LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE
ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING
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URBAN DESIGN

RANDALL THORP
CHARTERED LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS

Woodhouse Garden Suburb, Brighouse

Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment

Appendix 7.4 Methodology

September 2020

Prepared for:

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Project/ doc reference	776A
Document date	2020-03-18
Author	JF
Checker	SB
QM Status	Checked
Product Status	Issue

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1. LVIA process and objectives

Scoping

1.1. The LVIA scope, methodology and landscape and visual receptors were agreed with Calderdale Council on X.

Guidance

1.2. The LVIA is prepared in accordance with Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (GLVIA), Third Edition, 2013; Landscape Institute and the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment.

Process and objectives

1.3. GLVIA sets out the steps in assessing landscape effects in Figure 5.1 and the steps in assessing visual effects in Figure 6.1. In accordance with these steps the process will be as follows:

Establishing the landscape and visual baseline

- establish the landscape and visual context of the site, including where appropriate, reference to the built context (city, town, village or hamlets)
- establish the landscape components within the site along with any specific aesthetic or perceptual qualities of the site or views around the site which contribute to landscape character or visual amenity
- identify the landscape receptors (aspects of the landscape including character and physical features) and visual receptors (individuals and/or defined groups of people) which have the potential to be affected by the proposed change
- define the study area
- consider the value attached to the landscape

Describing the development and measures incorporated to mitigate potential effects

- describe aspects of the development which have potential to cause landscape/visual effects in the particular context, and the measures incorporated into the scheme to mitigate such effects

Identifying and describing the likely landscape and visual effects

- provide an assessment of the sensitivity of the landscape in its context, taking in to account the susceptibility of the landscape receptor to the proposed change and the value attached to the landscape receptor
- provide an assessment of the sensitivity of the identified visual receptors, taking in to account the susceptibility of the visual receptor to the proposed change and the value attached to the particular view
- to identify the potential landscape effects of the mitigated proposals (i.e. the scheme) at key stages of the scheme: i.e. during construction, at completion of the scheme; and at 15 years after the completion of landscape works. This latter stage will be

described as the residual landscape effect and will be summarised at the end of the assessment

- to identify the potential effects of the scheme on views and visual amenity at the same key stages identified above
- To assess the significance of the potential landscape effects and visual effects from public viewpoints, explaining clearly the reasoning behind the conclusions

2. Establishing the landscape and visual baseline

2.1. Baseline information on the landscape is gathered through a combination of desk studies and field surveys.

Desk study

2.2. The following documents have been reviewed as part of the desk study:

- National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (2019)
- Calderdale Unitary Development Plan (UDP) (2006)
- Emerging Calderdale Local Plan (2019)
- Calderdale District Landscape Character Assessment

2.3. In addition, desk studies include:

- review and analysis of landform, field and settlement patterns using Ordnance Survey mapping and public rights of way mapping
- review of landscape characteristics and landscape grain using aerial photographs
- review of available relevant site-specific technical reports, including ecology, arboriculture, and heritage reports
- review of local published literature (local guidebooks, tourism leaflets etc) which may indicate the importance of trails, views, or landscape areas

2.4. A computer-generated Zone of Theoretical Visibility has not been undertaken, *"this treats the world as bare earth and does not take account of potential screening by vegetation or buildings"* (GLVIA3, 2013). Due to the location of the site on the edge of existing settlement and the screening properties of the surrounding vegetation and built form, a manual approach to understanding visibility has been adopted in accordance with the recommendations of GLVIA3 (2013). Visual analysis has relied upon study of the existing topographical baseline and site observation taking in to account the existing terrain, vegetation and intervening development.

2.5. Photomontages will be undertaken in accordance with Landscape Institute Technical Guidance Note 06/19 Visual Representation of Development Proposals.

Field work

2.6. A site survey was carried out by experienced professionals on 24th March 2020.

2.7. The site survey has confirmed the following:

- the visual characteristics of the landscape
- the distribution and management of vegetation which affects site visibility
- the true extent of visibility of the site including the range of views of the site from publicly accessible locations such as Public Rights of Way (PRoW) and roads in the vicinity
- any evidence to indicate the popularity or level of use of public footpaths
- any evidence to indicate valued views and viewpoints (e.g viewpoints)

2.8. Photographic surveys have been undertaken to record views from readily accessible public viewpoints. A digital SLR camera (Nikkon D3300) with a 35mm fixed lens has been used with the camera hand held to obtain normal eye height. Photographs included in the assessment will be presented with the intention of aiding the understanding of the descriptive text. Where appropriate, frames will be joined together to create panoramas which are representative of normal forward vision with a horizontal field of view of 120 degrees, and which may be extended up to a maximum of 180 degrees. This complies with the Visual Representation of Development Proposals, Technical Guidance Note 06/19 in respect of Type 1, Annotated Viewpoint Photographs.

Identification of landscape and visual receptors

2.9. Landscape receptors include the character areas, the overall character of the locality as well as the landscape elements within the site.

2.10. The LVIA considers only publicly obtained views from public rights of way, public open spaces and roads.

Defining the study area

2.11. The study area as shown on **Figure 1** includes an area of at least 2km offset from the site boundary. This includes the settlement of Brighouse and the open areas to the east of the town which fall within the Landscape Character Area LCA K1: Coalfield Edge Urban Fringe Farmland (Thornton-Queensbury). The study area is relatively extensive because the topography is undulating and there are some long views across the landscape. However, the undulating topography, vegetation and built form will also prevent views of the site from a number of locations within the study area.

Establishing the value of the landscape

2.12. Landscape value is defined in GLVIA3 (para 5.19) as *"the relative value that is attached to different landscapes by society"*. Box 5.1 (GLVIA) lists a range of factors that are now generally agreed to help in valuing landscapes.

2.13. The value of the landscape is established taking in to account the landscape planning designations and the range of factors identified in box 5.1 of GLVIA.

3. Describing the development and measures to mitigate potential effects

3.1. The assessment is based on the Development Framework Plan submitted as part of the application and a Landscape Framework Plan. Illustrative material presented within the Design and Assess Statement and the Illustrative Masterplan provide contextual information.

3.2. The Development Framework Plan has been developed taking in to account the constraints and opportunities. Landscape mitigation has been part of an iterative process of project planning as it is most effective if considered as an integral part of the site layout and design in order to avoid, reduce or offset any adverse effects on the landscape or wider environment.

3.3. Where landscape features cannot be avoided and would be lost, compensation in the form of replacement or creation of other appropriate substitute features are proposed as deemed appropriate.

3.4. The Development Framework Plan delineates areas of proposed housing and commercial/community uses. Maximum height parameters for the built form are set out.

3.5. The Development Framework Plan shows areas of open space and green infrastructure. The minimum width of open space corridors along existing PRoW is set out.

3.6. Woodland structure planting is shown on the Landscape Framework Plan where appropriate. At initial completion of the proposed development the proposed woodland structure planting shown on the Landscape Framework Plan would not be fully established and would not have reached heights to provide effective screening. After 15 years the assumption will be that the trees would have reached heights of at least 8m.

4. Identifying and describing the likely landscape and visual effects

4.1. In line with GLVIA3, the assessment is based on consideration of the sensitivity of landscape character, landscape features, and views/viewers to the type of development being proposed, (i.e. – residential) and on the magnitude of change likely to occur. The sensitivity and magnitude are then considered together, and conclusions drawn on the likely effects on the landscape or on people's visual amenity.

4.2. For each landscape and visual receptor, a wide range of considerations are drawn together as indicated by **Diagrams 1 and 2**.

Diagram 1: Considerations contributing to establishing the significance of landscape effects.

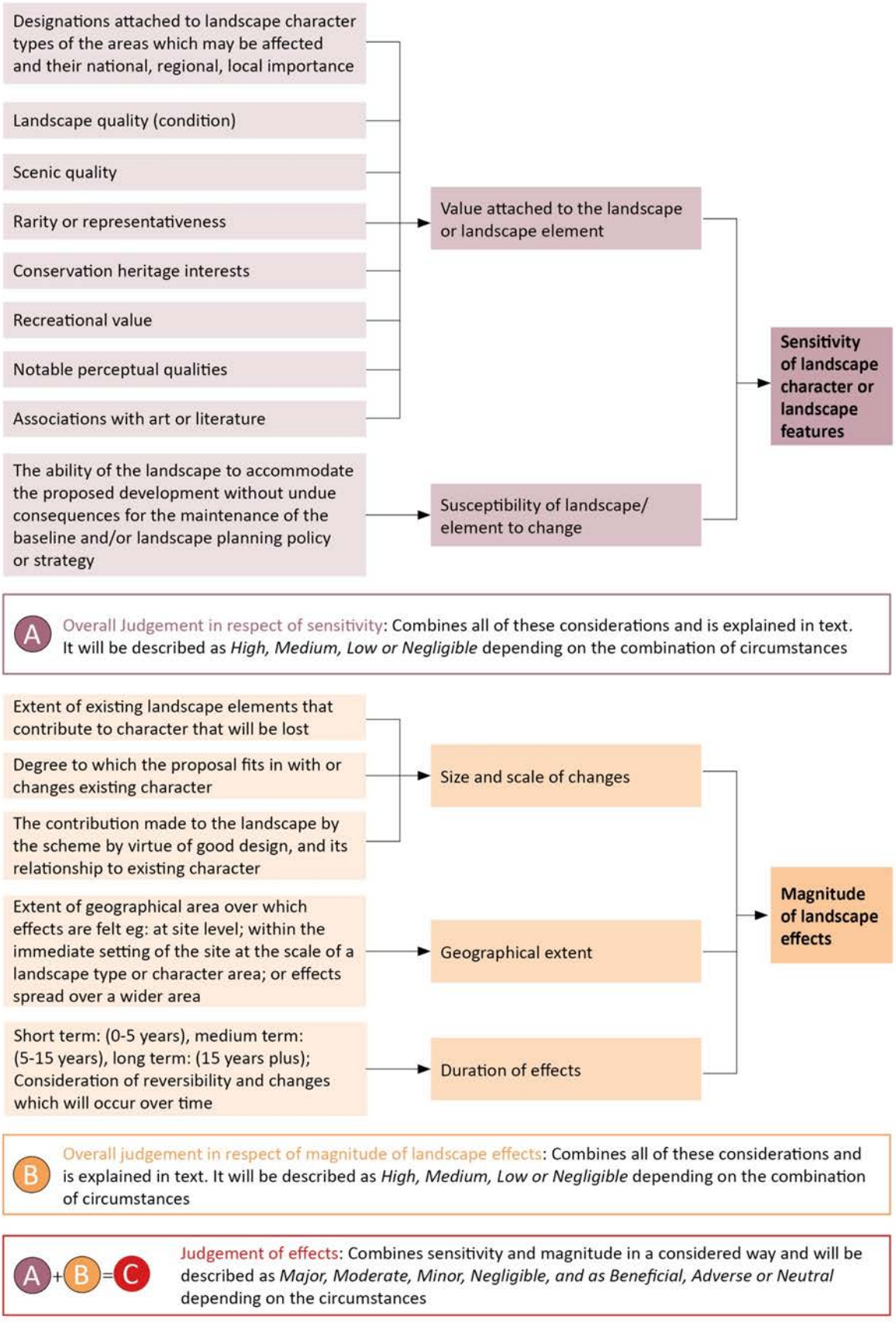
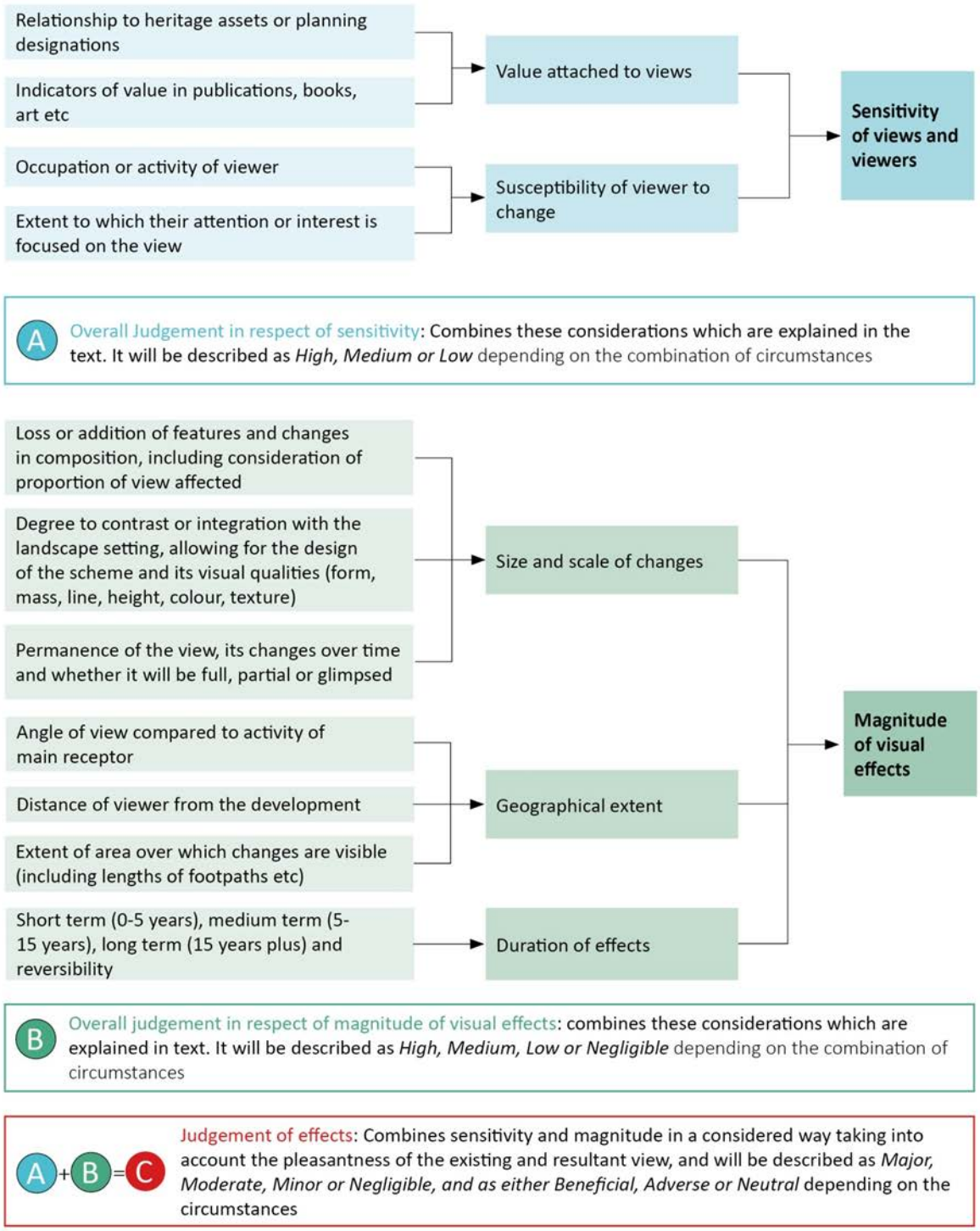


Diagram 2: Considerations contributing to establishing the significance of visual effects.

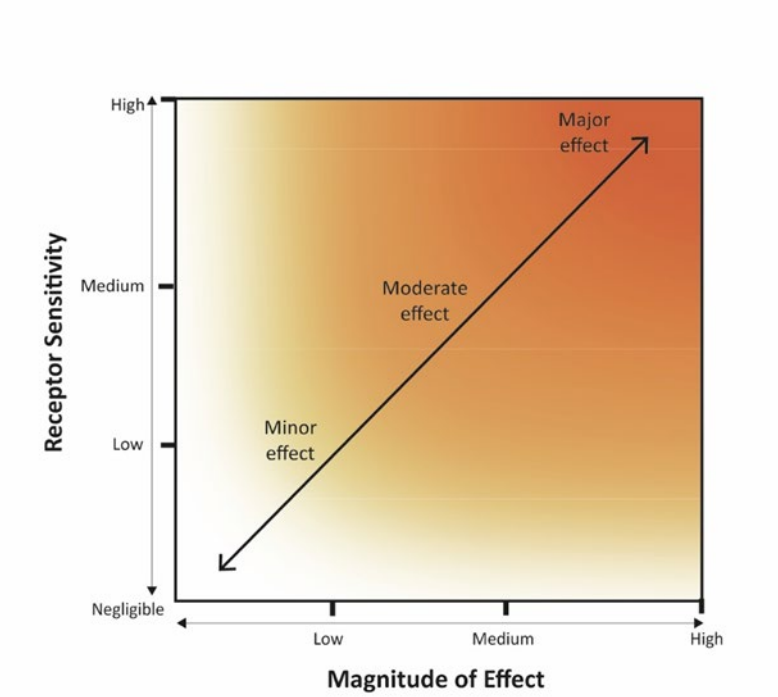


4.3. The effects of the proposed development on the landscape and visual receptors identified above are described as being Major, Moderate, Minor, Negligible or Neutral and either Adverse or Beneficial. The scale at which the effect will be felt is identified (i.e. at site level, within the immediate setting of the site, at the scale of a landscape character type or character area, effects spread over a wider area). Depending on the visual qualities of the

proposed development and its setting, Major or Moderate changes in the landscape or to views are not always judged to be significant. Minor or Negligible effects are not considered significant at any scale.

4.4. **Diagram 3** below indicates the general relationship between sensitivity and magnitude. However, this table is not applied in a prescriptive manner and professional judgement is used to assess the balance of the effect according to the individual circumstances.

Diagram 3: Indicative guide to relationship between sensitivity and magnitude



Assumptions and Limitations

4.5. The assessment is based on the Development Framework Plan and Illustrative Masterplan. Illustrative material presented within the Design and Assess Statement provides contextual information.

4.6. The assessment considers daytime effects. Night–time effects are not considered because the site is not located within an intrinsically dark landscape (settlement is a feature of the landscape within the study area) and the principal viewpoints are PRoW used in daylight hours. The EIA includes a separate lighting assessment.

4.7. The assessment considers effects during construction, at initial completion of development and 15 years post completion i.e. when landscape treatments have matured. For the purposes of this assessment the height of structural planting 15 years post planting is assumed to be at least 8m. The 15 year post planting assessment represents the residual effects.

4.8. Effects on residential receptors outside of public areas are not included in the assessment as private views are not protected by national planning guidance or planning policy and impacts on living conditions are generally considered through a separate Residential Visual Amenity Assessment (RVAA).

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