

## **APPENDIX A: Landscape and Visual Appraisal – Methodology and Assessment Criteria**

### **Introduction**

- 1.1 The methodology for the Landscape and Visual Appraisal (LVA) undertaken for the proposed development is detailed in the LVA report. The following information should be read in conjunction with this methodology.
- 1.2 As advised in the Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (3rd Edition) (GLVIA3), the judgements made in respect of both landscape and visual effects are a combination of an assessment of the sensitivity of the receptor and the magnitude of the landscape or visual effect. The following details the definitions and criteria used in assessing sensitivity and magnitude for landscape and visual receptors.
- 1.3 Where it is determined that the assessment falls between or encompasses two of the defined criteria terms, then the judgement may be described as High/ Medium or Moderate/ Minor etc. This indicates that the assessment lies between the respective definitions or encompasses aspects of both.

### **Landscape**

#### **Landscape Sensitivity**

- 1.4 Landscape receptors are assessed in terms of their 'Landscape Sensitivity'. This combines judgements on the value to be attached to the landscape and the susceptibility to change of the landscape from the type of change or development proposed. The definition and criteria adopted for these contributory factors is detailed below.
- 1.5 There can be complex relationships between the value attached to landscape receptors and their susceptibility to change which can be especially important when considering change within or close to designated landscapes. For example, an internationally, nationally or locally valued landscape does not automatically or by definition have a high susceptibility to all types of change. The type of change or development proposed may not compromise the specific basis for the value attached to the landscape.

#### **Landscape Value**

- 1.6 Value can apply to a landscape area as a whole, or to the individual elements, features and aesthetic or perceptual dimensions which contribute to the character of the landscape. The following criteria have been used to categorise landscape value. Where there is no clear existing evidence on landscape value, an assessment is made based on the criteria/ factors identified below (based on the guidance in Landscape Institute Technical Guidance Note 02/21 "Assessing landscape value outside national designations" which provides more up to date guidance than GLVIA3 paragraph 5.28, Box 5.1).

- Natural Heritage
- Cultural Heritage
- Landscape Condition
- Associations
- Distinctiveness
- Recreation
- Perceptual (Scenic)
- Perceptual (Wildness and Tranquillity)
- Functional

**LVA Criteria****Table 1: Landscape Value**

<b>Landscape Value</b>	<b>Definition</b>
High	Landscape receptors of high importance based upon factors of natural and cultural heritage, condition, distinctiveness, recreational value, perceptual qualities, associations and functional aspects.
Medium	Landscape receptors of medium importance based upon factors of natural and cultural heritage, condition, distinctiveness, recreational value, perceptual qualities, associations and functional aspects.
Low	Landscape receptors of low importance based upon factors of natural and cultural heritage, condition, distinctiveness, recreational value, perceptual qualities, associations and functional aspects.

**Landscape Susceptibility to Change**

1.7 This means the ability of the landscape receptor (overall character type/ area or individual element/ feature) to accommodate the change (i.e. the proposed development) without undue consequences for the maintenance of the baseline position and/ or the achievement of landscape planning policies and strategies. The definition and criteria for the assessment of Landscape Susceptibility to Change is as follows:

**Table 2: Landscape Susceptibility to Change**

<b>Landscape Susceptibility to Change</b>	<b>Definition</b>
High	A highly distinctive and cohesive landscape receptor, with positive characteristics and features with no or very few detracting or intrusive elements. Landscape features intact and in very good condition and/ or rare. Limited capacity to accept the type of change/ development proposed.
Medium	Distinctive and more commonplace landscape receptor, with some positive characteristics/ features and some detracting or intrusive elements. Landscape features in moderate condition. Capacity to accept well planned and designed change/ development of the type proposed.
Low	Landscape receptor of mixed character with a lack of coherence and including detracting or intrusive elements. Landscape features that may be in poor or improving condition and few that could not be replaced. Greater capacity to accept the type of change/ development proposed.

## **LVA Criteria**

### **Magnitude of Landscape Effects**

1.8 The magnitude of landscape effects is the degree of change to the landscape receptor in terms of its size or scale of change, the geographical extent of the area influenced and its duration and reversibility. The tables below set out the categories and criteria adopted in respect of the separate considerations of Scale or Size of the Degree of Change, Geographical Extent, Duration of the change and Reversibility. These are described where relevant in the appraisal.

#### Scale or Size of the Degree of Landscape Change

**Table 3: Scale or Size of the Degree of Landscape Change**

<b>Scale or Size of the Degree of Landscape Change</b>	<b>Definition</b>
High	Total loss of or substantial alteration to key characteristics / features and the introduction of new elements totally uncharacteristic to the receiving landscape. Overall landscape receptor will be fundamentally changed.
Medium	Partial loss of or alteration to one or more key characteristics / features and the introduction of new elements that would be evident but not necessarily uncharacteristic to the receiving landscape. Overall landscape receptor will be obviously changed.
Low	Limited loss of, or alteration to one or more key characteristics/ features and the introduction of new elements evident and/ or characteristic to the receiving landscape. Overall landscape receptor will be perceptibly changed.
Negligible	Very minor alteration to one or more key characteristics/ features and the introduction of new elements characteristic to the receiving landscape. Overall landscape receptor will be minimally changed.
None	No loss or alteration to the key characteristics/ features, representing 'no change'.

#### Geographical Extent

**Table 4: Geographical Extent**

<b>Geographical Extent</b>	<b>Definition</b>
Extensive	Notable change to an extensive proportion of the geographic area.
Moderate	Notable change to part of the geographic area.

### **LVA Criteria**

Minimal	Change over a limited part of the geographic area.
Negligible	Change over a very limited part of the geographic area.

### Duration

**Table 5: Duration**

<b>Duration</b>	<b>Definition</b>
Short Term	The change will occur for up to 5 years.
Medium Term	The change will occur for between 5 and 10 years.
Long Term	The change will occur over 10 years.

### Reversibility

**Table 6: Reversibility**

<b>Reversibility</b>	<b>Definition</b>
Irreversible	The development would be permanent and the assessment site could not be returned to its current/ former use.
Reversible	The development could be deconstructed/ demolished and the assessment site could be returned to broadly its current/ historic use (although that may be subject to qualification depending on the nature of the development).

### **Visual**

#### **Sensitivity of Visual Receptors**

1.9 Visual sensitivity assesses each visual receptor in terms of their susceptibility to change in views and visual amenity as well as the value attached to particular views. The definition and criteria adopted for these contributory factors is detailed below.

#### Visual Susceptibility to Change

1.10 The susceptibility of different visual receptors to changes in views and visual amenity is mainly a function of; firstly, the occupation or activity of people experiencing the view at particular locations; and secondly, the extent to which their attention or interest may therefore be focussed on the views and visual amenity they experience.

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**Table 7: Visual Susceptibility to Change**

<b>Visual Susceptibility to Change</b>	<b>Definition</b>
High	<p>Residents at home with primary views from ground floor/garden and upper floors.</p> <p>Public rights of way/ footways where attention is primarily focussed on the landscape and on particular views.</p> <p>Visitors to heritage assets or other attractions whose attention or interest is likely to be focussed on the landscape and/ or on particular views.</p> <p>Communities where views make an important contribution to the landscape setting enjoyed by residents.</p> <p>Travellers on recognised scenic routes.</p>
Medium	<p>Residents at home with secondary views (primarily from first floor level).</p> <p>Public rights of way/ footways where attention is not primarily focussed on the landscape and/ or particular views.</p> <p>Travellers on road, rail or other transport routes.</p>
Low	<p>Users of outdoor recreational facilities where the view is less important to the activities (e.g. sports pitches).</p> <p>Travellers on road, rail or other transport where views are primarily focussed on the transport route.</p> <p>People at their place of work where views of the landscape are not important to the quality of the working life.</p>

### Value of Views

1.11 The value attached to a view takes account of any recognition attached to a particular view and/ or any indicators of the value attached to views, for example through guidebooks or defined viewpoints or references in literature or art.

**Table 8: Value of Views**

<b>Value of Views</b>	<b>Definition</b>
High	A unique or identified view (e.g. shown as such on Ordnance Survey map, guidebook or tourist map) or one noted in literature or art. A view where a heritage asset makes an important contribution to the view.
Medium	A typical and/ or representative view from a particular receptor.
Low	An undistinguished or unremarkable view from a particular receptor.

## **LVA Criteria**

### **Magnitude of Visual Effects**

1.12 Magnitude of Visual Effects evaluates each of the visual effects in terms of its size or scale, the geographical extent of the area influenced and its duration and reversibility. The table below sets out the categories and criteria adopted in respect of the Scale or Size (including the degree of contrast) of Visual Change. The distance and nature of the view and whether the receptor's view will be stationary or moving are also detailed in the Visual Effects Table.

**Table 9: Scale or Size of the Degree of Visual Change**

<b>Scale or Size of the Degree of Visual Change</b>	<b>Definition</b>
High	The proposal will result in a large and immediately apparent change in the view, being a dominant and new and/ or incongruous feature in the landscape.
Medium	The proposal will result in an obvious and recognisable change in the view and will be readily noticed by the viewer.
Low	The proposal will constitute a minor component of the wider view or a more recognisable component that reflects those apparent in the existing view. Awareness of the proposals will not have a marked effect on the overall nature of the view.
Negligible/ None	Only a very small part of the proposal will be discernible and it will have very little or no effect on the nature of the view.

### **Level of Effect**

1.13 The final conclusions on effects, whether adverse or beneficial, are drawn from the separate judgements on the sensitivity of the receptors and the magnitude of the effects. This overall judgement is formed from a reasoned professional overview of the individual judgements against the assessment criteria.

1.14 GLVIA3 notes, at paragraphs 5.56 and 6.44, that there are no hard and fast rules with regard to the level of effects, therefore the following descriptive thresholds have been used for this appraisal:

- **Major**
- **Moderate**
- **Minor**
- **Negligible**

1.15 Where it is determined that the assessment falls between or encompasses two of the defined criteria terms, then the judgement may be described as, for example, Major/ Moderate or Moderate/ Minor. This indicates that the effect is assessed to lie between the respective definitions or to encompass aspects of both.