

# Appendix A

Landscape and Visual Assessment Methodology (DRaW UK Limited)

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## Introduction

The purpose of the landscape and visual assessment is to identify the potential effects on the landscape and changes to views experienced by people that may be affected.

A Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) is carried out formally as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), while a Landscape and Visual Appraisal (LVA) may be a contribution to a planning application to provide a general understanding of the environmental effects of a development. In both cases the same principles and process apply, although non-EIA development is not required to establish if the effects are significant or not. This methodology applies to both LVIA carried out as part of EIA and LVA for non-EIA development. Landscape Institute Technical Guidance Note LITGN-2024-01, August 2024, 3(1), states *'Effects should be comparable between LVA and LVIA. For example, a 'moderate effect' should be the same in both assessment contexts'*.

It is important to note that there is a distinction to be made between landscape and visual effects:

- Landscape effects are the result of a change to the fabric, character or quality of the landscape as a result of development. These could include direct impacts on features such as loss of woodland, and/or effects on landscape character, designated and protected landscapes.
- Visual effects result from a change in views or the visual amenity experienced by people.

## Guidance and Approach

This assessment methodology has been developed from:

- 'Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment' (GLVIA), Third Edition, published by the Landscape Institute & Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment 2013;
- Technical Guidance Note 02/21 'Assessing landscape value outside national designations', Landscape Institute 2021; and
- Technical Guidance Note LI TGN-2024-01 'Notes and Clarifications on Aspects of Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment Third edition (GLVIA3)', Landscape Institute, August 2024.

It should be noted that the above guidance does not dictate a prescriptive methodology, instead it encourages practitioners to develop transparent and logical methods, using standardised terminology and which are proportionate the type and size of development proposed.

The following methodology sets out the general approach to the LVIA process adopted by DRaW (UK) Ltd.

## Assessing Landscape Effects

## Evaluating Landscape Sensitivity

The method used to categorise landscape sensitivity, is based on Paragraphs 5.39 – 5.47 of GLVIA3.

The sensitivity of a landscape, or its individual components, is defined by a product of its value and its susceptibility to change.

## Evaluating Landscape Value and Its Susceptibility to Change

**Landscape value** is defined as the ‘value attached to the landscape by society’ (Paragraph 5.19 of GLVIA3). It is based on a range of factors set out in TGN 02/21 ‘Assessing landscape value outside national designations’ which are summarised in Table A1 below.

Within nationally designated landscapes the value is high, as defined by Paragraph 5.47 GLVIA3 ‘*Landscapes that are nationally designated will be accorded the highest value in the assessment.*’ and further defined by point 5(7) in Technical Guidance Note LI TGN-2024-01, August 2024, which states ‘*landscape value within nationally designated landscapes should be at the highest level (e.g. expressed as high/ very high/ of national value)*’.

**Landscape susceptibility** is defined as “*The ability of the landscape (whether it be the overall character or quality/condition of a particular landscape type or area, or an individual element and/or feature, or a particular aesthetic and perceptual aspect) to accommodate the proposed development without undue consequences for the maintenance of the baseline situation and/or the achievement of landscape planning policies and strategies*” (Paragraph 5.40 of GLVIA3).

**Table A1 Landscape Value and Susceptibility to Change**

	<b>Landscape Value (Outside National Designations)</b>	<b>Susceptibility of the Landscape to Change</b>
<b>High</b>	<p><b>Natural Heritage:</b> Landscape with clear, compelling evidence of ecological, geological, geomorphological or physiographic interest.</p> <p><b>Cultural Heritage:</b> Landscape with clear, compelling evidence of archaeological, historical or cultural interest.</p> <p><b>Landscape condition:</b> Landscape in a good physical state.</p> <p><b>Associations:</b> Landscape which is connected with notable people, events and the arts.</p> <p><b>Distinctiveness:</b> Landscape has a strong sense of identity.</p> <p><b>Recreational:</b> Landscape offering recreational opportunities and good access.</p> <p><b>Perceptual (Scenic):</b> Landscape that appeals to the senses, primarily visual sense.</p> <p><b>Perceptual (Wildness and tranquility):</b> Landscape with a strong perceptual value notably wildness, tranquility and/or dark skies.</p> <p><b>Functional:</b> Landscape performs a clearly identifiable and valuable function.</p>	<p><b>Pattern, complexity and physical susceptibility to change:</b> A strongly patterned/ textured or a simple but distinctive landscape and/or with high value features and essentially intact.</p> <p><b>Visual susceptibility to change:</b> An open or exposed landscape with extensive inter-visibility and no or very limited visual filtering or enclosure. Prominent visual landmarks may be present, and inter-visibility with designated landscapes may occur.</p> <p><b>Experiential susceptibility:</b> A very tranquil, wild or remote landscape with little or no sense of visual or aural intrusion.</p> <p>A landscape which contains very few light sources and provides dark skies.</p>

<p><b>Medium</b></p>	<p><b>Natural Heritage:</b> Landscape with some evidence of ecological, geological, geomorphological or physiographic interest.</p> <p><b>Cultural Heritage:</b> Landscape with some evidence of archaeological, historical or cultural interest.</p> <p><b>Landscape condition:</b> Landscape in a moderate physical state.</p> <p><b>Associations:</b> Landscape has limited connections with notable people, events and the arts.</p> <p><b>Distinctiveness:</b> Landscape has a moderate sense of identity.</p> <p><b>Recreational:</b> Landscape offering some recreational opportunities or limited access</p> <p><b>Perceptual (Scenic):</b> Landscape has some appeal to the senses.</p> <p><b>Perceptual (Wildness and tranquility):</b> Landscape of some perceptual value in terms of wildness, tranquility and/or dark skies.</p> <p><b>Functional:</b> Landscape has some function.</p>	<p><b>Pattern, complexity and physical susceptibility to change:</b> A landscape with mostly intact pattern and/or with a degree of complexity and with features mostly in reasonable condition.</p> <p><b>Visual susceptibility to change:</b> A partially enclosed landscape with some visual containment and filtering, possible limited inter-visibility with visual landmarks and designated landscapes.</p> <p><b>Experiential susceptibility:</b> A partially tranquil landscape with limited visual and/or aural intrusion, some relationship with built development/ infrastructure may be present.</p> <p>A landscape which contains some light sources.</p>
<p><b>Low</b></p>	<p><b>Natural Heritage:</b> Landscape with no and very limited evidence of ecological, geological, geomorphological or physiographic interest.</p> <p><b>Cultural Heritage:</b> Landscape with no or very limited evidence of archaeological, historical or cultural interest.</p> <p><b>Landscape condition:</b> Landscape in a poor physical state.</p> <p><b>Associations:</b> Landscape has no or very limited connections with notable people, events and the arts.</p> <p><b>Distinctiveness:</b> Landscape has a very limited sense of identity.</p> <p><b>Recreational:</b> Landscape offering no or very limited recreational opportunities or with no access</p> <p><b>Perceptual (Scenic):</b> Landscape has no or very limited appeal to the senses.</p> <p><b>Perceptual (Wildness and tranquility):</b> Landscape of no perceptual value in terms of wildness, tranquility and/or dark skies.</p> <p><b>Functional:</b> Landscape has no apparent function.</p>	<p><b>Pattern, complexity and physical susceptibility to change:</b> A simple, monotonous and/or degraded landscape with common/ indistinct features and minimal variation in landscape pattern.</p> <p><b>Visual susceptibility to change:</b> A very enclosed landscape which contains or strongly filters views, with an absence of visual landmarks and a lack of inter-visibility with designated landscapes.</p> <p><b>Experiential susceptibility:</b> A landscape with prominent visual and/or aural intrusion and close relationship with large scale built development/ infrastructure.</p> <p>A landscape which contains many light sources and essentially suffers from light pollution.</p>

## Evaluating Landscape Sensitivity

Criterion used to categorise landscape sensitivity, in relation to Paragraphs 5.39 – 5.47 of GLVIA3, are described in Table A2- Landscape Sensitivity.

The sensitivity of the landscape as a whole, (or components of it), is determined using Table A2 to correlate 'landscape value' and 'susceptibility to change'.

**Table A2 Landscape Sensitivity**

	Landscape Value			
Susceptibility of the Landscape		Low	Medium	High
	High	Medium	High	High
	Medium	Low	Medium	High
	Low	Low	Low	Medium

**Evaluating the Magnitude of Landscape Effects**

The ‘magnitude’ of landscape effects resulting from the construction and/or the operation of a particular development is categorised as high, medium, low or negligible. In accordance with the approach advocated in Paragraphs 5.48 – 5.52 of GLVIA3 the magnitude of landscape effects considers the size and scale of the change, the geographical extent over which each landscape effect would be felt and their duration and reversibility.

Criterion used to categorise landscape effects are listed in Table A3 -Magnitude of Landscape

**Table A3 - Magnitude of Landscape Effects**

Magnitude of landscape effects	Key Determining Criteria
<b>High</b>	<p><b>Size and/or scale:</b> the extent and relative proportion of the existing landscape element(s) to be changed would be large and/or the landscape element(s) lost or created make a key contribution to landscape character and/or value. Introduction of new landscape elements that would be likely to be perceived as a dominant landscape characteristic. Large scale alteration to the aesthetic and perceptual characteristics of the landscape.</p> <p><b>Geographical extent:</b> effects would be discernible across a large majority or the entirety of the site, landscape designation or character area.</p> <p><b>Duration and reversibility of effects:</b> Notable landscape effects would last over 10 years, or effects could not be reversed/mitigated.</p>
<b>Medium</b>	<p><b>Size and/or scale:</b> the extent and relative proportion of the existing landscape element(s) to be changed would be moderate and/or any landscape elements lost or created make a moderate contribution to landscape character and/or value. Introduction of new landscape elements that would be likely to be perceived as a prominent landscape characteristic. Moderate scale alteration to the aesthetic and perceptual characteristics of the landscape.</p> <p><b>Geographical extent:</b> effects would be discernible across a moderate proportion of the site, landscape designation or character area.</p> <p><b>Duration and reversibility of effects:</b> Notable landscape effects would last between 5 and 10 years, or effects could be partially reversed/ mitigated.</p>
<b>Low</b>	<p><b>Size and/or scale:</b> the extent and relative proportion of the existing landscape element(s) to be changed would be minor and/or any landscape element(s) lost or created make only a minor contribution to landscape character and/or value. Introduction of new landscape elements that would be likely to be perceived as a small-scale landscape characteristic. Small scale alteration to the aesthetic and perceptual characteristics of the landscape.</p>

	<p><b>Geographical extent:</b> effects would be discernible across a small proportion of the site, landscape designation or character area and/or restricted to the close vicinity of the development site.</p> <p><b>Duration and reversibility of effects:</b> Notable landscape effects would last between 2 and 5 years, or effects could be substantially reversed/mitigated.</p>
<b>Negligible</b>	<p><b>Size and/or scale:</b> the extent and relative proportion of the existing landscape element(s) to be changed would be barely perceptible and/or any landscape element(s) lost or created make a minimal or no contribution to landscape character and/or value. Introduction of new landscape elements that will be likely to be imperceptible. Minimal alteration to the aesthetic and perceptual characteristics of the landscape.</p> <p><b>Geographical extent:</b> effects would only be discernible within the development site or its immediate surrounds.</p> <p><b>Duration and reversibility of effects:</b> Notable landscape effects would last less than two years, or effects could be fully reversed/mitigated.</p>
<b>None</b>	The proposals would not change the landscape or its character

The nature of effect will either be:

- **‘Beneficial’:** resulting in an improvement in the quality of the view or landscape compared to the baseline, or
- **‘Adverse’:** resulting in a deterioration in the quality of the view or landscape compared to the baseline.
- **‘Neutral’:** resulting in neither an improvement nor a deterioration in the quality of view or landscape compared to the baseline

## Assessing Visual Effects

*“An assessment of visual effects deals with the effects on views available to people and their visual amenity... assessing how the surroundings of individuals or groups of people may be specifically affected by changes in the content and character of views as a result of the change or loss of existing elements of the landscape and/or introduction of new elements” (Para 6.1GLVIA3).*

### Evaluating Visual Sensitivity

The visual sensitivity is determined by combining the value attributed to a view with the susceptibility of the viewer. The method used to categorise the sensitivity of visual receptors, is based on Paragraphs 6.30– 6.37 of GLVIA3.

### Evaluating Value of a View and Susceptibility of the Viewer to Change

**The Value** attributed to a view is defined by the criteria listed in in Table A4.

**Susceptibility** of the viewer is defined by the occupation or activity of the people experiencing the views at particular locations and by the extent to which their attention or interest may be focused on the views as defined by the criteria listed in in Table A4.

Criterion used to categorise visual sensitivity (combination of value and susceptibility), are listed in Table A4 -Visual Sensitivity.

**Table A4 - Value of View and Susceptibility of the Visual Receptor**

	<b>Factors Influencing Value of a View</b>	<b>Susceptibility of Visual Receptor to Change</b>
<b>High</b>	<p>The view is valued at a national or regional level.</p> <p>The view is of high scenic quality, often protected by planning designations.</p> <p>It is a visitor destination, or valued asset, where views of the surrounding are an important contributor to the experience.</p> <p>There are references to the view in literature or art, or the view appears in guidebooks or on tourist maps.</p> <p>It is a strategic location or viewpoint which attracts large number of viewers.</p>	<p>Communities or residents at home, where views contribute to the setting or visual amenity of the house or settlement.</p> <p>Travellers on recreational or scenic routes, (including public rights of way) where awareness of views is likely to be high.</p> <p>People who are engaged in outdoor recreation, whose attention or interest is likely to be focussed on the landscape, or on particular views.</p>
<b>Medium</b>	<p>The view is valued at a local level.</p> <p>It is mostly frequented by local people. The view is not publicised or waymarked. It is unremarkable but reasonably pleasant. There are some detracting features in the views.</p>	<p>Travellers on road, rail, or local paths (including public rights of way) for which views are not the primary focus, although they do contribute to the setting of the route.</p>
<b>Low</b>	<p>The view is of limited local value.</p> <p>The view is of low aesthetic quality and may contain notable detracting features. Not a publicly accessible location or limited access.</p>	<p>People engaged in activity which does not involve or depend upon appreciation of views of the surrounding landscape.</p> <p>People at their place of work, whose attention may be focussed on their work or activity, not on their surroundings, and where the setting is not important to the quality of life.</p>

**Evaluating Viewer Sensitivity**

The sensitivity of a visual receptor is determined using Table A5 to correlate the ‘value of the viewer’ with their ‘susceptibility to change’.

**Table A5 Viewer Sensitivity**

	<b>Value of the View</b>			
		<b>Low</b>	<b>Medium</b>	<b>High</b>
<b>Susceptibility of the Viewer</b>	<b>High</b>	Medium	High	High
	<b>Medium</b>	Low	Medium	High
	<b>Low</b>	Low	Low	Medium

**Evaluating the Magnitude of Visual Effects**

The magnitude of visual effects is defined by the size/ scale of change, the geographical extent of the view affected and the duration and reversibility of the change caused by the development/ operation proposed. (Paragraph 5.48 GLVIA3)

The magnitude of visual effects is assessed in relation to the following:

- **Size and Scale:** The scale of change in the view is determined by the loss or addition of features in the view, changes in the composition of view and the proportion of view affected.
- **Geographical Extent:** Is assessed in relation to the Zone of Theoretical Visibility, taking into account the angle of view, the distance from the viewpoint, the extent, or number of receptors affected.
- **Duration and Reversibility:** The duration of the visual change, whether temporary or long term; intermittent or continuous; as well as the role of seasonal changes due to management such as hedgerow trimming and seasonal variations in deciduous leaf cover.

Criterion used to categorise the magnitude of visual effects, are listed in Table A6 – Magnitude of Visual Effects.

**Table A6 - Magnitude of Visual Effects**

Magnitude of visual effects	Key determining criteria
<b>High</b>	<p><b>Size and Scale</b> A complete or very substantial change or obstruction of the view.</p> <p><b>Geographical Extent</b> Large numbers of receptors affected, or close proximity view, and/or unrestricted/unmitigated direct line-of-sight/development not screened.</p> <p><b>Duration and Reversibility</b> Notable visual effects would last over 10 years, or effects could not be reversed/mitigated.</p>
<b>Medium</b>	<p><b>Size and Scale</b> An obvious, immediately apparent change and/or obstruction of the view.</p> <p><b>Geographical Extent</b> Multiple receptors affected, or medium distance view, and/or partially restricted/mitigated line-of-sight/ development partially screened.</p> <p><b>Duration and Reversibility</b> Notable visual effects would last between 5 and 10 years, or effects could be partially reversed/ mitigated.</p>
<b>Low</b>	<p><b>Size and Scale</b> A perceptible change and/or obstruction of the view.</p> <p><b>Geographical Extent</b> Small number of receptors affected, or distant view, or restricted/ oblique line-of-sight/ development substantially screened.</p> <p><b>Duration and Reversibility</b> Perceivable visual effects would last between 2 and 5 years, or effects could be substantially reversed/mitigated.</p>
<b>Negligible</b>	<p><b>Size and Scale</b> A barely perceptible or intermittent change or obstruction of the view.</p> <p><b>Geographical Extent</b> Occasional or Isolated receptor affected, or distant view, or largely restricted line-of-sight /development screened.</p> <p><b>Duration and Reversibility</b> Notable visual effects would last less than two years, or effects could be fully reversed/mitigated.</p>
<b>None</b>	The proposals would not change the view or visual amenity of the receptor.

The nature of effects will either be:

- **‘Beneficial’**: resulting in an improvement in the quality of the view or landscape compared to the baseline, or
- **‘Adverse’**: resulting in a deterioration in the quality of the view or landscape compared to the baseline.
- **‘Neutral’**: resulting in neither an improvement nor a deterioration in the quality of view or landscape compared to the baseline.

## Judging the overall level of landscape and visual effects

The overall level of a landscape or visual effect is determined by correlating the sensitivity of the receptor (high, medium to low) with the magnitude of effects (high, medium, low or negligible). The evaluation is based on professional judgment using Table A7 as a guide.

**Table A7 – Overall level of landscape and visual effects.**

		Sensitivity of the Receptor		
		Low	Medium	High
Magnitude of Effects	High	Moderate	Moderate/Substantial	Substantial
	Medium	Minor/Moderate	Moderate	Moderate/Substantial
	Low	Minor	Minor/Moderate	Moderate
	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible/Minor	Minor
	None	No Change	No Change	No Change

For the assessment of proposed development subject to EIA Regulations ‘Moderate/Substantial’ and ‘Substantial’ levels of overall effects are deemed to be ‘significant effects’.