

A47 Blofield to North Burlingham Dualling

Scheme Number: TR010040

Volume 6

6.2 Environmental Statement Appendices

**Appendix 7.2 – Landscape and Visual
Assessment Criteria**

APFP Regulation 5(2)(a)

Planning Act 2008

Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed
Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009

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Infrastructure Planning

Planning Act 2008

**The Infrastructure Planning
(Applications: Prescribed Forms and
Procedure) Regulations 2009**

A47 Blofield to North Burlingham
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ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT APPENDICES
Appendix 7.2 Landscape and Visual Assessment Criteria

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7. Landscape and Visual Assessment Criteria

7.1. Landscape Assessment Criteria

- 7.1.1. The criteria for assessing landscape sensitivity (susceptibility to change and value of receptor) are presented in Table 1-1 and the criteria for assessment of the magnitude of landscape change are presented in Table 1-2.
- 7.1.2. Landscape sensitivity criteria are based on those defined in Design Manual for Roads and Bridges (DMRB) LA 107 Landscape and Visual Effects Table 3.22. The magnitude of change criteria for landscape receptors are based on those defined in DMRB LA 107 Table 3.24.
- 7.1.3. As a general consideration of susceptibility, those landscape receptors sharing association with the existing A47 will typically have a lower susceptibility to change as a result of the Proposed Scheme.

Table 7-1 : Criteria for assessing landscape sensitivity

Sensitivity	Typical Descriptors
Very High	Landscapes of very high international/national importance and rarity or value with no or very limited ability to accommodate change of the type proposed without substantial loss/gain (i.e. national parks, internationally acclaimed landscapes - United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) World Heritage Sites)
High	<p>Landscapes of high national importance containing distinctive features/elements with limited ability to accommodate change of the type proposed without incurring substantial loss/gain.</p> <p>Typically, these would be landscapes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • with either a very simple or a very complex pattern • with limited presence of existing built features or linear infrastructure, including highways • associating with areas of intimacy or tranquillity • of high quality with distinctive elements and features making a positive contribution to character and sense of place • likely to be designated eg National Park and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), but the aspects which underpin such value may also be present outside designated areas, especially at the local scale • areas of special recognised value through use, perception or historic and cultural associations • likely to contain features and elements that are rare and could not be replaced
Medium	<p>Landscapes of local or regional recognition of importance able to accommodate some change of the type proposed. Typically, these would be landscapes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • with a distinct, coherent pattern • with notable presence of existing built features or linear infrastructure, including highways • associating with a broad sense of enclosure brought about by landform or vegetation cover

Sensitivity	Typical Descriptors
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> comprised of commonplace elements and features creating generally unremarkable character but with some sense of place potentially locally designated, or their value may be expressed through non-statutory local publications containing some features of value through use, perception or historic and cultural associations likely to contain some features and elements that could not be replaced
Low	<p>Local landscape areas or receptors of low to medium importance with ability to accommodate change of the type proposed. Typically, these would be landscapes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> comprised of some features and elements that are discordant, derelict or in decline, resulting in indistinct character with little or no sense of place not designated containing few, if any, features of value through use, perception or historic and cultural associations likely to contain few, if any, features and elements that could not be replaced
Negligible	Landscapes of very low importance and rarity able to accommodate change

Table 7-2 : Criteria for assessing magnitude of landscape change

Magnitude	Description
Major Adverse	Total loss or large-scale damage to existing character or distinctive features or elements, and / or the addition of new but uncharacteristic, conspicuous features or elements.
Moderate Adverse	Partial loss or noticeable damage to existing character or distinctive features or elements, and / or the addition of new but uncharacteristic, noticeable features or elements.
Minor Adverse	Slight loss or damage to existing character or one (or more) key features or elements, and/or the addition of new but uncharacteristic features and elements.
Negligible Adverse	Very minor loss, damage or alteration to existing landscape character of one or more features and elements.
No Change	No noticeable alteration or improvement, temporary or permanent, of landscape character of existing features and elements.
Negligible Beneficial	Very minor noticeable improvement of character by the restoration of one or more existing features and elements.
Minor Beneficial	Slight improvement to character by the restoration of one (or more) key existing features or elements, and / or the removal of uncharacteristic features and elements, and / or by the addition of new characteristic features or elements.
Moderate Beneficial	Partial or noticeable improvement to character by the restoration of existing features or elements, and / or the removal of uncharacteristic and noticeable features or elements, and / or by the addition of new characteristic features.
Major Beneficial	Large scale improvement to character by the restoration of existing features or elements, and / or the removal of uncharacteristic and conspicuous features or elements, and / or by the addition of new distinctive features.

7.2. Visual Assessment Criteria

- 7.2.1. The criteria for assessing visual sensitivity (susceptibility to change and value of receptor) is presented in Table 1-3 and the criteria for assessment of the magnitude of visual change is presented in Table 1-4.
- 7.2.2. Visual sensitivity criteria are based on those defined in DMRB LA 107 Landscape and Visual Effects Table 3.41. The magnitude of change criteria for landscape receptors are based on those defined in DMRB LA 107 Table 3.43.
- 7.2.3. As a general consideration of susceptibility, those visual receptors with views of the existing A47 will typically have a lower susceptibility to change as a result of the Proposed Scheme.

Table 7-3 : Criteria for assessing visual sensitivity

Sensitivity	Typical Descriptors
Very High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> static views from and of major tourist attractions views from and of very important national/international landscapes, cultural/historical sites (eg National Parks, UNESCO World Heritage sites) receptors engaged in specific activities for enjoyment of dark skies
High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> residential properties users of Public Rights of Way (PRoW) or other recreational trails (eg National Trails, footpaths, bridleways etc) users with transient views from designated public open space and recreational areas users of recreational facilities where the purpose of that recreation is enjoyment of the countryside (eg Country Parks, National Trust or other access land etc.) views with a value derived from association with a heritage asset or a planning designation or where associated with a literary or artistic point of reference views from and of rare designated landscapes of national importance
Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> residential properties where existing roads are a notable feature of the existing view outdoor workers users with transient views from public open space and recreational areas users of scenic roads, railways or waterways or users of designated tourist routes schools and other institutional buildings, and their outdoor areas
Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> indoor workers users of main roads (eg trunk roads) or passengers in public transport on main arterial routes users of recreational facilities where the purpose of that recreation is not related to the view (eg sports facilities) users of local public open spaces of limited importance with limited variety or distinctiveness
Negligible	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> quick transient views such as from fast moving vehicles

Sensitivity	Typical Descriptors
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> views from industrial area, land awaiting re-development views from landscapes of no importance with no variety or distinctiveness

Table 7-4 : Criteria for assessing magnitude of visual change

Magnitude	Description
Major Adverse	The Proposed Scheme, or a part of it, would become a dominant detracting feature or focal point within the view.
Moderate Adverse	The Proposed Scheme, or a part of it, would form a noticeable detracting feature or element within the view which would be readily apparent to the receptor.
Minor Adverse	The Proposed Scheme, or a part of it, would be perceptible but not alter the overall balance of features and elements that comprise the existing view.
Negligible	Only a very small part of the Proposed Scheme or activity would be discernible or being at such a distance it would form a barely noticeable feature or element of the view.
No Change	No part of the Proposed Scheme or activity would be discernible.
Minor Beneficial	The Proposed Scheme would result in a perceptible enhancement of the view but would not alter the overall balance of features and elements that comprise the existing view.
Moderate Beneficial	The Proposed Scheme would result in a noticeable enhancement of the view which would be readily apparent to the receptor.
Major Beneficial	The Proposed Scheme would result in a prominent enhancement of the view and contribute to the defining focus or feature of the view.

7.3. References

Highways England. (2019). *Design Manual for Roads and Bridges LA 107 Revision 0 Landscape and Visual Effects*. Highways England

7.4. Glossary

AONB – Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

DMRB – Design Manual for Roads and Bridges

PRoW – Public Rights of Way

UNESCO – United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization