

Methodology for Verified View Montages

1. Overview.

This summarised methodology has been prepared by 3D Design Bureau Ltd (3DDB) to explain the production of Verified View Montages (VVM). The preparation and presentation of reliable verifiable visual information is a key component to the writing of Landscape Visual Impact Assessment reports. It should be noted that VVMs are technical images and should be produced and used in a technically appropriate manner. Note: A full version of this methodology can be supplied in PDF upon request.

2. What Is A Verified View Montage (VVM)?

Verified View Montages work by using the correct geospatial insertion of accurate 3d models in the existing landscape (photo) allowing for a photorealistic view of the planned model in its intended location.

3. Methodology

3.1 Project Planning

Following appointment a full list of suggested views are drawn up for review prior to visiting site between 3DDB, the client and the planning consultant. Note: If a LVIA report is being written by a 3rd Party planning consultant, the medium to long range views will be guided by them. After obtaining a full list, it is analysed and a plan for the taking of baseline photographs is put in place. Note: 3D modelling of the proposed scheme can, and usually is, commenced prior to the photographic site visit.

3.2 High resolution Baseline Photography

Every baseline photograph is captured in raw settings using a high-resolution digital SLR camera. This allows for the maximum possible information to be retained in the digital file. It also avoids the file from being altered by any internal camera processing definitions, allowing us to retain the maximum control and fidelity on the end results.

The focal lengths used depend on the surrounding context and proximity to the desired area. We use high quality lenses with focal lengths that allow us to capture enough surrounding context without compromising quality and fidelity, by avoiding excessive barrelling, distortion or aberrations. All shots are taken horizontally with the use of a 50mm lens (where possible). Note: Although the 50mm focal length represents the perceived scale of the human eye, it does NOT represent the human field of view and therefore should not necessarily be used to show the proposed development in its context.

On site and back in the studio, each photo location is correctly recorded and marked as follows

On-Site:

- The tripod location on site is paint marked and photographed in relation to existing elements.
- The location of each photo is manually marked on a printed map while on site.
- The camera height is recorded.

Upon completion of the baseline photo site visit all photographs go through post processing back in the studio. The full set of photos along with a viewpoint location map are issued to the client for review and to choose the best shots that will demonstrate the visual impact that the proposed scheme may/may not have.

3.3 Baseline Photo Surveying

When all baseline photos for the VVMs are chosen, each one is marked up in studio. The fixed reference points within each photo are coloured coded and all 'marked up' baseline photos are issued to our qualified topographical surveyor for surveying purposes.

The survey team records the camera/tripod position using GPS & Total Station to an accuracy of +/-1cm Northing & Easting and to an accuracy of 2cm Elevation. The 'marked up' fixed reference points identified in each photo are then surveyed to establish exact orientation of the view and to verify the photomontage process.