
C. GLOSSARY FOR THE VSR

The glossary definitions and terminology cross reference to documents used to inform the evidence base which are listed in **Appendix B**.

Accurate visual representation (AVR) (also called a verified photomontage)

A still image, or animated sequence of images, intended to convey reliable visual information about a proposed development to assist the process of visual assessment.

This is a high quality image in which the relationship between the camera position and detail in the image is co-ordinated and known. Once the photograph has been aligned to the geo-referenced information a model of a proposed new development or building can be inserted to correct scale and location in the photograph. This shows the proposal as accurately as possible in the correct location within the context of the surrounding environment. AVR's can also be used to illustrate the degree to which a development will be seen from a specific location, its detailed form and even the proposed materials to be used.

Assessment point (also Viewing Location)

An Assessment Point is considered to be the optimum viewing point and is the reference point for the assessment of a view. An Assessment Point is formally identified by Ordnance Survey northing and easting grid references in the Management Plans.

All surveys are based on a control network and datum to which the captured information is related. For view surveys this is usually referenced to Ordnance Survey (OS) National Grid and Datum. The camera position and other survey stations are surveyed to the OS National Grid by using Global Positioning System (GPS) equipment.

Backdrop

The backdrop is the immediate background to a strategic landmark or focus of the view. It is distinct from a background area that extends away from the foreground or middle ground into the distance.

Cultural Heritage

Inherited assets which people identify and value as a reflection and expression of their evolving knowledge, beliefs and traditions, and of their understanding of the beliefs and traditions of others (English Heritage 2008, 71).

Designated View

A view that is the product of a deliberate design, usually intended to create a particular effect, illustrate a particular aspect of a landscape or focus on a particular feature or features in a landscape. Such a landscape and its features do not themselves all have to be designed, but they may be.

Strategically important views of Kingston which are to be adopted as part of the emerging local Plan. These views have been defined as the highest classified views following the completion of the VSR high level appraisal. The proposed management of these views is defined in the VSR.

Environmental effect (in the context of the VSR)

The consequence of a change on a resource or receptor. A change to an existing view as a result of development or the loss of particular landscape elements or features already present in the view. The overall visual amenity of an area may be affected to the extent that the visual appearance of a particular area of landscape character, landscape designations, or the visual setting/'sense of place' of a location is changed.

Environmental Impact

The process by which a change is brought about in the existing environment as a result of development activities.

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)

A process by which a developer collects information about the environmental effects of a project for assembly in an environmental statement.

The aim of Environmental Impact Assessment is to protect the environment by ensuring that a local planning authority when deciding whether to grant planning permission for a project, which is likely to have significant effects on the environment, does so in the full knowledge of the likely significant effects, and takes this into account in the decision making process. The regulations set out a procedure for

identifying those projects which should be subject to an Environmental Impact Assessment, and for assessing, consulting and coming to a decision on those projects which are likely to have significant environmental effects.

Environmental Statement (ES)

A statement that includes the information that is reasonably required to assess the environmental effects of the development and which the applicant can, having regard in particular to current knowledge and methods of assessment, reasonably be required to compile, but that includes at least the information referred to in the EIA regulations (May 2017)

Foreground and Middle Ground

These are the foreground of Designated Views and the area between the foreground and a specified landmark (or the general skyline).

Grain

The pattern and arrangement of street blocks and plots.

Heritage

All inherited resources which people value for reasons beyond mere utility (English Heritage 2008, 71).

Heritage asset

A building, monument, site, place, area or landscape identified as having a degree of value meriting consideration in planning decisions, because of its heritage interest. Heritage asset includes designated heritage assets and assets identified by the local planning authority (including local listing).

Heritage values

The reasons for which people may value a place. Examples may include 'its distinctive architecture or landscape, the story it can tell about its past, its connection with notable people or events, its landform, flora, fauna, because they find it beautiful or inspiring, or for its role as a focus of a community' (English Heritage 2008, 27). Comprehensive thought about values may be prompted by using the following headings – evidential, historical, aesthetic and communal – which move in general terms from more objective to more subjective.

Historic Environment

All aspects of the environment resulting from the interaction between people and places through time, including all surviving physical remains of past human activity, whether visible, buried or submerged, and landscaped and planted or managed flora. Those elements of the historic environment that hold significance are called heritage assets.

Historic Urban Landscape

Ensembles of any groups of buildings, structures and open spaces in their natural and ecological context, comprising distinctive land uses and patterns, spatial organisation, visual relationships, topography and soils, vegetation, infrastructure and architecture, and representing current and past social expressions and developments that are place based.

Importance of the View

The VSR provides a judgment on the value of the viewing location, the value and sensitivity of the viewer and the value attached to the view. It is a combination of these values and the criteria identified in LVMF that will determine the importance of the view. 'Seeing History in the View' also considers assessment of value and the proposed methodology for the VSR draws upon the criteria used in Table 1 (Value/Importance of Individual Heritage Assets Identified within the View) and Table 2 (Value/Importance of the View as a whole) and the information provided at pages 8 – 13. Reference CP3.3 states: *"In order to identify the significance of a place, it is necessary first to understand its fabric, and how and why it has changed over time; and then to consider:*

- *who values the place, and why they do so*
- *how those values relate to its fabric*
- *their relative importance*
- *whether associated objects contribute to them*
- *the contribution made by the setting and context of the place*
- *how the place compares with others sharing similar values."*

Kinetic View

Views are often kinetic (i.e. the observer is moving) and so, if necessary, there should be separate consideration and explanation of how the visibility and appearance of the

heritage asset may change as the observer moves around the Viewing Place. This may include a description of the asset's visual relationship to other features in the view. Some views will have a more extensive Viewing Place than others.

Landmark

An object or feature of a landscape or town that is easily seen from a distance (Oxford English Dictionary). A landmark may also be defined as a building or site having great importance. The LVMF identifies 'strategically important landmarks' and 'other landmarks'. Other landmarks are considered to be those features that have visual or cultural prominence in the view.

Landmark Viewing Corridor

Part of a Protected Vista, a Landmark Viewing Corridor is defined between the Assessment Point and the Strategically Important Landmarks.

London View Management Framework

The London View Management Framework is a key part of the Mayor's strategy to preserve London's character and built heritage. It explains the policy framework for managing the impact of development on key panoramas, river prospects and townscape views.

Linear View

A view in which key landmarks are seen through narrow gaps between buildings or landscaping.

Management Plan

A site-specific analysis and set of management guidance, which sets out how a Designated View should be managed.

Prominent buildings

Prominent buildings are visible in the Designated View by virtue of their size and/or location.

Protected Vista

A geometrically defined corridor between an Assessment Point and a Strategically Important Landmark. The Protected Vista controls the effect of development in the

foreground, middle ground and background of a view of a Strategically Important Landmark.

Receptors

The general public when they are anywhere where they could view the development. The main receptors include residents, tourists, road users and users of recreational landscapes. Workers may also be affected to a lesser degree, as their main purpose for being in the landscape is not to be looking at views. The extent to which they are affected by any visual changes will depend on, the duration for which the view is available, the magnitude of change within the existing view, the sensitivity of the area in which the visual receptors are located, the comparative elevations of the visual receptor and the proposal site and the amount of potential screening elements including a consideration of seasonal screening effects

River Prospect

Short and longer distance visual experiences of the Thames riverscape.

Sensitivity

The sensitivity of the receptor is considered through combining judgments on the value attached to the townscape resource and its susceptibility to change.

Setting

'The surroundings in which a heritage asset is and/or has historically been experienced. Its extent is not fixed and may change as the asset and its surroundings evolve. Elements of a setting may make a positive or negative contribution to the significance of an asset, may affect the ability to appreciate that significance or may be neutral' (from Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment, PPS5).

Sensitivity of the Viewer

The sensitivity of the viewer depends on the activity of people experiencing a view at a particular location and the extent to which their attention is focussed on the view and visual amenity they experience.

Susceptibility

Susceptibility describes the ability of a receptor to accommodate change without undue consequences and the ability of the townscape to accept change and achieve policy and strategies.

Sequential View

A Sequential view is recorded along the length of a public route such as a public right of way, National Trail or cycle path/SUSTRANS route. A description records changes to views as the receptor travels along the identified route.

Strategically Important Landmarks/Buildings of Townscape Merit

A prominent building or structure in the townscape, which has visual prominence, provides a geographical or cultural orientation point and is aesthetically attractive through visibility from a wider area or through contrast with objects or buildings close by as identified in the LVMF.

Very Highly Important View – VHIV

Views taken forward from the High Level Appraisal which rank as the highest value in terms of the assessment criteria and that are defined views which contribute to the understanding and appreciation of Kingston Borough's unique townscape with its historic and cultural landmarks which make up the Borough's urban identity. These highest classified views are those which also follow the London View Management Framework (LVMF) criteria.

Tall Building

A building which is substantially taller than its neighbours and/or which significantly changes the skyline (after CABE/EH guidance 2007).

Townscape

The character and composition of the built environment including the buildings and the relationships between them, the different types of urban open space, including green spaces, and the relationship between buildings and open spaces.

Value

An aspect of worth or importance, here attached by people to qualities of places (English Heritage 2008, 72). Value describes the relative value or importance attached

to a view or receptor factors include designations and the level of importance they signify.

View

A sight or prospect from a particular position, typically an appealing one (Oxford English Dictionary); that which is seen; esp., a scene or prospect, as of a landscape; a picture, sketch, or photograph of a scene.

Viewing Location

The Viewing Location is considered to be the optimum viewing point and is the reference point for the assessment of a view. This is formally identified by Ordnance Survey northing and easting grid references and used for the production of verified views.

Views Study Report (VSR)

This Views Study has been commissioned by the Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames (RBK) to provide a basis of evidence and analysis that examines the existing views identified as important in and around the Borough to understand their importance.

The Viewer

The person who experiences a view will have a personal subjective experience of a view although many responses may be experienced by others with shared cultural associations or knowledge.

The View

This considers the view in the context of its defined local character and townscape. This also considers designations, the history and cultural associations of viewing and the contribution this makes to the importance of the view as a recognised and appreciated experience of the heritage assets through assessment of published documents by RBK and field work using Historic England's Guidance.

Value of the Viewing Location

The determination of value of the viewing place includes designations and the level of importance that they signify (i.e. whether international, national or local), relevant local planning policy and guidance, the status of individual areas or features, the

quality, condition and rarity of individual features or elements within the townscape and any verifiable local community interest.

Value Attached to the View

A view is valued through formal designation and / or indicators of value attached by the observers.

Value of Receptors

Value with respect to the View describes the relative level of value or importance attached to a landscape or feature by parts of society who experience the view. The value of the townscape considers designations and the level of importance they signify, policy and guidance, and the condition and rarity of the townscape and its individual features or composition.

Value with respect to the Viewer, ie those experiencing the view, classifies the value based on the importance of the viewer. Very high value relates to the viewers within highly popular visitor attractions and tourist designations. A lower value, for example, would be from viewers which infrequently experience the townscape with no cultural associations.

Visual Amenity

The overall pleasantness of the views people enjoy of their surroundings, which provides an attractive visual setting or backdrop for the enjoyment of activities of the people living, working, recreating, visiting or travelling through an area,

Visual Management Guidance

Provides specific guidance on the management of the character and landmarks within the Designated Views.