

**PELHAM SPRING SOLAR FARM  
ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT  
TECHNICAL APPENDICES**

**APPENDIX 6.1 – LVIA EIA METHODOLOGY**

On behalf of Low Carbon Solar Park 6 Limited

Date: December 2022

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## Document Management.

Version	Date	Author	Checked/ Approved by:	Reason for revision

## 1. LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY

1.1 This Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) has been undertaken with regards to best practice as outlined within the following publications:

- Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (3rd Edition, 2013) - Landscape Institute / Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (hereafter referred to as GLVIA3).
- An Approach to Landscape Character Assessment (2014) - Natural England.
- An Approach to Landscape Sensitivity Assessment - To Inform Spatial Planning and Land Management (2019) - Natural England.
- Technical Guidance Note (TGN) 06/19 Visual Representation of Development Proposals, 17 September 2019 by the Landscape Institute.
- Technical Guidance Note (TGN) 1/20 Reviewing Landscape and Visual Impact Assessments (LVIAs) and Landscape and Visual Appraisals (LVAs), 10th January 2020 by the Landscape Institute.
- Technical Guidance Note (TGN) 2/21 Assessing landscape value outside national designations, May 2021 by the Landscape Institute.

1.2 GLVIA3 states within paragraph 1.1 that "Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) is a tool used to identify and assess the significance of and the effects of change resulting from development on both the landscape as an environmental resource in its own right and on people's views and visual amenity."<sup>1</sup>

1.3 GLVIA3 also states within paragraph 1.17 that when identifying landscape and visual effects there is a "need for an approach that is in proportion to the scale of the project that is being assessed and the nature of the likely effects. Judgement needs to be exercised at all stages in terms of the scale of investigation that is appropriate and proportional."<sup>2</sup>

1.4 GLVIA3 recognises within paragraph 2.23 that "professional judgement is a very important part of LVIA. While there is some scope for quantitative measurement of some relatively objective matters much of the assessment must rely on qualitative judgements"<sup>3</sup> undertaken by a landscape consultant or a Chartered Member of the Landscape Institute (CMLI).

1.5 GLVIA3 notes in paragraph 1.3 that "LVIA may be carried out either formally, as part of an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), or informally, as a contribution to the 'appraisal' of development proposals and planning applications."<sup>4</sup>

1.6 The effects on cultural heritage and ecology are not considered within this LVIA.

### Study Area

1.7 The study area for this LVIA covers a 5km radius from the site. However, the main focus of the assessment was taken as a radius of 2 km from the site as it is

<sup>1</sup> Para 1.1, Page 4, GLVIA, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition

<sup>2</sup> Para 1.17, Page 9, GLVIA, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition

<sup>3</sup> Para 2.23, Page 21, GLVIA, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition

<sup>4</sup> Para 1.3, Page 4, GLVIA, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition

considered that even with clear visibility the proposals would not be readily perceptible in the landscape beyond this distance.

Effects Assessed

1.8 Landscape and visual effects are assessed through professional judgements on the sensitivity of landscape elements, character and visual receptors combined with the predicted magnitude of change arising from the proposals. The landscape and visual effects have been assessed in the following sections:

- Effects on landscape elements;
- Effects on landscape character; and
- Effects on visual amenity.

1.9 Sensitivity is defined in GLVIA3 as “a term applied to specific receptors, combining judgments of susceptibility of the receptor to a specific type of change or development proposed and the value related to that receptor.”<sup>5</sup> Various factors in relation to the value and susceptibility of landscape elements, character, visual receptors or representative viewpoints are considered below and cross referenced to determine the overall sensitivity as shown in Table 1:

<b>Table 1, Overall sensitivity of landscape and visual receptors</b>				
	<b>VALUE</b>			
		<b>HIGH</b>	<b>MEDIUM</b>	<b>LOW</b>
<b>SUSCEPTIBILITY</b>	<b>HIGH</b>	High	High	Medium
	<b>MEDIUM</b>	High	Medium	Medium
	<b>LOW</b>	Medium	Medium	Low

1.10 Magnitude of change is defined in GLVIA3 as “a term that combines judgements about the size and scale of the effect, the extent over which it occurs, whether it is reversible or irreversible and whether it is short or long term in duration.”<sup>6</sup> Various factors contribute to the magnitude of change on landscape elements, character, visual receptors and representative viewpoints.

1.11 The sensitivity of the landscape and visual receptor and the magnitude of change arising from the proposals are cross referenced in Table 11 to determine the overall degree of landscape and visual effects.

**2. EFFECTS ON LANDSCAPE ELEMENTS**

2.1 The effects on landscape elements are limited to within the site and includes the direct physical change to the fabric of the land, such as the removal of woodland, hedgerows or grassland to allow for the proposals.

<sup>5</sup> Glossary, Page 158, GLVIA, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition

<sup>6</sup> Glossary, Page 158, GLVIA, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition

Sensitivity of Landscape Elements

- 2.2 Sensitivity is determined by a combination of the value that is attached to a landscape element and the susceptibility of the landscape element to changes that would arise as a result of the proposals – see pages 88-90 of GLVIA3. Both value and susceptibility are assessed on a scale of high, medium or low.
- 2.3 The criteria for assessing the value of landscape elements and landscape character is shown in Table 2:

<b>Table 2, Criteria for assessing the value of landscape elements and landscape character</b>	
<b>HIGH</b>	<p>Designated landscape including but not limited to World Heritage Sites, National Parks, Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty considered to be an important component of the country’s character experienced by a high number of people.</p> <p>Landscape condition is good and components are generally maintained to a high standard.</p> <p>In terms of seclusion, enclosure by land use, traffic and movement, light pollution and presence/absence of major infrastructure, the landscape has an elevated level of tranquillity.</p> <p>Rare or distinctive landscape elements and features are key components that contribute to the landscape character of the area.</p>
<b>MEDIUM</b>	<p>Undesignated landscape including urban fringe and rural countryside considered to be a distinctive component of the national or local landscape character.</p> <p>Landscape condition is fair and components are generally well maintained.</p> <p>In terms of seclusion, enclosure by land use, traffic and movement, light pollution and presence/absence of major infrastructure, the landscape has a moderate level of tranquillity.</p> <p>Rare or distinctive landscape elements and features are notable components that contribute to the character of the area.</p>
<b>LOW</b>	<p>Undesignated landscape including urban fringe and rural countryside considered to be of unremarkable character.</p> <p>Landscape condition may be poor and components poorly maintained or damaged.</p> <p>In terms of seclusion, enclosure by land use, traffic and movement, light pollution and presence/absence of major infrastructure, the landscape has limited levels of tranquillity.</p> <p>Rare or distinctive elements and features are not notable components that contribute to the landscape character of the area.</p>

- 2.4 The criteria for assessing the susceptibility of landscape elements and landscape character is shown in Table 3:

<b>HIGH</b>	<p>Scale of enclosure – landscapes with a low capacity to accommodate the type of development being proposed owing to the interactions of topography, vegetation cover, built form, etc.</p> <p>Nature of land use – landscapes with no or little existing reference or context to the type of development being proposed.</p> <p>Nature of existing elements – landscapes with components that are not easily replaced or substituted (e.g. ancient woodland, mature trees, historic parkland, etc).</p> <p>Nature of existing features – landscapes where detracting features, major infrastructure or industry is not present or where present has a limited influence on landscape character.</p>
<b>MEDIUM</b>	<p>Scale of enclosure – landscapes with a medium capacity to accommodate the type of development being proposed owing to the interactions of topography, vegetation cover, built form, etc.</p> <p>Nature of land use – landscapes with some existing reference or context to the type of development being proposed.</p> <p>Nature of existing elements – landscapes with components that are easily replaced or substituted.</p> <p>Nature of existing features – landscapes where detracting features, major infrastructure or industry is present and has a noticeable influence on landscape character.</p>
<b>LOW</b>	<p>Scale of enclosure – landscapes with a high capacity to accommodate the type of development being proposed owing to the interactions of topography, vegetation cover, built form, etc.</p> <p>Nature of land use – landscapes with extensive existing reference or context to the type of development being proposed.</p> <p>Nature of existing features – landscapes where detracting features or major infrastructure is present and has a dominating influence on the landscape.</p>

- 2.5 Various factors in relation to the value and susceptibility of landscape elements are assessed and cross referenced to determine the overall sensitivity as shown in Table 1.
- 2.6 Sensitivity is defined in GLVIA3 as “a term applied to specific receptors, combining judgments of susceptibility of the receptor to a specific type of change or development proposed and the value related to that receptor.”<sup>7</sup> The definitions for high, medium, low landscape sensitivity are shown in Table 4:

<sup>7</sup> Glossary, Page 158, GLVIA, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition

<b>Table 4, Criteria for assessing landscape sensitivity</b>	
<b>HIGH</b>	Landscape element or character area defined as being of high value combined with a high or medium susceptibility to change.  Landscape element or character area defined as being of medium value combined with a high susceptibility to change.
<b>MEDIUM</b>	Landscape element or character area defined as being of high value combined with a low susceptibility to change.  Landscape element or character area defined as being of medium value combined with a medium or low susceptibility to change.  Landscape element or character area defined as being of low value combined with a high or medium susceptibility to change.
<b>LOW</b>	Landscape element or character area defined as being of low value combined with a low susceptibility to change.

Magnitude of Change on Landscape Elements

2.7 Professional judgement has been used to determine the magnitude of change on individual landscape elements within the site as shown in Table 5:

<b>Table 5, Criteria for assessing magnitude of change for landscape elements</b>	
<b>HIGH</b>	Total loss/gain of a landscape element.
<b>MEDIUM</b>	Partial loss/gain or alteration to part of a landscape element.
<b>LOW</b>	Minor loss/gain or alteration to part of a landscape element.
<b>NEGLIGIBLE</b>	No loss/gain or very limited alteration to part of a landscape element.

**3. EFFECTS ON LANDSCAPE CHARACTER**

3.1 Landscape character is defined as the “distinct, recognisable and consistent pattern of elements in the landscape that makes one landscape different from another, rather than better or worse.”<sup>8</sup>

<sup>8</sup> Glossary, Page 157, GLVIA, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition

3.2 The assessment of effects on landscape character considers how the introduction of new landscape elements physically alters the landform, landcover, landscape pattern and perceptual attributes of the site or how visibility of the proposals changes the way in which the landscape character is perceived.

Sensitivity of Landscape Character

3.3 Sensitivity is determined by a combination of the value that is attached to a landscape and the susceptibility of the landscape to changes that would arise as a result of the proposals – see pages 88-90 of GLVIA3. Both value and susceptibility are assessed on a scale of high, medium or low.

3.4 The criteria for assessing the value of landscape character is shown in Table 2.

3.5 The criteria for assessing the susceptibility of landscape character is shown in Table 3.

3.6 The overall sensitivity is determined through cross referencing the value and susceptibility of landscape character as shown in Table 1.

Magnitude of Change on Landscape Character

3.7 Professional judgement has been used to determine the magnitude of change on landscape character as shown in Table 6:

<b>Table 6, Criteria for assessing magnitude of change on landscape character</b>	
<b>HIGH</b>	Introduction of major new elements into the landscape or some major change to the scale, landform, landcover or pattern of the landscape.
<b>MEDIUM</b>	Introduction of some notable new elements into the landscape or some notable change to the scale, landform, landcover or pattern of the landscape.
<b>LOW</b>	Introduction of minor new elements into the landscape or some minor change to the scale, landform, landcover or pattern of the landscape.
<b>NEGLIGIBLE</b>	No notable or appreciable introduction of new elements into the landscape or change to the scale, landform, landcover or pattern of the landscape.

**4. EFFECTS ON VISUAL AMENITY**

4.1 Visual amenity is defined within GLVIA3 as the “overall pleasantness of the views people enjoy of their surroundings, which provides an attractive visual setting or backdrop for the enjoyment of activities of the people living, working, recreating, visiting or travelling through an area.”<sup>9</sup>

<sup>9</sup> Page 158, Glossary, GLVIA3



4.2 The effects on visual amenity considers the changes in views arising from the proposals in relation to visual receptors including settlements, residential properties, transport routes, recreational facilities and attractions; and representative viewpoints or specific locations within the study area as agreed with the Local Planning Authority.

Sensitivity of Visual Receptors

4.3 Sensitivity is determined by a combination of the value that is attached to a view and the susceptibility of the visual receptor to changes in that view that would arise as a result of the proposals – see pages 113-114 of GLVIA3. Both value and susceptibility are assessed on a scale of high, medium or low.

4.4 The criteria for assessing the value of views are shown in Table 7:

<b>Table 7, Criteria for assessing the value of views</b>	
<b>HIGH</b>	Views with high scenic value within designated landscapes including but not limited to World Heritage Sites, National Parks, Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, etc. Likely to include key viewpoints on OS maps or reference within guidebooks, provision of facilities, presence of interpretation boards, etc.
<b>MEDIUM</b>	Views with moderate scenic value within undesignated landscape including rural countryside.
<b>LOW</b>	Views with unremarkable scenic value within undesignated landscape with partly degraded visual quality and detractors.

4.5 The criteria for assessing the susceptibility of views are shown in Table 8:

<b>Table 8, Criteria for assessing visual susceptibility</b>	
<b>HIGH</b>	Includes occupiers of residential properties and people engaged in recreational activities in the countryside using public rights of way (PROW).
<b>MEDIUM</b>	Includes people engaged in outdoor sporting activities and people travelling through the landscape on minor roads and trains.
<b>LOW</b>	Includes people at places of work e.g. industrial and commercial premises and people travelling through the landscape on major roads and motorways.

4.6 Sensitivity is defined in GLVIA3 as “a term applied to specific receptors, combining judgments of susceptibility of the receptor to a specific type of change or

development proposed and the value related to that receptor."<sup>10</sup> The definitions for high, medium, low visual sensitivity are shown in Table 9:

<b>Table 9, Criteria for assessing visual sensitivity</b>	
<b>HIGH</b>	Visual receptor defined as being of high value combined with a high or medium susceptibility to change.
	Visual receptor is defined as being of medium value combined with a high susceptibility to change.
<b>MEDIUM</b>	Visual receptor is defined as being of high value combined with a low susceptibility to change.
	Visual receptor defined as being of medium value combined with a medium or low susceptibility to change.
	Visual receptor is defined as being of low value combined with a high or medium susceptibility to change.
<b>LOW</b>	Visual receptor defined as being of low value combined with a low susceptibility to change.

#### Magnitude of Change on Visual Receptors

4.7 Professional judgement has been used to determine the magnitude of change on visual receptors as shown in Table 10:

<b>Table 10, Criteria for assessing magnitude of change for visual receptors</b>	
<b>HIGH</b>	Major change in the view that has a defining influence on the overall view with many visual receptors affected.
<b>MEDIUM</b>	Some change in the view that is clearly visible and forms an important but not defining element in the view.
<b>LOW</b>	Some change in the view that is appreciable with few visual receptors affected.
<b>NEGLIGIBLE</b>	No notable change in the view.

<sup>10</sup> Glossary, Page 158, GLVIA, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition

## 5. CUMULATIVE ASSESSMENT

### Assessment of Cumulative Effects

- 5.1 Cumulative effects arise where the study areas for two or more solar farms or other infrastructure, considered relevant to the assessment, overlap so that the cumulative schemes are experienced at proximity where they may have a greater incremental effect. This means that the addition of the Proposed Development to a situation where other solar developments, or other infrastructure, are apparent may result in a greater effect than where the Proposed Development is seen by itself. The cumulative assessment includes existing identified schemes, those that are consented, and those for which planning applications have been submitted.
- 5.2 The cumulative assessment covers the potential cumulative effects on landscape character receptors and views. Cumulative effects on the landscape elements will not arise, given that the extent of the Application Site does not overlap with any of the identified cumulative schemes. For that reason, effects upon landscape features are not included in the cumulative assessment.
- 5.3 As with the assessment of effects of the Proposed Development, the significance of cumulative effects is determined through a combination of the sensitivity of the landscape receptor or view and the magnitude of change upon it. The sensitivity of landscape receptors and views is the same in the cumulative assessment as in the assessment of the Application Site itself. However, the definition of a significant cumulative effect is different from a significant effect in the assessment of the Proposed Development itself, and this means that the magnitude of change is also assessed in a different way.

### Cumulative magnitude of change

- 5.4 The cumulative magnitude of change is an expression of the degree to which landscape character receptors and views will be changed by the addition of the proposed solar development to the identified solar schemes and other infrastructure, that are already existing, consented or proposed. This is dependent on a number of variables:
- **The location of the Proposed Development in relation to other solar schemes and infrastructure.** If the Proposed Development is seen in a part of the view that is not affected by another development, this will generally increase the cumulative magnitude of change as it will extend the influence into an area that is currently unaffected. Conversely, if the Proposed Development is seen in the context of other developments, the cumulative magnitude of change may be lower as it is not extending development to hitherto undeveloped parts of the outlook. This is particularly true where the scale and layout of the Proposed Development is similar to that of the other sites, as where there is a high level of integration and cohesion with an existing site, the various solar schemes may appear as a single site.
  - **The extent of the developed skyline.** If the Proposed Development will add notably to the developed skyline in a view, the cumulative magnitude of change will tend to be higher, as the nature of the skyline has a particular influence on both views and landscape receptors.
  - **The number and scale of the developments seen simultaneously, successively, or sequentially.** Generally, the greater the number of visible developments, the higher the cumulative magnitude of change will be.
  - **The distance of the Proposed Development from the viewpoint or receptor.** As in the assessment of the site itself, the greater the distance, the lower the cumulative magnitude of change will tend to be.

- **The magnitude of change of the Proposed Development as assessed in the main assessment.** The lower this is assessed to be, the lower the cumulative magnitude of change is likely to be. Where the Proposed Development itself is assessed to have a negligible magnitude of change on a view or receptor there will not be a cumulative effect as the contribution of the Proposed Development will equate to the 'no change' situation.

5.5 In addition, cumulative landscape and visual effects can arise in four reasonably distinctive ways:

- **Simultaneously / in combination**, where two or more solar schemes/ other infrastructure are seen together at the same time from the same viewpoint in the same field of view. The effects of an extension of an existing development or the positioning of a new development such that it would give rise to an extended or/and intensified impression of the development in the landscape as seen from fixed locations.
- **In succession** – where two or more developments are present in views from the same location but cannot be seen in the same field of view and the observer has to turn to see them.
- **In sequence** – where two or more developments are not seen from the same viewpoint, even if the observer turns around to extend his/her perception of the surrounding landscape. The receptor has to move to another location to see cumulative developments. The frequency of occurrence greatly depends on factors like distance to developments, distance to another viewpoint and speed of travel.
- **Perceived** – where the observer is unable or unwilling to gain a view of another development but is aware of its presence.

5.6 Definitions of cumulative magnitude of change are applied in order that the process of assessment is made clear. These are listed in Table 11 below.

<b>Table 11, Cumulative magnitude of change</b>	
Magnitude of Change	Definition
<b>HIGH</b>	The addition of the Proposed Development will make an immediately apparent contribution to the cumulative situation in a landscape receptor or view.
<b>MEDIUM</b>	The addition of the Proposed Development makes a notable contribution to the cumulative situation, and its cumulative addition is readily apparent.
<b>LOW</b>	The addition of the Proposed Development will make a minor contribution to the overall cumulative situation, and its cumulative addition is only slightly apparent.
<b>NEGLECTIBLE</b>	The addition of the Proposed Development will make a negligible contribution to the cumulative situation and its addition equates to a 'no change' situation.

Significance of cumulative effects

5.7 The objective of the cumulative assessment is to determine whether any effects that the Proposed Development will have on views and landscape character receptors when seen or perceived in conjunction with other existing and proposed sites will be significant or not significant. A significant cumulative effect will occur where the addition of the Proposed Development to other existing and proposed solar developments, and other identified infrastructure, will result in a landscape character

or view that is defined by the presence of more than one solar scheme farm, exacerbates the adverse effects of other infrastructure identified for the purpose of the cumulative assessment, and is characterised primarily by solar schemes and/or other energy related infrastructure so that other patterns and components are no longer definitive. If the solar scheme itself is assessed to have a significant effect on a landscape character receptor or view, it does not necessarily follow that the cumulative effect will also be significant. If the joint effect of the two or more solar schemes / other infrastructure does not result in the perception of a solar farm-defined landscape, the cumulative effect will be not significant, even if the effect of the Proposed Development itself is significant.

**6. SIGNIFICANCE OF LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL EFFECTS**

- 6.1 The likely significance of effects is dependent on all of the factors considered in the sensitivity and the magnitude of change upon the relevant landscape and visual receptors. These factors are assimilated to assess whether or not the proposed development will have a likely significant or not significant effect. The variables considered in the evaluation of the sensitivity and the magnitude of change are reviewed holistically to inform the professional judgement of significance.
- 6.2 A likely **significant** effect will occur where the combination of the variables results in the proposed development having a definitive effect on the view. A **not significant** effect will occur where the appearance of the proposed development is not definitive, and the effect continues to be defined principally by its baseline condition.
- 6.3 Within Table 12 below, the major effects highlighted in grey are considered to be significant in terms of the EIA Regulations. It should be noted that whilst an individual effect may be significant, it does not necessarily follow that the proposed development would be unacceptable in the planning balance. The cross referencing of the sensitivity and magnitude of change on the landscape and visual receptor determines the significance of effect as shown in Table 12:

<b>Table 12, Significance of landscape and visual effects</b>				
		<b>Sensitivity</b>		
		<b>HIGH</b>	<b>MEDIUM</b>	<b>LOW</b>
<b>Magnitude of Change</b>	<b>HIGH</b>	Major	Major	Moderate
	<b>MEDIUM</b>	Major	Moderate	Minor
	<b>LOW</b>	Moderate	Minor	Minor
	<b>NEGLIGIBLE</b>	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible

**7. TYPICAL DESCRIPTORS OF LANDSCAPE EFFECTS**

7.1 The typical descriptors of the landscape effects are detailed within Table 12:

<b>Table 12, Typical Descriptors of Landscape Effects</b>	
<b>MAJOR BENEFICIAL</b>	<p>Typically, the landscape resource has a high sensitivity with the proposals representing a high beneficial magnitude of change and/or the proposed changes would:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- enhance the character (including value) of the landscape;</li> <li>- enhance the restoration of characteristic features and elements lost as a result of changes from inappropriate management or development;</li> <li>- enable a sense of place to be enhanced.</li> </ul>
<b>MODERATE BENEFICIAL</b>	<p>Typically, the landscape resource has a medium sensitivity with the proposals representing a medium beneficial magnitude of change and/or the proposed changes would:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- enhance the character (including value) of the landscape;</li> <li>- enable the restoration of characteristic features and elements partially lost or diminished as a result of changes from inappropriate management or development;</li> <li>- enable a sense of place to be restored.</li> </ul>
<b>MINOR BENEFICIAL</b>	<p>Typically, the landscape resource has a low sensitivity with the proposals representing a low beneficial magnitude of change and/or the proposed changes would:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- complement the character (including value) of the landscape;</li> <li>- maintain or enhance characteristic features or elements;</li> <li>- enable some sense of place to be restored.</li> </ul>
<b>NEGLIGIBLE NEUTRAL</b>	<p>Typically, the proposed changes would (on balance) maintain the character (including value) of the landscape and would:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- be in keeping with landscape character and blend in with characteristic features and elements;</li> <li>- Enable a sense of place to be maintained.</li> </ul>
<b>NO CHANGE / NEUTRAL</b>	<p>The proposed changes would not be visible and there would be no discernible change to landscape character.</p>
<b>MINOR ADVERSE</b>	<p>Typically, the landscape resource has a low sensitivity with the proposal representing a low adverse magnitude of change and/or the proposed changes would:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- not quite fit the character (including value) of the landscape;</li> <li>- be a variance with characteristic features and elements;</li> <li>- detract from sense of place.</li> </ul>
<b>MODERATE ADVERSE</b>	<p>Typically, the landscape resource has a medium sensitivity with the proposals representing a medium adverse magnitude of change and/or the proposed changes would:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- conflict with the character (including value) of the landscape;</li> <li>- have an adverse effect on characteristic features or elements;</li> <li>- diminish a sense of place.</li> </ul>

<p><b>MAJOR ADVERSE</b></p>	<p>Typically, the landscape resource has a high sensitivity with the proposals representing a high adverse magnitude of change and/or the proposed changes would:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- be at variance with the character (including value) of the landscape;</li> <li>- degrade or diminish the integrity of a range of characteristic features and elements or cause them to be lost;</li> <li>- change a sense of place.</li> </ul>
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**8. TYPICAL DESCRIPTORS OF VISUAL EFFECTS**

8.1 The typical descriptors of the visual effects are detailed within Table 13:

<p><b>Table 13, Typical Descriptors of Visual Effects</b></p>	
<p><b>MAJOR BENEFICIAL</b></p>	<p>Typically, the visual receptor is of high sensitivity with the proposals representing a high magnitude of change and/or the proposals would result in a major improvement in the view.</p>
<p><b>MODERATE BENEFICIAL</b></p>	<p>Typically, the visual receptor is of medium sensitivity with the proposals representing a medium magnitude of change and/or the proposals would result in a clear improvement in the view.</p>
<p><b>MINOR BENEFICIAL</b></p>	<p>Typically, the visual receptor is of low sensitivity with the proposals representing a low magnitude of change and/or the proposals would result in a slight improvement in the view.</p>
<p><b>NEGLIGIBLE NEUTRAL</b></p>	<p>Typically, the proposed changes would be in keeping with, and would maintain, the existing view or where (on balance) the proposed changes would maintain the quality of the view (which may include adverse effects which are offset by beneficial effects for the same receptor) or due to distance from the receptor, the proposed change would be barely perceptible to the naked eye.</p>
<p><b>NO CHANGE/ NEUTRAL</b></p>	<p>The proposed changes would not be visible and there would be no change to the view.</p>
<p><b>MINOR ADVERSE</b></p>	<p>Typically, the visual receptor is of low sensitivity with the proposals representing a low magnitude of change and/or the proposals would result in a slight deterioration in the view.</p>
<p><b>MODERATE ADVERSE</b></p>	<p>Typically, the visual receptor is of medium sensitivity with the proposals representing a medium magnitude of change and/or the proposals would result in a clear deterioration in the view.</p>
<p><b>MAJOR ADVERSE</b></p>	<p>Typically, the visual receptor is of high sensitivity with the proposals representing a high magnitude of change and/or the proposals would result in a major deterioration in the view.</p>

**9. NATURE OF EFFECTS**

- 9.1 GLVIA3 includes an entry that states "effects can be described as positive or negative (or in some cases neutral) in their consequences for views and visual amenity."<sup>11</sup> GLVIA3 does not, however, state how negative or positive effects should be assessed, and this therefore becomes a matter of professional judgement supported by site specific justification within the LVIA. Due to inconsistencies with the assessment of negative or positive effects a precautionary approach is applied to this LVIA which assumes that all landscape and visual effects are considered to be negative or adverse unless otherwise stated.

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<sup>11</sup> Para 6.29, Page 113, GLVIA 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition



Town & Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended)  
Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004

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