This section of the course will cover:

Introduction to landscape and visual sensitivity

Visual assessment and choosing viewpoints.

Designations

Reasons for designation:

- Striking landscape character (National Parks)
- Scenic value (National Scenic Areas)
- Historic importance (Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscapes and Inventory of Historic Battlefields)
- Regional or local significance (Local Landscape Areas, formerly Areas of Great Landscape Value then Special Landscape Areas).

Other sensitivities

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

Iconic views

Local landmarks.

Eildon Hills from Scott's View

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 and Institute of Environmental Management & Assessment

Good practice guide...

Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment

- Features of the proposed development are described
- Overall scope of the assessment defined
- Landscape and visual baselines established
- Sensitivity of the landscape and visual receptors to the development determined
- Magnitude of change to both the landscape and visual receptors is determined, including the nature of the impact
- Duration and reversibility of the proposed development is considered
- Assessments of sensitivity to change and magnitude of change are combined to assess significance of landscape and visual effects
- Measures to mitigate adverse effects are considered
- Final statement of likely significant residual landscape and visual effects from the development proposals.

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

Also promoted in Long Term Forest Plans applicants guidance.

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.

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.
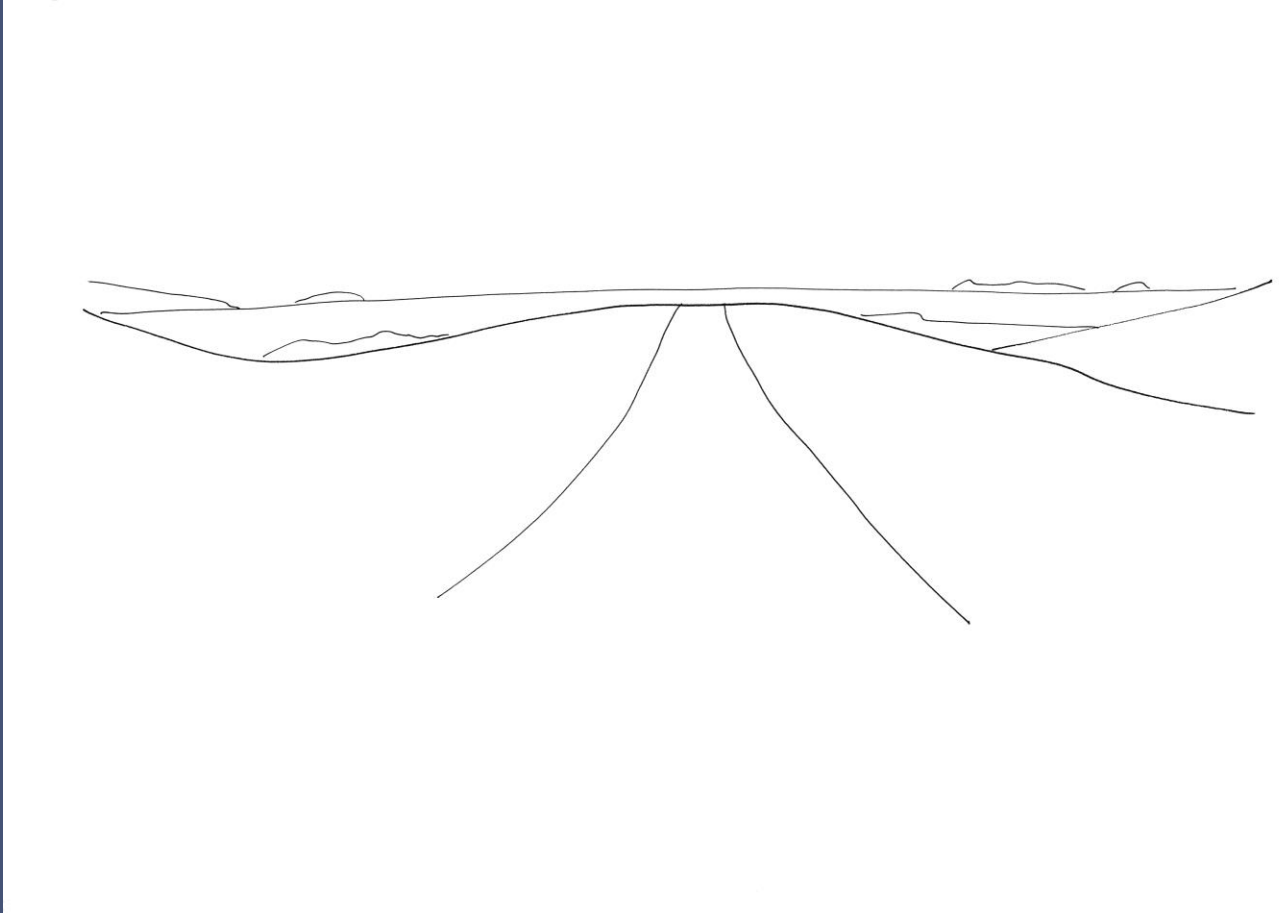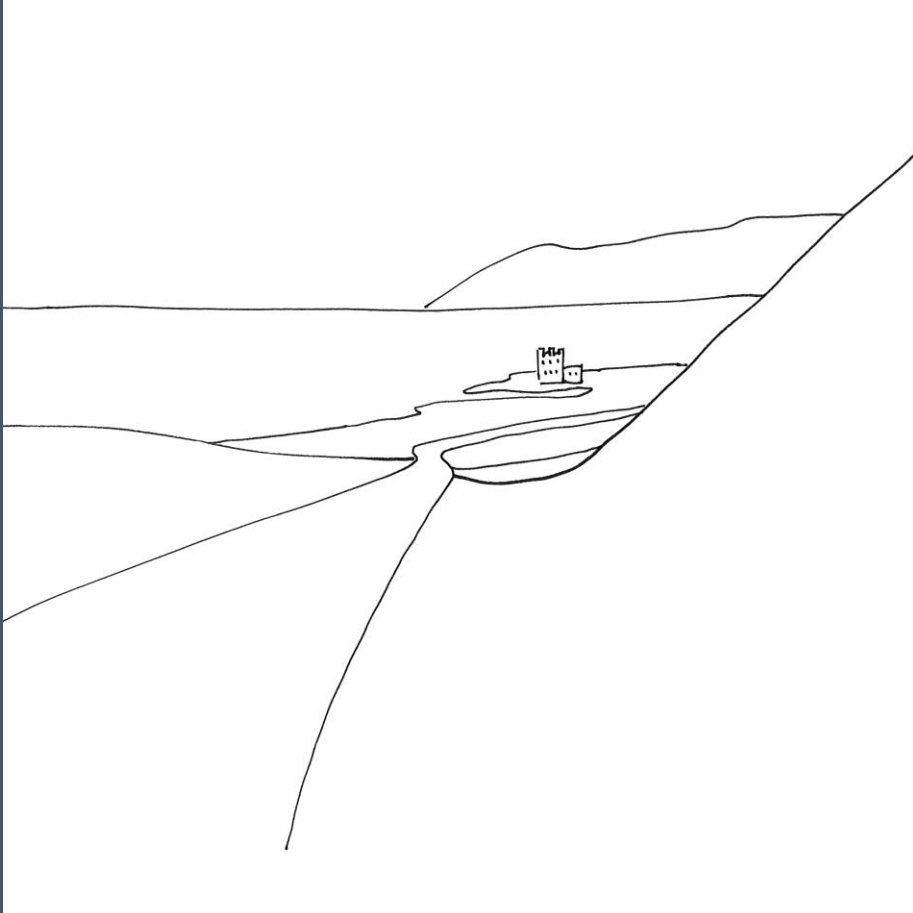
Selecting viewpoints - panoramic
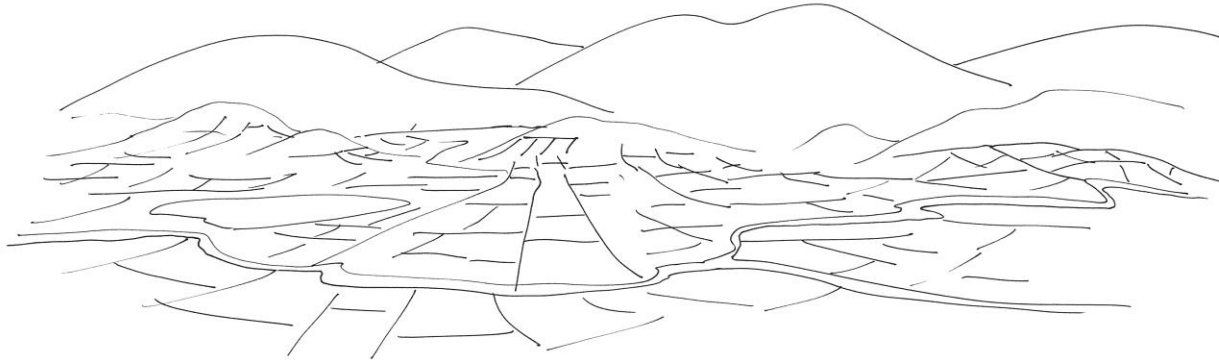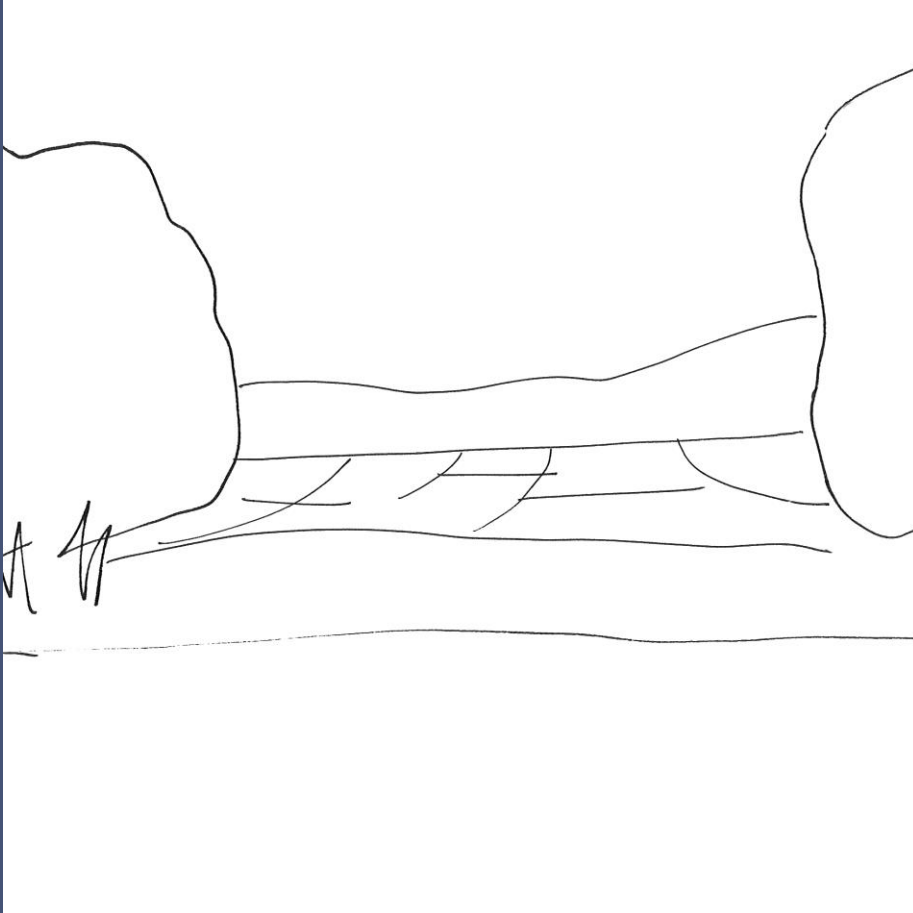
Selecting viewpoints - revealed
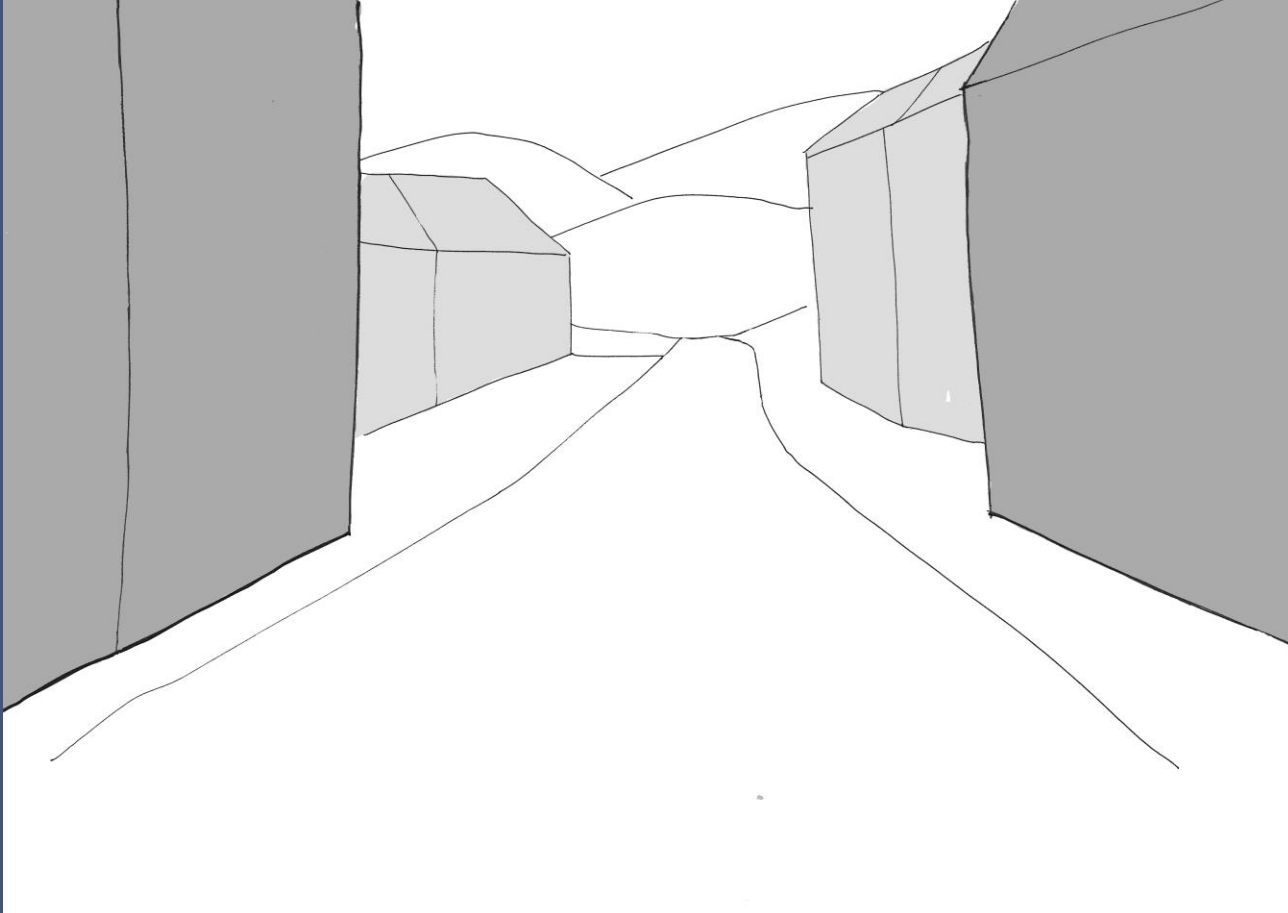
Selecting viewpoints - destination
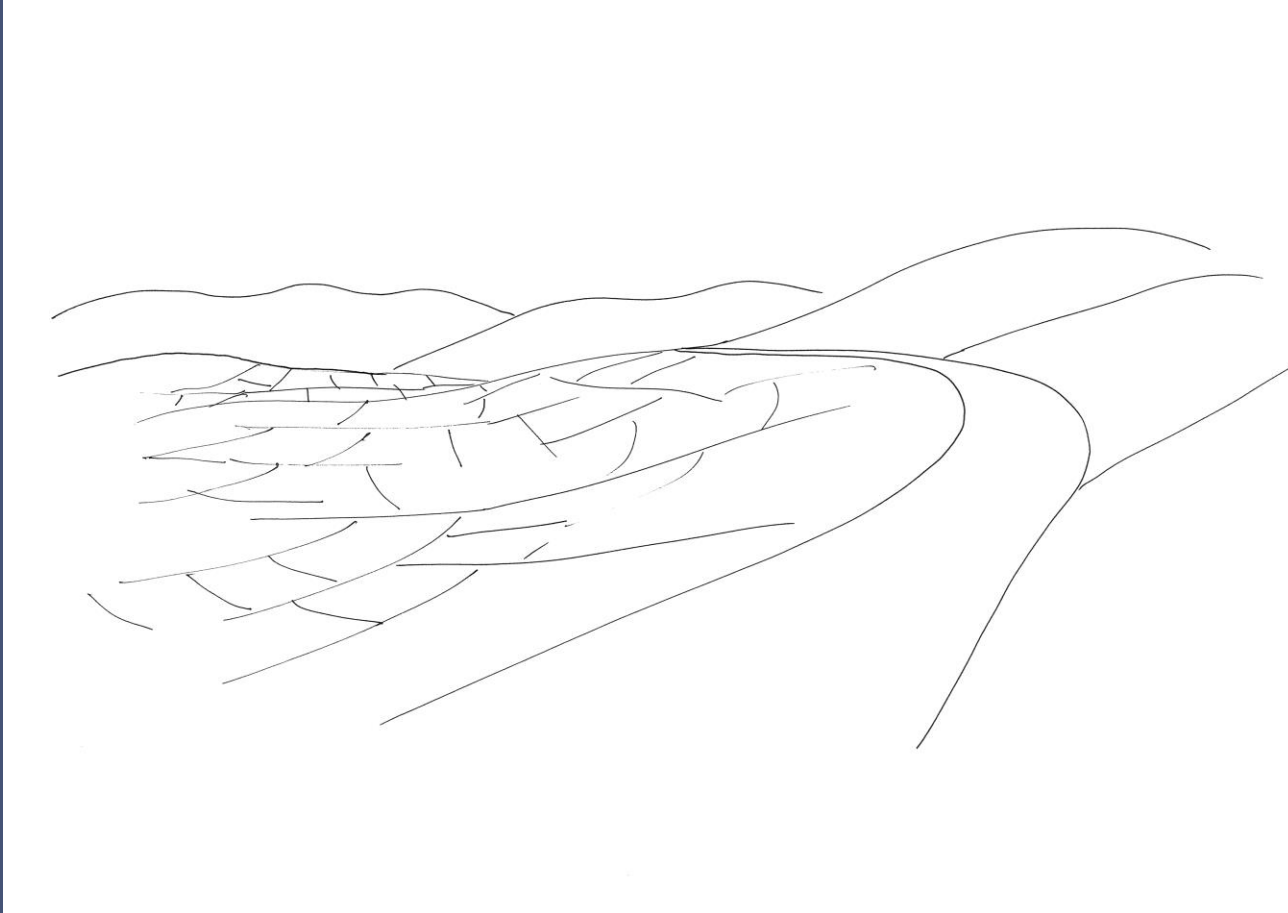
Selecting viewpoints - glimpse

Selecting viewpoints - focal point

Selecting viewpoints - sustained

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.