



Appendix 16-PD-2: Landscape and Visual Amenity Methodology

Table of Contents

Appendix 16-PD-2: Landscape and Visual Amenity Methodology	1
1. Introduction	1
2. Sensitivity of Landscape Receptors	2
3. Sensitivity of Visual Receptors	6
4. Landscape Magnitude of Impact	9
5. Visual Magnitude of Impact	10
6. Duration of Change	12
7. Significance of Effects	12
8. References	15

Tables

Table 1: Indicators of value and susceptibility for landscape receptors	4
Table 2: Sensitivity of landscape receptors	5
Table 3: Value and susceptibility indicators of for visual receptors	7
Table 4: Sensitivity of visual receptors	8
Table 5: Landscape magnitude of impact	10
Table 6: Visual magnitude of impact	11
Table 7: Significance of effect	12

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1. Introduction

- 1.1.1 This section sets out the detailed methodology for the landscape and visual impact assessment (LVIA) contained in **Chapter 16: Landscape and Visual** in PEI Report **Volume 2**. It takes into account best practice guidance and builds on the general assessment methodology presented in **Chapter 6: Environmental Impact Assessment Methodology** in PEI Report **Volume 2** and develops this to take account of the range of likely significant effects on the landscape character and visual amenity. Landscape and visual effects can differ from one stage of the Proposed Development to the next and change over time as mitigation planting establishes and matures. The assessment therefore considers potential effects at each of the following stages:
- a. Construction: including consideration of all temporary structures and works areas relating to construction, such as temporary construction compounds, movement of plant and machinery etc;
 - b. Operational Year 1: including consideration of potential medium to longer term effects associated with permanent above ground structures following completion of the construction phase and associated reinstatement. This stage is intended to represent the potential worst-case operational effects prior to establishment of mitigation planting; and
 - c. Operation Year 15: including consideration of potential longer-term effects of the Proposed Development, 15 years after becoming operational. This stage is intended to help demonstrate how proposed mitigation planting will influence effects once established.
- 1.1.2 It should be noted that the methodology for the LVIA does not use the standard significance matrix set out within **Chapter 6: Environmental Impact Assessment Methodology** in PEI Report **Volume 2**, as the approach to determining significance is based on professional judgement with narrative descriptions provided.
- 1.1.3 The landscape and visual assessment is based on the following best practice guidance:

- a. Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, Third Edition (Landscape Institute and Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment, 2013) (Ref 1);
- b. Notes and Clarifications on Aspects of Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment Third edition (GLVIA3) (Ref 2);
- c. Technical Guidance Note (TGN) 06/2019: Visual Representation of Development Proposals' (Ref 3);
- d. Technical Guidance Note (TGN) 02/2021: Assessing landscape value outside national designations' (Ref 4); and
- e. Technical Guidance Note (TGN) 04/2020: Infrastructure' (Ref 5).

2. Sensitivity of Landscape Receptors

- 2.1.1 Landscape receptors are described as components of the landscape that are likely to be affected by the Proposed Development. These can include overall character and key characteristics, individual elements or features, and specific aesthetic or perceptual aspects. It is the interaction between the different components of the Proposed Development and these landscape receptors which has potential to result in landscape effects (both adverse and beneficial).
- 2.1.2 The sensitivity of the landscape receptor has been derived by combining the value of the landscape and the receptors susceptibility to change to the specific type of development being assessed.
- 2.1.3 Landscape value is frequently addressed by reference to international, national, regional, and local designations. Absence of such a designation does not necessarily imply a lack of quality or value. Factors such as accessibility and local scarcity can render areas of nationally unremarkable quality, highly valuable as a local resource. The evaluation of landscape value is informed by the following factors, as outlined in the Landscape Institute's Technical Guidance Note 02/21 (Ref 4), and classified as very high, high, medium, low and very low with evidence provided as to the basis of the evaluation:
 - a. Natural heritage – the extent to which a landscape has clear evidence of ecological, geological, geomorphological or physiographic interest which contribute positively to the landscape;
 - b. Cultural heritage – the extent to which a landscape has clear evidence of archaeological, historical or cultural interest which contribute positively to the landscape;

- c. Landscape condition – the extent to which a landscape is in a good physical state both with regard to individual elements and overall landscape structure;
- d. Associations – the extent to which a landscape is connected with notable people, events and the arts;
- e. Distinctiveness – the extent to which a landscape has a strong sense of identity;
- f. Recreational – the extent to which a landscape offers recreational opportunities where experience of landscape is important;
- g. Perceptual (scenic) – the extent to which a landscape appeals to the senses, primarily the visual sense;
- h. Perceptual (wildness and tranquillity) – the extent to which a landscape has a strong perceptual value notably wildness, tranquillity and / or dark skies; and
- i. Functional – the extent to which a landscape performs a clearly identifiable and valuable function, particularly in the healthy functioning of the landscape.

2.1.4 Landscape susceptibility relates to the ability of a particular landscape to accommodate the Proposed Development. It is assessed through consideration of the baseline characteristics of the landscape, and in particular, the scale or complexity of a given landscape. The evaluation of landscape susceptibility is defined as very high, high, medium, low and very low and is supported by a clear explanation based upon the analysis of the landscape receptor and the extent to which it is able to accommodate the changes that would result from the Proposed Development. The baseline characteristic considerations include the following:

- a. Scale – a measure of how well a proposed development would relate to the overall scale of the landscape, landform and / or landscape features;
- b. Landform – the extent to which a proposed development would relate to and / or integrate with the existing landform and topographic features;
- c. Pattern – the extent to which a proposed development would relate to the existing landscape pattern;
- d. Landcover – a measure of how well the proposed development would relate to existing landcover;
- e. Openness / enclosure – the level of which the openness or enclosure of a landscape would influence the ability of a landscape to accommodate a proposed development;

- f. Landmarks – a measure of how well the proposed development would relate to existing landmark features;
- g. Development context – the level to which existing similar development within a landscape influences the ability to accommodate a proposed development; and
- h. Perceptual qualities (remoteness, tranquillity, dark skies etc.) – extent to which existing perceptual qualities would influence the ability of the landscape to accommodate the proposed development.

2.1.5 The overall sensitivity assessment of the landscape receptor has been made by applying professional judgement to combine and analyse the identified value and susceptibility ratings. Overall sensitivity has been rated as very high, high, medium, low and very low.

2.1.6 **Table 1** below outlines indicators that inform landscape value, susceptibility and sensitivity and **Table 2** below outlines the levels of sensitivity with descriptions. The basis of the assessment is made clear in the evaluation of each landscape receptor.

Table 1: Indicators of value and susceptibility for landscape receptors

	Higher Sensitivity Indicators	Lower Sensitivity Indicators
Value	A nationally designated landscape and/or a landscape in very good condition, recognised associations, exceptional scenic quality, very high recreational opportunities, a very high degree of distinctiveness, with very strong perceptual aspects and/or very important natural and cultural heritage features and functional qualities.	An undesignated landscape and/or landscape containing few if any notable elements / features, of poor condition or containing several detracting features and limited aesthetic qualities. Landscapes which have limited recognised associations, recreational opportunities, natural and cultural heritage features and/or functional qualities.
Susceptibility	Attributes that make up the character of the landscape which offer very limited opportunities to accommodate change of the type proposed without	Attributes that make up the character of the landscape which are tolerant of a large degree of the type of change proposed without fundamentally altering the key characteristics.

	Higher Sensitivity Indicators	Lower Sensitivity Indicators
	fundamentally altering key characteristics.	

Table 2: Sensitivity of landscape receptors

Sensitivity	Typical Criteria Descriptors
Very high	Landscape of national value with distinctive elements and characteristics, highly susceptible to small changes of the type of development proposed, which it would not be able to accommodate without undue consequences for the maintenance of the baseline situation. Typically, these would be: • of high quality with distinctive elements and features making a positive contribution to character and sense of place; • designated and the aspects which underpin such value may also be present outside the designated areas, especially at the local scale; • areas of special recognised value through use, perception or historic and cultural associations; and • likely to contain features and elements that are rare and could not be replaced.
High	Landscape of national or regional value, with some distinctive elements and characteristics and other characteristics that may be more common place, which by nature of their character are unlikely to be able to accommodate change of the type proposed without undue consequences for the maintenance of the baseline situation. Typically, these would be: • some distinctive elements and features and some more common place making a positive contribution to character and sense of place; • likely to be designated, but the aspects which underpin such value may also be present outside designated areas, especially at the local scale; • containing features of value through use, perception, or historic and cultural associations; and • likely to contain some features and elements that are rare and could not be replaced.
Medium	Landscape of regional or local value, with mostly common elements and characteristics, which, by nature of their character,

Sensitivity	Typical Criteria Descriptors
	would be able to partly accommodate change of the type proposed without undue consequences for the maintenance of the baseline situation. Typically, these would be: • comprised of mostly commonplace elements and features but may include some rarer elements and with some sense of place; • locally designated, or value may be expressed through non-statutory local publications or relevant Neighbourhood Plan policies; • containing some features of value through use, perception or historic and cultural associations; and • likely to contain some features and elements that could not be replaced.
Low	Landscape of local or limited value and relatively inconsequential elements and characteristics, the nature of which is potentially tolerant of substantial change of the type proposed. Typically, these would be: • comprised of some features and elements that are discordant, derelict or in decline, resulting in indistinct character with little or no sense of place; • not designated; • containing few, if any, features of value through use, perception or historic and cultural associations; and • likely to contain few, if any, features and elements that could not be replaced.
Very low	Landscape of very low or limited value that is damaged, degraded or a substantially modified landscape pattern, with few or no natural or original features remaining, such that it is tolerant of the type of change proposed without undue consequences for the maintenance of the baseline situation.

3. Sensitivity of Visual Receptors

- 3.1.1 Sensitivity of visual receptors has been defined through an appraisal of the viewing expectation, or value placed on the view, and its susceptibility to change.
- 3.1.2 The value attached to views is often informed by the appearance on Ordnance Survey or tourist maps and in guidebooks, literature and art, or identified in policy. Value can also be indicated by the provision of parking places and sign boards and interpretive material for enjoyment. The nature

and composition of the view and its scenic quality is also an indicator. It is important to note that the absence of view recognition does not preclude local value, as a view may be important as a resource in the local or immediate environment due to its relative rarity or local importance. The value of the view has been classified as very high, high, medium, low and very low and is supported by evidenced, professional judgements.

- 3.1.3 The susceptibility of visual receptors to change has been established as a function of the occupation or activity of people experiencing the view, and the extent to which their attention or interest is focused on the view and the visual amenity they experience. For example, walkers whose interest may be focused on the landscape or a particular view, or visitors at an attraction where views are an important part of the experience, indicate a higher level of susceptibility. Conversely receptors engaged in outdoor sport where views are not important or receptors at their place of work are considered less susceptible to change. The susceptibility of visual receptors is not dependent on the specific change being proposed. Judgements about the susceptibility of visual receptors have been determined using very high, high, medium, low and very low ratings using consistent and reasoned judgements.
- 3.1.4 The overall sensitivity assessment of the visual receptor has been determined by applying professional judgement to combine and analyse the identified value and susceptibility ratings. Overall visual sensitivity has been rated as very high, high, medium, low and very low. **Table 3** below outlines indicators that inform value of the view, susceptibility and sensitivity of visual receptors and **Table 4** below outlines the levels of sensitivity with descriptions. The basis of the assessment is made clear in the evaluation of each visual receptor.

Table 3: Value and susceptibility indicators of for visual receptors

	Higher Sensitivity Indicators	Lower Sensitivity Indicators
Value	Views protected by designation, or nationally recognised, or recorded on maps / guidebooks or with cultural associations. Views that have high scenic qualities relating to the content and composition of the view.	Views which are not documented or protected with minimal or no cultural associations. Views that exhibit low scenic qualities relating to the content and composition of the view.

	Higher Sensitivity Indicators	Lower Sensitivity Indicators
Susceptibility	• Viewers whose attention or interest is focused on their surroundings; • Residential properties and settlements where views contribute to the landscape setting enjoyed by residents; and • People engaged in outdoor recreation including users of cycle routes, recreational routes, core paths and visitors to heritage assets where views of the surroundings are an important contributor to experience.	• People whose attention or interest is not focused on their surroundings and where the view is incidental to their enjoyment; • People travelling more rapidly on major roads, rail or transport routes not recognised as scenic routes; • People engaged in outdoor recreation which does not involve or depend upon appreciation of views of the landscape; and • People at their place of work whose attention is not on their surroundings.

Table 4: Sensitivity of visual receptors

Sensitivity	Typical Criteria Descriptors
Very high	Activity resulting in a focused interest or appreciation of the view (e.g. residents at home or people engaged in outdoor recreation whose attention is focused on the landscape). Where people might visit purely to experience an iconic or highly valued view; and/or a view of national value (e.g. within/towards a designated landscape) with very high scenic qualities relating to the content and composition of the view.
High	Activity resulting in a particular interest or appreciation of the view (e.g. residents at home or people engaged in outdoor recreation whose attention is focused on the landscape, which is an important part of the experience. Where people may be passing through the landscape on defined scenic routes and/or a highly valued or well composed view with high scenic qualities relating to the content and composition of the view (e.g. locally designated view within a local plan or neighbourhood plan).
Medium	Activity resulting in a general interest or appreciation of the view (e.g. residents or people engaged in outdoor recreation that does not

Sensitivity	Typical Criteria Descriptors
	largely focus on the appreciation of the landscape and/or a view of local value with some scenic qualities relating to the content and composition of the view (e.g. typical agricultural landscape with some detracting features).
Low	Activity where interest or appreciation of the view is secondary to the activity or the period of exposure to the view is limited (e.g. people at work, motorists travelling through the area or people engaged in outdoor recreation that does not focus on an appreciation of the landscape) and/or a view of limited value with low scenic qualities relating to the content of and composition of the view (e.g. featureless agricultural landscape, poor quality urban fringe).
Very low	Activity where interest or appreciation of the view is inconsequential (e.g. people at work) and/or very low value of existing view (e.g. industrial areas or derelict land).

4. Landscape Magnitude of Impact

4.1.1 Landscape magnitude of impact refers to the extent to which the Proposed Development would alter the existing characteristics of the landscape. It is an expression of the size or scale of change to the landscape, the geographical extent of the area influenced, and its duration and reversibility. Notes and Clarifications on Aspects of GLVIA3 Technical Guidance Note LITGN-2024-01 (Ref 2) sets out that the size / scale of effect is likely to be the most important factor with geographical extent and duration / reversibility considered as 'modifiers'. The variables involved are:

- a. the extent of existing landscape elements that would be lost, the proportion of the total extent that this represents and the contribution of that element to the character of the landscape;
- b. the extent to which aesthetic or perceptual aspects of the landscape are altered either by removal of existing components of the landscape or by the addition of new components;
- c. whether the change alters the key characteristics of the landscape that are integral to its distinctive character;
- d. the geographic extent over which the change will be experienced (for example within the Development Consent Order (DCO) Application boundary, the immediate setting around that boundary, at the local landscape character area scale, or on a larger scale influencing broader areas of landscape character);

- e. the duration of the change (i.e., short term, medium term, or long term) as defined in **Chapter 6: Environmental Impact Assessment Methodology** in PEI Report **Volume 2**, and its reversibility (i.e., whether it is permanent, temporary, or partially reversible); and
 - f. landscape change can be both direct, through alteration of physical components, or indirect, resulting from changes to perceptual aspects of character and how it is experienced.
- 4.1.2 An overall assessment of the magnitude of landscape change resulting from the Proposed Development on landscape receptors has been made by combining the above judgements using evidence and professional judgement. The levels of landscape magnitude of impact are described as being very high, high, medium, low, very low and none as defined in **Table 5** below.

Table 5: Landscape magnitude of impact

Magnitude	Criteria
Very High	Substantial alteration to the landscape receptor or may impact an extensive area or unique and important characteristics. May be longer term, permanent or reversible.
High	Large alteration to the landscape receptor or may impact an extensive area or unique characteristics at a local level. May be longer term, permanent or reversible.
Medium	Partial alteration to the landscape receptor or may impact a wide area or characteristics at a local level. May be long term, temporary, permanent or reversible.
Low	Slight alteration to the landscape receptor or may impact a restricted area and few key characteristics. May be long term, temporary or reversible.
Very Low	Very slight change to the landscape receptor or may impact a limited area or no key characteristics. May be long-term, temporary or reversible.
No change	No change to the landscape receptor.

5. Visual Magnitude of Impact

- 5.1.1 Visual magnitude of impact relates to the extent to which the Proposed Development would alter the existing view and is an expression of the size or scale of change in the view, the geographical extent of the area influenced and its duration and reversibility. Notes and Clarifications on Aspects of GLVIA3 Technical Guidance Note LITGN-2024-01 (Ref 2) sets out that not all

components of magnitude of impact are equally weighted. It is considered that the scale of change and degree of contrast are likely to be the most important factors with the nature of view, angle of the view and duration / reversibility considered as 'modifiers'. The variables involved are described below:

- a. the scale of the change in the view with respect to the loss or addition of features in the view and changes in its composition, including the proportion of the view occupied by the Proposed Development;
- b. the degree of contrast or integration of any new features or changes in the form, scale, composition and focal points of the view;
- c. the nature of the view of the Proposed Development in relation to the amount of time over which it will be experienced, and whether views of this will be visible fully, partially or glimpsed;
- d. the angle of view in relation to the main activity of the receptor, distance of the viewpoint from the Proposed Development and the extent of the area over which the changes would be visible; and
- e. the duration of the change (i.e., short-term, medium term, or long term), as defined in **Chapter 6: Environmental Impact Assessment Methodology** in PEI Report **Volume 2**, and its reversibility (i.e., whether it is permanent, temporary, or partially reversible).

5.1.2 An overall assessment of the magnitude of visual change resulting from the Proposed Development on the visual receptor has been made combining the above judgements using evidence and professional judgement. The levels of visual magnitude of impact are described as being very high, high, medium, low, very low and none as defined in **Table 6**.

Table 6: Visual magnitude of impact

Magnitude	Criteria
Very High	A substantial change to the composition of the view or change that may be viewed in the foreground or directly. May be longer term, permanent or reversible.
High	A pronounced change to the composition of the view or change that may be viewed in the foreground or directly. May be longer term, permanent or reversible.
Medium	A noticeable change to the composition of the view or change that may be viewed in the middle ground or indirectly. May be long-term, temporary, permanent or reversible.
Low	An unobtrusive change in the composition of the view or change that may be viewed in the background or obliquely. May be long term, temporary or reversible.

Magnitude	Criteria
Very Low	A barely perceptible change in the composition of the view or change that may be viewed in the background and / or very obliquely. May be long-term, temporary or reversible.
No change	No change to the view.

6. Duration of Change

- 6.1.1 For the purposes of this LVIA, the duration of change associated with the landscape and visual magnitude of impact is considered to be as follows:
- Short-term: estimated to be several weeks to a few months;
 - Medium-term: estimated to be several months to a year; and
 - Long-term: estimated to be several years.

7. Significance of Effects

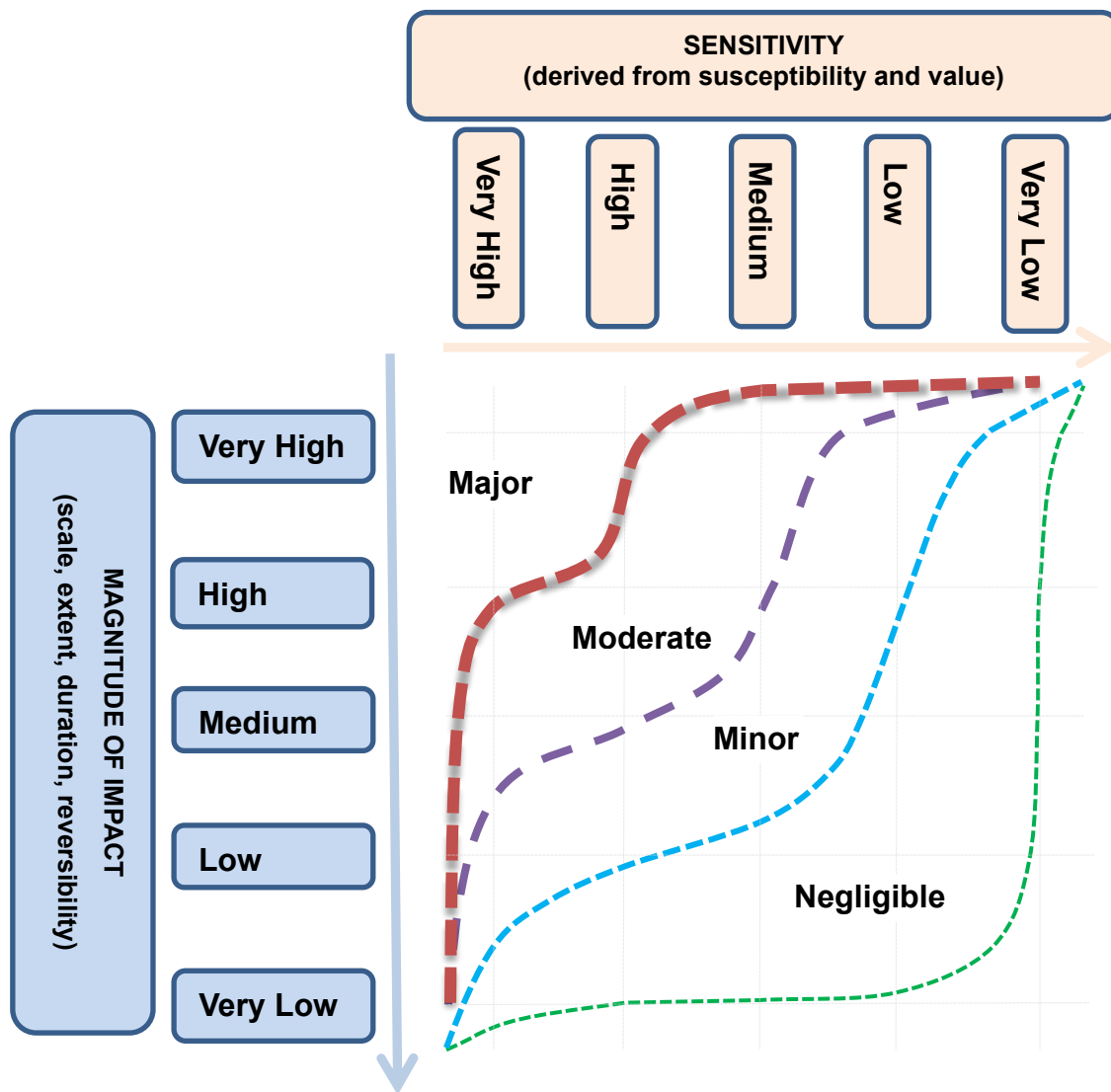
- 7.1.1 Determination of the significance of landscape and visual effects has been undertaken by employing professional judgement and experience to combine and analyse the magnitude of impact against the identified sensitivity of landscape and visual receptors.
- 7.1.2 The significance of landscape and visual effects are described with reference to the criteria presented in **Table 7** below. For the purposes of this assessment, effects rated as being of moderate or major significance of effect are considered to be significant.

Table 7: Significance of effect

Significance of Effect	Landscape	Visual
Major	Highly noticeable change affecting key characteristics of a very highly sensitive landscape, resulting in a fundamental change to its character.	Considerable change affecting a large extent of a very highly sensitive view and becoming a dominant feature.
Moderate	Noticeable change affecting some key characteristics in a highly sensitive landscape or very noticeable change in a	Noticeable change affecting an important part of a highly sensitive view or a wider extent of a medium sensitivity view,

Significance of Effect	Landscape	Visual
	medium sensitivity landscape, resulting in a change to the overall impression of its character.	becoming prominent or detracting from the existing focus.
Minor	Small change affecting few characteristics in a medium to highly sensitive landscape or noticeable change to a less sensitive landscape, resulting in a limited or localised change to the impression of its character.	Small change affecting a limited and / or unimportant part of a medium to highly sensitive view or an important part of a less sensitive view, unlikely to distract from the existing focus.
Negligible	Very little change from baseline conditions, resulting in a barely distinguishable or indistinguishable change.	Where there is no discernible improvement or deterioration in the existing view.
No change	No alteration to any of the components that contribute to the existing landscape resource.	No change to the existing view.

7.1.3 **Plate 1** below presents a diagram to describe the relationship between sensitivity and magnitude of impacts on landscape and visual amenity to determine the effect. GLVIA 3 dictates that this is not a prescriptive process and is provided as a guide to how combinations of sensitivity and magnitude are typically combined.

Plate 1: Classification of Landscape and Visual Effects

8. References

- Ref 1 Landscape Institute and Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (2013). Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, third edition. Available at: [Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment \(GLVIA3\) - Landscape Institute](#) [Accessed 05/02/26]
- Ref 2 Landscape Institute (2024). Notes and Clarifications on Aspects of Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment Third edition, Third Edition (GLVIA3). Available at: [LITGN-2024-01-GLVIA3-NC_Aug-2024.pdf](#) [Accessed 05/02/26]
- Ref 3 Landscape Institute (2019). Technical Guidance Note (TGN): Visual Representation of Development Proposals. Available at: [TGN 02-21: Assessing landscape value outside national designations - Landscape Institute](#) [Accessed 05/02/26]
- Ref 4 Landscape Institute (2021). Assessing Landscape Outside National Designations. Available at: [TGN 02-21: Assessing landscape value outside national designations - Landscape Institute](#) [Accessed 05/02/26]
- Ref 5 Landscape Institute (2020). Infrastructure, Technical Guidance Note 04/2020. Available at: [Infrastructure guidance - Landscape Institute](#) [Accessed 05/02/26]