



Glossary of Terms

ABC Method	This method defines category threshold values which are determined by the time of day and existing monitored ambient noise levels.
Above Ordnance Survey	Land levels in the UK are measured relative to the average sea level at Newlyn in Cornwall. This average level is referred to as 'Ordnance Datum'
Air Quality Management Area (AQMA)	An area identified by a Local Authority as being under the threat of exceeding stated air quality standards.
Ambient	Background levels.
Aquifer	A below ground, water-bearing layer of soil or rock.
Archaeology	The scientific study of ancient or historic physical remains of human activity, both above and below ground.
Baseline	Existing environmental conditions present on, or near a site, against which future changes may be measured or predicted.
Best Practical Means	Measures to control an impact that do not unreasonably inhibit the work, and the use of working methods that result in minimum impacts compatible with best working practices.
Biodiversity	A term used to describe all aspects of biological diversity.
Brownfield site	Sites that comprise previously developed land.
Cold War	Political conflict between the former Soviet Union and the United States between 1947 and 1991.
Conservation Area	An area designated under the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 as being of special architectural or historic interest the character or appearance of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance.
Contamination	Contamination is the addition, or the result of addition, or presence of a material or materials to, or in, another substance to such a degree as to render it unfit for its intended purpose.
Contaminated Land	Any land which appears to the local authority in whose area it is situated to be in such a condition, by reason or substances in, on or under the land, that: a) significant harm is being caused or there is significant possibility of such harm; or b) pollution of controlled waters is being, or likely to be caused; as defined by section 78A(2) Part IIA of the Environmental Protection Act 1990.
Controlled Waters	As defined by the Water Resources Act 2009. Inland freshwater (any lake, pond or watercourse above the freshwater limit), water contained in underground strata and any coastal water between the limit of highest tide or the freshwater line to the three mile limit of territorial waters.
Cumulative Impacts	Impacts that result from incremental changes caused by other past, present or reasonably foreseeable actions.

Directive	European Commission (EC) Directives impose legal obligations on European Member States. They are binding as to the results to be achieved, but allow individual states the right to decide the form and methods used to achieve the results. An example of this is the EC Air Quality Framework Directive 96/62 that is brought into legal effect in the UK by the Air Quality (England) Regulations (2000).
dB(A)	The unit of noise measurement (measured on a logarithmic scale), which expresses the loudness in terms of decibel (dB) scale and the frequency factor (A).
Dust	Fine particles of solid materials ranging in size from 1 to 75 um diameter (see British Standard 3405) capable of being re-suspended in air and settling only slowly under the influence of gravity where it may cause nuisance.
Ecology	The study of living organisms in relation to their surroundings.
Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)	A technique for ensuring that the likely effects of new development on the environment are fully understood and taken into account before the development is allowed to go ahead. It provides a focus for public scrutiny of the project and enables the importance of the predicted effects, and the scope for modifying or mitigating them, to be properly evaluated by the decision-making authority.
EIA Development	Development that falls under the Schedule 1 or 2 of the Town and Country Planning (EIA) 1999 as requiring an EIA.
Environmental Management Plan	A plan to undertake activities which provide for sound environmental management of a project so that adverse environmental impacts are minimised and mitigated.
Emission	A material that is expelled or released to the environment. Usually applied to gaseous or odorous discharges to the atmosphere.
Environmental Impact	The total effect of any operation on the surrounding environment.
Fauna	Animal life.
Flora	The plant life of a particular geographical area.
Floodplain	The area of land available for flood waters to occupy.
Flying Field	Area of the former RAF Airbase comprising the runway and associated infrastructure.
Geology	The physical and chemical structure of the ground.
Groundwater	Water associated with soil or rocks below the ground surface but is usually taken to mean water in the saturated zone.
Gross	The sum total, without deduction.
Gross External Area	The floor area contained within the building measured to the external face of the external walls
Habitat	The living place of an organism characterised by its physical or biotic properties.
Impact Significance	Opinions from a relevant planning authority at an initial stage as to what are the nature and potential scale of the environmental impacts arising from the proposed development, and assessing what further studies are required to establish their significance.

Indirect Jobs	Jobs created in firms supplying goods and services to construction and operational workers.
In situ	In the natural, original or appropriate position.
Interceptors	Used to intercept rainwater or spillages contaminated with oil and to retain the liquid for subsequent separation.
Ground Investigation	An in-depth investigation involving further sampling and analysis, such as the gathering of samples from the ground, walls, ceilings for the detection of contamination, asbestos and or archaeological remains.
Invertebrate	An animal that does not possess a backbone.
LA ₁₀	The noise level exceeded for 10% of the measurement time.
LA ₉₀	The A weighted noise level exceeded for 90% of the specified measurement period, which following BS4142: 1990 is typically used to define background noise level.
LA _{eq}	The Equivalent Continuous A-weighted Sound Pressure Level. The sound pressure level of a steady sound that, over the same time as the measurement period, contains the same total acoustic energy as the sound field being measured. This takes into account the level and duration of noise events and is considered the indicator of the Ambient Noise Level.
LA _{max}	The single highest noise level recorded during a measurement period.
Landmarks	Prominent features in the landscape.
Listed Building	A building included in a list produced by the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport. It comprises buildings and other structures that are of special architectural or historic interest.
Locally Listed Building	While not statutory listed, buildings are of good quality design and appearance or have historical significance, or are important features in their own right and which also make a significant contribution to the character and appearance of the locality
Mitigating factor	A matter to be taken into account as a benefit to offset any perceived or demonstrable harmful impact.
Mitigation (measure)	The measures put forward to prevent, reduce and where possible, offset any adverse effects on the environment.
Multiplier	Figure used to calculate the number of induced and indirect jobs created.
National Planning Policy	National Planning Policy Guidance/Statements set out the Government's policies on different aspects of planning. Local planning authorities must take their content into account in preparing their development plans and guidance may also be material to decisions on individual planning applications and appeals.
National Sites and Monuments Records	A computerised record of information for all statutory listed buildings, known archaeological sites and stray finds, parks and gardens of special historic interest.
Net	After all deductions have been made.

Noise Exposure Category (NEC)	Noise Exposure Categories are specified to give guidance on the determination of the suitability of sites for new residential development
Non-Technical Summary (NTS)	A summary of the Environmental Statement in non-technical language providing a concise, yet comprehensive summary of the likely effects of the project on the environment.
Nuisance	A minor annoyance or inconvenience.
Permeability	The extent to which an environment allows a variety of access routes through it. A permeable environment is one where there is ease of movement and where people have a choice in the routes they may use.
Phase 1 habitat survey	Broad scale and rapid technique for identifying and mapping habitats according to standard definitions and based on vegetation.
Pile	A timber, steel or concrete post that is driven, jacked or cast (bored) into the ground to carry vertical or horizontal loads.
(Sensitive) Receptor	A component of the natural, created or built environment such as human being, water, air, a building, or a plant that is affected by an impact.
Residual impacts	Those impacts of the development that cannot be mitigated following implementation of mitigation proposals.
Risk assessment	An assessment of the likelihood and severity of an occurrence.
Schedule 2 (development)	Development project types under EIA regulations where EIA is not mandatory in all cases but may be required, depending on the size, nature and scale of the development and the potential for significant environmental effects to arise.
Scheduled Monument	An archaeological monument that is included in the Schedule required to be maintained by the Secretary of State under Section 1 of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979. Such monuments are protected by law.
Scoping	An initial stage in determining the nature and potential scale of environmental impacts arising as a result of a development, and an assessment of what further studies are required to establish their significance.
Scoping Study	Preliminary study investigated the potential environmental impacts that could arise from the development, used to identify issues for further investigation in the EIA.
Setting	The context in which a building or area can be appreciated.
Statutory Consultees	Groups or bodies that, by law, must be consulted as part of the planning application process for certain types of development.
Sustainable Development	Development that meets the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.
Landscape Character	Exhibit distinct character and intrinsic qualities, often based on the historic built form or layout in urban areas.
Unexploded Ordnance	Explosive weapons (bombs, shells, grenades, land mines etc) that did not explode when they were employed and still pose a risk of detonation, potentially many decades after they were used or discarded.

Zone of Visual Influence	Area within which a proposed development may have an influence or effect on visual amenity.
A1 Use Class	Class of land use as set out in Town and Country Planning (Use Classes) Order 1987, and its subsequent amendments, for shops (For example hairdressers, travel and ticket agencies, post offices and showrooms).
A4 Use Class	Class of land use as set out in Town and Country Planning (Use Classes) Order 1987, and its subsequent amendments, for drinking establishments (e.g. public houses, wine bars)
A5 Use Class	Class of land use as set out in Town and Country Planning (Use Classes) Order 1987, and its subsequent amendments, for hot food takeaways.
Ambient levels	Background levels (e.g. for air quality or noise).
Asbestos	Asbestos is the name given to a group of naturally occurring minerals called the 'miracle fibre'. It was mainly used as a heat-resistant or insulating material and can still be found in buildings built mainly prior to the 1990s.
B1 Class Use	Class of land use as set out in Town and Country Planning (Use Classes) Order 1987, and its subsequent amendments, for Offices (other than financial and professional services providing for the visiting members of the public).
Background noise	Background noise is the term used to describe the noise measured in the absence of the noise under investigation. It is described as the average of the minimum noise levels measured on a sound level meter and is measured statistically as the A-weighted noise level exceeded for ninety percent of a sample period. This is represented as the L90 noise level (see below).
Baseline	Existing environmental conditions present on, or near a site, against which future changes may be measured or predicted.
C3 Class Use	Class of land use as set out in Town and Country Planning (Use Classes) Order 1987, and its subsequent amendments, for dwelling houses (family houses or houses occupied by up to 6 residents living together as a single household).
Conceptual Exposure Model	<p>Textual and or schematic hypothesis of the nature and sources of contamination, potential migration pathways (including description of the ground and groundwater) and potential receptors, developed on the basis of the information from the preliminary investigation and refined during subsequent phases of investigation and which is an essential part of the risk assessment process.</p> <p>Note 1: The conceptual exposure model is initially derived from the information obtained by the preliminary investigation. This conceptual model is used to focus subsequent investigations, where these are considered to be necessary, in order to meet the objectives of the investigations and the risk assessment. The results of the field investigation can provide additional data that can be used to further refine the conceptual model.</p>

D1 Class Use	Class of land use as set out in Town and Country Planning (Use Classes) Order 1987, and its subsequent amendments, for Non-residential Institutions (e.g. clinics, health centres, crèches, day nurseries, day centres, schools, art galleries, museums, libraries, halls, places of worship, church halls, law court, non residential education and training centres).
Flood Risk Assessment (FRA)	The assessment, with proposed mitigation measures, of the potential for flooding to take place on a site whether from nearby surface waters or as a result of inadequate site drainage.
Made Ground	Soils or other material that has been deposited by man rather than natural processes, for example to make up ground levels.
Massing	Overall bulk, size or volume of a building.
Remediation	Cleanup or other methods used to remove or contain a toxic spill or hazardous materials.
Topography	The shape and configuration of the land.
Travel Plan	A transport plan whose aim is to reduce reliance on private cars and increase use of public transport.
Transport Assessment	An inclusive process to determine all aspects of movement by people and vehicles associated with the new development. It demonstrates how the development affects demand for travel and how all travel demands and servicing requirements will be met.

Abbreviations

ABL	above ground level
AAWT	Annual Average Weekly Traffic
AOD	Above Ordnance Datum
AQMA	Air Quality Management Area
BAP	Biodiversity Action Plan
BGL	Below Ground Level
BGS	British Geological Survey
BNL	Basic Noise Level
BPM	Best Practical Means
BRE	Building Research Establishment
BS	British Standard
CAMS	Catchment Abstraction Management Strategy
CCoP	Construction Code of Practice
CDC	Cherwell District Council
CEMP	Construction Environmental Management Plan
CLEA	Contaminated Land Exposure Assessment
CLR	Contaminated Land Reports
CoSHH	Control of Substances Hazardous to Health
CoPA	Control of Pollution Act
CRTN	Calculation of Road Traffic Noise
dB	Decibels (SI unit of noise)
DCLG	Department for Communities and Local Government
DEFRA	Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
DETR	Department of the Environment, Transport and Regions
DfT	Department for Transport
DoE	Department of the Environment
DMRB	Design Manual for Roads and Bridges developed for the Department of Transport's
DTI	Department of Trade and Industry
DTLR	Department of Transport, Local Government and Regions
EA	Environment Agency

EHO	Environmental Health Officer
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EPA	Environmental Protection Act
EPSL	European Protected Species Licence
ES	Environmental Statement
EU	European Union
FRA	Flood Risk Assessment
FTE	Full Time Equivalent
GAC	Generic Assessment Criteria
GEA	Gross External Area
GIA	Gross Internal Area
GP	General Practitioners
HA	Hectares
HAP	Habitat Action Plan
HAS	Hardened Aircraft Shelter
HDV	Heavy Duty Vehicle
HGV	Heavy Goods Vehicle
IEEM	Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management
IEMA	Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment - formerly the IEA (Institute of Environmental Assessment)
IHT	Institute of Highways and Transport
km	Kilometre
kph	Kilometres per hour
LAQM	Local Air Quality Management
LDF	Local Development Framework
LI	Landscape Institute
LNR	Local Nature Reserve
LPA	Local Planning Authority
m	Metre
$\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$	micrograms per cubic meter
mm/s or mms^{-1}	millimetres per second
mg/m^3	Milligrams per cubic metre
MAD	Mutually Assured Destruction

NEC	Noise Exposure Category
NHS	National Health Services
NIA	Net Internal Area
NO ₂	Nitrogen Dioxide
NSR	Noise Sensitive Receptors
NTS	Non-technical Summary
OA	Oxford Archaeology
OCC	Oxfordshire County Council
OD	Ordnance Datum
ODPM	Office of Deputy Prime Minister
ONS	Office of National Statistics
OS	Ordnance Survey
PM _{2.5}	Particulate Matter with a mean aerodynamic diameter of 2.5µm
PM ₁₀	Particulate Matter with a mean aerodynamic diameter of 10µm
POL	Petrol Oil Lubrication
ppb	parts per billion
ppm	parts per million
PPG	Planning Policy Guidance (note)
PPS	Planning Policy Statement
RAF	Royal Air Force
RSS	Regional Spatial Strategy
SAC	Site Assessment Criteria
SEEDA	South East England Development Agency
SGV	Soil Guideline Value
SPD	Supplementary Planning Document
SSSI	Sites of Special Scientific Interest
STW	Severn Trent Water
SuDS	Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems
TA	Transport Assessment
TG	Technical Guidance
TPO	Tree Preservation Order
UK	United Kingdom
UKBAP	United Kingdom Biodiversity Action Plan

USA	Updating and Screening Assessment
USAF	United States Air Force
WAC	Waste Acceptance Criteria
WHO	World Health Organisation
Zoi	Zone of Influence
ZVI	Zone of Visual Influence

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