is experienced and the value / importance of that particular landscape. The baseline assessment will also identify any potential changes likely to occur in the local landscape or townscape which will change the characteristics of either the site or its setting.

A desk study is carried out to establish the physical components of the local landscape and to broadly identify the boundaries of the study area. Ordnance survey (OS) maps and digital data are used to identify local features relating to geology, soils, landform, drainage, vegetation cover, land use, settlement, the history of the landscape and the way that landscape is experienced, which together combine to create a series of key characteristics and character areas. Vertical aerial photography and Google Street View will be used to supplement OS information. At this stage, any special designated landscapes (such as Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, National Parks, Green Belt, Conservation Areas, Listed Buildings, Areas of Special Character); heritage or ecological assets are identified. A review of information available in terms of any published historic landscape characterisation together with any other landscape / capacity / urban fringe and visual related studies is carried out at this stage.

Landscape character assessment is the tool for classifying the landscape into distinct character areas or types, which share common features and characteristics. There is a well established methodology developed in the UK by the Countryside Agency and Scottish Natural Heritage in 2002, which has been superseded in England by guidance published by Natural England in 2014. The national and regional level character assessments are often available in published documents. However the local / district or site levels may need to be set out based on a combination of desk studies and field survey work. The character assessment will also identify environmental and landscape opportunities, recent changes, future trends and forces for change where they may be important in relation to the proposal, especially considering how the landscape appears, or would appear prior to the commencement of development. The condition of the landscape, i.e. the physical state of an individual area of landscape, will be described as factually as possible. The assessment of landscape importance includes reference to policy or designations as an indicator of recognised value, including specific features or characteristics that justify the designation of the area. The value of that landscape by different stakeholders or user groups may also influence the baseline assessment.

If published local/site level landscape character assessments are not available, the landscape is to be classified into distinctive character areas and / or types, based on variations in landform, land cover, vegetation / settlement pattern, field pattern, enclosure, condition, value. The classification will take into account any National, County/District and Parish level landscape character assessments.

These desk based studies are then used as a basis for verification in the field. The field based assessment also considers the perceptual qualities of the landscape,

including tranquillity.

Judgements on the value of both the landscape and visual receptor are made at the baseline stage.

### LANDSCAPE VALUE

Value is concerned with the relative value or importance that is attached to different landscapes. Landscape value is inherent, considered independently of the development proposals. The baseline assessment considers any natural and cultural heritage, landscape condition, associations with notable people, events and the arts, distinctiveness, recreational opportunities, and perceptual qualities (including scenic quality, wilderness, tranquillity and / or dark skies). These environmental, historical and cultural aspects, physical and visual components are considered together with any statutory and non-statutory designations, taking into account other values to society, which may be expressed by the local community or consultees. Wherever possible information and opinions on landscape value is to be sought through discussions with consultees, stakeholders and user groups.

Landscape value is not always signified by designation. When considering an undesignated area, landscape value will be determined through a review of existing assessments, policies, strategies and guidelines. Where appropriate, new survey and analysis will inform judgements about landscape value. Any landscape designation will be considered in terms of their 'meaning' to today's context.

The tables relating to landscape value and the value attached to views are a starting point for consideration in the field. Table A1.1 overleaf sets out the criteria and definitions used in the baseline assessment to determine landscape value (in addition to condition / quality). Figure 5.1 set out within 'Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment' (GLVIA3) Third Edition (Routledge 2013), along with Technical Guidance Note 02/21 'Assessing landscape value outside national designations' (Landscape Institute, May 2021) have been used to inform these criteria.

Not all of the criteria within Table A1.1 need to be met for a landscape to be assigned a value of high, medium or low.

The indicators of value should be reviewed on a case-by-case basis, taking into account what they contribute (positively or negatively) to a specific landscape. The relative importance to be attached to each indicator is likely to vary across different landscapes. Once evidence for each factor has been collated and assessed, it is important to step back and judge the overall 'weight of evidence' in coming to an overall judgement on landscape value.

There are likely to be overlaps between the factors, as well as overlaps with other specialist studies for example in relation to natural and cultural factors. These overlaps should be acknowledged and considered when presenting conclusions on the overall value of the landscape.

While condition/intactness of a landscape is one factor that can influence value, poor landscape management should not be a reason to deny a landscape a valued status if other factors indicate value. Deliberately neglecting an area of landscape and allowing its condition to deteriorate should not be allowed to diminish its value in a planning

context.

When assessing the landscape value of a site it is important to consider not only the Site itself and its features/elements/characteristics/qualities, but also their relationship with, and the role they play within, the site's context. Value is best appreciated at the scale at which a landscape is perceived – rarely is this on a field-by-field basis.

Landscape function can influence value, but the presence of a spatial designation (e.g. Green Belt or Green Gap) is not in itself an indicator of high landscape value. The presentation of information about landscape value should be proportionate to the task at hand.

Landscape value, and the way in which landscapes are valued by people, is a dynamic process, and can change over time. Any value assessment will be a snapshot in time.

More about tranquillity can be found in Landscape Institute Technical Information Note 01/2017 (Landscape Institute, 2017).

### NIGHT TIME CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

During the field survey stage it may be considered appropriate to carry out a baseline night time 'darkness' assessment to understand whether the Site is currently influenced by lighting at night. This will assist in understanding the likely effects of the proposal on the night-time character and visual experience gained, especially considering those receptors immediately adjacent to the Site or those travelling past the Site.

A night time lux level assessment is that which is carried out by lighting engineers and may be used to inform the night time character assessment.

TABLE A1.1 - LANDSCAPE VALUE CRITERIA

HIGH	MEDIUM	LOW
<p><b>Natural Heritage</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unique components relating to ecology, geology, topography, soils and water.</li> <li>• Components may be nationally / internationally designated, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sites of Important Nature Conservation</li> <li>• Heritage Coasts</li> <li>• Special Protection Areas</li> <li>• Ancient Woodland</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Cultural Heritage</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rare or distinct components relating to built history that positively contribute to landscape character including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• drove roads / salt ways / packhorse trails</li> <li>• sunken lanes</li> <li>• ridge and furrow fields</li> <li>• relic farmsteads</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Nationally / internationally designated component/s including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• UNESCO World Heritage Sites</li> <li>• Listed buildings / structures and their associated setting.</li> <li>• Historic Parks and Gardens (included within the Register by Historic England)</li> <li>• Registered Battlefield</li> <li>• Scheduled Ancient Monuments</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Landscape Condition</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Landscape area or components in a very good - good physical condition / intact, with appropriate management.</li> <li>• Absence of detracting/ incongruous features (or features are present but are not prominent).</li> </ul> <p><b>Associations</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Many or significant connections with well-known events, people, works of art, science or technical achievements that positively contribute to perceptions of the landscape.</li> </ul> <p><b>Distinctiveness</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unique components that make a strong and multifaceted positive contribution to landscape character e.g. the whalebone arch in Whitby.</li> <li>• Landscape area that is recognised nationally / internationally for its scenic beauty, including areas within: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National Parks</li> <li>• Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Landscape areas that have a strong visual or functional link with adjacent designated landscapes and their special qualities.</li> </ul> <p><b>Recreational</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prominence of open access land, common land and public rights of way (particularly National Trails, long distance trails, Coastal Paths and Core Paths), plus high quality public open space.</li> <li>• Areas with very good or good accessibility with opportunities for the enjoyment of the outdoors.</li> </ul> <p><b>Perceptual</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unique landscape areas or components, particularly regarding scale, form, colour, texture, diversity or contrasts that positively contribute to landscape character.</li> <li>• High levels of tranquillity and relative wildness, including sense of remoteness, dark skies, presence of wildlife / bird song and relative peace and quiet.</li> </ul> <p><b>Functional</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unique landscape areas or components that contribute to the healthy functioning of the landscape and make a strong and multi-faceted positive contribution to landscape character e.g. areas that form carbon sinks such as peat bogs</li> </ul>	<p><b>Natural Heritage</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Common components relating to ecology, geology, topography, soils and water.</li> <li>• Components may be designated at the local or borough level, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• TPO's</li> <li>• Nature Reserve's</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Cultural Heritage</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Common components relating to built history that positively contribute to landscape character such as vernacular architecture typical of the locality.</li> <li>• Locally designated component/s including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conservation Areas</li> <li>• Scenic Trails / Scenic Routes</li> <li>• Locally listed buildings and monuments</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Un-designated components but acknowledge locally for their heritage importance or expressed through non-statutory designations.</li> </ul> <p><b>Landscape Condition</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Landscape area or components in a good - ordinary condition, with scope to improve.</li> <li>• Some detracting / incongruous features.</li> </ul> <p><b>Associations</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Some connections with well-known events, people, works of art, science or technical achievements that positively contribute to perceptions of the landscape.</li> </ul> <p><b>Distinctiveness</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Some components that are unique and contribute positively to landscape character.</li> <li>• Recognised locally, including designations such as Special Landscape Areas, Areas of Great Landscape Value, Strategic or Local Gaps.</li> </ul> <p><b>Recreational</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Some open access land, common land and public rights of way.</li> <li>• Areas with good or ordinary accessibility with opportunities for the enjoyment of the outdoors.</li> </ul> <p><b>Perceptual</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstrates some wildness and tranquillity.</li> <li>• Some detracting features.</li> </ul> <p><b>Functional</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Landscape areas or components which make some contribution to the healthy functioning of the landscape.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Natural Heritage</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inconsequential components relating to ecology, geology, topography, soils and water.</li> <li>• Generally un-designated.</li> </ul> <p><b>Cultural Heritage</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Few or no components relating to built history that positively contribute to landscape character.</li> <li>• Generally un-designated.</li> </ul> <p><b>Landscape Condition</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Landscape area or components in a poor condition, with scope to improve.</li> <li>• Many detracting / incongruous features.</li> <li>• Disturbed or derelict land.</li> </ul> <p><b>Associations</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Few or no connections with well-known events, people, works of art, science or technical achievements that positively contribute to perceptions of the landscape.</li> </ul> <p><b>Distinctiveness</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Few landscape areas that are unique and contribute positively to landscape character.</li> <li>• Certain individual components identified in landscape character assessments may be worthy of conservation.</li> <li>• Frequent dominant detracting features.</li> </ul> <p><b>Recreational</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A limited quantum of open access land, common land and public rights of way.</li> <li>• Poor accessibility with opportunities for the enjoyment of the outdoors.</li> </ul> <p><b>Perceptual</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Limited or no sense of wildness and tranquillity.</li> <li>• Frequent / multiple detracting features.</li> </ul> <p><b>Functional</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Limited or no contribution to the healthy functioning of the landscape.</li> </ul>

## A1.4 ESTABLISHING IN THE VISUAL BASELINE

### DESK AND FIELD STUDIES

The visual baseline will establish the area in which the Site and the Proposed Development may be visible, the different groups of people who may experience the views, the places where they will be affected and the nature, character and amenity of those views.

The area of study for the visual assessment is determined through identifying the area from which the existing site and proposal may be visible (the Zone of Theoretical Visibility or ZTV). The baseline ZTV of the site is determined through either manual topographical analysis (a combination of desk and field based analysis which are considered appropriate for Landscape and Visual Appraisals and projects below the EIA threshold) or digital mapping based on bare earth modelling, (which do not take account of features such as vegetation or built form) constructing a map showing the area where the proposal may theoretically be visible. The extent of the mapping will depend on the type of proposal. The actual extent of visibility is checked in the field (both in the summer and winter months if the project timescales allow) to record the screening effect of buildings, walls, fences, trees, hedgerows and banks not identified in the initial bare ground mapping stage and to provide an accurate baseline assessment of visibility. Viewpoints within the ZTV should also be identified during the desk assessment, and the viewpoints used for photographs selected to demonstrate the relative visibility of the site (and any existing development on it and its relationship with the surrounding landscape and built forms). The selection of a range of key viewpoints will be based on the following criteria for determination in the field:

- The requirement to provide an even spread of representative, specific, illustrative or static / kinetic / sequential / transient viewpoints within the ZTV and around all sides of the Site;
- From locations which represent a range of near, middle and long distance views (although the most distant views may be discounted in the impact assessment if it is judged that visibility will be extremely limited);
- Views from sensitive receptors within designated, historic or cultural landscapes or heritage assets (such as from within World Heritage Sites; adjacent to Listed Buildings - and co-ordinated with the heritage consultant - National Parks, Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty or Registered Parks and Gardens) key tourist locations and public vantage points (such as viewpoints identified on OS maps);
- The inclusion of strategic / important / designed views and vistas identified in published documents;

Views from the following are to be included in the visual assessment:

- Individual private dwellings. These are to be collated as representative viewpoints as it may not be practical to visit all properties that might be affected;
- Key public buildings, where relevant (i.e. libraries, hospitals, churches, community halls etc);
- Transient views from public viewpoints (i.e. from roads, railway lines and Public Rights of Way - including tourist or scenic routes and associated viewpoints);
- Areas of publicly accessible green space (i.e. public open space, open access land,

recreation grounds, country parks, visitor attractions, tourist destinations or scenic viewpoints); and

- Places of employment,

The final selection of the key viewpoints for inclusion in the LVIA will be based proportionately in relation to the scale and nature of the development proposals and likely significant effects and in agreement with the LPA.

The visual assessment records:

- The character and amenity of the view, including topographic, geological and drainage features, woodland, tree and hedgerow cover, land use, field boundaries, artefacts, access and rights of way, direction of view and potential seasonal screening effects and any skyline elements or features.
- The type of view, whether oblique or direct; panoramic or vistas.
- The extent of visibility of the range of receptors is based on a grading of degrees of visibility, from a visual inspection of the site and surrounding area. There will be a continuity of degree of visibility ranging from no view of the site (truncated) to fully open views. Views are recorded, even if views are truncated of the existing site, as the proposed development may be visible in these views. To indicate the degree of visibility of the site from any location, three categories are used:
  - Open View:**  
An open, unobstructed and clear view of a significant proportion of the ground plane of the site; or its boundary elements; or a clear view of part of the site and its component elements in close proximity.
  - Partial View:**  
A view of part of the site, a filtered or glimpsed view of the site, or a distant view where the site is perceived as a small part of the wider view;
  - Truncated View:**  
No view of the site or the site is difficult to perceive.

Following the field survey (which should cover ideally both winter and summer views) the extent to which the site is visible from the surrounding area will be mapped. A Photographic Viewpoint Plan will be prepared to illustrate the representative, specific and illustrative views into / towards and within the Site (if publicly accessible) and the degree of visibility of the site noted. This Plan will be included in a Key Views document for agreement with the Local Planning Authority and any other statutory consultees as part of the consultation process. The visual assessment will include a series of annotated photographs, the location and extent of the site within the view together with identifying the character and amenity of the view, alongside any specific elements or important component features such as landform, buildings or vegetation or detracting features which interrupt, filter or otherwise influence views. The photograph will also be annotated with the Value attributed to the receptor or group of receptors.

By the end of this stage of the combined landscape and visual site study, it will be possible to advise, in landscape and visual terms, on any specific mitigation measures required in terms of the developments preferred siting, layout and design.

## VALUE OF VISUAL RECEPTORS

Judgements on the value attached to the views experienced are based on the following criteria.

TABLE A1.2 – VALUE ATTACHED TO VIEWS

VALUE	CRITERIA
<b>HIGH</b>	Views from and to landscapes / viewpoints of national importance, or highly popular visitor attractions where the view forms a significant role in the visual experience, and / or has nationally recognised cultural associations. This may include residential receptors in Listed Buildings where the primary elevation of the dwelling is orientated to take advantage of a particular view (for example across a Registered Park and Garden or National Park or AONB).
<b>MEDIUM</b>	Views from and to landscapes / viewpoints of regional / district importance or moderately popular visitor attractions where the view forms part of the experience, and / or has local cultural associations. This may include residential receptors where the primary elevation of the dwelling is orientated to take advantage of a particular view.
<b>LOW</b>	Views from and to landscapes / viewpoints with no designation, not particularly important and with minimal or no cultural associations. This may include views from the rear elevation of residential properties.

## A1.5 ASSESSMENT OF LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL SUSCEPTIBILITY AND MAGNITUDE

The assessment of landscape and visual effects is obtained through assessing susceptibility, combining this with the judgement on value, to form the sensitivity of receptors. Sensitivity is then linked with a judgement of magnitude of effect experienced to form the assessment of effect.

Susceptibility, sensitivity and magnitude of change are explained further within this section.

### LANDSCAPE SUSCEPTIBILITY

The susceptibility of the landscape is a measure of its vulnerability to the type of development proposed, without undue consequences for the maintenance of the baseline situation. Existing landscape capacity assessments may form a starting point for the refinement of the assessment of landscape susceptibility at the local and site level.

The overall susceptibility for each landscape receptor is categorised as High, Medium or Low as set out in Table A1.3.

**Table A1.3 – Landscape Susceptibility Criteria**

SUSCEPTIBILITY	CRITERIA
<b>HIGH</b>	The receptor has a well-defined composition with a direct relationship to adjacent key characteristics. The type of development proposed is likely to alter the overall integrity of the receptor and is very unlikely to be able to accommodate recommendations as set out in published guidelines.
<b>MEDIUM</b>	The receptor has a varied composition with some links to adjacent key characteristics. The type of development proposed may potentially alter the overall integrity of the receptor and could incorporate recommendations as set out in published guidelines.
<b>LOW</b>	The receptor has a disjointed composition with little - no links to adjacent key characteristics. The type of development proposed is unlikely to alter the overall integrity of the receptor and is capable of incorporating recommendations as set out in published guidelines.

### VISUAL SUSCEPTIBILITY

The susceptibility of each visual receptor is a measure of their receptiveness to the type of development proposed, without undue consequences for the maintenance of the baseline situation. Visual susceptibility considers; the extent to which the viewers attention is focused on the landscape; the extent to which the view contributes to the amenity experience; and the nature of the activity the viewer is involved in.

The overall susceptibility for each visual receptor is categorised as High, Medium or Low as set out in Table A1.4.

**Table A1.4 – Visual Susceptibility Criteria**

Susceptibility	Criteria
<b>HIGH</b>	People engaged in an activity and/or at a location where they are focused on the landscape; where the view contributes to the amenity experience; and where there is opportunity to appreciate the view.
<b>MEDIUM</b>	People engaged in an activity and/or at a location where they are not especially focused on the landscape; where the view contributes in part to the amenity experience; and where there is some opportunity to appreciate the view.
<b>LOW</b>	People engaged in an activity and/or at a location where they are not focused on the landscape; where the view does not contribute to the amenity experience; and where there is little - no opportunity to appreciate the view.

### SENSITIVITY JUDGEMENTS

The assessment of landscape/visual sensitivity is then combined through a judgement on the value attributed to that receptor (at the baseline stage) and the susceptibility of the receptor to the proposed change using the criteria as set out in Table A1.3 and A1.4.

Table A1.5 below sets out the sensitivity matrix, with criteria set out as High, Medium and Low.

**Table A1.5 - Landscape and Visual Sensitivity Matrix**

		LANDSCAPE / VISUAL RECEPTOR SUSCEPTIBILITY		
		HIGH	MEDIUM	LOW
LANDSCAPE / VISUAL VALUE	HIGH	HIGH	HIGH	MEDIUM
	MEDIUM	HIGH	MEDIUM	MEDIUM
	LOW	MEDIUM	MEDIUM	LOW

## LANDSCAPE MAGNITUDE OF EFFECT

### Scale

Factors contributing to the scale of the change to be experienced by the landscape receptor (as set out in Table A1.6) include the extent of the receptor that will be altered (with reference to their wider contribution to the landscape); the degree to which aesthetic or perceptual aspects will be altered; and the geographical area that will be directly and indirectly altered.

**Table A1.6 - Landscape Scale Criteria**

EXTENT	DESCRIPTION
<b>SUBSTANTIAL</b>	Likely be a whole scale change to the landscape receptor, which will result in change in the integrity of the receptor of a wide geographic area.
<b>SIZEABLE</b>	Likely be change to a high proportion of the landscape receptor, which will result in a noticeable change in the integrity of the receptor of an extended geographic area.
<b>MODEST</b>	Likely be change to a moderate proportion of the landscape receptor, which will be perceptible and have some effect on the integrity of the receptor within a localised geographic area.
<b>COMPACT</b>	Likely be change to a limited proportion of the landscape receptor, which will not be discernible or have no - limited effect on the integrity of the receptor within its immediate setting (very localised geographic area).

### Duration and Reversibility

Factors contributing to the duration of the change to be experienced by the landscape receptor (as set out in Table A1.8) include whether the change is wholly reversible, permanent or temporary. Construction impacts are likely to be short term, temporary, but see the start of a permanent change. Operational effects are likely to be long term, permanent and either irreversible or reversible, depending on the nature of the project.

**Table A1.7 - Landscape Duration and Reversibility Criteria**

DURATION	DESCRIPTION
<b>LONG</b>	Likely to be of permanence with limited prospect of being reinstated and is deemed irreversible.
<b>MEDIUM</b>	Likely to be of permanence (between 10-25 years) and is potentially, or theoretically reversible.
<b>SHORT</b>	Likely to last for up to 10 years and is wholly or partially reversible / receptors can be reinstated.
<b>VERY SHORT</b>	Likely to be temporary (up to 2 years) and readily reinstated / reversed. Includes construction effects (unless these are for an extended period).

## VISUAL MAGNITUDE OF EFFECT

### Scale

Factors contributing to the scale of the change to be experienced by the visual receptor (as set out in Table A1.8) include the angle of view in relation to the main activity of the receptor; the distance of the viewer from the proposed development; the extent of the area over which the changes will be visible; and the degree of visual intrusion of the proposed development in the view.

**Table A1.8 - Visual Scale Criteria**

EXTENT	DESCRIPTION
<b>SUBSTANTIAL</b>	Likely be a distinct change in the composition of the view, close to the viewer and occupying a wide extent of the view.
<b>SIZEABLE</b>	Likely be a noticeable change in the composition of the view, which may be close to the viewer and / or occupying a sizeable extent of the view.
<b>MODEST</b>	Likely be a perceptible change in the composition of the view, which may be at some distance from the viewer, or nearby but only glimpsed and/or occupying a discrete extent of the view.
<b>COMPACT</b>	Likely be a barely perceptible change in the composition of the view, which is likely to be at a considerable distance from the viewer and only glimpsed and / or occupying a limited extent of the view.

### Duration and Reversibility

Factors contributing to the duration of the change to be experienced by the visual receptor (as set out in Table A1.9) include whether the view is experienced in fixed or transient views; and the nature of transient views - being intermittent, glimpsed or continuous.

**Table A1.9 - Visual Duration and Reversibility Criteria**

DURATION	DESCRIPTION
<b>LONG</b>	Likely to be of permanence and visible for a continuous period.
<b>MEDIUM</b>	Likely to be of permanence and intermittently visible.
<b>SHORT</b>	Likely to be temporary and visible for a continuous period.
<b>VERY SHORT</b>	Likely to be temporary and intermittently visible.

## MAGNITUDE OF EFFECT JUDGEMENTS

The assessment of size / scale / geographic extent plus duration and reversibility is then combined based on the matrix as set out in Table A1.10 below, with criteria set out as High, Medium, Small and Negligible.

**Table A1.10 - Magnitude Matrix**

		DURATION AND REVERSIBILITY			
		LONG	MEDIUM	SHORT	VERY SHORT
SCALE	SUBSTANTIAL	HIGH	HIGH / MEDIUM	MEDIUM	LOW / NEGLIGIBLE
	SIZEABLE	HIGH / MEDIUM	MEDIUM	MEDIUM	LOW / NEGLIGIBLE
	MODEST	MEDIUM	MEDIUM	LOW	NEGLIGIBLE
	COMPACT	LOW / NEGLIGIBLE	LOW / NEGLIGIBLE	NEGLIGIBLE	NEGLIGIBLE

## A1.6 SIGNIFICANCE OF EFFECTS

Sensitivity and magnificence of effect are considered alongside one another for each receptor, in line with Table A1.11 below, to draw conclusions on the significance of landscape and visual effects. Depending on the nature of the proposed development, the significance of effects may be considered at different stages of the project life cycle (e.g. during construction; at Year 1 of operation; at Year 15 of operation; and/or on decommission).

The assessment of significance is subject to professional judgement and is rated on a scale of Negligible through to Major. Table A1.12 sets out a starting point for the assessment, it is important that a balanced and well reasoned professional judgement of these two criteria is provided with an explanation. Where effects span multiple cells in Table A.11, professional judgement is used to determine the likely significance of the effect.

**Table A1.11 - Significance Matrix**

		LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL RECEPTOR SENSITIVITY			
		HIGH	MEDIUM	LOW	
MAGNITUDE	HIGH	MAJOR	MAJOR	MODERATE	
	MEDIUM	MAJOR	MODERATE	MODERATE	MINOR
	LOW	MODERATE	MODERATE	MINOR	MINOR
	NEGLIGIBLE	MINOR	MINOR - NEGLIGIBLE	NEGLIGIBLE	

The judgement of significance indicates how important the effect is likely to be from a landscape and visual perspective. Effects of Major or Moderate significance are deemed 'significant'. These are highlighted in orange in Table A1.11 above.

**Table A1.12 - Significance Description**

SIGNIFICANCE	DESCRIPTION
MAJOR	An effect that is likely to be very important from a landscape and visual perspective.
MODERATE	An effect that is potentially important from a landscape and visual perspective.
MINOR	An effect that is unlikely to be important from a landscape and visual perspective.
NEGLIGIBLE	An effect that has minimal importance from a landscape and visual perspective.
NEUTRAL OR NO CHANGE	No effect and therefore of no importance from a landscape and visual perspective.

### A1.6.1 NATURE OF EFFECTS

Effects are defined as beneficial, adverse, or neutral, as defined in Table A1.13. This consideration is termed the 'balance of effects', factoring in both the potentially beneficial and adverse aspects associated with a given change and its resultant effect. Where landscape effects are judged to be adverse, additional mitigation or compensatory measures are to be considered. The significant landscape effects remaining after mitigation are then to be summarised as the residual effects.

Effects will be described clearly and objectively, and the extent and duration of any negative/positive effects quantified, using four categories of effects, indicating a gradation from high to low.

**Table A1.13 - Nature of Effect Criteria**

SIGNIFICANCE	DESCRIPTION
BENEFICIAL	An effect that will on balance result in an improvement to the condition, integrity or key characteristics/composition of the landscape receptor or viewing experience.
ADVERSE	An effect that will on balance result in damage to the condition, integrity or key characteristics/composition of the landscape receptor or viewing experience.
NEUTRAL	An effect that will on balance maintain the condition, integrity or key characteristics / composition of the landscape receptor or viewing experience and may incorporate a combination of positive and negative aspects.

## A1.7 EFFECTS DURING SITE ENABLING AND CONSTRUCTION

It is recognised that project characteristics and hence sources of effects, will vary through time. The initial effects arise from the site enabling and construction works. Sources of landscape and visual effects may include:

- The location of the site access and haulage routes;
- The origin and nature of materials stockpiles, stripping of material and cut and fill operations / disposal and construction compounds;
- The construction equipment and plant (and colour);
- The provision of utilities, including lighting and any temporary facilities;
- The scale, location and nature of any temporary parking areas and on-site accommodation;
- The removal of vegetation to facilitate site access and establish the development platforms;
- The measures for the temporary protection of existing features (such as vegetation, trees, ponds, etc) and any temporary screening (such as hoarding lines); and
- The programme of work and phasing of construction.

## A1.8 EFFECTS DURING OPERATION (AT YEAR 1)

At the operational stage, the sources of landscape and visual effects may include:

- The location, scale, height, mass and design of buildings in terms of elevational treatment; structures and processes, including any other features;
- Details of service arrangements such as storage areas or infrastructure elements and utilities and haulage routes;
- Access arrangements and traffic movements;
- Lighting;
- Car parking;
- The noise and movement of vehicles in terms of perceived effects on tranquillity;
- Visible plumes from chimneys;
- Signage and boundary treatments;
- Outdoor activities that may be visible;
- The operational landscape, including landform, structure planting, green infrastructure and hard landscape features;
- Land management operations and objectives; and
- The enhancement or restoration of any landscape resource of particular view.

## A1.10 MITIGATION AND COMPENSATORY MEASURES

The purpose of mitigation is to avoid, reduce and where possible, remedy or offset, any significant (major to moderate) negative (adverse) effects on the landscape and visual receptors arising from the proposed development. Mitigation is thus not solely concerned with 'damage limitation', but may also consider measures that could compensate for unavoidable residual effects. Mitigation measures may be considered under three categories:

- Primary measures that intrinsically comprise part of the development design through an iterative process (embedded mitigation);
- Standard construction and operational management practices for avoiding and reducing environmental effects (tertiary mitigation); and
- Secondary (or residual) measures designed to specifically address the remaining effects after the primary and standard construction practices have been incorporated.

## A1.11 RESIDUAL EFFECTS

The residual effects of the proposed development are to be assessed. Residual effects consider any additional mitigation measures required to address specific landscape and visual sensitivities in place over and above the primary mitigation measures proposed and those already included and designed in to the scheme. The process of assessing residual effects is the same as assessing the primary effects. The Residual Effects are considered to be the effects assessed at Year 15, when the landscape proposals are considered to have matured.

## A1.12 CUMULATIVE EFFECTS

Cumulative effects are defined as effects which result from additional changes to the landscape and visual receptors by the proposed development in conjunction with other developments (associated with or separate to it) or actions that occurred in the past, present or likely to occur in the foreseeable future.

The scope of the developments to be included in the cumulative assessment have been set out by the EIA Coordinator. Prescribed approaches to the assessment, in terms of the baseline environment and defining the study area, are to be relative to the developments identified to be assessed and are set out in Chapter 2 of the ES.

Cumulative effects arise from the intervisibility of a range of developments and/or from the combined effects of individual components of the proposed development occurring in the different locations over a period of time. The separate effects of such individual components or developments may not be significant, but together they may create an unacceptable degree of adverse effect on landscape and visual receptors.

Whilst the assessment of effects are to be assessed on the same basis as set out previously in this methodology, visual effects occur by combined visibility which occurs where the observer is able to see two or more developments from one viewpoint and / or, where sequential effects which occur when the observer has to move to another viewpoint to see different developments.

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