

Growing Baldock

Environmental Statement Addendum Volume 1: Text
Chapter 7: Landscape and Visual



February 2026

Urban&Civic

Hertfordshire

7.1 INTRODUCTION

- 7.1.1 This chapter has been prepared by Bradley Murphy Design (BMD) and reviews the revisions to the parameters for the Proposed Development in relation to the potential for any changes to landscape and visual effects reported in the original ES, and the requests for additional information in respect of landscape and visual effects under Regulation 25 of the EIA Regulations.
- 7.1.2 This addendum should be read alongside the assessment within Chapter 7 of the Environmental Statement (ES) submitted in October 2025.
- 7.1.3 This LVIA Addendum responds to comments and issues raised in the Landscape Consultation Response dated 6th November 2025, provided by Ryan Mills of Planscape Consultants (on behalf of North Herts Council), including a narrative on whether any change is required in LVIA judgements (reported in Chapter 7 of the 2025 ES, for the scheme at that stage), as a result of the consultation response.
- 7.1.4 This LVIA Addendum assesses the likely changes in impacts and effects, reported as a result of the changes that have been made to the Proposed Development as a result of consultation responses provided by North Herts Council (NHC) and consultees. The assessment reported in this addendum is made in this context and with reference to the updated Parameter Plan (UAC092-002 Rev R).
- 7.1.5 The following technical appendices remain unchanged for this LVIA Addendum and reference should be made to those appended to the 2025:ES:
- Technical Appendix 7.1: Glossary of Terms
 - Technical Appendix 7.2: LVIA Methodology
 - Technical Appendix 7.3: Planning Policy and Guidance
 - Technical Appendix 7.4: LVIA Supporting Figures
 - Technical Appendix 7.5: Viewpoint Photographs - Winter
 - Technical Appendix 7.6: Viewpoint Photographs – Summer
 - Technical Appendix 7.7: AVR Viewpoint Wirelines
 - Technical Appendix 7.8: Schedule of Likely Landscape Effects
 - Technical Appendix 7.9: Schedule of Likely Visual Effects

7.2 RESPONSE TO REGULATION 25 REQUEST

7.2.1 The table below summarises the Regulation 25 requests for additional information and the key issues raised by consultees, in relation to landscape and visual issues, along with setting out how the chapter responds.

Table 7.1: Regulation 25 Requests Summary

Commentary from Reg. 25 Request	Response from Applicant
Consultee: Planscape Landscape Date Received: 06.11.2025 Response Summarised: The LVIA concludes that all landscape receptors at both local and borough scale will experience Minor Adverse or less effects at Year 0, reducing to Negligible Adverse or Beneficial at Year 15. We do not agree with these judgements. For example, for LCA 224: North Baldock Chalk Uplands, the LVIA states that the scale of change is low because the development affects only a small proportion of the character area. This approach understates the localised intensity and significance of change around Baldock's northern edge. As set out in LITGN-2024-01-GLVIA3-N&C paragraph 3(3): <i>"When taking account of geographic extent and duration, care should be taken to ensure that the resulting magnitude of effect judgement is not understated. The focus should be on what would be affected and where, not restricted to the proportion of a landscape character area or designated area affected."</i> In this case, the affected area represents one of the most visually sensitive and defining parts of the Baldock Chalk Uplands, forming the transition between the town and open countryside. The degree of change from open arable fields to a substantial built extension, combined with the loss of rural skyline and alteration to settlement setting, represents a higher magnitude of change than currently stated. On this basis, it is considered that the LVIA underestimates the magnitude and	BMD respectfully disagree with the Landscape Officer's response and stand by our professional judgement regarding the magnitude of impact and effects on the landscape character of the Site and wider landscape, both at borough and local scale (LCA 224 North Baldock Chalk Uplands). The area of landscape affected geographically for North Baldock Chalk Uplands Area 224 in terms of scale is the immediate setting of the Site and would only affect proportionally a small part of the overall LCA, with the wider character area remaining unaffected. Whilst the North Hertfordshire and Stevenage Landscape Character Assessment (2011) does not provide a scale for North Baldock Chalk Uplands Area 224 (shown in red) it is evident from the insert map below that the LCA is larger than Baldock and Letchworth settlements which combined are at least over 1800 hectares. With the Site at 220 hectares the scale of change to North Baldock Chalk Uplands Area LCA 224 remains proportionally a small part overall of the LCA. 

significance of effects on landscape character, particularly during construction and at Year 0, when landform modification and the introduction of new built form will fundamentally alter the existing character. Whilst in the long term green space and associated planting will assist in softening views and establishing a defensible northern edge, the early and medium-term effects on landscape character should be regarded as more adverse.	In which case, the LVIA assesses the impact to this part of the landscape by breaking the site itself into SIX parts (BA1, BA2, BA3, BA10, Walls Field and the Urban Open Land). This provides detail on respective effects across the various areas of this landscape, set out in LVIA Appendix 7.8, describing and acknowledging the localised effects. It is not considered appropriate to overstate or double count the effects in this part of the landscape, by inferring these would then be carried on to the wider LCA. Overall the long term magnitude of change and effect on the landscape character at local and borough level at Year 15, post mitigation establishment results in Negligible Adverse or Beneficial effects.
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7.3 UPDATE TO BASELINE CONDITIONS / ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY

- 7.3.1 No changes to the baseline that were not accounted for in the original ES Chapter 7. The baseline conditions as set out in Section 7.4 of Chapter 7 of the ES remain unchanged.
- 7.3.2 No changes to the assessment methodology have been made. The LVIA assessment methodology as set out in Section 7.3 of ES Chapter 7 remains unchanged.

7.4 ASSESSMENT OF SCHEME AMENDMENTS

7.4.1 The minor scheme amendments, as reflected on the updated Parameter Plan (UAC092-002 Rev R) can be summarised as follows:

- The primary site access moved south to northern edge of SuDS corridor, with primary street realigned to the junction with bus route;
- Addition of a further pedestrian access point into the site from North Road;
- Addition of greenway spur up to Millers Lane and to connect to new crossing and main junction.

7.4.2 Overall, the scheme amendments to the parameter plan do not alter the reported impacts on landscape and visual receptors, and all effects identified in the 2025 LVIA ES Chapter remain unchanged.

7.5 MITIGATION MEASURES

7.5.1 The Mitigation as set out in Section 7.6 of Chapter 7 of the ES remains unchanged.

7.6 RESIDUAL EFFECTS

Construction Stage

7.6.1 No changes to the effects reported in the original outline ES chapter are anticipated.

Post-Completion Stage

7.6.2 No changes to the effects reported in the original outline ES chapter are anticipated.