



Appendix 11.3

CONSTRUCTION ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY

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Assessing the risk of dust impacts

A) Defining the potential dust emission magnitude

The dust emission magnitude is based on the scale of the anticipated works and should be classified as Small, Medium, or Large.

Demolition: Example definitions for demolition are:

- **Large:** Total building volume >50,000 m³, potentially dusty construction material (e.g. concrete), on-site crushing and screening, demolition activities >20 m above ground level;
- **Medium:** Total building volume 20,000 m³ – 50,000 m³, potentially dusty construction material, demolition activities 10-20 m above ground level; and
- **Small:** Total building volume <20,000 m³, construction material with low potential for dust release (e.g. metal cladding or timber), demolition activities <10m above ground, demolition during wetter months.

Earthworks: Earthworks will primarily involve excavating material, haulage, tipping and stockpiling. This may also involve levelling the site and landscaping. Example definitions for earthworks are:

- **Large:** Total site area >10,000 m², potentially dusty soil type (e.g. clay, which will be prone to suspension when dry due to small particle size), >10 heavy earth moving vehicles active at any one time, formation of bunds >8 m in height, total material moved >100,000 tonnes;
- **Medium:** Total site area 2,500 m² – 10,000 m², moderately dusty soil type (e.g. silt), 5-10 heavy earth moving vehicles active at any one time, formation of bunds 4 m - 8 m in height, total material moved 20,000 tonnes – 100,000 tonnes; and
- **Small:** Total site area <2,500 m², soil type with large grain size (e.g. sand), <5 heavy earth moving vehicles active at any one time, formation of bunds <4 m in height, total material moved <20,000 tonnes, earthworks during wetter months.

Construction: The key issues when determining the potential dust emission magnitude during the construction phase include the size of the building(s) / infrastructure, method of construction, construction materials, and duration of build. Example definitions for construction are:

- **Large:** Total building volume >100,000 m³, on site concrete batching, sandblasting;
- **Medium:** Total building volume 25,000 m³ – 100,000 m³, potentially dusty construction material (e.g. concrete), on site concrete batching; and
- **Small:** Total building volume <25,000 m³, construction material with low potential for dust release (e.g. metal cladding or timber).

Trackout: Factors which determine the dust emission magnitude are vehicle size, vehicle speed, vehicle numbers, geology and duration. As with all other potential sources, professional judgement must be applied when classifying trackout into one of the dust emission magnitude categories. Example definitions for trackout are:

- **Large:** >50 HDV (>3.5t) outward movements¹ in any one day², potentially dusty surface material (e.g. high clay content), unpaved road length >100 m;
- **Medium:** 10-50 HDV (>3.5t) outward movements in any one day, moderately dusty surface material (e.g. high clay content), unpaved road length 50 m – 100 m; and
- **Small:** <10 HDV (>3.5t) outward movements in any one day, surface material with low potential for dust release, unpaved road length <50 m.
- These numbers are for vehicles that leave the site after moving over unpaved ground, where they will accumulate mud and dirt that can be tracked out onto the public highway.

B) Defining the sensitivity of the area

- The sensitivity of the area takes account of a number of factors:
 - The specific sensitivities of receptors in the area;
 - The proximity and number of those receptors;
 - In the case of PM₁₀, the local background concentration; and
 - Site-specific factors, such as whether there are natural shelters, such as trees, to reduce the risk of wind-blown dust.
- Examples of sensitivities of various receptors to dust soiling, elevated PM₁₀ and ecological effects are shown in Table 1.

For the sensitivity of people and their property to soiling, the IAQM recommends that the air quality practitioner uses professional judgement to identify where on the spectrum between high and low sensitivity a receptor lies, taking into account the general principles in the table below.

For the sensitivity of people to the health effects of PM₁₀, the IAQM recommends that the air quality practitioner assumes that there are three sensitivities based on whether or not the receptor is likely to be exposed to elevated concentrations over a 24-hour period, consistent with the Defra's advice for local air quality management.

With regards to ecological effects, it is advised to seek the advice of an ecologist to determine the need for an assessment of dust impacts on sensitive habitats and plants. Professional judgement is required to identify where on the spectrum between high and low sensitivity a receptor lies, taking into account the likely effect and the value of the ecological asset. A habitat may be highly valuable but not sensitive, alternatively it may be less valuable but more sensitive to dust deposition. Consequently, specialist ecological advice should also be sought to determine the sensitivity of the ecological receptors to dust impacts. In general, most receptors will either be of high sensitivity or low sensitivity i.e. either sensitive or not to dust deposition.

¹ A vehicle movement is a one way journey. i.e. from A to B, and excludes the return journey.

² HDV movements during a construction project vary over its lifetime, and the number of movements is the maximum not the average.

Table 1 Examples of receptor sensitivities for various construction effects

Receptor sensitivity	Effects		
	Dust soiling	Elevated PM10	Ecological
High	<p>Users can reasonably expect a enjoyment of a high level of amenity. The appearance, aesthetics or value of their property would be diminished by soiling; and the people or property would reasonably be expected to be present continuously, or at least regularly for extended periods, as part of the normal pattern of use of the land.</p> <p>Indicative examples include dwellings, museum and other culturally important collections, medium and long term car parks and car showrooms.</p>	<p>Locations where members of the public are exposed over a time period relevant to the air quality objective for PM₁₀ (in the case of the 24-hour objectives, a relevant location would be one where individuals may be exposed for eight hours or more in a day).</p> <p>Indicative examples include residential properties, hospitals, schools and residential care homes should also be considered as having equal sensitivity to residential areas for the purposes of this assessment.</p>	<p>Locations with an international or national designation and the designated features may be affected by dust soiling; or</p> <p>location where there is a community of a particularly dust sensitive species such as vascular species included in the Red Data List For Great Britain.</p> <p>An indicative example is a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) designated for acid heathlands adjacent to the demolition of a large site containing concrete (alkali) buildings or for the presence of lichen.</p>
Medium	<p>Users would expect to enjoy a reasonable level of amenity, but would not reasonably expect to enjoy the same level of amenity as in their home; or the appearance, aesthetics or value of their property could be diminished by soiling; or the people or property wouldn't reasonably be expected to be present here continuously or regularly for extended periods as part of the normal pattern of use of the land. Indicative examples include parks and places of work.</p>	<p>Locations where the people exposed are workers, and exposure is over a time period relevant to the air quality objective for PM₁₀ (in the case of the 24-hour objectives, a relevant location would be one where individuals may be exposed for eight hours or more in a day).</p> <p>Indicative examples may include office and shop workers, but will generally not include workers occupationally exposed to PM₁₀, as protection is covered by Health and Safety at Work legislation.</p>	<p>Locations where there is a particularly important plant species, where its dust sensitivity is uncertain or unknown; or</p> <p>Locations with a national designation where the features may be affected by dust deposition.</p> <p>Indicative examples include a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) with dust sensitive features.</p>

Receptor sensitivity	Effects		
	Dust soiling	Elevated PM10	Ecological
Low	<p>The enjoyment of amenity would not reasonably be expected; or</p> <p>there is property that would not reasonably be expected to be diminished in appearance, aesthetics or value by soiling; or</p> <p>there is transient exposure, where the people or property would reasonably be expected to be present only for limited periods of time as part of the normal pattern of use of the land.</p> <p>Indicative examples include playing fields, farmland (unless commercially-sensitive horticultural), footpaths, short term car parks and roads.</p>	<p>Locations where human exposure is transient.</p> <p>Indicative examples public footpaths, playing fields, parks and shopping streets.</p>	<p>Locations with a local designation where the features may be affected by dust deposition.</p> <p>Indicative example is a local Nature Reserve with dust sensitive features.</p>

Additional factors to consider when determining the sensitivity of the area include the following

- Any history of dust generating activities in the area;
- The likelihood of concurrent dust generating activity on nearby sites;
- Any pre-existing screening between the source and the receptors;
- Any conclusions drawn from analysing local meteorological data which accurately represent the area; and if relevant the season during which the works will take place;
- Any conclusions drawn from local topography;
- Duration of the potential impact, as a receptor may become more sensitive over time; and
- Any known specific receptor sensitivities which are considered go beyond the classifications given.

The following tables show how the sensitivity of an area can be determined for the various potential impacts. For each potential impact the highest level of sensitivity should be recorded.

Table 2 Sensitivity of the area to dust soiling effects on people and property

Receptor sensitivity	Number of receptors	Distance from the source (m)			
		<20	<50	<100	<350
High	>100	High	High	Medium	Low
	10-100	High	Medium	Low	Low
	1-10	Medium	Low	Low	Low
Medium	>1	Medium	Low	Low	Low
Low	>1	Low	Low	Low	Low

Table 3 Sensitivity of the area to human health impacts

Receptor sensitivity	Annual mean PM10 concentration	Number of receptors	Distance from the source (m)				
			<20	<50	<100	<200	<350
High	>32 µg/m3 (>18 µg/m3 in Scotland)	>100	High	High	High	Medium	Low
		10-100	High	High	Medium	Low	Low
		1-10	High	Medium	Low	Low	Low
	28-32 µg/m3 (16-18 µg/m3 in Scotland)	>100	High	High	Medium	Low	Low
		10-100	High	Medium	Low	Low	Low
		1-10	High	Medium	Low	Low	Low
	24-28 µg/m3 (14-16 µg/m3 in Scotland)	>100	High	Medium	Low	Low	Low
		10-100	High	Medium	Low	Low	Low
		1-10	Medium	Low	Low	Low	Low
	<24 µg/m3 (<14 µg/m3 in Scotland)	>100	Medium	Low	Low	Low	Low
		10-100	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low
		1-10	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low
Medium	>32 µg/m3 (>18 µg/m3 in Scotland)	>10	High	Medium	Low	Low	Low
		1-10	Medium	Low	Low	Low	Low
	28-32 µg/m3 (16-18 µg/m3 in Scotland)	>10	Medium	Low	Low	Low	Low
		1-10	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low
	24-28 µg/m3 (14-16 µg/m3 in Scotland)	>10	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low
		1-10	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low

Receptor sensitivity	Annual mean PM10 concentration	Number of receptors	Distance from the source (m)				
			<20	<50	<100	<200	<350
	<24 µg/m3 (<14 µg/m3 in Scotland)	>10	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low
		1-10	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low
Low	-	>1	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low

Table 4 Sensitivity of the area to ecological impacts

Receptor sensitivity	Distance from the source (m)	
	<20	<50
High	High	Medium
Medium	Medium	Low
Low	Low	Low

C) Defining the risks of impacts

Dust emission magnitude determined at step A) should be combined with the sensitivity of the area determined at step B) in order to determine the risk of impacts with no mitigation applied. The following matrices provide a method of assigning the level of risk for each activity. For those cases where the risk category is 'negligible', no mitigation measures beyond those required by legislation will be required.

Table 5 Risk of dust impacts – demolition

Sensitivity of area	Dust emission magnitude		
	Large	Medium	Small
High	High risk	Medium risk	Medium risk
Medium	High risk	Medium risk	Low risk
Low	Medium risk	Low risk	Negligible

Table 6 Risk of dust impacts – earthworks

Sensitivity of area	Dust emission magnitude		
	Large	Medium	Small
High	High risk	Medium risk	Low risk
Medium	Medium risk	Medium risk	Low risk
Low	Low risk	Low risk	Negligible

Table 7 Risk of dust impacts – construction

Sensitivity of area	Dust emission magnitude		
	Large	Medium	Small
High	High risk	Medium risk	Low risk
Medium	Medium risk	Medium risk	Low risk
Low	Low risk	Low risk	Negligible

Table 8 Risk of dust impacts – trackout

Sensitivity of area	Dust emission magnitude		
	Large	Medium	Small
High	High risk	Medium risk	Low risk
Medium	Medium risk	Low risk	Negligible
Low	Low risk	Low risk	Negligible