

Appendix K: Absorption Capability Rating

- **Very High** – corresponds to a situation where the unit has a very high capability to absorb landscape and visual change associated with additional built development. Typically as a consequence of the low landscape sensitivity of the area, the ‘visual fit’ of additional built development with the ‘existing environment’ and/or the visual ‘discrete-ness’ of the unit (for example, due to landform and vegetation patterns).
- **High** – corresponds to a situation where the unit has a high capability to absorb landscape and visual change associated with additional built development with the scale of capability ‘extending above the normal level; great in amount, value, size or intensity; great in rank or status’.¹
- **Moderate** – corresponds to a situation where the unit has a moderate capability to absorb landscape and visual change associated with additional built development with the scale of capability ‘*average in amount, intensity or degree*’.²
- **Low** – corresponds to a situation where the unit has a low capability to absorb landscape and visual change associated with additional built development with the scale of capability ‘*below average in amount, extent or intensity*’.³ Typically as a consequence of the high landscape sensitivity of the area, the potential incongruity of built development within the ‘existing environment’ and/or the visual importance of the unit in shaping the character of the wider landscape setting.
- **Very Low** – corresponds to a situation where additional built development will have a negligible effect on the landscape and visual amenity values of the unit.

¹ Oxford English Dictionary Definition for ‘high’

² Oxford English Dictionary Definition for ‘moderate’

³ Oxford English Dictionary Definition for ‘low’