

Appendix 16-1: Construction Dust Assessment Procedure

Calderdale Windfarm

PEIR Volume 3

PINS Reference: EN0110023

Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations
2009 – Reg 5 (2) (a).

7 April 2026



A16 Appendix 16-1: Construction Dust Assessment Procedure

A16.1.1 The criteria developed by IAQM divide the activities on construction sites into four types to reflect their different potential impacts. These are:

- demolition;
- earthworks;
- construction; and
- trackout.

A16.1.2 The assessment procedure includes the four steps summarised below.

A16.2 STEP 1: Screen the Need for a Detailed Assessment

A16.2.1 An assessment is required where there is a human receptor within 250m of the boundary of the site and/or within 50m of the route(s) used by construction vehicles on the public highway, up to 250m from the site entrance(s), or where there is an ecological receptor within 50m of the boundary of the site and/or within 50m of the route(s) used by construction vehicles on the public highway, up to 250m from the site entrance(s).

A16.2.2 Where the need for a more detailed assessment is screened out, it can be concluded that the level of risk is negligible and that any effects will be 'not significant'. No mitigation measures beyond those required by legislation will be required.

A16.3 STEP 2: Assess the Risk of Dust Impacts

A16.3.1 A site is allocated to a risk category based on two factors:

- the scale and nature of the works, which determines the potential dust emission magnitude (Step 2A); and
- the sensitivity of the area to dust effects (Step 2B).

A16.3.2 These two factors are combined in Step 2C, which is to determine the risk of dust impacts with no mitigation applied. The risk categories assigned to the site may be different for each of the four potential sources of dust (demolition, earthworks, construction and trackout).

Step 2A – Define the Potential Dust Emission Magnitude

A16.3.3 Dust emission magnitude is defined as either ‘Small’, ‘Medium’, or ‘Large’. The IAQM guidance explains that this classification should be based on professional judgement, but provides the examples in **Table A16-1**.

Table A16-1: Examples of How the Dust Emission Magnitude Class May be Defined

| Class | Examples |
|--------------|--|
| Demolition | |
| Large | Total building volume >75,000 m ³ , potentially dusty construction material (e.g. concrete), on site crushing and screening, demolition activities >12 m above ground level |
| Medium | Total building volume 12,000 m ³ – 75,000 m ³ , potentially dusty construction material, demolition activities 6-12 m above ground level |
| Small | Total building volume <12,000 m ³ , construction material with low potential for dust release (e.g. metal cladding or timber), demolition activities <6 m above ground, demolition during wetter months |
| Earthworks | |
| Large | Total site area >110,000 m ² , potentially dusty soil type (e.g. clay, which will be prone to suspension when dry to due small particle size), >10 heavy earth moving vehicles active at any one time, formation of bunds >6 m in height. |
| Medium | Total site area 18,000 m ² – 110,000 m ² , moderately dusty soil type (e.g. silt), 5-10 heavy earth moving vehicles active at any one time, formation of bunds 3 m – 6 m in height. |
| Small | Total site area <18,000 m ² , soil type with large grain size (e.g. sand), <5 heavy earth moving vehicles active at any one time, formation of bunds <3 m in height. |
| Construction | |
| Large | Total building volume >75,000 m ³ , on site concrete batching; sandblasting |
| Medium | Total building volume 12,000 m ³ – 75,000 m ³ , potentially dusty construction material (e.g. concrete), on site concrete batching |
| Small | Total building volume <12,000 m ³ , construction material with low potential for dust release (e.g. metal cladding or timber) |
| Trackout a | |

| | |
|--------|--|
| Large | >50 HDV (>3.5t) outward movements in any one day, potentially dusty surface material (e.g. high clay content), unpaved road length >100 m |
| Medium | 20-50 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 |
| Small | <20 HDV (>3.5t) outward movements in any one day, surface material with low potential for dust release, unpaved road length <50 m |

a These numbers are for vehicles that leave the site after moving over unpaved ground.

Step 2B – Define the Sensitivity of the Area

A16.3.4 The sensitivity of the area is defined taking 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 to reduce the risk of wind-blown dust.

A16.3.5 The first requirement is to determine the specific sensitivities of local receptors. The IAQM guidance recommends that this should be based on professional judgment, taking account of the principles in **Table A16-2**. These receptor sensitivities are then used in the matrices set out in **Table A16-3**, **Table A16-4** and **Table A16-5** to determine the sensitivity of the area. Finally, the sensitivity of the area is considered in relation to any other site-specific factors, such as the presence of natural shelters etc., and any required adjustments to the defined sensitivities are made.

Step 2C – Define the Risk of Impacts

A16.3.6 The dust emission magnitude determined at Step 2A is combined with the sensitivity of the area determined at Step 2B to determine the risk of impacts with no mitigation applied. The IAQM guidance provides the matrix in **Table A16-6** as a method of assigning the level of risk for each activity.

A16.4 STEP 3: Determine Site-specific Mitigation Requirements

A16.4.1 The IAQM guidance provides a suite of recommended and desirable mitigation measures which are organised according to whether the outcome of Step 2 indicates a low, medium, or high risk.

A16.5 STEP 4: Determine Significant Effects

A16.5.1 The IAQM guidance does not provide a method for assessing the significance of effects before mitigation, and advises that pre-mitigation significance should not be determined. With appropriate mitigation in place, the IAQM guidance is clear that the residual effect will normally be ‘not significant’.

A16.5.2 The IAQM guidance recognises that, even with a rigorous dust management plan in place, it is not possible to guarantee that the dust mitigation measures will be effective all of the time, for instance under adverse weather conditions. The local community may therefore experience occasional, short-term dust annoyance. The scale of this would not normally be considered sufficient to change the conclusion that the effects will be ‘not significant’.

Table A16-2: Principles to be Used When Defining Receptor Sensitivities

| Class | | Principles | Examples |
|---|--|---|--|
| Sensitivities of People to Dust Soiling Effects | | | |
| High | | users can reasonably expect enjoyment of a high level of amenity; or 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 | dwellings, museum and other culturally important collections, medium and long term car parks and car showrooms |
| Medium | | 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 | parks and places of work |

| | | | |
|--------|--|---|--|
| | | 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 | |
| Low | | the enjoyment of amenity would not reasonably be expected; or there is property that would not reasonably be expected to be diminished in appearance, aesthetics or value by soiling; or 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 | playing fields, farmland (unless commercially-sensitive horticulture), footpaths, short term car parks and roads |
| | | Sensitivities of People to the Health Effects of PM10 | |
| High | | locations where members of the public may be exposed for eight hours or more in a day | residential properties, hospitals, schools and residential care homes |
| Medium | | locations where the people exposed are workers, and where individuals may be exposed for eight hours or more in a day. | may include office and shop workers, but will generally not include workers occupationally exposed to PM10 |
| Low | | locations where human exposure is transient | public footpaths, playing fields, |

| | | | |
|--------|--|---|---|
| | | | parks and shopping streets |
| | | Sensitivities of Receptors to Ecological Effects | |
| High | | locations with an international or national designation and the designated features may be affected by dust soiling; or locations where there is a community of a particularly dust sensitive species | Special Areas of Conservation with dust sensitive features |
| Medium | | locations where there is a particularly important plant species, where its dust sensitivity is uncertain or unknown; or locations with a national designation where the features may be affected by dust deposition | Sites of Special Scientific Interest with dust sensitive features |
| Low | | locations with a local designation where the features may be affected by dust deposition | Local Nature Reserves with dust sensitive features |

Table A16-3: Sensitivity of the Area to Dust Soiling Effects on People and Property¹

| Receptor Sensitivity | Number of Receptors | Distance from the Source (m) | | | |
|----------------------|---------------------|------------------------------|-----|------|------|
| | | <20 | <50 | <100 | <250 |
| | | | | | |

¹ For demolition, earthworks and construction, distances are taken either from the dust source or from the boundary of the site. For trackout, distances are measured from the sides of roads used by construction traffic. Without mitigation, trackout may occur from roads up to 250 m, as measured from the site exit. The impact declines with distance from the site, and it is only necessary to consider trackout impacts up to 50 m from the edge of the road.

| | | | | | |
|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|-----|
| 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 A16-4: Sensitivity of the Area to Human Health Effects Error! Bookmark not defined.

| Receptor Sensitivity | Annual Mean PM10 | Number of Receptors | Distance from the Source (m) | | | |
|----------------------|------------------|---------------------|------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|
| | | | <20 | <50 | <100 | <250 |
| High | >32 µg/m3 | >100 | High | High | High | Medium |
| | | 10-100 | High | High | Medium | Low |
| | | 1-10 | High | Medium | Low | Low |
| | 28-32 µg/m3 | >100 | High | High | Medium | Low |
| | | 10-100 | High | Medium | Low | Low |

| | | | | | | |
|--------|-------------|-----------|--------|--------|-----|-----|
| | | 1-10 | High | Medium | Low | Low |
| | 24-28 µg/m3 | >100 | High | Medium | Low | Low |
| | | 10-100 | High | Medium | Low | Low |
| | | 1-10 | Medium | Low | Low | Low |
| | | <24 µg/m3 | >100 | Medium | Low | Low |
| | | 10-100 | Low | Low | Low | Low |
| | | 1-10 | Low | Low | Low | Low |
| Medium | >32 µg/m3 | >10 | High | Medium | Low | Low |
| | | 1-10 | Medium | Low | Low | Low |
| | 28-32 µg/m3 | >10 | Medium | Low | Low | Low |
| | | 1-10 | Low | Low | Low | Low |
| | 24-28 µg/m3 | >10 | Low | Low | Low | Low |
| | | 1-10 | Low | Low | Low | Low |
| | <24 µg/m3 | >10 | Low | Low | Low | Low |

| | | | | | | |
|-----|---|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| | | 1-10 | Low | Low | Low | Low |
| Low | - | >1 | | Low | Low | Low |

Table A16-5: Sensitivity of the Area to Ecological Effects Error! Bookmark not defined.

| Receptor Sensitivity | Distance from the Source (m) | |
|----------------------|------------------------------|--------|
| | <20 | <50 |
| High | High | Medium |
| Medium | Medium | Low |
| Low | Low | Low |

Table A16-6: Defining the Risk of Dust Impacts

| Sensitivity of the Area | Dust Emission Magnitude | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| | Large | Medium | Small |
| Demolition | | | |
| High | High Risk | Medium Risk | Medium Risk |
| Medium | High Risk | Medium Risk | Low Risk |
| Low | Medium Risk | Low Risk | Negligible |

| | | | |
|--------------|-------------|-------------|------------|
| Earthworks | | | |
| High | High Risk | Medium Risk | Low Risk |
| Medium | Medium Risk | Medium Risk | Low Risk |
| Low | Low Risk | Low Risk | Negligible |
| Construction | | | |
| High | High Risk | Medium Risk | Low Risk |
| Medium | Medium Risk | Medium Risk | Low Risk |
| Low | Low Risk | Low Risk | Negligible |
| Trackout | | | |
| High | High Risk | Medium Risk | Low Risk |
| Medium | Medium Risk | Medium Risk | Low Risk |
| Low | Low Risk | Low Risk | Negligible |

