

APPENDIX 5

SIGNIFICANCE CRITERIA FOR LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL IMPACT

Significance criteria for landscape effects

A textual ranking is given depending on the extent to which the proposals improve, cause damage, or are neutral with respect to landscape features and visual amenity.

Significance	Definition
Severe adverse	The proposed scheme would result in effects that are at a complete variance with the landform, scale and pattern of the landscape; would permanently degrade, diminish or destroy the integrity of valued characteristic features, elements and/or their setting; would cause a very high quality landscape to be permanently changed and its quality diminished.
Major adverse	The proposed scheme would result in effects that cannot be fully mitigated and may cumulatively amount to a severe adverse effect; are at a considerable variance to the landscape degrading the integrity of the landscape; will be substantially damaging to a high quality landscape.
Moderate adverse	The proposed scheme would be out of scale with the landscape or at odds with the local pattern and landform; will leave an adverse impact on a landscape of recognised quality.
Minor adverse	The proposed scheme would not quite fit into the landform and scale of the landscape affect an area of recognised landscape character.
Neutral	The proposed scheme has the potential to compliment the scale, landform and pattern of the landscape; maintain existing landscape quality
Minor beneficial	The proposed scheme has the potential to improve the landscape quality and character fit in with the scale, landform and pattern of the landscape; enable the restoration of valued characteristic features partially lost through other land uses.
Moderate beneficial	The proposed scheme would have the potential to fit very well with the landscape character; improve the quality of the landscape through removal of damage caused by existing land uses.

