

Glossary

AD	Anno Domini (referring to historic timescales)
Affordable Housing	A land-use planning term: “both low-cost market and subsidised housing (irrespective of tenure, ownership – where exclusive or shared – or financial arrangements) that will be available to people who cannot afford to rent or buy houses generally available on the open market.”
AOD	Above Ordnance Datum
AQAP	Air quality action plan
AQMA	Air quality management area
Assessment	An umbrella term for description, classification, analysis and evaluation
ATC	Automatic Traffic Counts
BAP	Biodiversity Action Plan
Barrow	A heap of earth placed over one or more prehistoric tombs, often surrounded by ditches
Baseline	Existing environmental conditions
BBOWT	Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxford Wildlife Trust
BTO	British Trust for Ornithology
CCTV	Close Circuit Television
CDC	Cherwell District Council
CDEW	Construction, Demolition and Excavation Waste
Countryside	The rural environment and its associated agricultural communities
CROW Act	Countryside Rights of Way Act (2000)
CWS	County Wildlife Site
dBA	Decibels on a logarithmic scale (Scale A) – the standard measurement of noise
DEFRA	Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
DETR	Department of Transport, Environment and Regions

DOR	Diesel Range Organics
EA	Environment Agency
EcIA	Ecological Impact Assessment
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment – a means of drawing together, in a systematic way, an assessment of a project’s likely significant effects. This helps to ensure that the importance of the predicted effects, and the scope for reducing them, are properly understood by the public and the relevant competent authority before it makes a decision
EPA	Environmental Protection Act 1990
ES	Environmental Statement – a document setting out the developer’s own assessment of a project’s likely environmental effects, which is prepared and submitted by the developer in conjunction with the application for consent
FRA	Flood Risk Assessment
GP	General Practitioners / Doctors
GQA	General Quality Assessment – this is the Environment Agency’s national method for classifying water quality in rivers and canals
Heritage	Historic or cultural associations for which landscapes are valued
HGV	Heavy Goods Vehicles
IEEM	Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management
IEMA	Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment
JNCC	Joint Nature Conservation Committee
LAQM	Local air quality management
Methodology	The specific approach and techniques used for a given study
Mitigation	Any process, activity or entity designed to avoid, reduce or remedy adverse environmental effects likely to be caused by a development project
MSW	Municipal Solid Waste
NAQIA	National Air Quality Information Archive
NAQS	National Air Quality Strategy

NHS	National Health Service
NO ₂	Nitrogen dioxide
NVC	National Vegetation Classification - a national scheme designed to provide standard descriptions of identified vegetation types in the UK
OCC	Oxfordshire County Council
ODPM	Office of the Deputy Prime Minister
OWLS	Oxfordshire Wildlife and Landscape Study
PAH	Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons
PCT	Primary Care Trust
PCU	Passenger Car Units – a unit of measure by which large trucks are converted to passenger cars using multiplication factors
Phytotoxic	Substances that are poisonous to plants
PIA	Personal Injury Accident
PM ₁₀	Particulate matter
PPG	Planning Policy Guidelines (DETR)
RAMSAR site	An area of wetlands that is of international importance
RSL	Registered Social Landlords
SAC	Special Areas of Conservation – An area of international importance for nature conservation
SAM	Scheduled Ancient Monuments
Scoping	An early stage within the environmental impact assessment process where the significance of environmental issues and scope of the environmental studies are determined
SEERA	South East England Regional Assembly
Sensitive Receptors	Elements of the community or environment that are sensitive to a specific effect (e.g. traffic or noise)
SLM	Sound Level Meter
SMR	Sites and Monument Records

SPA	Special Protection Areas – sites classified as protected due to their rare, vulnerable and migratory birds species
SSSI	Site of Special Scientific Interest: an area of national importance for nature conservation with statutory notification
SUDS	Sustainable Drainage Systems
SWMA	Strategic Waste Management Assessment
TA	Traffic Assessment
TVERC	Thames Valley Environmental Records Centre
TWU	Thames Water Utilities
WCA	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981
WRA	Water Resources Act
ZVI	Zones of Visual Influence