

LP17 - Landscape

Policy background and explanation

- 15.19 The landscape and the historic environment have a strong inter-relationship, as the character of the landscape is influenced by its historic environment, as well as traditional villages and historic townscapes. Equally, the landscape can be important to the setting of a historic asset.
- 15.20 All landscape whether designated or not, has its own character, sense of place and local values. These include areas with uninterrupted or panoramic views of surrounding landscapes, landmarks and distinctive field patterns with associated hedges, woodlands and copse of trees, as well as areas of tranquillity, dark skies and strong rural character.
- 15.21 Landscape character assessments of the area have been carried out and provide information on the different landscape character types of the area²⁷. These assessments recognise particular characteristics, qualities and features of landscapes to provide an understanding of distinct sense of place and sensitivities to development and change. They will be used as a basis to guide decisions about whether development is appropriate in the landscape and provide a framework for the provision of appropriate landscape mitigation and enhancement.
- 15.22 The Plan seeks developments to be sensitive to their landscape and visual amenity impacts; subject to siting, design, lighting, use of materials and colour, along with the associated mitigation measures.
- 15.23 Where development is visually prominent or is likely to significantly affect landscape character, production of a Landscape and Visual Appraisal (LVA) or Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) (as appropriate) will be required. This should inform strategic landscape masterplans and/or landscape management plans detailing mitigation proposals if required.
- 15.24 The Plan seeks to conserve and enhance the landscape, taking account of its natural beauty, characteristics and features of natural, archaeological or historic interest. All new development proposals need to ensure they respond to and reinforces the local distinctiveness of the area in scale, form, design, materials and location. For example, by use of materials which complement the local individual landscape character, archaeological and historic patterns of settlement and land use and designations; being demonstrably informed by local guidance, in particular the Councils' Joint Landscape Guidance, the Suffolk Landscape Character Assessment and Settlement Sensitivity Assessment.

²⁷ Landscape Character Types as defined in The National Character Area's and The Landscape Character Assessments.

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- 1. To conserve and enhance landscape character development must:**
 - a. Integrate with the existing landscape character of the area and reinforce the local distinctiveness and identity of individual settlements;**
 - b. Be sensitive to the landscape and visual amenity impacts (including on dark skies and tranquil areas) on the natural environment and built character; and**
 - c. Consider the topographical cumulative impact on landscape sensitivity.**
- 2. Where significant landscape or visual impacts are likely to occur, a Landscape and Visual Appraisal (LVA) or a Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) must be prepared to identify ways of avoiding, reducing and mitigating any adverse effects and opportunities for enhancement.**