

Appendix C

Risk Assessment Classification Definitions

Definition of Potential Consequence

Classification	Human Health	Controlled Waters	Ecological	Built Environment
Severe	Irreversible damage to human health	Substantial pollution of sensitive water resources	Significant change to the number of one or more species or ecosystems	Irreparable damage to buildings, structures or the environment
Moderate	Non-permanent health effects to humans	Pollution of non sensitive water resources or small scale pollution of sensitive water resources	Change to population densities of non sensitive species	Damage to sensitive buildings, structures or the environment
Mild	Slight short term health effects to humans	Slight pollution to non sensitive water resources	Some change to population densities but with no negative effects on the function of the ecosystem	Easily repairable effects of damage to buildings or structures
Negligible	No measurable effects on humans	Insubstantial pollution to non-sensitive water resources	No significant changes to population densities in the environment or in any ecosystem	Very slight non-structural damage or cosmetic harm to buildings or structures

Definition of Probability

Very Unlikely	0 to 5%
Unlikely	5 to 45%
Possible	45 to 55%
Likely	55 to 95%
Almost Certain	95 to 100% (i.e. impact noted during the investigation).

Assignment of Risk Using Consequence / Probability Matrix

Consequence	Risk				
Severe	Low	Low to moderate	Moderate to high	Very High	Very High
Moderate	Negligible to low	Low	Moderate	Moderate to high	High
Mild	Negligible	Low	Low	Low to moderate	Moderate
Negligible	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible to low	Low	Low
Probability	Very Unlikely	Unlikely	Possible	Likely	Almost Certain

Definition of Overall Risk

Negligible	The presence of the identified source does not give rise to the potential to cause significant harm.
Low	It is possible that harm could arise to a designated receptor from an identified source, however, this is likely to be mild. It is unlikely that the issue will arise as a liability/cost for the freehold/leasehold owner (as appropriate) of the Site.
Moderate	It is possible that harm could arise to a designated receptor from an identified source, but it is likely that such harm would be relatively localised or non permanent -remedial action may be necessary. It is possible that the issue could arise as a liability/cost for the freehold/leasehold owner (as appropriate) of the Site. Further work is usually required to clarify the risk.
High	A designated receptor is likely to experience significant harm from an identified source without remedial action. It is likely that the issue will arise as a liability/cost for the Site freehold/leasehold (as appropriate) owner of the Site.
Very High	There is a high probability that severe harm could arise to a designated receptor from an identified source without appropriate remedial action. It is highly likely that the issue will arise as a liability/cost for the Site freehold/leasehold (as appropriate) owner of the Site.