

The Town & Country Planning  
(Inquiries Procedure) (England) Rules 2000

Appeal by Ministry of Justice  
against refusal of planning application by  
Harborough District Council

Proposal:

Outline planning application (All Matters  
Reserved except for means of access and scale)  
for the construction of a new Category B prison  
of up to 82,555sqm within a secure perimeter  
fence, together with access, parking,  
landscaping and associated engineering works.

At:

Lane adjacent to Her Majesty's Prison,  
Welland Avenue, Gartree, Leicestershire

Proof of Evidence of:

Simon James Neesam

On behalf of:

Harborough District Council

6<sup>th</sup> September 2022

Appendix SJN01: LVIA Methodology

Planning Inspectorate Reference:

APP/F2415/W/22/3300227

Local Planning Authority Reference:

21/01600/OUT



# 1 Scope and process

## 1.1 Introduction

1.1.1 Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) involves a combination of quantitative and qualitative considerations within a framework that allows for structured, informed and reasoned professional judgment. The Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, Third Edition<sup>1</sup>, (GLVIA3) forms the current nationally recognized professional guidance tool for LVIA. It describes LVIA as:

*... a tool used to identify and assess the significance of and the effects of change resulting from development on both the landscape as an environmental resource in its own right and on people's views and visual amenity.*

1.1.2 GLVIA3 reflects current legislation and professional experience secured over many years of undertaking landscape and visual assessments. This methodology follows the principles and guidance set out within GLVIA3 as part of the assessment process.

1.1.3 In defining *landscape*, GLVIA3 makes reference is made to the adopted definition agreed by the European Landscape Convention (Florence: Council of Europe 2000), which states that the landscape is “*an area, as perceived by people, whose character is the result of the action and interaction of natural and/or human factors*”. This definition includes the landscapes of towns and cities, i.e. townscapes, as well as seascapes.

1.1.4 Whilst the process of assessment is often referred to as a Landscape and Visual *Impact* Assessment, it is important to understand the difference between *impact* and *effect*. *Impact* is defined as the action being taken and *effect* as the change resulting from the action [GLVIA3, para 1.15]. The changes resulting from the implementation of the development form the principal consideration of this assessment and thus the word *effect* is mainly used. The two main components are:

- landscape effects – effects on the character and attributes of landscape as a resource in its own right; and
- visual effects – effects on visual receptors and the general amenity of the view.

1.1.5 An assessment of the existing situation and the effects of the proposals is carried out in relation to the following geographical extents:

- national and regional scale landscape character;
- county and district scale landscape character and the local visual setting; and
- the site and more immediate landscape and visual setting.

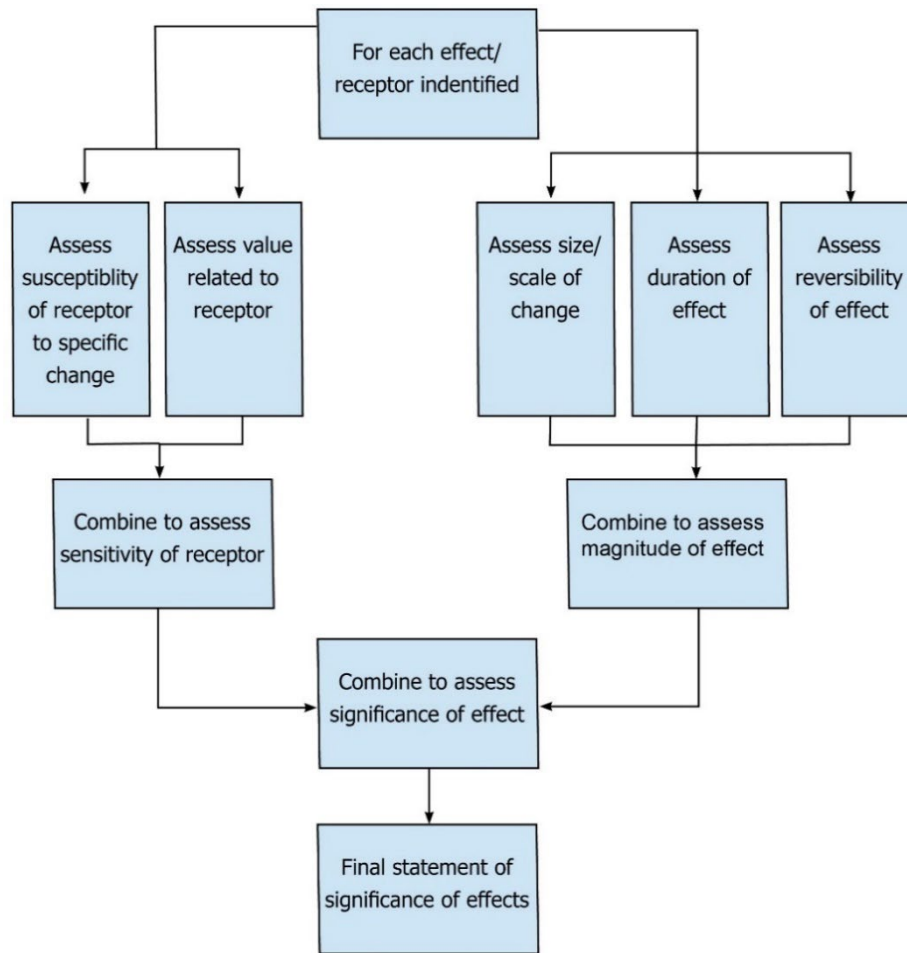
1.1.6 The spatial scope of the LVIA covers a study area of approximately 2km radius from the site. This is based on the initial results of a desktop study reviewing location, topography and the nature of the

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<sup>1</sup> Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, the Landscape Institute and the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment, 3rd Edition, April 2013

development, and defined the basis for the extent of the ZTV. This desk-based work was then verified as part of the field survey.

- 1.1.7 The likely effects of the proposed scheme are assessed in terms of the degree of change experienced during the construction process, on completion of the works in winter of the first year (year 1) and after a period of 15 years (year 15) in summer. Due to the timing of the preparation of the statement, it has not been possible to provide winter photography. Professional judgement has therefore been applied to determine the expected change in visibility during winter. Where the field survey and assessment were carried out in summer months, a correlation is made as to what the predicted effects would be in winter, and vice versa. An assessment in year 15 enables the effectiveness of any planting and other soft works mitigation measures proposed to be determined, since they would have had sufficient time to become established and deliver their intended objectives in a meaningful way. Between years 1 and 15, the proposed planting would be in the process of meeting these objectives and a correlation over this span of time can be made as to the extent to which this has been partially achieved. Beyond 15 years, trees can be expected to continue to grow to reach their mature height, and thus potentially provide increased mitigation in later years.



**Figure 1 - Assessing the significance of effect<sup>2</sup>**

1.1.8 Matrices are utilised to enable consistent and transparent judgements to be arrived at and for these to be easily understood by the reader. By this means, different levels of sensitivity and magnitude of change can be applied and be combined in order to define a significance of effect. The category levels and matrix combination outcomes set out in this methodology reflect the typical situation. However, there are occasions when it is not appropriate to apply these judgements in a rigid and formulaic manner, and the assessor may judge that it would be appropriate to apply a different category or combination outcome. This would primarily apply in the combining of sensitivity and magnitude used in Tables 7 and 14. Any deviation from the categories used in the matrices are explained in the main body of the report.

## 1.2 Viewpoint analysis and assessment

1.2.1 The extent of visual influence of the development is described in two stages.

1.2.2 Firstly, a desk-based analysis is undertaken using an OS Explorer plan to determine where landform is likely to prevent views and to identify the main areas of woodland that would act as a visual

<sup>2</sup> Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, the Landscape Institute and the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment, 3rd Edition, April 2013, Figure 3.5: Assessing the significance of effects

barrier. Google Streetview is also used as a further guide to determine the main areas where there may be views of the proposed development.

1.2.3 Secondly, field work is undertaken. This includes walking the site and observing locations beyond the site boundaries where the site and/or the proposed development may be visible from, and then checking these locations using publicly accessible means to further fine tune the likely visibility of the proposed development. To assist in the process, screening features are noted and features of known height within or adjacent to the site are used as visual reference points to determine the location of the site in views in and act as a scale reference. Other locations identified with the desk-based analysis as potential affording visibility are checked as part of the visual assessment. This leads to the defining of an approximate Zone of Visual Influence (ZVI) i.e. an area(s) from where it would be possible to view the proposed development.

1.2.4 To assist the reader, viewpoints are provided to demonstrate the range of available views experienced by a variety of visual receptors (people) at different geographical locations. GLVIA3 [para 6.19] refers to three types of viewpoint, which may be utilised within an LVIA or LVA.

- **Representative viewpoint** – *“selected to represent the experience of different types of visual receptor, where larger numbers of viewpoints cannot all be included individually and where the significant effects are unlikely to differ – for example, certain points may be chosen to represent the views of users of particular footpaths and bridleways”*. Where the viewpoint is not representative of a neighbouring visual receptor, and there would be different significant effects, this is stated within the text.
- **Specific viewpoint** – *“chosen because they are key and sometimes promoted viewpoints within the landscape, including for example specific local visitor attractions, viewpoints in areas of particularly noteworthy visual and/or recreational amenity such as landscapes with statutory landscape designations, or viewpoints with particular cultural landscape associations”*.
- **Illustrative viewpoint** – *“chosen specifically to demonstrate a particular effect or specific issues, which might, for example, be the restrictive visibility at certain locations.”* These are also used to illustrate particular site features, the extent of visibility from within the site from non-publicly accessible locations, or features that prevent views from certain locations.

1.2.5 A range of representative viewpoints are selected to assess the visual effects upon a range of visual receptor groups across a variety of different geographical locations, distances. Viewpoint locations are usually at publicly accessible locations and can include public rights of way, roads and public open space. Viewpoints are provided to help appreciate and then describe the views available to visual receptors at and around these locations, identify features within the view, define the location and extent of the site within the view, and to provide a visual record.

1.2.6 The assessment of effects upon the views available to visual receptors includes consideration of:

- the proximity of the visual receptor to the proposed development;
- the extent of visibility or proportion of the proposed development visible within the wider context of the view;
- the nature and complexity of the existing view and any changes that would affect the skyline;

- elements within the view that may detract from or add to its quality;
- the extent to which the proposed development would occupy the view, and whether it would be a framed view, glimpsed or panoramic view; and
- whether the view would be experienced from a specific fixed location or whether it would form part of a sequence of views when the viewer would be moving, and if from a fixed location, such as a window, whether the proposed development would form the central focus of the view or be part of a more oblique outlook.

1.2.7 A variety of visual receptors are assessed with a focus on those who are most likely to be concerned about changes to views.

1.2.8 In undertaking the assessment, other than the site, private property is not been accessed, as it is generally considered impracticable to seek approval to gain access to residential properties or other buildings to assess the effect on views from each window in a property or adjoining land. This would, in any case, form part of a Residential Visual Amenity Assessment which is a separate task and does not form part of an LVIA (Landscape Institute TGN 02/2019). Where it is necessary to assess the view from private property, assessment is based on the nearest publicly accessible location, which will usually be a road or public right of way, or on views within the site looking outwards. Professional judgement is used to extrapolate what the likely effect on views would be from windows, making allowances for changes in height, e.g. from a first-floor window.

### 1.3 Photography and site work

1.3.1 Details of the camera used, approach to undertaking the photography, and the preparation of visualisations, are set out in Section 5.

1.3.2 The date and weather conditions at the time the photographs were taken is detailed within the main report and within the details included for any visualisations. Wherever possible, photographs are taken with the sun behind or to one side of the view to prevent over-exposure and a high contrast of photographs, or features appearing in shadow.

## 2 Criteria and categories: landscape receptors

### 2.1 Overview

2.1.1 The assessment includes a description of the existing landscape elements including topography, vegetation, landform, land uses, and landscape infrastructure, and provides an assessment of the effects of the development upon the character and attributes of the landscape. The national landscape character areas provide an initial high-level basis for setting the scene and to understand the broad scale of the landscape at the national context. However, the primary source for assessing landscape character is based on district-scale character assessments or similar. The key characteristics that form the landscape are identified, including the individual elements, aesthetic aspects and perceptual aspects, and their condition is identified. An assessment of effects on the site itself is made, predominantly in relation to change/loss of the individual landscape features.

2.1.2 In determining the significance of effects on the landscape, sensitivity is determined for each landscape feature within the site, landscape character area, or landscape type that would be

affected, and this is combined with the magnitude of change arising from the proposed development. The criteria and categories used to determine the effects on landscape, are set out below.

## 2.2 Landscape sensitivity (the nature of the receptor)

2.2.1 This in part is based on the **value** of the landscape receptor. This includes considerations such as landscape quality/condition; landscape fabric and rarity; scenic quality; wildlife, heritage and cultural interest; recreation value; and perceptual aspects. The presence of a landscape designation can help to identify value and reasons for a designation are usually established in a supporting study. Landscapes or features without any formal designation may also express characteristics that are valued locally. Where there is no supporting evidence base, details regarding sensitivity should typically be derived from landscape character assessments.

**Table 1: Value of Landscape Receptor (landscape sensitivity factor No.1)**

Value of landscape receptor	Criteria
Very High	<p><b>Character:</b> areas with international or national landscape designations, i.e. National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty or international heritage designations, e.g. World Heritage Sites, and their landscape setting, and displaying good condition and/or a strong strength of character. Very high value may occasionally exist in landscapes with no such designation, where the Landscape Character Assessment or Historic Environment Assessment indicates an area as being of particularly high sensitivity or of international or national rarity.</p> <p><b>Features:</b> where they form a very important contributory element of the landscape, which have particular historical or cultural reference, or are distinctive or rare and typically of good condition.</p>
High	<p><b>Character:</b> Landscape Character Assessments that identify an area as being of high sensitivity, e.g. good condition and/or strong strength of character or of particular local value. Areas with local landscape designations may indicate a High value, but weight should also be given to the Landscape Character Assessment to determine the specific value.</p> <p><b>Features:</b> where they form an important element of the landscape and a major contribution to the character of the landscape. Features that play an important role in the local visual and amenity of the area, are typically of good condition, and likely to be of historical or cultural relevance to the locality.</p>
Medium	<p><b>Character:</b> landscape type or area identified as medium sensitivity (e.g. having a moderate condition and/or strength of character) including judgements within relevant Landscape Character Assessments as of medium sensitivity. The landscape is likely to exhibit some damage or deterioration but may have some individual features of local rarity or value.</p> <p><b>Features:</b> where they form a notable feature in the landscape but do not form an important or key characteristic. Alternatively, where the feature is an intrinsic element of the landscape but is in poor condition. Features that</p>



Value of landscape receptor	Criteria
	contribute some value to the visual and amenity aspect of the locality and provide some relevance to the historical or cultural context of the landscape.
Low	<p><b>Character:</b> landscape type or area that is identified as having low sensitivity (e.g. poor condition and/or weak strength of character). Landscapes that typically illustrate clear indication of damage, deterioration, and limited visual cohesion.</p> <p><b>Features:</b> where they form an intrusive element that is unlikely to be valued or that provide a limited contribution to the character and local visual and amenity value. The feature may be of such poor condition that it has lost its ability to contribute effectively to the character of the landscape. It is likely that the feature has little historical or cultural relevance.</p>

2.2.2 **Susceptibility to change** assesses the relative ability of the landscape to accommodate the changes that would result from different types of development. This is an integral element of the landscape assessment but one that can only be judged in the context of the generic type of development being proposed. However, it is not necessary to understand the specifics of the development to make this judgement and thus susceptibility to change can be considered as part of the baseline assessment. Susceptibility to change will, in part, relate to the features and characteristics displayed within the landscape type or area: the relative extent of enclosure and openness, the presence of similar development within or adjacent to the landscape type or area, condition/quality, and the ability to meet landscape planning policies and strategies. Where available, reference is made to judgements made in landscape character assessments as well as site-based judgements. It is particularly important to make this judgement in the context of the site, i.e. determining the relative presence of those aspects that are evident within the proximity of the site.

**Table 2: Landscape susceptibility to change (landscape sensitivity factor No.2)**

Susceptibility of landscape receptor to change	Criteria
Very High	A very limited ability of the landscape to accommodate development of the type proposed. Features particularly susceptible to change from development.
High	A fairly limited ability of the landscape to accommodate development of the type proposed. Features often susceptible to change from development.
Medium	A moderate ability of the landscape to accommodate development of the type proposed. Features likely to have some susceptible to change from development.
Low	A well-defined ability of the landscape to accommodate development of the type proposed. Features have little susceptibility to change from development.

2.2.3 The two aspects of susceptibility to change and value are combined to create an overall judgement of sensitivity as follows.

**Table 3: Landscape sensitivity matrix (combination of landscape sensitivity factors Nos.1 and 2)**

Criteria		Susceptibility			
		Very High	High	Medium	Low
Value	Very High	Very High	Very High	High	Medium
	High	Very High	High	High	Medium
	Medium	High	High	Medium	Low
	Low	Medium	Medium	Low	Very Low

### 2.3 Magnitude of landscape effect

2.3.1 The magnitude of effect of the development on each of the landscape features, or landscape character types or areas, is assessed on the basis of three factors: size or scale of change, geographical influence, i.e. extent, and duration and reversibility, which are combined to provide an overall judgement of magnitude.

2.3.2 The **size or scale of change** is based on the following professional judgement and site-based assessment.

**Table 4: Landscape: size or scale of change (landscape magnitude of change factor No.1)**

Size/scale of change	Criteria
Very High	The proposals would constitute a very major change to the feature or key characteristics and attributes of the landscape type or area, resulting in total loss or permanent alteration to existing landscape features and forming a dominant new feature in the landscape, such that post development the baseline situation would be fundamentally changed.
High	The proposals would constitute a major change to the feature or key characteristics and attributes of the landscape type or area, resulting in major loss or permanent alteration to existing landscape features and forming a prominent new feature in the landscape, such that post development the baseline situation would be substantially changed.
Medium	The proposals would constitute a noticeable change to the feature or key characteristics and attributes of the landscape type or area, resulting in a conspicuous loss or alteration to existing landscape features and forming a new feature in the landscape, such that post development the baseline situation would be noticeably changed.
Low	The proposals would constitute a minor change to the feature or key characteristics and attributes of the landscape type or area, resulting in limited loss or alteration to existing landscape features and forming a minor

Size/scale of change	Criteria
	new feature in the landscape, such that post development the baseline situation would be largely unchanged despite discernible differences.
Very Low	The proposals would constitute little discernible change to the feature or key characteristics and attributes of the landscape type or area, resulting in no loss or permanent alteration to existing landscape features and forming a barely discernible new feature in the landscape, such that post development the baseline situation would be fundamentally unchanged with barely perceptible differences.

2.3.3 **Geographical influence** determines the extent of the local landscape type affected by the proposed development.

**Table 5: Landscape: geographical influence (landscape magnitude of change factor No.2)**

Geological influence	Criteria
Very High	Effects that would be experienced over an extensive portion of the feature or at district level for a landscape character area, where this would likely have an evident effect at the national level of landscape character.
High	Effects that would be experienced over large parts of a feature or landscape character area.
Medium	Effects that would be experienced over a moderate extent of a feature or landscape character area.
Low	Effects that would be limited to a localised area and small proportion of the overall feature or landscape character area.
Very Low	Effects that would be limited to a very restricted extent, sufficient that there would be little discernible influence on the feature or character of the landscape character area.

2.3.4 Magnitude is also affected by **duration and reversibility**, as set out below:

**Table 6: Landscape: duration and reversibility (landscape magnitude of change factor No.3)**

Duration and reversibility	Criteria
High	Long-term development over 30 years and/or difficult to reverse.
Medium	Medium-term development (5 to 30 years) and/or moderately difficult to reverse.
Low	Short-term development 1 to 5 years and/or fully reversible.

2.3.5 The three aspects of magnitude are combined based on professional judgement, with greater weight being given to scale/size of change, into one of the following categories: **Very High, High,**

**High, Medium, Low or Very Low. No Change** is used to define where there would be no effect to the receptor.

## 2.4 Significance of effect and nature of change

2.4.1 On the basis of the above, the following categories of significance of effect for landscape change are identified. **No Change** is used to define where there would be no effect to the receptor.

**Table 7: Significance of effect on landscape receptors**

Criteria		Sensitivity				
		Very High	High	Medium	Low	Very Low
Magnitude	Very High	Major	Major	Major-Moderate	Moderate	Minor
	High	Major	Major-Moderate	Major-Moderate	Moderate	Minor
	Medium	Major-Moderate	Major-Moderate	Moderate	Moderate-Minor	Negligible
	Low	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate-Minor	Minor	Negligible
	Very Low	Minor	Minor	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible

2.4.2 The nature of change of the effect is also identified, providing a judgement on whether the predicted effects would be beneficial, adverse or neutral on the basis of the following:

- **Adverse effects** - those effects that would, on balance, be damaging to the quality, integrity or key characteristics of the landscape receptor.
- **Beneficial effects** - those effects that would, on balance, result in an improvement in the quality, integrity or key characteristics of the landscape receptor.
- **Neutral effects** - those effects that would maintain, on balance, the existing levels of the quality, integrity or key characteristics of the landscape receptor. (A neutral effect may therefore arise where beneficial effects offset adverse effects or where the value judgement would consider the change to be different, but neither a deterioration nor an enhancement).

2.4.3 Where the LVIA forms part of an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), effects that are considered to be *Significant* in EIA terms, are those that create an effect of Major or Major-Moderate significance.

## 3 Criteria and categories: visual receptors

### 3.1 Overview

3.1.1 In determining the significance of effects on visual receptors, sensitivity to the type of development is determined for each visual receptor that would be affected and this is combined with the magnitude of change arising from the proposed development. The criteria and categories used to determine the effects on views, are set out below.

### 3.2 Visual sensitivity (the nature of the receptor)

3.2.1 The sensitivity of views is considered in relation to the person experiencing the view: the receptor. This in part will be based on the **value** that the receptor places on the view. This is considered on a collective basis, so will be influenced by the extent to which it is publicised, relative noteworthiness, e.g. clearly defined view or vista that is distinguished from other views, and the extent to which the view is utilised or enjoyed.

**Table 8: Value of view (visual sensitivity factor No. 1)**

Value of view	Criteria
High	Views from publicised vantage points and of regional and sub-regional value. Tourist attractions/historic estates/statutory heritage asset with a specific vista or focused views. Particularly noteworthy public views from national trails, National Parks or AONBs or statutory heritage assets, i.e. those with more than local value and which could be expected to be regularly experienced. Windows from residential properties specifically designed to take advantage of a particular view.
Medium	Locally known or valued viewpoints. Views from promoted public rights of way and areas of informal open space with clear evidence of regular use. Views from regularly used rooms or living space. Panoramic views, vista or other noteworthy views from active recreation areas or transport routes.
Low	Views that are not publicised and/or where there is relatively limited evidence of them being regularly experienced. Visually degraded locations. Views from small windows or likely non-main living spaces. Views of little noteworthiness from areas of active recreation or transport routes.

3.2.2 The **susceptibility to change** of the visual receptor will vary depending on the activity or use of the particular location and the extent to which the view is an important aspect of the activity or use. The following criteria are used to determine susceptibility to change.

**Table 9: Susceptibility of visual receptor to change (visual sensitivity factor No.2)**

Susceptibility of visual receptor to change	Criteria
High	Receptors experiencing views from: residential properties; areas of open space where informal recreation is the main activity (e.g. country parks and public open space); public rights of way; areas of recreational activity where

Susceptibility of visual receptor to change	Criteria
	the primary enjoyment comes from the view; and general views from heritage assets or attractions.
Medium	Receptors experiencing views from: areas of outdoor sport or active recreation where appreciation of views forms part of the experience (e.g. golf courses); footways along roads (pedestrians); roads (vehicular users and cyclists) and trains (rail passengers).
Low	Receptors experiencing views from: areas of active sport or play where the view does not form part of the experience (e.g. football, rugby, play equipment); and commercial premises and areas of employment (where the view has limited value in relation to the activity being undertaken. There may be specific locations where buildings and the type of employment has been designed to enhance the quality of working life, in which case a higher-level sensitivity would be applicable.

3.2.3 These two aspects are combined to create an overall judgement of sensitivity as follows:

**Table 10: Visual sensitivity matrix (combination of visual sensitivity factors Nos. 1 and 2)**

Criteria		Susceptibility			
		High	Medium	Low	
Value	High	Very High	High	Medium	
	Medium	High	Medium	Low	
	Low	Medium	Low	Very Low	

### 3.3 Magnitude of visual effect

3.3.1 The magnitude of effect of the Development on each view was assessed on the basis of three factors, size or scale of change, geographical influence (i.e. extent) and duration and reversibility, which are combined to provide an overall judgement of magnitude.

3.3.2 The **size or scale of change** is based on the following professional judgement and site-based assessment.

**Table 11: Visual: size or scale of change (visual magnitude of change factor No.1)**

Size/scale of change	Criteria
Very High	The proposed development would become the most dominant feature in the view and one that completely contrasts with the other existing features in the view. The contrasting features of the development would be fully visible, such that post development, the baseline situation would be fundamentally changed.
High	The proposed development would constitute a major change to the view, forming a prominent new feature in the view that would noticeably contrast

Size/scale of change	Criteria
	with other existing features in the view. The development would be predominantly visible such that post development the baseline situation would be substantially changed.
Medium	The proposed development would form a noticeable change to the view, forming a conspicuous new feature in the view that would partially contrast or harmonise with other features in the view. The contrasting features of the development would be partially visible such that post development the baseline situation would be noticeably changed.
Low	The proposed development would constitute a small change to the view, forming a minor new feature in the view that would largely integrate with its surroundings with little discernible change. The development could be experienced as a glimpsed or filtered view through vegetation and/or one at some distance relative to its scale, such that post development the baseline situation would be largely unchanged despite discernible differences.
Very Low	The proposed development would be a barely discernible change to the view. The development could be experienced as a very filtered view through vegetation or at considerable distance relative to scale, such that the baseline situation would be fundamentally unchanged with barely perceptible differences.

3.3.3 **Geographical influence** determines how far the effect would be experienced. The wider the geographical effect, the greater the magnitude of change.

**Table 12: Visual: geographical influence (visual magnitude of change factor No.2)**

Geographical influence	Criteria
Very High	The development would affect all or nearly all of the view available to visual receptors and would form the primary focus of the view to the extent that it would be overwhelming. It is likely that the view would be experienced from a point within the site or very close to the site.
High	The development would affect a large extent of the view available to visual receptors and would likely lie at the centre of the view. It is also likely that the view would be experienced from a point close to the site or possibly in the site.
Medium	The development would affect a moderate extent of the view and would lie near the centre of the view or at a slightly oblique angle. It is likely that this would be a localised view.
Low	The development would affect a small extent of the view and/or would be at a moderately oblique angle. It is likely that the development would be in the mid-distance of the view.
Very Low	The development would affect a very small extent of the view and and/or lie at a very oblique angle. It is likely that the development would be in the far distance of the view.

3.3.4 Magnitude is also affected by **duration and reversibility**, as set out below.

**Table 13: Visual: duration and reversibility (visual magnitude of change factor No.3)**

Duration and reversibility	Criteria
High	Long-term development over 30 years and/or difficult to reverse.
Medium	Medium-term development (5 to 30 years) and/or moderately difficult to reverse.
Low	Short-term development 1 to 5 years and/or fully reversible.

3.3.5 The three aspects of magnitude are combined based on professional judgement, with greater weight being given to scale/size of change, into one of the following categories: **Very High, High, High, Medium, Low** or **Very Low. No Change** is used to define where there would be no effect on the receptor.

### 3.4 Significance of effect

3.4.1 On the basis of the above, the following categories of significance of effect for visual change are identified. **No Change** is also used to identify where there would be no effect on the receptor.

3.4.2 Table 14: Significance of effect on visual receptors

Criteria		Sensitivity				
		Very High	High	Medium	Low	Very Low
Magnitude	Very High	Major	Major	Major-Moderate	Moderate	Minor
	High	Major	Major-Moderate	Major-Moderate	Moderate	Minor
	Medium	Major-Moderate	Major-Moderate	Moderate	Moderate-Minor	Negligible
	Low	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate-Minor	Minor	Negligible
	Very Low	Minor	Minor	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible

3.4.3 The nature of change of the effect is also identified, providing a judgement on whether the predicted effects would be beneficial, adverse or neutral on the basis of the following:

- **Adverse effects** - those effects that are, on balance, damaging to the quality, integrity or key characteristics of the view experienced by the visual receptor.
- **Beneficial effects** - those effects that would, on balance, result in an improvement in the quality, integrity or key characteristics of the view experienced by the visual receptor.



- **Neutral effects** - those effects that would maintain, on balance, the existing levels of the quality, integrity or key characteristics of the view as experienced by the visual receptor. (A neutral effect may therefore arise where beneficial effects offset adverse effects or where the value judgement would consider the change to be different, but neither a deterioration nor an enhancement).

3.4.4 Where the LVIA forms part of an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), effects that are considered to be *Significant* in EIA terms, are those that create an effect of Major or Major-Moderate significance.

## 4 Criteria of other factors assessed

4.1.1 The assessment also considered the following aspects, as set out below.

- **Direct and indirect:** Direct effects that relate to changes on the site including re-contouring of landform, loss and addition of vegetation, removal or inclusion of built structures and surface treatments, etc. Direct effects would also be experienced where there are changes to the character of the landscape, where the proposed development would be physically located within a character area or type. Effects on views are always considered to be direct. Indirect effects would occur where the character would be influenced by changes in a neighbouring landscape character area.
- **Seasonal variation and duration:** Due to the role that vegetation can play in preventing or limiting views or influencing the character of the landscape, the difference between winter and summer needs to be considered. This is considered by assessing impacts in winter (in the first year following completion) and in summer (after 15 years).

## 5 Visualisations

### 5.1 Photography

#### *Camera equipment*

5.1.1 Sony a7 Mark II digital, full frame, single lens reflex camera using a 50mm prime lens

### 5.2 Visualisation presentation

5.2.1 Annotated Photograph Visualisations are labelled to identify specific features and the location and extent of the site/development in the view.

5.2.2 The panoramic photographs are stitched together using an Adobe Photoshop plugin *Photomerge*.