

Appendix 10.1 Methodology for Assessing Landscape and Visual Effects

Introduction

- 1.1 Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) is a tool used to identify the effects of development on *“landscape as an environmental resource in its own right and on people’s views and visual amenity”* (GLVIA3¹, paragraph 1.1). GLVIA3 (paragraph 2.22) states that these two elements, although inter-related, should be assessed separately. GLVIA3 is the main source of guidance on LVIA.
- 1.2 Landscape is a definable set of characteristics resulting from the interaction of natural, physical and human factors: it is a resource in its own right. Its assessment is distinct from visual assessment, which considers effects on the views and visual amenity of different groups of people at particular locations. Clear separation of these two topics is recommended in GLVIA3.
- 1.3 The Notes and Clarifications on aspects of GLVIA3 (Landscape Institute Technical Guidance Note 2024/01, published August 2024) makes it clear at section 2.0 that Townscape and Seascape assessments should follow the same process as LVIA, and therefore also follow the guidance in GLVIA3.
- 1.4 As GLVIA3 (paragraph 2.23) states, professional judgement is an important part of the LVIA process: whilst there is scope for objective measurement of landscape and visual changes, much of the assessment must rely on qualitative judgements. It is critical that these judgements are based upon a clear and transparent method so that the reasoning can be followed and examined by others.
- 1.5 Impacts can be defined as the action being taken, whereas effects are the changes result from that action. This method of assessment assesses landscape and visual effects.
- 1.6 Landscape and visual effects can be beneficial, adverse or neutral in nature. Beneficial effects are those which enhance and/or reinforce the characteristics which are valued. Adverse effects are those which remove and/or undermine the characteristics which are valued. Neutral effects are changes which are consistent with the characteristics of the landscape or view. LI TGN 2024/01 notes at section 3(7) that the assessment of the level of effect and the nature of effect should be independent of each other.
- 1.7 Landscape and visual effects can result directly from the development itself (direct effects), or may be indirect changes (which are not a direct result of the development but occur as a result of a more complex pathway, such as changes to drainage patterns or perceptual changes further from a proposed development).
- 1.8 Landscape and visual effects can also be cumulative, which are the additional changes caused by a proposed development in conjunction with other developments, particularly those which are recently consented, or which have been applied for.

¹ The Landscape Institute and Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (2013) Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (GLVIA3) Third Edition. [Accessed: November 2025].

- 1.9 In LVIA's which form part of an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), it is necessary to identify significant and non-significant effects. In non-EIA LVIA's, also known as Landscape and Visual Appraisals, (LVAs), the same principles and process as LVIA may be applied but, in so doing, it is not required to establish whether the effects arising are significant or are not given that the exercise is not being undertaken for EIA purposes (see GLVIA3 statement of clarification 1/13 10-06-13, Landscape Institute).

Landscape Effects

- 1.10 Landscape, as defined in the European Landscape Convention², is defined as *“an area, as perceived by people, whose character is the result of the action and interaction of natural and/or human factors”*, (Council of Europe, 2000). Landscape does not apply only to special or designated places, nor is it limited to countryside.
- 1.11 GLVIA3 (paragraph 5.34) recommends that the effect of the development on landscape receptors is assessed. Landscape receptors are the components of the landscape that are likely to be affected by the proposed development and can include individual elements (such as hedges or buildings), aesthetic and perceptual characteristics (for example sense of naturalness, tranquillity or openness), or, at a larger scale, the character of a defined character area or landscape type. Designated areas (such as National Parks or National Landscapes, also referred to as Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs)) are also landscape receptors.
- 1.12 This assessment is being undertaken because the proposed development has the potential to remove or add elements to the landscape, to alter aesthetic or perceptual aspects, and to add or remove characteristics and thus potentially change overall character.
- 1.13 Judging landscape effects requires a methodical assessment of the sensitivity of the landscape receptors to the proposed development and the magnitude of effect which would be experienced by each receptor.

Landscape Sensitivity

- 1.14 Sensitivity of landscape receptors is assessed by combining an assessment of the susceptibility of landscape receptors to the type of change which is proposed with the value attached to the landscape. (GLVIA3, paragraph 5.39).

Value Attached to Landscape Receptors

- 1.15 Landscape receptors may be valued at low, community, local, national or international level. Existing landscape designations provide the starting point for this assessment, as set out in **Table 10.1.1** below.
- 1.16 The table sets out the interpretation of landscape designations in terms of the value attached to different landscape receptors. As GLVIA3 (paragraph 5.24) notes, at the local scale of an LVIA study area it may be found that the landscape value of a specific area may be different to that suggested by the formal designation.

² Natural England (April 2009) Guidelines for Implementing the European Landscape Convention. Part 1: What does it mean for your organisation? Available at: <https://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/6361194094919680?category=31019> [Accessed: November 2025]

Table 10.1.1- Interpretation of Landscape Designations

Designation	Description	Value
World Heritage Sites	Unique sites, features or areas identified as being of international importance according to UNESCO criteria. Consideration should be given to their settings especially where these contribute to the special qualities for which the landscape is valued.	International
National Parks, National Landscapes, National Scenic Areas	Areas of landscape identified as being of national importance for their natural beauty (and in the case of National Parks the opportunities they offer for outdoor recreation). Consideration should be given to their settings ³ especially where these contribute to the special qualities for which the landscape is valued.	National
Registered Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest	Gardens and designed landscapes included on the Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest as Grade I, II* or II.	National/Local Authority
Local Landscape Designations (such as Special Landscape Areas, Areas of Great Landscape Value and similar) included in local planning documents	Areas of landscape identified as having importance at the local authority level. Landscapes which demonstrate the presence of a number of indicators of landscape value, as set out in Table 1 of TGN 02/21 ⁴ , or which have just one indicator of particular importance.	Local Authority
Undesignated landscapes of community value	Landscapes which do not have any formal designation and lack the indicators of landscape value set out in Table 1 of TGN 02/21, but which are assessed as having value to local communities.	Local Authority/Community
Landscapes of low value	Landscapes in poor condition or fundamentally altered by the presence of intrusive man-made structures.	Low

³ Landscape Institute (August 2024) Technical Guidance Note LITGN-2024-01 Notes and Clarifications on Aspects of Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment Third edition (GLVIA3). Available at: <https://www.landscapeinstitute.org/technical-resource/li-technical-notes/>. [Accessed November 2025]. LI TGN 2024/01 states at section 5(13) that the setting of protected landscapes is “*generally created in policy and is not a designation (or a receptor) in its own right (unlike the settings of heritage assets). The extent of the setting of a designated landscape for LVIA purposes is not geographically defined and will vary with the nature of the development proposed. In LVIA, the question would remain whether the changes in the setting (i.e the landscape nearby but outside the designated area) would affect the designated landscape in terms of effects on its special qualities and, if so, to what degree*”.

⁴ Landscape Institute Technical Guidance Note (TGN 02/21) (2021) Assessing landscape value outside national designations. Available at: <https://www.landscapeinstitute.org/technical-resource/assessing-landscape-value-outside-national-designations/>. [Accessed November 2025].

- 1.17 Where landscapes are not designated and where no other local authority guidance on value is available, an assessment is made by reference to the criteria in **Table 10.1.2** below. This is based on Table 1 of Landscape Institute Technical Guidance Note 02/21. These factors are not fixed and should be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. When assessing landscape value of a site it is important to consider not only the site itself but also its context.
- 1.18 Landscapes may be judged to be of local authority or community value on the basis of one or more of these factors. There may also be occasional circumstances where an undesignated landscape may be judged to be of national value, for example where it has a clear connection with a nationally designated landscape or is otherwise considered to be of equivalent value to a national designation. Similarly, on occasions there may be areas within designated landscapes that do not meet the designation criteria or demonstrate the key characteristics/special qualities in a way that is consistent with the rest of the designated area.
- 1.19 An overall assessment is made for each landscape receptor, based on an overview of the above criteria, to determine its value - whether for example, it is comparable to a local authority landscape designation or similar, or whether it is of value to local people and communities. For example, an intact landscape in good condition, where scenic quality, tranquillity, and/or conservation interests make a particular contribution to the landscape, or where there are important cultural or historical associations, might be of equivalent value to a local landscape designation. Conversely, a degraded landscape in poor condition, with no particular scenic qualities or natural or cultural heritage interest, is likely to be considered of limited landscape value.

Table 10.2.2 - Criteria Considered in Assessing the Value of Non-Designated Landscapes

Factor	Criteria
Natural Heritage	Landscape with clear evidence of ecological, geological, geomorphological or physiographic interest. Presence of wildlife and habitats that contribute to the sense of place. Landscape which contains valued natural capital assets that contribute to ecosystem services.
Cultural Heritage	Landscape with clear evidence of archaeological, historical or cultural interest. Landscape which contributes to the significance of heritage assets. Landscape which offers a dimension of time depth.
Landscape Condition	Landscape which is in a good physical state both with regard to individual elements and overall landscape structure. Absence of detracting/incongruous features.
Associations	Landscape which is connected with notable people, events and the arts.
Distinctiveness	Landscape that has a strong sense of identity or place. Presence of distinctive features that are characteristic of a place, or presence of rare/unusual features that confer a strong sense of place. Includes landscape that makes an important contribution to the character or identity of a settlement.

Factor	Criteria
Recreational	Landscape offering recreational opportunities where experience of landscape is important. Includes open access areas, common land and rights of way where appreciation of the landscape is an important element of the experience. Landscape that forms part of a view that is important to the enjoyment of a recreational activity.
Perceptual (Scenic)	Landscape that appeals to the senses, primarily the visual sense. Distinctive features, or distinctive combinations of features. Strong aesthetic qualities. Visual diversity or contrasts. Memorable/distinctive views or landmarks, or landscape that contributes to these.
Perceptual (Wildness and Tranquillity)	Landscape with a strong perceptual value notably remoteness, wildness, tranquillity and/or dark skies.
Functional	Landscape which performs a clearly identifiable and valuable function, particularly in the healthy functioning of the landscape. Natural hydrological systems, important parts of the green infrastructure network, pollinator rich habitats. Landscapes that have strong physical or functional links with an adjacent national landscape designation or are important to the appreciation of the designated landscape and its special qualities.

Susceptibility of Landscape Receptors to Change

- 1.20 As set out in GLVIA3, susceptibility refers to the ability of the landscape receptor to *“accommodate the proposed development without undue adverse consequences for the baseline situation and/or the achievement of landscape planning policies and strategies”*. Judgement of susceptibility is particular to the specific characteristics of the proposed development and the ability of a particular landscape or feature to accommodate the type of change proposed and makes reference to the criteria set out in **Table 10.1.3** below. Aspects of the character of the landscape that may be affected by a particular type of development include landform, skylines, land cover, enclosure, human influences including settlement pattern and aesthetic and perceptual aspects such as the scale of the landscape, its form, line, texture, pattern and grain, complexity, and its sense of movement, remoteness, wildness or tranquillity.
- 1.21 For example, an urban landscape which contains several industrial buildings may have a low susceptibility to buildings of a similar scale and character. Conversely, a rural landscape containing only remote farmsteads is likely to have a high susceptibility to large scale-built development.

Table 10.1.3 - Landscape Receptor Susceptibility to Change

Susceptibility	Criteria
High	The landscape receptor is highly susceptible to the proposed development because the key characteristics of the landscape have no or very limited ability to accommodate it without transformational adverse effects, taking account of the existing character and quality of the landscape.

Susceptibility	Criteria
Medium	The landscape receptor is moderately susceptible to the proposed development because the relevant characteristics of the landscape have some ability to accommodate it without transformational adverse effects, taking account of the existing character and quality of the landscape.
Low	The landscape receptor has low susceptibility to the proposed development because the relevant characteristics of the landscape are generally able to accommodate it without transformational adverse effects, taking account of the existing character and quality of the landscape.

Defining Sensitivity

- 1.22 As has been noted above, the sensitivity of landscape receptors is defined in terms of the relationship between value and susceptibility to change as indicated in **Plate 10.1.1** below. This summarises the general nature of the relationship, but it is not formulaic and only indicates general categories of sensitivity. Professional judgement is applied on a case-by-case basis in determining sensitivity of individual receptors, with the figure only serving as a guide.
- 1.23 **Table 10.1.4** below summarises the nature of the relationship, but it is not formulaic and only indicates general categories of sensitivity. Judgements are made about each landscape receptor, with the table serving as a guide.
- 1.24 Where, taking into account the component judgements about the value and susceptibility of the landscape receptor, sensitivity is judged to lie between levels, an intermediate assessment of high/medium or medium/low is adopted. In a few limited cases a category of less than low (very low) may be used where the landscape is of low value and susceptibility is particularly low.

Plate 10.1.1 - Levels of Sensitivity defined by Value and Susceptibility of Landscape Receptors

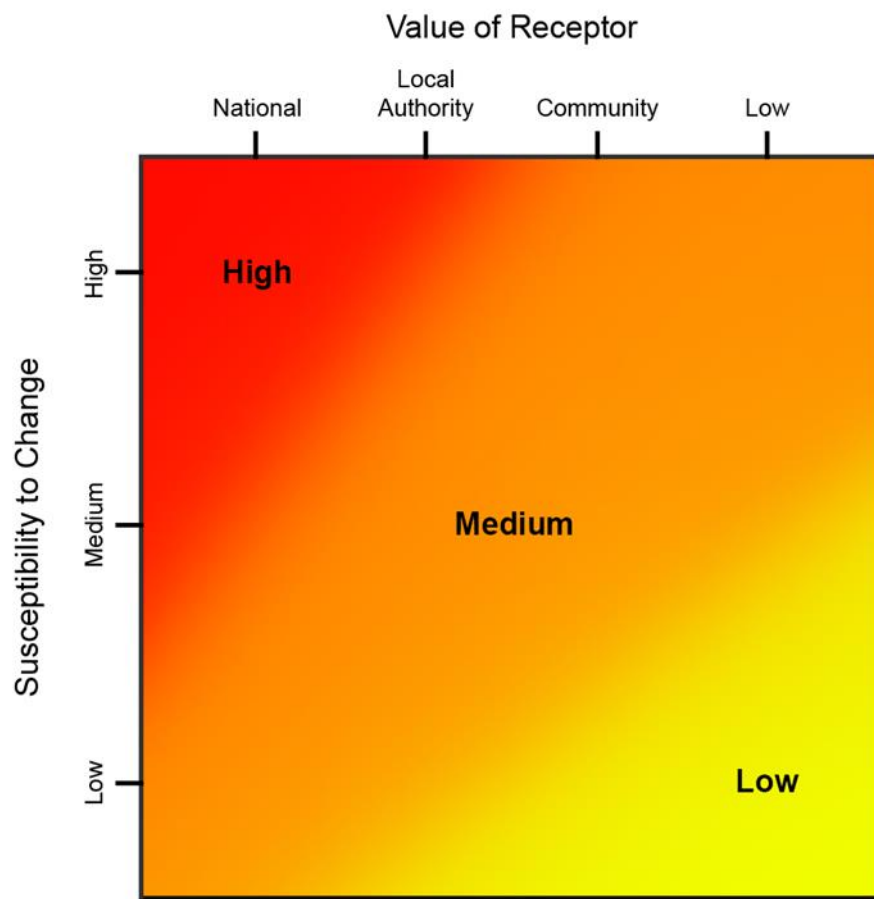


Table 10.1.4 - Example Levels of Sensitivity defined by Value and Susceptibility of Landscape Receptors

Sensitivity	Examples
High	The landscape receptor is of international or national value and is considered to have high susceptibility to the effects of the proposed development OR The landscape receptor is of national value and is considered to have medium susceptibility to the effects of the proposed development.
Medium	The landscape receptor is of international or national value and is considered to have low susceptibility to the effects of the proposed development OR The landscape receptor is of local authority value and is considered to have high susceptibility to the effects of the proposed development OR The landscape receptor is of local authority value and is considered to have medium susceptibility to the effects of the proposed development. OR

Sensitivity	Examples
	The landscape receptor is of community value and is considered to have high susceptibility to the effects of the proposed development
Low	The landscape receptor is of local authority value and is considered to have low susceptibility to the effects of the proposed development OR The landscape receptor is of community value and is considered to have medium susceptibility to the effects of the proposed development OR The landscape receptor is of community value and is considered to have low susceptibility to the effects of the proposed development.

Magnitude of Landscape Change

- 1.25 The magnitude of landscape change is established by assessing the size or scale of change, the geographical extent of the area influenced and the duration and potential reversibility of the change. LI TGN 2024/01 states at section 3(3) that *“it is likely that size/scale of effect will be the most important factor, with geographical extent and duration/reversibility considered as ‘modifiers’”*.

Size and Scale of Change

- 1.26 The size and/or scale of change in the landscape takes into consideration the following factors:
- the extent/proportion of landscape elements lost or added; and/or
 - the degree to which aesthetic/perceptual aspects are altered; and
 - whether this is likely to change the key characteristics of the landscape.
- 1.27 The criteria used to assess the size and scale of landscape change are based upon the amount of change that will occur as a result of the proposed development, as described in **Table 10.1.5** below.

Table 10.1.5 - Magnitude of Landscape Change: Size/Scale of Change

Category	Description
Large level of landscape change	There would be a large level of change in landscape character, and especially to the key characteristics if, for example, the proposed development: becomes a dominant feature in the landscape, changing the balance of landscape characteristics; and/or would dominate important visual connections with other landscape types, where this is a key characteristic of the area.
Medium level of landscape change	There would be a medium level of change in landscape character, and especially to the key characteristics if, for example: the proposed development would be more prominent but would not change the overall balance or composition of the landscape; and/or

Category	Description
	key views to other landscape types may be interrupted intermittently by the proposed development, but these views would not be dominated by them.
Small level of landscape change	There would be a small level of change in landscape character, and especially to the key characteristics if, for example: there would be no introduction of new elements into the landscape and the proposed development would not significantly change the composition/balance of the landscape.
Negligible/no level of landscape change	There would be a negligible or no level of change in landscape character, and especially to the key characteristics if, for example, the proposed development would be a small element and/or would be a considerable distance from the receptor.

Geographical Extent of Change

- 1.28 The geographical extent of landscape change is assessed by determining the area over which the changes will influence the landscape, as set out in **Table 10.1.6**. For example, this could be at the site level, in the immediate setting of the site, or over some or all of the landscape character types or areas affected.

Table 10.1.6 - Magnitude of Landscape Change: Geographical Extent

Category	Description
Large extent of landscape change	Affects a wider area, far from the site itself, or affects a large proportion of the landscape receptor.
Medium extent of landscape change	Landscape change extends beyond the site boundaries, or affects a medium proportion of the landscape receptor.
Small extent of landscape change	Change affecting a localised area, often focused on the site itself, or affects a small proportion of the landscape receptor.
Negligible extent of landscape change	The change will affect only a negligible extent of the landscape receptor under consideration.

Duration and Reversibility of Change

- 1.29 The duration of the landscape change is categorised in **Table 10.1.7** below, which considers whether the change will be permanent and irreversible or temporary and reversible.

Table 10.1.7 - Magnitude of Landscape Change: Duration and Reversibility

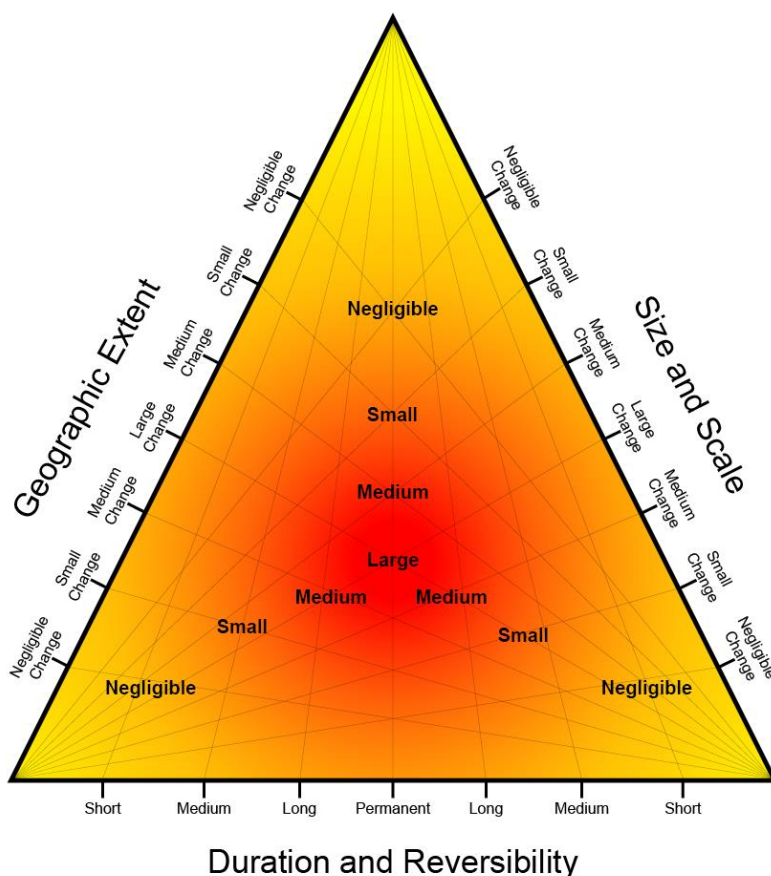
Category	Description
Permanent/Irreversible	Effects that are deemed to be irreversible.
Long term reversible	Effects that last for over 10 years and are theoretically reversible.

Category	Description
Medium term reversible	Effects that will last up to 10 years and are theoretically reversible.
Temporary/Short term reversible	Effects that will last from 0 to 5 years – likely to include construction effects.

Deciding on Overall Magnitude of Landscape Change

- 1.30 The relationships between the three factors that contribute to assessment of the magnitude of landscape effects are illustrated graphically, as a guide, in **Plate 10.1.2** below. Various combinations are possible, and the overall magnitude of each effect is judged on merit rather than by formulaic application of the relationships in the figure.

Plate 0-2 - Determining the Magnitude of Landscape Change

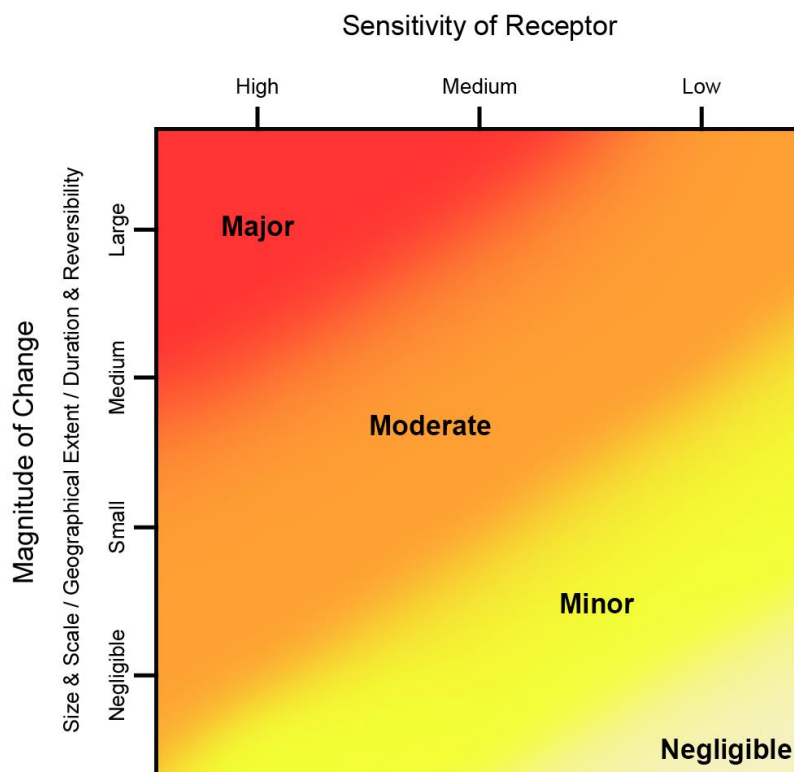


Assessment of Landscape Effects

- 1.31 The assessment of overall landscape effects is defined in terms of the relationship between the sensitivity of the landscape receptors and the magnitude of the change. **Plate 10.1.3** below summarises the nature of the relationship but it is not formulaic. Judgements are made about each landscape effect using this figure as a guide.
- 1.32 **Major and Major/Moderate effects are regarded as important planning considerations in landscape and visual appraisals (or significant effects in landscape and visual impact**

assessments). Moderate effects are not generally considered to be important planning considerations/significant effects, although the assessor may conclude that some moderate effects could constitute significant effects in certain circumstances: for example, there may be a concentration of several moderate effects in one location, or a moderate effect may occur for a particularly sensitive receptor or be of a particularly high magnitude.

Plate 10.1.3 - Assessment of Landscape Effects



Visual Effects

1.33 Visual effects are the effects of change and development on the views available to people and their visual amenity. Visual receptors are the people whose views may be affected by the proposed development. They generally include users of public rights of way or other recreational facilities or attractions; travellers who may pass through the study area because they are visiting, living or working there; residents living in the study area, either as individuals or, more often, as a community; and people at their place of work.

- Communities within settlements (i.e. towns, villages and hamlets);
- Residents of individual properties and clusters of properties;
- People using nationally designated or regionally promoted footpaths, cycle routes and bridleways and others using areas of Open Access Land agreed under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000;
- Users of the local public rights of way (PRoW) network;
- Visitors at publicly accessible sites including, for example, gardens and designed landscapes, historic sites, and other visitor attractions or outdoor recreational facilities where the landscape or seascape is an important part of the experience;
- Users of outdoor sport and recreation facilities;

- Visitors staying at caravan parks or camp sites;
 - Road users on recognised scenic or promoted tourist routes;
 - Users of other roads;
 - Rail passengers;
 - People at their place of work.
- 1.34 LI TGN 2024/01 states at section 6(1) that visual assessment should focus on the way that communities experience views from public locations. It notes that *“views from houses and individual properties are a matter of private amenity, noting that it is an established planning principle that there is no right to a view”*.
- 1.35 Judging visual effects requires a methodical assessment of the sensitivity of the visual receptors to the proposed development and the magnitude of effect which would be experienced by each receptor.
- 1.36 Viewpoints are chosen, in discussion with the competent authority and other stakeholders and interested parties, for a variety of reasons but most commonly because they represent views experienced by relevant groups of people.

Visual Sensitivity

- 1.37 Sensitivity of visual receptors is assessed by combining an assessment of the susceptibility of visual receptors to the type of change which is proposed with the value attached to the views. (GLVIA3, paragraph 6.30).

Value Attached to Views

- 1.38 Different levels of value are attached to the views experienced by particular groups of people at particular viewpoints. Assessment of value takes account of a number of factors, including:
- Recognition of the view through some form of planning designation or by its association with particular heritage assets; and
 - The popularity of the viewpoint, in part denoted by its appearance in guidebooks, literature or art, or on tourist maps, by information from stakeholders and by the evidence of use including facilities provided for its enjoyment (seating, signage, parking places, etc.); and
 - Other evidence of the value attached to views by people including consultation with local planning authorities and professional assessment of the quality of views.
- 1.39 The assessment of the value of views is summarised in **Table 10.1.8** below. These criteria are provided for guidance only.

Table 10.1.8 - Criteria Considered in assessing the Value Attached to Views

Value	Criteria
High	Views from nationally (and in some cases internationally) known viewpoints, which: have some form of planning designation; or are associated with internationally or nationally designated landscapes or important heritage assets; or are promoted in sources such as maps and tourist literature; or

Value	Criteria
	are linked with important and popular visitor attractions where the view forms a recognised part of the visitor experience; or have important cultural associations. Also may include views judged by assessors to be of high value.
Medium	Views from viewpoints of some importance at regional or local levels, which: have some form of local planning designation associated with locally designated landscapes or areas of equivalent landscape quality; or are promoted in local sources; or are linked with locally important and popular visitor attractions where the view forms a recognised part of the visitor experience; or have important local cultural associations. Also may include views judged by the assessors to be of medium value.
Low	Views from viewpoints which, although they may have value to local people: have no formal planning status; or are not associated with designated or otherwise high-quality landscapes; or are not linked with popular visitor attractions; or have no known cultural associations. Also may include views judged by the assessors to be of low value.

Susceptibility of Visual Receptors to Change

- 1.40 The susceptibility of different types of people to changes in views is mainly a function of:
- The occupation or activity of the viewer at a given viewpoint; and
 - The extent to which the viewer's attention or interest is focused on a particular view and the visual amenity experienced at a given view.
- 1.41 As LI TGN 2024/01 states at section 6(2), *“visual susceptibility is not influenced by the development type, which would be assessed as part of the magnitude of effect”*.
- 1.42 The susceptibility of different groups of viewers is assessed with reference to the guidance in **Table 10.1.9** below. However, as noted in GLVIA3 *“this division is not black and white and in reality, there will be a gradation in susceptibility to change”*. Therefore, the susceptibility of each group of people affected is considered for each project and assessments are included in the relevant text in the report.

Table 10.1.9 - Visual Receptor Susceptibility to Change

Susceptibility	Criteria
High	Residents; People engaged in outdoor recreation where their attention is likely to be focused on the landscape and on particular views; Visitors to heritage assets or other attractions where views of the surroundings are an important part of the experience;

Susceptibility	Criteria
	Communities where views contribute to the landscape setting enjoyed by the residents.
Medium	Travellers on scenic routes where the attention of drivers and passengers is likely to be focused on the landscape and on particular views. People engaged in outdoor sport or recreation, which may involve appreciation of views e.g. users of golf courses.
Low	People engaged in outdoor sport or recreation, which does not involve appreciation of views; People at their place of work whose attention is focused on their work Travellers, where the view is incidental to the journey.

Defining Sensitivity

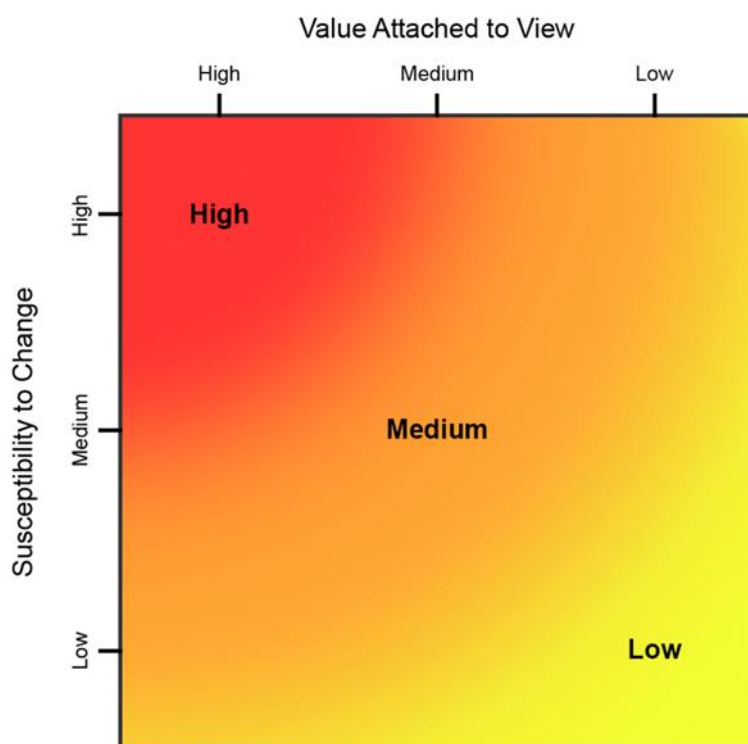
- 1.43 The sensitivity of visual receptors is defined in terms of the relationship between the value of views and the susceptibility of the different receptors to the proposed change. **Plate 10.1.4** below summarises the nature of the relationship; it is not formulaic and only indicates general categories of sensitivity. Judgements are made on merit about each visual receptor, with the table below only serving as a guide. **Table 10.1.10** sets down the main categories that may occur but again it is not comprehensive and other combinations may occur.

Table 10.1.10 - Example Levels of Sensitivity defined by Value and Susceptibility of Visual Receptors

Sensitivity	Examples
High	The visual receptor group is highly susceptible to changes in views and visual amenity and relevant views are of high value OR The visual receptor group has a medium level of susceptibility to changes in views and visual amenity and relevant views are of high value OR The visual receptor group is highly susceptible to changes in views and visual amenity and relevant views are of value at the medium level.
Medium	The visual receptor group is highly susceptible to changes in views and visual amenity and relevant views are of value at the low level OR The visual receptor group has a medium level of susceptibility to changes in views and visual amenity and relevant views are of value at the medium level OR The visual receptor group has a low level of susceptibility to changes in views and visual amenity and relevant views are of value at the high level.
Low	The visual receptor group has a medium level of susceptibility to changes in views and visual amenity and relevant views are of value at the low level OR

Sensitivity	Examples
	The visual receptor group has a low level of susceptibility to changes in views and visual amenity and relevant views are of value at the medium level OR The visual receptor group has a low level of susceptibility to changes in views and visual amenity and relevant views are of value at the low level.

Plate 10.1.4 - Levels of Sensitivity Defined by Value attached to View and Susceptibility of Visual Receptor Groups



Magnitude of Visual Change

- 1.44 The magnitude of visual change is established by assessing the size or scale of change, the geographical extent of the area influenced and the duration and potential reversibility of the change. LI TGN 2024/01 states at section 3(3) that *“it is likely that size/scale of effect will be the most important factor, with geographical extent and duration/reversibility considered as ‘modifiers’”*.

Size and Scale of Change

- 1.45 The criteria used to assess the size and scale of visual change at each viewpoint are as follows:
- the scale of the change in the view with respect to the loss or addition of features in the view, changes in its composition, including the proportion of the view occupied by the proposed development and distance of view;

- the degree of contrast or integration of any new features or changes in the landscape with the existing or remaining landscape elements and characteristics in terms of factors such as form, scale and mass, line, height, colour and texture; and
- the nature of the view of the proposed development, for example whether views will be full, partial or glimpses or sequential views while passing through the landscape.

1.46 The above criteria are summarised in **Table 10.1.11** below.

Table 10.1.11 - Magnitude of Visual Change: Size/Scale of Change

Category	Criteria
Large visual change	The proposed development will cause a complete or large change in the view, resulting from the loss of important features or the addition of significant new ones, to the extent that this will substantially alter the composition of the view and the visual amenity it offers.
Medium visual change	The proposed development will cause a clearly noticeable change in the view, resulting from the loss of features or the addition of new ones, to the extent that this will alter to a moderate degree the composition of the view and the visual amenity it offers. Views may be partial/intermittent.
Small visual change	The proposed development will cause a perceptible change in the view, resulting from the loss of features or the addition of new ones, to the extent that this will partially alter the composition of the view and the visual amenity it offers. Views may be partial only.
Negligible visual change	The proposed development will cause a barely perceptible change in the view, resulting from the loss of features or the addition of new ones, to the extent that this will barely alter the composition of the view and the visual amenity it offers. Views may be glimpsed only.
No change	The proposed development will cause no change to the view.

Geographical Extent of Change

- 1.47 The geographical extent of the visual change identified at representative viewpoints is assessed by reference to a combination of the Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV), where this has been prepared, and field work, and consideration of the criteria in **Table 10.1.12** below. Representative viewpoints are used as 'sample' points to assess the typical change experienced by different groups of visual receptors at different distances and directions from the proposed development. The geographical extent of the visual change is judged for each group of receptors: for example, people using a particular route or public amenity, drawing on the viewpoint assessments, plus information about the distribution of that particular group of people in the Study Area.
- 1.48 LI TGN 2024/01 states at section 6(8) that geographic extent should primarily refer to the extent of the viewing area that is affected (for example the length of a footpath or the proportion of a community).
- 1.49 Thus, low levels of change identified at representative viewpoints may be extensive or limited in terms of the geographical area they are apparent from: for example, a view of the proposed development from elevated Access Land may be widely visible from much or all of

the accessible area or may be confined to a small proportion of the area. Similarly, a view from a public footpath may be visible from a single isolated viewpoint, or over a prolonged stretch of the route. Community views may be experienced from a small number of dwellings or affect numerous residential properties.

Table 10.1.12 - Magnitude of Visual Change: Geographical Extent of Change

Category	Description
Large extent of visual change	The proposed development is seen by the group of receptors in many locations across the Study Area or from the majority of a linear route and/or by large numbers of viewers; or the effect on the specific view(s) is extensive.
Medium extent of visual change	The proposed development is seen by the group of receptors from a medium number of locations across the Study Area or from a medium part of a linear route and/or by a medium number of viewers; or the effect on the specific view is moderately extensive.
Small extent of visual change	The proposed development is seen by the group of receptors at a small number of locations across the Study Area or from only limited sections of a linear route and/or by a small number of viewers; or the effect on a specific view is small.
Negligible extent of visual change	The proposed development is either not visible in the Study Area or is seen by the receptor group at only one or two locations or from a very limited section of a linear route and/or by only a very small number of receptors; or the effect on the specific view is barely discernible.

Duration and Reversibility of Change

- 1.50 The duration of the visual change at viewpoints is categorised in **Table 10.1.13** below, which considers whether views will be permanent and irreversible or temporary and reversible.

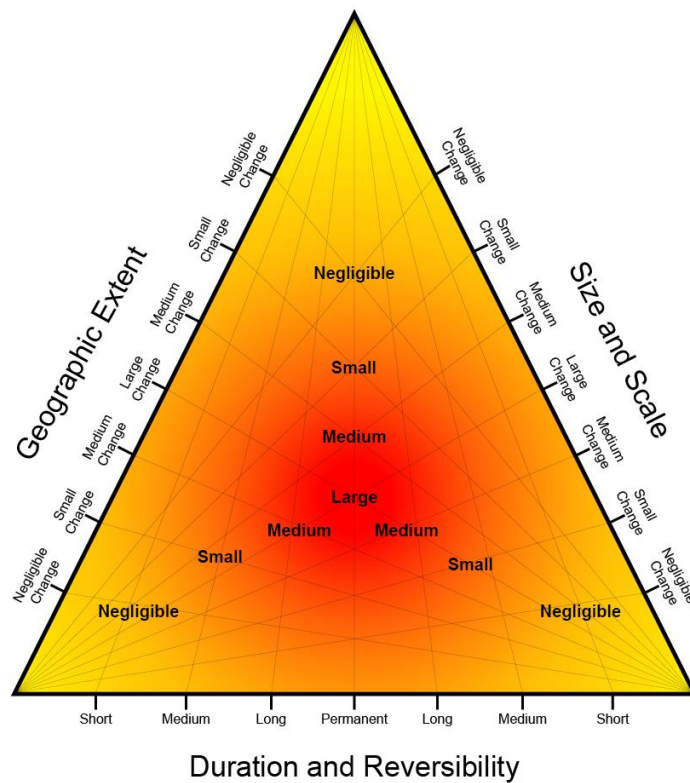
Table 10.1.13 - Duration and Reversibility

Category	Description
Permanent/ Irreversible	Effects that are deemed to be irreversible.
Long term reversible	Effects that last for over 10 years and are theoretically reversible.
Medium term reversible	Effects that will last up to 10 years and are theoretically reversible.
Temporary/Short term reversible	Effects that will last from 0 to 5 years – likely to include construction effects.

Deciding on Overall Magnitude of Visual Change

- 1.51 The relationships between the three factors that contribute to assessment of the magnitude of visual effects are illustrated graphically, as a guide, in **Plate 10.1.5**, below. Various combinations are possible, and the overall magnitude of each effect is judged on merit rather than by formulaic application of the relationships in the figure.

Plate 10.1.5 - Determining the Magnitude of Visual Change



Assessment of Visual Effects

- 1.52 The assessment of visual effects is defined in terms of the relationship between the sensitivity of the visual receptors (value and susceptibility) and the magnitude of the change. **Plate 10.1.6** below summarises the nature of the relationship but it is not formulaic and only indicates broad levels of effect. Judgements are made about each visual effect using this figure as a guide.
- 1.53 **Major and Major/Moderate effects are regarded as important planning considerations in landscape and visual appraisals (or significant effects in landscape and visual impact assessments).** Moderate effects are not generally considered to be important planning considerations/significant effects, although the assessor may conclude that some moderate effects could constitute significant effects in certain circumstances: for example, there may be a concentration of several moderate effects in one location, or a moderate effect may occur for a particularly sensitive receptor or be of a particularly high magnitude.

Plate 10.1.6 - Assessment of Visual Effects

