## FIGURE 6.0: SIGNIFICANCE MATRIX FOR IMPACTS ON LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AND FEATURES

Landscape impacts are changes in the fabric, character and quality of the landscape as a result of development. Landscape Impact Assessment is therefore concerned with:

- Direct impact on specific landscape elements
- Subtle effects on landscape character and distinctiveness
- Impact on acknowledged special interests or values

Sensitivity of Landscape Character and Landscape Features lies along a continuum depending on the items importance - from international to low local importance - with overlap between each defined category. The sensitivity of these depends upon the level of existing designation and on the inherent quality and condition of the landscape character and individual features International National County High (local) Moderate (local) Low (local) County designated feature or A landscape or feature designated Internationally designated feature or Nationally designated feature or Locally valued components or A non designated landscape as being of District / Borough character or feature, the nature of landscape character, susceptible to landscape of particularly landscape reasonably tolerant of landscape reasonably tolerant of relatively small changes distinctive character, susceptible to changes value with characteristics changes which is potentially tolerant of substantial change relatively small changes reasonably tolerant of changes Nature of impact High At complete variance v the landform, scale as pattern of the landsca Medium Very High Medium Severe Very High High MediumLow in or an A significant deterioration (or improvement) in landscape character closs of features over a extensive area High Medium High Medium Very High High Low Medium Low ceable deteriora improvement) i cape character o dscape elements High Medium Low MediumMedium High Low Medium Low Negligible A barely perceptible deterioration ( or improvement ) to elements or character High Medium Low Medium Low Negligible Medium Low Negligible No change Negligible Negligible Negligible Negligible Negligible Negligible No a any

Nature Of Impact (After construction and maturation of mitigatory measures). Adverse

- Severe: Would irrevocably damage, degrade or badly diminish the characteristic features, elements and their setting.
- High (Very High High): Total permanent loss or major alteration to key elements/features of the landscape. Introduction of elements totally uncharacteristic of the surrounding landscapes.
- Medium: Substantial permanent loss or alteration to one or more key elements/landscape. Introduction of elements that are prominent but may not be substantially uncharacteristic with the surrounding landscape.
- Low (Minor or Negligible): Minor permanent/temporary loss or alteration to one or more key elements/features of the landscape. Introduction of elements that may not be uncharacteristic with the surrounding landscape and may provide positive enhancement. Beneficial

■ High (Very High - High): Fit very well with scale, landform and pattern. Potential through measures to restore landscape characteristics, further policy objectives.

- Medium: Fit well with scale, landform and pattern, incorporate measures to blend with surroundings. Maintain or enhance existing character.
- Neutral (Minor or Negligible): Complement scale, landform and pattern of the landscape. Maintain existing character

Nature of impact

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