

APPENDIX A: Criteria for assessment of Landscape and Visual effects

EXAMPLE DEFINITIONS OF LANDSCAPE AND VIEW SENSITIVITY	RATING	EXAMPLE DEFINITIONS OF MAGNITUDE OF CHANGE TO LANDSCAPE OR VIEW
<p>LANDSCAPE VALUE: Element has very high cultural or ecological value at a local, regional or national scale.</p> <p>LANDSCAPE SENSITIVITY (Replaceability): Element is difficult or impossible to replace or can only be replaced in a long timescale (14+ years).</p> <p>LANDSCAPE SENSITIVITY (Significance): Element is scarce and/ or an accepted part of landscape character. Any further losses will affect landscape character.</p> <p>LANDSCAPE SENSITIVITY (Vulnerability): Landscape context cannot accommodate change/ more change without detriment to character.</p> <p>VISUAL IMPACT: Landscape has very high aesthetic value at a local, regional or national scale.</p> <p>RECEPTOR SENSITIVITY: Important public location where the accepted activity is specifically enjoyment of the view.</p>	<p>Very High</p>	<p>LANDSCAPE: A total loss or major alteration to one of the existing landscape elements.</p> <p>VISUAL: The introduction of prominent elements of a scale, form and colour that cause degradation of the surrounding landscape character.</p> <p>Change affects a very large proportion of the view at the distance studied and /or will be long lasting (14 years +)</p>
<p>LANDSCAPE VALUE: Element has some high cultural or ecological value at a local regional or national scale.</p> <p>LANDSCAPE SENSITIVITY (Replaceability): Element can be replaced in the medium- long timescale (10-14 years).</p> <p>LANDSCAPE SENSITIVITY (Significance): Element is not yet scarce, it is an accepted part of landscape character and further losses will cause loss of character.</p> <p>LANDSCAPE SENSITIVITY (Vulnerability): Landscape context can only accommodate some small change/ more change without detriment to character.</p> <p>VISUAL IMPACT: Landscape has high aesthetic value at a local, regional or national scale.</p> <p>RECEPTOR SENSITIVITY: Public location or community of private views where the accepted activity is recreational and enjoyment of the view.</p>	<p>High</p>	<p>LANDSCAPE: Partial loss or alteration to one or more key elements, features or characteristics of the landscape</p> <p>VISUAL: The introduction of prominent elements of a scale, form and colour distinct from the surrounding landscape.</p> <p>Change affects a large proportion of the view at the distance studied and/ or will be medium -long lasting (10-14 years +)</p>
<p>LANDSCAPE VALUE: Element has some cultural or ecological value at a local, regional or national scale.</p> <p>LANDSCAPE SENSITIVITY (Replaceability): Element can be replaced in the medium timescale (7-14 years).</p> <p>LANDSCAPE SENSITIVITY (Significance): Element is not yet scarce, it is an accepted part of landscape character and further small losses will cause only small loss of character.</p> <p>LANDSCAPE SENSITIVITY (Vulnerability): Landscape context can accommodate some small change/ more change without detriment to character.</p> <p>VISUAL IMPACT: Landscape has good aesthetic value at a local, regional or national scale.</p> <p>RECEPTOR SENSITIVITY: Public location where the accepted activity is recreational, but the view is secondary (e.g. sports fields) or small number of private views are affected.</p>	<p>Medium</p>	<p>LANDSCAPE: Partial loss or alteration to one key element, feature or characteristic of the landscape.</p> <p>VISUAL: Introduction of prominent elements that are not wholly uncharacteristic of the existing landscape.</p> <p>Change affects a medium proportion of the view at the distance studied and/ or will be medium lasting (7-14 years)</p>
<p>LANDSCAPE VALUE: Element has small cultural or ecological value at a local, regional or national scale.</p> <p>LANDSCAPE SENSITIVITY (Replaceability): Element can be replaced in the short-medium timescale (5-7 years).</p> <p>LANDSCAPE SENSITIVITY (Significance): Element is not scarce, it is not a wholly accepted part of landscape character and further small losses will cause only a small loss of character.</p> <p>LANDSCAPE SENSITIVITY (Vulnerability): Landscape context can accommodate a small amount of change/ more change without detriment to character.</p> <p>VISUAL IMPACT: Landscape has low aesthetic value at a local, regional or national scale.</p> <p>RECEPTOR SENSITIVITY: Public location/ single private views where the accepted activity is recreational but not enjoyment of the view. Views from most transport corridors and businesses.</p>	<p>Low</p>	<p>LANDSCAPE: Minor loss or alteration to one or more key elements, features or characteristics of the landscape.</p> <p>VISUAL: Introduction of minor features not uncharacteristic of the existing landscape</p> <p>Change affects a small proportion of the view at the distance studied and/ or will be short lasting (5-7 years)</p>
<p>LANDSCAPE VALUE: Element has little cultural or ecological value at a local, regional or national scale..</p> <p>LANDSCAPE SENSITIVITY (Replaceability): Element can be replaced in a very short timescale (1-3 years).</p> <p>LANDSCAPE SENSITIVITY (Significance): Element is not scarce, it is not a key part of landscape character and further small losses will not cause any loss of character.</p> <p>LANDSCAPE SENSITIVITY (Vulnerability): Landscape context can accommodate quite large change/ more change without detriment to character.</p> <p>VISUAL IMPACT: Landscape has little or no aesthetic value at a local, regional or national scale.</p> <p>RECEPTOR SENSITIVITY: No recreational activities takes place, little significance for private views.</p>	<p>Very Low</p>	<p>LANDSCAPE: Very minor loss or alteration of one or two key elements, features or characteristics of the landscape.</p> <p>VISUAL: Introduction of elements of a form, scale and colour not uncharacteristic of the existing landscape.</p> <p>Change affects a very small proportion of the view at the distance studied and/ or will be very short lasting (1-3 years)</p>

APPENDIX B: Example definitions for the condition of existing landscape elements

CONDITION	DESCRIPTIVE EXAMPLES
Excellent	The feature is an excellent example of its type and close to the ideal for the habitat type or landscape character of the area.
Good	The feature has lacked some appropriate maintenance and character or ecological health has suffered somewhat, but is easily recovered in the short term. <3 years.
Average	The feature has undergone damage or lack of maintenance that requires some investment to remedy, although the element should recover completely in the medium term (3-7 years).
Poor/Damaged	The feature has been damaged and some parts may not be recoverable. Other elements could recover only in the long term. (7+ years.) The feature is simply a poor example, having never been designed or maintained appropriately.
Degraded	The feature is so damaged and degraded that recovery may not be possible or economic. Creation of new character or elements may be necessary.

APPENDIX C: Significance matrix for impact scoring

		MAGNITUDE				
		Very High	High	Medium	Low	Very Low
SENSITIVITY	Very High	Major	Very Severe	Severe	Substantial	Moderate
	High	Very Severe	Severe	Substantial	Moderate	Slight
	Medium	Severe	Substantial	Moderate	Slight	Negligible
	Low	Substantial	Moderate	Slight	Negligible	Insignificant
	Very Low	Moderate	Slight	Negligible	Insignificant	Insignificant

APPENDIX D: Landscape Character

Oxfordshire Wildlife and Landscape Study (OWLS - 2004)

In the OWLS, the study area includes two landscape types, Rolling Village Pasture and Wooded Pasture, Valleys and Slopes. The key landscape characteristics of Rolling Village Pastures are described as:

- Strongly undulating landform of rounded hills and small valleys
- Small to medium-sized fields with mixed land uses, but predominantly pasture
- Densely scattered hedgerow trees
- Well-defined nucleated villages with little dispersal into the wider countryside

The key landscape characteristics of Wooded Pasture, Valleys and Slopes are described as:

- Steep sided valleys and slopes
- Large, interlocking blocks of ancient and plantation woodland
- Small pasture fields with locally unimproved grassland
- Tall, thick hedges and densely scattered hedgerow trees
- Small intact villages and hamlets

The Cherwell District Landscape Assessment (1996) locates the study area lies within the Ironstone Hills and Valleys Landscape Character Area which it describes as being distinguished by:

- It's rolling landscape and remote and isolated unspoilt ironstone villages
- Much of the rolling hills landscape is in arable cultivation. Some medium/large arable fields are still surrounded by hedges. However, much of the higher land and gentler slopes now have a fairly open landscape, with fields sometimes lacking even fences
- Frequent steep-sided valleys and narrow valley floors, mixed farming, predominantly permanent pasture
- Many hedgerows unmanaged and growing out. Many hedges contain mature hedgerow trees. Hedges mostly dense well-grown barriers. Areas of arable more closely trimmed
- Narrow stands of trees along road verges gives impression of being well-treed, the area lacks larger woodlands. Streams in valley bottoms are locally marked with old willows

At a more local level, the Assessment uses landuse and vegetation character to sort the landscape into types: the landscape type for the study area is identified as R4a Small-scale Enclosed Farmland - described as 'a strong undulating complex of farmed hills and valleys' and 'a pastoral scene of small grazing fields divided by mature, dense hedgerows'.

The study area shares characteristics of an adjacent small enclosed farmland type R4b: 'Where landform opens out, small fields are ploughed so that the resulting landscape is an intricate blend of mixed farming, with small variations in scale and local land use being closely related to topography, a tightly knit small scale rolling farmland with strong field pattern.

The study area extends across the Oxfordshire border west into Warwickshire into the Cotswolds AONB landscape type Ironstone Hills and Valleys, character area 6A Whichford Hills and Valleys. These are fragments of the broader area that extends eastwards and is described above. Key characteristics are described as follows:

- Complex topography of steeply sided convoluted valleys and rolling rounded ridgelines and hills;
- Intermittent isolated round hills
- Distinctive local vernacular with buildings constructed in Hornton Stone
- Settlement pattern of intermittent nucleated hamlets, isolated farmsteads, and individual buildings
- Area principally under arable cultivation, together with some improved and permanent pasture, mainly on valley slopes and bottoms
- Medium to large scale rectilinear fields, mainly enclosed with hedgerows, with frequent hedgerow trees
- Limited woodland cover