
GLOSSARY OF TERMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

Accumulated Temperature (AT0)	Median accumulated temperature above 0°C from January to June recorded between 1961 and 1980. This gives a measure of the warmth of the local climate.
Agricultural Land Classification (ALC)	Agricultural land classified into five grades. Grade one is best quality and grade five is poorest quality. Criteria used in assessment include climate, site and soil.
Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs)	Measures put in place by local authorities in areas where air pollution level for any eight main pollutants is above national standards.
Air Quality Strategy (AQS)	The UK Air Quality Strategy (2007) provides the overarching strategic framework for air quality management in the UK and contains national air quality standards and objectives.
Alternatives	The range of options examined including alternative locations, layout, design and construction phasing.
AM / PM Peak	Peak travel times in relation to calculating average daily traffic flow, usually 7 to 9 am and 5 to 7 pm.
Annual Average Rainfall (AAR)	Average amount of precipitation falling at a specified site between 1941 and 1970 recorded by the Meteorological Office. This gives a measure of the wetness of the local climate.
Available Water Capacity (AWC)	A measure of moisture that plants can extract from the soil. Related to <i>soil texture</i> , <i>soil structure</i> , stoniness and depth of the soil that roots can exploit.
Baseline	The existing environmental conditions of a site or area upon which impacts are predicted against.
Best and most versatile land	Land in <i>Grades 1, 2 and 3a</i> of the <i>MAFF ALC</i> .
Biodiversity	The variety of forms of life, including genetic diversity, species diversity and ecosystem diversity.
UK Biodiversity Action Plan (UKBAP)	An internationally recognized program addressing threatened species and habitats at national and/or local levels, which is designed to protect and restore biological systems.
Calcareous soil	Soil containing free carbonate (usually CaCO ₃) sufficient to effervesce visibly when treated with 10% diluted HCl.

Clay	A soil separate consisting of particles < 0.002 mm in equivalent diameter.
Code of Construction Practice (CoCP)	A CoCP sets out measures that must be followed during construction in order to minimise environmental impacts and health and safety risks, including Site Waste Management Plan (SWMP).
Containment Wall	A secondary wall that helps contain overtopping water and guide it through a specific path.
Cumulative Effects	Effects which arise from a combination or interaction of impacts at a specific location.
dB	The unit of sound pressure level.
dB (A)	The unit of sound level weighted according to the 'A' scale which takes into account the increased sensitivity of the human ear.
Design and Access Statement	The statement accompanying the planning application that explains how the development was designed in relation to its surroundings and how people will be able to use the place intended to be built.
Droughtiness	A standard calculation in the <i>MAFF ALC</i> guidelines which uses soil and climatic parameters to provide an estimate of likely moisture stress in 'standard' crops due to the crop's requirements for water exceeding the <i>AWC</i> of the soil.
Ecological Disturbance	A temporary change in average environmental conditions that causes a pronounced change in an ecosystem.
Environmental Appraisal	A generic term for the evaluation of the environmental implications of proposals (used by the UK Government in respect of policies and plans).
Environmental Effect	The effect on the environment of a specific impact, for example the impact of removing trees may have an effect on local wildlife.
Environmental Impact	An identified impact (adverse or beneficial) on the environment arising from a certain action, process or activity.
Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)	A systematic procedure required under the European Directive 85/337/EEC in which involves the identification, prediction, evaluation, mitigation and management of impacts from a proposed development and its alternatives.

EIA Regulations	Environmental Impact Assessment (Town and Country Planning) (England and Wales) Regulations, 1999.
Environmental Statement (ES)	The document in which the findings of an EIA are presented to decision-makers and the public.
Ephemeral / Short Perennial	Lasting for a markedly brief time, for example plants that appear for only short periods of time.
Façade	At 1.0m away from a reflecting surface such as the facade of a building. Facade noise levels are 3dB(A) higher than the free-field noise level would be if the reflecting surface or building were not there.
Field Capacity Days (FCD)	A meteorological parameter which estimates the period when the <i>soil moisture deficit</i> is zero; i.e. the soil is full (or over-full) of water.
Finished Floor Levels (FFL)	The minimum floor level that the building must be finished to ensure flooding does not occur.
Flood Risk Assessment (FRA)	An assessment of the likelihood of flooding in a particular area so that development needs and mitigation measures can be carefully considered.
Footprint	A designated area affected or covered by a building or structure.
Free-field	Far from the presence of any sound reflecting objects other than the ground, usually taken to mean at least 3.5m away.
Frequency	The number of cycles per second that the sound pressure fluctuates about the ambient static air pressure. High frequency noises are often described as having a high pitch and low frequency noises as having a low pitch. Frequency is measured in Hertz (Hz).
Frequency spectrum	The complete range of frequencies.
Gley	Conditions of poor aeration resulting in chemical reduction of iron and other elements and in grey colours and mottles, usually caused by poor or imperfect drainage.
Gross Floor Area (GFA) m ²	Floor area measured to the outer façade of a building and totalled to include all floors, in metres squared.
Habitat	The area or environment where an organism or ecological community normally lives or occurs.
Hazard Threshold	A limit above which a certain dose of a toxin is dangerous and anything below it safe.

$L_{eq,T}$	The equivalent continuous sound pressure level, measured over a given period T. This is a notional steady sound level which would contain the same amount of sound energy as the actual, possibly time varying, sound level that was actually recorded.
$L_{Aeq,T}$	The A-weighted equivalent continuous sound pressure level, measured over a given period T. It is also known as the ambient noise level.
$L_{A10,T}$	The A-weighted sound level exceeded for 10% of the stated measurement period T. This is the accepted parameter for measuring road traffic noise.
$L_{A90,T}$	The A-weighted sound level exceeded for 90% of the stated measurement period T. This is the accepted parameter for measuring background noise.
Land Reclamation	The creation of new land where there was once water.
Landscape Capacity	The degree to which a particular landscape character type or area is able to accommodate change without unacceptable adverse effects on its character.
Landscape Character	The distinct and recognisable pattern of elements that occurs consistently in a particular type of landscape, and how this is perceived by people. It reflects particular combinations of geology, landform, soils, vegetation, land use and human settlement. It creates the particular sense of place of different areas of landscape.
Landscape Strategy	A long term plan of actions designed to achieve a particular landscape and planting vision.
Leachate	A solution containing contaminants picked up through the leaching of soil.
Listed Building	Listing gives a building statutory protection against unauthorised demolition, alteration and extension. <u>Grade I</u> : buildings of outstanding or national architectural or historic interest. <u>Grade II</u> : buildings of special architectural or historic interest. <u>Grade II*</u> : particularly significant buildings of more than local interest.
Loam	The textural class name for soil having moderate amounts of each of sand, silt and clay.

Local Air Quality Management (LAQM)	Part IV of the Environment Act 1995 places a statutory duty on local authorities to periodically review and assess the current and the future air quality within their area.
Local Development Framework (LDF)	The spatial planning strategy introduced by the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 and given detail in Planning Policy Statement 12 (PPS12).
Lower Quality Land	In this context comprises land in <i>Grades 3b, 4 and 5</i> .
Macrophyte	A plant or algae that is big enough to be perceived by an unaided eye.
Made Ground	Surface ground layer consisting of imported material or rubble from demolition waste compacted down.
MAFF	Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.
Magnitude	A combination of the scale, extent and duration of an effect.
Mitigation Measures	Measures that are applied to avoid, reduce, remedy or compensate for identified significant adverse impacts.
Mottles	Patches of different colour or shades of colour interspersed with the dominant matrix colour.
Moisture Deficit (Potatoes) (MDp)	The calculated deficit between the water supplied by average summer rainfall at that location and the quantity of water required to grow a crop of potatoes (without suffering from a lack of water) at that location. The larger the value, the greater the likelihood of yields being reduced by droughtiness. In practice the deficit has to be met from soil water reserves, irrigation and/or by the crop senescing early: the last reduces yields.
Moisture Deficit (Wheat) (MDw)	As above but for a wheat crop assumed to root to 120 cm.
Nanograms (µg)	One billionth of a gram.
Nanometer (µm)	One billionth of a meter.
Nitrogen Dioxide (NO ₂)	A reddish-brown gas that has a characteristic sharp, biting odour. NO ₂ is one of the most prominent air pollutants and a poison by inhalation.
Noise Level Indices ('L')	Noise levels usually fluctuate over time, so it is often necessary to consider an average or statistical noise level. There are a number of different noise indices according to how the average statistic is determined.

Non Technical Summary (NTS)	A summary of the ES in non-specialist language so that a large group of the public can understand the main likely significant environmental impacts of a proposal.
Metres above Ordnance Datum (m OD)	The reference point for elevation used by an Ordnance Survey as the basis for deriving altitudes on maps.
Octave	The frequency spectrum is divided into a number of smaller ranges or bands. These bands are termed octaves or one-third octaves, depending on how wide they are, and are centred at defined frequencies.
Ornithology	The branch of zoology that deals with the study of birds.
Parameter Plans	Parameters are used in outline applications as they retain flexibility in the precise quantum of development but enable the likely significant effects of the proposed development to be identified and assessed.
Perennial	A plant lasting for three seasons or more.
PM ₁₀	Particulate matter (PM), aerosols or fine particles are tiny particles of solid or liquid suspended in a gas. The notation PM ₁₀ is used to describe particles of 10 micrometres or less.
(1%) Probability	There is a 1 in a 100 chance of flooding each year.
Protected Species	Species protected through UK legislation, specifically in relation to certain species of animals, birds and plants, namely by means of the Wildlife and Countryside Act, 1981.
Qualitative Data	Data relying on reasons behind various aspects of behaviour.
Quantitative Data	The systematic scientific investigation of countable properties and phenomena and their relationships.
R _w	Weighted Sound Reduction Index: a frequency weighted single number measure of the airborne sound insulating properties of a material or interior building element.
Receptor	Receptors are directly or indirectly affected by the identified impacts on the environment e.g. receptors of visual impacts are residents or users of public recreation routes.
Refugia	Artificial and natural refuges used by certain species for shelter.
Remediation Strategy	Framework for actions to be taken in relation to

	contaminated land or waters for the purpose of preventing, minimising or mitigating the effects of harm to human health or the environment or the pollution of groundwater.
Residual Impacts / Effects	Those impacts / effects that would remain following the implementation of mitigation measures.
Ruderal	Plants, often perennial weeds, associated with waste ground.
Scoping	The process of identifying the issues that are to be addresses as part of the EIA, it is method used to ensure that an EIA focuses on the important issues, it is usually done in consultation with the determining authority and statutory consultees.
Screening	The process of determining whether an EIA is required.
Seawall	An embankment that prevents erosion of a shoreline.
Section 106 Agreements (s106)	Section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended) allows the drafting of agreements (known as planning obligations) between Council and developers.
Sensitivity	The degree of response of a receiver or instrument to a signal or a change.
Sieve Analysis	A practice or procedure used to determine the size of any type of non-organic or organic granular round materials.
Significance	The extent to which something matters. Significance of impacts is defined as substantial, moderate, minor or negligible.
Silt	A soil separate consisting of particles 0.063 to 0.002 mm in equivalent diameter.
Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)	The main national conservation status awarded to a site in Britain, SSSIs are designated under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (part 2).
Soil Moisture Deficit	The difference between the maximum amount of water potentially stored in a drained soil and the amount remaining after some of the water has been used by growing vegetation.
Soil Structure	The combination or arrangement of individual soil particles into larger compound units (or peds) with channels between. The secondary units are characterised and classified on the basis of size, shape

	and degree of development.
Soil Texture	The relative proportion of the various soil particle size fractions in a soil (sand, silt and clay).
Stable Non Reactive Waste	The leaching behaviour of a waste that will not change adversely in the long-term either through biodegradation in the waste or by the impact of other wastes.
Statutory Consultees	Organisations that the relevant determining authority is required to consult with. In accordance with the Environmental Impact Assessment (Town and Country Planning) (England and Wales Regulations, 1999 this is the Environment Agency, English Nature, English Heritage and Countryside Agency.
Statutory Protected Sites	Site designations that protect the UKs natural heritage through statute, namely Sites of Special Scientific Interest, National Nature Reserves and Local Nature Reserves and those sites designated under European Directives.
Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) and Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)	Adopted local document that covers a range of issues, both thematic and site specific and provide further detail of policies and proposals in a development plan.
Sustainability Statement	A document which aims to set a site specific approach to Sustainable Development and provide a framework of commitments and opportunities for the proposals.
Tapered Element Oscillating Microbalance (TEOM)	Method used for PM ₁₀ monitoring.
Topographic Map	A detailed and accurate graphic representation of the cultural and natural features on the ground.
Translocation	Movement of a habitat type or specific species from one location to another for protection.
Travel Plan	Document setting out ways in which the use of public transport and other more sustainable means of transport will be encouraged.
Triethanolamine (TEA)	A viscous, hygroscopic liquid with an ammonia aroma, soluble in chloroform, water, and alcohol, and boiling at 335°C.
Visual Amenity	The value of a particular area or view in terms of what is seen.
Visual Envelope	Extent of potential visibility to or from a specific area of feature.

Wetness Class	Soil wetness is classified according to the depth and duration of waterlogging in the soil profile. Six wetness classes are identified, from very well to very poorly drained.
Wetness Limitation	A soil wetness limitation exists where the soil water regime adversely affects plant growth or imposes restrictions on cultivations or grazing by livestock.
Zone of Visual Influence (ZVI)	Area within which a proposed development may have an influence or effect on visual amenity.