This section of the course will cover:

Introduction to landscape and visual sensitivity

Visual assessment and choosing viewpoints.
Landscape + visual sensitivity

Designations

Reasons for designation:

- Striking landscape character (National Parks)
- Scenic value (National Scenic Areas)
- Historic importance (Inventory of Designed Landscapes in Scotland)
- Regional or local significance (Special Landscape Areas, formerly Areas of Great Landscape Value).
Landscape + visual sensitivity

Other sensitivities

Setting of important features, landmarks and settlements – some of which may be designated for non-landscape reasons

Iconic views

Local landmarks.
Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment

Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) is the ‘landscape and visual’ input to the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process.

Guidelines for LVIA have been produced by the Landscape Institute.

Good practice guide.
Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment

The LVIA Guidelines recommends:

- Engaging with stakeholders, to help identify key viewpoints and consultees
- Identify viewpoints, then consult to select key viewpoints for design
- Prioritise viewpoints.
Visual sensitivity

Identifying viewpoints

Local public viewpoints – people who live there, including views from and to settlements, roads, walks and viewpoints, maybe from within forest

Iconic views – important landmark features, well publicised public views

Visitor viewpoints – visitor attractions, public roads, access routes, forest walks, mountain tops

‘Design viewpoints’ – views which show the setting of the woodland, key characteristics, or an issue you want to tackle in your design.
Visual sensitivity

Selecting viewpoints

There is a further layer of visual sensitivity - which is the type of view

Understanding what is important about a viewpoint may influence the selection of key viewpoints, and help explain your choice to others.
Visual sensitivity

Selecting viewpoints - panoramic
Visual sensitivity

Selecting viewpoints - revealed
Visual sensitivity

Selecting viewpoints - destination
Visual sensitivity

Selecting viewpoints - glimpse
Visual sensitivity

Selecting viewpoints - focal point
Visual sensitivity

Selecting viewpoints - sustained
Visual sensitivity

Summary

From all the potential viewpoints, you may select a viewpoint because it is:

From or to a settlement, or an important local viewpoint

Popular and well used - this may include internal views from within the forest

Typical, for example from a stretch of road or trail with several similar views...
Summary

Important because of the type of view

Important because of the setting of a feature or place

...or simply a good design viewpoint

You will often need to choose viewpoints in consultation with stakeholders.