Alternative Temporary Park and Ride and Heavy Goods Vehicle Marshalling Area - Environmental Statement Volume 4 Appendix B.1: LVIA Methodology

United Utilities Water Limited

Haweswater Aqueduct Resilience Programme

Planning Application Document RVBC–P&R-APP-RP-002 / ES-TA-B-1
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Acronyms and abbreviations

GLVIA3	Landscape Institute and Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (2013). Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, Third Edition. Oxfordshire, Routledge.
LVIA	Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment
NCA	National Character Area
TIN	Technical Information Note

1. Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment Methodology

1.1 Overview

1) This appendix sets out the methodology used to determine likely significant effects within the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) presented in Volume 2 of the Environmental Statement.

2) The LVIA identifies and assesses the potential effects of the Alternative Facility during the construction phase, operation phase year 1 and year 5, and the decommissioning phase on the landscape and visual resource within a defined study area.

3) The assessment of landscape effects addresses the effects of change and development on the landscape as a resource (i.e. landscape receptors such as landscape character areas). The assessment is primarily concerned with the extent to which the Alternative Facility would affect the elements that make up the landscape, the aesthetic and perceptual aspects of the landscape and its distinctive character. Landscapes vary considerably in character and quality and constitute a key component of the distinctiveness of any local area.

4) The assessment of visual effects addresses the effects of change and development on the views available to people and their visual amenity (i.e. visual receptors). It is primarily concerned with how the surroundings of individuals or groups of people may be specifically affected by changes in the content and character of views as a result of the change or loss of existing elements in the landscape and/or the introduction of new elements.

1.2 Guidance and Approach

5) This methodology has been developed in accordance with the following publications:

- Landscape Institute and Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (2013) Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, Third Edition (GLVIA3)[1]
- Natural England (2014) An Approach to Landscape Character Assessment[2].

6) The above guidance does not provide a prescriptive LVIA methodology and relies on practitioners to develop their own specific methodologies based on the characteristics of the proposed development and the landscape in which it is located, combined with professional judgement and experience. The assessment therefore draws on previous experience of similar projects, professional judgement and knowledge of the local landscape within which the Alternative Facility would be delivered.

7) It should also be noted that GLVIA3 promotes an LVIA that is proportional to the scale and nature of the proposals and the likely landscape and visual effects.

[1] Landscape Institute and Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (2013). Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment Third Edition (GLVIA3).

[2] Natural England (2014). An Approach to Landscape Character Assessment. [Online] Available at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/691184/landscape-character-assessment.pdf [Accessed: October 2024].

1.3 Overview of the Assessment Process

8) The assessment process comprises the following activities:

- Establishment of the assessment study area
- A review and consideration of relevant guidance and policy
- Establishment of the baseline conditions within the study area
- Establishment of baseline night-time lighting conditions (a description of night-time baseline determined by a review of existing local lighting sources during the day including street lighting, residential lighting and commercial and industrial lighting sources)
- Identification of landscape and visual receptors
- Identification of the potential effects on landscape and visual receptors
- Identification of mitigation measures and iterative design changes in order to reduce and minimise potential impacts on both landscape and visual receptors. This includes the design and development of appropriate landscape mitigation proposals and contributions to a project-wide Environmental Masterplan
- An assessment of the residual effects on landscape and visual receptors following mitigation.

9) Further detail of these aspects of the assessment are discussed below.

1.4 Assessment Area

10) The landscape and visual assessment area (i.e. the study area) is determined by the extent to which the construction activity is likely to be visible from the surrounding landscape during the construction period and give rise to significant landscape and visual effects.

11) GLVIA3 advocates a proportional approach to LVIA, with the emphasis placed on the potential for significant effects. The likelihood of significant landscape and visual effects therefore diminishes with increasing distance from the proposed development.

12) Site appraisal work has illustrated that visibility would be principally concentrated within the surrounding landscape up to a distance of 2 km. Therefore, the detailed assessment area for landscape and visual receptors will extend up to a threshold of 2 km from the planning application boundary. Visibility may extend beyond this threshold; however, it is considered unlikely that the Alternative Facility would result in adverse effects on landscape and visual receptors beyond this distance due to the nature of the proposed development.

13) The assessment area includes the maximum extent of all landscape character areas which have the potential to be affected either directly or indirectly. Where applicable, long-distance views are also considered at certain locations where these are likely to result in significant effects. The extent of the assessment area was agreed with Ribble Valley Borough Council via email in October 2024.

1.5 Planning Policy and Guidance

14) The assessment, design proposals and mitigation measures are guided by relevant National Planning Policy Framework[3] policy and local planning policy. Planning policies and

[3] Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (2024). National Planning Policy Framework.

designations of relevance to the Alternative Facility are taken into consideration, for example in terms of assessing the value of receptors and identifying mitigation measures. An assessment of the Alternative Facility's compliance with adopted planning policy is included within the planning application deliverable RVBC–P&R-APP-RP-001 Planning, Design and Access Statement.

1.6 Baseline Conditions

15) In establishing the existing baseline conditions, the assessment includes a description and analysis of the existing landscape character and visual quality of the assessment area. This draws on available information considered during scoping and supplemented with field study to account for any environmental trends or new features.

16) Landscape character assessments are based on published information from local landscape character assessments (district and county level assessments) and Natural England's National Character Area (NCA) Profiles[4]. Where published information does not extend into urban areas, a townscape character assessment is undertaken by a landscape specialist following the Landscape Institute's Technical Information Note (TIN) 05/17[5].

17) Baseline field surveys were undertaken in October 2024 and December 2024 to verify the landscape and visual resource within the assessment area during early autumn and winter. Field notes and photographs recorded the existing landscape and visual environment during the most visually exposed period during the winter. The survey findings were recorded and compared against the autumn survey. Views of the Alternative Facility from properties and communities within the assessment area form the focus of the visual impact assessment. Visual receptors include locations associated with outdoor pursuits and activities, where a viewer's attention or interest is related to views and the landscape, and views which are incidental to a visitor's or user's day-to-day routine. These comprise residential properties; guests at hotels, visitors to heritage or tourist attractions; and travellers through the landscape (e.g. motorists, tourists, ramblers, and outdoor workers).

1.7 Identification of Receptors

1.7.1 Landscape

18) Landscape receptors may include landscape or townscape character areas; specific landscape character types or sub-types; and internationally, nationally or locally designated areas and features (e.g. National Parks, National Landscapes, Special Landscape Areas and Areas of Great Landscape Value).

19) For this assessment, landscape receptors include district level landscape and/or townscape character areas and types within the detailed assessment area. Where published information is to be used, a judgement has been made as to its accuracy and suitability.

20) The changes to constituent landscape features and elements/components of the landscape character areas, such as trees, woods, hedgerows, hedgerow trees, landform, field pattern and

[4] Natural England (2014). National Character Area profiles. [Online] Available at: https://nationalcharacterareas.co.uk/ [Accessed: October 2024].

[5] Landscape Institute (2017). Technical Information Note 05/17: Townscape Character Assessment. [Online] Available at: https://www.landscapeinstitute.org/technical-resource/townscape/ [Accessed: October 2024].

heritage assets, are considered in combination as part of the effects on landscape character and not as individual receptors. This proportionate approach is in line with GLVIA3.

1.7.2 Visual

21) GLVIA3 promotes an LVIA that is proportional to the scale and nature of the proposals and the likely landscape and visual effects. The visual impact assessment, therefore, does not identify effects on every individual receptor (i.e. a receptor-led assessment or complete receptor assessment). Instead, the visual baseline and assessment uses a series of representative viewpoints in line with GLVIA3 guidance. The number, location and density of representative viewpoints considered cover the range and locations where visual impacts could occur. Access to receptors and viewpoints to be assessed is restricted to publicly accessible areas.

22) The location of the representative viewpoints has been identified and agreed with local authority officers, as part of an agreed consultation process. This has taken into account the phase of work to be represented and the proposed locations.

23) All photography has been prepared in accordance with the Landscape Institute's Technical Guidance Note 06/19: Visual Representation of Development Proposals[6] and its supporting TINs.

1.8 Assessment of Landscape and Visual Effects

24) Assessing the significance of effect on identified landscape and visual receptors is a key part of the LVIA process that combines an evidence-based process with professional judgement. The assessment is a judgement based on a combination of receptor sensitivity and magnitude of effect. An illustrative guide to the process is shown in Image 1.1.

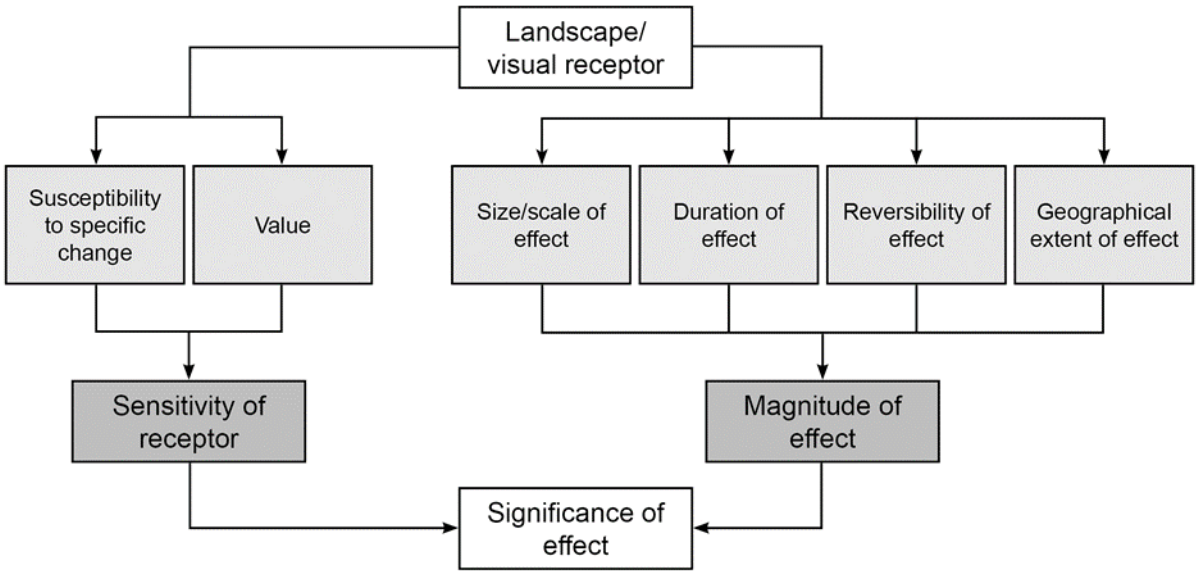

Image 1.1: Method for Assessing the Significance of Effect

[6] Landscape Institute (2019). Technical Guidance Note 06/19: Visual Representation of Development Proposals. [Online] Available at: https://www.landscapeinstitute.org/news/new-visual-representation-guidance-2019/ [Accessed: October 2024].

25) The overarching guidance in GLVIA3 is not prescriptive on the criteria to be used for assessing the significance of effect on landscape and visual receptors. The criteria set out below has therefore been developed based on professional judgement and best practice.

1.9 Assessment Stages

26) The assessment stages applied within this assessment are as follows:

- Construction – considers the construction impacts of the Alternative Facility. Assessments for each receptor are made during a period when construction activities are at their peak and therefore where impacts are likely to be greatest
- Opening Year – considers the operational impacts of the Alternative Facility on a winter's day during the first year before mitigation planting has begun to take effect
- Future Year – considers the operational impacts of the Alternative Facility on a summer's day in the fifth year after the opening year but taking mitigation into account such as the maturing of planting
- Decommissioning – considers the effects of removing the Alternative Facility and reinstatement to the site to its original use (agricultural fields).

1.10 Iterative Process and Mitigation

27) Mitigation measures are proposed in response to identified effects of the Alternative Facility on landscape and visual receptors. The mitigation measures aim to reduce the degree of change and therefore reduce the overall significance of effect resulting from the Alternative Facility.

28) Mitigation measures are incorporated into the design, as part of an iterative process, to avoid, reduce or offset adverse effects. Mitigation measures are identified by individual specialists and fed into the Proposed Environmental Masterplan RVBC–P&R-APP-DR-010, attached to the planning application.

29) The assessment of likely significant effects takes account of mitigation proposals developed as an integral part of the overall scheme design.

2. LVIA Assessment Criteria

30) The criteria for assessing the sensitivity of receptors, magnitude of effects and significance of effects is presented below.

31) The nature of landscape and visual effects may be beneficial or adverse. Beneficial effects are those that enhance and/or reinforce characteristics that are valued. Adverse effects are those that remove and/or undermine characteristics that are valued.

2.1 Evaluation of Sensitivity

32) Sensitivity is defined by GLVIA3 as '*the nature of the receptor likely to be affected*'. In accordance with GLVIA3, the assessment of landscape and visual sensitivity combines judgements on the value attached to that receptor and the susceptibility of the receptor to the specific type of development proposed.

33) Sensitivity is assessed on a three-point scale of High, Medium or Low. The application of these criteria is not formulaic, and the tables below only indicate general categories of sensitivity.

2.1.1 Landscape Sensitivity

34) For the purpose of this assessment, landscape susceptibility to change is defined as the ability of the landscape receptor to accommodate the proposed development without undue, negative consequences. Susceptibility of landscape receptors to change is assessed using the criteria detailed in Table 2.1 below.

Table 2.1: Landscape Susceptibility Criteria

Susceptibility	Criteria
High	Little ability to accommodate the proposed development without undue harm.
Medium	Some ability to accommodate the proposed development without undue harm.
Low	Substantial ability to accommodate the proposed development without undue harm.

35) GLVIA3 defines landscape value as '*the relative value that is attached to different landscapes by society*'. A review of existing designations (e.g. National Park, National Landscape) is usually the starting point in understanding value. Other areas of landscape, or individual elements of the landscape contributing to its character, may not be recognised by a formal designation, but may nevertheless have value. Table 2.2 sets out the relative importance of generic landscape designations and descriptions. The criteria in Table 2.2 are used along with professional judgement, to evaluate the overall landscape sensitivity.

Table 2.2: Criteria for Assessing Value of Landscape Designations

Examples of Designation	Description	Importance (Value)
World Heritage Site	Unique sites, features or areas of international importance with settings of very high quality.	International (High)
National Parks, National Landscapes, Registered Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest, Ancient Woodland, Scheduled Monuments, curtilage of Grade I, II and II* Listed Buildings	Sites, features or areas of national importance with settings of high quality.	National (High)

Examples of Designation	Description	Importance (Value)
Conservation Areas	Sites, features or areas of regional importance with intact character.	Regional/County (High/Medium)
Local Landscape Designations, e.g. Green Belt, protecting setting of higher value landscape designations, Tree Preservation Orders	Sites, features or areas of district importance.	District (Medium/Low)
Probably no designation, e.g. public space or local footpath	General countryside area valued at the local level.	Local (Medium/Low)

36) Table 2.3 sets out the criteria used to assess the sensitivity of landscape receptors. It incorporates the above assessment of value and susceptibility, along with professional judgement, to determine the overall landscape sensitivity.

Table 2.3: Landscape Sensitivity Criteria

Sensitivity	Criteria
High	Landscape elements of particularly distinctive character, which are highly valued and considered susceptible to relatively small changes.
Medium	Landscape of moderately valued characteristics considered reasonably tolerant of change. Some ability to accommodate the Alternative Facility without undue harm.
Low	Landscape of generally low valued characteristics considered potentially tolerant of substantial change.

2.1.2 Visual Sensitivity

37) The susceptibility of different visual receptors to changes in views and visual amenity is mainly a function of:

- The occupation or activity of people experiencing the view at particular locations
- The extent to which their attention or interest may therefore be focused on the views and the visual amenity they experience at particular locations.

38) Table 2.4 below (based on generic guidance in GLVIA3) is used to help evaluate the susceptibility of different types of receptors.

Table 2.4: Visual Susceptibility Criteria

Susceptibility	Receptor Type
High	▪ Residents ▪ People engaged in outdoor recreation, including users of Public Rights of Way (PRoWs), whose attention is likely to be focused on the landscape and on particular views. ▪ Visitors to heritage assets or other attractions where views of the surroundings are an important part of the experience. ▪ Communities where views contribute to the landscape setting and are enjoyed by residents. ▪ Transient users of scenic routes where awareness of views is likely to be particularly high.
Medium	▪ Transient users of road, rail or other transport routes where the appreciation of visual amenity is not the primary concern.
Low	▪ People engaged in outdoor sport or recreation, which does not involve appreciation of views. ▪ People at their place of work, education and worship whose attention may be focused on their activities and where the setting is not important.

39) The criteria in Table 2.5 below are used, along with professional judgement, to help determine the value of the views in relation to designations and helps to equate sensitivity to other factors, for example residential views.

Table 2.5: Visual Value Criteria

Value	Views from:
High	Viewpoints of national importance, or highly popular visitor attractions where the view forms an important part of the experience, or with important cultural associations. A view that may be identified in character area appraisals.
Medium	Viewpoints of regional/district importance or moderately popular visitor attractions where the view forms part of the experience, or with local cultural associations. A typical and/or representative view where neither discordant nor attractive features form a key part of the view.
Low	Viewpoints with no designations, not particularly popular/important as a viewpoint and with minimal or no cultural associations. Views where discordant or unattractive features are prevalent.

40) The sensitivity of visual receptors to changes in their views is evaluated in accordance with the criteria provided in Table 2.6, based on the receptor susceptibility to change and the value of views.

Table 2.6: Visual Sensitivity Criteria

Sensitivity	Criteria
High	Receptors where the changed view is of high value and importance and/or where the receptor will notice any change to visual amenity by reason of the nature of use and their expectations. Receptors where the view is important to users will be of high sensitivity, such as residential properties or PRoWs.
Medium	Receptors where the changed view is incidental, but not critical to amenity and/or the nature of the view, is not a primary consideration of the users (receptors where users are likely to spend time outside or participate in an activity looking at the view and industrial receptors that have offices with windows that take advantage of views).
Low	Receptors where the changed view is unimportant and/or users are not sensitive to change (outdoor receptors where users are unlikely to consider the views an important element of their usage of the site will generally be assessed to be of low sensitivity).

2.1.3 Evaluation of Magnitude of Effect

41) The magnitude of effect is defined by GLVIA3 as '*the nature of the effect likely to occur*'. It combines judgements on the size and scale of the effect; the geographical extent of the area over which it occurs; whether the effect is reversible or irreversible; and the duration of the effect.

42) The overall magnitude of effect is judged on individual merit rather than by a formulaic process but is guided by the criteria set out below.

2.1.3.1 Magnitude of Landscape Effects

43) The magnitude of landscape effect is assessed in terms of its size or scale, the geographical extent of the area that would be influenced, its duration and reversibility. This judgement takes into consideration the following factors:

Size and Scale

- The extent/proportion of landscape elements lost or added
- The contribution of that element to landscape character and the degree to which aesthetic/ perceptual aspects are altered

- Whether the change is likely to alter the key characteristics of the landscape, which are critical to its distinctive character.

Geographical Extent

- The geographical extent of landscape changes has considered how far reaching the changes would be at the following scales:
  - Within the immediate setting
  - Landscape character areas/types
  - At a larger scale, influencing several landscape character areas.

Duration and Reversibility

- Duration and reversibility of the changes has been categorised as follows:
  - Short-term/reversible – change that is reversible and would last up to five years
  - Medium-term/reversible – change that is theoretically reversible but would last for between five years and 10 years
  - Long-term/reversible – change that is theoretically reversible but would last for between 10 and 25 years
  - Permanent/irreversible – change that would last for 25 years or more, which is deemed as permanent or irreversible.

44) The criteria used to assess the size, scale and geographic extents of landscape effects will be based upon the amount of change that would occur as a result of the Alternative Facility, as described in Table 2.7 below.

Table 2.7: Magnitude of Landscape Effects

Magnitude	Criteria
Major	Substantial adverse or beneficial impact where the Alternative Facility would cause a significant change in the landscape character, e.g. notable change in landscape characteristics over an extensive area or very intensive change over a more limited area.
Moderate	Moderate adverse or beneficial impact where the Alternative Facility would cause a noticeable change in the landscape character, e.g. minor changes in landscape characteristics over a wide area or notable changes in a more limited area.
Minor	Minor adverse or beneficial impact in landscape characteristics over a wide area ranging to notable changes in a more limited area.
Negligible	Barely discernible change in the existing landscape character, e.g. minor imperceptible change in area or landscape components.
No change	No noticeable change or alteration of character or features or elements.

45) In accordance with GLVIA3, consideration will also be given to the duration and reversibility of landscape effects in the evaluation of magnitude.

2.1.3.2 Magnitude of Visual Effects

46) Evaluation of the magnitude of effect on visual receptors is carried out by considering the following factors:

Size and Scale

- The scale of the change in the view with respect to the loss or addition of features and changes in its composition, including the proportion of the receptor's available view affected by the development
- The degree of contrast or integration of any new features or changes in the landscape with the existing landscape elements and characteristics
- The nature of the view of the Alternative Facility, in terms of the relative amount of time over which it will be experienced and whether views will be full, partial or glimpsed.

Geographical extent

- The angle of view relative to the main activity of the receptor
- The distance of the viewpoint from the proposed Alternative Facility:
  - Short distance – up to 500 m from the proposed Alternative Facility
  - Middle distance – between 500 m and 1 km from the proposed Alternative Facility
  - Long distance/background –beyond 1 km of the proposed Alternative Facility
  - The extent of the area, including along a linear route, over which changes would be visible.

Duration and Reversibility

- Duration and reversibility of the changes has been categorised as follows:
  - Short-term/reversible – change that is reversible and would last up to five years
  - Medium-term/reversible – change that is theoretically reversible but would last for between five years and 10 years
  - Long-term/reversible – change that is theoretically reversible but would last for between 10 and 25 years
  - Permanent/irreversible – change that would last for 25 years or more, which is deemed as permanent or irreversible.

47) The criteria used to help determine the magnitude of visual effects are shown in Table 2.8.

Table 2.8: Magnitude of Visual Effects

Magnitude	Criteria
Major	Substantial adverse or beneficial impact where the Alternative Facility would cause a significant change in the view, e.g. the proposals dominate the view and fundamentally change its character and components.
Moderate	Moderate adverse or beneficial impact where the Alternative Facility would cause a noticeable change in the view, e.g. the proposals are noticeable in the view, affecting its character and altering some of its components and features.
Minor	Minor adverse or beneficial impact where the Alternative Facility would be perceptible but not alter the overall balance of features and elements that comprise the existing view, e.g. the proposals are noticeable in the view, but not affecting its character or altering its components and features.
Negligible	Adverse or beneficial impact where the Alternative Facility would cause a small or virtually imperceptible change in the view, e.g. the changes are only a minor element of the overall view that are likely to be missed by the casual observer.
No change	Barely discernible or no discernible change in the existing view, e.g. the changes are scarcely perceptible

48) Mitigation measures and standard construction and operational management practices are incorporated into the design and considered in the determination of the magnitude of effect.

2.1.3.3 Evaluation of Significance of Effect

49) The resulting sensitivity and magnitude assessments are applied together to determine the significance of effect on each landscape or visual receptor, as shown in the matrix in Table 2.9.

50) This matrix forms only a guide to the way that sensitivity and magnitude of effect give rise to a prediction of effects. The assessment of significance of effect relies on common sense, experience and professional judgement, supported by substantiated reasoning. The predicted effect therefore may not always fit with the matrix. For example, in assessing the significance of an effect, an assessor may consider changes of a relatively low magnitude to be highly significant if they relate to a highly sensitive (or 'important' or 'vulnerable') landscape or visual resource, while a high magnitude of effect on a less sensitive receptor may be deemed to be relatively less significant. The relationship between sensitivity and magnitude of impact is therefore not always linear.

Table 2.9: Significance of Effect Matrix

		Magnitude			
		Negligible	Minor	Moderate	Major
Sensitivity	Low	Negligible	Negligible/Slight	Slight/Moderate	Moderate
	Medium	Negligible/Slight	Slight	Moderate	Moderate/Major
	High	Slight	Slight/Moderate	Moderate/Major	Major

51) Effects are qualified as either 'adverse' or 'beneficial'. The significance of landscape and visual effects is assessed on a four-point scale of 'Major', 'Moderate', 'Slight' and 'Negligible', as set out below in Table 2.10, based on professional judgement and informed by GLVIA3. Neutral effects are those that would result in no change to landscape character or views.

Table 2.10: Criteria to Assess the Significance of Effect for Landscape and Visual Resources

Category	Landscape	Visual
Major beneficial effect – Significant	The Alternative Facility would enhance the character (including quality and value) of the landscape; enable the restoration of characteristic features and elements lost as a result of changes from inappropriate management or development; enable a sense of place to be enhanced.	The Alternative Facility would lead to a major improvement in a view from a highly sensitive receptor.
Moderate beneficial effect – Significant	The Alternative Facility would improve the character (including quality and value) of the landscape; enable the restoration of characteristic features and elements partially lost or diminished as a result of changes from inappropriate management or development; enable a sense of place to be restored.	The Alternative Facility would cause obvious improvement to a view from a receptor of medium sensitivity or a perceptible improvement to a view from a more sensitive receptor.
Slight beneficial effect	The Alternative Facility would complement the character (including quality and value) of the landscape; maintain or enhance characteristic features and elements; enable some sense of place to be restored.	The Alternative Facility would cause limited improvement to a view from a receptor of medium sensitivity or would cause greater improvement to a view from a receptor of low sensitivity.

Category	Landscape	Visual
Negligible effect	The Alternative Facility would maintain the character (including quality and value) of the landscape; blend in with characteristic features and elements; enable a sense of place to be retained.	The Alternative Facility would not affect the view or would maintain the characteristics of the view.
Slight adverse effect	The Alternative Facility would not quite fit the character (including quality and value) of the landscape; be at variance with characteristic features and elements; detract from a sense of place.	The Alternative Facility would cause limited deterioration to a view from a receptor of medium sensitivity or cause greater deterioration to a view from a receptor of low sensitivity.
Moderate adverse effect – Significant	The Alternative Facility would conflict with the character (including quality and value) of the landscape; have an adverse impact on characteristic features or elements; diminish a sense of place.	The Alternative Facility would cause obvious deterioration to a view from a receptor of medium sensitivity or perceptible damage to a view from a more sensitive receptor.
Major adverse effect – Significant	The Alternative Facility would be at considerable variance with the character (including quality and value) of the landscape; degrade or diminish the integrity of a range of characteristic features and elements; damage a sense of place.	The Alternative Facility would cause major deterioration to a view from a highly sensitive receptor and would constitute a major discordant element in the view.