

Appendix 6.1: Landscape and visual effects detailed methodology (GLVIA3)

A.1. INTRODUCTION

A.1.1 This assessment aims to determine the likely effects of the proposed development on the existing landscape and visual receptors in the study area. The following landscape resources and visual receptors have been addressed:

- Physical landscape features and elements;
- Landscape character; and
- Views and visual amenity experienced by residents, recreational users (including visitors and tourists) and road users.

A.1.2 This assessment details the impacts that may result as a consequence of the proposed development and considers the likely significance of effect arising as a result.

A.2. APPROACH

A.2.1 The approach and methodology used for this assessment has been developed in accordance with the guidance in the following documents:

- Landscape Institute and Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (April 2013) Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment 3rd Edition;
- Natural England (October 2014) An Approach to Landscape Character Assessment;
- Landscape Institute Technical Guidance Note 06/19: Visual Representation of Development Proposals; and
- Landscape Institute Technical Guidance Note 02/21: Assessing Landscape Value Outside National Designations.

A.2.2 The overall approach to the identification and assessment of landscape and visual effects is summarised as follows:

- determining the scope of the assessment;
- collating baseline information for landscape and visual receptors, including completing desk study research and undertaking field-based survey work;
- review the proposed development and identify and describe the likely impacts of the proposed development (enabling specific judgments to be made on sensitivity of landscape and visual receptors);

- establish the sensitivity of landscape and visual receptors (balancing judgments on susceptibility and value);
- determine the magnitude of impacts (balancing judgments on size / scale, duration and reversibility);
- the assessment of the likely significance of landscape and visual effects through a balanced approach and clear description of judgments on sensitivity and magnitude; and
- the identification of measures to avoid or remedy impacts and the subsequent re-assessment of likely effects.

A.2.3 The following sections provide further detail on this approach.

Determining the Scope of Assessment

Spatial Scope

A.2.4 The spatial scope for the assessment has been determined by a two-staged approach. Firstly, a 'preliminary study area' is identified. This is based on the wider setting and context of the site and sets the broad parameters for collation of baseline information; this scope also accounts for the potential effects that will be generated by the proposed development.

A.2.5 In order to focus on the key sensitive receptors and likely effects the spatial scope of the preliminary study area is then refined through the initial stages of the assessment (i.e. desk study and field survey work).

A.2.6 The visual envelope of the site has been considered through desk top analysis of topographical data combined with field surveys to investigate visual enclosure arising from landform, vegetation and built form.

Collating Baseline Information

A.2.7 In order to capture a comprehensive description of the baseline position for landscape and visual receptors, information has been collated using desk study and field survey work. These processes include reference to published landscape character studies and a range of views and visual receptor types.

Desk Study

A.2.8 The desk study has identified potentially sensitive landscape resources by reference to OS maps and existing published landscape character studies, relevant planning policy guidance and/or designated or protected views. This stage has also enabled the identification of potential visual receptors such as public rights of way (PROW), residential properties or designated areas.

Field Survey

- A.2.9 Detailed field survey work for this LVIA has further identified landscape elements and features that contribute to the landscape character of the area and visual receptors that will have potential views of the site.
- A.2.10 A series of representative photographs were taken during the field work. The photographs were taken with a digital camera with a 50mm lens (equivalent focal length). These are presented as a full-size single image centred on the site, with a 39.6° HFoV and a 27° vertical field of view (VFoV) (as advised by the Landscape Institute Technical Guidance Note 06/19) supported by a series of contextual baseline panoramic photographs. These have been used to inform the assessment of both landscape and visual impacts.

Assessment of Effects

- A.2.11 Having established the relevant baseline position the assessment process then completes the following specific stages:
- Evaluate the sensitivity of the landscape receptors and visual receptors, specifically in response to the type of proposed development (sensitivity of landscape resources is not standard and depends on the nature and type of development proposed);
 - Identify the potential magnitude of impact on the physical landscape, on landscape character and on visual receptors; and
 - Combine professional judgments on the nature of the receptor (sensitivity) and the nature of the change or impact (magnitude) to arrive at a clear and transparent judgment of significance.
- A.2.12 For both landscape and visual effects, the final conclusions on significance are based on the combination of sensitivity and magnitude. The overall judgment on significance is based on the combination of each of the criteria. The rationale for the balance and justification for each judgement is expressed in the detailed analysis.
- A.2.13 To draw a distinction between different levels of significance, a scale for the degrees of significance, along with criteria and definitions, have been developed. These provide a structure for making judgements which are clear and objective. However, it is necessary to remember that landscapes and interactions in the landscape are both complex and subtle; as such an element of subjectivity remains. No landscape will fit wholly into any one definition and to try would require extensive and complex criterion.

- A.2.14 Consequently, professional judgements draw conclusions in respect of sensitivity, magnitude and significance. These are described in the detailed written analysis presented in the LVIA, supported by descriptive thresholds and criteria for each of these stages in relation to landscape impacts and, separately, visual impacts are set out in the following sections.

A.3. ASSESSMENT OF LANDSCAPE EFFECTS

Overview of landscape sensitivity

- A.3.1 Although landscape has some intrinsic sensitivity, different landscape receptors have different elements and features that can accommodate a variety of development types.
- A.3.2 To reliably inform detailed assessment of impacts, landscape sensitivity needs to be determined with reference to the changes arising from the specific type of development in question. Therefore, landscape sensitivity is assessed combining judgements on the value attached to a landscape and the susceptibility to the type of change and nature of the development proposed.

Landscape value

- A.3.3 Landscape value is the relative value attached to a potentially affected landscape. Landscape value will vary in relation to the different stakeholders and different parts of society that use or experience a landscape.
- A.3.4 Although factors such as formal designations are an important component when determining value, other aspects are also considered as part of the judgement process.
- A.3.5 These include issues related natural and cultural heritage (for example ecological, geological or heritage matters), landscape condition, associations (in terms of connections with people, arts or events), distinctiveness (i.e. a sense of unique identity in the landscape), recreational opportunities, perceptual aspects (including scenic quality, wildness and tranquillity) and landscapes with a clearly identifiable role or function.
- A.3.6 Even where a landscape is included in the boundaries of a formal designation, landscape value will vary in response to the specific landscape that is being considered based on its condition, sense of seclusion or isolation, the presence or absence of detracting features, the presence or absence of rare or distinctive elements and features, and, the degree to which these form key characteristics.
- A.3.7 Factors that have been considered in making judgements on landscape value include designations (both national and local), local planning documents, status of features (e.g. TPOs

or Conservation Areas) and local community and interests (for example local green spaces, village greens or allotments).

A.3.8 The following table sets out the criteria that have been considered for determining landscape value. These are informed by the factors identified the LI TGN 02/21¹.

Table A.1: Factors used for determining landscape value

Value	Factors
High	Designated areas at an International or National level (including, but not limited to, World Heritage Site, National Parks, AONB's) and also considered an important component of the country's character, experienced by high numbers of tourists. Evidence of natural and cultural heritage interests which contribute positively to the landscape are prominent. Landscape condition in respect of the physical state of individual elements or overall structure is good. Landscape associations might be understood in the national context. The distinctiveness of the landscape reflects a strong sense of identity. Recreational opportunities where the experience of landscape is important and/or promoted are extensive. Perceptual scenic/visual qualities are objectively considered as good. Perceptual qualities of wildness, tranquillity and/or dark skies are elevated. Elements of the landscape make a strong contribution to a clearly identifiable landscape function. Functions themselves are landscape specific.

¹ Landscape Institute Technical Guidance Note 02/21: Assessing Landscape Value Outside National Designations

Value	Factors
Medium	Designated areas at a Regional or County level (including, but not limited to, green belt, regional scale parks, designated as open space or a Conservation Area in local planning documents) and also considered a distinctive component or the region/county character experienced by a large proportion of its population. Evidence of natural and cultural heritage interests which contribute positively to the landscape are apparent. Landscape condition in respect of the physical state of individual elements or overall structure is fair. Landscape associations might be understood in the local context. The distinctiveness of the landscape reflects a common sense of identity. Recreational opportunities where the experience of landscape is important and/or promoted are available. Perceptual scenic/visual qualities are objectively considered as ordinary. Perceptual qualities of wildness, tranquillity and/or dark skies are fair. Elements of the landscape make a fair contribution to a clearly identifiable landscape function. Functions themselves are landscape related.
Low	No formal designations but a landscape of local relevance (including, but not limited to, public or semi-public open spaces, village greens or allotments) and also green infrastructure and open spaces within residential areas likely to be visited and valued by the local community. Evidence of natural and cultural heritage interests which contribute positively to the landscape are discreet. Landscape condition in respect of the physical state of individual elements or overall structure is poor. Landscape associations which might be understood are highly localised or esoteric. The distinctiveness of the landscape reflect a generic sense of identity. Recreational opportunities where the experience of landscape is important and/or promoted are limited. Perceptual scenic/visual qualities are objectively considered as poor. Perceptual qualities of wildness, tranquillity and/or dark skies are degraded. Elements of the landscape make a limited contribution to a clearly identifiable landscape function. Functions themselves are generic.

A.3.9 Not all considerations for landscape value carry equally weighting in all scenarios. Consequently, professional judgement is applied to establish a balance, and interim categories of 'low to medium' and/or 'medium to high' are employed as necessary.

Landscape susceptibility

- A.3.10 The second component of landscape sensitivity relates to susceptibility. Landscape susceptibility to change is the ability of a landscape to accommodate change without undue consequences for the maintenance of the baseline situation. In this context, the term landscape receptors can be expanded to cover character areas, particular landscape character types or an individual landscape element or feature. Landscape susceptibility will vary in response to the specific landscape that is being considered and to the nature or type of change that may occur².
- A.3.11 The following table sets out the criteria that have been considered for determining landscape susceptibility.

Table A.2: Criteria for landscape susceptibility

Susceptibility	Criteria
High	Scale of enclosure – landscapes with a low capacity to accommodate the type of development proposed due to the nature of, and interactions between, landscape components (e.g. topography, vegetation cover and built form). Nature of land use – landscapes with no or very little existing reference or context to the type of proposed development. Nature of existing elements – landscapes with components that are not easily retained, replaced or substituted or that reflect strategies for landscape conservation. Nature of existing features – landscapes where detracting features or major infrastructure is not present or where these are present but their influence on the landscape is limited.
Medium	Scale of enclosure – landscapes with a medium capacity to accommodate the type of development proposed due to the nature of, and interactions between, landscape components (e.g. topography, vegetation cover and built form). Nature of land use – landscapes with some existing reference or context to the type of proposed development. Nature of existing elements – landscapes with components that are easily retained, replaced or substituted or that reflect strategies for landscape maintenance or enhancement. Nature of existing features – landscapes where detracting features or major infrastructure is present and the influence of these on the landscape is noticeable.

² Landscape Institute TGN 02/21: Assessing Landscape Value Outside National Designations, Paragraph 2.2.13

Susceptibility	Criteria
Low	Scale of enclosure – landscapes with a high capacity to accommodate the type of development proposed due to the nature of, and interactions between, landscape components (e.g. topography, vegetation cover and built form). Nature of land use – landscapes with extensive existing reference or context to the type of proposed development. Nature of existing elements – landscapes with components that are easily retained, replaced or substituted, or where there are few/no existing elements present or that reflect landscape strategies for landscape creation or restoration. Nature of existing features – landscapes where detracting features or major infrastructure is present and the influence of these on the landscape is dominant.

- A.3.12 Not all considerations for landscape susceptibility carry equally weighting in all scenarios. Consequently, professional judgement is applied to establish a balance, and interim categories of 'low to medium' and/or 'medium to high' are employed as necessary.

Landscape sensitivity

- A.3.13 Landscape sensitivity is a term applied to specific receptors, combining judgements of the susceptibility of the receptor to the specific type of change or development proposed and the value related to that receptor. Receptors can include specific elements or features or may be judged at a wider scale and include landscape character parcels, types or areas.
- A.3.14 Having considered in detail the contributing factors to landscape value and the susceptibility of the site and surrounding area to the type of the development being proposed, conclusions on landscape sensitivity can be drawn by balancing the judgements on value and susceptibility.
- A.3.15 As advocated in the GLVIA3, professional judgement is used to balance judgements on value and susceptibility in order to determine sensitivity. Each of these aspects of the analysis will vary subject to the scale and detail of the assessment.
- A.3.16 Overall judgements on landscape sensitivity are subsequently described as 'high', 'medium' or 'low' (or combinations of these).
- A.3.17 In drawing together judgements on landscape value and susceptibility in respect of landscape sensitivity, higher levels of landscape sensitivity will occur where landscape value and landscape susceptibility are toward the upper end of the scale.
- A.3.18 Lower levels of sensitivity will occur where value and susceptibility are toward the lower end of the scale.

A.3.19 More central levels of sensitivity will occur where one component is toward the higher end of the scale whilst one is toward the lower.

A.3.20 It is important to note that there are graduations within the process which are not clear cut, and professional judgment is used to balance these and determine an overall judgement on sensitivity.

Magnitude of landscape impacts

A.3.21 The effect on landscape receptors is assessed in relation to the size or scale of impact, the geographical extent of the change and the duration and the reversibility of the impact. The magnitude of landscape impacts has been assessed in accordance with the criteria set out in the following table.

Table A.3: Criteria for determining magnitude of landscape impacts

Magnitude	Criteria
Very high	The size and scale of change is considered very large due to the extent and proportion of loss of existing landscape elements or the degree of alteration to aesthetic or perceptual aspects. The nature and scale of change to key characteristics which are critical to character is considered very large. Where the geographical extent would have a very substantial influence on the landscape at a regional scale, i.e. across several landscape character areas/types. Duration of impacts would be considered very long term and where the potential reversal of the impact is not likely and in practical terms would be very difficult to achieve.
High	The size and scale of change is considered large due to the extent and proportion of loss of existing landscape elements or the degree of alteration to aesthetic or perceptual aspects. The nature and scale of change to key characteristics which are critical to character is considered large. Where the geographical extent would have a substantial influence on the landscape at a regional scale, i.e. across several landscape character areas/types. Duration of impacts would be considered long term and where the potential reversal of the impact is not likely and in practical terms would be very difficult to achieve.

Magnitude	Criteria
Medium	The size and scale of change is considered moderate due to the extent and proportion of loss of existing landscape elements or the degree of alteration to aesthetic or perceptual aspects. The nature and scale of change to key characteristics which are critical to character is considered moderate. Where the geographical extent would influence the landscape at a local scale, i.e. a single landscape character area/type (or potentially multiple areas/types where a site is located on the boundary between areas). Duration of impacts would be considered midterm and where the potential reversal of the impact is likely and in practical terms would be difficult to achieve.
Low	The size and scale of change is considered small due to the extent and proportion of loss of existing landscape elements or the degree of alteration to aesthetic or perceptual aspects The nature and scale of change to key characteristics which are critical to character is considered small Where the geographical extent would influence the landscape in the immediate setting of the site, i.e. limited to the influence of part of a single landscape character area/type Duration of impacts would be considered short term and where the potential reversal of the impact is more likely and in practical terms would easily be achieved
Negligible	The size and scale of change is considered very small due to the extent and proportion of loss of existing landscape elements or the degree of alteration to aesthetic or perceptual aspects The nature and scale of change to key characteristics which are critical to character is considered very small Where the geographical extent would substantially influence the landscape of the site only Duration of impacts would be considered very short term and where the potential reversal of the impact is very likely or committed and in practical terms would very easily be achieved
Nil	There is no perceived change to the landscape

A.3.22 As with landscape value and landscape susceptibility, interim categories are employed where necessary.

A.3.23 These judgements are then taken forward to an assessment of the significance of landscape effects.

A.4. ASSESSMENT OF VISUAL EFFECTS

A.4.1 Visual receptors include a particular person or groups of people likely to be affected at a specific viewpoint or series of viewpoints. The assessment of visual effects considers the receptor at a

location, selected as a point that is either particularly representative of a visual experience or where it is the worst-case scenario of a view (for example, a more elevated location at an open point of a PROW, rather than somewhere enclosed by vegetation, even if the route is predominantly enclosed by vegetation).

Visual sensitivity

- A.4.2 Sensitivity of visual receptors is determined through balancing judgements on the value attached to a particular view against the receptors susceptibility to change in a view or visual amenity. Given the need to address the specific issues of the proposed development these factors in the context of visual sensitivity are considered as part of the assessment of visual effects.
- A.4.3 The value attached to a view includes recognition of value through formal designations (for example planning designations or heritage assets), indicators of value attached to views by visitors (for example inclusion on maps/guidebooks, provision of facilities, presence of interpretation).
- A.4.4 For example, views of higher value are likely to be from designated landscapes where the condition or scenic quality of the view is higher and where distinctive elements or features form a prominent part of a view; views of lower value are likely to be from area of landscapes where the condition and scenic quality of the view is poorer, where there is no reference to distinctive elements or features and where detracting features are prominent in the view.
- A.4.5 The susceptibility of different visual receptors to changes in views and visual amenity is judged based on the activity of people experiencing the view at any given time or location and the extent to which their attention would be focused on the view and visual amenity rather than on the activity being undertaken.
- A.4.6 For example, views more susceptible to change are likely to be permanent views, in unenclosed or elevated positions in the landscape and where the landscape forms a primary focus for the activity of the receptor; views less susceptible to change are likely to be transient or temporary views, located in enclosed areas of the landscape where the landscape is a secondary focus or consideration to the activity of the receptor.
- A.4.7 The following table sets out the definitions of sensitivity for different visual receptors. The considerations set out in the table draw together matters of value and matters of susceptibility.

Table A.4: Criteria for visual sensitivity

Sensitivity	Definition
Very high	Designated or protected views or views from publicly accessible locations in protected landscapes Tourists and visitors to heritage assets, or other attractions, where views of the surroundings are an important contributor to the experience and visit
High	Occupiers of residential properties People who are engaged in outdoor recreation whose attention is likely to be focussed on the landscape People travelling through the landscape on roads, rail or other transport routes where this involves recognised scenic routes and an awareness of views and visual amenity
Medium	People travelling more generally through the landscape on roads, rail or other transport routes People staying in hotels and healthcare institutions People at work and in educational institutions where visual amenity is an important contributor to the setting and quality of working life
Low	People at work and in educational institutions where the visual setting is not important to the quality of working life People engaged in formal sports where the visual setting may play a role, but attention is focused on the activity Views from publicly accessible locations in degraded landscapes

A.4.8 As with landscape value and landscape susceptibility, interim categories are employed where necessary.

A.4.9 It should be noted that as professional judgement is applied to the balance of value and susceptibility of visual receptors, in order to determine sensitivity as set out in the table above; there may be some instances where a typical receptor is defined a different degree of sensitivity to the guidance included in the table, above.

Magnitude of visual impacts

A.4.10 The effect on visual receptors is also assessed in relation to the size or scale of change, the geographical extent of the change, the duration of the change and the reversibility of the impact. The magnitude of visual impacts has been assessed in accordance with the criteria set out in the following table.

Table A.5: Criteria for determining magnitude of visual impacts

Magnitude	Criteria
Very High	The size and scale of change is considered very substantial due to the extent of loss, addition or alteration of features, the changes to the composition of the view including the proportion of the view occupied by the proposal, the degree of contrast and the nature of the experience The geographical extent in relation to the angle, distance and proportion of visibility is considered as very extensive Duration of impacts would be considered long term and where the potential reversal of the impact is not likely and in practical terms would not be achievable Alteration in very close proximity
High	The size and scale of change is considered substantial due to the extent of loss, addition or alteration of features, the changes to the composition of the view including the proportion of the view occupied by the proposal, the degree of contrast and the nature of the experience The geographical extent in relation to the angle, distance and proportion of visibility is considered as extensive Duration of impacts would be considered long term and where the potential reversal of the impact is not likely and in practical terms would be very difficult to achieve Alteration in close proximity
Medium	The size and scale of change is considered fair due to the extent of loss, addition or alteration of features, the changes to the composition of the view including the proportion of the view occupied by the proposal, the degree of contrast and the nature of the experience The geographical extent in relation to the angle, distance and proportion of visibility is considered as small or intermediate Duration of impacts would be considered medium term and where the potential reversal of the impact is likely and in practical terms would be difficult to achieve
Low	The size and scale of change is considered small due to the extent of loss, addition or alteration of features, the changes to the composition of the view including the proportion of the view occupied by the proposal, the degree of contrast and the nature of the experience The geographical extent in relation to the angle, distance and proportion of visibility is considered as limited Duration of impacts would be considered short term and where the potential reversal of the impact is very likely and in practical terms would easily be achieved

Magnitude	Criteria
Negligible	The size and scale of change is considered very small due to the extent of loss, addition or alteration of features, the changes to the composition of the view including the proportion of the view occupied by the proposal, the degree of contrast and the nature of the experience The geographical extent in relation to the angle, distance and proportion of visibility is considered as very limited Duration of impacts would be considered very short term and where the potential reversal of the impact is very likely or committed and in practical terms would very easily be achieved
Nil	There is no view of the proposed development in the view

A.4.11 Interim categories are employed where necessary.

A.4.12 These judgements are then taken forward to an assessment of the significance of visual effects.

A.5. DEFINING SIGNIFICANCE OF EFFECTS

A.5.1 For both landscape and visual effects, the final conclusion on the significance of an effect is based on the combination of sensitivity of receptor and magnitude of change (or impact). The rationale for the overall judgement on significance is based on the combination of each of the criteria individually leading to the balance and justification of these.

A.5.2 Detailed assessment is a means of drawing together, in a systematic way, an assessment of the likely significant environmental effects of a proposed development; however not all landscape and visual effects arising will be significant.

A.5.3 Determination of the significance of an effect requires the application of professional judgement to balance the findings in relation to the sensitivity of the receptor and the magnitude of the predicted impacts.

A.5.4 The GLVIA3 advocate a move away from formulaic matrices and tables and encourages an approach using professional judgement. Analysis and consideration of value and susceptibility gives rise to a spectrum of judgements on sensitivity, which along with magnitude inform judgements on the effects and help inform the overall judgement of a decision maker..

A.5.5 The criteria for determining the significance of effects for landscape and visual impacts are set out in the following tables, below. These criteria are based on guidance provided by the Landscape Institute.

Table A.6: Criteria for determining significance of landscape effects

Significance of Effect	Description The proposed development would:
Major Adverse (Negative) Effect	Be at substantial variance with the character of the receiving landscape. Result in the total loss of a range of characteristic elements and features. Damage the sense of place.
Moderate Adverse (Negative) Effect	Be at variance or inconsistency with the character of the receiving landscape. Degrade or diminish the integrity of a range of characteristic elements and features. Detract from the sense of place.
Minor Adverse (Negative) Effect	Not quite fit the character of the receiving landscape. Have some variance with characteristic elements and features. Have a limited influence on sense of place.
Negligible (Adverse (Negative) Effect	Result in such limited changes to character that, whilst any variance may be barely perceptible as a negative change, the degree of change is not likely to give rise to the character of the receiving landscape.
Neutral	Potentially be barely perceptible but would not be apparent as either a positive or negative change and would consequently maintain the character of the receiving landscape; blend in with characteristic elements and features; and/or enable the sense of place to be retained.
Negligible Beneficial (Positive) Effect	Result in such limited changes to character that, whilst any variance may be barely perceptible as a positive change, the degree of change is not likely to give rise to a material change to the character of the receiving landscape.
Minor Beneficial (Positive) Effect	Complement the character of the receiving landscape. Maintain or enhance characteristic elements and features. Enable some sense of place to be restored.
Moderate Beneficial (Positive) Effect	Improve the character of the receiving landscape. Enable the restoration of characteristic elements and features partially lost or diminished as a result of changes from previous inappropriate management or development. Enable the sense of place to be restored.
Major Beneficial (Positive) Effect	Enhance the character of the receiving landscape. Enable the restoration of characteristic elements and features lost as a result of changes from previous inappropriate management or development. Enable the sense of place to be enhanced.

Table A.7: Criteria for determining significance of visual effects

Significance of Effect	Description
Major Adverse	The proposed development project would cause major deterioration to a view from a highly sensitive receptor, and would constitute a major discordant element in the view.
Moderate Adverse	The proposed development would cause obvious deterioration to a view from a moderately sensitive receptor, perceptible damage to a view from a receptor of lower sensitivity or limited damage to views to receptors of higher sensitivity.
Minor Adverse	The proposed development would cause limited deterioration to a view from a moderately sensitive receptor, or cause greater deterioration to a view from a receptor of lower sensitivity.
Negligible Adverse	The proposed development and associated changes would be barely perceptible in a view. Changes will be negative (adverse) however this degree of change is not likely to be material and therefore no distinction is made.
Neutral	The change in the view would be barely perceptible but would not be apparent as either a positive or negative change.
Nil	There would be no view of the proposed development.
Negligible Beneficial	The proposed development and associated changes would be barely perceptible in a view. Changes will be positive (beneficial) however this degree of change is not likely to be material and therefore no distinction is made.
Minor Beneficial	The proposed development would cause limited improvement to a view from a moderately sensitive receptor, or would cause greater improvement to a view from a receptor of lower sensitivity.
Moderate Beneficial	The proposed development would cause obvious improvement to a view from a moderately sensitive receptor, perceptible improvement to a view from a receptor of lower sensitivity or limited improvements to views to receptors of higher sensitivity.
Major Beneficial	The proposed development would lead to a major improvement in a view from a highly sensitive receptor.

A.5.6 GLVIA3 suggests that scales of three or four (but a maximum of five) categories are preferred (GLVIA3, para 3.27). However, for both landscape and visual effects, interim categories of ‘negligible to minor’, ‘minor to moderate’ and ‘moderate to major’ are used where the judgements on an effect are determined to fit across the descriptive criteria for significance banding.

Assessment of Significance

- A.5.7 Significance can only be defined in relation to each development and its specific location, and in landscape and visual terms there are no definitive rules as to what constitutes a significant effect.
- A.5.8 The GLVIA3 state that, in relation to the EIA Regulations:
- A.5.9 *"emphasis is on the identification of likely significant environmental effects. This should embrace all types of effect and includes for example those that are positive/beneficial and negative/adverse... Identifying significant effects stresses the need for an approach that is in proportion to the scale of the project and the nature of its likely effects."*
- A.5.10 For the purposes of this LVIA, in relation to the Site and Proposed Development, effects are considered to be 'significant' where these are judged to be 'moderate to major' or 'major' (either adverse or beneficial).
- A.5.11 However, it is important to note that there remains an element of professional judgement when drawing together an 'overall judgment' on effects and that one single 'significant effect' might not lead to landscape and visual effects being significant on balance (for example, one viewpoint subject of a significant effect may not equate to visual effects being significant overall).