

Creag Dhubh to Dalmally 275kV Connection

Environmental Impact Assessment

Volume 4 | Appendix 8.1

Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment - Glossary

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Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment - Glossary

Terminology	Definition
Aesthetic Aspects	The key aspects of the landscape which contribute to its appearance (previously composition), such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Scale; ▪ Enclosure; ▪ Diversity; ▪ Texture; ▪ Form; ▪ Line; ▪ Contour; ▪ Balance; ▪ Movement; and ▪ Pattern.
Analysis (Landscape)	The process of breaking the landscape down into its component parts to understand how it is made up.
Analysis (Visual)	The process of identifying the nature of visibility in an area, which is determined through topographic analysis.
Assessment (Landscape)	An umbrella term for description, classification and analysis of landscape.
Baseline	The landscape and visual character of the study area as it exists at the commencement of the assessment process – i.e. prior to the development proposal under consideration.
Classification	A process of sorting the landscape into different types using selected criteria, but without attaching relative values to the different types of landscape.
Classified Landscape	Includes non-designated valued landscapes such as Gardens and Designed Landscapes and Wild Land Areas.
Constraints Map	Map showing the location of important resources and receptors that may form constraints to development.
Countryside	The rural environment and its associated communities (including the coast).
Cultural and Social Factors	The elements of the landscape which are the result of human activity, e.g.: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Land use management; ▪ Character of settlements and buildings; ▪ Pattern and type of fields and enclosures; ▪ Rights of way /footpaths; and ▪ Artistic/literary associations.
Cumulative Effects	Effects arising from the additional changes to the landscape or visual character caused by a development when seen in conjunction with other developments (associated with it or separate to it).
Digital Terrain Model (DTM)	Computer generated 3-dimensional model based on aerial survey of ground surface (e.g. Ordnance Survey Profile data). Often utilised as a basis for visibility modelling over large areas.
Digital Surface Model (DSM)	Computer generated 3-dimensional model based on aerial survey of ground surface, tree canopies, built structures etc.). Often utilised as a basis for visibility modelling where the effects of intervening structure and/or vegetation need to be incorporated.
Diversity	Where a variety of qualities or characteristics occur.
Effect	The result of an impact on a landscape or visual receptor.
Element	A component part of the landscape (e.g. roads, hedgerows, woods).
Enhancement	Landscape or visual improvement through restoration, reconstruction or creation.

Terminology	Definition
Environmental Fit	The relationship of a development to identified environmental opportunities and constraints in its setting.
Field Pattern	The pattern of hedges and walls that define fields in farmed landscapes.
Geographic Information System	Computerised data base of geographical information that can easily be updated and manipulated.
Key Characteristics	The elements of the landscape and/or their inter relationship which form the defining components of the landscape.
Impact	The change arising for a landscape or visual receptor as a result of some form of alteration to the baseline.
Indirect Impacts	Impacts on the environment, which are not a direct result of the development but are often produced away from it or as a result of a complex pathway. Sometimes referred to as secondary impacts.
Landcover	Combination of land use and vegetation that covers the land surface.
Landform	See Topography.
Landscape	Human perception of the land conditioned by knowledge and identity with a place.
Landscape Capacity	An area, as perceived by people, whose character is the result of the action and interaction of natural and/or human factors. The degree to which a particular landscape character type or area is capable of is able to accommodate change without unacceptable adverse effects on its character. Capacity is likely to vary according to the type and nature of the changes being proposed. The capacity of the landscape is derived from a combination of Landscape Character Sensitivity, Visual Sensitivity and Landscape Value.
Landscape Character	The distinctive and recognisable pattern of the key constituent elements and features of a landscape that makes it distinct from other landscapes and how this is perceived by people. It reflects particular combinations of geology, landform, soils, vegetation, land use and human settlement. It creates the particular sense of place in different areas of the landscape.
Landscape Character Type	A landscape type will have broadly similar patterns of geology, landform, soils, vegetation land use, settlement and field pattern discernible in maps and field survey records.
Landscape Fabric	Physical elements of the landscape or development site.
Landscape Factor	A circumstance or influence contributing to the impression of the landscape (e.g. scale, enclosure, elevation).
Landscape Feature	A prominent eye-catching element or landmark (e.g. church spire, wooded hilltop).
Landscape Impact	The change in the elements, characteristics, qualities and overall character of the landscape as a result of development.
Landscape Effect	The consequence of change in the elements, characteristics, qualities and overall character of the landscape as a result of development. These effects can be positive, neutral or negative.
Landscape Evaluation	The process of attaching value (non-monetary) to a particular landscape, usually by the application of previously agreed criteria, including consultation and third-party documents, for a particular purpose (for example, designation or in the context of an assessment).
Landscape Quality (or Condition)	Based on judgments about the physical state and condition of the landscape and about its intactness. Also relates to the state of repair of individual features and elements which make up character in any one place.
Landscape Resource	The combination of elements that contribute to landscape context, character and value.
Landscape Sensitivity (to a specific type of change)	The extent to which a landscape can accept change of a particular type and scale and is assessed in relation a particular type of development. Based on a combination of susceptibility and value.

Terminology	Definition
Landuse	The primary use of land, including both rural and urban activities.
Landscape Value	The relative value or importance attached to a landscape (often as a basis for designation or recognition), which expresses commonly held national or local perception of its quality, special qualities and/or scenic beauty, tranquillity or wildness and cultural associations.
Magnitude of landscape Impact	A measure of the amount of change to the landscape that would occur as a result of proposed development, generally based on the scale or degree of change to the landscape resource, the nature of the effect and its duration. This is based on a combination of largely quantifiable parameters, such as the distance to the proposed development, visible extent, degree of contrast with context, extent to which the development would be visible, and the duration of an impact.
Magnitude of Visual Impact	A measure of the amount of change to the visual context that would occur as a result of a proposed development. This is generally based on the scale of change to the view with respect to the loss or addition of features in the view and changes in its composition, including the proportion of the view that would be occupied by the proposed development; the degree of contrast or integration of any new features of changes in the landscape with the existing or remaining landscape elements and characteristics in terms of form, scale, mass, line, height, colour and texture; duration and nature of the change, whether temporary or permanent, transient or persistent, the angle of view in relation to the main activity of the receptor(s); distance of the viewpoint from the proposed development; and extent of the area over which the changes would be visible.
Methodology	The specific approach and techniques used for a given study.
Mitigation Measures	Measures including any process, activity or design process to avoid, reduce, remedy or compensate for adverse landscape and visual impacts of a development. Mitigation can also apply to the amelioration of existing adverse effects associated with existing developments/features in the landscape.
Natural Factors	Elements of the landscape that have not been altered by human activity, e.g. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Geology; ▪ Landform; and ▪ River and drainage pattern.
Perception (of Landscape):	The psychology of seeing and possibly attaching value or meaning to the landscape.
Receptor	Physical landscape resource, special interest or individual or group experiencing view liable to change as a result of the proposed development.
Receptor Location	Location occupied by identified receptors.
Residual Effects	Effect of development after mitigation proposals are taken into account.
Scoping	The process of identifying likely significant effects of a development on the environment – which may be carried out in a formal or informal way.
Significant Effect	An effect which is considered by the assessor to be “significant” in terms of the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2011 which require the identification of significant effects.
Transient View	A view which obtained momentarily, as part of a sequence of views, e.g. from a car travelling along a road.
Visual Amenity	Particular composition of landscape elements that contribute to a view, or views.
Visibility Analysis	The process of identifying theoretical (based on digital modelling) and/or actual predicted areas from where any given development may be seen.
Visual Effect	The consequence of change in the appearance of the landscape as a result of development, which may be beneficial or adverse.

Terminology	Definition
Viewshed	The extent of potential visibility to or from a specific area or feature.
Viewshadow	An area affording no visibility of the development due to the screening effect intervening structures, topography or vegetation.
Viewpoint Sensitivity	<p>The extent to which a view would be altered by change of a particular type and scale, assessed in relation to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Location and land use (receptor activity) at the viewpoint or context of the view; ▪ Landscape character and quality at the viewpoint; ▪ Landscape character and quality of the intervening landscape; and ▪ Importance of the view (which may be determined with respect to its popularity or number of affected people, its appearance in guidebooks, on tourist maps and the facilities provided for its enjoyment and references to it in literature and/or art.
Visualisation	Computer generated simulation or photomontage or other technique to illustrate how the proposed development would appear. Presented either as a wireline image (outline of the development) or as a photomontage which merges a rendered version of the development into a photograph of the view/landscape.
Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) or Viewshed	The area predicted to have views of a proposed development on the basis of a digital terrain model or digital surface model, which may/may not take account of landcover features.