

## APPENDIX 11/1 – DETAILED LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL METHODOLOGY

### Assessment Methodology and Significance Criteria

#### Introduction

The assessment of landscape and visual impacts considers effects on;

- landscape fabric/elements, caused by changes to the physical form of the landscape and its elements;
- landscape character, caused by changes in the key characteristics and qualities of the landscape as a result of the development; and
- visual amenity, caused by changes in the composition of available views as a result of changes to the landscape and to people's responses to the changes.

Impacts on landscape fabric/elements occur when there is physical change to components of the landscape, landform, land use or land cover.

Impacts on landscape character occur when there is change to the key characteristics of any landscape and the associated distinct and recognisable pattern of elements which give it a particular character.

Visual impacts are a subset of landscape impacts and comprise changes in views of the landscape and the overall effects on visual amenity.

The assessment process involves desk study, field work, data processing and analysis as well as interpretation using professional judgement. The baseline landscape and visual context are established together with the sensitivity of landscape and visual receptors to change of the nature associated with the proposed development. Elements of the proposed development with the potential to cause a significant effect on the landscape and/or visual amenity of the surrounding area are identified. Mitigation measures to minimise any potential effects on landscape and visual amenity are recommended and the residual effects predicted on the basis that such measures are incorporated into the development. In line with the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, significant effects are identified.

#### Relevant Guidance

The landscape and visual impact assessment (LVIA) is based on guidelines provided in:

- Landscape Character Assessment<sup>1</sup>;
- Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment<sup>2</sup>;
- Designing Waste Facilities<sup>3</sup>;

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1 The Countryside Agency and Scottish Natural Heritage. (2002) Landscape Character Assessment.

2 Landscape Institute and Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment. (2002) Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, 2nd Ed.

3 Designing Waste Facilities, a guide to modern design in waste. Defra/Cabe (2008)

## **Consultation**

The assessment has drawn upon methodology, receptor identification and conclusions arising from the initial scoping exercise.

## **Landscape and Visual Baseline**

The study area for the LVIA is depicted on the Landscape Receptors Drawing (Drawing 11/1).

This area was chosen through the use of initial ZTV studies based on a standard building height. Such studies identified the screening effect of the 'Severn Ridges' to the east, and the potential for views of the proposed development to extend out west across the Severn Estuary to South Wales. The initial ZTV also identified the potential for views to extend to the north and south along the River Severn flood plain.

A preliminary study area based on the above was investigated through field work. The field work confirmed the choice of study area with views to the north and south being limited by the existing large scale industry and communication network within the area.

## **Desk Study**

A desk review of relevant published material has been carried out, including Ordnance Survey maps; landscape planning policy and guidance; published Landscape Character Assessments (LCAs) and other relevant documentation.

The Character of England Landscape, Wildlife and Cultural Features Map produced in 2005 by Natural England with support from English Heritage, was an update to the 1996 map produced by the Countryside Commission (Natural England's predecessor). This map subdivides England into areas with similar landscape character; National Character Areas (NCAs). A total of 159 NCAs exist and these illustrate the differences in landscape character at the national scale. Two NCAs have been identified within the study area, namely the 'Severn and Avon Valleys' (NCA 106) and the 'Bristol, Avon Valleys and Ridges' (NCA 118).

The Landscape Character Assessment of Wales (LCAW) is a national level assessment that provides a landscape context to planning within Wales. The LCAW includes the Landscape Character Map for Wales<sup>4</sup> which identifies the extent of 49 character areas, the equivalent of the English NCAs. The section of the study zone within Wales (northeast of the Severn Estuary), includes two such areas, namely the 'Gwent Levels' (LCAW area 34) and 'Wye Valley and Wentwood' (LCAW area 32)

At the district level, landscape character assessments have been carried out for North Somerset and South Gloucestershire. These district level assessments were consulted. No character assessments have been produced for the Bristol City Council at the present time.

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<sup>4</sup> A Landscape Character Map of Wales – Prepared for CCW by Landuse Consultants, June 2007.

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Table 11.2.1 in Appendix 11.2 contains details of the key characteristics for the identified national character areas, while Table 11.2.2 contains details of the district level character areas.

Identification of Historic Parks and Gardens was carried out through the MAGIC website as identified in Appendix 11/2.

## **Viewpoint Selection**

An initial site visit to review the baseline conditions and take photographs was carried out on 4<sup>th</sup> February 2009. The results of this visit also helped to inform early design work carried out on the building and site development.

A second visit was undertaken on 17<sup>th</sup> March 2009 to assess the potential impacts of the proposed development in winter and to take the viewpoint photographs based on the identification of views during the initial site visit and from the ZTV studies and desk top research.

Additional field work and photography was undertaken on 19<sup>th</sup> August 2009 to investigate views from the Historic Parks and Gardens and residential areas on the edge of Bristol.

## **Evaluation of Residual Effects**

An assessment of the significance of the residual effects has been carried out to examine the impact of the proposed wind farm in this locality in relation to the landscape and visual amenity. The following effects have been assessed:

- Effects on the landscape fabric or the physical elements of the landscape within the site;
- Effects on landscape character;
- Effects on landscape designations; and
- Effects on a range of visual receptors including residents, walkers and recreational users of the landscape and those using the public transport network.

The evaluation of potential cumulative landscape and visual effects arising from the development in conjunction with other existing and consented developments has also been considered.

## **Illustrative Tools**

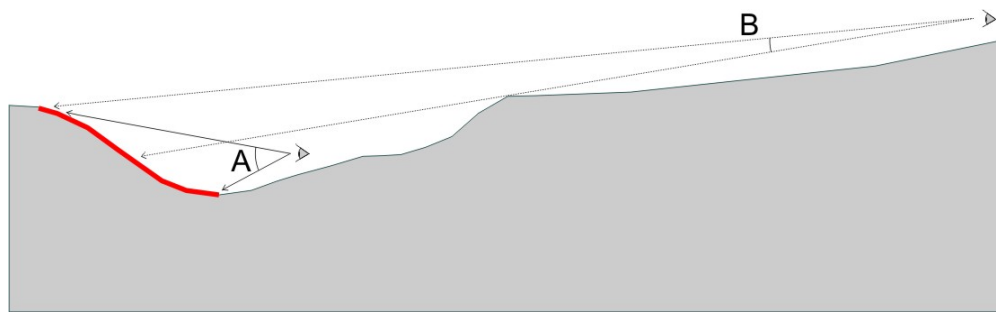
### *Zone of Theoretical Visibility Studies*

A Zone of Theoretical Visibility study was conducted for the proposed development area to help identify areas sensitive to visual impacts. This study used the measurement of the vertical subtended angle for its methodology. This method is explained below and illustrated in Figure 11.1.1.

When a Target Area (red) is observed from a Viewpoint (A or B) its apparent height can be measured in the form of degrees, to give a Subtended Vertical Angle.

**Figure 11.1.1**

## SUBTENDED VERTICAL ANGLE



The use of the Subtended Vertical Angle in formulating a Zone of Visual Influence (ZTV) has the benefit of automatically reducing values to reflect the distance from the Target Area, and partial screening by intervening landforms. Generally the further the viewpoint is from the Target Area the smaller the Subtended Vertical Angle, reflecting the effect of distance on visual impacts.

Thus in the example section above Viewpoint A experiences a higher subtended angle due to proximity to the red target area. Viewpoint B has a lower subtended angle due to greater distance from the target area and partial screening by intervening landform.

If the Subtended Vertical Angle is measured from a series of grid points for a particular Target Area, the resultant data can then be used to generate contours. Each contour level representing a certain vertical angle, and thus potential level of visibility.

The subtended vertical angle method of calculating ZTVs using LSS digital terrain modelling software has been proven by field investigation on numerous sites to be an accurate method of predicting areas of potential visibility for on-site investigation.

However, the computer generated ZTV study is undertaken use a bare earth landform to give the worst case scenario. In reality any built structures (settlements, walls etc) or areas of vegetation (woodland, scrub and hedgerows) will reduce the actual visibility of the target area. Therefore it is necessary to carry out fieldwork to validate the results of the ZTV.

ZTV studies have been prepared for the proposed development to assist in the identification of areas from where there is potential visibility of the proposed development. The ZTVs present the 'worst case scenario' insofar as they are based on Ordnance Survey (OS) digital terrain data at 10 m horizontal interval resolution and therefore, do not take account of local landforms and vegetation (e.g. trees, hedges and forestry), nor any built forms in the landscape. This means that the visibility shown on the ZTVs is predicted to be more extensive than actual visibility on the ground. Thus, reference to ZTV data often refers to 'potential' or 'worst case' visibility, to differentiate from actual real word visibility.

The ZTV studies are used as a guide to identifying the areas with the greatest potential to incur visual effects, thus helping to establish the worst case scenario.

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## *Viewpoint Analysis*

The viewpoint analysis, within the assessment is illustrated by a range of tools including photographs, computer model visualisations and photomontages. The photomontages have been prepared to relevant guidance standards. The photographs used to construct the photomontages have been taken using a Nikon D70s digital Single Lens Reflex (SLR) camera with a 52.5 mm lens (35 mm digital). This conforms to the Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment because this lens size is considered to most closely represent the view obtained by the human eye.

## *Viewpoint Photographs*

To aid the representation of views a viewing distance has been used in some of the illustrative information including the viewpoint photographs. This figure refers to the correct distance between the eye of the viewer and the illustration for observation. At this distance, the size of the objects illustrated in the view, most closely match the apparent size of objects at the actual viewpoint. This distance can be marked on a short stick or ruler to ensure the visualisation is viewed at the correct distance. Ideally, the visualisation should be taken to the viewpoint to fully appreciate the proposed changes that would occur from the development.

The photographs for the various viewpoints have been scaled to match the size of components within the actual view when viewed from the stated viewing distance.

The size of the printed image required to match the actual view is calculated using the formulae below.

$$\frac{\text{Viewing Distance}}{\text{Focal Length of Lens}} = \text{Magnification Factor For Negative}$$

The camera used is a Nikon D70s with a fixed lens of 35mm, this being the equivalent of a 52.5mm optical camera lens.

$$\frac{300\text{mm}}{52.5\text{mm}} = 5.7143$$

The result of the formulae is 5.7143 as shown above.

The photographs were taken in portrait format thus the multiplication factor is applied to the 36mm width of an optical negative rather than the 24mm height, giving a print height of 205.71mm.

To achieve a viewing distance of 300mm the photograph is therefore scaled to a height of 205.71 mm and then the excess trimmed off to allow the image to be reproduced at an A3 printing size as shown on the viewpoint drawings.

It should be noted that photography is a tool to assist in the visualisation process, and photographs cannot be expected to replicate the actual view, nor can photomontages replicate the predicted view which would be attained on the ground. Moreover, weather and light conditions will vary greatly throughout the year, and each day, with

consequent effects upon general visibility and the potential visibility of the proposed turbines.

## *Visualisations and Computer Models*

Basic visualisations and computer models were generated using the same OS digital data used to generate the ZTVs, and therefore take no account of the screening effect of local landform or vegetation. These basic visualisations were used to guide the assessment, design and mitigation process and have not been included in this assessment unless otherwise stated.

The visualisations represent a best possible attempt at providing an accurate representation of the proposed development within the landscape.

## **Difficulties in Undertaking the LVIA**

Viewpoint photography was undertaken at times of forecasted good visibility however, the nature of the British climate is unpredictable. The number of viewpoints, isolation of some, and spread across the extent of the study area, has thus resulted in variations in clarity especially at distance. The use of computer visualisations in the assessment process has partly compensated for such restrictions.

## **Evaluation Criteria**

The significance of a landscape or visual effect was considered a function of the sensitivity of the affected landscape or visual receptor, and the magnitude of change attributed to the proposed development in relation to other operational and/or consented wind farms in the study area. The evaluation criteria used in the assessment in respect of sensitivity and cumulative magnitude of change are described below.

The aim of the landscape and visual impact assessment is to identify, predict and evaluate potential additional or cumulative impacts arising from the proposed development. Wherever possible, identified impacts are quantified, but the nature of landscape and visual impact assessment requires interpretation by professional judgment. In order to provide a level of consistency to the assessment, the prediction of magnitude and assessment of significance of the residual landscape and visual impacts have been based on the predefined criteria, but in some cases this can be a crude measurement of effect and thus the final measured effect is modified using professional judgement where considered necessary.

## **Landscape Sensitivity**

Landscape character sensitivity is defined as high, medium, low or negligible based on a professional interpretation of a combination of parameters. These parameters are as follows:

- Land use;
- Landscape scale and pattern;
- Landscape value and quality;
- Nature of views in terms of distance and expanse;
- Landscape designations present; and

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- Scope for mitigation.

The sensitivity of the landscape to the type of development proposed is based on professional interpretation (by an experienced landscape architect) of a combination of these parameters, as indicated in Table 11.1.1 below.

**Table 11.1.1: Landscape Sensitivity**

Parameters	Sensitivity of the Landscape			
	High	Medium	Low	Negligible
Landscape designation	National (e.g. National Park)	Regional or county (e.g. Area of High Landscape Value)	District or local or no designation	No designation
Landscape scale	Small	Medium	Large	Vast
Landscape quality	Exceptional/ high	Medium	Low	Low
Nature of views	Near distance	Medium distance	Long distance	Panoramic

## Visual Sensitivity

Viewpoint sensitivity is defined as high, medium, low or negligible based on a professional interpretation of a combination of parameters. These are as follows:

- Location and context of the viewpoint;
- Land use and main activity at the viewpoint;
- Frequency and duration of use; and
- Character and quality of intervening landscape.

In relation to land use at the viewpoint, visual sensitivity is defined in Table 11.1.2 below.

**Table 11.1.2: Visual sensitivity in relation to main activity at viewpoint**

Visual sensitivity	Land Use
High	Users of outdoor recreational facilities including strategic recreational footpaths, cycle routes or rights of way, whose attention may be focused on the landscape; important landscape features with physical, cultural or historic attributes; views from residential buildings; beauty spots or picnic areas; other footpaths.
Medium	Other footpaths; other views from residential properties, people travelling through the landscape on roads, trains or other transport routes.
Low	People engaged in outdoor sports or recreation (other than appreciation of the landscape), commercial buildings, and other locations where people's attention may be focused on their work

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	or activity.
<b>Negligible</b>	People in commercial buildings, and other locations where people's attention may be focused on their work or activity.

## Magnitude of Change

The magnitude of change arising from the proposed development at any particular viewpoint is described as substantial, moderate, slight or negligible based on the interpretation of a combination of largely quantifiable parameters, as follows:

- Distance of the viewpoint from the development;
- Duration of the predicted impact;
- Extent of the development in the view, e.g. the horizontal angle subtended by the development;
- Angle of view in relation to main receptor activity;
- Degree of contrast;
- Opacity of proposed development;
- Background to the development; and
- Extent and nature of other built development visible.

The values assessed for these parameters are recorded for each of the viewpoints in the main text.

The magnitude of change on the landscape and landscape character is interpreted by professional judgement and reference to the above criteria and viewpoints.

**Table 11.1.3: Definitions of magnitudes of change**

Level of Magnitude	Definition
Substantial	Total loss or major alteration to key elements/features/characteristics of the baseline conditions, landscape character or view composition attributes of the baseline will be fundamentally changed.
Moderate	Partial loss or alteration to one or more key element/feature/characteristic of the baseline conditions, landscape character or view composition attributes will be partially changed.
Slight	Minor loss or alteration to one or more key element/feature/characteristic of the baseline conditions. Change arising from the loss/alteration will be discernible but underlying landscape character or view composition will be similar to baseline.
<b>Negligible</b>	Very minor loss or alteration to one or more key element/characteristic of the baseline. Change barely distinguishable, approximating to 'no change'.

## Mitigation and Enhancement Measures

Once the baseline landscape character and visual amenity has been defined, the nature of the proposed development is considered and the elements with the potential to cause an effect on the landscape and visual baseline have been identified. An initial assessment of potential effects has been carried out and mitigation measures

were identified to avoid, reduce and where possible remedy or offset, any significant effects on landscape or visual amenity assessment. As a result of this process, the layout of the proposed development has changed and the final layout assessed in the report which follows is a result of this iterative design process.

## **Residual Effects**

Finally, the predicted effects of the proposed development on landscape fabric, landscape character and visual amenity following incorporation of the recommended mitigation measures have been assessed. In accordance with the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, significant effects are specifically identified, as well as whether the predicted effects are direct, indirect; short, medium or long term; reversible or irreversible; and whether the nature of change is considered to be beneficial, adverse or neutral.

## **Nature of Effects**

The sources identified above can have a variety of effects as follows.<sup>5</sup>

“Effects can be negative (adverse) or positive (beneficial); direct, indirect, secondary or cumulative and can be permanent or temporary (short, medium or long term). They can also arise at different scales (local, regional or national) and have different levels of significance (local, regional or national).”

### *Type of Effect*

The type of effect caused by changes to the landscape can be described as beneficial, neutral or adverse.

### *Direct and Indirect Effects*

Most effects are direct effects, but sometimes the proposals may lead to indirect effects on the surrounding landscape. Direct and indirect effects are defined as<sup>6</sup>;

*“A direct (or primary) effect may be defined as an effect that is directly attributable to a defined element or characteristic of the proposed development, for example the loss or removal of an element or feature, “such as a hedgerow or a prominent group of trees”*

*“An indirect (or secondary) effect is an effect that is not a direct result of the proposed development but is often produced away from the site of the development or as a result of a complex pathway or secondary association.”*

### *Cumulative Landscape and Visual Effects*

Cumulative effects are described in the guidance on landscape and visual impact assessment as;

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5 Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (Second Edition) Paragraph 7.6

6 Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (Second Edition) Paragraph 7.7-7.8

*“Cumulative landscape and visual effects result from additional changes to the landscape or visual amenity caused by the proposed development in conjunction with other developments (associated with or separate to it), or actions that occurred in the past, present or are likely to occur in the foreseeable future.”<sup>7</sup>*

and

*“However the emphasis of the assessment process is on the changes the proposal would bring to the existing landscape, to inform the decision making process. Nevertheless extensions or additions to existing developments do need to take account of changes in scale and the potential for the receiving landscape to accommodate the larger composite feature. This may be addressed in an assessment of cumulative effects”*

The purpose of a cumulative landscape and visual impact assessment is to describe, visually represent and assess the ways in which a proposed development would have additional impacts when considered together with other operational, consented and, where required, proposed (i.e. those for which planning applications have been submitted to the relevant authority) developments of a similar nature, unless required otherwise by scoping.

### *Cumulative Effects on Landscape Character*

Cumulative effects on landscape character arise from two or more developments (which are similar in nature) introduce new features into the landscape.

### *Cumulative Effects on Visual Amenity*

Cumulative effects on visual amenity consist of combined and sequential visibility.

Combined visibility occurs where it is possible to see two or more developments from a single location. Combined visibility may be either in combination (where several developments are within a single arc of vision i.e. approximately 90 degrees) or in succession (where developments occur in several arcs of vision at the same location).

Sequential effects occur where there is visibility of one and more developments from any route through the landscape: for example, roads or footpaths.

### *Timescales of Effect*

Landscape and visual effects can be short term, medium term, long term or permanent, depending on the nature of the development and potential mitigation measures.

### *Scale and Level of Impact*

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<sup>7</sup> Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (Second Edition) Paragraphs 7.12 and Box 7.1

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Landscape effects can also be caused at different scales and may have different significance at different scales. The main scales likely to require consideration are local, regional and national.

## *Significant Effects*

Landscape and visual impacts have been assessed as Major, Moderate, Minor or Negligible. These categories have been based on combining viewpoint or landscape sensitivity and predicted magnitude of change, as indicated in Table 11.1.4. Impacts of Major or Major/Moderate are considered to represent significant effects in terms of changes to the landscape/visual baseline.

The matrix is not used as a prescriptive tool and the methodology and analysis of potential effects at any particular location must allow for the exercise of professional judgement.

**Table 11.1.4: Landscape and visual effects**

Landscape & Visual Sensitivity	Magnitude of Change			
	Substantial	Moderate	Slight	Negligible
High	Major	Major/Moderate	Moderate	Moderate/Minor
Medium	Major/Moderate	Moderate	Moderate/Minor	Minor
Low	Moderate	Moderate/Minor	Minor	Minor/Negligible
Negligible	Moderate/Minor	Minor	Minor/Negligible	Negligible

The aim of the assessment process is outlined as:

‘The procedure is a means of drawing together, in a systematic way, an assessment of a project's likely significant environmental effects. This helps to ensure that the importance of the predicted effects, and the scope for reducing them, are properly understood by the public and the relevant competent authority before it makes its decision.’<sup>8</sup>

Thus, significant effects are not in themselves prohibitory, they are however, effects that need to be considered in the assessment process. Likewise, non significant effects should not be dismissed and are therefore described and included in the assessment. Table 11.1.5 provides a general summary definition for each level of effect as a guide.

**Table 11.1.5: Landscape and Visual Effect Criteria**

Effect	Definition
No effect	The proposed development has no effect on landscape or visual receptors.
Negligible	The proposed development is appropriate in its context. It would be

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	very difficult to differentiate from its surroundings and would affect very few or no receptors.
Negligible/ Minor	The proposed development would result in minimal change to the landscape which would be difficult to differentiate from its surroundings and would affect few receptors.
Minor	The proposed development would cause a barely perceptible impact to the landscape or view, and would affect few receptors.
Minor/ Moderate	The proposed development would cause a degree of change to the landscape or view. These changes would be absorbed by the local character and visual baseline, and would affect few receptors.
Moderate	The proposed development would cause a noticeable difference to the landscape or view, and would affect several receptors.
Moderate/ Major	The proposed development would cause a very noticeable difference to the landscape or view, and would affect several or many receptors.
<b>Major</b>	The proposed development would change the character and/or appearance of the landscape or view for a long period of time or permanently and/ or It would affect many receptors.

## APPENDIX 11/2 – MAGIC SITE REPORT

### Introduction

The following information is directly taken from a Site Check report carried out on the MAGIC web site for a point located within the centre of the application site and using a 5 km radius of search. A 5km search area was used on the basis of professional judgement and the presence of large scale industrial buildings within the Avon mouth area. Potential effects on similar receptors outside the search area would be covered by the landscape and visual assessment of the general countryside and urban areas within the study area.

The 5 km search area extends as far south as the mouth of the River Avon, east to Bristol Filton Aerodrome, north to include Severn Beach/Pilning/New Passage, and west across part of the Bristol Channel.

Potential Receptors identified by the MAGIC report have been added to Table 11.1.

### MAGIC Report

Site Check Report Site Check Report  
Report generated on July 23 2009.

You clicked on the point:

Grid Ref: ST 537 817

Full Grid Ref: 353777, 181765

The following features have been found within 5,000 metres of your search point:

#### Counties, Metropolitan Districts and Unitary Authorities (GB)

Geographic Level Name

UNITARY AUTHORITYBRISTOL (CITY OF)

UNITARY AUTHORITYSOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE

UNITARY AUTHORITYSIR FYNWY - MONMOUTHSHIRE

UNITARY AUTHORITYNORTH SOMERSET

#### NUTS1 - Government Office Regions (GB)

Hotlink Name Reference

[http://www.statistics.gov.uk/geography/nuts\\_wales.asp](http://www.statistics.gov.uk/geography/nuts_wales.asp)WALESUKL

[http://www.statistics.gov.uk/geography/nuts\\_sw.asp](http://www.statistics.gov.uk/geography/nuts_sw.asp)SOUTH WESTUKK

#### Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (England)

There are no features within your search area.

#### Heritage Coasts (England)

There are no features within your search area.

#### National Character Areas (England)

Hotlink Name Reference

[HTTP://WWW.NATUREENGLAND.ORG.UK/OURWORK/LANDSCAPE/ENGLANDS/CHARACTER/AREAS/SEVERN\\_AND\\_AVON\\_VALES.ASPX](http://www.natureengland.org.uk/ourwork/landscape/englands/character/areas/severn_and_avon_vales.aspx)SEVERN AND AVON VALES106

[HTTP://WWW.NATUREENGLAND.ORG.UK/OURWORK/LANDSCAPE/ENGLANDS/CHARACTER/AREAS/BRISTOL\\_AVON\\_VALLEYS\\_AND\\_RIDGES.ASPX](http://www.natureengland.org.uk/ourwork/landscape/englands/character/areas/bristol_avon_valleys_and_ridges.aspx)BRISTOL, AVON VALLEYS AND RIDGES118

### **National Nature Reserves (England)**

There are no features within your search area.

### **National Parks (England)**

There are no features within your search area.

### **National Trails (England)**

There are no features within your search area.

### **National Trust Properties (England)**

Property Name Reference Region  
BLAISE HAMLET 10101 WESSEX  
SHIREHAMPTON PARK 10872 WESSEX

### **Ramsar Sites (England)**

Name Reference  
SEVERN ESTUARYUK11081

### **Registered Parks and Gardens (England)**

Scale of capture Grade Name Date of registration Reference  
1:10000 II KINGS WESTON HOUSE Thu, 30 Apr 1987 00:00:00 UTC1279  
1:10000 II\* BLAISE CASTLE AND HAMLET Fri, 15 May 1987 00:00:00 UTC4181  
1:1250 II ROYAL VICTORIA PARK (FORMERLY BRENTRY HOUSE) Thu, 1 Sep 1988 00:00:00 UTC1309

### **Special Areas of Conservation (England)**

Name Reference  
SEVERN ESTUARYUK0013030

### **World Heritage Sites (England)**

There are no features within your search area.

## APPENDIX 11/3 – LANDSCAPE PLANNING POLICY

**Table 11.3.1 Specific Planning Policy**

Policy Ref	Policy Content
South West Regional Spatial Strategy – Final Draft	
Key Aim “Protection of the Environment”	The objective is to ensure “that the level, distribution and nature of development is consistent with the special <b>character, diversity and distinctiveness of the environment</b> and seeks to maximise benefits to the environment.
Policy EN 1: Landscape & Biodiversity	Local authorities should “have regard to the significant landscape joint character areas of the region set out in this RPG and aim <b>to conserve and enhance local character</b> ”.
Policy EN 4: Quality in the Built Environment	Local authorities should aim to achieve: “high quality architecture, urban design, layout and <b>landscape architecture</b> in all new development”.
Policy VIS2	Emphasises the need to promote <b>high quality design</b> .
Joint Replacement Structure Plan (Adopted 2002) Bristol City, Bath, North East Somerset and South Gloucestershire	
Policies 1, 3 & 17	Highlight the need for local authorities to identify, maintain and enhance all the <b>local landscape attributes</b> that are of particular importance to the local distinctiveness, character and quality of the landscape.
Policy 1	Emphasises the need to protect the countryside from <b>inappropriate development</b> .
Policy 17	States that within local plans emphasis will be placed on the <b>restoration or regeneration of degraded land</b> . Where development or land use change occurs and significant landscape impact cannot be avoided or mitigated “the creation of <b>new landscape features</b> or elements which contribute to the <b>character of the locality</b> may be considered”.
Bristol Local Plan (Adopted December 1997)	
<b>Chapter 1: Management of the Environment</b>	
Policy ME1 Energy Conservation: Renewable Energy Installations	Proposals for the utilisation and development of renewable sources of energy will be permitted providing there is no unacceptable impact on:– (i) The amenity of local residents due to noise or other disturbance; (ii) Public health and safety; (iii) The visual quality of important landscape designations; (iv) The natural environment.
Policy ME2 Location and Design of Developments	ME2 Development which has an unacceptable impact on the environmental amenity or wildlife of the surrounding area by reason of fumes, odour, dust or other forms of air, land or

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	<p>water pollution will not be permitted.</p> <p>In determining planning applications account will be taken of:–</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) Provision of adequate facilities for the safe storage and disposal from the site of waste materials.</li> <li>(ii) Measures to stop unacceptable levels of run off and emissions.</li> <li>(iii) Hours of operation.</li> <li>(iv) Location, design and layout.</li> <li>(v) Measures that reduce existing levels of pollution.</li> </ul>
Policy ME8 Coastal Area	<p>There are many important wildlife designations in the Avonmouth area. The mudflats and salt marshes are an SSSI, there is a Special Protection Area under the Birds Directive 1979, a Ramsar site under the Convention on Wetlands Importance 1971, and a possible Special Area of Conservation under the Habitat Directive 1992. Several of the rhines are County Sites of Nature Conservation Interest and other sites within the area are designated as Citywide Sites of Nature Conservation Interest and Wildlife Network Sites.</p> <p>Development within the coastal zone defined on the Proposals Map, will only be permitted where:–</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) A coastal location is an operational requirement.</li> <li>(ii) Appropriate flood defence works are undertaken as part of development.</li> <li>(iii) Nature conservation interests are not significantly affected, either directly or indirectly.</li> </ul>
<b>Chapter 3: The Natural Environment</b>	
Policy NE1 Open Space	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(I) The distribution and variety of open spaces throughout the city will be maintained and, where possible, enhanced.</li> <li>(II) Sites which are important for nature conservation, recreation, historic landscape interest, landscape quality, visual amenity, community or outdoor leisure-related use, or providing setting or relief to the built environment, defined on the Proposals Map, will be protected as open space.</li> <li>(III) Development involving an unacceptable loss of important open space (designated in section II and defined on the Proposals Map), or which would have a significant adverse effect on the interest, use, amenity, character or accessibility of such open space, will not be permitted.</li> <li>(IV) Where sites are not defined as open space on the Proposals Map, and are not subject to any other designation or proposal, account will be taken of the need to protect open space interests and uses in determining planning applications. Particular attention will be paid to the amenity and nature conservation value of undefined open space sites.</li> </ul>
Policy NE2 Landscape Features	<p>Prominent or strategically important landscape features which make a significant contribution to the landscape character of the city, including green hillsides, promontories, ridges, valleys, gorges and man-made landscapes will be protected. Development which would have a significant adverse effect on identified features of importance as defined on the Proposals Map will not be permitted.</p>
Policy NE3 Trees and Woodlands (including Tree Planting and the Community Forest)	<p>Development involving the loss of or damage to trees or woodlands which are of landscape, amenity or nature conservation value will not be permitted, unless unacceptable harmful effects of the development can be overcome and</p>

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	replacement or additional tree planting of appropriate scale and species, which is sufficient to compensate for the loss, can be achieved within the same site or on an equivalent site nearby.
Policy NE11 New Development: Environment Considerations	In determining planning applications, account will be taken of the retention and protection of existing natural features and habitats, and, where appropriate, the benefits of new landscape treatment which:– (i) Compensates for any unavoidable loss of existing features or habitats; (ii) Incorporates the greatest possible proportion of appropriate native vegetation (unless special circumstances dictate otherwise); (iii) Incorporates the maximum possible area of permeable ground surface; (iv) Includes habitat features attractive to local wildlife species, (both in the design of the buildings and the landscape elements); (v) Respects the local landscape character; (vi) Enhances the landscape quality of the site; (vii) Is included in management plans for the whole site; (viii) Is well integrated with the buildings and existing landscape features on and surrounding the site.
<b>Chapter 4: The Built Environment</b>	
Policy B1 Development: Design Criteria and Guidance	In determining applications, account will be taken of the following design issues:– (i) The local context (ii) Accessibility (iii) Safety and security (iv) Layout and form (v) Building exteriors and elevations (vi) Landscape treatment and environmental works (vii) Environmental impact
Policy B2 Development: Local Context	Development should be designed with regard to the local context. Proposals which would cause unacceptable harm to the character and/or appearance of an area, or to the visual impact of historic buildings, views or landmarks, will not be permitted. In determining applications account will be taken of the following:– (i) The existing landforms and natural features. (ii) The scale and proportion of existing buildings, building lines and heights within the street scene; (iii) The detailed design of the existing buildings where ancillary buildings, extensions and alterations are proposed; (iv) The retention and enhancement of existing urban spaces, traditional local materials and townscape or historical features which contribute to the character of an area. The creation of townscape features should be considered in relation to their surroundings.
Policy B5 Development: Layout and Form	The layout and form of development should seek to reinforce or create attractive and distinctive identity, and establish a scale appropriate to its locality and use. In determining applications, account will be taken of the following:– (i) Townscape opportunities and the creation of public spaces; (ii) Location of buildings and the way in which spaces are

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	<p>defined and connected;</p> <p>(iii) The clear distinction of public and private areas;</p> <p>(iv) Enclosure and height, scale and massing of development;</p> <p>(v) Localised climatic conditions.</p>
Policy B6 Development: Building Exteriors and Elevations	<p>Building exteriors and elevations which are designed to a high standard and provide visual interest, particularly adjacent to public routes, will be welcomed. In determining applications, account will be taken of the following:–</p> <p>(i) The impact of development from both distant and close views.</p> <p>(ii) Existing skylines and the creation of new skylines.</p> <p>(iii) The appropriate use of materials.</p>
Policy B7 Development: Landscape Treatments and Environmental Works	<p>Where buildings require the creation or improvement of a setting in order to assimilate them into a street or wider context, developments will be required to include a suitable landscape treatment which:–</p> <p>(i) Is planned as an integral part of the development;</p> <p>(ii) Reflects the character of the locality and surrounding buildings and the way in which the area will be used;</p> <p>(iii) Retains and/or replaces existing amenity and habitat features including trees.</p>
Policy L3 Greenways	<p>L3 A network of Greenways to provide off-road routes for walking and cycling, as defined on the Proposals Map will be protected. Development which incorporates the routes will be expected to:–</p> <p>(i) Implement the provision of the routes;</p> <p>(ii) Include landscaping and ecological enhancement proposals to upgrade such routes;</p> <p>(iii) Ensure that the routes are fully segregated with appropriate design details at any junction to give priority to pedestrians and cyclists;</p> <p>(iv) Take such measures as are required to protect the security of operational uses.</p> <p>Where development adjoins the Greenway network, the provision of local spurs off the strategic network to service specific development will be sought through negotiation.</p>
<b>Chapter 12: Avonmouth</b>	
Policy A1	<p>Avonmouth is identified as a priority area for major development opportunities, particularly focusing on economic regeneration within an improved and managed environment. Where necessary, new development will be expected to pay a contribution, fairly and reasonably related in scale and kind, to the costs of providing both the strategic and local infrastructure to service the development, and to improve the natural and man-made environment.</p>
Policy A2	<p>In the period from 1989 to 2001, up to 95 hectares (gross) of employment development is proposed within the key regeneration area, as defined on the Proposals Map, subject to the provision of adequate strategic and local infrastructure. Development will build northwards and eastwards from the existing industrial area, with provision of the realigned A403, and its connections to the junction on the M49, treated as a priority.</p>
Policy A6	<p>Where development in Avonmouth has a frontage onto main roads or the railway, it will be expected to include proposals for sympathetic landscaping along those frontages, primarily</p>

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	by tree planting.
South Gloucestershire Local Plan (Adopted January 2006)	
<b>Chapter 3: Achieving Good Quality Design</b>	
Policy D1	<p>Development will only be permitted where:</p> <p><i>“A) <b>siting, overall layout, density, form, scale, height, massing, detailing, colour and materials</b>, are informed by, respect and enhance the <b>character, distinctiveness and amenity of both the site and the locality</b>”;</i></p> <p><i>“B) existing features of landscape, nature conservation, heritage or amenity value, including rights of way, are safeguarded and enhanced”, and</i></p> <p><i>“C) the <b>landscape and urban design proposals</b> for all external areas of the site <b>form an integral part of the design</b> for the site and are of a <b>scale and character</b> which is appropriate to that of the development proposed and the surrounding landscape and townscape”.</i></p> <p>New development should respect, conserve and enhance the quality of the surrounding local environment and <i>“particular attention should be paid to defining characteristics that contribute to <b>local distinctiveness</b> e.g. traditional local building materials, styles, layouts and landscape, wildlife or design features”.</i></p>
Design of Buildings	<p><b>3.4</b> This policy applies to all types of development. New development should respect, conserve and enhance the <b>character and quality</b> of the surrounding local environment (see Policy L1), including any existing or adjacent buildings or features. Where it is proposed that new development will have a distinct identity this should still complement, respect and fit with its surroundings. The layout should ensure that features that contribute to an area’s character and any distinct identity are retained and incorporated into the design and that existing and likely pedestrian and cycle desire lines through the site are catered for.</p> <p><b>3.5</b> Where a proposed development is located in an area whose character has been eroded or if surrounding development is of poor quality, <b>good design</b> resulting in high quality and distinctive developments is particularly important.</p> <p><b>3.6</b> As well as respecting context and local character, new development should of itself be of good <b>quality</b>. Attention should be paid to the public realm, access and permeability, optimizing land use and density,... and producing buildings that are durable and adaptable. Hard and soft landscapes should be robust and durable.</p> <p><b>3.7</b> In order to demonstrate that the criteria set out in Policy D1 have been satisfied, applicants are advised that they should support planning applications with a <b>“design statement”</b>. This should demonstrate the applicant’s understanding of the existing site conditions and use; how the</p>

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	<p>site relates to the surrounding area; and how they have taken account of the need for good design in their development proposals. The design statement should include urban design and landscape proposals as well as building design.</p> <p><b>3.8</b> This will necessarily include a proper assessment of the character of the built and natural environment of the site and its context and the impact upon it of the proposed development. Particular attention should be paid to defining characteristics that contribute to <b>local distinctiveness</b> e.g. traditional local building materials, styles, layouts and landscape, wildlife or design features.</p>
Landscape Proposals	<p><b>3.13</b> The layout, design and detailing of all external areas, form an important and integral part of any scheme. The design of landform, paving materials, means of enclosure and other built and natural features should reinforce the <b>character of the locality</b>. New planting has the potential to enhance the appearance and nature conservation value of the landscape, to help integrate new development with its setting and may provide necessary screening and enclosure. The retention of landscape features can provide new development with an immediate maturity and assist integration into its setting.</p> <p><b>3.14</b> Landscape design and habitat protection and creation and its future maintenance should therefore be considered as an integral part of the overall design of a scheme and not an afterthought.</p> <p><b>3.15</b> The planting of trees and hedgerows will be encouraged where this is in accord with the character of the locality. Proposals for new planting should, however, have regard to the need to avoid impact on existing and proposed buildings, the need to accommodate visibility splays and potential impact on services. Due regard must therefore be given to the long term size of plants and their future maintenance requirements, and a management plan for planting will be expected as part of all landscape schemes submitted to the Council for approval.</p>
Environment	<p><b>3.35</b> Adherence to the design requirements of Policy D1 is intended to achieve development that adds to rather than detracts from the quality of the environment. There may, however, be circumstances where the development as proposed would still potentially result in an adverse impact on the environment and supporting infrastructure. By modifications to the development proposal to avoid or design out the impact, or by appropriate <b>mitigation, compensation or substitution</b>, management and enhancement measures, the overall impact of development can often be reduced to an acceptable level without compromising the principles of sustainable development and aesthetic quality. Wherever possible and practicable, the Council will be looking for avoidance in preference to mitigation. Where features cannot be retained or effectively mitigated against, and their loss is acceptable, compensation and/or substitution works may be considered appropriate.</p>
<b>Chapter 4: Environment</b>	
Section 1 - Landscape –	<i>“The overall aim of the policies on this section is to conserve</i>

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<p>Natural and Cultural Heritage</p>	<p><i>and enhance the quality of the natural and cultural heritage of South Gloucestershire and its built environment and to improve biodiversity”.</i></p> <p><b>4.9</b> The Local Plan objectives in respect of the landscape include:</p> <p><i>“1 To conserve and enhance the <b>character, diversity, natural beauty and amenity</b> of the landscape of South Gloucestershire for its own sake and improve degraded areas.</i></p> <p><i>2 To ensure high standards of design in new development generally which are in keeping with <b>local character</b>;...</i></p> <p><i>5 To conserve and enhance the character, appearance and setting of buildings, sites, structures, areas and landscapes of special historic, architectural or archaeological interest or of high visual quality”.</i></p>
<p>Policy L1</p>	<p>In order that the <b>character, distinctiveness, quality &amp; amenity</b> of the landscapes of South Gloucestershire are conserved &amp; enhanced, new development will be permitted only where:</p> <p>A. Those attributes of the landscape which make a significant contribution to the character of the landscape are conserved &amp; where possible enhanced; and</p> <p>B. Those features in or of the landscape which make a significant contribution to the character or distinctiveness of the locality are retained, protected &amp; managed in a manner which ensures their long-term viability; and</p> <p>C. The amenity of the landscape is conserved and where possible enhanced. The Council will seek to negotiate the provision of works to restore, maintain &amp; where possible enhance the landscape in a manner which contributes to the character, quality, distinctiveness &amp; amenity of the locality within which the development is located. In the context of a degraded landscape, or where the character has been eroded, the Council will expect the development to contribute to the regeneration &amp; restoration of landscape character &amp; distinctiveness as well as visual amenity.</p>
<p>Policies L3 &amp; L6 - Coastal Zone</p>	<p>Identified as an important national resource &amp; consisting of the Severn Estuary itself and the adjoining low lying land formed from deposits of estuarine silt. The whole of the estuarine waters, together with marshes, the foreshore of the coast and an area up to one kilometre inland is either within or affected by its designation as a:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SSSI</li> <li>• Ramsar Site</li> <li>• Special Protection Area (SPA); and</li> <li>• Special Area of Conservation (SAC).</li> </ul> <p>Development within the undeveloped coastal zone will only be permitted where the proposal requires a coastal location &amp; cannot be accommodated elsewhere.</p> <p>Designation as a site of international nature conservation importance requires member states to take special measures to conserve bird habitats and wetlands. Habitats and species within the Coastal Zone which are identified as being of high</p>

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	value within the UK Biodiversity Action Plan also require protecting.
Policy L4 - Forest of Avon	<p>Development that is permitted within the Community Forest Area as defined on the proposals map should:</p> <p>A. Respect the developing woodland setting; and          B. Not conflict with the community forest objectives; and          C. Not prejudice community forest projects.</p> <p>In its consideration of applications within the Forest of Avon the Council will take account of the Forest plan's strategies and the Council will seek to negotiate a contribution towards the implementation of Community Forest objectives.</p> <p>The idea is to create a multi-purpose forest including farmland, meadows, lakes and waterways with a pleasant woodland environment for recreation and education as well as timber production and the creation of wildlife habitats. Ultimately the aim is that woodland will occupy at least 30% of the Forest area while 20% of the area would also be available for quiet countryside recreation based on existing public rights of way. Grant schemes and access agreements will assist in delivering these objectives. Countryside Stewardship and the Woodland Grant Scheme are current examples of grant schemes. It is envisaged that the Forest will take 30-50 years to establish.</p>
Policy L6 – Sites of International Nature Conservation Interest	<p>Development which would directly or indirectly adversely affect the integrity of, or which would conflict with the conservation objectives of, a potential, candidate or designated Special Protection Area, Special Area of Conservation, or Ramsar Site, will not be permitted.</p> <p>Where, in exceptional circumstances, the development is permitted, conditions will be used, or planning obligations sought, to secure compensatory measures to minimise loss or damage to the integrity of the site.</p> <p><b>4.72</b> International designation of a site of nature conservation importance (or potential designation (PPG9 para. 13)) offers the highest level of protection (PPG9 Annex C). The Severn Estuary is classified as a Special Protection Area (SPA) under the EC Directive on the Conservation of Wild Birds, and is listed as a RAMSAR site under the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance. In addition the Estuary is listed as a possible Special Area of Conservation (pSAC) under the EC Directive on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora (commonly referred to as the "Habitats Directive"). Internationally designated sites are usually designated as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) under national legislation.</p> <p><b>4.73</b> Development likely to directly or indirectly affect a potential, candidate or designated site of international nature conservation importance, Special Protection Area, or Special Area of Conservation, will be subject to the most rigorous examination in accordance with the guidance set out in Annex</p>

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	<p>C of PPG9 and/or an Appropriate Assessment in accordance with the “Habitats Directive”. Annex C of PPG9 advises that the local planning authority may only agree to a proposed development if there are no alternative solutions and the proposal must be carried out for imperative reasons of overriding public interest. In relation to Special Areas of Conservation, where the site concerned hosts a priority natural habitat type or a priority species those reasons must be primarily relating to human health, public safety or beneficial consequences of primary importance to the environment.</p>
<p>Policy L7 – Sites of National Nature Conservation Interest</p>	<p>Development which would directly or indirectly have an adverse effect on the nature conservation or geological interests of a National Nature Reserve or a Site of Special Scientific Interest will not be permitted unless there are material factors sufficient to outweigh the nature conservation value and there is no reasonable alternative. In such circumstances, mitigation or compensatory measures will be required to minimise and offset the damage.</p>
<p>Policy EP1 – Environmental Pollution</p>	<p>Development will not be permitted which would unacceptably harm the environment, or the health, safety and amenity of users of the site or surrounding land, as a result of pollution to water, air or soil, or through noise, vibration, light, heat or radiation. Additionally, development will not be permitted where users of it would be unacceptably affected by reason of proximity to existing land uses.</p>
<p>Policy EP5 – Renewable Energy Installations</p>	<p>Proposals for renewable energy installations will be permitted provided that the development would not have unacceptable environmental or transportation effects, and would not prejudice residential amenity.</p>
<p><b>Chapter 10: Leisure, Recreation, Education and Community Facilities</b></p>	
<p>Policy LC12 – Recreational Routes</p>	<p>Existing and proposed recreational walking, cycling and horse riding routes will be safeguarded. Development proposals that would unacceptably affect the utility and amenity of existing or proposed routes will not be permitted. Development proposals adjacent to a recreational route should provide adequate means of access to the route. Contributions towards the enhancement of recreational routes will be sought on the basis of the need arising from development proposals affecting those routes.</p>
<p>South Gloucestershire Minerals &amp; Waste Local Plan (Adopted 2002)</p>	
<p>General</p>	<p>The plan states that <b>“countryside character”</b> will be taken into account when assessing the impact of development to ensure that proposals are appropriate and in keeping with the <b>local and wider landscape context</b> and safeguard <b>local distinctiveness</b>”.</p> <p>The Local Planning Authority will, where appropriate, require the creation of <b>new landscape features using locally characteristic forms, materials, species and patterns</b> to help mitigate impact and absorb waste management sites into the landscape. Such features include trees, hedgerows and</p>

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	<p>drystone walls. <i>“These features should form an integral part of the design process and be related to the wider character of the landscape, rather than being used solely as a means of screening unsightly mineral or waste management activities”.</i></p> <p>It is noted that minerals and waste developments can have significant impacts outside the boundary of the application site and that <i>“where the proposed development would result in adverse environmental or amenity impacts, appropriate amendments to the details of the proposal or <b>mitigation measures</b> will be required so that impacts are avoided wherever possible or, where unavoidable, are kept to a minimum and mitigated against”.</i> Under Planning Obligations ameliorative or compensatory measures may include: enhancement and management both within and outside the application site (e.g. woodland management, advanced planting, contributions to the Community Forest initiative); landscape proposals, and Rights of Way protection and improvement.</p>
Policy 6	<p><i>“Proposals for... waste development will be permitted only where they <b>conserve and, where possible, enhance the character, quality and amenity of the landscape and distinctiveness of the locality</b>”.</i></p>
Policy 23 - <b>Public Rights of Way</b>	<p><i>“Proposals for... waste development which would prejudice the... amenity of a public right of way will only be permitted subject to satisfactory provision being made in the application... for protecting and enhancing the amenity and setting of the existing right of way... development proposals adjacent to a recreational route will be required to provide mitigation measures which reflect the importance of these routes in the public rights of way network”.</i></p>
<b>Policy 22</b>	<p>Proposals for waste development will be permitted only where the proposal will not have an unacceptable effect on <b>nearby properties and land uses</b> by way of visual intrusion, dust, noise, fumes, smell, litter, vermin or birds. <i>“It is important that the design and layout of proposals minimises <b>visual impact and disturbance and integrates the development into the surrounding landscape.</b> The proximity of dwellings and other occupied buildings and the degree of screening are relevant in determining the effect on <b>visual amenity</b>”.</i></p>

## APPENDIX 11/4 – LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREAS

Table 11.4.1 – National Landscape Character Areas

National Landscape Character Area	Key Characteristics
Natural England's NCA	106 Severn and Avon Vales
<i>Site lies within this NCA</i>	<p><b>Key Characteristics:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Diverse range of flat and gently undulating landscapes, united by broad river valley character.</li> <li>▪ Riverside landscapes with little woodland, often very open.</li> <li>▪ Variety of land uses from small pasture fields and commons in the west to intensive agriculture in the east.</li> <li>▪ Distinct and contrasting vales: Evesham, Berkeley, Gloucester, Leadon, Avon.</li> <li>▪ Many ancient market towns and large villages along the rivers.</li> <li>▪ Nucleated villages with timber frame and brick buildings. Prominent views of hills – such as the Cotswolds, Bredon and the Malverns – at the edges of the character area.</li> </ul> <p><b>Shaping the Future:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The tourist use of the area, particularly around Stratford, provides an opportunity to provide increased interpretation and countryside facilities.</li> <li>▪ Comprehensive proposals for the management of the river corridors and their nature conservation and historic features.</li> <li>▪ Traditional orchards round Pershore and Evesham lend a distinctive character to the area.</li> <li>▪ Priorities are needed for the conservation of hedgerows and of hedgerow trees.</li> <li>▪ Grazing of the commons requires careful management. There are opportunities to restore the landscape and nature-conservation interest of the smaller and fragmented areas.</li> <li>▪ There is scope for the restoration and enhancement of parks and for ensuring the management of improved grasslands and wetlands.</li> </ul> <p>Many of the villages retain several of their older buildings. Village design guidelines are particularly important as pressure for expansion and infill builds up.</p>
Natural England's NCA	118 Bristol, Avon Valleys and Ridges
<i>Adjacent NCA</i>	<p><b>Key Characteristics:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ A landscape of very mixed landform, geology and settlement pattern, strongly influenced by the Avon Valley, Bristol at its centre and by its industrial history.</li> </ul>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Low-lying, shallow valleys which contrast with limestone ridges and scarps.</li> <li>▪ Frequent large villages, small towns and major conurbations but also undisturbed rural areas.</li> <li>▪ Wooded scarps - with ancient woodland - and high, open, downland ridges.</li> <li>▪ Legacy of coal industry evident in tips, settlement patterns and reclaimed areas.</li> <li>▪ Waterside mills and other features of former rural industries.</li> <li>▪ Frequent parks, mansions and manor houses.</li> </ul> <p><b>Shaping the Future:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Much of the area falls within the Bristol and Avon Community Forest, which provides opportunities to develop management strategies for the whole area based on an assessment of the existing landscape. Targets have been set for the expansion of woodland.</li> <li>▪ On agricultural land there are many areas where hedgerow management could be improved for landscape and wildlife benefits.</li> <li>▪ The continued management of pastures and calcareous grassland is important.</li> <li>▪ The area has a rich and complex industrial history. The conservation and interpretation of historic features - particularly those associated with the coal industry, rural mills and early factory building – needs to be addressed.</li> <li>▪ The reservoirs have scope for continued management and interpretation.</li> <li>▪ The river Avon is a major feature in this area. At present it does not unite the landscapes it runs through but, with thought, it could form a focus for consistent landscape conservation.</li> <li>▪ Many of the villages would benefit from local design initiatives to avert growing suburbanisation.</li> </ul>
Landscape Character Map for Wales	LCAW Area 34: Gwastadeddau Gwent/Gwent Levels
Adjacent LCAW	<p><b>Key Characteristics:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Triassic mudstones are covered by a thick layer of alluvium deposited from the Severn estuary.</li> <li>▪ The character area is split in two by the mouth of the Usk, which lies to the south of Newport – with the Wentlooge Levels lying to the west and the Caldicot Levels to the east.</li> <li>▪ The Levels are crossed by a network of drainage ditches known as reens. The land is reclaimed from the sea and coastal marshes; protected from the tides by a sea wall.</li> <li>▪ Fertile soils are used for a variety of land uses including cereal cropping, sheep grazing, dairying, lowland beef production and horse paddocks.</li> <li>▪ A variety of field sizes and shapes reflect different phases of reclamation and enclosure. Fields are bounded by reens, ditches, and /or hedgerows.</li> <li>▪ The landscape contains one of the largest areas of reclaimed wet pasture in Britain. The reens support rare aquatic plants such as</li> </ul>

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	<p>hair like pondweed and are home to a diverse range of invertebrates.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ This is one of the finest examples of a 'hand crafted' landscape. Some of the drainage and reclamation works still present in today's landscape date from the Roman period.</li> <li>▪ The open, exposed landscape affords long views to surrounding areas and the Severn and Bristol Channel.</li> <li>▪ The Levels are sparsely settled, with small nucleated and ribbon settlements linked by narrow roads.</li> <li>▪ Steel works and pylons introduce vertical structures which stand over the flat landscape. Huge factory units outside Newport are prominent in the landscape.</li> <li>▪ Where the character area abuts urban areas, especially on the Wentlooge Levels east of Cardiff, there is a strong urban fringe character with pony paddocks, suburban sprawl, industrial estates, feeder roads, landfill and evidence of fly tipping.</li> </ul>
	<p>LCAW Area 32: Wye Valley and Wentwood</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The area is defined by an overlapping geology of Devonian sandstones and Carboniferous limestone; the latter forming the dramatic gorge scenery of the lower Wye.</li> <li>• The meandering course of the Wye was formed when the river flowed in an area of low relief. The incised valley was created when the sea level lowered.</li> <li>• Land use is mainly sheep and dairy pasture, with some cereal cropping on more fertile soils. Large conifer blocks characterise the higher ground in the west.</li> <li>• Fields are mainly enclosed by hedgerows, and are a combination of regular parliamentary enclosures on higher ground and earlier irregular fields on slopes.</li> <li>• The Wye Valley woodlands which cover much of the valley sides are protected as SAC and SSSI due to the diversity of native and rare tree species.</li> <li>• This border character area has a rich archaeological heritage, including prehistoric funerary and defensive monuments, the 12th century Tintern Abbey, and remains from iron smelting industries.</li> <li>• Hamlets and villages are located in the valleys, along roads or the Wye. The historic towns of Chepstow and Monmouth serve the area.</li> <li>• The picturesque Wye Gorge has long inspired visitors, artists and writers.</li> <li>• The area largely retains its rural and tranquil feel, with town edge developments being the key detractors. Long views are afforded from the higher ground.</li> </ul>

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**Table 11.4.2 – District Landscape Character Areas**

District Landscape Character Area	Key Characteristics
South Gloucestershire Landscape Character Assessment – July 2005	Landscape Character Area '21 - Severn Shoreline & Estuary'
Adjacent LCA	<p><b>Key Characteristics:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Open and exposed simple landscape of tidal Severn Estuary, with textured intertidal zone of bed rock, shingle and rivulleted mudflats/sandflats, edged by a low mud cliff, with warths (salt marshes) beyond, contained to the east by a sea wall.</li> <li>▪ Aust Cliff, folded bed rock and fossil bed, forms a prominent landform and geological feature.</li> <li>▪ Constantly changing characteristics of shoreline, resulting from the high tidal range of the Severn Estuary (second greatest in the world).</li> <li>▪ Warths are grazed in places. A linear woodland along the low outcrop of Aust Cliff is prominent.</li> <li>▪ Warths and mudflats are largely untouched by built features. Remnants of putcher ranks are an historical feature.</li> <li>▪ Only a few buildings sit on the edge of the warths, with settlement in the adjacent Levels occasionally prominent;</li> <li>▪ Tidal pills meander across the warths to the Estuary from sluice gates set within the sea wall.</li> <li>▪ Particular lack of formal boat access to the Estuary from the shore, other than via a slipway at Thornbury Sailing Club and at Severn Beach.</li> <li>▪ Expansive views include the Estuary and Bristol Channel dotted with islands, South Wales and the Wye Valley/Forest of Dean Ridges to the west and Severn Ridges to the east. Further to the south west the Exmoor coastline is sometimes evident.</li> <li>▪ Area of international importance for the large numbers of over wintering birds, a visual feature of the area and adjacent levels.</li> <li>▪ Oldbury Power Station, lying within this area, the two Severn Bridges crossing the estuary and the large scale industry within the southern levels, are prominent built features.</li> </ul>
	Landscape Character Area '20 – Pilning Levels'
Adjacent LCA	<p><b>Key Characteristics:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Flat, simple landscape of medium to small, regular and irregular shaped fields, with a mix of pasture (some with ridge and furrow) and arable fields. Divided by rhines, clipped and some overgrown hedges, with occasional strong tree belts, withy beds, orchards, scattered mature trees and pollards.</li> <li>▪ Outliers at Ingst and Aust form prominent low hills.</li> <li>▪ Semi-enclosed to open landscape, with occasional long distance views from slightly elevated vantages, west towards South Wales</li> </ul>

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	<p>and Forest of Dean and east towards the Severn Ridge.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Numerous major roads, including the M4, M48, M49 and A403 and a railway line bisect the Levels landscape. Infrastructure, embankments and bridges form prominent features above natural ground level.</li> <li>▪ Limited clustered settlements and scattered farms, some on higher ground, with much of the area of the Levels unpopulated.</li> <li>▪ Complex of industrial chemical works and distributor sheds are prominent to the south. The two Severn Bridges are prominent to the west beyond the area. Several power lines and supporting towers crossing the area are also prominent.</li> </ul>
	Landscape Character Area '18 - Severn Ridges'
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Distinctive large scale sloping landform rising from the Levels, with sections of steel scarp in the north and south and more gentle slope profiles elsewhere. A large central area of low hills and radiating ridges extends westwards. A narrow linear area of dip slope, lies adjacent to the Bristol urban edge.</li> <li>▪ Area is greatly influenced by adjacent Levels and Severn Estuary. All combine to form an area of regionally prominent landform, distinct within and beyond South Gloucestershire.</li> <li>▪ Expansive and readily available views extend over the lowland Levels and Severn Estuary to the west.</li> <li>▪ Scarp and lower ridges form a prominent backdrop in views from the Levels, South Wales and Forest of Dean.</li> <li>▪ Diverse vegetation cover; with mature wooded scarps, occasionally with ornamental species within historic landscape parks.</li> <li>▪ Clipped and overgrown hedgerows and intermittent trees divide small pasture fields, with larger arable fields on more gentle slopes.</li> <li>▪ Orchards and limited common land are often associated with older settlements and farms, with a large new orchard at Almondsbury.</li> <li>▪ Extensive distribution of settlements and minor roads, with older villages, hamlets and scattered farms of local stone, with stone boundary walls. All largely nestled within the landform and strong landscape structure. Churches form distinctive landmarks.</li> <li>▪ To the South, the Bristol urban edge, M4 and M5 are prominent within their local landscape. Sections of the motorways are also prominent within wider views, forming physical and visual barriers.</li> <li>▪ Power lines frequently cross parts of the area, particularly to the north and vary in prominence.</li> <li>▪ Industrial/chemical works, distributor sheds, Oldbury power station Severn Bridges, within the adjacent Levels and Estuary, visually influence this character area.</li> </ul>
	Landscape Character Area '15 – Patchway and Filton'
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Largely built up area, bounded by motorways to the north west and north east, with railway lines and roads dividing the area. Road network and high traffic levels are prominent features.</li> <li>▪ Zoning of development within the area comprises commercial, industrial and residential areas of various ages, styles, building materials and densities. Large scale business, industrial and retail development is often highly visible within and beyond the area, with a number of prominent buildings.</li> </ul>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Recent residential development occurs on fringes of older housing core and towards the M4 boundary, comprising uniform estates, with strategic landscape infrastructure.</li> <li>▪ Open space is diverse, including areas of Filton Airfield, railway junction, the courses of Patchway Brook and Stoke Brook, part of historic Stoke Park and remnant agricultural land. Smaller pockets of open space, including playing fields, a golf course, allotments and common land.</li> <li>▪ Areas of landscape change due to recent and proposed development, particularly at Bradley Stoke and Stoke Gifford, reducing the extent of open space within and adjacent to the urban edge.</li> </ul>
<p>North Somerset Landscape Character Assessment – December 2005</p>	<p>Area C2: Portbury Settled Coastal Ridge</p>
	<p><b>Key Characteristics:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Flat low lying land of Beach and Tidal Flats Deposits with areas of Head, Mercia Mudstone and River Terrace Deposits giving slight variations in level.</li> <li>▪ Wide views across inter-tidal bays to the Bristol Channel, islands and the coast of Wales framed by limestone ridges.</li> <li>▪ Presence of the Royal Portbury Dock plus smaller open water bodies, rhynes and ditches.</li> <li>▪ Pastoral area to the east with historic farmstead.</li> <li>▪ Coastal marshy grassland and remnant woodland of biodiversity value.</li> <li>▪ Industry dominates the area with brightly coloured large scale buildings and cranes.</li> <li>▪ Constantly changing scene of container ships docking, loading and unloading and mass vehicle movement and storage.</li> <li>▪ Buildings accompanied by metal fencing, amenity landscape and some shelterbelts and remnant hedgerows.</li> <li>▪ Wide roads with kerbs, roundabouts and lighting.</li> <li>▪ Vertical elements of lighting columns, cranes and tall metal fencing tower over the flat landscape.</li> <li>▪ Views to elevated section of M5.</li> <li>▪ Protected from flooding by sea walls with areas beside the sea and river remote and difficult to access.</li> </ul>
	<p>Area J6: Avon Rolling Valley Farmland</p>
	<p><b>Key Characteristics:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Underlying Mercia Mudstone with superficial River Terrace Deposits, some of particular geological interest.</li> <li>▪ Gently sloping topography shelving down to the north ending in steeper slopes down to banks of the River Avon.</li> <li>▪ Numerous streams and ponds.</li> <li>▪ Large open pastoral fields and areas of historic parkland.</li> <li>▪ Woodland belt following line of a watercourse across the area, parkland trees and views to Leigh Woods creates a deceptively</li> </ul>

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	<p>wooded feel.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Strong urban influence from view to Bristol and the large settlement of Pill.</li> <li>▪ Crossed by the busy arterial route of the A369.</li> </ul>
	Area A2: Clapton Moor
	<p><b>Key Characteristics:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Underlying geology of peat to the west, beach and tidal flat deposits centrally and river terrace deposits to the east.</li> <li>▪ Linear area with a valley feel, enclosed by the steep slopes of the limestone ridges.</li> <li>▪ Predominately pastoral landscape but with more variety than other character areas of this type, with greater woodland cover, marshy grassland fens, wet woodland and occasional arable fields.</li> <li>▪ Variety in field boundaries defining medium-large geometric and irregular fields; increasing use of fencing to replace hedgerows and ditches, particularly in the west of the area, although still with numerous mature trees along field boundaries and generally species rich hedgerows.</li> <li>▪ Area of significant nature conservation value, the Gordano Valley National Nature Reserve, providing breeding sites for wetland birds and aquatic invertebrates.</li> <li>▪ Settlements confined to the edge of the area along minor roads; the lack of settlements within the main part of the area is a distinctive feature. • Straight roads cross north to south.</li> <li>▪ Generally a remote rural feeling, although influenced in places by the M5, the Royal Portbury Docks and the urban edge of Portbury.</li> <li>▪ Mixed historic landscape of medieval and post medieval enclosure.</li> </ul>
	Area E4: Portishead Ridges and Combes
	<p><b>Key Characteristics:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Elevated ridge of Carboniferous Limestone and Old Red Sandstone with lower slopes of Mercia Mudstone.</li> <li>▪ Extensive views over the Gordano Valley inland and to the Bristol Channel, Wales and the Severn Bridge to the west.</li> <li>▪ Steep wooded slope of the ridge forms the backdrop to the Gordano valley to the south east.</li> <li>▪ Extensive woodland on southeast facing slope and scarp top, semi-natural broadleave and some ancient, with coniferous woodland on Sandstone area to northwest.</li> <li>▪ Largely unsettled with a few scattered farms, historic manors, small villages at foot of slope plus seaside bungalows and caravans along the cliff side.</li> <li>▪ Historic sites on the scarp top including Iron Age hill forts, castle and church.</li> <li>▪ Proximity of Portishead and Clevedon visually prominent in sometimes abrupt urban edges and also in leisure and institutional land use.</li> <li>▪ Roads skirt the edge of the ridge with little access to the high ground of the central ridge apart from footpaths.</li> <li>▪ Disused Limestone quarries, including Black Rock Quarry now used as municipal tip.</li> </ul>

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	Area L4: Clevedon-Portishead Bays
	<p><b>Key Characteristics:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Narrow inter-tidal range, exposing areas of Beach and Tidal Flat Deposits.</li> <li>▪ Variety in textures, the mud-flats form a smooth surface broken up by rough rocks and cliffs.</li> <li>▪ Numerous bays and wave cut platforms along the length of F4: Portishead Ridges and Combes, the majority of which are small and secluded.</li> <li>▪ Two larger bays at Portishead and Clevedon, with a back drop of the seaside towns.</li> <li>▪ Distant views out to sea and across to Wales.</li> </ul>
	▪
East Wiltshire Landscape Character Assessment	Character Area 10: Bristol Avon Clay Vale
	<p><b>Key Characteristics:</b></p> <p><i>Clay lowland landscapes</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• distinctive lowlands characterised by low lying, flat farmland;</li> <li>• strong riparian character;</li> <li>• prominent higher ground such as at Seend;</li> <li>• well treed;</li> <li>• open arable and mixed farmland;</li> <li>• blocks of open farmland, generally occurring as 'islands' within more strongly structured farmland landscapes.</li> <li>• pasture, both permanent and reseeded, although the latter predominates;</li> <li>• low-lying, gently undulating or rolling farmland with a definite hedgerow structure, ranging from very weak and eroded to intact and strong;</li> <li>• woodland/farmland mosaic - a more even mix between woodland and farmland which may range from woodland interspersed with blocks of pasture and arable land to vice versa;</li> <li>• clay vale floor farmland typical of the flattest and lowest parts of the clay lowland area;</li> <li>• prominent network of drainage ditches;</li> <li>• willow and alder conspicuous along ditches, watercourses and in hedgerows;</li> <li>• mix of permanent and reseeded pasture with a good hedgerow structure, and the presence of mature trees both within hedges and as riparian features, notably willow and alder.</li> </ul> <p><i>Amenity landscapes</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• golf courses with their distinctive features of greens, roughs,</li> </ul>

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	<p>fairways, bunkers etc.;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• sports fields and other areas under amenity use, usually intensively managed.</li></ul> <p><i>Formal parkland and designed landscapes</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Areas of formal C18 and C19 designed parkland with a distinctively pastoral and mature character;</li><li>• characteristic features such as parkland trees set in pasture, avenues, rides, copses and blocks of woodland, lakes, formal gardens, estate boundaries (walls or railings), ornamental features, estate buildings etc.</li></ul> <p><i>Estate farmland</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Traces of a former parkland character or which displays typical estate characteristics;</li><li>• fields enclosed by blocks of woodland and belts of trees;;</li><li>• regular single-species hedgerow trees, avenues;</li><li>• estate fencing (railings and post and rail);</li><li>• game coverts.</li></ul>
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## APPENDIX 11/5 – GLOSSARY

<b>Aesthetic factors</b>	The key aspects of the landscape which contribute to its composition such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scales</li> <li>• Enclosure</li> <li>• Diversity</li> <li>• Texture</li> <li>• Form</li> <li>• Line</li> <li>• Colour</li> <li>• Balance</li> <li>• Movement</li> <li>• Pattern</li> </ul>
<b>Analysis (Landscape)</b>	The process of breaking the landscape down into its component parts to understand how it is made up.
<b>Assessment (Landscape)</b>	The umbrella term for description, Classification and analysis of landscape.
<b>Baseline</b>	The landscape character and visual amenity of the study area as it exists at the commencement of the assessment process – i.e. prior to any development proposal.
<b>Biodiversity</b>	The concept of variety in all species of plants and animals through which nature finds its balance.
<b>Classification</b>	A process of sorting the landscape into different types using selected criteria but without attaching relative values to the different kinds of landscape.
<b>Compensation</b>	The measures taken to offset or compensate for residual adverse effects that cannot be mitigated, or for which mitigation cannot entirely eliminate adverse effects.
<b>Constraints Map</b>	Map showing the location of important resources and receptors that may form constraints to development.
<b>Countryside`</b>	The rural environment and its associated communities (including the coast).
<b>Cultural and social factors</b>	The elements of the landscape which are the result of human activity – i.e. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Land use and management</li> <li>• Character of settlements and buildings</li> <li>• Pattern and type of fields and enclosure</li> <li>• The historic dimension.</li> </ul>
<b>Cumulative Effects</b>	The summation of additional effects that

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	result from changes caused by a development in conjunction with the other past, present or reasonably foreseeable actions/development.
<b>Diversity</b>	Where a variety of qualities of characteristics occurs.
<b>Effect</b>	The result of an impact on a landscape or visual receptor
<b>Element</b>	A component part of the landscape (for example, roads, hedge, woods).
<b>Enhancement</b>	Landscape improvement through restoration, reconstruction or creation.
<b>Environment</b>	Our physical surroundings including air, water and land.
<b>Environmental Impact Assessment</b>	The evaluation of the effects on the environment of particular development proposals.
<b>Field Pattern</b>	The pattern of hedges and walls that define the fields in framed landscapes.
<b>Geographical Information System</b>	Computerised database of geographical information that can easily be updated and manipulated.
<b>Heritage</b>	Historic or cultural associations.
<b>Impact</b>	The change arising for a landscape or visual receptor as a result of some form of alteration to the baseline.
<b>Indirect Impacts</b>	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 the complex pathway. Sometimes referred to as secondary impacts.
<b>Land cover</b>	Combinations of land use and vegetation that cover the land surface.
<b>Landform</b>	Combinations of slope and elevation that produce the shape and form of the land.
<b>Landscape</b>	Human perception of the land conditioned by knowledge and identity with a place.
<b>Landscape Dynamics</b>	The forces of change which are inherent within the landscape due to prevailing cultural and social factors, such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Existing management regimes</li> <li>Existing planning policy/development plan considerations</li> <li>• Local, regional or national trends for change</li> </ul>
<b>Landscape Capacity</b>	The degree to which a particular landscape character type or area is able to accommodate change without fundamentally altering its character. Capacity is likely to vary according to the type and nature of change being proposed.

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<b>Landscape Character</b>	The distinct recognisable pattern of elements that occurs consistently in particular type of landscape, 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 of different areas of landscape.
<b>Landscape Character Type</b>	A landscape type will have broadly similar patterns of geology, landform, soils, vegetation and land use. Settlement and field pattern discernible in maps and field survey records.
<b>Landscape effects</b>	Consequence of change in the elements, characteristics, consequence of character and qualities of the landscape as a result of development. These effects can be positive, neutral or negative.
<b>Landscape evaluation</b>	The process of attaching value (non-momentary) to a particular landscape, usually by the previously agreed criteria, including consultation and third party documents, for a particular purpose (for example, designation or in the context of the assessment).
<b>Landscape Fabric</b>	The physical elements that make up the landscape, for example hedgerows, woodland etc.
<b>Landscape Feature</b>	A prominent eye-catching element, for example, wooded hilltop or church spire.
<b>Landscape quality (or condition)</b>	Is based on judgements about the physical state of the landscape, and ecological perspectives. It also reflects the state of repair of individual features and elements which make up the character in any one place.
<b>Landscape resource</b>	The combination of elements that contribute to landscape context, character and value.
<b>Landscape sensitivity</b>	The extent to which landscape can accept change of a particular type and scale without unacceptable adverse effects on its character.
<b>Land Use</b>	The primary use of the land, including both rural and urban activities.
<b>Landscape Value</b>	The relative value or importance attached to landscape ( <u>often as a basis for</u> [as expressed by]_designation or recognition). Which expresses__national or local consensus, because of its quality, special qualities including perceptual aspects such as scenic beauty, tranquillity or wildness.

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	Cultural associations or other conservation issues.
<b>Magnitude</b>	A combination of scale, contrast, extent and duration of an effect.
<b>Methodology</b>	The specific approach and techniques used for a given study.
<b>Mitigation</b>	Measures, including and process, activity or design to avoid, reduce, remedy or compensate for adverse landscape and visual effects of development project.
<b>Natural and semi-natural factors</b>	The natural elements of the landscape which contribute to its character, such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Geology</li> <li>• Soils</li> <li>• Landform</li> <li>• River and drainage pattern</li> <li>• Land cover-woodland, trees hedges etc.</li> </ul>
<b>Perception (of landscape)</b>	The psychology of seeing and possibly attaching value and /or meaning (to landscape).
<b>Perceptual aspect</b>	Elements of the landscape which evoke a response to the senses , such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wildness</li> <li>• remoteness</li> <li>• sense of security</li> <li>• tranquillity</li> <li>• exposure</li> </ul>
<b>Precautionary principle</b>	Principle applied to err on the side of caution where significant environmental damage may occur, but where knowledge on the matter is incomplete, or when the prediction of environmental effects is uncertain.
<b>Preference</b>	The liking by people for one particular landscape element. Characteristic or feature over another.
<b>Quality</b>	<b>See Landscape quality.</b>
<b>Receptor</b>	Physical landscape resource, special interest or viewer group that will experience an effect.
<b>Regulatory authority</b>	The planning or other authority responsible for planning consents or project authorisation (synonymous with determining authority or competent authority)
<b>Scoping</b>	The process of identifying the likely significant effects of a development on the environment.
<b>Sense of place (genius loci)</b>	The essential character and spirit of an area: <i>genius loci</i> literally means 'spirit of the place'.
<b>Sensitive/sensitivity</b>	<b>See landscape sensitivity</b>

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<b>Sieve Mapping</b>	Technique for mapping environmental constraints, working from a series of overlays, sieving out less important factors.
<b>Significant</b>	An effect on landscape character or visual amenity which is considered to be significant in terms of the prevailing EIA Regulations.
<b>Sustainability</b>	The principle that the environment should be protected in such a condition and to such a degree that ensures new development meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.
<b>Technique</b>	Specific working process
<b>Threshold</b>	A specified level of grading effects, for example of magnitude, sensitivity of significance.
<b>Viewpoint</b>	Sample location used to represent the effects of a development over a wider area
<b>Visual amenity</b>	The value of a particular area or view in terms of what is seen.
<b>Visual effect</b>	Change in the appearance of the landscape as a result of development. This can be positive (i.e. beneficial or an improvement) or a negative (i.e. adverse or a detraction).
<b>Visual envelope</b>	Extent of potential visibility to or from a specific area or feature.
<b>Visualisation</b>	Computer stimulation, photomontage or other technique to illustrate the appearance of development.
<b>Worst-case-situation</b>	Principle applied where the environmental effects may vary, for example, seasonally to ensure the most severe potential effect is assessed.
<b>Zone of theoretical visibility</b>	Area which a proposed development may be visible as identified through digital terrain modelling.
Zone of visual influence	Area within which a proposed development may have influence or effect on visual amenity,