

Glossary and Abbreviations

Term	Abbreviation	Description
1 in 200 year event		A flood that has a 0.5% (1 in 200) or greater chance of happening each year.
A ¹ weighting dB(A)		The human ear does not respond uniformly to different frequencies. A-weighting is commonly used to simulate the frequency response of the ear.
Above Ordnance Datum	AOD	The mean sea level at Newlyn (UK) used as a base measurement on Ordnance Survey Maps for contours.
Abutment		A structure that supports the end of the bridge or supports the bridge approach.
Accidental spillage		Contaminated road runoff directly resulting from spillages due to vehicle accident, leading to acute pollution incident impact on the receiving surface or groundwater body.
Acid grassland		Grassland that occurs on acidic soils (pH less than 5.5).
Acoustics		The study of sound, especially its generation, transmission and reception.
Acrotelmic (Fibrous) Peat		The upper layer of peat above the average water table level. It is only periodically saturated which allows air into the upper layer.
Aggregate		Materials used in construction, including gravel, slag, crushed stone, sand or recycled crushed concrete.
Air Quality Management Area	AQMA	An area where the National Air Quality Strategy objectives are not likely to be achieved in all relevant locations. AQMAs are designated by local authorities following a review and assessment process.
Allocation		A proposal for land for housing, industry or other uses within a Local Development Plan that identifies a specific area of land to be developed within the time period of the plan.
Alluvium		Sediment deposited by a river.
Amber list species		Bird populations in moderate decline or previously in severe decline but are recovering.
Amenity value		The relative pleasantness of a journey - it relates, in particular, to the exposure of pedestrians and others to traffic.
Ancient Woodland Inventory	AWI	A provisional guide to the location of Ancient Woodland. It contains three main categories of woodland, all of which are likely to be of value for their biodiversity and cultural value by virtue of their antiquity.
Ancient Woodland		Land that is currently wooded and has been continually wooded, at least since 1750.
Annual Average Daily Traffic	AADT	Forecast traffic flow expressed as 24 hour Annual Average Daily Traffic (AADT), that is, forecast total annual traffic divided by 365.

Term	Abbreviation	Description
Appropriate Assessment	AA	An assessment of likely impacts associated with a development on a European Protected Site. An Appropriate Assessment is required by law under Regulation 48 of the Habitats Regulations (1994), implementing Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC).
Aquifer		A body of rock through which appreciable amounts of water can flow.
Arable land		Land that is or can be used for growing crops.
Archaeological watching brief		A formal programme of observation and investigation conducted during any operation carried out for non-archaeological reasons. This will be within a specified area or site on land, where there is a possibility that archaeological deposits may be disturbed or destroyed. The programme will result in the preparation of a report and ordered archive.
At-grade junction		A type of junction where there is no height (grade) difference or separation between the traffic carriageways of a junction, e.g. a roundabout or a T-junction is an at-grade junction.
Attenuation		Increase in duration of flow hydrograph with a consequent reduction in peak flow.
Authority area		The area administered by a local authority.
Automatic Traffic Counter	ATC	Temporary and / or permanent traffic counters to capture volume, classification and speed of vehicles
Baseline		The existing conditions which form the basis or start point of the environmental assessment.
Bedrock		Hard rock that lies beneath a superficial cover of soils and sediments.
Biodiversity		Biological diversity or species richness of living organisms present in representative communities and populations.
Biodiversity Action Plan	BAP	Sets objectives, along with measurable targets for the conservation of biodiversity.
Cairngorms National Park Authority	CNPA	
Cairngorms Nature Action Plan	CNAP	Local biodiversity action plan for the Cairngorms National Park region, outlining key actions to take to protect and enhance the environment between 2013 and 2018.
Calculation of Road Traffic Noise	CRTN	Produced by the Department of the Environment and the Welsh Office in 1988 and provides the method of calculating (and measuring) road traffic noise levels for new and altered highways
Catalogue of Rights of Way	CRoW	A catalogue of all the known rights of way in Scotland compiled in the 1990s with the help of Scottish Natural Heritage and the Scottish Local Authorities. The catalogue consists of two parts: a computer database with information about each route, and 1:50,000 scale digital maps.

Term	Abbreviation	Description
Catchment		The area contributing flow to a point on a drainage system.
Catotelmic (Fibrous) Peat		The layer of peat below the acrotelm and above the amorphous catotelm layer, forming a stable colloidal substance which is generally impermeable. Comprises of peat between 0.3 and 1.0m depth.
Catotelmic (Amorphous) Peat		The layer of peat below both the acrotelm and the fibrous catotelm layer, with very little structure. Comprises of peat above 1.0m in depth.
Centre for Ecology and Hydrology	CEH	Centre of Excellence for integrated research in hydrology, terrestrial and freshwater ecosystems and their interaction with the atmosphere.
Chainage		Topographical reference for distance which is measured and marked between two points on the land.
Channel morphology		Physical characteristics of stream channels, such as width/depth ratio and sinuosity
Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management	CIEEM	The professional body which represents and supports ecologists and environmental managers.
Community		Assemblage of interacting populations that occupy a given area.
Community Severance		The separation of residents from facilities and services they use within their community caused by new or improved roads or by changes in traffic flows.
Compulsory Purchase Order	CPO	A legal document giving the government (Scottish Ministers) power to compulsorily purchase the areas of land necessary for the construction of the scheme.
Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994 (as amended)		Regulations which transpose the EC Habitats Directive into national law. The Regulations place a duty on the Secretary of State to propose a list of sites which are important for either habitats or species (listed in Annexes I and II of the Habitats Directive respectively) to the EC. They also provide for the control of potentially damaging operations, whereby consent from the country agency may only be granted once it has been shown through appropriate assessment that the proposed operation will not adversely affect the integrity of the site.
Construction Environmental Management Plan	CEMP	A document containing all the information required for the appropriate management of environmental impacts during construction of the project.
Construction Method Statement	CMS	A document that details the way a work task or process is to be completed.
Contaminated land		The Environment Protection Act 1990 defines contaminated land as 'any land which appears to the local authority as to be in such condition, by reason of substances, on or under the land, that significant harm is being caused or there is a significant possibility of such harm being caused; ... or pollution of controlled water is being, or likely to be caused'.
Contractor		The successful tenderer in the construction process.

Term	Abbreviation	Description
Controlled Activity Regulations (Scotland) 2011 as amended	CAR	Controls all engineering activity in or near watercourses.
Core Path		Paths, waterways or any other means of crossing land to facilitate, promote and manage the exercise of access rights under the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003, and are identified as such in access authority Core Path Plans.
Culvert		A metal, wooden, plastic, or concrete conduit through which surface water can flow under or across roads.
Decibel	dB	The range of audible sound pressures is approximately 0.00002 Pa to 00 Pa. Using decibel notation presents this range in a more manageable form, 0 dB to 140 dB.
Design Manual for Roads and Bridges	DMRB	A series of 15 volumes that provide standards, advice notes and other documents relating to the design, assessment and operation of trunk roads, including motorways in the United Kingdom
Desk study		Assessment of a site usually preceding ground investigations typically incorporating a review of available site information, consultation with relevant bodies and a site visit.
Detention pond		A place for temporarily storing water which delays the flow of water downstream.
Diffuse pollution		Contamination and pollution arising from many dispersed and different sources.
Do-Minimum Scenario	DM	The base situation where there are no modifications to the existing road network. May also refer to the minimum modifications, which will necessarily take place in the absence of a proposed scheme.
Do-Something Scenario	DS	The situation following proposed modifications to the road network brought about as a result of the Proposed Scheme.
Drainage network		Specific catchments, including permeable and impermeable surfaces, collecting precipitation to be transferred from the Proposed Scheme to a local receiving water body via either surface water or groundwater discharge
Drey		The most common nest type or dwelling place for squirrels comprising a round ball of twigs, leaves and bark, which is frequently built close to the tree trunk or in branch forks to provide shelter from the elements.
Drift deposits		Drift geology overlying bedrock.
Dual Carriageway		Dual, all-purpose, two-lane carriageway.
Dualling		The widening of an existing road in order to provide two carriageways in both directions.
Earthworks		Works created through the moving of quantities of soil or unformed rock.
Ecological Clerk of Works	ECoW	A qualified ecologist who supervises construction sites, ensuring that ecological impacts are minimised and that the law relating to protected species etc. is complied with.

Term	Abbreviation	Description
Ecological receptors		Living organisms, habitats, or natural resources that could be impacted by the construction or operation of the proposed scheme.
Ecological Zone of Influence	EZol	The area surrounding a development in which potential ecological effects extend. Typically specified for individual ecological receptors.
Ecology		The branch of biology concerned with the relations of organisms to one another and to their physical surroundings.
Electrofishing		A fish sampling technique using electric currents and fields to control fish movement and/or immobilize fish, allowing capture.
Environmental Impact Assessment	EIA	The process of evaluating the likely environmental impacts of a proposed project or development, taking into account inter-related socio-economic, cultural and human-health impacts, both beneficial and adverse.
Environmental Quality Standards	EQS	Environmental Quality Standards (EQS) are the maximum permissible annual average concentrations of potentially hazardous chemicals, as defined by the Water Framework Directive. The assessment of EQS considers long-term risks over the period of one year by comparing discharge concentrations of pollutants against EQS level
Environmental Statement	ES	Document provided by the Developer to the Competent Authority, containing environmental information required under Article 5 of Directive 85/337/EEC as amended.
European Protected Species	EPS	Species of plants and animals (other than birds) protected by law throughout the European Union. They are listed in Annexes II and IV of the European Habitats Directive.
Fauna		Referring to animals of a particular region or habitat.
Field Study		Assessment in, at or near the site.
Fish Habitat Survey	FHS	Survey used to assess habitat suitability for key fish species.
Floodplain		Land adjacent to a river, which is subject to regular flooding.
Flora		Referring to plants of a particular region or habitat.
General Binding Rules	GBRs	GBRs represent a set of mandatory rules which cover specific low risk activities. Activities complying with the rules do not require an application to be made to SEPA, as compliance with a GBR is compliance with an authorisation.
Geological Conservation Review Sites	GCRs	The aim of the Geological Conservation Review Series is to provide a public record of the features of interest and importance at localities already notified or being considered for notification as 'Sites of Special Scientific Interest' (SSSIs). The sites selected – GCR sites – form the basis of statutory geological and geomorphological site conservation in Britain.



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Geomorphology		The branch of geology concerned with the structure, origin and development of topographical features of the earth's crust.
Glacial Till		Glacial till is that part of glacial drift which was deposited directly by the glacier.
Grade-separated junction	GSJ	A type of junction where the connecting carriageways of a junction are separated by a height (grade) allowing vehicles to join and leave the main road using slip roads.
Ground Investigation	GI	Exploratory investigation to determine the structure and characteristics of the ground influenced by a development. The collected information is used to establish or predict ground and groundwater behaviour during, and subsequent to, construction.
Groundwater		Water below the surface of the ground in the saturation zone and in direct contact with the ground or subsoil.
Groundwater Dependent Terrestrial Ecosystem	GWDTE	Wetlands which critically depend on groundwater flows and /or chemistries. These include dominant habitats, where the dominant habitat type(s) are groundwater dependent, and sub-dominant, where the majority of habitats are not groundwater dependent.
Habitat		Term most accurately meaning the place in which a species lives, but also used to describe plant communities or agglomerations of plant communities, as used, for example in a Phase 1 Habitat Survey.
Habitats Directive		EC Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora.
Habitat fragmentation		Describes the breaking up of an organism's preferred environment/habitat. Occurs naturally through geological processes that alter the layout of the physical environment over long periods of time, or through human activities, such as land conversion.
Heavy Goods Vehicle	HGV	Vehicles with 3 axles (articulated) or 4 or more axles (rigid and articulated).
Highland Historic Environment Record	HHER	A record of known archaeological and cultural heritage sites and assets covering the Highlands.
Highways Agency Water Risk Assessment Tool	HAWRAT	Standard approach specified in Design Manual for Roads and Bridges document HD 45/09, a Microsoft Excel application designed to assess the short-term risks related to the intermittent nature of road runoff. Assesses acute and chronic pollution impacts on aquatic ecology associated with soluble and sediment bound pollutants (with dissolved copper and dissolved zinc used as indicators)
Historic Environment Scotland	HES	Historic Environment Scotland is the new lead public body for the country's historic environment. It brings together Historic Scotland and the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historic Monuments of Scotland.
Holt		Deep underground otter shelter.
Great Crested Newt Habitat Suitability Index	HSI	Method for determining whether a waterbody contains suitable habitat for amphibians (namely Great Crested

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		Newts). The method involves assessing levels of shade, macrophyte cover and water quality.
Hydrogeology		The branch of geology that deals with the occurrence, distribution, and effect of ground water.
Hydrological		The exchange of water between the atmosphere, the land and the oceans.
Impact		Any changes attributable to the Proposed Scheme that have the potential to have environmental effects.
Indicator species		A species that is characteristic of a particular habitat. The disappearance of such a species is an early warning of habitat degradation.
Interim Advice Note	IAN	IANs are issued by Highways England from time to time. They contain specific guidance used in connection with works on motorways and trunk roads in England. Transport Scotland utilises IANs for roads projects in Scotland.
Joint Nature Conservation Committee	JNCC	Advisory committee to the UK Government on national and international nature conservation issues.
LA		A-weighted sound pressure level (in decibels, dB). The measured sound level incorporating a logarithmic base and weighting system to approximate the manner in which humans perceive sound. An increase of 10dB is approximately equivalent to a perceived doubling of loudness.
LA10, T LA10,18hr		A-weighted sound pressure level (in decibels, dB) that is exceeded for 10% of the given time period. 'T'. For road traffic, it is typically expressed as the arithmetic average of hourly LA10 values over an 18 hour day (06:00 – 24:00).
Laeq, T		Equivalent continuous A-weighted sound pressure level (in decibels, dB), over a given time interval. Where a time interval is not given it is typically considered as a continuous level.
Landform		Combination of slope and elevation producing the shape and form of the land surface.
Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment	LVIA	A tool used to identify and assess the likely significance of the impacts of change resulting from development both on the landscape as an environmental resource in its own right and on people's views and visual amenity.
Land-take		Acquired land which is necessary to construct the scheme and associated infrastructure and to undertake the essential environmental mitigation measures.
Latrine		A series of pits dug by a badger where faeces (and urine) is deposited or a collection of water vole droppings habitually deposited in a single location typically used to define territorial boundaries.
Left-in/Left-out		Junctions which remove cross-carriageway turning movements.
Listed Building		Building included on the list of buildings of special architectural or historic interest and afforded statutory protection under the 'Planning (Listed Buildings and



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		Conservation Areas) (Scotland) Act 1997' and other planning legislation. Classified categories A — C.
Local Biodiversity Action Plan	LBAP	A Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP) is a document that gathers together information about the ecosystems and their associated habitats and species in a particular area and sets out actions for their protection and enhancement.
Local Landscape Character Area	LLCA	An area outlined as having distinct characteristics based on landscape features.
Made ground		Ground comprised of material deposited by humans i.e. not natural.
Magnitude of impact		A term that combines judgements about the size and scale of the impact, the extent of the area over which it occurs, whether it is reversible or irreversible and whether it is short or long-term in duration.
Mainline		Main carriageway of the Proposed Scheme (A9 dual carriageway between Dalraddy and Slochd).
Mammal ledge		A shelf built within a culvert to facilitate mammal passage, accessible at both ends from the bank and the water.
Maximum Sound Level, dB LAmax, T		The highest value of the A-weighted sound pressure level that occurs during a given event or time period. The time-weighting should be specified.
Mitigation		Term used to indicate avoidance, remediation or alleviation of adverse impacts.
National Cycle Network	NCN	The National Cycle Network is a series of traffic-free paths and quiet, on-road cycling and walking routes, that connect to every major town and city.
National Planning Framework 3	NPF3	The spatial expression of the Scottish Government's Economic Strategy, it sets out a long-term vision for development and investment across Scotland over the next 20 to 30 years
National Pond Survey	NPS	Standardised pond surveying method involving collection of biological and environmental data.
National Scenic Areas	NSA	Areas which are nationally important for their scenic quality.
National Vegetation Classification	NVC	A system to describe British vegetation types, whereby each vegetation type has a different 'code'.
Native		A species occurring naturally, in its normal geographic range.
Neutral grassland		Grassland communities that grow on neutral soils (pH 5.5 — 7).
Non-motorised users	NMU	Pedestrians, cyclists and equestrians.
Non-prime land		Agricultural land of Land Capability for Agriculture (LCA) classes 3.2 to 7.
Notable species		Species which are below Red Data Book species in terms of threat status.
NOx		A general term for the oxides of nitrogen including nitric oxide (NO), nitrogen dioxide (NO ₂), and nitrous oxide (N ₂ O).

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Offsetting		The process of compensating for something with something else.
Open space		Any land laid out as public parks or used for the purpose of public recreation, or land which is a disused burial ground.
Ordnance Datum	OD	Mean sea level calculated used as the official basis for height calculation on British maps.
Outfall		Discharge location for drainage network
Peatland		Wetlands with a thick water-logged organic soil layer (peat) made up of dead and decaying plant material
Phase 1 Habitat Survey		This identifies the different habitats that are contained within or make up a site, and the key plant species for each of those habitat types.
Pile		A heavy stake or post made out of timber, steel, reinforced concrete or pre-tensioned concrete, driven into the ground to support foundations.
Piling		The act of installing piles.
Planning Advice Note	PAN	Supporting document to National Planning Policy Guidelines, which disseminates good practice and provides more specific design advice of a practical nature.
Plantation woodland		Woodland of any age that obviously originated from planting.
PM10		Particulate matter – particles in this size range have an effective aerodynamic diameter of less than 10 micrometres (µm).
Pollution Prevention Guidelines	PPG	PPGs are based on relevant legislation and good practice. Following the guidelines will help contractors to manage environmental responsibilities, prevent pollution and comply with the law.
Preliminary Engineering Services	PES	The A9 PES includes the preparation of an A9 Dualling Preliminary Engineering Assessment which identifies the baseline (existing) conditions and constraints as well as assessing the advantages and disadvantages associated with each indicative A9 route corridor.
Prime agricultural land		Agricultural land of Land Capability for Agriculture (LCA) classes 1, 2 and 3.
Priority habitat		Those habitats which have been identified as being most threatened and requiring actions under the UK Biodiversity Action Plan.
Priority species		Those species which have been identified as being most threatened and requiring actions under the UK Biodiversity Action Plan.
Proposed Scheme		The scheme design for the Dalraddy to Slochd section of the A9 used as the basis for environmental assessment and reporting.
Public Right of Way	PRoW	A public right of way is a defined route which has been used by the general public for at least 20 years and which links two public places

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Receptor(visual)		A dwelling, workplace or other building, outdoor space, viewpoint, road or footpath with views which may be changed in character and visual amenity by a proposed development.
Red list species		Bird species in severe population decline.
Refuge/refugia		Any structure that provides animals temporarily with a place they can retreat to and feel secure. This can be rock or log piles, dense scrub or mammal burrows
Regionally Important Geological and Geomorphological Sites	RIGS	Sites designated by regional geological groups on locally developed criteria.
Residual impacts		Residual impact means the environmental impact after the provision of mitigation measures, if any.
Riparian habitat		Natural home for plants and animals occurring in a thin strip of land bordering a stream or river.
River Habitat Survey	RHS	A survey to assess the physical structure of freshwater streams and rivers, providing a broad assessment of habitat quality.
Roads (Scotland) Act 1984	RSA	Statute setting out the procedures which Scottish Ministers must follow in promoting orders for new roads.
Run-off		Water that flows over the ground surface to the drainage system. This occurs if the ground is impermeable or if permeable ground is saturated.
Schedule 1 Protected Species		Species protected under Schedule 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.
Scheduled Monument	SM	A monument which has been scheduled by the Scottish Ministers as being of national importance under the terms of the 'Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979'.
Scottish Biodiversity List	SBL	A list of animals, plants and habitats that Scottish Ministers consider to be of principal importance for biodiversity conservation in Scotland.
Scottish Environment Protection Agency	SEPA	Scotland's principal environmental regulator, protecting and improving Scotland's environment.
Scottish Natural Heritage	SNH	Public body responsible for Scotland's natural heritage, promoting, protecting and improving Scotland's nature and landscapes.
Scottish Planning Policy	SPP	A statement of Scottish Government policy on how nationally important land use planning matters should be addressed across the country.
Semi-improved grassland		Grassland that has been modified by fertilizers, drainage or intensive grazing. Contains less species diversity than unimproved grasslands.
Sensitivity		A term applied to specific receptors, combining judgements of the susceptibility of the receptor to the specific type of change or development proposed and the value or importance of the receptor.
Significance		A measure of the importance of environmental impact.
Sites of Special Scientific Interest	SSSI	Areas of national importance. The aim of the SSSI network is to maintain an adequate representation of all



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		natural and semi-natural habitats and native species across Britain. The site network is protected under the provisions of Sections 28 and 19 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 as well as the Amendment Act 1985 and the Environmental Protection Act 1990.
Special Area of Conservation	SAC	An area designated under the EC Habitats Directive to ensure that rare, endangered or vulnerable habitats or species of community interest are either maintained at or restored to a favourable conservation status.
Special Landscape Areas	SLA	A local authority landscape designation.
Special Protection Area	SPA	An area designated under the Wild Birds Directive (Directive 74/409/EEC) to protect important bird habitats. Implemented under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.
Spey Fishery Board	SFB	Organisation responsible for the protection, enhancement and conservation of the Spey Fishery District.
Strategic Environmental Assessment	SEA	The process by which information about the environmental effects of proposed plans, policies and programmes are evaluated.
Superficial Deposits		The youngest geological deposits formed during the most recent period of geological time, the Quaternary, which extends back 1.8 million years from the present.
Supplementary Guidance	SG	A suite of supplementary guidance sitting below the Local Development Plan policies that provides further details on topic areas and on how to comply with the policies
Sustainable Drainage Systems	SuDS	A sequence of management practices and control structures designed to drain surface water in a more sustainable fashion than some conventional techniques.
The Highland Council	THC	
Visual Amenity		The overall pleasantness of a view that people enjoy of their surroundings, which provides an attractive visual setting or backdrop for the enjoyment of activities of the people in that area
Written Scheme of Investigation	WSI	A method statement or a project design to cover a suite of archaeological works for a site.
Zone of Theoretical Visibility	ZTV	Area in which a proposed development would theoretically be visible, based on a 'bare-ground' model which takes account of topography but not the screening effects of structures (e.g. buildings), vegetation (e.g. woodlands).