

TECHNICAL APPENDIX 10.1 SIGNIFICANCE MATRIX FOR IMPACTS ON LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AND FEATURES

Landscape impacts are changes in the fabric, character and quality 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

(For guidance only, professional interpretation of individual impacts required)

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 <i>Internationally designated feature or landscape character, susceptible to relatively small changes</i>	National <i>Nationally designated feature or landscape of particularly distinctive character, susceptible to relatively small changes</i>	County <i>County designated feature or landscape reasonably tolerant of changes</i>	High (local) <i>A landscape or feature designated as being of District / Borough value with characteristics reasonably tolerant of changes</i>	Moderate (local) <i>Locally valued components or landscape reasonably tolerant of changes</i>	Low (local) <i>A non designated landscape character or feature, the nature of which is potentially tolerant of substantial change</i>
Magnitude of Effect lies along a continuum from very high to no change, with an overlap between each defined category. This is determined by assessing the amount of the character, landscape type or feature effected within the context of the site and the permanence of the effect	Very High <i>At complete variance with the landform, scale and pattern of the landscape</i>	Very High	Very High	High	High	Medium	Medium
	High <i>A significant deterioration (or improvement) in landscape character or loss of features over an extensive area</i>	Very High	High	High	Medium	Medium	Low
	Medium <i>A noticeable deterioration (or improvement) in landscape character and landscape elements</i>	High	High	Medium	Medium	Low	Negligible
	Low <i>A barely perceptible deterioration (or improvement) to elements or character</i>	High	Medium	Medium	Low	Low	Negligible
	No change <i>No discernible change to any landscape elements or character</i>	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible
	Nature of impact	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible

Nature Of Impact

Adverse

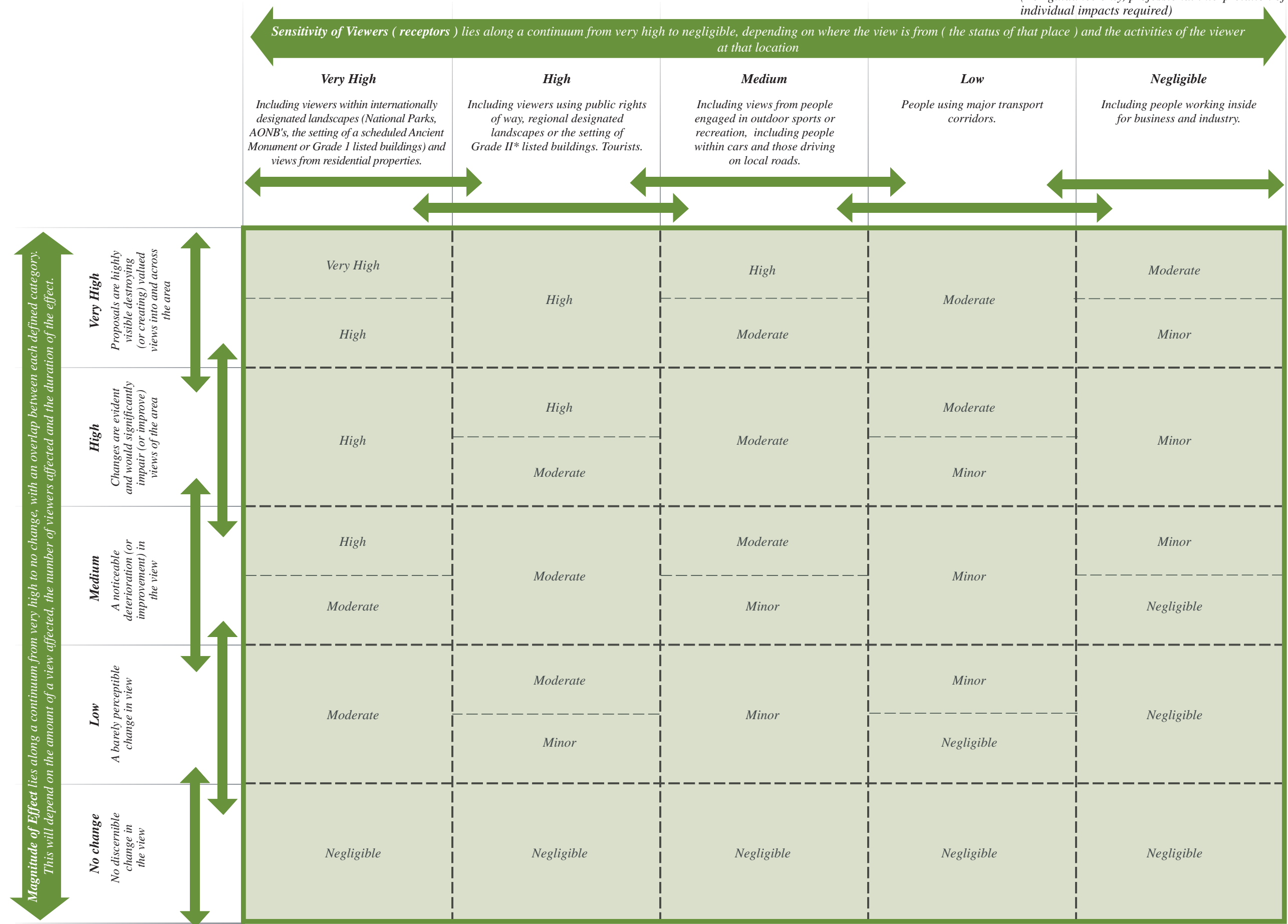
- **High (Very High - High):** Total permanent loss or major alteration to key elements/features. Introduction of elements totally uncharacteristic of the surrounding landscapes.
- **Medium:** Substantial permanent loss or alteration to one or more key elements/landscape. Introduction of elements that 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.
- **Low (Minor or Negligible):** Complement scale, landform and pattern of the landscape. Maintain existing character.

TECHNICAL APPENDIX 10.1 SIGNIFICANCE MATRIX FOR VISUAL EFFECTS

(For guidance only, professional interpretation of individual impacts required)



Nature of the Impact

Adverse

- **High (Very High - High):** The proposals are highly visually intrusive and would disrupt fine and valued views both into and across the area.
- **Medium:** The proposals are visually intrusive and will adversely impact on views of the landscape.
- **Low (Minor or Negligible):** Little visual intrusion which can be mitigated for without an impact on the character of views of the landscape.

Beneficial

- **Low (Minor or Negligible):** Where the scheme would result in a barely perceptible improvement in the existing view.
- **Medium:** A noticeable improvement in the view.
- **High:** A significant improvement in the view. Sense of place restored.