

Glossary

Characterisation	The process of identifying areas of similar landscape character, classifying and mapping them and describing their character.
Characteristics	Elements, or combinations of elements, which make a contribution to distinctive landscape character.
Development	Any proposal that results in a change to the landscape and/or visual environment.
Elements	Individual parts which make up the landscape, such as, for example, trees, hedges and buildings.
Enhancement	Proposals that seek to improve the landscape resource and the visual amenity of the proposed development site and its wider setting, over and above its baseline condition.
Feature	Particularly prominent or eye-catching elements in the landscape, such as tree clumps, church towers or wooded skylines OR a particular aspect of the project proposal.
Heritage	The historic environment and especially valued assets and qualities such as buildings and cultural traditions.
Key Characteristics	The combinations of elements which are particularly important to the current character of the landscape and help to give an area its particularly distinctive sense of place.
Land use	What land is used for, based on broad categories of functional land cover such as urban and industrial use and the different types of agriculture and forestry.

- Landform** The shape and form of the land surface which has resulted from combinations of geology, geomorphology, slope, elevation and physical processes.
- Landscape** An area, as perceived by people, the character of which is the result of the action and interaction of natural and/or human factors.
- Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA)** A tool used to identify and assess the likely significance of the effects of change resulting from development both on the landscape as an environmental resource in its own right and on people's views and visual amenity.
- Landscape character** A distinctive, recognisable and consistent pattern of elements in the landscape that make one landscape different from another, rather than better or worse.
- Landscape Character Areas (LCAs)** These are single unique areas which are the discrete geographical areas of a particular landscape type.
- Landscape Character Assessment (LCA)** The process of identifying and describing variation in the character of the landscape, and using this information to assist in managing change in the landscape. It seeks to identify and explain the unique combination of features and elements that make landscapes distinctive. The process results in the production of the Landscape Character Assessment
- Landscape Character Type (LCT)** These are distinctive types of landscape that are relatively homogeneous in character. They are generic in nature in that they may occur in different areas in different /parts of the country, but wherever they occur they share broadly similar combinations of geology, topography, drainage

patterns, vegetation and historical land use and settlement pattern, and perceptual and aesthetic attributes.

Landscape effects	Effects on the landscape as a resource in its own right.
Landscape quality	A measure of the physical state of the landscape. It may include the extent to which typical character is represented in individual areas., the intactness of the landscape and condition of individual elements.
Landscape receptors	Defined aspects of the landscape resource that have the potential to be affected by a proposal.
Landscape strategy	The overall vision and objectives for what the landscape should be like in the future, and what is thought to be desirable for a particular landscape type or area as a whole, usually expressed in formally adopted plans and programmes or related documents.
Magnitude	A term that combines judgements about the size and scale of the effect, the extent of the area over which it occurs, whether it is reversible or irreversible and whether it is short or long term in duration.
Sensitivity	A term applied to specific receptors, combining judgements of the susceptibility of the receptor to the specific type of change or development proposed and the value related to that receptor.
Significance	A measure of the importance or gravity of the environmental effect, defined by significance criteria specific to the environmental topic.
Visual amenity	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.

Visual effects Effects on specific views and on the general visual amenity experienced by people.

Visual receptor Individuals and/or defined groups of people who have the potential to be affected by a proposal.

Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) A map, usually digitally produced, showing areas of land within which a development is theoretically visible.