

## Environmental Aspects

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### Dust

Consideration should be given as to whether the site, its operations, and/or production processes give rise to fugitive dust; and if so whether there are any off-site dust emissions.

The aim should be to eliminate off-site dust emissions and to minimise fugitive dust generated by site operations and production processes.

Things to consider:

- Visual inspections and monitoring regime
  - Engineering controls
  - Dust suppression
  - Operational controls, eg cessation of certain activities in high winds.
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### Noise

Consideration should be given as to whether any operations and/or production processes result in noise which may be considered a nuisance.

(This should include consideration of works during daytime, and during 'unsociable' hours.)

The aim should be to ensure that as a minimum, site operations, production processes and monitoring comply with relevant planning conditions. Ideally, further efforts should aim to minimise noise disturbance/nuisance through the implementation of best practice.

Things to consider:

- Planning permission conditions regarding hours of work
  - Monitoring and inspection
  - The location of 'noisy' activities in relation to sensitive receptors
  - Operational controls, eg turning-off plant when not in use
  - Acoustic damping
  - Noise suppression
  - Engineering controls
  - Planned maintenance of plant and equipment to ensure the integrity of silencers and acoustic enclosures, and prevent noise disturbance from breakdowns.
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### Vibration

Consideration should be given as to whether any operations and/or production processes produce vibration which may be considered a nuisance. This will predominantly apply to blasting operations, but should also be considered for other processes when there are sensitive receptors within close proximity.



Things to consider:

- Planning permission conditions regarding hours of work
  - Planning permission conditions regarding blasting parameters
  - Designed minimisation of blasting vibration through reduction of the maximum instantaneous charge
  - Local atmospheric conditions which may amplify air overpressure
  - Local geology both on and off site
  - Monitoring results
  - Feedback from neighbours
  - The effects of blasting on protected species, if they have been identified on or around the site.
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## Gaseous emissions

This aspect relates to emissions from chimney stacks resulting from production processes covered by PPC permits.

Consideration should be given as to whether such gaseous emissions may have a negative impact upon the local environment.

Things to consider:

- Daily inspections and monitoring regime
  - Plume colour
  - Odour
  - Dust
  - Monitoring results.
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## Traffic

Consideration should be given as to whether traffic related to site operations may be considered a nuisance.

Things to consider:

- Planning permission conditions regarding hours of work
- Planning permission conditions and local weight restrictions affecting traffic routing
- Vehicles kept on site
- Vehicles travelling to and from site at the start and end as well as throughout operations (including consideration of works during daytime, and during 'unsocial' hours)



- Vehicle standards (compliance with Department of Transport regulations regarding noise and emissions)
- Measures to prevent mud/dirt being carried onto public highways
- Sheeting of loads entering/leaving site
- Spillages on public highways.

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## Visual Impact

Consideration should be given regarding the visual impact of the company's activities in relation to the local surroundings.

Things to consider:

### Landscape

- Direct impact upon specific landscape elements
- Subtler effects upon the overall patterns of elements that give rise to landscape character, and regional and local distinctiveness
- Impacts upon special interests or values such as designated landscapes, conservation sites and cultural associations.

### Visual

- The direct impacts of any development upon views of the landscape through intrusion, obstruction, or excavation
- The overall impact on visual amenity, be it degradation or enhancement
- The reaction of viewers who may be affected.

The contents of the report are communicated to all interested parties. In particular, employees must be made aware of any specific duties they have in relation to the actions identified through a visual impact assessment.

### What should the assessment include?

The assessment may include the following items:

- Written text
- Photographs
- Illustrations
- Charts and tables
- Visualisations.



## Site tidiness

Consideration should be given as to whether the site's tidiness, in particular the site entrance, is appropriate and acceptable to neighbours and the passing public. An untidy site may give rise to impacts to other environmental aspects, hence it is important that this is properly managed.

Things to consider:

- Site boundary (fences and gates)
  - Signage
  - Litter
  - Road cleanliness
  - Stockpiles
  - Spillages
  - Waste storage.
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## Vegetation Management

Consideration should be given to the vegetation growing on the site, regarding site preparation, visual amenity, management of weeds, and restoration and aftercare.

A significant impact relating to this aspect is likely to result in a breach of a planning permission condition.

The control measures for activities relating to this aspect are likely to also be found under visual impact and biodiversity and ecological maintenance.

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## Fuel and Chemical Storage

Consideration should be given to the storage and use of fuels, oils and chemicals and, in particular, their potential to cause pollution.

Things to consider:

- Fixed storage tanks
- Mobile storage tanks
- Drum storage
- Dispensing systems
- Bunding capacity and maintenance
- Spillage procedures and equipment.

Substances to include:

- Fuel oils
- LPG



- Lubricants and greases
- Hot stored bitumen
- Bitumen emulsions
- Solvents
- Concrete additives
- Hydrochloric acid
- Radioactive substances.

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### Water and Liquid Waste Management

Consideration should be given to the management of water on and around the site, whether it is used in a process or not, and to the management of liquid wastes arising from the activities on site.

Things to consider:

- Rainwater catchment and surface water run-off
- Surface water courses on or near to the site
- Groundwater, and the impact of site operations on it
- Dewatering activities
- Abstractions and appropriate licence conditions
- Process waters and overflows
- Leachate arising from activities on site
- Water treatment
- Interceptors
- Discharges and appropriate licence conditions
- Septic tanks
- Waste oils and related components (eg oil filters).

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### Solid Waste Management

Consideration of the wastes produced on site/by the activity should be given to ensure compliance with all statutory requirements, waste management legislation, codes of practice and the duty of care.

For the purposes of the EIR, consideration should be given to the following:

- The impact of such wastes if not handled appropriately on site
- The impact of such wastes if not handled appropriately off site (duty of care)



- Whether the quantity of waste produced can be minimised to reduce the wider impacts of the company's activities.

Whilst the storage of wastes should be kept to a minimum, it must be clearly labelled and contained appropriately in designated area(s).

To assist with the minimisation of such wastes, they should be segregated if possible and consideration given to the 'waste hierarchy':

- Reduce
- Re-use
- Recycle
- Recovery
- Disposal.

This process will also allow waste streams to be identified and categorised, such that they are handled appropriately (ie hazardous, non-hazardous or inert). In itself this may minimise the quantity of waste sent for certain types of disposal by segregation.

Generally, waste must not be burnt on site, however, empty explosives' boxes are exempt and must be disposed of by burning.

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## Biodiversity and Ecological Maintenance

Consideration of preserving existing wildlife habitats in and around the site should be given, in accordance with the planning permission and any statutory obligations. Similarly, the enhancement of existing habitats and the creation of new habitats should be considered before, during and after operations.

Things to consider:

- Any specific habitats/protected species/Site of Special Scientific Interest/ archaeological remains as identified by the planning permission (or other surveys)
- The nesting season (for species which nest on the ground and in hedges/trees)
- Hedge and tree removal
- Dewatering activities
- Removal of fish etc when draining ponds
- Actively flooding dry areas
- Vegetation management
- Dangerous weeds (eg Japanese knotweed, ragwort, etc)
- Soil stripping, storage and placement.

Site developments should also consider what local wildlife habitats exist (in and around the site) and should avoid creating operational areas which would be attractive to such wildlife, to prevent unnecessary disturbances (eg vertical faces of fine material are sought after by Sand Martins).

