

Appendix 14.1

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## Seascape, Landscape, Townscape and Visual Amenity – Regulatory and Planning Policy Framework



Legislation, Policy and Guidance	Summary of Requirements
<b>National Policy</b>	
European and Central Government	
The European Landscape Convention, Florence 2000	The ELC defines landscape as “an area, as perceived by people, whose character is the result of the action and interaction of natural and/or human factors’. It stresses the importance of its protection, management and planning as the responsibility of all and not just government.
Department of Energy and Climate Change - National Policy for the Energy Infrastructure	
Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy, 2011 (EN-1)	EN-1 sets out national policy for the energy infrastructure and has effect on the decisions by the Infrastructure Planning Commission (IPC) on applications for energy developments that fall within the scope of the NPSs. In particular EN-1 in Section 4.5 provides criteria for “good design” for energy infrastructure and in Section 5.9 outlines the principles for decision making for energy developments in relation to landscape and visual.
National Policy Statement for Gas Supply Infrastructure and Gas and Oil pipelines, 2011 (EN-4)	EN-4 taken together with EN-1 provides the primary basis for decisions by the IPC on applications it receives for gas supply infrastructure and gas and oil pipelines. In particular EN-4 in Section 2.21 outlines the principles for decision making for gas pipeline impacts in relation to landscape and visual.
Planning Policy	
Planning Policy Statement 1: Delivering Sustainable Development (2005)	PPS1 recognises that the appearance of a development is a material planning consideration. It stresses the importance of design to improve the character and quality of an area, which should be appropriate in terms of the site context as well as reinforce local distinctiveness.
Planning Policy Guidance 2: Green Belts (2001)	PPG 2 recognises the need to safeguard land from inappropriate development. With in designated green belts there is a presumption against inappropriate development and such development should not be approved unless there are very special circumstances. In relation to landscape their most important attribute is “openness”. In addition the visual amenity of the Green Belt is also an important consideration and as such it should not be injured by development.
Planning Policy Statement 7 (Amendment): The Countryside – Environmental Quality and	PPS 7 provides guidance on land use planning in rural England. In relation to landscape matters development in the countryside should; contribute to local identity and regional diversity and be of an appropriate design and

<b>Legislation, Policy and Guidance</b>	<b>Summary of Requirements</b>
Economic and Social Development (2001)	scale for its location; and the priority to enrich the quality of the whole countryside whilst accommodating appropriate development. It also recognises that some forms of development can only occur where the natural resource they depend on is found and is also accessible. At such sites careful planning and control is needed to avoid causing undue disruption to the environment.
Planning Policy Statement 21: Sustainable Development in the Countryside (2010)	<p>PPS 21's aim is to manage development in the countryside in a manner which strikes a balance between the need to protect the countryside from unnecessary or inappropriate development, while supporting rural communities. Two of its objectives are; to conserve the landscape and natural resources of the rural area and to protect it from excessive, inappropriate or obtrusive development; and to promote high standards in the design, siting and landscaping of development in the countryside.</p> <p>Policy CTY1: identifies appropriate development within the countryside and includes reference to "necessary infrastructure". This policy also recognises the need for development to be sited and designed to integrate sympathetically with their surroundings.</p>
<b>Regional Policy</b>	
<p>North West of England Plan Regional Spatial Strategy to 2021</p> <p>This document remains part of the Development Plan at the present time. It identifies a number of key principles of which; promote environmental quality, is relevant to landscape</p>	
The Coast (RSS: Policy RDF3)	Policy RDF3 looks at enhancing the economic importance of the coast and the regeneration of coastal communities in ways that safe guard, restore or enhance and make sustainable use of the natural, built and cultural heritage assets of the north-west coast. In particular it seeks to protect the functional integrity of bays, estuaries and the inter-tidal areas immediately off shore
Green Belt (RSS: Policy RDF4)	Policy RDF4 recommends the maintenance of the existing green belts in Lancashire
Integrated enhancement and protection of the Region's environmental assets (RSS: Policy EM1)	<p>Policy EM1 looks at the need for schemes to deliver an integrated approach to conserving and enhancing the landscape, natural environment, historic environment and woodlands of the region.</p> <p>Policy EM1 (A): Landscape looks at the need for schemes to identify, protect, maintain and enhance natural, historic and other distinctive features that contribute to the character of landscape and places</p>

Legislation, Policy and Guidance	Summary of Requirements
	within the North West. Schemes should be informed by and recognise the importance of detailed landscape character assessments.
<b>Local Policy</b>	
Lancashire County Council	
Landscape and Heritage Supplementary Planning Guidance landscape and heritage (2006)	The adopted SPG is a strategic good practice guide for development in rural and urban environments. It describes the landscape character types identified in Lancashire and sets out a strategy and recommendations for each.
Wyre Borough Council Local Plan	
Development in the Countryside (Saved Policy SP13)	Policy SP13 seeks to restrict proposals within the designated countryside area and by doing so protect the inherent qualities and rural characteristics of the countryside. The policy states “All proposals for development will be considered with regard to issues of amenity, scale, design and materials”
Standards of Design and Amenity (Saved Policy SP14)	<p>Policy SP14 deals with standards of design and amenity. The council will seek to apply consistent principles and high standards of design and amenity for all types of development. In particular</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) The development should be acceptable in the local landscape in terms of its scale, mass, style and use of materials.</li> <li>b) Any development proposal should respect and accommodate existing important features of the site such as preserved trees, biological and heritage features and public footpaths</li> <li>c) Suitable landscaping and/or screening should be employed to satisfactorily ameliorate the impact of the development and any necessary associated activity</li> </ul>
Open Coastline (Saved Policy Env2)	Policy Env2 deals with the open coastline and in particular to limit the types of development within the defined area. In principle development will only be permitted where there is no detrimental effect on the open character of the defined open coastline
Trees on Development Sites (Saved Policy Env7)	Policy Env7 deals with the need for development to take account of existing trees within the development site and to avoid their loss.