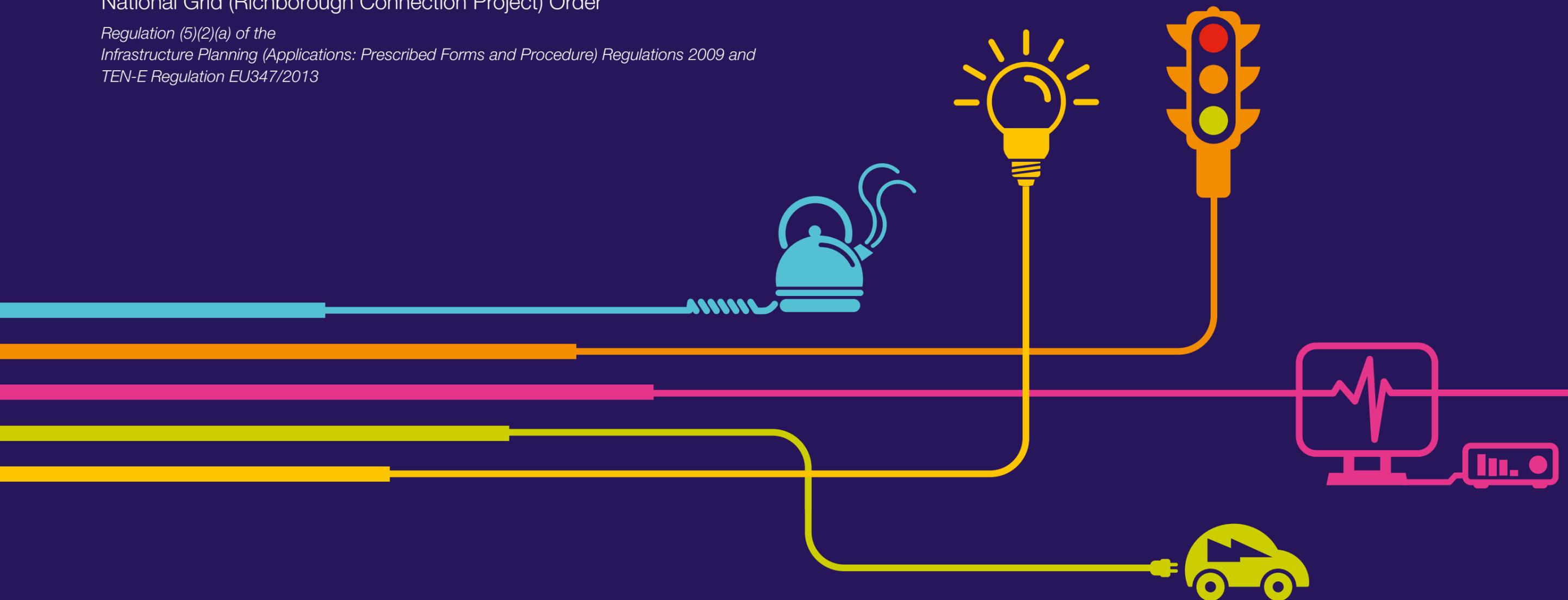


6A Landscape Methodology

National Grid (Richborough Connection Project) Order

*Regulation (5)(2)(a) of the
Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 and
TEN-E Regulation EU347/2013*



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Richborough Connection Project

Volume 5

5.4 Environmental Statement Appendices

5.4.6A Landscape Methodology

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6 LANDSCAPE METHODOLOGY

6.1 Method

6.1.1 This appendix sets out the approach and method used to provide an assessment of effects on landscape character as a result of the proposed development during the construction, operation, and decommissioning stages.

6.1.2 Operational effects are assessed on completion of the Proposed Development (during the ‘opening year’ and to year 15) and residual operational effects are assessed as those which would occur from the Proposed Development fifteen years after completion, taking account of the establishment of guaranteed embedded mitigation measures comprising; planting replacement trees, tree groups and hedges ‘in-situ’; and new planting of trees, tree groups and hedges with new site-specific infrastructure (following construction). Details of the proposed embedded enhancement measures are defined in **Appendix 3B within Volume 5, Document 5.4.3B.**

6.1.3 The method for this landscape assessment is based on Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment Third Edition (Landscape Institute and Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment) (GLVIA3) which as stated in paragraph 1.20 of GLVIA3:

“concentrates on principles while also seeking to steer specific approaches where there is a general consensus on methods and techniques. It is not intended to be prescriptive, in that it does not provide a detailed ‘recipe’ that can be followed in every situation. It is always the primary responsibility of any landscape professional carrying out an assessment to ensure that the approach and methodology adopted are appropriate to the particular circumstances.”

6.1.4 There are five stages to the method of assessment of landscape effects as detailed in GLVIA3 Volume 5. These comprise:

- scope;
- establishing the landscape baseline;
- predicting and describing landscape effects;
- assessing the significance of landscape effects; and
- judging the overall significance of landscape effects.

Scope

6.1.5 In accordance with paragraph 5.2 of GLVIA3 “scoping should identify the area of landscape that needs to be covered in assessing landscape effects.”

6.1.6 The physical scope of this landscape assessment has been informed by field assessment of existing 400kV overhead lines to consider their visibility at increased distances. Zone of Theoretical Visual Influence (ZTVI) mapping was also produced when determining the area over which the proposed 400kV overhead line theoretically could be seen.

6.1.7 Field assessment and site appraisal work has determined that a typical standard steel lattice 400kV overhead line pylon approximately 50m high can be discerned at

distances up to 10km. However from distances of over 3km whilst it may be possible to discern an overhead line on a clear day it would be barely perceptible in that view.

- 6.1.8 Field assessment and site appraisal work also determined that where visible at distances between 1 and 3km a typical standard steel lattice 400kV overhead line can typically be seen in a small proportion of views, often above trees, hedgerow, landform and built form. Where visible within 1km a typical standard steel lattice 400kV overhead line can typically be seen in a greater proportion of the view depending on filtering, screening or backgrounding which may reduce the extent visible.
- 6.1.9 The study area for the landscape assessment has considered the visual parameters referred to above. Landscape character and potential direct and indirect landscape effects have been considered within 3km of the Proposed Development.

6.2 Establishing the landscape baseline

Desk based assessment

- 6.2.1 A review of relevant information, guidance and planning policy relating to electricity transmission and the landscape (and views) has been undertaken including:
- The Holford Rules – Guidelines for the Routeing of New High Voltage Overhead Transmission Lines;
 - The Horlock Rules – Guidelines on the Siting and Design of National Grid Substations;
 - National Grid’s Approach to the Design and Routeing of New Electricity Transmission Lines;
 - NPS (EN-1 and EN-5);
 - NPPF;
 - Local Planning Policy including:
 - Canterbury City Council’s Local Plan (adopted July 2006)
 - Canterbury City Council’s Local Plan (saved policies 2009)
 - Canterbury City Council’s Draft Local Plan (published June 2013)
 - Thanet District Council Local Plan (adopted 2006)
 - Thanet District Council Local Plan (saved policies 2009)
 - Thanet Local Plan Issues and Options document (2014)
 - Dover District Council Local Plan (saved policies 2002 Local Plan)
 - Dover District Council Local Plan (policies within the adopted Core Strategy 2010).

Site assessment

- 6.2.2 Desk study and field survey work was undertaken by TEP throughout 2014 and until July 2015 to gather landscape and visual baseline information initially to inform and assess potential connection options within the preferred route corridor and then as part of the assessment of the proposed route.
- 6.2.3 Site assessment of landscape character and the Proposed Development has involved visits to the area by car and on foot, and the landscape has been experienced and landscape characteristics and features recorded from publicly accessible locations.

Reporting on the baseline situation

- 6.2.4 Following desk based and site assessments the landscape baseline is described and supported with illustrations where necessary, including, maps illustrating published national and local landscape character areas (**Figures 6.1a to 6.1d, Volume 5, Document 5.3.6**), and topography (**Figures 6.4a and 6.4b, Volume 5, Document 5.3.6**). As stated in paragraph 5.33 of GLVIA3, “*individual elements and aesthetic and perceptual aspects of the landscape*” should be identified and described, with a particular emphasis on any key characteristics that contribute to the distinctive character of the landscape. GLVIA3 paragraph 5.33 also states that “*the condition of the landscape, including the condition of elements or features such as buildings, hedgerows or woodland*” should be identified.
- 6.2.5 GLVIA3 paragraph 5.33 also states that the landscape should be described as it is at the time, but consideration should also be given to the future baseline i.e. what it may be like in the future in the absence of the development proposed.
- 6.2.6 As part of establishing the baseline situation the value of the landscape potentially affected is evaluated. This is in accordance with paragraph 5.44 of GLVIA3. Landscape value is also referred to below as part of the method for ‘Assessing the Significance of Landscape Effects’.
- 6.2.7 Highly valued landscapes are typically identified by national level designations such as National Parks and AONB. Landscapes of local value may be identified by designations in the local planning process such as Areas of Great Landscape Value and Special Landscape Areas although Planning Policy Statement 7 (replaced by the NPPF) advised against local designations and advocated a ‘criteria-based’ approach to landscape protection and enhancement.
- 6.2.8 Undesignated landscapes and features are also valued. Paragraph 5.19 of GLVIA3 identifies that following a review of existing landscape designations “*the value attached to undesignated landscapes also needs to be carefully considered and individual elements of the landscape – such as trees, buildings or hedgerows – may also have value.*”
- 6.2.9 GLVIA3 also states in Box 5.1 under paragraph 5.28, those factors that can help in the identification of valued landscapes include; landscape quality (condition); scenic quality; rarity; representativeness; conservation interest; recreation value; perceptual aspects and associations. These factors have been considered when determining landscape value. Local landscape character assessments have also been reviewed to inform judgements made on landscape value, and consultation with the representative consultees have been used to help identify locally valued landscapes and features.

- 6.2.10 Paragraph 5.19 of GLVIA3 states that “*landscapes or their component parts may be valued at the community, local, national or international levels.*”

6.3 Predicting and describing landscape effects

- 6.3.1 Once the landscape baseline has been established, baseline information is combined with an understanding of the components of the development proposed that would potentially be introduced into the landscape, to identify and describe the landscape effects. This is in accordance with paragraph 5.34 of GLVIA3.
- 6.3.2 Paragraph 5.34 of GLVIA3 refers to two steps when predicting landscape effects. These are summarised below:
- the first step is to identify the components of the landscape that are likely to be affected by the scheme; and
 - the second step is to identify interactions between these landscape receptors and the different components of the development at all its different stages.
- 6.3.3 Landscape effects in this assessment have been predicted based on the above approach. The description of landscape effects has been presented as appropriate for this assessment.
- 6.3.4 The type of landscape effects predicted as a result of the Proposed Development should include, where relevant, effects that are direct, indirect, secondary, cumulative, short, medium and long term, permanent and temporary, positive (or beneficial) and negative (or adverse). These are discussed further below.

6.4 Assessing the significance of landscape effects

- 6.4.1 The following method for the assessment of the likely significant effects of the Proposed Development on the landscape is in accordance with the guidelines at paragraph 5.38 to 5.52 of GLVIA3. Assessing the significance of identified landscape effects requires an assessment of the sensitivity of the landscape affected (its susceptibility to change and value), and an assessment of the magnitude of the effect (size or scale; geographical extent; nature of the effect (adverse or beneficial); and its duration and reversibility) on the landscape.
- 6.4.2 National and local level landscape character assessments have been used as the basis for establishing the baseline environment for this landscape assessment and have been supplemented with field observations where differences or refinements were noted.

Landscape sensitivity

- 6.4.3 In accordance with paragraph 5.39 of GLVIA3 landscape sensitivity combines judgements of the landscape’s susceptibility to change to the type of development proposed (i.e. the degree to which the landscape can accommodate the proposed change without suffering detrimental effects on its character), and the value attached to the landscape.

Susceptibility to change

- 6.4.4 The susceptibility of a landscape to change is dependent on the characteristics of the receiving landscape and the type and nature of the development proposed. Landscape character types or areas also have varying sensitivity to the types of development they are able to accommodate. In accordance with paragraph 5.42 of

GLVIA3 the assessment of susceptibility is tailored to the development proposed, and is considered as part of the assessment of effects, and is not recorded as part of the landscape baseline.

- 6.4.5 The judgement on the susceptibility of a landscape to the change proposed is recorded as high, medium or low. The susceptibility of the landscape to the Proposed Development has been assigned to the landscape in Sections A to D in accordance with **Table 6A.1**.

Table 6A.1 Susceptibility to change

Susceptibility to Change	Typical criteria
High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • there are no overhead lines present in the landscape; and or • there is limited or no screening and or backgrounding by landform, woodland, and or built form; and or • the landscape type cannot accommodate the operation of the Proposed Development (and or the construction and decommissioning stages) without suffering detrimental effects on its character.
Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • there is one or more overhead line present in the landscape; and or • there is some screening and or backgrounding by landform, woodland, and or built form; and or • the landscape type is generally able to accommodate the operation of the Proposed Development (and or the construction and decommissioning stages) without suffering detrimental effects on its character.
Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • there is large scale development, industry and overhead lines present in the landscape; and or • there is screening and or backgrounding by landform, woodland, and or built form; and or • the landscape type is able to accommodate the operation of the Proposed Development (and or the construction and decommissioning stages) without suffering detrimental effects on its character.

Value of the landscape

- 6.4.6 As stated and discussed above, the value of the landscape potentially affected by a proposed development is evaluated when establishing the landscape baseline.

Landscape sensitivity

- 6.4.7 As identified above landscape sensitivity considers the landscape's susceptibility to change to the development proposed, and the value attached to the landscape potentially affected. The assessment of landscape sensitivity has been assigned to the landscape in Sections A to D with consideration to the typical criteria identified in **Table 6A.2**.

Table 6A.2 Landscape sensitivity

Landscape Sensitivity	Typical criteria
High	The landscape has a high susceptibility to change and has national value ; or The landscape has a medium susceptibility to change and has national value.
Medium	The landscape has a high susceptibility to change and has local value; or The landscape has a medium susceptibility to change and has local value; or The landscape has a low susceptibility to change and has national value.
Low	The landscape has a low susceptibility to change and has local value.

6.4.8 Consideration has also been given to paragraph 5.46 of GLVIA3 where it states that there can be complex relationships between the value of a landscape and the landscape’s susceptibility to change, which are noted as being especially important when considering change within or close to designated landscapes. GLVIA3 provides the following examples:

- *“an internationally, nationally or locally valued landscape does not automatically, or by definition, have high susceptibility to all types of change;*
- *it is possible for an internationally, nationally or locally important landscape to have relatively low susceptibility to change resulting from the particular type of development in question, by virtue of both the characteristics of the landscape and the nature of the proposal;*
- *the particular type of change or development proposed may not compromise the specific basis for the value attached to the landscape.”*

6.4.9 In accordance with paragraph 5.42 of GLVIA3 landscape sensitivity is considered as part of the assessment of effects (presented in Chapter 6 of this ES), where the judgements on susceptibility to change are identified.

Magnitude of effect

6.4.10 In accordance with paragraphs 5.48 to 5.52 of GLVIA3 the magnitude of effect on the landscape is considered with regard to the size or scale of change in the landscape likely to be experienced as a result of a development; the geographical extent of the area influenced; the nature of the effect (adverse or beneficial), and the duration and reversibility of the effect, as detailed in GLVIA3. More weight is usually given to effects that are greater in scale and long-term in duration. In assessing the duration of the effect, consideration is given to the effectiveness of guaranteed mitigation, particularly where planting is proposed as part of the works which would change the scale of the landscape effect. The following aspects have been taken into consideration in determining the magnitude of effects on landscape character.

Size or scale

6.4.11 Determining the size or scale of landscape effect takes account of the loss or the addition of features in the landscape and the changes anticipated in its composition as

a result of the Proposed Development. Consideration is also given to whether the predicted landscape effect changes the key characteristics of the landscape that influences the distinctive character of the landscape.

Geographical extent

6.4.12 The geographical area likely to be affected by the Proposed Development is considered in the landscape assessment. Landscape effects can be experienced at the site level (i.e. within the Proposed Development site), at the scale of the landscape character area within which the Proposed Development is; and also at a large scale where the Proposed Development would influence several landscape character areas.

Duration and reversibility of landscape effects

6.4.13 These are separate but linked considerations.

6.4.14 Duration has been judged on a scale of:

- short-term: 0 to 5 years including the construction period and on completion;
- medium-term: 5 to 15 years including establishment of replacement and proposed mitigation planting; and
- long-term: 15 years onwards for the life of the Proposed Development.

6.4.15 Reversibility is a judgement about the prospects and the practicality of the landscape effects being reversed. For example, while some forms of development such as housing can be considered permanent, others such as an overhead line can be considered as reversible since they have a limited life and could eventually be removed and the land reinstated. Reversibility is particularly relevant to construction effects as works will cease and land and most landscape features will be reinstated in the short-term.

Direct and indirect effects

6.4.16 In this landscape assessment, both 'direct' and 'indirect' effects have been considered.

6.4.17 The magnitude of effect considers the scale of change (i.e. whether it is high, moderate, low or negligible); its nature (adverse, beneficial or neutral); and its duration (short, medium or long-term) and its reversibility.

6.4.18 **Table 6A.3** describes the magnitude criteria for the landscape assessment, which can be adverse or beneficial.

Table 6A.3 Criteria for the assessment of the magnitude of effect on landscape character

Magnitude of effect	Typical criteria
High	Major alteration to key features or characteristics in the existing landscape and/or the introduction of elements considered totally uncharacteristic. Typically this would be where there would be a great scale of change to the character of the landscape for the long or medium-term.
Moderate	Partial alteration to key features or characteristics of the existing landscape and/or the introduction of prominent elements. Typically this would be where there would be a perceivable scale of change to the character of the landscape for the medium and long- term; or where there would be a great scale of change on the landscape for the short-term.
Low	Minor alteration to key features and characteristics of the existing landscape and/or the introduction of features which may already be present in the landscape. Typically this would be where there is a perceivable or low scale of change to the character of the landscape for the short-term; or where there would be a low scale of change on the landscape in the medium or long-term.
Negligible	A very minor alteration to key features or characteristics of the existing landscape. Typically this would be where in the short, medium or long-term the scale of change on landscape character would be barely perceptible.

6.5 Judging the overall significance of landscape effects

6.5.1 GLVIA3 paragraph 5.53 states that:

“to draw final conclusions about significance the separate judgements about the sensitivity of the landscape receptors and the magnitude of the landscape effects need to be combined, to allow a final judgement about whether each different effect is significant or not.”

6.5.2 The assessment of the significance of the effect of the Proposed Development on the landscape is not an absolute scale. GLVIA3 paragraph 3.23 states that the assessment of significance *“is an evidence-based process combined with professional judgement”*, and that the basis of these judgements *“is transparent and understandable, so that the underlying assumptions and reasoning can be understood by others.”*

6.5.3 Paragraph 5.56 of GLVIA3 states that it is reasonable to say that the more significant effects would relate to those that would result in *“major loss or irreversible negative (adverse) effects, over an extensive area, on elements and/or aesthetic and perceptual aspects that are key to the character of nationally valued landscapes.”*

6.5.4 At the other end of the spectrum effects that could be determined as being less significant would relate to *“reversible negative (adverse) effects of short duration over a restricted area, on elements and/or aesthetic and perceptual aspects that contribute to but are not key characteristics of the character of landscapes of community value.”*

6.5.5 Judgements on the significance of effect on landscape character, which can be beneficial (enhance the landscape) or adverse (at odds with or harmful to the landscape's key features or character) consider the typical criteria presented in **Table 6A.4**.

Table 6A.4 Significance of landscape effects

Significance	Typical criteria
Major adverse	<p>An effect of major adverse significance is generally recorded where a high adverse magnitude of effect occurs to a high or medium sensitivity landscape receptor.</p> <p>For example, when the Proposed Development would:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • be at complete variance with the landform, scale and pattern of the landscape; • would permanently degrade, diminish or destroy the integrity of valued characteristic features and/or their setting; • would substantially damage a high quality, highly valued landscape.
Moderate adverse	<p>An effect of moderate adverse significance is generally recorded where a moderate adverse magnitude of effect is experienced by a landscape receptor of high or medium sensitivity.</p> <p>For example, when the Proposed Development would:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • be at considerable variance with the landform, scale and pattern of the landscape; • would degrade, diminish or destroy the integrity of some characteristic features and/or their setting; • would cause damage to the character of a valued landscape.
Minor adverse	<p>An effect of minor adverse significance generally relates to a low adverse magnitude of effect on the landscape.</p> <p>For example, when the Proposed Development would:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • result in short-term landscape effects; • not quite fit into the landform, scale and pattern of the landscape; • have an adverse effect on an area of recognised landscape character.
Negligible	<p>An effect of negligible significance is recorded where a negligible magnitude of effect occurs.</p> <p>For example, when the Proposed Development would:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • be in keeping with the scale, landform and pattern of the existing landscape; • maintain the existing landscape quality.
Minor beneficial	<p>An effect of minor beneficial significance generally relates to a low beneficial magnitude of effect on the landscape.</p> <p>For example, when the Proposed Development would:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • fit with the scale, landform and pattern of the landscape; • enable the restoration of valued characteristic features partially lost through other land uses to improve the landscape quality and character.

Significance	Typical criteria
Moderate beneficial	<p>An effect of moderate beneficial significance is generally recorded where a moderate beneficial magnitude of effect is experienced by a landscape receptor of high or medium sensitivity.</p> <p>For example, when the Proposed Development would:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • fit well with the existing scale, landform and pattern of the landscape; • improve the quality of the landscape through removal of damage caused by previous or existing land uses.
Major beneficial	<p>An effect of major beneficial significance is generally recorded where a high beneficial magnitude of effect occurs to a high or medium sensitivity landscape receptor.</p> <p>For example, when the Proposed Development would:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • enhance and redefine the landscape character in a beneficial manner; • repair or restore landscape badly damaged or degraded through previous or existing land uses.

6.6 Significance thresholds

- 6.6.1 The significance of the landscape effects is a factor of the sensitivity of the landscape and the magnitude of change. For many of the predicted effects there are no simple rules or formulae which define the thresholds of significance and there is, therefore, a need for interpretation and judgment on the part of the assessor, backed-up by data or quantified information wherever possible.
- 6.6.2 These thresholds will be determined by combining sensitivity and magnitude as set out below. The significance of effects is described as major, moderate minor or negligible, and either beneficial or adverse. Numerical scoring is not recommended in GLVIA3. The main factor in deciding magnitude will be distance from the proposed development. The EIA Regulations require that a final judgement is made about whether or not each effect is likely to be significant. GLVIA3 includes at paragraph 3.32 that LVIA's should always distinguish clearly between what are considered to be the significant and non-significant effects.

Level of landscape effect

- 6.6.3 The level of effect is determined by consideration of the landscape receptor sensitivity and magnitude of visual change, a process, which is assisted by the use of a matrix to guide the assessment, as detailed in the **Table 6A.5**.

Table 6A.5 Significance of landscape effects

	Magnitude of Change			
Sensitivity	Negligible	Low	Moderate	High
High	Minor	Minor	Moderate	Major
Medium	Minor	Minor	Moderate	Moderate
Low	Negligible	Minor	Minor	Minor

The significance of the level of effect has been assessed as follows:

Not significant - Negligible or Minor effects

Significant – Moderate or Major effects

6.6.4 For this assessment, significant landscape effects resulting from the development would be all those effects that result in a 'Major or a 'Moderate' effect and any exceptions clearly explained. There may, for example, be exceptions in the case of lower magnitudes of change affecting receptors of higher landscape sensitivity leading to a major - moderate effect.

6.6.5 With specific reference to significant landscape effects resulting from the proposed development, a 'Major' effect would:

- Be at complete variance with the character (landform, scale, and pattern) of the landscape.
- Permanently degrade, diminish or destroy the integrity of valued characteristic features, elements and/or their setting.
- Cause a high value / high susceptible to change landscape to be permanently changed.
- Cause a sense of place to be lost.

6.6.6 A Major effect is an effect that is very important in the planning decision making process.

6.6.7 A 'Moderate' effect would:

- Be at considerable variance with the character (landform, scale, and pattern) of the landscape.
- Degrade or diminish the integrity of valued characteristic features, elements and /or their setting.

- Cause a high value / high susceptible to change landscape to be markedly changed.
- Cannot be fully mitigated and may cumulatively amount to a ‘substantial’ effect.
- Damage a sense of place.

6.6.8 A Moderate effect is an effect that can be, in itself, material in the planning decision making process.

6.7 Assessment years

6.7.1 The assessment year (or years) for the assessment of construction effects on landscape character is dependent on a number of factors; for example, the geographical location of a landscape character area or feature, and the specific Proposed Development component (or components) which are considered to give rise to a landscape effect (or landscape effects). Effects on landscape also have the potential to arise for part of the construction phase or the entirety of the construction phase.

6.7.2 As detailed in **Chapter 6** it has been appropriate to assess the significance of potential landscape effects when such effects would be at their peak, for example when the proposed 400kV overhead line is in operation and removal of the PX route occurs at the same time; and assessment of the Proposed Development on completion prior to establishment of mitigation planting. This complies with the general approach to the assessment of a reasonable worst case scenario.

6.7.3 The ‘opening year’ is used as the basis of assessment of operational effects on landscape character. Landscape effects of the Proposed Development are considered during operation at the opening year including implementation of the proposed mitigation planting. Residual landscape effects of the Proposed Development are also considered when the proposed mitigation planting would have established fifteen years after the opening year.

6.7.4 The long-term residual effects of the Proposed Development 15 years and onwards (including the establishment of proposed mitigation planting) are set out in **Chapter 6**.

6.7.5 This landscape assessment identifies and assesses the likely significant effects on landscape character during the different stages of the Proposed Development. The landscape assessment identifies for each Section of the Proposed Development the sensitivity of the landscape, the nature of the change in the landscape (magnitude of effect) and the significance of the landscape effect.

6.8 Inter-relationship of effects and inter-project effects

6.8.1 Consideration has been given as an intrinsic part of this landscape assessment to any inter-relationship of effects from the Proposed Development between different aspects of the environment. For example ecological mitigation has the potential to affect both landscape and views.

6.8.2 The landscape assessment also considers the potential inter-project cumulative landscape effects from the interaction of the Proposed Development and other major development proposals in the vicinity, discussed in the cumulative assessment method provided below. The cumulative landscape assessment is provided in **Chapter 16, within Volume 5.2**.

- 6.8.3 Cumulative effects have been defined in a broad generic sense as ‘impacts that result from incremental changes caused by other past, present or reasonably foreseeable actions together with the project’ (Hyder, 1997:7). Paragraph 7.3 of GLVIA3 considers the definition of cumulative effects as addressed by Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) which are now widely used. This defines:
- Cumulative effects as ‘the additional changes caused by a proposed development in conjunction with other similar developments or as the combined effect of a set of developments, taken together’ (SNH, 2012:4);
 - Cumulative landscape effects as effects that ‘can impact on either the physical fabric or character of the landscape, or any special values attached to it’ (SNH, 2012:10).
- 6.8.4 In considering inter-project cumulative landscape effects any form of development can be relevant. In order to ensure a proportional response to the particular development proposal under consideration agreement should be reached in the scoping stage, through discussions with the competent authority and consultation bodies and judgement by the assessor on the scope of the cumulative effects assessment (GLVIA 7.9)
- 6.8.5 In most cases the focus of the cumulative assessment will be on the additional effects on the project in conjunction with the other developments of the same type. The assessment should consider other types of development proposed within the study area, including those that may arise as an indirect consequence of the main project under construction and in the case of large, complex projects, different scheme components or associated ancillary development that in some cases may require their own planning consent.
- 6.8.6 In consideration of the cumulative effects assessment ‘the proposed development’ is the main proposal that is being assessed, and existing schemes and those which are under construction are considered as part of the baseline for both landscape and visual effects. The baseline for assessing cumulative landscape and visual effects shall include potential schemes that are not yet present in the landscape but are at various stages in the development and consenting process:
- schemes with planning consent; and
 - schemes that are the subject of a valid planning application that has not yet been determined.
- 6.8.7 Schemes that are pre-planning and scoping stage are not to be considered as they are not ‘reasonably foreseeable’ (GLVIA3 7.14 page 123). Cumulative landscape effects may result from adding new types of change or from increasing or extending the effects of the proposed development when it is considered in isolation. For example, the landscape effects of the main project may be judged as being of relatively low significance when taken on its own, but when taken together with the effects of other schemes, usually of the same type, the cumulative landscape effects may become more significant.
- 6.8.8 Cumulative landscape effects are likely to include the following effects as defined in GLVIA3 paragraph 7.25 (page 126):
- effects on the fabric of the landscape as a result of removal of or changes in individual elements or features of the landscape and/or the introduction of new elements or features;

- on the aesthetic aspects of the landscape – for example its scale, sense of enclosure, diversity, pattern, and/or on its perceptual or experiential attributes, such as sense of naturalness, remoteness or tranquillity;
- on the overall character of the landscape as a result of changes in the landscape fabric and/or in aesthetic or perceptual aspects, leading to the modification of key characteristics and possible creation of new landscape character if the changes are substantial enough.

6.8.9 The approach to assessing the significance of cumulative effects will be guided by the same principles as the approach to the initial project assessment. It shall consider:

- the susceptibility of the landscape receptor to the type of change under consideration;
- the value attached to the receptor under consideration, reflecting in particular its designation status, including internationally recognised and nationally designated landscapes, locally designated landscapes and other valued components of the landscape;
- the size or scale of the cumulative landscape effects identified;
- the extent of the geographical area covered; and
- the duration of the cumulative landscape effects, including the timescale relating to both the project being assessed and the other projects being considered, and the extent to which the cumulative effects may be considered reversible.

6.8.10 In accordance with GLVIA3 paragraph 7.28 (page 129) the most significant cumulative landscape effects are likely to be those that would give rise to major changes in the landscape character of the study area to such an extent as to have major effects on its key characteristics and even, in some cases, to transform it into a different landscape type. This may be the case where the project being considered tips the balance through its additional effects. The emphasis must always remain on the proposed development being assessed and how or whether it adds to or combines with the others being considered to create a significant cumulative effect.