

Aylsham Road, Buxton

Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment

Baseline appraisal

On behalf of

Executors of JM Crane Will Trust and
Trustees of the JM Crane Children's 2001 Settlement

Appendix 01: Methodology

Planning | 22nd March 2021

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 Edition¹, (GLVIA3) forms the current nationally recognized professional guidance tool for LVIA. 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.

1.1.2 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. Throughout this methodology, for the purposes of this assessment, the term 'landscape' should be taken to be synonymous with 'townscape'.

1.1.3 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 main consideration of this assessment and thus the word effect is mainly used. The two main components are:

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

1.1.4 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.

1.1.5 The spatial scope of the landscape and visual assessment 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 nature of the development. This desk-based work is then verified as part of the field survey.

1.1.6 The likely effects of the proposed scheme are assessed in terms of the degree of change on completion of the works in the first year (year one) in winter and after a period of 10 years (year

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

10) in summer. 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 10 enables the effectiveness of any planting and soft works mitigation measures to be determined over a sufficient period for the proposals to have established and delivered their intended objectives in a meaningful way. Between years one and 10, 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 10 years, trees can be expected to continue to grow to reach their mature height, and thus potentially provide increased mitigation in later years.

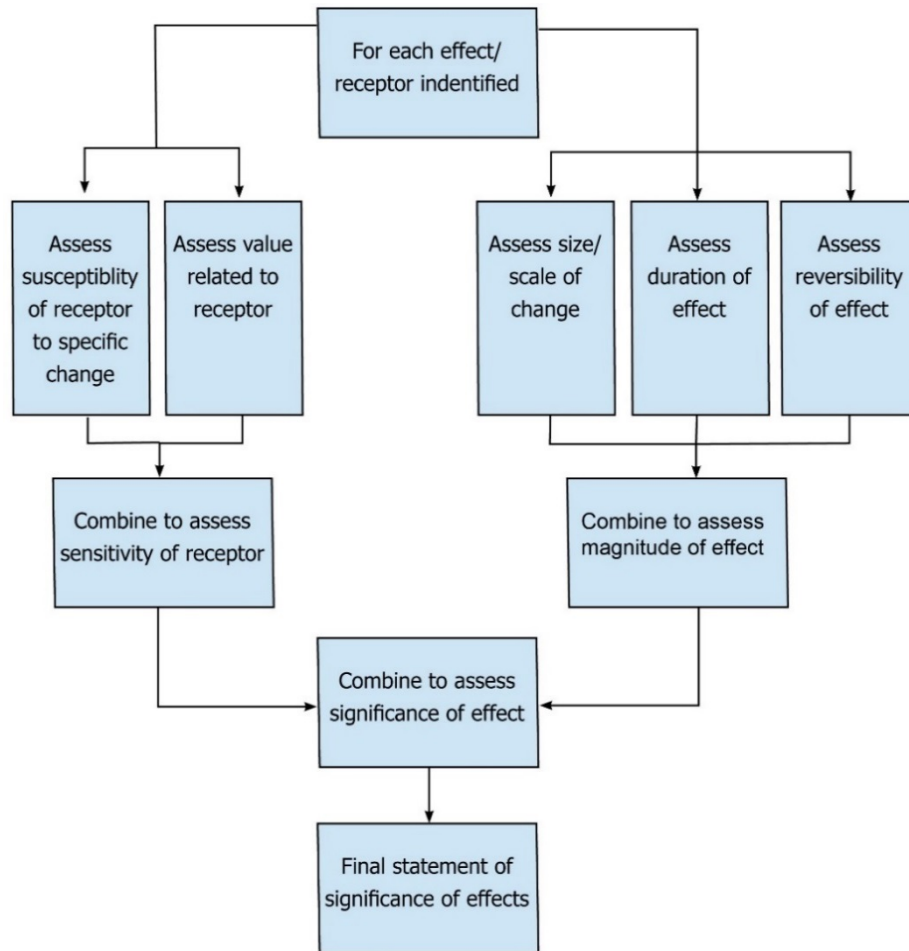


Figure 1 - Assessing the significance of effect²

1.1.7 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

² 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

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 as the Zone of Theoretical Visual Influence (ZTVI). This area is identified in two stages. First, an initial desk-based study of landform, major vegetation and built form is carried out, and secondly an assessment in the field. The field work includes walking the site and observing locations that are visible beyond the site and then checking this by visiting the locations beyond the site where publicly accessible. The extent of the ZTVI is thus progressively determined and fine-tuned.

1.2.2 To assist the reader, viewpoints are provided to demonstrate the range of available views experienced by a variety of visual receptors at geographical locations. GLVIA3 refers to three types of viewpoint, which may be utilised within an LVIA or Landscape and Visual Appraisal (LVA).

- **Representative viewpoint** – provides a viewpoint that may be considered as typical or similar to a particular location and where the significant effects experienced are unlikely to differ. It therefore can be considered as being representative of those views experienced by a visual receptor group, e.g. from a PROW or group of houses. 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** – illustrates a particular noteworthy or key view available to visual receptors. This may be a promoted viewpoint or from a specific visitor attraction, tourist destination, statutory landscape designation, or particular locally valued recreational or cultural landscape associations.
- **Illustrative viewpoint** – provided to demonstrate particular features, effects or issues. These are 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.

1.2.3 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.

1.2.4 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 a more oblique outlook.

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

1.2.6 In undertaking the assessment, other than the site, private property has 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 Photographs are taken using a digital camera with an appropriate lens set to provide a focal length equivalent to a 50mm focal length lens on a 35mm film SLR camera. The specification of the camera used is noted at Appendix A.

1.3.2 The camera is rotated in increments to allow a reasonable proportion of overlap of photographs to create a join that is as accurate as possible.

1.3.3 The date and weather conditions at the time the photographs were taken is detailed within the body of the LVIA or LVA. 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.

1.3.4 Any other relevant photographic details, such as how panoramic photographs have been stitched together, are noted at Appendix A.

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, infrastructure of the landscape 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 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>Character: 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>Features: 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>Character: Landscape Character Assessments that identify an area of 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>Features: 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>Character: 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</p>

	<p>sensitivity. The landscape is likely to exhibit some damage or deterioration but may have some individual features of local rarity or value.</p> <p>Features: 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 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.</p>
Low	<p>Character: 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>Features: where they form an intrusive element that is unlikely to be valued or that provides 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 for the landscape to accommodate the changes that would result from different types of development. This is an integral element of the landscape 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	Medium	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 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 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.
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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)

Geographical 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** or **No Change** where there is no effect.

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.

2.4.2 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-Moderate	Major-Moderate	Major-Moderate	Moderate	Minor
	Medium	Major-Moderate	Major-Moderate	Moderate	Moderate-Minor	Negligible
	Low	Moderate	Minor-Moderate	Minor	Minor	Negligible
	Very Low	Minor	Minor	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible

2.4.3 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 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).

2.4.4 For the purposes of this assessment, effects that are considered to be ‘significant’ i.e. those of greatest consideration in determining a planning application, are those that create an effect of Major or Major-Moderate significance with an adverse nature of change.

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 The nature of the receptor (sensitivity)

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 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. The size or scale 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 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. This could also be a result of being a glimpsed or filtered view through vegetation and/or 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, which could, for example, be due to a very filtered view through vegetation or considerable distance relative to scale, such the baseline

situation would be fundamentally unchanged with barely perceptible differences.

3.3.2 **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 lie at the centre of the view. It is 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 is 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.

3.3.3 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.

3.3.4 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** or **No Change** where there is no effect.

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.

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-Moderate	Major-Moderate	Moderate	Moderate-Minor	Negligible
	Medium	Major-Moderate	Major-Moderate	Moderate	Minor	Negligible
	Low	Moderate	Minor-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 For the purposes of this assessment, effects that are considered to be ‘significant’ i.e. those of greatest consideration in determining a planning application, are those that create an effect of Major or Major-Moderate significance with an adverse nature of change.

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 10 years).

5 Appendix A: Camera Specification

- 5.1.1 A Nikon D5200 digital single lens reflex camera with an AF-S Nikkor 18-55mm zoom lens was used. The camera has a focal length multiplier of 1.5, so with the zoom set to 33mm this provides a focal length equivalent to a 50mm focal length lens on a manual 35mm film SLR camera. The horizontal field of view in landscape format from a single frame shot is approximately 40 degrees.
- 5.1.2 Any panoramic photographs are stitched together using an Adobe Photoshop Plugin (Photomerge). Exposure and levels are adjusted to ensure a smooth transition between the photographs.