

## **Landscape Institute publish new guidance for reviewers of LVIAs/LVAs**

Randall Thorp welcome the Landscape Institute Technical Guidance Note 1/20 (10 Jan 2020) 'Reviewing Landscape and Visual Impact Assessments (LVIAs) and Landscape and Visual Appraisals (LVAs)' which seeks to raise the consistency and standard of assessments. Robust assessment ensures that effects of development proposals on landscape and visual amenity are accurately and appropriately considered through the design process. These effects can then be weighed up in the planning balance, giving appropriate development proposals the best chance to obtain planning approval.

EIA regulations require that Environmental Statements are prepared by 'competent experts'. The Landscape Institute guidance note clarifies, in relation to landscape assessment, a 'competent expert' would normally be a Chartered Member of the Landscape Institute (CMLI) who has substantive experience of undertaking and reviewing LVIAs. Randall Thorp is a Landscape Institute registered practice with Chartered Members who regularly undertake LVIAs/LVAs. We have considerable experience in providing reliable and robust assessments which have assisted clients to obtain planning consent and schemes to be confidently defended at planning appeal.

The guidance note recommends that any review should check: the methodology used, the baseline content and findings of the assessment, and the presentation of the findings, when determining the completeness, competency and reliability of the LVIA/LVA. At Randall Thorp our assessment methodology has been tried, tested and improved over time. For each project it is reviewed to ensure its appropriateness. Our goal is to produce LVIAs/LVAs which display transparency, objectivity and are clear in their findings. The latest guidance will assist in formalising any review of LVIAs/LVAs which is of benefit to both Landscape Architects, their clients as well as Local Planning Authorities.

We are keen for our clients to get the most from their projects and would be happy to assist in the provision of advice or CPD in any matters concerning LVIA/LVA. Please feel free to get in touch with either Nicola Jacob (Nicola@randallthorp.co.uk) or Jo Folland (Joanne@randallthorp.co.uk) via email or telephone (0161 228 7721).

The LI Guidance Note can be found here:

<https://landscapewpstorage01.blob.core.windows.net/www-landscapeinstitute-org/2020/01/20-1-Reviewing-LVIAs-and-LVAs-Final.pdf>