APPENDIX 3: METHODOLOGY

A3.1 The methodology which was used in the production of this Landscape & Visual Appraisal (LVA) is based on the 'Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Assessment 3rd Edition' (GLVIA3) published in April 2013 by the Landscape Institute and IEMA.

A3.2 Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) is a tool to be used to '*identify and assess the significance of and the effects of change resulting from development on both the landscape as an environmental resource in its own right and on people's views and visual amenity*' (GLVIA 3). An LVIA may be carried out formally as part of an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), or informally as a contribution to the appraisal of development proposals.

A3.3 In this case a LVA has been produced to support the planning application, using the methodology outlined below. Due to the relatively small scale of the site we are not undertaking a 'full' LIVA; instead, we are proposing a proportional approach using GLVIA3 as guidance.

A3.4 The general steps taken in a LVIA process remain relevant to the approach taken here and can be summarised into four key stages:

- Identification and evaluation of the baseline landscape and visual context of the identified study area;
- Review of the development proposal and identification of potential sources of effect;
- Prediction of landscape and visual effects and the appraisal of their significance; and
- Mitigation measures and the identification of residual effects

6.1 The LVA process involved desk-study, fieldwork observation, photography and subjective professional judgement by a Chartered Member of the Landscape Institute.

Project Description

6.2 This provides the description of the indicative siting, layout and other characteristics and components of the development on which the landscape and visual assessment has been based.

Landscape and Visual Baseline

6.3 The initial step in the LVA was to establish the baseline landscape and visual conditions. The information collected, when reviewed against the description of the indicative proposed development, formed the basis for the identification and description of the potential changes that would result from the scheme.

Defining the study area

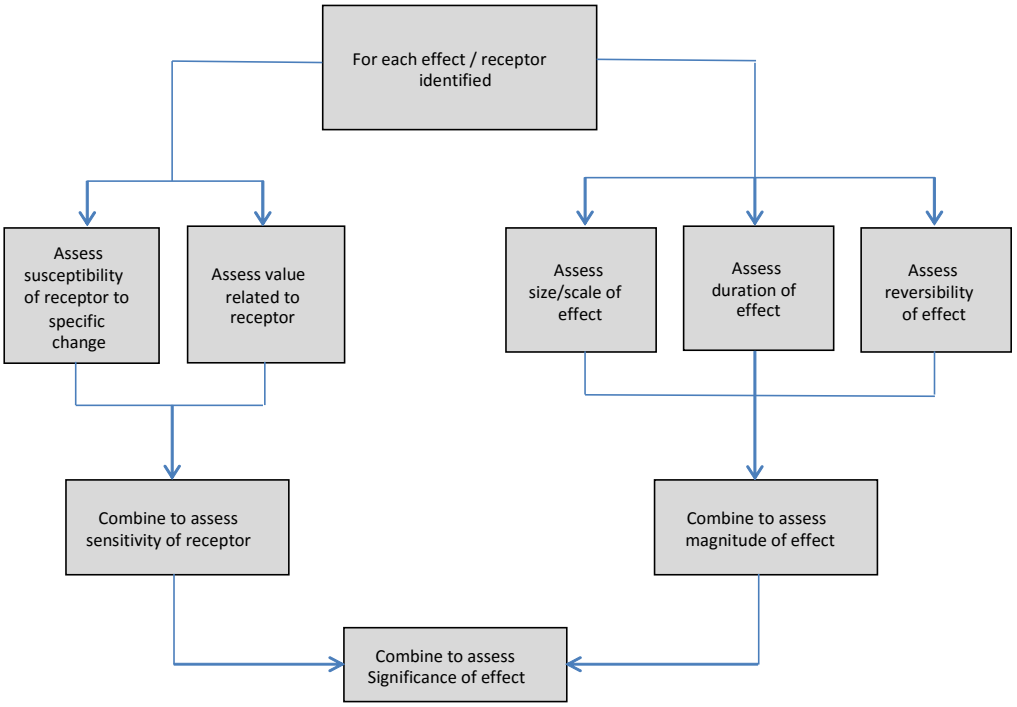
6.4 Given the relatively 'low key' nature of the development, a detailed study area of 2km radius from the application site was proposed (although the baseline considers the setting of the site in its wider context to ensure a comprehensive assessment).

Nature and Scope of Effects

6.5 The potential landscape and visual effects of the indicative scheme have been assessed separately:

- Landscape effects includes direct effects upon the fabric of the landscape (such as the addition, removal or alteration of structures, woodlands, trees or hedgerows), which may alter the character and perceived quality of the area, or more general effects on landscape character and designated areas of landscape arising from the introduction of new man-made features.
- Visual effects relate to specific changes in the composition of views and the effects of those changes on visual receptors (e.g. residents, business users, users of recreational open space, views to and from valued landscapes).

Identification and Assessment of Effects



(Source GLVIA3 Figure 3.5)

6.6 The key aspects of the indicative scheme have been considered against the baseline conditions to allow the potential significant landscape and visual effects to be predicted. Detailed consideration has been given to effects on:

- Landscape receptors, including the constituent elements of the landscape, its aesthetic or perceptual qualities and the character of the landscape along the proposed route.
- Visual receptors or the people who could be affected by changes in views and visual amenity at different locations. These receptors were covered by an assessment of representative viewpoints.

6.7 The potential effects of the indicative scheme have been identified by establishing and describing the changes which would result from the different components of the development and the predicted effects on individual landscape or visual receptors. This has

taken account of both the nature or sensitivity of the receptor and the nature or magnitude of the change likely to occur, in a sequence of steps as illustrated above in the flow chart, which is taken from GLVIA3.

6.8 Each judgement has been determined by a combination of quantitative and qualitative assessment using professional judgement accompanied by a clearly explained rationale. For the purpose of this assessment, potential effects have been categorised as follows:

- Negligible – no detectable change to the environment
- Minor – a detectable change to the environment
- Moderate – a material but non-fundamental change to the environment
- Major – a fundamental change to the environment

6.9 Predicted effects can be adverse or beneficial. The design and appearance of the development and how it sits within the surrounding landscape, together with the nature of that landscape influence the nature of the effects.

Mitigation

6.10 An iterative approach to design has been adopted, with the LVA feeding into the planning and design of the project. This will link the analysis of the landscape and visual issues with steps to improve the siting, layout and design of the scheme. Measures which are proposed to prevent, reduce and where possible offset any significant effects have been described and included in the assessment of effects.

Presentation of Images and Graphic Techniques

6.11 Photographs have been taken with a fixed focal length lens (effectively 50 mm) on a digital SLR camera to give an angle of view similar to that of the human eye. Photographs have been taken in clear weather conditions that were as close to ideal as possible throughout the duration of the study. Due to the timing of the application, photographs have been taken in the early winter (November 2016) – leaf cover is relatively limited giving a close to 'worst case' scenario. For each of the photographs a consistent aperture has been used and the shutter speed was adjusted to accommodate the light conditions at the time the photograph was taken.

6.12 On the viewpoint sheets produced as part of the assessment, the location and extent of the development site has been identified. On the viewpoint sheets, the indicative extents and scale of the proposed development has been shown by a red outline. The viewpoint sheets describe the existing view, identify the visual receptor groups, and assess the nature of the receptor groups (susceptibility and view value) and the nature of the effect (in terms of scale, extent and duration). The predicted view (and the changes from the existing view) has been described