

7.1 APPENDIX TO CHAPTER 7 – NRA/TII Criteria for Rating the Magnitude and Significance of Soils, Geological and Hydrogeological Impacts at EIA Stage National Roads Authority

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APPENDIX 7.1

NRA/TII Criteria for Rating the Magnitude and Significance of Soils, Geological and Hydrogeological Impacts at EIA Stage National Roads Authority

NRA/TII, 2009

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Table 1 Criteria for rating site Attributes – Estimation of Importance of Soil and Geology Attributes (NRA)

Importance	Criteria	Typical Examples
Very High	Attribute has a high quality, significance or value on a regional or national scale Degree or extent of soil contamination is significant on a national or regional scale Volume of peat and/or soft organic soil underlying route is significant on a national or regional scale*	Geological feature rare on a regional or national scale (NHA) Large existing quarry or pit Proven economically extractable mineral resource
High	Attribute has a high quality, significance or value on a local scale. Degree or extent of soil contamination is significant on a local scale. Volume of peat and/or soft organic soil underlying route is significant on a local scale. *	Contaminated soil on site with previous heavy industrial usage Large recent landfill site for mixed wastes Geological feature of high value on a local scale (County Geological Site) Well drained and/or high fertility soils Moderately sized existing quarry or pit Marginally economic extractable mineral resource
Medium	Attribute has a medium quality, significance or value on a local scale Degree or extent of soil contamination is moderate on a local scale Volume of peat and/or soft organic soil underlying route is moderate on a local scale*	Contaminated soil on site with previous light industrial usage Small recent landfill site for mixed wastes Moderately drained and/or moderate fertility soils Small existing quarry or pit Sub-economic extractable mineral resource
Low	Attribute has a low quality, significance or value on a local scale Degree or extent of soil contamination is minor on a local scale. Volume of peat and/or soft organic soil underlying route is small on a local scale*	Large historical and/or recent site for construction and demolition wastes. Small historical and/or recent landfill site for construction and demolition wastes. Poorly drained and/or low fertility soils. Uneconomically extractable mineral resource.

* relative to the total volume of inert soil disposed of and/or recovered

Source: Box 4.1: 'Guidelines on Procedures for Assessment and Treatment of Geology for National Road Schemes' by the National Roads Authority (NRA, 2009)

Table 2 Criteria for rating Site Attributes - Estimation of Importance of Hydrogeology Attributes (NRA)

Magnitude of Impact	Criteria	Typical Examples
Extremely High	Attribute has a high quality or value on an international scale	Groundwater supports river, wetland or surface water body ecosystem protected by EU legislation e.g. SAC or SPA status
Very High	Attribute has a high quality or value on a regional or national scale	Regionally Important Aquifer with multiple well fields Groundwater supports river, wetland or surface water body ecosystem protected by national legislation – NHA status Regionally important potable water source supplying >2500 homes Inner source protection area for
High	Attribute has a high quality or value on a local scale	Regionally Important Aquifer Groundwater provides large proportion of baseflow to local rivers Locally important potable water source supplying >1000 homes Outer source protection area for regionally important water source Inner source protection area for locally important water source
Medium	Attribute has a medium quality or value on a local scale	Locally Important Aquifer Potable water source supplying >50 homes Outer source protection area for locally important water source
Low	Attribute has a low quality or value on a local scale	Poor Bedrock Aquifer Potable water source supplying <50 homes

Source: Box 4.3: 'Guidelines on Procedures for Assessment and Treatment of Geology, Hydrology and Hydrogeology for National Road Schemes' by the National Roads Authority (NRA, 2009)

Table 3 Criteria for Rating Impact Significance at EIA Stage - Estimation Of Magnitude of Impact on Soil / Geology Attribute (NRA)

Magnitude of Impact	Criteria	Typical Examples
Large Adverse	Results in loss of attribute	Loss of high proportion of future quarry or pit reserves Irreversible loss of high proportion of local high fertility soils Removal of entirety of geological heritage feature Requirement to excavate / remediate entire waste site Requirement to excavate and replace high proportion of peat, organic soils and/or soft mineral soils beneath alignment
Moderate Adverse	Results in impact on integrity of attribute or loss of part of attribute	Loss of moderate proportion of future quarry or pit reserves Removal of part of geological heritage feature Irreversible loss of moderate proportion of local high fertility soils Requirement to excavate / remediate significant proportion of waste site Requirement to excavate and replace moderate proportion of peat, organic soils and/or soft mineral soils beneath alignment
Small Adverse	Results in minor impact on integrity of attribute or loss of small part of attribute	Loss of small proportion of future quarry or pit reserves Removal of small part of geological heritage feature Irreversible loss of small proportion of local high fertility soils and/or high proportion of local low fertility soils Requirement to excavate / remediate small proportion of waste site Requirement to excavate and replace small proportion of peat, organic soils and/or soft mineral soils beneath alignment
Negligible	Results in an impact on attribute but of insufficient magnitude to affect either use or integrity	No measurable changes in attributes
Minor Beneficial	Results in minor improvement of attribute quality	Minor enhancement of geological heritage feature
Moderate Beneficial	Results in moderate improvement of attribute quality	Moderate enhancement of geological heritage feature
Major Beneficial	Results in major improvement of attribute quality	Major enhancement of geological heritage feature

Source: Box 5.1: 'Guidelines on Procedures for Assessment and Treatment of Geology, for National Road Schemes' by the National Roads Authority (NRA, 2009)

Table 4 Criteria for Rating Impact Significance at EIS Stage – Estimation of Magnitude of Impact on Hydrogeology Attribute (NRA)

Magnitude of Impact	Criteria	Typical Examples
Large Adverse	Results in loss of attribute and /or quality and integrity of attribute	Removal of large proportion of aquifer. Changes to aquifer or unsaturated zone resulting in extensive change to existing water supply springs and wells, river baseflow or ecosystems. Potential high risk of pollution to groundwater from routine run- off. ¹ Calculated risk of serious pollution incident >2% annually. ²
Moderate Adverse	Results in impact on integrity of attribute or loss of part of attribute	Removal of moderate proportion of aquifer. Changes to aquifer or unsaturated zone resulting in moderate change to existing water supply springs and wells, river baseflow or ecosystems. Potential medium risk of pollution to groundwater from routine run-off. ¹ Calculated risk of serious pollution incident >1% annually. ²
Small Adverse	Results in minor impact on integrity of attribute or loss of small part of attribute	Removal of small proportion of aquifer. Changes to aquifer or unsaturated zone resulting in minor change to water supply springs and wells, river baseflow or ecosystems. Potential low risk of pollution to groundwater from routine run- off. ¹ Calculated risk of serious pollution incident >0.5% annually. ²
Negligible	Results in an impact on attribute but of insufficient magnitude to affect either use or integrity	Calculated risk of serious pollution incident <0.5% annually. ²

¹ refer to Annex 1, Method C, Annex 1 of HA216/06

² refer to Appendix B3 / Annex 1, Method D, Annex 1 of HA216/06

Source: Box 5.3: 'Guidelines on Procedures for Assessment and Treatment of Geology, Hydrology and Hydrogeology for National Road Schemes' by the National Roads Authority (NRA, 2009)

Table 5 Rating of Significant Environmental Impacts at EIA Stage (NRA)

Importance of Attribute	Magnitude of Importance			
	Negligible	Small Adverse	Moderate Adverse	Large Adverse
Extremely High	Imperceptible	Significant	Profound	Profound
Very High	Imperceptible	Significant/moderate	Profound/Significant	Profound
High	Imperceptible	Moderate/Slight	Significant/moderate	Profound/Significant
Medium	Imperceptible	Slight	Moderate	Significant
Low	Imperceptible	Imperceptible	Slight	Slight/Moderate

Source: Box 5.4: Guidelines on Procedures for Assessment and Treatment of Geology for National Road Schemes' by the National Roads Authority (NRA, 2009)