

Growing Baldock

Environmental Statement Volume 2: Figures & Appendices

Chapter 7: Landscape and Visual

Appendix 7.1 Glossary of Terms

Technical Appendix 7.1 : LVIA Glossary of terms

Term	Definition
Baseline	Also referred to as the 'baseline situation', this term describes the existing nature of the landscape and the visual environment within the study area at a fixed point in time, as well as any changes likely to occur independently of the Proposed Development, including the legislative and planning context and any relevant published guidance.
Construction	Construction, also referred to as the construction phase, refers to the all activity on and offsite required to implement the Proposed Development. The construction phase is considered to commence with the first activity on site, for example the creation of site access or site clearance works, and ends with demobilisation.
Demobilisation	This term refers to the completion and the removal of physical and manpower resources from a construction site at the completion of the construction phase.
Designated Landscape	Area(s) of land identified as being of importance at international, national or local levels, either defined by statute or identified in development plan or other documents.
Development	Any proposal that results in a change to the landscape and / or visual environment.
Direct effect	An effect that is directly attributable to the Proposed Development.
Effect	The nature of the change(s) likely to occur as a result of a particular impact.
Element	Individual parts which make up the landscape, for example trees, hedgerows or buildings.
Enabling works	Enabling works cover those activities and preparations required to make a site construction ready and include the creation of access routes, and installation of security fencing, hoarding, signage and site compound(s). Enabling works are considered to occur during the construction phase.
Enhancement	Measures that seek to improve the landscape of the site and / or its wider setting beyond its baseline condition.
Feature	Prominent or eye-catching elements in the landscape, such as wooded skylines, parkland trees, church spires, or a particular aspect of the Proposed Development.
Impact	This term describes the action being undertaken, for example construction of the Proposed Development or the removal of landscape features.
Indirect effect	An effect that results from the Proposed Development as a consequence of a direct effect(s), often occurring away from the site,

Term	Definition
	or as a result of a sequence of interrelationships or a complex pathway.
Key characteristic	The combination 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 cover	This term relates to the surface cover of the land and is usually expressed in terms of vegetation cover or lack thereof.
Land use	This term refers to what land is used for and is based on broad categories such as urban, industrial, agriculture or forestry.
Landform	The shape and form of the land surface resulting from combinations of geology, geomorphology, slope, elevation and physical processes.
Landscape character	A distinct, recognisable and consistent pattern of elements in the landscape that makes one landscape different from another, rather than better or worse.
Landscape Character Area (LCA)	Single unique areas which are discreet geographical areas of a particular landscape type.
Landscape Character Assessment	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.
Landscape Character Type (LCT)	Distinct types of landscape that are relatively homogenous in character. They are generic in nature in that they may occur 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 quality / condition	A measure of the physical state of the landscape. It may include the extent to which the character typical of the area is represented in individual locations, the intactness of the landscape and the condition of individual elements.
Landscape receptor	The constituent features and elements of the landscape, its specific or perceptual qualities and its character considered in relation to the Proposed Development.
Landscape resource	This term refers to the character and all features, elements and qualities of the landscape, which is defined by the European Landscape Convention (ELC) as follows: “ <i>Landscape is an area, as perceived by people, whose character is the result of the action and interaction of natural and / or human factors</i> ” (Council of Europe, 2000). The landscape resource concerns all types of landscape within the study area and covers “ <i>natural, rural, urban and peri-urban areas. It includes land, inland water and marine areas. It concerns landscapes that might be considered outstanding as well as everyday</i> ”

Term	Definition
	<i>or degrade landscapes</i> " (Article 2 of the ELC, Council of Europe, 2000).
(The) Landscape scheme	The landscape design for the Proposed Development, incorporating all landscape mitigation and enhancement measures.
Landscape value	The relative value that is attached to landscapes by society, which may vary depending on the nature of the stakeholder.
Magnitude of change	A judgement regarding the size and scale of the change, the geographical extent of the area that would be affected and the duration of the effect and its reversibility.
Mitigation	This term refers to those measures that are proposed to prevent / avoid, reduce and where possible offset any adverse effects.
Open Access Land	Land where the public have access either by legal right or informal agreement, within which certain activities may be restricted.
Operation	Also referred to as completion, this term describes the operation phase of the completed development and is considered to commence at the end of the construction phase, after demobilisation. The duration of the operation phase is dependent on the nature of the Proposed Development.
Parameters	A limit or boundary which defines the scope of a particular process or activity.
Perception / perceptible	A term used to describe the sensory (i.e. received through human senses) with the cognitive (i.e. knowledge and understanding gained from many sources and experiences).
Permissive Paths	A path over which there is no formal right of access (i.e. not a public right of way) whose use by the public is allowed by the landowner.
(The) Proposed Development	The Proposed Development, also referred to as development proposals, is the 'fixed' or 'frozen' design of the scheme for which planning consent is sought.
Public Right of Way	In England and Wales public rights of way are routes on which the public have a legally protected right to pass. These include footpaths, bridleways, byways open to all traffic and restricted byways.
Receptor	See 'Landscape Receptor' and 'Visual Receptor'.
Sensitivity (of a receptor)	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 relating to that receptor.
Significance of effect	A measure of the importance or gravity of the environmental effect, defined by significance criteria specific to the environmental topic.

Term	Definition
Stakeholder	The whole constituency of individuals and groups who have an interest in a subject, place or landscape.
Study area	The area within which it is considered that changes arising as a result of the Proposed Development would result in the highest and / or most important direct or indirect effects.
Topography	Local detail or specific features of landform.
Tranquil / tranquillity	A state of calm and quietude associated with peace and considered to be an important asset of landscape.
Viewpoint	The location from which photographs that describe specific or representative views toward the Proposed Development are captured.
Visual amenity	The overall pleasantness of the views people enjoy of their surroundings, which provides the setting or backdrop for the enjoyment of peoples activities.
Visual envelope	The approximate geographical area(s) from within which full or partial views of the Proposed Development would be possible.
Visual receptor	Individuals and / or defined groups of people who have the potential to be affected by the Proposed Development.
Worst case	Reasonable prediction of the scenario that would result in the highest level of effect(s).
Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV)	Those areas of the landscape that theoretically are visually connected with the Proposed Development.