

Appendix E : Scenic Value Criteria

SCENIC VALUE CRITERIA

Landscape Value	Criteria
Grade 1 - highest quality landscape	Includes the most aesthetically attractive and often remote landscape. Areas of particular natural beauty received as special in a regional or national context. Nationally designated land such as National Parks, Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty etc. would be present.
Grade 2 - very attractive landscape	Areas including historic and designed landscape. Diverse, semi-natural or farmed landscape with unusual features. Normally abundant woodland cover together with a high distribution of trees, hedgerows and shrubs. Streams and other naturalised unpolluted water corridors may be present. Several local landscape designations may apply, including Conservation Areas, and some historical or cultural sites may be present.
Grade 3 - good quality landscape	Countryside with some variety in farmland cover. Settlements and villages with pockets of open space and public recreation areas. There is a reasonable distribution of semi-natural vegetation, trees and shrub cover and the overall view of the area is pleasant. Local landscape designations of cultural and historical value may be present.
Grade 4 - ordinary quality landscape	Typical open agricultural land where attractive features are offset by detractors. Some strategic planning is evident but development is primarily functional including housing estates, business parks or urban fringe land uses. Not particularly aesthetically attractive, but with more value than a poor quality landscape. Land may be within a green belt or have a local landscape designation.
Grade 5 - poor quality landscape	Includes detractors such as power lines, industrial, derelict or inappropriate built forms with no aesthetic value or evidence of strategic planning. There is a lack of mature vegetation cover and no landscape designations apply. Intensively farmed landscape, which has lost most of its natural features.
Parkland	Historic or remnant parkland.