

APPENDICES

Appendix 10.1 – Terminology

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The Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (GLVIA3) considers - What does landscape mean? It refers to the European Landscape Convention (ELC), which the UK signed and ratified in 2002, definition as “Landscape is an area, as perceived by people, whose character is the result of the action and interaction of natural and/or human factors” (GLVIA3 – paragraph 2.2).

Set out below are the individual terms will that be referred to throughout this assessment and include the following:

Landscape Elements	These are the physical components within the landscape. The LI defines them as “the individual elements that make up the landscape including prominent or eye-catching features such as hills, valleys, woods, trees and hedges, ponds, buildings and roads”.
Landscape Quality	The state of repair or condition of the elements of a particular landscape, its integrity and intactness and the extent to which its distinctive character is apparent. The quality of a landscape element or characteristic may also be influenced by the degree to which it may contribute to the overall landscape character, its rarity and potential for replacement or mitigation.
Landscape Character	The combination of the landscape elements, patterns, quality, scale, landform and land-use which make an area distinctive from another and creates a ‘sense of place’.
Landscape Sensitivity	This is derived from consideration of the existing landscape in terms of landscape quality, value and capacity and is classified as high, medium or low.
Landscape Designations	These are areas of land that are acknowledged as making a special contribution to the overall landscape character or visual quality of a locality. Provision for identifying and protecting such areas deemed to be of national importance is made in law and these are known as statutory landscape designations. Areas of regional or local importance are identified at the local level (usually by the Planning Authority) are known as non-statutory landscape designations.
Landscape Change	This reflects how the landscape has changed over time and specifically covers the period for which documentary evidence is available.
Landscape Capacity	This is the capacity of a particular landscape type or area of landscape type or area of landscape to accommodate the proposed development without unacceptable effects on its character. Factors relating to capacity may include landscape scale, forestry cover, topography and visibility.
Landscape effects	The potential or predicated “change to landscape elements, character and qualities of the landscape as a result of development”. These may be adverse or beneficial, permanent or temporary and in this case, occur during either the construction or occupational phases. Landscape quality as defined above is intertwined with the both landscape elements and landscape character and is a measure of their state of repair. Therefore the quality of the landscape has been considered for each landscape receptor rather than as a receptor itself.
Cumulative Landscape Effects	These are defined by the Landscape Institute as resulting from additional changes to landscape amenity caused by the proposed development in conjunction with other development (associated or separate from it), or actions that occurred in the past, present or are likely to occur in the foreseeable future.
Conservation Areas	Designated by local planning authorities as an area of special architecture or historic interest. It is desirable to preserve or enhance these areas and there are controls on all development and demolition within their boundaries.

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There are many terms that are used in a landscape assessment that are based on the term “visual”, which in itself is defined in the dictionary as “pertaining to sight”. However, the Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment considers views and visual amenity and states “When the interrelationship between people and the landscape is considered, this introduces related but very different consideration, notably the views that people have and their visual amenity – meaning the overall pleasantness of views they enjoy of their surroundings” (GLVIA3 – paragraph 2.20)

The individual terms that will be referred to throughout this assessment are set out below including the following:

Visual Effect	A change to an existing view as a result of development or the loss of particular landscape elements or features already present in the view. The overall visual amenity of an area may be affected to the extent that the visual appearance of a particular area of landscape character, landscape designations, or the visual setting/‘sense of place’ of a location is changed.
Visual Setting/‘Sense of Place’	The essential character and spirit of an area or ‘genius loci’.
Visual Amenity	This refers to the value of a particular area or view in terms of what is seen.
Visual Receptors	The general public when they are anywhere where they could view the development. The main receptors include residents, tourists, road users and users of recreational landscapes. Workers may also be affected to a lesser degree, as their main purpose for being in the landscape is not to be looking at views. The extent to which they are affected by any visual changes will depend on, the duration for which the view is available, the magnitude of change within the existing view, the sensitivity of the area in which the visual receptors are located, the comparative elevations of the visual receptor and the proposal site and the amount of potential screening elements including a consideration of seasonal screening effects.
Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV)	This is also sometimes referred to as a Zone of Theoretical Visual Influence and is the area(s) from which visual receptors could theoretically have views of the proposal site. This has been determined in this instance by the preparation of a computer generated ZVI and by walking the local footpath network and driving local roads and estimating the extent of views out and towards the site.
Visual Sensitivity	The sensitivity of the visual receptor at a particular viewpoint location defined in accordance with established and widely recognised guidelines.
Cumulative Visual Effects	The cumulative or incremental visibility of similar types of development may combine to have a cumulative visual effect. The cumulative visual effect may be experienced from a single view point (termed “static cumulative visual effects”), or from a route where development may be viewed sequentially (termed “sequential cumulative visual effects”).