

Glossary

<i>A-weighting dB(A)</i>	The human ear does not respond uniformly to different frequencies. A-weighting is commonly used to simulate the frequency response of the ear.
<i>Acid grassland</i>	Grassland that occurs on acidic soils (pH less than 5.5).
<i>Aggregate</i>	Materials used in construction, including sand, gravel, crushed stone, slag, or recycled crushed concrete.
<i>Air Quality Management Area (AQMA)</i>	A non-permanent designation created if monitoring reveals that statutory air quality thresholds are being exceeded or will be exceeded in the near future.
<i>Allocation</i>	A proposal for land for housing, industry or other uses within a Local Plan that identifies a specific area of land to be developed within the time period of the plan.
<i>Alluvium</i>	Sediment deposited by a river.
<i>Amber list species</i>	Species with unfavourable conservation status in Europe or showing moderate declines or rare or localised in their distribution.
<i>Ambient Noise</i>	The all encompassing sound at any point in time.
<i>Amenity grassland</i>	Intensively managed and regularly mown grasslands that are typical of golf courses, sports pitches, playing fields and lawns. These grasslands are typically of low diversity and limited wildlife and landscape value.
<i>Amenity value</i>	Defined as the relative pleasantness of a journey and relates in particular to the exposure of pedestrians and others to traffic.
<i>Amphibian</i>	Any cold blooded animal of the class Amphibia which includes frogs, toads and newts.
<i>Ancient Woodland</i>	Areas of land that appear as wooded on maps dated pre-1750 (in Scotland) and are considered likely to have been continuously wooded from this date.
<i>Ancient Woodland Inventory</i>	Aims to list all probable ancient semi-natural woodlands on a county basis together with those woodlands in other ancient categories of lesser woodland nature conservation interest.
<i>Aquifer</i>	A body of rock through which appreciable amounts of water can flow.
<i>Arable land</i>	Land that is or can be used for growing crops.
<i>Assessment</i>	An umbrella term for description, analysis and evaluation.
<i>Attenuation</i>	Increase in duration of flow hydrograph with a consequent reduction in peak flow.
<i>Attribute</i>	Characteristics of an environmental receptor.
<i>Authority area</i>	The area administered by a local authority for example, District Council, City Council or Unitary Authority.
<i>Barrier effects</i>	Features such as roads which may impact ecological communities through restriction of movement and habitat alteration, sub-dividing populations with demographic and possibly genetic consequences.

<i>Baseline</i>	The existing conditions which form the basis or start point of the environmental assessment.
<i>Bedrock</i>	Hard rock that lies beneath a superficial cover of soils and sediments.
<i>Best Practicable Means</i>	A feasible approach [to mitigation], having due regard for means, resources and conditions. Control of Pollution Act (1974) defines this as measures 'reasonably practicable having regard among other things to local conditions and circumstances, to the current state of technical knowledge and to financial implications'.
<i>Bioaccumulation</i>	The process by which substances accumulate in the tissues of living organisms with particular reference to toxic substances that accumulate via a food chain.
<i>Biodiversity</i>	Biological diversity, or richness of living organisms present in representative communities and populations.
<i>Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP)</i>	Sets objectives, along with measurable targets for the conservation of biodiversity.
<i>Bog</i>	An area of soft, wet, peaty ground.
<i>Broadleaved woodland</i>	An area of woodland with predominantly deciduous tree species (less than 10% coniferous trees in the canopy).
<i>Bryophyte</i>	Phylum of non-flowering plants, with little or no vascular tissue; includes plants such as true mosses and liverworts.
<i>Buffer</i>	A natural, undisturbed strip surrounding a development or land disturbance activity or bordering a stream or permanent water body.
<i>Bund</i>	An embankment, wall or dam that can be used to minimise noise or alternatively built around an oil tank to contain the contents in the event of spillage.
<i>Burn</i>	A small stream.
<i>Calcareous</i>	Refers to a sediment, sedimentary rock, or soil type which is formed from or contains a high proportion of calcium carbonate.
<i>CAR</i>	<i>Controlled Activities Regulations</i>
<i>Catchment</i>	The area contributing flow to a point on a drainage system.
<i>Channel morphology</i>	Physical characteristics of stream channels, such as width/depth ratio and sinuosity, and types of pattern e.g. braided, meandering, straight.
<i>Channel sinuosity</i>	An assessment of the degree of irregularity in the path of a river channel across the landscape; it is measured as the difference between channel length and valley length.
<i>Community</i>	Assemblage of interacting populations that occupy a given area.
<i>Community Severance</i>	Community severance is defined here as 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.
<i>Commuting route</i>	A linear route used regularly by individuals of a population of bats for travelling between roosting and foraging habitats.

<i>Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO)</i>	A legal document giving the government (Scottish Ministers) power to compulsorily purchase the areas of land necessary for construction of the scheme.
<i>Coniferous woodland</i>	An area of woodland with predominantly coniferous tree species (less than 10% deciduous trees in the canopy).
<i>Conservation</i>	Preservation or restoration of the natural environment and wildlife.
<i>Conservation Area</i>	Area of special architectural or historic interest, the character or appearance of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance. Designated under section 61 Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (Scotland) Act 1997.
<i>Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP)</i>	Document which describes the processes to be followed to ensure compliance with environmental legislation and policy and minimise harm to the environment.
<i>Contaminated land</i>	Land in such condition by reason of substances on or under the land that significant harm is being caused, there is a significant possibility of such harm being caused or pollution of controlled water is being, or likely to be caused'.
<i>Core Path</i>	A right of way designated by a Local Authority as being of importance to maintain access and leisure provision.
<i>Couch</i>	Above-ground otter shelter.
<i>Cropmark</i>	Marks visible in growing and ripening crops, especially via aerial photography, which reflect the differences in the subsoil beneath. For example, parched lines of grass may indicate hidden stone walls or packed stone layers.
<i>Culvert</i>	A metal, wooden, plastic, or concrete conduit through which surface water can flow under or across roads.
<i>Decibel (dB)</i>	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.
<i>Deciduous</i>	Trees and shrubs that shed their leaves annually.
<i>Depositional landforms</i>	Landforms caused by the deposition of sediment such as beaches, spits, sand dune systems.
<i>Designed Landscape</i>	A designed area of landscape which is identified in the Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscapes (jointly compiled by SNH and Historic Scotland).
<i>Detention basin</i>	An area for temporarily storing water which delays its flow downstream. Includes some water quality benefits. Usually part of SUDS (drainage design).
<i>Diffuse pollution</i>	Contamination and pollution arising from many dispersed and different sources. These sources are often individually minor, but collectively may be significant.
<i>Displacement</i>	To move something from its natural environment.
<i>Do-Minimum (DM)</i>	The base scenario for assessment purposes, 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.
<i>Do-Something (DS)</i>	The 'with proposed scheme' scenario for assessment purposes.

<i>Drey</i>	The most common squirrel nest type. Comprises a round ball of twigs, leaves and bark. Frequently built close to tree trunk or in branch forks to provide shelter.
<i>Drift deposits</i>	Drift geology overlying bedrock.
<i>Driven shooting</i>	Involves birds being driven over guns by beaters. The guns are stationed in pre-determined positions.
<i>Earthworks</i>	Works created through the moving of quantities of soil or unformed rock.
<i>Ecological Clerk of Works (ECoW)</i>	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.
<i>Ecological receptors</i>	Living organisms, habitats, or natural resources that could be impacted by the construction or operation of the proposed scheme.
<i>Ecology</i>	The branch of biology concerned with the relations of organisms to one another and to their physical surroundings.
<i>Ecosystem</i>	A biological community of organisms interacting with one another and their physical environment.
<i>Eft</i>	An immature newt in its terrestrial phase.
<i>Electrofishing</i>	A fish sampling technique using electric currents and electric fields to control fish movement and/or immobilize fish, allowing capture.
<i>Element</i>	A component part of the landscape or environment (e.g. roads, hedges, woodlands).
<i>Environmental Clerk of Works (EnvCoW)</i>	A qualified environmental specialist who supervises construction sites, ensuring that environmental aspects are considered and any mitigation measures are implemented.
<i>Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)</i>	The process by which information about the environmental effects of a project is evaluated and mitigation measures are identified.
<i>Environmental Statement (ES)</i>	Document provided by the Developer to the Competent Authority, containing environmental information required under Article 5 of Directive 85/337/EEC as amended.
<i>Environmental Steering Group (ESG)</i>	A forum for the statutory environmental stakeholders to meet with the relevant members of the project team and receive updates on the development of the proposed Scheme. The members of the group consist of Transport Scotland, Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH), the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) and Historic Environment Scotland (HES).
<i>Fen</i>	A wetland that, like a bog, has organic soil. In contrast with bogs, fens receive most of their water from the surrounding groundwater, and consequently can be either acidic or alkaline, depending on the surrounding earth. They support a greater variety of plants than bogs, but are often still dominated by peat.
<i>Fill</i>	Material deposited by man in ground depression or excavated area.
<i>Floodplain</i>	Land adjacent to a river, which is subject to regular flooding.
<i>Flora</i>	Referring to plants of a particular region or habitat.

<i>Flow regime</i>	Combinations of river discharge and corresponding water levels and their respective (yearly or seasonally) averaged values and characteristic fluctuations around these values.
<i>Fluvial geomorphology</i>	The study of landforms associated with river channels and the sediment processes which form them.
<i>Footprint</i>	The geographical extent of an ecological impact.
<i>Foraging</i>	Searching for food or provisions.
<i>Fragmentation</i>	Breaking up of an organisms habitat into smaller fragments that may vary in size.
<i>Freeboard</i>	The vertical distance from water surface to the top of a given structure (e.g. culvert) or feature (e.g. water channel bank).
<i>Freshwater</i>	Bodies of water such as ponds, lakes, rivers and streams containing low concentrations of dissolved salts and other total dissolved solids.
<i>Geomorphology</i>	The branch of geology concerned with the structure, origin and development of topographical features of the earth's crust.
<i>Geophysical survey</i>	Geophysical survey is a non-intrusive pre-construction archaeological evaluation technique that exploits a variety of physical or chemical characteristics of rocks and soils etc, in an attempt to locate underground features of archaeological interest. Types of geophysical survey include magnetometer survey, magnetic susceptibility survey and resistivity survey.
<i>Geotextile</i>	Permeable fabric made of polypropylene/polyester and which has the ability to separate, filter, reinforce, protect or drain.
<i>Glacial Till</i>	Glacial till is that part of glacial drift which was deposited directly by the glacier. It may vary from clays to mixtures of clay, sand, gravel and boulders.
<i>Glaciofluvial</i>	Pertaining to streams fed by melting glaciers, or to the deposits and landforms produced by such streams.
<i>Grade Separated Junction</i>	A junction in which transit routes are separated by different heights so that traffic flows do not intercept. For example, a junction in which one road crosses another via a bridge and slip roads are used for access between the two.
<i>Ground Investigation</i>	Exploratory investigation to determine the structure and characteristics of the ground. The collected information is used to establish or predict ground and groundwater behaviour during, and subsequent to, construction.
<i>Ground-truthing</i>	Verification on the ground of conditions on a site.
<i>Groundwater</i>	Water below the surface of the ground in the saturation zone and in direct contact with the ground or subsoil.
<i>Habitat</i>	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.
<i>Habitat fragmentation</i>	Describes the breaking up of an organisms 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.

<i>Habitat Modification Score</i>	An assessment of the extent of anthropogenic modification to a channel. Larger scores indicate a higher degree of modification.
<i>Habitat Suitability Index</i>	A numerical index that represents the capacity of a given habitat to support a selected species.
<i>Habitats Directive</i>	EC Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora.
<i>Habituate</i>	To become accustomed to a particular situation.
<i>Heathland</i>	Uncultivated land with sandy soil and scrubby vegetation.
<i>Heavy Duty Vehicle (HDV)</i>	Vehicles greater than 3.5 tonnes gross (includes HGVs, as below).
<i>Heavy Goods Vehicle (HGV)</i>	Vehicles with 3 axles (articulated) or 4 or more axles (rigid and articulated).
<i>Hibernacula</i>	Structures used by animals to hibernate through the winter, such as log piles, rock piles, vegetation piles, old mammal burrows, tree root complexes and buildings.
<i>Hibernation</i>	Extended period of torpor undertaken during winter.
<i>Holt</i>	Deep underground otter shelter.
<i>Hydraulic</i>	Of, relating to, or operated by the force of liquid in motion.
<i>Hydrocarbon</i>	A chemical compound of hydrogen and carbon.
<i>Hydrogeology</i>	Branch of geology dealing with occurrence, distribution, and effect of groundwater.
<i>Hydrological</i>	The exchange of water between the atmosphere, the land and the oceans.
<i>Impact and Effects</i>	Measurements of potential change attributable to the proposed Scheme on the environment.
<i>Impermeable</i>	Material that does not allow fluids to pass through it.
<i>Improved grassland</i>	Grasslands that have been so modified by fertilisers, drainage or grazing that they have lost most of the species expected in unimproved grassland.
<i>Incidental sighting</i>	Casual observation of a plant or animal of one or more species recorded by whilst performing a non-relevant ecological survey.
<i>Inter alia</i>	'Among other things'.
<i>Invertebrate</i>	An animal without a backbone.
<i>Kettle holes</i>	A low-lying area or hollow, usually filled with water from flood waters or retreating glaciers.
<i>L_{Aeq}</i>	Equivalent Continuous Sound Level. A notional steady sound level which would cause the same A-weighted sound energy to be received as that due to the actual, possibly fluctuating, sound level over a given period of time.
<i>Landform</i>	Combination of slope and elevation producing the shape and form of the land surface.

<i>Landscape</i>	Human perception of the land, conditioned by knowledge and identity with a place.
<i>Land-take</i>	Acquired land which is necessary to construct the proposed scheme and associated infrastructure and to undertake the essential environmental mitigation measures.
<i>Lane Kilometre</i>	A kilometer long segment of roadway that is a single lane in width (for example, a one kilometer stretch of a standard two lane road represents two lane-km).
<i>Larvae</i>	An active immature form of an insect or other animal that undergoes metamorphosis, e.g. a caterpillar or tadpole.
<i>Lateral connectivity</i>	Hydrologic connectivity is defined as the condition by which disparate regions on the hillslope are linked via subsurface water flow. Lateral refers to the spatial dimensions of riverine/riparian/floodplain habitats.
<i>Lichen</i>	A group of complex organisms, which are formed from the symbiotic association of a fungus and an alga.
<i>Listed Building</i>	Building included on the list of buildings of special architectural or historic interest and afforded statutory protection under the 'Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (Scotland) Act 1997' and other planning legislation. Classified categories A-C.
<i>Local Landscape Character Area (LLCA)</i>	An area outlined as having distinct characteristics based on landscape features. Derived from regional landscape studies available from SNH.
<i>Macroinvertebrate</i>	An animal without a backbone that can be seen with the naked eye, for example, snails, waterfleas, shrimps or insects.
<i>Macrophyte</i>	An individual alga large enough to be seen easily with the unaided eye.
<i>Made ground</i>	Ground comprised of material deposited by man i.e. not natural.
<i>Magnitude</i>	Size, extent, scale and duration of an impact.
<i>Mesotrophic</i>	Of a moderately rich or productive habitat.
<i>Microclimate</i>	The climate of a discrete area that usually differs from the surrounding area.
<i>Migration</i>	The movement (of an animal) from one habitat to another according to the seasons.
<i>Mineral extraction</i>	The removal of a naturally occurring solid formed through geological process that has a characteristic chemical composition, a highly ordered atomic structure and specific physical properties.
<i>Mire</i>	General term for all peat-forming ecosystems; bog, fen, carr, muskeg, moor and peatland (does not include marshes as these are non-peat-forming and are seasonally flooded).
<i>Mitigation</i>	Measure to avoid, reduce or offset potential adverse impacts.
<i>National Vegetation Classification (NVC)</i>	A system to describe British vegetation types, whereby each vegetation type has a different 'code'.
<i>Native</i>	A species occurring in its normal geographic range (not introduced).
<i>Non-indigenous</i>	Not originating in, nor characteristic of, a particular area.

<i>Non-Motorised users (NMU)</i>	Pedestrians, cyclists and equestrians.
<i>Non-prime land</i>	Agricultural land of Land Capability for Agriculture (LCA) classes 3.2 to 7.
<i>Offsetting</i>	The process of compensating for something with something else.
<i>Open space</i>	Any land laid out as public parks or used for the purpose of public recreation, or land which is a disused burial ground.
<i>Outfall</i>	The place of discharge e.g. where a sewage pipe discharges into a river.
<i>Pasture</i>	An area of grassland (or other suitable plants) used to feed grazing animals.
<i>Peatland</i>	Land where plant decomposes only partially and accumulates to form brown to black organic material called peat; the two main types are bogs and fens.
<i>Permeable</i>	Something that can be penetrated/passed through by something else e.g. soil is permeable to water as the water can pass through it.
<i>Phase 1 Habitat Survey</i>	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.
<i>Pile/Piling</i>	A heavy stake or post made out of timber, steel, reinforced concrete or pre-tensioned concrete, driven into the ground to support foundations.
<i>Planning Advice Note (PAN)</i>	Supporting document to National Planning Policy Guidelines, which disseminates good practice and provides more specific design advice of a practical nature.
<i>Plantation woodland</i>	Woodland of any age that obviously originated from planting.
<i>Potential Impact</i>	The impact on an aspect of the environment that may occur in the absence of mitigation.
<i>Prime agricultural land</i>	Agricultural land of Land Capability for Agriculture (LCA) classes 1, 2 and 3.1.
<i>Priority habitat</i>	Those which have been identified as being most threatened and requiring actions under the UK Biodiversity Action Plan.
<i>Priority species</i>	Those which have been identified as being most threatened and requiring actions under the UK Biodiversity Action Plan.
<i>Proposed Scheme</i>	The scheme design as reported in Chapter 4 of the ES, and used as the basis for environmental assessment and reporting.
<i>Qualitative</i>	Concerned only with the nature of the organism/substance being investigated.
<i>Quantitative</i>	Concerned with the number, as well as nature of the organism/substance being investigated.
<i>Ramsar sites</i>	Internationally important wetland identified for conservation under the RAMSAR Convention 1971.
<i>Receptor</i>	In this context, an element that is susceptible to being affected (either directly or indirectly) by the proposed scheme. Examples include habitats, species, people, properties, landscape, archaeological remains etc.

<i>Red list species</i>	Bird species in severe population decline. Or globally threatened.
<i>Refuge/refuges</i>	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
<i>Regionally Important Geological Sites (RIGS)</i>	Sites designated by regional geological groups on locally developed criteria, currently the most important places for geology and geomorphology outside statutorily protected land such as SSSIs.
<i>Residual impact</i>	Residual impact means the environmental impact after the provision of mitigation measures, if any.
<i>Riffle</i>	A shallow section of a river/stream where the water is fast-flowing over a gravel/cobble substrate.
<i>Right of way</i>	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 (usually public roads).
<i>Riparian habitat</i>	Natural home for plants and animals occurring in a thin strip of land bordering a stream or river.
<i>Riparian zone</i>	The area of habitat that is under the influence of the water body. It includes the transitional area between the water and land, and also extends further back than just the water edges.
<i>River basin characterisation</i>	The process of identifying the type, and all significant pressures on every water body.
<i>River Basin District</i>	The area of land and sea, made up of one or more river basins, together with the associated groundwater and coastal waters, identified by the Water Framework Directive as the main unit for the management of river basins.
<i>River basin management plan</i>	A plan setting out actions required within a river basin to achieve set environmental quality objectives, reviewed on a six yearly basis.
<i>River Habitat Survey (RHS)</i>	A survey to assess the physical structure of freshwater streams and rivers, providing a broad assessment of habitat quality.
<i>Roost</i>	Any resting site used by bats including maternity roosts which are used by females and their young, hibernacula which are used during winter hibernation and transitional roosts which may be used at any time.
<i>Ruderal</i>	A plant that colonizes disturbed ground. They are often weeds that have a high nutrient requirement and/or are intolerant of competition.
<i>Runoff</i>	Water that flows over the ground surface to the drainage system. This occurs if the ground is impermeable or if permeable ground is saturated.
<i>Salmonid</i>	Pertaining or belonging to the family Salmonidae (salmon, trout and charr).
<i>Scat</i>	Animal faeces.
<i>Scheduled Monument (SM)</i>	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'.
<i>Scoping exercise</i>	The process undertaken to determine the scope and methods of the technical assessments produced for the Environmental Impact Assessment.

<i>Scottish Planning Policy (SPP)</i>	A statement of Scottish Government policy on nationally important land use.
<i>Scour</i>	A depression or hole left when sediment is washed away from the bottom of a river.
<i>Screen planting</i>	Vegetation planted in order to block or limit a visual impact.
<i>Screening exercise</i>	The process undertaken to determine if an Environmental Impact Assessment required for a proposed development.
<i>Scrub</i>	Vegetation dominated by locally native shrubs, usually less than 5m tall.
<i>Sediment</i>	Material carried in particles by water or wind and deposited on the land surface or seabed.
<i>Sedimentation</i>	The deposition or accumulation of sediment.
<i>Semi-improved grassland</i>	Grassland that has been modified by fertilizers, drainage or intensive grazing. Contain less species diversity than unimproved grasslands.
<i>Semi-natural Ancient Woodland</i>	Areas that appear as wooded on 1860 maps but not maps from 1750 i.e. woodland that appeared between these two dates.
<i>Semi-natural habitat</i>	Habitat which has been altered by altered by land management.
<i>Semi-natural woodland</i>	Woodland that does not obviously originate from planting. The distribution of species will generally reflect the variations in the site and the soil. Planted trees must account for less than 30% of the canopy composition.
<i>Sett</i>	The burrow system of badgers comprising a series of underground tunnels and chambers. There are several categories of sett including a main sett, annexe sett, subsidiary sett and outlier sett.
<i>Severance</i>	The separation of communities from facilities and services used within their community. Alternatively, in relation to agricultural land, the division of land into separate areas, potentially affecting access or availability for agricultural use.
<i>Sinuuous</i>	A river with many curves/ bends (meanders).
<i>Site compound</i>	A secure area close to the construction site which provides full site services including storage for equipment, materials and fuel, offices and amenity areas.
<i>Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)</i>	Designated areas of national importance. The aim of the SSSI network is to maintain an adequate representation of all natural and semi-natural habitats and native species in the UK. 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.
<i>Soakaway</i>	A deep hole used for drainage, where rainwater and other waste water drains directly into the ground, without connection to mains drainage or sewerage pipes.
<i>Spawning</i>	The process of egg release into the water by aquatic animals.
<i>Special Area of Conservation (SAC)</i>	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.
<i>Special Protection Area (SPA)</i>	An area designated under the Wild Birds Directive (Directive 74/409/EEC) to protect important bird habitats.

<i>Specific impact</i>	A forceful consequence or strong effect to something particular or unique.
<i>Stakeholder</i>	A person or group that has an investment, share or interest in something.
<i>Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)</i>	The process by which information about the environmental effects of proposed plans, policies and programmes are evaluated.
<i>Strategic Transport Project Review (STPR)</i>	A two year review of the Scottish transport network being undertaken by Transport Scotland. It aims to identify and prioritise road, rail and other interventions of national significance, which will be taken forward to improve the network. Through selecting which transport projects of national significance should be progressed, the STPR would also affect regional and local transport networks.
<i>Superficial Deposits</i>	The youngest geological deposits formed during the most recent period of geological time, the Quaternary, which extends back 1.8 million years.
<i>Susceptibility</i>	The ability to accommodate change without adverse effect.
<i>Sustainable Drainage Systems (SUDS)</i>	A sequence of management practices and control structures designed to drain surface water in a more sustainable fashion than some conventional techniques.
<i>Swamp</i>	An area of wet spongy land that often supports some trees and vegetation but is too wet for cultivation.
<i>Taxa</i>	Plural of taxon.
<i>Terrestrial</i>	The environment above the mean high water spring
<i>Threshold</i>	The minimum intensity or value of a signal etc that will produce a response or specified effect.
<i>Trunk Road</i>	The strategic system of major roads and associated structures (including bridges) for which the Scottish Ministers have responsibility
<i>Turbid</i>	High concentrations of suspended sediment and particulates in the water column.
<i>Vascular plants</i>	Higher plants, including flowering plants, conifers and ferns. They are characterised by the possession of specialized tissues (vascular tissue) for the translocation of substances around the plant.
<i>Velocity</i>	A measure of the speed and direction of an object.
<i>Vernacular</i>	Refers to a type of architecture which is indigenous to a specific time or place.
<i>Visual envelope</i>	Illustrates the extent of potential visibility to or from a specific area.
<i>Vulnerable groups</i>	In environmental assessment, generally children, elderly and disabled.
<i>Water Framework Directive (WFD)</i>	European environmental legislation (2000/60/EC) relating to inland surface waters, estuarine and coastal waters and groundwater. Fundamental objective to maintain “high status” of waters where it exists, preventing any deterioration in the existing status of waters and achieving at least “good status” in relation to all waters by 2015.
<i>Water quality</i>	The chemical and biological status of various parameters within the water column and their interactions, for example dissolved oxygen, indicator metals such as dissolved copper, or suspended solids (the movement of which is determined by hydrological process and forms geomorphological landforms).

<i>Wildfowl</i>	Any wild bird such as ducks, geese or swans.
<i>Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (WCA)</i>	Principal mechanism for wildlife protection in the UK. Referred to as WCA.
<i>Working corridor</i>	Strip of land either side of a proposed development.
<i>Zone of influence</i>	An area along a proposed development over which potential effects extend.
<i>Zones of Theoretical Visibility (ZTVs)</i>	Computer-generated tool used to identify the likely (or theoretical) extent of visibility of a development within a landscape.