

Glossary

ADMS-Roads	Modelling software that calculates emissions to air from road traffic
ALC	Agricultural land classification
AOD	Above Ordnance Datum – height above sea level
AQMA	Air quality management area – designated zone where specific air quality management measures (defined in an air quality action plan) are proposed by a local authority to improve air quality and ensure that air quality limit values are met
AQS	Air Quality Strategy for England Wales and Northern Ireland (2007)
Aquifer	A below-ground deposit or rock, such as sandstone, containing water that can be used to supply wells
Arsenic	A semi-metallic element that has several toxic compounds and naturally occurs in some minerals
Asbestos	A fibrous silicate material used in the past for insulation, but now known to cause lung disease
BAP	Biodiversity Action Plan – a plan developed by local authorities that identifies priority habitats and species for conservation and includes targets and mechanisms for their achievement
Best and most versatile agricultural land	Land classified as grades 1 (excellent quality), 2 (very good quality) and 3a (good quality) under the MAFF <i>Agricultural Land Classification of England and Wales: Revised guidelines and criteria for grading the quality of agricultural land</i> (1988)
CEMP	Construction environmental management plan
CGB	Cambridgeshire Guided Busway
Conservation area	An area of special architectural or historic interest identified as one where the character and appearance is worthy of preservation
CPERC	Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Environmental Records Centre
CSRM	Cambridge Sub-Regional Model
CWS	County wildlife site – an area of local importance for nature conservation
Decibel (dB)	The unit of sound level
DEFRA	Department of the environment, food and rural affairs

DETR	Department of the environment, transport and the regions (part of it is now DEFRA)
DfT	Department for Transport
Diffusion tube	A passive device for monitoring air quality and measuring ambient pollutant concentrations
DMRB	Design Manual for Roads and Bridges
DTM	Digital terrain model – computer-based landform height model of the site
Dust	Generic term used to describe larger non-respirable airborne particulates (typically those that are deposited rapidly and are normally associated with soiling / marking of property, cars, vegetation etc)
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
EQS	Environmental quality standard – levels used to assess the risk of chemical pollutant effects on water quality to the health of aquatic plants and animals
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 an application for consent or notice of proposed development
FRA	Flood risk assessment
Geophysical survey	Non-invasive surveys for below-ground archaeological imaging
Glare	The uncomfortable brightness of the light source against a dark background, which results in dazzling the observer and may cause nuisance to residents and a hazard to road users
Groundwater	Water flowing through, or contained beneath, the ground surface
High pressure sodium lamp	A high intensity discharge lamp that produces light by radiation from high pressure sodium vapour (and usually a small amount of mercury)
IDB	Internal Drainage Board

IEEM	Institute for Ecology and Environmental Management
IEMA	Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment
Landscape character	The distinct and recognisable pattern of elements that occurs consistently in a particular type of landscape
L_{A10}	The A-weighted sound pressure level of the residual noise in decibels exceeded for 10% of a given time is the L_{A10T} . It is used to describe the levels of road traffic noise at a particular location
L_{A90}	The A-weighted sound pressure level of the residual noise in decibels exceeded for 90% of a given time is the L_{A90T} . It is used to describe the background noise levels at a particular location
L_{AeqT}	The equivalent steady sound levels in decibels containing the same acoustic energy as the actual fluctuating sound level over the given period, T. T may be as short as one second when used to describe a single event, or as long as 24 hours when used to describe the noise climate at a specific location. It is measured directly with an integrating sound level meter
L_{Amax}	The highest A-weighted noise level recorded during a noise event
LAQM	Local air quality management – a system introduced under Part IV of the Environmental Protection Act 1995 that requires local authorities to review and assess air quality within their boundaries
LEAP	Local equipped area of play – a play area equipped for mainly early school-age children (4-8 years old), with at least five types of equipment
Light spill	The unwanted spillage of light onto adjacent areas, which may affect sensitive receptors, particularly residential properties
Listed building	A building that is protected under the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 for its special architectural or historical significance
Low pressure sodium lamp	A discharge lamp in which light is produced by radiation from low pressure sodium vapour
Luminaire	A lighting unit designed to distribute the light from a lamp or lamps
MAFF	The former Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food
<i>Mansio</i>	A Romano-British building with an official civic function

Mitigation	Any process, activity or entity designed to avoid, reduce or remedy adverse environmental effects likely to be caused by a development project
NEAP	Neighbourhood equipped area of play – a play area equipped mainly for older children, with at least eight types of equipment
NEC	Noise exposure category
NMU	Non-motorised users – pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders
NO ₂	Nitrogen dioxide – a reddish brown gas (in high concentrations), respiratory irritant and precursor to photochemical processes that produce other pollutants and photochemical smog and contribute to global warming
NO _x	Collective expression to describe oxides of nitrogen
Optic	The components of a luminaire, such as reflectors, refractors and protectors, that make up the light emitting section
PAH	Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons
Phase 1 habitat survey	A standardised system for surveying, classifying and mapping wildlife habitats
PIA	Personal injury accidents
PM ₁₀	Particulate matter with a diameter of 10 microns or less
PPE	Personal protective equipment
PPG	Planning policy guidance note
PPS	Planning policy statement
RCA	Retail capacity assessment
Receptor	A component of the natural or man made environment, such as water or a building, that is affected by an impact
Residual effects	The significant environmental effects remaining after mitigation
Ridge and furrow	An archaeological pattern of ridges and troughs created by a system of ploughing used during the Middle Ages
SCDC	South Cambridgeshire District Council

Scheduled monument	A site designated under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979. These sites have been selected by a set of non-statutory criteria to be of national importance
Scoping	An exercise to determine the breadth of the information to be included in an EIA
Sky glow	The upward spill of light into the sky, which can cause a glowing effect and is often seen above cities when viewed from a dark area
SPD	Supplementary planning document
STW	Sewage treatment works
SuDS	Sustainable drainage systems
TA	Transport assessment
Topography	The detailed description of the surface features of a region, including landforms and surface configuration
UKBAP	UK Biodiversity Action Plan – a plan prepared by the government that describes the biological resources of the UK and provides detailed plans for the conservation of these resources at a national level
WSI	Written scheme of investigation – a programme of archaeological mitigation works
ZTV	Zone of theoretical visibility – the extent over which the new development would potentially be visible