

16. GLOSSARY AND ACRONYMS

Term / Acronym	Description
AEP	Annual Exceedance Probability
Air quality objective	Policy target generally expressed as a maximum ambient concentration to be achieved, either without exception or with a permitted number of exceedances within a specific timescale.
Air quality standard	The concentrations of pollutants in the atmosphere which can broadly be taken to achieve a certain level of environmental quality. The standards are based on the assessment of the effects of each pollutant on human health including the effects on sensitive sub groups (see also air quality objective).
AOD (Above Ordnance Datum)	Baseline standard for measuring height usually measured in metres AOD (mAOD)
AONB	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
AQAP	Air Quality Action Plan
BAP	Biodiversity Action Plan. UK strategy for the conservation of biological resources, now largely succeeded by The 'UK Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework' but lists of priority species and habitats and forms the basis of much biodiversity work.
Baseline	Existing environmental conditions which are described in the Environmental Statement.
bgl	Below Ground Level
BGS	British Geological Society
Biodiversity	The biological diversity of the earth's living resources. The variety and abundance of species, their genetic composition, and the natural communities, ecosystems, and landscapes in which they occur.
Birds Directive	EC Directive on the conservation of wild birds (2009/147/EC)
BMP	Biodiversity Management Plan
BMV	Best and Most Versatile (agricultural land). This is land that is most flexible, productive and efficient in response to inputs and which can best deliver future crops for food and non-food uses such as biomass, fibres and pharmaceuticals. Grade 1, 2 and 3a land is classified as BMV land under government guidance.
Characterisation	The process of identifying areas of similar landscape character, classifying and mapping them and describing their character.
Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA)	Professional organization for archaeologists working in the U.K
Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM)	Professional body of which most professional consultant ecologists are members. Its aim is to raise the profile of professional ecological and environmental management and to promote the highest standards of practice for the benefit of nature and society.

Term / Acronym	Description
Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP)	A site or project specific plan designed to ensure best practice and/or appropriate environmental management practices are applied throughout the construction, operation and/or demolition phases of a project.
Countryside and Rights of Way (CROW) Act 2000	Primarily relates to public access to the countryside, but also amended existing law (the Wildlife and Countryside Act) relating to nature conservation and the protection of wildlife under Part III, which is concerned with the introduction of improved protection and management of Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs).
Conservation Area	Nearly always applies to an area (usually urban or the core of a village) considered worthy of preservation or enhancement because of its special architectural or historic interest.
Controlled Waters	Controlled waters are defined as virtually all freshwater including relevant territorial waters (extending 3 miles seawards from baseline), coastal waters (water inland of baseline), inland waters, surface water, public supply reservoirs and groundwater.
Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP)	Sets out how the construction phase (including deliveries to the Site) will be managed.
dB	Decibel – A scale for comparing the ratios of two quantities, including sound pressure and sound power. The difference in level between two sounds s_1 and s_2 is given by $20 \log_{10}(s_1/s_2)$. The decibel can also be used to measure absolute quantities by specifying a reference value that fixes one point on the scale. For sound pressure, the reference value is $20\mu\text{Pa}$.
dB (A), L_{Ax}	(noise quality) 1. Decibels measured on a sound level meter incorporating a frequency weighting (A weighting) which differentiates between sounds of different frequency (pitch) in a similar way to the human ear. Measurements in dB(A) broadly agree with people's assessment of loudness. A change of 3 dB(A) is the minimum perceptible under normal conditions, and a change of 10 dB(A) corresponds roughly to halving or doubling the loudness of a sound. The background noise in a living room may be about 30 dB(A); normal conversation about 60 dB(A) at 1 metre; heavy road traffic about 80 dB(A) at 10 metres; the level near a pneumatic drill about 100 dB(A).
Design and Access Statement (DAS)	A statement accompanying an application that sets out the rationale for the design approach and how the Proposed Development would be accessed for a range of users.
Design Manual for Roads and Bridges (DMRB).	A comprehensive manual which accommodates all current standards, advice notes and other published documents relating to the design, assessment and operation of trunk roads.
Designated Landscape	Areas of landscape identified as being of importance at international, national or local levels, either defined by statute or identified in development plans or other documents.
EA (Environmental Agency)	An executive non-departmental government body working with responsibilities to protect and improve the environment, including flood risk management.

Term / Acronym	Description
Ecological Impact Assessment (EcIA)	Assesses the potential effects of a development on habitats and species, particularly those protected by national and international legislation or considered to be of particular nature conservation importance.
Ecological feature/receptor	An ecological feature is a living system or entity that exists because of specific limiting factors such as the soils and nutrients, availability of water, climate, etc. An ecological receptor is a feature that is sensitive to or has the potential to be affected by an impact.
eDNA	Environmental DNA is DNA that is collected from a variety of environmental samples such as soil, seawater, or even air rather than directly sampled from an individual organism.
Elements	Individual parts which make up the landscape, such as, for example, trees, hedges and buildings.
Emissions Factor Toolkit	Published to assist local authorities in carrying out Review and Assessment of local air quality as part of their duties under the Environmental Act 1995
EIA (Environmental Impact Assessment)	Process for identifying the likely significance of environmental effects (beneficial or adverse) arising from a Proposed Development, by comparing the existing environmental conditions prior to development (the baseline) with the environmental conditions during/following the construction, operational and decommissioning phases of a development should it proceed.
Environmental Statement	Document setting out the findings of an Environmental Impact Assessment.
EPS	European Protected Species
Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey	A habitats survey method originally published by the Nature Conservancy Council in 1990. It is intended to rapidly provide a record of semi-natural vegetation and wildlife habitat over large areas of countryside. It has been modified slightly, or extended, for the purposes of carrying initial assessments as to the likely ecological value of a site and its potential to support protected or notable species.
Flood Zone 1	Low Probability – Land having a less than 1 in 1,000 annual probability of river flooding.
Flood Zone 2	Medium Probability – Land having between a 1 in 100 and 1 in 1,000 annual probability of river flooding.
Flood Zone 3a	High Probability – Land having a 1 in 100 or greater annual probability of river flooding.
Flood Zone 3b	The Functional Floodplain – This zone comprises land where water has to flow or be stored in times of flood.
FRA (Flood Risk Assessment)	An assessment as to the current and future flood risk of an area where development is proposed. A FRA is supporting information for a planning application.
GCN	Great Crested Newt

Term / Acronym	Description
Geographical Information System (GIS)	A system designed to capture, store, manipulate, analyze, manage, and present spatial or geographic data.
GLVIA3	'Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment - Third Edition'. Published in April 2013 by the Landscape Institute and the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment. Guidance providing advice on the process of assessing the landscape and visual effects of developments.
Green Infrastructure (GI)	Network of green spaces and watercourses and water bodies that connect rural areas, villages, towns and cities.
Groundwater	Water below the surface of the ground and in direct contact with the ground or found subsoil in cracks and spaces in soil, sand and rock.
Groundwater Daughter Directive	Clarifies certain objectives of the Water Framework Directive relating to prevention and control of groundwater pollution and establishes groundwater quality standards.
ha	Hectare – unit of measurement 100m x 100m, or 10,000m ²
Habitat connectivity	Linkage between areas of habitats, such as corridors to allow dispersal of wildlife.
Habitat of Principal Importance	Identified as being the most threatened and requiring conservation action under the UK Biodiversity Action Plan (UK BAP). Statutory lists of priority habitats in England, are provided under Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006 (England).
Habitat Suitability Index (HSI)	A numerical index that represents the capacity of a given habitat to support a selected species. Most commonly used for pond habitats and great crested newts following a method developed by Oldham et al. (2000)
Hard Standing	Ground surfaced with a hard material suitable for supporting vehicular movement (e.g. tarmac, compacted gravel, concrete).
IDB	Internal Drainage Board
IEMA (Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment)	Professional body for EIA and environmental practitioners.
Impact Risk Zone	A GIS tool developed by Natural England to make rapid initial assessment of the potential risks posed by development proposals to: Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs), Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), Special Protection Areas (SPAs) and Ramsar sites.
Indirect Effects	Effects that result indirectly from the proposed project as a consequence of the direct effects, often occurring away from the site, or as a result of a sequence of interrelationships or a complex pathway. They may be separated by distance or in time from the source of the effects.
Invasive Non-native species	An alien plant or animal which is listed under Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act, making it an offence to allow the species to be spread into the wild.

Term / Acronym	Description
Iterative Design Process	The process by which project design is amended and improved by successive stages of refinement which respond to growing understanding of environmental issues.
Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP).	Local strategy for the conservation of biological resources, now largely succeeded by The 'UK Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework' but lists of priority species and habitats and forms the basis of much biodiversity work.
Landform	An area, as perceived by people, the character of which is the result of the action and interaction of natural and /or human factors.
Land Use	What land is used for, based on broad categories of functional land cover, such as urban and industrial use and the different types of agriculture and forestry.
Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA)	A tool used to identify and assess the likely significance of the effects of change resulting from development both on the landscape and as an environmental resource in its own right and on people's views and visual amenity (GLVIA 3, 2013 p157).
Landscape Character Assessment	The process of identifying and describing variation in the character of the landscape, and using this information to assist in managing change in the landscape. It seeks to identify and explain the unique combination of elements and features that make landscape distinctive. The process results in the production of a Landscape Characterisation Assessment.
LCA (Landscape Character Area)	Single unique areas which are the discrete geographical areas of a particular landscape type. Each has its own individual character and identity, even though it shares the same generic characteristics with other types.
LCT (Landscape Character Type)	These are distinct types of landscape that are relatively homogeneous in character. They are generic in nature in that they may occur in different areas in different parts of the country, but wherever they occur they share broadly similar combinations of geology, topography, drainage patterns, vegetation, historical land use, and settlement pattern.
Landscape Effects	Effects on the landscape as a resource in its own right.
Landscape quality (condition)	A measure of the physical state of the landscape. It may include the extent to which typical character is represented in individual areas, the intactness of the landscape and the condition of individual elements.
Landscape receptors	Defined aspects of the landscape resource that have the potential to be affected by a proposal.
Landscape value	The relative value that is attached to different landscape by society. A landscape may be valued by different stakeholders for a whole variety of reasons.
Listed Building	Marks and celebrates a building's special architectural and historic interest, and also brings it under the consideration of the planning system, so that it can be protected for future generations.
LLFA	Lead Local Flood Authority

Term / Acronym	Description
Local Planning Authority (LPA)	The Council (County, Borough or District) that is empowered by law to exercise statutory town planning functions for a particular area (administrative boundary) of the UK.
LNR	Local Nature Reserve
Local Wildlife Site (LWS)	Non statutory designated site identified and selected for their local nature conservation value and protected through planning policy.
Main River	Main rivers are usually larger rivers and streams. The Environment Agency carries out maintenance, improvement or construction work on main rivers to manage flood risk.
MAGIC	'Multi Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside' website – Government sponsored website containing environmental data from several public bodies including Natural England, the Environment Agency, English Heritage, Forestry Commission, Marine Management Organisation and the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.
Magnitude (of effect)	A term that combines judgements about the size and scale of the effect, the extent of the area over which it occurs, whether it is reversible or irreversible and whether it is short or long term in duration.
National Character Areas	Previously known as Joint Character Areas developed by the then Countryside Agency. These are areas that share similar landscape characteristics. See also LCA.
National Planning Policy Framework	Document setting out the Government's planning policies for England and instruction on how they are expected to be applied. Latest version published in September 2023.
National Planning Practice Guidance	On-line resource to support the implementation of the NPPF
Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006	It requires local authorities and government departments to have regard to the purposes of conserving biodiversity in a manner that is consistent with the exercise of their normal functions such as policy and decision-making.
National Nature Reserve (NNR)	Established to protect the most significant areas of habitat and of geological formations.
Non-Technical Summary (NTS)	Summary document in a non-technical language
Ordinary watercourse	A watercourse that is not part of a Main River. All rivers and streams, ditches, drains, cuts, culverts, dikes, sluices, sewers (other than public sewers within the meaning of the Water Industry Act 1991) and passages, through which water flows.
Ordnance Survey	National mapping agency in the United Kingdom which covers the island of Great Britain
Phase 1 Habitat Survey	A habitats survey method originally published by the Nature Conservancy Council in 1990. It is intended to rapidly provide a record of semi-natural vegetation and wildlife habitat over large areas of countryside. It has been modified slightly, or extended, for the purposes of carrying initial assessments as to the likely

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	ecological value of a site and its potential to support protected or notable species.
Photomontage	A visualisation which superimposes an image of a Proposed Development upon a photograph or series of photographs.
Priority habitat or species	Identified as being the most threatened and requiring conservation action under the UK Biodiversity Action Plan (UK BAP). Statutory lists of priority species and habitats in England, are provided under Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006 (England)
Proposed Development	All areas included within the application redline. This can also be known as the 'Site' within the ES as long as a capital S is used.
Public Right of Way (PRoW)	Footpath, bridleway or byways over which members of the public have a right to use.
Reasonable Avoidance Measures (RAMS)	Outlines how a task should be undertaken to avoid impacts on an ecological receptor.
Ramsar Site	A Ramsar site is a wetland site designated to be of international importance under the Ramsar Convention. The Convention on Wetlands, known as the Ramsar Convention, is an intergovernmental environmental treaty established in 1971 by UNESCO, which came into force in 1975.
Receptor	A location, feature (ground, watercourse) or individual (person, plant, bird, animal etc) upon which the effects of a proposed development is assessed, i.e. the receiving environment.
Residual effect	Those impacts that remain following the implementation of mitigation measures
RPA	Root Protection Area.
Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)	Nature conservation charity engaged in managing reserves, undertaking research and working to improve the value and management of land for wildlife, with particular focus on birds.
Special Area of Conservation (SAC)	Sites chosen to conserve the natural habitat types and species of wild flora and fauna listed in Annex I and II of the Habitats Directive. They are the best areas to represent the range and variety of habitats and species within the European Union.
Scheduled Monument	"Nationally important" archaeological site or historic building, given protection against unauthorised change.
Scoping	The process of identifying the issues to be addressed by an EIA. It is a method of ensuring that an EIA focuses on the important issues and avoids those that are considered to be less significant.
Sensitivity	A term applied to specific receptors, combining judgements of the susceptibility of the receptor to the specific type of change or development proposed and the value related to that receptor.
Special Protection Area (SPA)	European Designation designated under Article 4 of the EC Directive on Conservation of Wild Birds (Directive 2009/147/EC) for the protection of rare or vulnerable birds (as listed on Annex I of the Directive) and for regularly occurring migratory species.

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Significance	A measure of the importance or gravity of the environmental effect, defined by significance criteria specific to the environmental topic.
Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)	Conservation designation denoting a protected area in the United Kingdom. An area of land of special interest by reason of its flora, fauna, geology or physiographical features notified under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).
Susceptibility (or vulnerability)	How susceptible or vulnerable the landscape receptor is to accommodate the Proposed Development without undue negative consequences for the maintenance of the baseline situation
Sustainable Drainage System (SuDS)	Management practices and control structures designed to drain surface water in a more sustainable fashion, mimicking natural processes.
Surface water runoff	Rainwater (including snow and other precipitation) which is on the surface of the ground and has not entered a watercourse, drainage system or public sewer.
Swale	A shallow vegetated channel designed to convey, treat or store surface water and facilitate infiltration.
The Town and Country Planning (EIA) Regulations 2017 (as amended)	Regulations that assess the environmental consequences (positive and negative) of projects prior to a decision to move forward with a proposed development.
Time depth	Historical layering – the idea of a landscape as a 'palimpsest, a much written –over manuscript.
Tranquility	A state of calm and quietude associated with peace, considered to be a significant asset of landscape.
UKBAP	UK Biodiversity Action Plan (UKBAP), as succeeded by The 'UK Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework'. BAPs identify habitats and species of nature conservation priority on a UK (UK BAP) and Local (LBAP) scale. UK BAPs formed the basis for statutory lists of priority species and habitats.
Visual amenity	The overall pleasantness of the views people enjoy of their surroundings, which provides an attractive visual setting or backdrop for the enjoyment of activities of the people living, working, recreating, visiting or travelling through an area.
Visual effects	Effects on specific views and on the general visual amenity experienced by people.
Visual receptors	Individuals and/or defined groups of people who have the potential to be affected by a proposal.
Visualisation	A computer simulation, photomontage or other technique illustrating the predicted appearance of a development
Water Framework Directive (WFD)	A European Union Directive which commits European Union member states to achieve good qualitative and quantitative status of all water bodies (including marine waters up to one nautical mile from shore) by 2015.
Water Resources Act 1991	An Act of the Parliament of the United Kingdom that regulates water resources, water quality and pollution, and flood defences.

Term / Acronym	Description
WCA	Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) (as amended). The primary legislation which protects animals, plants and habitats in the UK.
Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV)	A map, usually digitally produced, showing areas of land within which a development is theoretically visible. (GLVIA 3, 2013 p159). Used within Landscape and Visual Assessments (LVIAs) to identify areas of interest for further investigation and assessment.