

LDÄ DESIGN

Proportionality in EIA

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The aim

- Proportional:

1. Corresponding in size or amount to something else

“the punishment should be proportional to the crime”

- Focus on the significant effects

- Only write (and draw) what is needed to convey those effects and their importance

What prevents proportionality

- Excessive caution – the belt and braces approach:
 - Guidance
 - Scoping
 - Assessment
 - Tradition / structure
 - Lack of focus on the reader & ergonomics
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New Guidance

Landscape
Institute
Technical
Guidance
Note

Visual representation of development proposals

Technical Guidance Note 02/17 (31 March 2017)

This guidance aims to help landscape architects, planning officers and other stakeholders to select types of visualisation which are appropriate in the circumstances for which they will be used. It is particularly aimed at visualisations supporting development proposals. It links to, follows and amplifies the broad principles set out in The Guidelines for Landscape Visual Impact Assessment 3rd edition (GLVIA 3). These advocate proportionate and reasonable approaches to the scope of assessments.



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Scoping

- New regulations could help or hinder proportionality;
 - Effective scoping requires knowledge and confidence;
 - Discussion and negotiation – more time / effort on scoping is likely to mean a better EIA.
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Assessment

- Stay focussed
 - Avoid covering everything ‘just in case’
 - Making a reasoned judgement that an effect is going to be negligible and does not require further consideration is an assessment!
 - Consider omitting non-significant effects or moving into an appendix.
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Tradition / Structure

- Traditional EIA structure encourages repetition;
 - Spend more time writing about design evolution
 - identify primary (inherent) mitigation;
 - Tertiary (inexorable) mitigation can be assumed;
 - Assessment can then refer to design description, and focus on effects and secondary (foreseeable) mitigation
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Readability & Ergonomics

- Write for the end users (e.g. mitigation summary);
 - Accessible language;
 - Avoid repetition;
 - Consider ergonomics – weight and size of documents; chapter structure;
 - Illustrations – less is more but avoid clutter;
 - Use appendices effectively.
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