

# Appendix K Landscape and Visual Assessment Methodology

## Method for assessing landscape effects

The formation of judgements regarding the significance of landscape effects requires consideration of the nature of the landscape receptors (sensitivity) and the nature of the effects on those receptors (magnitude).

### Assessing Sensitivity

In accordance with GLVIA3, the sensitivity of landscape receptors is arrived at by assessing their susceptibility to the type of change proposed and then combining this judgement with the value of the landscape receptor.

### Value




Landscape value is determined with reference to the relative importance, quality and condition that is attached to different landscapes as set out in published landscape character assessments (including LANDMAP), and as confirmed during fieldwork and site visits.




In a policy context, the usual basis for recognising certain important landscapes is via application of local or national landscape designations. A landscape can nonetheless be valued by different communities for many different reasons without any formal designation.

The assessment of landscape quality (condition) is based on the physical state of the landscape and its intactness from visual, functional and ecological perspectives. It also reflects the state of repair of individual features and elements that make up the character in any one place.

Indicators of higher and lower value used to inform the judgement of value in this assessment are set out in order of priority in the table below:

Table 1: Indicators of landscape value

Factor	Indicators of lower landscape value		Indicators of higher landscape value
Landscape Designations/ Scenic Quality	There are no areas of landscape which are designated for their scenic quality or landscape value.		Areas designated at a national level such as AONB and National Parks which are designated for their scenic quality or there are important landscape features with national policy protection.
Rarity	Characteristic features and qualities present are common.		Includes characteristic features and qualities that are unique, exceptionally uncommon or the best example.
Condition / Quality / Integrity	There are no important landscape features which are designated and there is a high level of detracting features. Overall there is a low quality and lack of local distinctiveness.		There are important landscape features with national policy protection and there is little in the way of detracting features. Overall there is a high quality and prominent elements that contribute to local distinctiveness which are iconic nationally and internationally. Characteristic features are in good condition and consistent throughout the area.

Factor	Indicators of lower landscape value		Indicators of higher landscape value
Recreation	There is little opportunity for public access and enjoyment of the countryside.		There is a high focus on recreation with high accessibility and enjoyment of the countryside. There is a good functional network of public rights of way (which can include national trails and cycle routes), open access land, and attractions such as local nature reserves.
Conservation Interests	There are few areas designated for their conservation interests.		Areas designated at international or national level, which are designated for their biodiversity or historic importance, such as SSSI, SPA, SAC, National Nature Reserves, Scheduled Monuments and Registered Parks and Gardens.
Cultural Associations	There is no to slight cultural connection with artists and/or literature of local interest		There is a strong cultural connection with artists and/or literature of national interest

The criteria for judgements on value of receptors are recorded as outstanding, high, moderate and low according to Table 2. These are derived from the LANDMAP Methodology 2016 to coincide with the published evaluations for LANDMAP Aspect areas.

Table 2: Definitions of landscape value

Value	Typical Criteria
Outstanding	<p>Landscapes designated at a national level such as Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), National Parks, Heritage Coast, and/or important landscape features with national policy protection.</p> <p>Landscapes that have national significance for recreation, conservation interests and cultural associations as set out against the criteria in Table 1 are also important considerations.</p>
High	<p>Landscapes covered by a local authority designation or important features of designated landscapes, and/or important landscape features with regional or district significance.</p> <p>Landscapes that have a regional or local significance for recreation, conservation interests and cultural associations as set out against the criteria in Table 1 are also important considerations.</p>
Moderate	<p>A landscape with no formal designation but which is valued at a community level.</p> <p>And/or landscapes which have a local community significance as set out against the criteria in Table 1.</p>
Low	<p>A landscape with few characteristic features intact, highly fragmented or spoilt by large scale, inharmonious development. Very little local character with a weak sense of place.</p>

## Susceptibility

Susceptibility to change refers to the degree to which a particular landscape feature or character area is able to accommodate the type of change being proposed without significant effects on its components, key characteristics or overall character.

The assessment of susceptibility focuses on the landscape’s ability to accommodate built development including the multi-story buildings up to 16 storeys in height of industrial and commercial nature, railway station, large surface car park and access routes, and other associated features, such as green infrastructure.

Landscapes which are designated at a national level are likely to be accorded the highest value, however it does not necessarily follow that such landscapes have a high susceptibility to all types of change. There may be a complex relationship between the value of the landscape and its susceptibility to change in the context of the type of scheme or change proposed and so the rationale for judgement is clearly set out for each receptor based on the principles set out in Tables 1 – 3.

Indicators of higher and lower susceptibility used to inform the judgement of susceptibility in this assessment are set out in Table 3.

Table 3: Indicators of landscape susceptibility to industrial and commercial development.

Factor	Indicators of lower landscape susceptibility		Indicators of higher landscape susceptibility
Landform	Smooth, regular and convex, or flat and uniform areas.	↔	Distinctive, dramatic or rugged landform features such as coastal clifftops, or areas with strong topographical variety.
Land cover	Simple, uncluttered landscapes with sweeping lines and extensive areas of consistent ground cover such as brownfield sites or arable land.	↔	Complex, irregular or intimate landscape patterns, where naturalistic land cover and/or semi-natural habitats are more prominent.
Scale	Large scale landscape, typically open, which lacks 'human-scale' features like trees and hedges.	↔	Small scale landscape with 'human-scale' landscape features, such as trees and hedges.
Skyline	Landscapes that do not form a distinctive skyline or backdrop.	↔	Open uninterrupted skylines which are a distinctive feature.
Prominent landscape features	Landscapes which have few visual foci.	↔	Landscapes with strong visual features and focal points, such as distinctive landforms or man-made landmarks such as hilltop monuments.
Human influences	Landscapes characterised by overt man-made structures or land uses and/or the presence of road or rail infrastructure.	↔	Landscapes that lack human influence (naturalistic landscape) or which are more traditional settled and farmed landscapes with a strong rural character.
Vertical infrastructure	Landscapes which are already affected by vertical built structures such as communication masts or other pylons/towers and other man-made features.	↔	Areas with no or limited vertical built structures, or areas which are affected by visual clutter.
Perceptual aspects and tranquillity	Vibrant / active landscape with over man-made features, and presence of visual and audible factors.	↔	Remote and tranquil landscapes or areas that provide opportunities to experience a sense of relative wildness or perceived naturalness.

Criteria for judgements on susceptibility of receptors are recorded as high, medium and low and consider the ability of the landscape to accommodate the different elements of the proposed development, as set out in Table 4 below.

Table 4: Susceptibility of landscape receptors

Landscape Susceptibility	Typical Criteria
High	The landscape receptor is less able to accommodate commercial development without undue negative effects for landscape character. Attributes that make up the character of the landscape offer limited opportunities for accommodating tall buildings but some opportunities for accommodating a railway station, large car park, access routes and green infrastructure.
Medium	The landscape receptor has some ability to accommodate tall buildings without undue negative effect on the character of the landscape. It is more able to accommodate smaller buildings (up to six storeys) without significant change. Attributes that make up the character of the landscape offer some opportunity for accommodating a railway station and large car park and is more resilient to being changed by and access routes and green infrastructure.
Low	The landscape receptor is more able to accommodate tall buildings without undue negative effect on the character of the landscape. Attributes that make up the character of the landscape are resilient to being changed and robust to accommodate changes caused by the railway station, large car park, access routes and green infrastructure.

The landscape receptors value and susceptibility are assessed in conjunction to give an overall assessment of sensitivity.

## Sensitivity

Judgements on the value of the receptor and its susceptibility to the type of change proposed will be combined to give its overall sensitivity to change and reported as either high, medium or low, as set out in Table 5, below:

Table 5: Sensitivity of landscape receptor

Sensitivity	Typical Criteria
High	Landscapes that are nationally or internationally designated for landscape value such as World Heritage Site, National Park, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), or Heritage Coast. Key characteristics of landscape are very vulnerable to change and are unable to accommodate development without significant character change; thresholds for significant change are very low. Development conflicts directly with and would dominate landscape character or the objectives of the area's management plan or reason for designation.
Medium	Highly valued local landscape designation such as AGLV or Special Landscape Area. Key characteristics of landscape are susceptible to change but with some ability to absorb development in some situations without significant character change; thresholds for significant change are intermediate.
Low	An undesignated and relatively robust landscape, possibly with some locally valued features. Key characteristics of landscape are resilient to change and are able to absorb development in many situations without significant character change; thresholds for significant change are high.

## Assessing Magnitude of change

The landscape assessment compares the constituent parts and overall character of the existing landscape with likely changes that would result from the construction of the proposed development. It verbally quantifies the degree of change in terms of size or scale, geographical extent of the change and its duration and reversibility.

### Size and Scale

The extent to which the constituent characteristics of the landscape will be lost or gained, and/or changed as a result of the proposed development. Of particular importance is the degree of contrast or integration of proposed elements with the existing or remaining features or characteristics of the landscape that may detract from or add to the 'key characteristics' of the landscape.

In this assessment size and scale are described as being large, medium, small and imperceptible.

Table 6: Scale of Landscape Change

Size/Scale	Definition
Large	Loss of landscape elements and features or addition of new ones which result in obvious changes to landscape characteristics.
Medium	Loss of landscape elements and features or addition of new ones which result in discernible and distinct changes to landscape characteristics.
Small	A perceptible but small change to landscape characteristics as a result of the loss of landscape elements and features or addition of new ones.
Imperceptible	A barely perceptible/imperceptible change to landscape character and characteristics.

## Geographical extent

The geographical extent is the area over which the likely proposed changes will take place, for instance:

- site specific and immediate site setting;
- landscape character area wide; or
- spanning several distinct landscape character areas.

For the purposes of this assessment geographical extent is described as where the changes are:

- perceived only locally, with limited effects at a site specific and immediate site setting level only, or perceived indirectly from small areas of a neighbouring character area (small extent);
- where changes are perceived at a landscape character area wide or across a wider area or perceived indirectly across a considerable amount or all of a neighbouring character area (medium extent); or
- where changes have a widespread influence on perception of the landscape and perceived across a wide area, such as several distinct landscape character areas (large extent).

## Duration

Duration is reported as:

- Short-term temporary construction effects during the 8-year construction phase, 2021-2029 (including any standard construction mitigation measures);
- Medium-term operational effects which would occur between completion in the winter of the first year of operation (2023) until the fifteenth year of operation (2038) before landscape mitigation would have fully established (without mitigation, but taking into account measures designed into the proposed development to reduce effects at source); and
- Long-term residual effects with mitigation from the summer of the 15th year after opening (2038), in accordance with GLVI3. This allows the assessment to take account of the mitigating effect of the proposed landscape mitigation once established.

Longer term effects will likely result in higher overall effects.

## Reversibility

Reversibility describes how easily an effect can be restored back to similar conditions to those observed in the baseline state. Effects are reported as reversible, partially reversible or not reversible. The timeframe in which the change is expected to be reversed is also outlined, for example within a generation<sup>1</sup>. Effects arising from the presence of construction traffic will cease at the end of construction and are therefore classed as 'reversible', while restoration of a landscape to something similar to, but not the same as the baseline, may be recorded as 'partially reversible'. The presence or removal of built structures or large-scale earthworks would be difficult to wholly restore back to similar

<sup>1</sup> Commonly accepted as 30 years: the average period between the birth of parents and the birth of their offspring.  
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conditions to baseline, are not likely to be reversed in the long term and are therefore classed as ‘not reversible’.

## Magnitude of change

The nature of the effect on each landscape receptor (magnitude) is reported in terms of its size and scale, geographical extent, duration and reversibility.

Magnitude of the change to existing landscape character and features is assessed in accordance with the criteria set out in Table 7 and is described as high, medium, low and negligible, with the criteria being applied to both positive and negative effects.

Table 7: Magnitude of Change to the Landscape

Magnitude	Typical Criteria
Major	The proposed development will cause either a major improvement or deterioration of one or more key elements/features/characteristics of the landscape, typically over a large area including much of a character area or possibly spanning several character areas. Introducing elements that may be considered to be largely uncharacteristic, dominant or which substantially strengthen the landscape character. Effects are likely to be long or medium term and irreversible or only partly reversible.
Moderate	A prominent change causing a deterioration or improvement to the characteristic elements of a landscape, resulting in a partial change to the landscape characteristics. Change would typically be to the site and its immediate setting or may influence a small part of a landscape character area. Change will normally be short to medium term and irreversible or partly reversible.
Minor	The proposed development will cause a noticeable improvement or deterioration to one or more characteristics of the landscape causing changes to the character of the landscape at a site level and/or immediate surroundings. Change will be localised and often (partially) reversible.
Negligible	The proposed development mostly fits with the existing landscape character or does not change the characteristics or perception of a very localised area. Any effects would be barely perceptible over a relatively short term and often reversible.

## Assessment of significance of effect

The significance of effect of the individual aspects set out above (susceptibility, value, size and shape, geographical extent, duration and reversibility) were considered together to form an overall judgement for each identified effect. This evaluation is informed by professional judgements and using the appropriate guidance provided in GLVIA3. For transparency, judgements are explained using text and not by using a numerical or formal weighting system or matrix.

### Level of effect

For each receptor, the sensitivity of the receptor is combined with magnitude of effect to give an overall judgement of the significance of the impact as set out in Diagram 2 below and defined in Table 8.

For the purpose of this assessment, large and moderate effects are judged as significant.

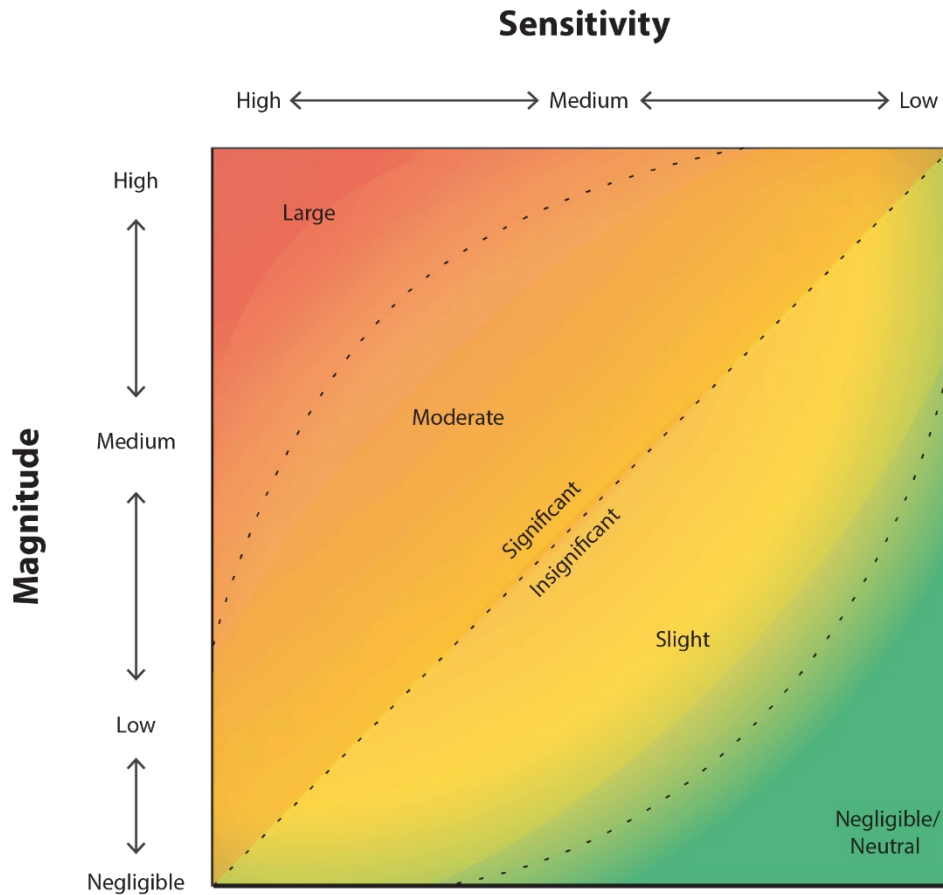


Diagram 2: Matrix used as guidance in combining judgements on sensitivity and magnitude of change to determine the significance of Landscape and Visual Effects.

Table 8: Level of effect

Level of effect	Definition
Large	<p>These effects are generally, but not exclusively, associated with sites or features of international or national importance that are likely to experience dominant detrimental or beneficial changes of medium to high magnitude leading to long-term irreversible loss or enhancement of resource integrity. However, a high magnitude of change to a site or feature of local importance may also enter this category.</p> <p>The proposed development will cause substantial degradation or enhancement of the landscape characteristics or features.</p> <p>These effects are key factors in the decision-making process.</p>
Moderate	<p>These effects are generally, but not exclusively, associated with sites or features of regional or local importance that are likely to experience detrimental or beneficial changes of moderate magnitude, often leading to irreversible or partially reversible long- or medium-term loss or enhancement of resource integrity.</p> <p>The proposed development will cause noticeable degradation or enhancement of the landscape characteristics or elements.</p> <p>These effects are material factors in the decision-making process. These effects are important in influencing the subsequent design of the project.</p>

<b>Level of effect</b>	<b>Definition</b>
Slight	<p>The proposed development will cause perceivable degradation or enhancements of low to medium magnitude to landscape characteristics or elements of local importance.</p> <p>These adverse effects may be raised as local factors.</p> <p>They are unlikely to be critical in the decision-making process but are used in optimising the design of the project.</p>
Negligible / Neutral	<p>The proposed development will cause barely perceptible degradation or enhancement of the landscape characteristics or elements. Beneficial and adverse effects on the same receptor balance each other out, such that there is no overall beneficial or adverse effect.</p>



## Method for assessing visual effects

The purpose of describing the baseline visual resource is to identify the most important sensitive visual receptors around the site which have views to or across the proposed development. A visual receptor is essentially any person who may experience visual change or whose visual amenity may be affected as a result of the proposed development.

### Sensitivity

In accordance with GLVIA3, the sensitivity of visual receptors is arrived at by assessing their susceptibility to the type of change proposed and then combining this judgement with the value of the viewers experience or value of the view in question.

### Value

Value is derived from: evaluation of a receptor's activity, location and context; the relationship of a receptor to planning designations; the existence of documentation and interpretation relating to particular views, and of the popularity or frequency of use expressed through the viewpoints appearance in published literature such as guide books or on tourist maps.

Judgements on value of views are recorded as of national value, local value and community value – as set out in Table 9 below.

Table 9: Definitions of visual value

Value	Typical Criteria
National Value	Views identified in the national planning policy or national landscape character assessment. Designed views recorded in citations for historic parks and gardens or views from historic landscape features (e.g. scheduled monuments). Views from National Trails (Wales Coast Path), Long Distance Trails, 'Recreational Routes', National Cycle Network (NCN), used in guide books to the UK, or marked on OS maps (as a blue viewpoint symbol).
Local Value	Views identified in local designation documents or local authority landscape/townscape assessments. Views recorded as of importance in Conservation Area Appraisals. Views from the district's PRoW (that are not National Trails, 'Recreational Routes' or NCN).
Community Value	Views that are not documented as important in national or local documents but nevertheless are valued at a community level. This might include views from local green spaces, informal local footpaths or roads.

### Susceptibility to change

The susceptibility of the receptor to changes in views is derived from evaluation of the expectations and occupation or activity of the viewer and the extent to which their attention may be focused on the view or their visual amenity. This is recorded as high, medium, or low, as set out in Table 10 below.

Table 10: Visual Receptor Susceptibility

Susceptibility	Receptor group
High	Communities where views contribute to the landscape setting enjoyed by residents; people engaged in outdoor recreation (including users of public rights of way (PRoW) and National Cycle Routes whose interest is likely to be focussed on the landscape); visitors to heritage assets or other attractions where views of surroundings are an important contributor to experience.

Susceptibility	Receptor group
Medium	Travellers on road, rail or other transport routes, or people at their place of work which may have some focus on the landscape.
Low	People engaged in outdoor sport or recreation which does not involve or depend upon appreciation of views of the landscape; people at their place of work whose attention is not on their surroundings.

## Sensitivity

Judgements on the value of the receptor and its susceptibility to the type of change proposed will be combined to give its overall sensitivity to change and reported as either high, medium or low, as set out in Table 11, below:

Table 11: Visual Receptor Sensitivity

Sensitivity	Typical Criteria
High	Views from within internationally and nationally designated high-quality landscapes (National Parks, AONB Areas of Great Landscape Value), parks or gardens listed in the National Gardens Register, Grade I and II* listed buildings and their visual settings. Views from well used public rights of way often known to and used by people from beyond the local area where the attractive nature of the countryside is the main factor in the enjoyment of the experience, such as National Trails, Long Distance Routes or National Cycle Routes. Views from small communities (typically groups of 10 or so dwellings). Viewers have a medium to high susceptibility to changes in views.
Medium	Views from within medium quality non-designated but locally important landscapes, outdoor sports or recreation (where the landscape is not a significant factor in the enjoyment of the sport). Views from locally valued public rights of way often passing through rural landscapes. Views from passenger trains, or people within cars on local roads. Views from some isolated communities, which are typically smaller groups of dwellings (fewer than 10). Viewers have a low to moderate susceptibility to changes in views.
Low	Views from within medium-low quality non-designated but potentially locally valued landscapes. Views from less well used public rights of way which pass through less attractive landscapes or townscape and are not used specifically for enjoyment of the scenery. Views from or near to motorways, main roads, or business premises. Viewers have a low susceptibility to changes in their views.

## Assessing magnitude of change

The visual assessment compares the quality of the existing view with that which would result from the construction of the proposed development and then verbally quantifies the degree of change.

The magnitude of change to the current (baseline) visual environment depends on a combination of factors:

- The size and scale of change in the view;
- The proximity of the viewpoint to visible elements of the development;
- The extent and composition of the view (e.g. degree of existing screening, partial, glimpsed or unobstructed views, fleeting or constant nature of view);
- The degree of contrast or integration of proposed elements with the existing or remaining features or characteristics of the receiving landscape that may detract from or add to its amenity;

- The relative direct or oblique angle of the view in relation to the receptor; and
- The duration and reversibility of effect.

Both converter station building options (Option 1 and 2) have been considered with whichever option is deemed the ‘worst-case’ scenario being assessed for each viewpoint or visual receptor.

## Size and Scale

The extent to which the visual resource or the composition of the view is altered, including the appearance of new or the removal of existing features in the view. Of particular concern is the degree of contrast or integration of proposed elements with the existing or remaining features of the view that may detract from or add to the visual quality of the view.

In this assessment size and scale are described as being large, medium, small or imperceptible, as set out in Table 12.

Table 12: Scale of Landscape Change

Size/Scale	Definition
Large	Large change in view, perhaps where the proposed development is in close proximity, in a direct line of vision, affecting a substantial part of the view, or providing contrast with the existing view.
Medium	Clearly perceptible change in view, perhaps where the proposed development is relatively close but at an oblique angle or further away in the direct line of vision, creating a noticeable change to baseline conditions.
Small	Small change in view, perhaps where the proposed development is at a distance or oblique angle, or where there is little change to baseline conditions.
Imperceptible	A barely perceptible or imperceptible change in the view.

## Geographical extent

The geographical area over which the changes would be visible from the receptor, for example:

- where there are only a few isolated locations from which the proposed development could be glimpsed, or where changes would be experienced by few people (small extent);
- where similar changes could be seen at several locations, or changes would be perceived by a moderate number of people (medium extent); or
- where changes could have a widespread influence on similar views or changes that would be experienced by a large number of people (large extent).

## Duration

Duration is reported as:

- Short-term temporary construction effects during the 4-year construction phase, 2021-2025 (including any standard construction mitigation measures);
- Medium-term operational effects which would occur between completion in the winter of the first year of operation (2023) until the fifteenth year of operation (2038) before landscape mitigation would have fully established (without mitigation, but taking into account measures designed into the proposed development to reduce effects at source); and
- Long-term residual effects with mitigation from the summer of the 15th year after opening (2038), in accordance with GLVI3. This allows the assessment to take account of the mitigating effect of the proposed landscape mitigation once established.

Longer term effects will likely result in higher overall effects.

## Reversibility

Reversibility describes how easily an effect can be restored back to similar conditions to those observed in the baseline state. Effects are reported as reversible, partially reversible or not reversible. The timeframe in which the change is expected to be reversed is also outlined, for example within a generation<sup>2</sup>. Effects arising from presence of construction traffic will cease at the end of construction and are therefore classed as ‘reversible’, while restoration of features within a view to something similar to but not the same as the baseline scene may be recorded as ‘partially reversible’. The presence or removal of built structures or large-scale earthworks are not easily restored to the baseline, creating a permanent visual change. This is unlikely to be reversed in the long term and is therefore classed as ‘not reversible’.

## Magnitude of change

Magnitude of the change to views and visual amenity is assessed in accordance with the criteria set out in Table 13 and is described as high, medium, low or negligible. These criteria can be applied to both positive and negative impacts.

The magnitude of change to visual amenity is assessed using the criteria given below at Table 13.

Table 13: Magnitude of Visual Change

Visual Impact Magnitude	Typical Criteria
Major	The proposed development will contrast with or largely alter key features or characteristics of the views, resulting in a dominant improvement or deterioration of the view. These changes to often open and direct views may be medium or long-term and are likely to be irreversible or only partly reversible. New elements will occupy a large proportion of the view.
Moderate	The proposed development will be visually prominent within the view and will result in either a noticeable improvement or deterioration of the view. The change will be moderate in scale, contrast with the view and be medium term permanent, sometimes irreversible, or partly reversible.
Minor (noticeable)	Minor, often temporary and reversible alterations to the view that are small in scale or do not overtly contrast with the key features or characteristics of the view, such that post-development the existing view will be largely unchanged despite discernible or noticeable differences.
Negligible (barely perceptible change)	Minimal alteration to the features or characteristics of the existing view such that post-development there will be barely discernible changes, or no change to the view.

<sup>2</sup> Commonly accepted as 30 years: the average period between the birth of parents and the birth of their offspring.

## Assessment of Significance

### Levels of Effect

Table 14: Level of effect

Level of effect	Definition
Large	<p>These effects are generally, but not exclusively, associated with views of international or national importance that are likely to receive dominant detrimental or beneficial changes of high magnitude, leading to long term irreversible loss or enhancement of resource integrity. However, a high magnitude of change to a view or important visual feature of local importance may also enter this category.</p> <p>The proposed development will cause substantial degradation or enhancement of the existing view.</p> <p>These effects are key factors in the decision-making process.</p>
Moderate	<p>These effects are generally, but not exclusively, associated with views of regional or local importance that are likely to receive detrimental or beneficial changes of moderate magnitude. This often leads to irreversible, or partially reversible long- or medium-term loss or enhancement of resource integrity.</p> <p>The proposed development will cause noticeable degradation or enhancement of the view or key elements within the view.</p> <p>These effects are material factors in the decision-making process. These effects are important in influencing the subsequent design of the project.</p>
Slight	<p>The proposed development will cause degradation or enhancements of low magnitude to views of local importance.</p> <p>These adverse effects may be raised as local factors.</p> <p>They are unlikely to be critical in the decision-making process but are used in optimising the design of the project.</p>
Negligible / Neutral	<p>The proposed development will cause barely perceptible degradation or enhancement of the view.</p> <p>Beneficial and adverse effects on the same receptor balance each other out, such that there is no overall beneficial or adverse effect.</p>

## Statement of Significance

The significance of impacts is assessed using the appropriate national and international quality standards and professional judgement. For clarity and transparency, criteria have been used to attribute levels of significance. Broadly, significance is a function of the magnitude of the impact and the sensitivity of receptors. The reversibility and duration of the effect are also important considerations.

For each assessment factor the sensitivity of the effect is combined with magnitude to give an overall score for the significance of the impact as set out in Diagram 1 and defined in Table 15. The area highlighted in orange or red identifies effects assessed as having a level of moderate or greater which are considered to be significant. The yellow and green area identifies effects assessed to have a level of slight or less which are not considered to be significant.

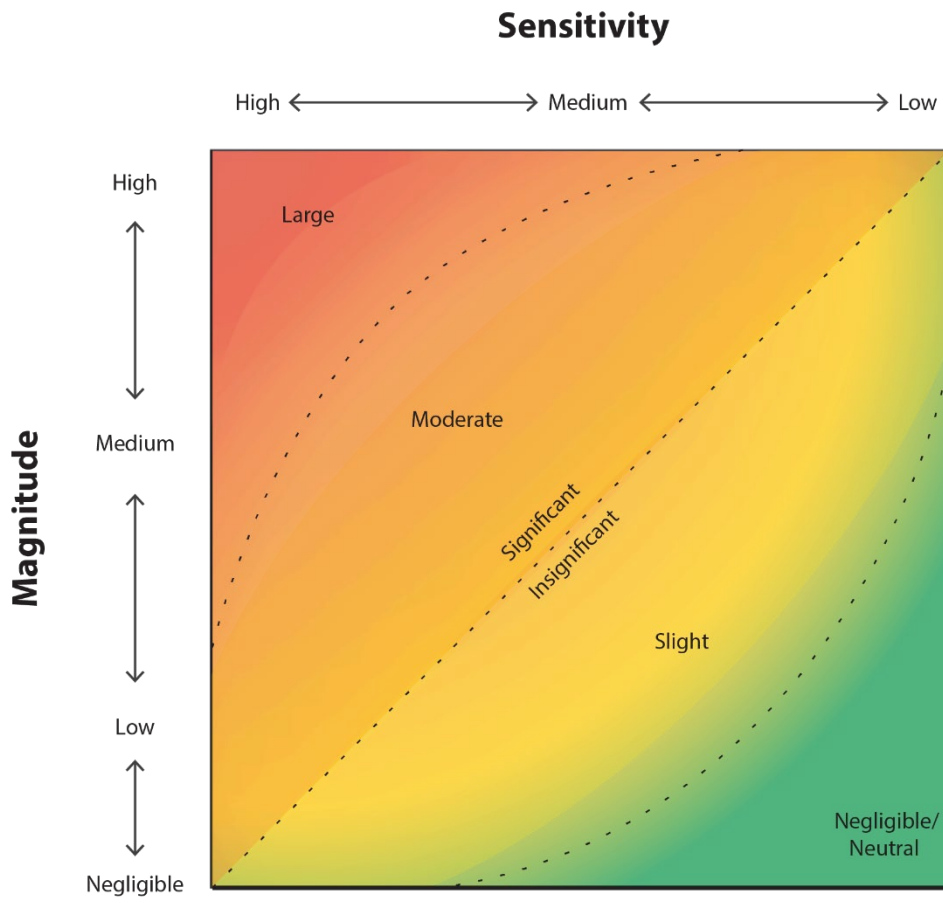


Diagram 3 Matrix used as guidance in combining judgements on sensitivity and magnitude of change to determine the significance of Landscape and Visual Effects.