

Screenshots of the References made to the Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (Third Edition) (2013) by Fermanagh and Omagh District Councils to Topic 16 Renewables

**Table 3.1** Components of the EIA process and the role of LVIA

<i>Component of EIA process</i>	<i>Brief description of action in this part of the process</i>	<i>LVIA role in EIA</i>	<i>LVIA role in landscape 'appraisal'</i>
Site selection and consideration of alternatives	Identifies opportunities and constraints relating to alternative options and makes comparative assessments of them in order to identify those with least adverse (or indeed most beneficial) effects and greatest potential for possible mitigation and enhancement.	Required (but alternatives should not be invented and it is acceptable if there are none)	May not be required but considering landscape to inform site selection is good practice
Screening	Determines whether an EIA is needed for the proposed development.	Required – by competent authority	Not required
Scoping	Makes an initial judgement about the scope of the assessment and of the issues that need to be covered under the individual topics or themes. Includes establishment of the relevant study area.	Required	Optional
Project description/ specification	Provides a description of the proposed development for the purpose of the assessment, identifying the main features of the proposals and establishing parameters such as maximum extents of the development or sizes of the elements. Normally includes description of any alternatives considered.	Required	Required
Baseline studies	Establishes the existing nature of the landscape and visual environment in the study area, including any relevant changes likely to occur independently of the development proposal. Includes information on the value attached to the different environmental resources.	Required	Required
Identification and description of effects	Systematically identifies and describes the effects that are likely to occur, including whether they are adverse or beneficial.	Required	Required

**Table 3.1 continued**

<i>Component of EIA process</i>	<i>Brief description of action in this part of the process</i>	<i>LVIA role in EIA</i>	<i>LVIA role in landscape 'appraisal'</i>
Assessing the significance of effects	Systematically and transparently assesses the likely significance of the effects identified.	Required	Not required
Mitigation	Makes proposals for measures designed to avoid/prevent, reduce or offset (or compensate for) any significant negative (adverse) effects.	Required	If required
Preparation of the Environmental Statement	Presentation of the findings of the assessment in written and graphic form.	Required	Appraisal Report
Monitoring and auditing	Monitors and audits the effects of the implementation of the proposal and of the mitigation measures proposed, especially where they are covered by conditions attached to any permission that may be given.	If required	If required

Table 3.1 Components of the EIA process and the role of LVIA pg. 27 and 28 of the Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (Third Edition) (2013)

To overcome these potential problems, there should be more emphasis on narrative text describing the landscape and visual effects and the judgements made about their significance. Provided it is well written, this is likely to be most helpful to non-experts in aiding understanding of the issues. It is also good practice to include a final statement summarising the significant effects. Tables and matrices should be used to support and summarise descriptive text, not to replace it.

3.36

Paragraph 3.36 on pg. 41 of the Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (Third Edition) (2013)

## Predicting and describing landscape effects

- 5.34 Once the baseline information about the landscape is available this can be combined with understanding of the details of the proposed change or development that is to be introduced into the landscape to identify and describe the landscape effects.
- The first step is to identify the components of the landscape that are likely to be affected by the scheme, often referred to as the landscape receptors, such as overall character and key characteristics, individual elements or features, and specific aesthetic or perceptual aspects.
  - The second step is to identify interactions between these landscape receptors and the different components of the development at all its different stages, including construction, operation and, where relevant, decommissioning and restoration/reinstatement.

Paragraph 5.34 on Page 86 of the Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (Third Edition) (2013)

## Scope

- 6.1 An assessment of visual effects deals with the effects of change and development on the views available to people and their visual amenity. The concern here is with assessing how the surroundings of individuals or groups of people may be specifically affected by changes in the content and character of views as a result of the change or loss of existing elements of the landscape and/or introduction of new elements.

Paragraph 6.1 on pg. 98 of the Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (Third Edition) (2013)

### Receptors of visual effects

- 6.13 The ZTV identifies land that, theoretically, is visually connected with the proposal and this is refined by site survey to confirm the extent of visibility. But in parts of this area there will be relatively few people to experience the effects of the proposal on views. The baseline studies must therefore identify the people within the area who will be affected by the changes in views and visual amenity – usually referred to as ‘visual receptors’. They may include people living in the area, people who work there, people passing through on road, rail or other forms of transport, people visiting promoted landscapes or attractions, and people engaged in recreation of different types.
- 6.14 People generally have differing responses to changes in views and visual amenity depending on the context (location, time of day, season, degree of exposure to views) and purpose for being in a particular place (for example recreation, residence or employment, or passing through on roads or by other modes of transport). During passage through the landscape, certain activities or locations may be specifically associated with the experience and enjoyment of the landscape, such as the use of paths, tourist or scenic routes and associated viewpoints.

Paragraph 6.1 on pg. 98 of the Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (Third Edition) (2013)

- 8.10 Tables and matrices, if used and described correctly, can be effective in complementing the text, providing a useful summary of important information. They can assist with comparisons, for example between different scheme options and types of effect, which can be especially valuable in the early stages of planning and design. They can also be a useful way of making potentially large volumes of complex information more readily accessible to the competent authority charged with making a decision, to consultees

138

and also to the public. Such tables must be carefully and consistently prepared, as decision makers may rely on them to provide a summary of the landscape and visual effects. It should, however, be stressed that these tables, and any matrices related to judgements of significance, should be used to support and to summarise narrative descriptive text, rather than to replace it.

Paragraph 8.10 on pg. 138 and 139 of the Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (Third Edition) (2013)