

APPENDIX 6C – GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Classification

A process of sorting the landscape into different types using selected criteria but without attaching relative values to the different kinds of landscape.

Constraints Map

Map showing the location of important resources and receptors that may form constraints to development.

Cumulative Effects

The summation of effects that result from changes caused by a development in conjunction with other past, present or reasonably foreseeable actions.

Element

A component part of the landscape (for example, roads, hedges, woods).

Enhancement

Landscape improvement through restoration, reconstruction or creation.

Environment

Our physical surroundings including air, water and land.

Environmental Appraisal

A generic term for the evaluation of the environmental implications of proposals (used by the UK Government in respect of policies and plans).

Landcover

Combinations of land use and vegetation that cover the land surface.

Landform

Combinations of slope and elevation that produce the shape and form of the land.

Landscape

Human perception of the land conditioned by knowledge and identity with a place.

Landscape Capacity

The degree to which a particular landscape character type or area is able to accommodate change without unacceptable adverse effects on its character. Capacity is likely to vary according to the type and nature of change being proposed.

Landscape Character

The distinct and recognisable pattern of elements that occurs consistently in a 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 the landscape.

Landscape Character Type

A landscape type will have broadly similar patterns of geology, landform, soils, vegetation, land use, settlement and field pattern discernible in maps and field survey records.

Landscape Effects

Change in the elements, characteristics, character and qualities of the landscape as a result of development. These effects can be positive or negative.

Landscape Feature

A prominent eye-catching element, for example, wooded hilltop or church spire.

Landscape Quality / Condition

Is based on judgements about physical state of the landscape, and about its intactness, from visual, functional, and ecological perspectives. It also reflects the state of repair of individual features and elements which make up the character in any one place.

Landscape Sensitivity

The extent to which a landscape can accept change of a particular type and scale without unacceptable adverse effects on its character.

Land Use

The primary use of the land, including both rural and urban activities.

Magnitude

A combination of the scale, extent and duration of an effect.

Mitigation

Measures, including any process, activity or design to avoid, reduce, remedy or compensate for adverse landscape and visual effects of a development project.

Visual Amenity

The value of a particular area or view in terms of what is seen.

Visual Effect

Change in the appearance of the landscape as a result of development. This can be positive (i.e. beneficial or an improvement) or negative (i.e. adverse or a detraction).

Visual Envelope

Extent of potential visibility to or from a specific area or feature.

Zone of Visual Influence (ZVI)

Area within which a proposed development may have an influence or effect on visual amenity.