



APPENDIX 10.1

Methodology & Definition of Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment Terms

ALLEN PYKE ASSOCIATES

(Landscape Consultants)

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METHODOLOGY & TERMS FOR LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

INTRODUCTION

This document set out the methodology and terms used by Allen Pyke Associates in LVIA's and Environmental Statements to establish and describe the potential effects on landscape character and visual amenity of a development

The methodology has been adapted from the guidance given in the Landscape Institute/IEMA publication 'Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment' (3rd Edition 2013).

The approach has been adapted to allow the assessment of broad urban areas but is not designed to provide the detailed appraisal required for specific townscape studies (see Landscape Institute TCA Technical Note: 05/2017)

The assessment process is divided into two stages:

- **STAGE 1: Assessment of Existing Baseline Conditions & Sensitivity**
- **STAGE 2: Assessment of the Effects of the Proposed Development**

STAGE 1: ASSESSMENT OF EXISTING BASELINE CONDITIONS & SENSITIVITY

The '**Sensitivity**' of the existing **landscape/townscape character** or **view** is determined through the combined assessment of the '**susceptibility to change**' and '**value**' of the area or view. The '**susceptibility to change**' is defined as '*the ability of the landscape to accommodate the proposed development without undue negative consequences*'. '**Susceptibility**' is derived by combining the '**Character**' of the area or type of ranking of the receptor experiencing the view with an assessment of its '**Condition**' of the landscape or the '**nature of the view**'.

1. DETERMINING SUSCEPTIBILITY TO CHANGE

1a. Assessing Landscape/Townscape Character:

The '**Character**' of an area is defined using the following criteria:

Character	Criteria
High	Where the area is wholly/predominately intact, may have no/few incongruous elements or forms part of a wider distinct pattern/coherent landscape/townscape and has a highly recognisable or distinct sense of place.
Moderate	Where the area has a recognisable pattern, may have some incongruous elements that detract from/only make a moderate contribution to the intactness of the area, and provide some sense of place.
Low	Where the area has no recognisable pattern/structure, or may have few similar coherent/a disparate collection of elements that make little/no contribution to the intactness of the area, and result in a limited/no sense of place.

The '**Condition**' of the **Landscape/Townscape** is **defined** using the following criteria:

Condition	Criteria
Good	Where the area is highly managed/excellent good repair/quality
Moderate	Where the area is reasonably managed/average repair/quality
Poor	Where the area is un-managed/poor repair/quality

1b. Assessing Visual Amenity:

‘Visual Receptor Types’ are ranked in accordance with the land use of the viewpoint from which people (the receptors) will experience the view. These are defined using the following criteria:

Visual Receptor Type Ranking	Criteria
Type A - High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Residents at home or using their gardens; - People engaged in outdoor recreation, including the use of public rights of way, whose attention or interest is likely to be focused on the landscape or particular views; - Visitors to heritage assets, or to other attractions, where views of the surroundings are an important contributor to the experience; - Communities where views contribute to the landscape setting enjoyed by local residents.
Type B - Moderate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Users of outdoor sport or recreation facilities that do not involve or depend on an appreciation of views in the landscape; - People at their place of work whose attention may be focussed on their work or activity, not on their surroundings. - Users of retail and employment sites, sports and recreational facilities where the views are secondary to the activity at hand; - Users of public roads and transport routes where views add to the travel experience.
Type C - Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Users of Industrial sites, agricultural land, derelict or abandoned land, or busy commuter links where there is little appreciation of the view.

The ‘Nature of the View’ is defined as follows and considers the extent to which the site can be seen from a particular receptor:

Nature of View	Criteria
Good	Where there is an open view/panoramic view to or from the site and/or is not enclosed or interrupted by natural/man-made features.
Moderate	Where the view to or from the site is largely open and/or partially screened/enclosed and is interrupted by some natural/man-made features and/or the site is in the distance.
Poor	Where the view to or from the site is largely screened/obscured by intervening features, or is enclosed and/or only forms a minor part of the view, or the site is difficult to perceive in the distance.

1c. Quantifying Susceptibility to Change

Combining the ‘Character’ with ‘Condition’ or ‘Visual Receptor Ranking’ with ‘Nature of the View’ determines the ‘Susceptibility to Change’ of an area or view:

MATRIX TABLE: LANDSCAPE & VISUAL SUSCEPTIBILITY TO CHANGE

Character/Receptor Ranking	LANDSCAPE/TOWNSCAPE & VISUAL SUSCEPTIBILITY		
High/Type A	High	High	Medium
Moderate/Type B	High	Medium	Low
Low/ Type C	Medium	Low	Low
	Good/High	Moderate/Medium	Poor/Low
	Condition/Nature of View		

The **definition** of the landscape/townscape or visual **‘Susceptibility to Change’** is:

Susceptibility	Criteria
High	Where the components and qualities of an area/view could be easily affected and would have a low ability/capacity to accommodate the proposed change.
Medium	Where the components and qualities of an area /view could be moderately affected and would have a medium ability/capacity to accommodate the proposed change.
Low	Where the components and qualities of an area /view could be affected in a minor/negligible manner and would have a high ability/capacity to accommodate the proposed change.

2. DETERMINING SENSITIVITY

2a. Assessing the Value of Landscape/Townscape Character

The **‘Value’** of an area is defined as follows and considers any relevant designation or local recognition:

Value	Criteria	Examples	Level of importance/rarity
Exceptional	Very high importance and rarity.	World Heritage Site	International
High	High importance and rarity.	National Park, AONB, Broads or other statutory/inalienable area designations	National, Regional
Moderate	Moderate importance.	Non-statutory landscape (SLA, AGLV), Conservation Area, Heritage Coast, or valued undesignated area recognised through use/association/ publications.	County, Local
Low	Low importance with positive characteristics.	Undistinguished and undesignated area with some redeeming feature/features and possibly identified for or being improved.	Local
Poor	Low importance but with negative characteristics.	Area having few/no redeeming features and/or possibly identified for recovery.	Local

2b. Assessing the Value of the View

The **‘Value of a view’** is defined as follows and considers the relationship between specific features or locations with local residents and visitors and their enjoyment or quality of the view:

Value of View	Criteria
Exceptional	A view of high scenic value, natural/man-made beauty, and/or is uninterrupted by incongruous elements, and/or is an important recognised view within/towards or across a statutory designated landscape or heritage/locally important feature/viewpoint.
High	A view of good scenic value, natural/man-made beauty, and/or uninterrupted by incongruous elements, and/or is a recognised view within/towards or across a designated landscape or heritage/locally important feature/significant viewpoint.
Moderate	A view of some scenic value or intrinsic merit/natural/man-made beauty with some incongruous elements within, towards or across a locally important landscape/view or towards a locally recognised feature or reference point.
Low	A view of little/no intrinsic merit and contains some positive attributes and/or a view which is not rare and does not have any local value attached to it.
Poor	An open or partially screened view which is unsightly with no positive attributes and/or a view which is not rare and does not have any local value attached to it.

2c. Quantifying Sensitivity

MATRIX TABLE: SENSITIVITY

Combining the 'Value' and the 'Susceptibility to Change' determines landscape/townscape character and visual sensitivity to change:

Landscape/ Visual Value	SENSITIVITY TO CHANGE		
	Exceptional/High	High	High
Moderate	High	Moderate	Low
Poor/Low	Moderate	Low	Low
	High	Medium	Low
Landscape or Townscape/Visual Susceptibility			

The definition of 'Landscape/Townscape or Visual Sensitivity' is as follows:

Landscape/Visual Sensitivity	Criteria
High	Where the elements that make up a character area or view are of considerable merit and/or would be difficult to restore or could not be replaced/removed without substantial detriment to the overall character area or view.
Moderate	Where the elements that make up a character area or view are of merit and/or could in part be restored or replaced/removed without a notable detriment to the overall character area or view.
Low	Where the elements that make up a character area or view are of little merit and/or could be restored or replaced/removed without detriment to the overall character area or view.

STAGE 2: ASSESSMENT OF THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE EFFECTS OF DEVELOPMENT

The assessment of ‘**Magnitude**’ and ‘**Significance**’ of the effects on both **Landscape/Townscape Character**’ and ‘**Visual Receptors**’ is undertaken during three periods to identify the temporary operational and residual effect of the proposed development:

- **Construction** (temporary effects)
- **Year 1 - Operational Period** (temporary effects with landscape/mitigation treatments established in part)
- **Year 15 – Operational Period** (residual effects after landscape/mitigation treatments established in full)

The ‘**Significance of the Effects**’ on landscape character and visual receptors can be positive or negative (**the ‘Direction’**) and are described as being either ‘**Beneficial**’ or ‘**Adverse**’. Where the development is unlikely to have any discernable influence the ‘**Direction**’ is described as being ‘Neutral’.

DETERMINING THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE EFFECTS OF DEVELOPMENT

The ‘**Significance**’ of the effects of development on landscape character and visual receptors is determined by combining the assessment of:

- the ‘**Sensitivity**’ of the landscape or view, as established in the (Stage 1) baseline assessment; and
- the potential ‘**Magnitude of Change**’ resulting from the proposed development.

2a. Assessment of Magnitude of Change

The following criteria are considered when assessing the ‘**Magnitude of Change**’ on landscape/townscape character or views:

- Scale, duration and/or reversibility of development;
- Effect of any components of the landscape that are likely to be affected by the scheme;
- The change in and/or partial or complete loss of elements, features or aspects that contribute to the character and distinctiveness of the landscape/townscape;
- The addition of new features or elements that will influence the area’s character; and,
- The landscape proposals and/or mitigation treatments.

The ‘**Magnitude of Change**’ on landscape/townscape character or view is **defined** using the following criteria:

Magnitude of Change	Criteria
High	Where the scale/type/extent of the proposed scheme (or works to facilitate it) would be the dominant element in or adjacent to a character area or view.
Medium	Where the scale/type/extent of the proposed scheme (or works to facilitate it) would be one of a number of important elements in or adjacent to a character area or view.
Low	Where the scale/type/extent of the proposed scheme (or works to facilitate it) would be a minor element in or adjacent to a character area or view.
Negligible/None	Where the scale/type/extent of the proposed scheme (or works to facilitate it) would be remote and/or be an inconsequential element in or adjacent to a character area or view.

2b. Quantifying the Significance of Effects

Combining the ‘**sensitivity**’ (from the Baseline Assessment) with the ‘**magnitude of change**’ including the contribution of the landscape proposals and/or mitigation measures determines the ‘**significance of effects**’ on landscape/townscape character or views/visual receptors:

MATRIX TABLE: SIGNIFICANCE OF EFFECTS

Sensitivity	SIGNIFICANCE OF EFFECTS			
High	Substantial	Substantial	Moderate	Minor*/Neutral
Moderate	Substantial	Moderate	Minor	Neutral
Low	Moderate	Minor	Minor	Neutral
	High	Medium	Low	Negligible*/None
	Magnitude of Change			

The ‘Significance of Effects’ to the temporary or residual changes in landscape/townscape character or for a view/visual receptor are defined as follows:

Effects on Character/Views	Criteria
Substantial	Where the scheme would cause a substantial change in the quality, condition and/or nature of the existing character area or view and the new development (or works to facilitate it) would be the dominant element.
Moderate	Where the scheme would cause a notable change in the quality, condition and/or nature of the existing character area or view and the new development (or works to facilitate it) would be one of a small number of elements in the overall setting.
Minor	Where the scheme would cause a slight change in the quality, condition and/or nature of the existing character area or view and the new development (or works to facilitate it) would be one of many elements in the overall setting.
Neutral	Where the scheme would cause a negligible or no change in the quality, condition and/or nature of the existing character area or view and the new development (or works to facilitate it) would be obscured or hidden by many other elements in the overall setting.

2c. Quantifying the Direction of the Significance of Effects

The ‘effects’ of change can be either **beneficial** (positive), **adverse** (negative) or **neutral** and is determined by weighting a combination of the following criteria:

Beneficial Criteria (+)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fits well with scale of landform &/or pattern of an area/view • Increases attributes or enhances in contribution to an area/setting/view • Enhances balance of elements in an area/view or sense of tranquillity • Provides ability to include adequate or appropriate mitigation • Complements local/national planning policies or guidance to protect an area’s character or a view
Adverse Criteria (-)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Out of scale with landform &/or pattern of an area/view • Loss of attributes or deterioration in contribution to an area/setting/view • Disrupts balance of elements in an area/view or sense of tranquillity. • Lacks ability to include adequate or appropriate mitigation • Conflicts with local/national planning policies or guidance to protect an area’s character or a view
Neutral
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where there is no discernable change to an area’s character or a view • Where there is no positive or negative affect on an area’s character or a view