

1. DETAILED METHODOLOGY

1.1 This Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) has been undertaken with regards to best practice as outlined within the following publications:

- Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (3rd Edition, 2013) - Landscape Institute / Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (hereafter referred to as GLVIA3).
- An Approach to Landscape Character Assessment (2014) - Natural England.
- An Approach to Landscape Sensitivity Assessment - To Inform Spatial Planning and Land Management (2019) - Natural England.
- Technical Guidance Note (TGN) 06/19 Visual Representation of Development Proposals, 17 September 2019 by the Landscape Institute.
- Technical Guidance Note (TGN) 2/21 Assessing landscape value outside national designations, May 2021 by the Landscape Institute.
- Draft Technical Guidance Note 05/23 - Notes and Clarifications on aspects of GLVIA3, July 2023 by the Landscape Institute.

1.2 GLVIA3 states within paragraph 1.1 that *"Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) is 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

1.3 GLVIA3 also states within paragraph 1.17 that when identifying landscape and visual effects there is a *"need for an approach that is in proportion to the scale of the project that is being assessed and the nature of the likely effects. Judgement needs to be exercised at all stages in terms of the scale of investigation that is appropriate and proportional."*²

1.4 GLVIA3 recognises within paragraph 2.23 that *"professional judgement is a very important part of LVIA. While there is some scope for quantitative measurement of some relatively objective matters much of the assessment must rely on qualitative judgements"*³ undertaken by a landscape consultant or a Chartered Member of the Landscape Institute (CMLI).

1.5 GLVIA3 notes in paragraph 1.3 that *"LVIA may be carried out either formally, as part of an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), or informally, as a contribution to the 'appraisal' of development proposals and planning applications."*⁴

1.6 The effects on cultural heritage and ecology are not considered within this LVIA.

Study Area

1.7 The study area for this LVIA covers a 2km radius from the Site, defined following review of a computer generated ZTV and appraisal in the field.

¹ Para 1.1, Page 4, GLVIA, 3rd Edition

² Para 1.17, Page 9, GLVIA, 3rd Edition

³ Para 2.23, Page 21, GLVIA, 3rd Edition

⁴ Para 1.3, Page 4, GLVIA, 3rd Edition

Effects Assessed

1.8 Landscape and visual effects are assessed through professional judgements on the sensitivity of landscape elements, character and visual receptors combined with the predicted magnitude of change arising from the proposals. The landscape and visual effects have been assessed in the following sections:

- Effects on landscape elements.
- Effects on landscape character.
- Effects on visual amenity.

1.9 Sensitivity is defined in GLVIA3 as *"a term applied to specific receptors, combining judgments of susceptibility of the receptor to a specific type of change or development proposed and the value related to that receptor."*⁵ Various factors in relation to the value and susceptibility of landscape elements, character, visual receptors, or representative viewpoints are considered below and cross referenced to determine the overall sensitivity as shown in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Overall sensitivity of landscape and visual receptors				
	VALUE			
SUSCEPTIBILITY		HIGH	MEDIUM	LOW
	HIGH	High	High	Medium
	MEDIUM	High	Medium	Medium
	LOW	Medium	Medium	Low

1.10 Magnitude of change is defined in GLVIA3 as *"a term that combines judgements about the size and scale of the effect, the extent over which it occurs, whether it is reversible or irreversible and whether it is short or long term in duration."*⁶ Various factors contribute to the magnitude of change on landscape elements, character, visual receptors, and representative viewpoints.

1.11 The sensitivity of the landscape and visual receptor and the magnitude of change arising from the proposals are cross referenced in Table 11 to determine the overall degree of landscape and visual effects.

2. EFFECTS ON LANDSCAPE ELEMENTS

2.1 The effects on landscape elements are limited to within the site and includes the direct physical change to the fabric of the land, such as the removal of woodland, hedgerows or grassland to allow for the proposals.

⁵ Glossary, Page 158, GLVIA, 3rd Edition

⁶ Glossary, Page 158, GLVIA, 3rd Edition

Sensitivity of Landscape Elements

- 2.2 Sensitivity is determined by a combination of the value that is attached to a landscape element and the susceptibility of the landscape element to changes that would arise as a result of the proposals – see pages 88-90 of GLVIA3. Both value and susceptibility are assessed on a scale of high, medium or low.
- 2.3 The criteria for assessing the value of landscape elements and landscape character is shown in Table 2:

Table 2: Criteria for assessing the value of landscape elements and landscape character	
HIGH	Designated landscape including but not limited to World Heritage Sites, National Parks, Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty considered to be an important component of the country's character experienced by a high number of people. Landscape condition is good and components are generally maintained to a high standard. In terms of seclusion, enclosure by land use, traffic and movement, light pollution and presence/absence of major infrastructure, the landscape has an elevated level of tranquillity. Rare or distinctive landscape elements and features are key components that contribute to the landscape character of the area.
MEDIUM	Undesignated landscape including urban fringe and rural countryside considered to be a distinctive component of the national or local landscape character. Landscape condition is fair and components are generally well maintained. In terms of seclusion, enclosure by land use, traffic and movement, light pollution and presence/absence of major infrastructure, the landscape has a moderate level of tranquillity. Rare or distinctive landscape elements and features are notable components that contribute to the character of the area.
LOW	Undesignated landscape including urban fringe and rural countryside considered to be of unremarkable character. Landscape condition may be poor and components poorly maintained or damaged. In terms of seclusion, enclosure by land use, traffic and movement, light pollution and presence/absence of infrastructure, the landscape has limited levels of tranquillity. Rare or distinctive elements and features are not notable components that contribute to the landscape character of the area.

- 2.4 The criteria for assessing the susceptibility of landscape elements and landscape character is shown in Table 3:

Table 3: Criteria for assessing landscape susceptibility

HIGH	Scale of enclosure – landscapes with a low capacity to accommodate the type of development being proposed owing to the interactions of topography, vegetation cover, built form, etc. Nature of land use – landscapes with no or little existing reference or context to the type of development being proposed. Nature of existing elements – landscapes with components that are not easily replaced or substituted (e.g. ancient woodland, mature trees, historic parkland, etc). Nature of existing features – landscapes where detracting features, infrastructure or industry is not present or where present has a limited influence on landscape character.
MEDIUM	Scale of enclosure – landscapes with a medium capacity to accommodate the type of development being proposed owing to the interactions of topography, vegetation cover, built form, etc. Nature of land use – landscapes with some existing reference or context to the type of development being proposed. Nature of existing elements – landscapes with components that are easily replaced or substituted. Nature of existing features – landscapes where detracting features, infrastructure or industry is present and has a noticeable influence on landscape character.
LOW	Scale of enclosure – landscapes with a high capacity to accommodate the type of development being proposed owing to the interactions of topography, vegetation cover, built form, etc. Nature of land use – landscapes with extensive existing reference or context to the type of development being proposed. Nature of existing features – landscapes where detracting features or infrastructure is present and has a notable characterising influence on the landscape.

- 2.5 Various factors in relation to the value and susceptibility of landscape elements are assessed and cross referenced to determine the overall sensitivity as shown in Table 1.
- 2.6 Sensitivity is defined in GLVIA3 as “a term applied to specific receptors, combining judgments of susceptibility of the receptor to a specific type of change or development proposed and the value related to that receptor.”⁷ The definitions for high, medium, low landscape sensitivity are shown in Table 4:

⁷ Glossary, Page 158, GLVIA, 3rd Edition

Table 4: Criteria for assessing landscape sensitivity

HIGH	Landscape element or character area defined as being of high value combined with a high or medium susceptibility to change.
	Landscape element or character area defined as being of medium value combined with a high susceptibility to change.
MEDIUM	Landscape element or character area defined as being of high value combined with a low susceptibility to change.
	Landscape element or character area defined as being of medium value combined with a medium or low susceptibility to change.
	Landscape element or character area defined as being of low value combined with a high or medium susceptibility to change.
LOW	Landscape element or character area defined as being of low value combined with a low susceptibility to change.

Magnitude of Change on Landscape Elements

- 2.7 Professional judgement has been used to determine the magnitude of change on individual landscape elements within the site as shown in Table 5:

Table 5, Criteria for assessing magnitude of change for landscape elements

HIGH	Total loss/gain of a landscape element.
MEDIUM	Partial loss/gain or alteration to part of a landscape element.
LOW	Minor loss/gain or alteration to part of a landscape element.
NEGLIGIBLE	Very limited alteration to part of a landscape element.

3. EFFECTS ON VISUAL AMENITY

- 3.1 Visual amenity is defined within GLVIA3 as the *"overall pleasantness of the views people enjoy of their surroundings, which provides an attractive visual setting or backdrop for the enjoyment of activities of the people living, working, recreating, visiting or travelling through an area."*⁸
- 3.2 The effects on visual amenity considers the changes in views arising from the proposals in relation to visual receptors including settlements, residential properties, transport routes, recreational facilities and attractions; and representative viewpoints or specific locations within the study area.

⁸ Page 158, Glossary, GLVIA3

Sensitivity of Visual Receptors

3.3 Sensitivity is determined by a combination of the value that is attached to a view and the susceptibility of the visual receptor to changes in that view that would arise as a result of the proposals – see pages 113-114 of GLVIA3. Both value and susceptibility are assessed on a scale of high, medium or low.

3.4 The criteria for assessing the value of views are shown in Table 7:

Table 7: Criteria for assessing the value of views	
HIGH	Views with high scenic value, typically within designated landscapes including but not limited to World Heritage Sites, National Parks, Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, etc. Likely to include key viewpoints on OS maps or reference within guidebooks, provision of facilities, presence of interpretation boards, etc.
MEDIUM	Views with moderate scenic value, typically within undesignated landscape including rural countryside but may include views from designated landscapes where scenic value is degraded.
LOW	Views with unremarkable scenic value within undesignated landscape with partly degraded visual quality and detractors.

3.5 The criteria for assessing the susceptibility of views are shown in Table 8:

Table 8: Criteria for assessing visual susceptibility	
HIGH	Includes occupiers of residential properties and people engaged in recreational activities in the countryside using public rights of way (PROW).
MEDIUM	Includes people engaged in outdoor sporting activities and people travelling through the landscape on minor roads and trains.
LOW	Includes people at places of work e.g., industrial and commercial premises and people travelling through the landscape on major roads and motorways.

3.6 Sensitivity is defined in GLVIA3 as “a term applied to specific receptors, combining judgments of susceptibility of the receptor to a specific type of change or development proposed and the value related to that receptor.”⁹ The definitions for high, medium, low visual sensitivity are shown in Table 9:

Table 9: Criteria for assessing visual sensitivity	
HIGH	Visual receptor defined as being of high value combined with a high or medium susceptibility to change.
	Visual receptor defined as being of medium value combined with a high susceptibility to change.

⁹ Glossary, Page 158, GLVIA, 3rd Edition

MEDIUM	Visual receptor defined as being of high value combined with a low susceptibility to change.
	Visual receptor defined as being of medium value combined with a medium or low susceptibility to change.
	Visual receptor defined as being of low value combined with a high or medium susceptibility to change.
LOW	Visual receptor defined as being of low value combined with a low susceptibility to change.

Magnitude of Change on Visual Receptors

- 3.7 Professional judgement has been used to determine the magnitude of change criteria¹⁰ on visual receptors as shown in Table 10. The duration and reversibility of effects is also considered, and separate clarification provided in the main assessment.

Table 10: Criteria for assessing magnitude of change for visual receptors

HIGH	Major scale of change in the view with respect to a substantial loss and/or addition of features, major changes in the view composition and/or a large horizontal/vertical proportion of the view occupied by the proposed development. Proposed development would likely result in a high degree of contrast with baseline landscape elements in terms of form, scale and mass, line, height, colour and texture. Nature of the view likely to be full (not partial or glimpsed). Geographical extent likely to include a large extent of the area or length of the route (receptor) over which the changes would be visible and likely to comprise direct views of the proposals in relation to the main activity of the receptor and at a distance where the middle ground and potentially foreground of the view would be dominated by the development.
MEDIUM	Moderate scale of change in the view with respect to some loss and/or addition of features, changes in the view composition and a moderate horizontal/vertical proportion of the view occupied by the proposed development. Proposed development would result in a moderate degree of contrast with baseline landscape elements in terms of form, scale and mass, line, height, colour and texture. Nature of the view likely to be full or partial (not glimpsed). Geographical extent likely to include a moderate extent of the area or length of the route (receptor) over which the changes would be visible and are likely to comprise direct views of the proposals in relation to the main activity of the receptor and at a distance where the development would likely be a notable element in the middle ground of the view.

¹⁰ Para 6.38-6.41, page 115, GLVIA, 3rd Edition

LOW	Small scale of change in the view with respect to limited loss and/or addition of features, some changes in the view composition and/or a minor horizontal/vertical proportion of the view occupied by the proposed development. Proposed development would likely result in a minor degree of contrast with baseline landscape elements in terms of form, scale and mass, line, height, colour and texture. Nature of the views likely to be partial and/or glimpsed (not full). Geographical extent likely to include a minor extent of the area or length of the route (receptor) over which the changes would be visible and are likely to comprise oblique views of the proposals in relation to the main activity of the receptor and at a distance where the development would likely be a minor element in the middle ground and/or background of the view.
NEGLECTIBLE	Very small scale of change in the view with respect to very limited loss and/or addition of features, very small changes in the view composition and/or a very small horizontal/vertical proportion of the view occupied by the proposed development. Proposed development would likely result in a very small degree of contrast with baseline landscape elements in terms of form, scale and mass, line, height, colour and texture. Nature of the views likely to be glimpsed (not partial or full). Geographical extent likely to include a very small extent of the area or length of the route (receptor) over which the changes would be visible and are likely to comprise oblique views of the proposals in relation to the main activity of the receptor and at a distance where the development would likely be a barely discernible element in the background of the view.

4. DEGREE OF LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL EFFECTS

- 4.1 The degree of effects is dependent on all of the factors considered in the sensitivity and the magnitude of change upon the relevant landscape and visual receptors. These factors are assimilated to assess the degree of effect. The variables considered in the evaluation of the sensitivity and the magnitude of change is reviewed holistically to inform the professional judgement of the degree of effect.
- 4.2 An effect greater than a Moderate level will occur where the combination of the variables results in the proposed development having a definitive effect on landscape character and/or the view. An effect at a Moderate level or less will occur where the appearance of the proposed development is not definitive, and the effect continues to be defined principally by its baseline condition.
- 4.3 The cross referencing of the sensitivity and magnitude of change on the landscape and visual receptor determines the degree of effect as shown in Table 12 below.
- 4.4 It is understood that certain landscape assessors may consider 'moderate' effects to be a material consideration. Pegasus' methodology is clear on this matter and recognises that major adverse effects are a high bar and relate to changes in landscape character or visual amenity that would cause a variation in the landscape character, change in the sense of place, degrade or diminish the integrity of a range of characteristic features and elements, or cause a notable deterioration in visual amenity. Major effects are considered to be associated with landscapes or views that

have been redefined or partly redefined with adverse or beneficial effects, rather than simply changed.

Table 12: Degree of landscape and visual effects				
		Sensitivity		
		HIGH	MEDIUM	LOW
Magnitude of Change	HIGH	Major	Major	Moderate
	MEDIUM	Major	Moderate	Minor
	LOW	Moderate	Minor	Minor
	NEGLIGIBLE	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible

5. TYPICAL DESCRIPTORS OF LANDSCAPE EFFECTS

5.1 The typical descriptors of the landscape effects are detailed within Table 13:

Table 13: Typical Descriptors of Landscape Effects

MAJOR	The landscape resource has a high or medium sensitivity with the proposals representing a high or medium magnitude of change. The proposed changes would: - Substantially enhance or be at complete variance with the character of the landscape; - enhance the restoration of characteristic features and elements lost, or have a notable adverse effect on existing characteristic features or elements; - enable a sense of place to be substantially enhanced or completely lost.
MODERATE	The landscape resource has a medium sensitivity with the proposals representing a medium magnitude of change and/or the proposed changes would: - enhance or conflict with the character (including value) of the landscape; - enable the restoration of characteristic features and elements partially lost or diminished, or have some adverse effect on some characteristic features and elements; - enable a sense of place to be restored or would diminish a sense of place.
MINOR	The landscape resource has a low sensitivity with the proposals representing a low magnitude of change and/or the proposed changes would: - complement the character of the landscape or not quite fit the character of the landscape; - maintain or enhance characteristic features or elements or be at slight variance with characteristic features or elements; - enable some sense of place to be restored or slightly detract from a sense of place.
NEGLIGIBLE	The proposed changes would (on balance) maintain the character (including value) of the landscape and would: - be in keeping with landscape character and blend in with characteristic features and elements; - Enable a sense of place to be maintained.
NO CHANGE	The proposed changes would not change any landscape features/elements and/or there would be no discernible change to landscape character.

6. TYPICAL DESCRIPTORS OF VISUAL EFFECTS

6.1 The typical descriptors of the visual effects are detailed within Table 14:

Table 14: Typical Descriptors of Visual Effects	
MAJOR	The visual receptor is of high sensitivity with the proposals representing a high or medium magnitude of change, or the visual receptor is of medium sensitivity with the proposals representing a high magnitude of change.
MODERATE	The visual receptor is of medium sensitivity with the proposals representing a medium magnitude of change, or the visual receptor is of high sensitivity with the proposals representing a low magnitude of change, or the visual receptor is of low sensitivity with the proposals representing a high magnitude of change.
MINOR	The visual receptor is of low sensitivity with the proposals representing a low or medium magnitude of change or the visual receptor is of medium sensitivity with the proposals representing a low magnitude of change.
NEGLIGIBLE	The proposed changes would be barely perceptible.
NO EFFECT	The proposed changes would not be visible and there would be no change to the view.

7. NATURE OF EFFECTS

7.1 GLVIA3 states: "as with landscape effects an informed professional judgement should be made as to whether visual effects can be described as positive or negative (or in some cases neutral) in their consequences for **views and visual amenity**."¹¹ GLVIA3 does not, however, state how the nature of effects should be assessed, and this therefore becomes a matter of professional judgement supported by receptor specific justification within the LVIA.

¹¹ Para 6.29, Page 113, GLVIA 3rd Edition