

APPENDIX A : Glossary of Terms

Glossary of Terms

Abstraction:	Removal of water from a groundwater or surface water body-usually by means of a pump. Groundwater is water that is contained in porous rocks underground.
Alluvium:	Soil sediments deposited by the action of rivers.
Aquifer:	A porous body of rock capable of holding quantities of water that can be abstracted for human use.
Artesian:	Water Rising to the surface under pressure.
Base Flow:	Normal water flow rate in the absence of significant run-off or precipitation.
Baseline data:	Information which represents the existing environmental conditions. Environmental impacts or benefits are assessed by measuring how much the baseline conditions would change.
Best and most versatile:	An official categorisation for soils that are particularly productive for agriculture. It is an objective of government policy to limit the loss of such soils.
Borrow Pit:	An area of land used to excavate and remove materials, for example to construct a road embankment.
Contaminated Land:	Defined in Section 78 2A of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 as “any land which appears to the local Authority in whose area it is situated to be in such a condition, by reason of substances in, on or under the land, that:- a) significant harm is being caused or there is a significant possibility of such harm being caused; or b) pollution of controlled waters is being, or is likely to be caused.”
Cut:	Excavation works as part of the process of highway construction, or the void created by such works.
Cutting:	The excavated area created where it is necessary for a highway to run below the level of the surrounding land.
De-watering:	Removal of water during construction with implications for pollution of surface water and changes to ground water.
DMRB:	The Department for Transport’s Design Manual for Roads and Bridges, a multi-volume work that gives guidance on all matters relating to highway construction. Volume 11 relates to Environmental Impact Assessment.
Earthworks:	In construction, this means any operations involved in moving, loosening, depositing, shaping, compacting and stabilising soil and rock. In archaeology, it means any archaeological features that are visible as slopes, mounds, banks or depressions in the ground surface.
Embankment:	An elongated mound of soil deliberately placed to form a raised area, sometimes built to elevate a highway surface above the surrounding ground.
Environmental Impact Assessment:	A systematic process for assessing a project’s likely significant environmental effects so that they can be taken into account in decision-making about the project.
Glacial Till:	The mixture of rocks, stones and soils left behind when a glacier melts.
Ground Investigation:	Survey incorporating boreholes and pits to investigate the nature and strength of soils below the ground.

Groundwater:	Water held underground within porous rocks.
Hibernacula:	Structures created to form places where animals such as newts, toads or reptiles can hibernate during the winter to save energy.
Hydrogeology:	The study of groundwater.
Hydrology:	The study of surface water.
Impermeable Rock:	Rock that does not easily allow infiltration or the movement of water.
Land-take:	Acquired land which is necessary for the construction of the project and to undertake the required mitigation measures.
Leachate:	Liquid that has percolated through the ground, such as water seeping through a waste landfill, which may result in hazardous substances entering surface or groundwater, or soil.
Lias:	A period of geological time towards the end of the Early Jurassic, ie. from about 195 – 180 million years ago.
Loam:	A medium textured soil containing roughly equal portions of sand, silt and clay.
Made Ground:	Land which has been infilled or built up above original ground level.
Mitigation:	Measures, including any process, activity or design to avoid, reduce, remedy or compensate for adverse effects of a development project.
OCEMP	Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan. Documents which provides details of how the environmental impacts of the scheme are to be mitigated and managed.
Piling:	The act of driving 'piles' (supports) into the ground.
Planning Policy Guidance (PPG):	A series of government documents that provide guidance, principally to Local Planning Authorities, about various aspects of government policy in relation to the planning system.
Qualitative:	Qualities or characteristics that cannot be measured numerically (e.g. how 'good', 'bad', or 'beautiful' something might be).
Quantitative:	Qualities or characteristics that can be measured numerically (e.g. length, height, area, volume).
Receptor:	Receptors are features of the environment that are capable of 'receiving' an impact (e.g. people, in the case of air quality or noise effects).
Remediation:	The improvement of a contaminated site to remove, contain or reduce contaminated content and return the area to a state compatible with human health.
River Terrace:	A flat platform of land created alongside a river.
Run-off:	Water which is not absorbed by the soil and flows to lower ground, eventually draining into a stream, river, or other body of water.
Sediment:	Particulate matter that can be carried by water flow and eventually deposited as a layer of solid particles on the bed or bottom of a body of water. Sedimentation is the deposition by settling of a suspended material.
Siltation:	The deposition or accumulation on the bottom of a body of water of fine or intermediate sized mineral particles known as 'silt'.
Soil Stabilisation:	Modification of soil beneath road and similar construction

	projects, for example by the application of lime, to increase its stability, impermeability and load bearing capacity, reducing the need to import foundation materials.
Source Protection Zones (SPZ):	A defined zone surrounding a groundwater abstraction point (e.g. a well or a spring), within which certain activities are restricted to prevent contamination of the groundwater.
Strata:	Layers of sediment or layers of sedimentary rock
Surface Water:	Watercourses that run or lie on the surface of the land
Topography:	The relief features of the Earth's surface, above and below sea level.