

12.4 Environmental Risks

Environmental guideline values published by local or international organizations provide data on the chemical and physical characteristics of land, air and or water that do not pose a significant risk to the environment.

If the control measures for the scheme ensure these environmental standards are met in the receiving environmental end-points, it can be assumed that the impact on the environment is minor or insignificant. Environmental impact categories are shown in Table 12-4. Further details on environmental management is in Section 13.

Impact	Public Health	Environment
Insignificant	Insignificant or undetectable impact on local communities and Contractors	Insignificant damage including minor erosion or short term disruption to habitats
Minor	Limited exposure of local community or Contractors with potential minor health affects	Potentially harmful to local plants and animals, no impact on water resources, impact contained to site
Moderate	Exposure of local community and Contractors with detectable minor health effects	Potentially harmful to regional plants and animals, short term impact on water resources and impacts primarily contained to on-site. Damage can be remediated
Major	Exposure of wider community with detectable health effects	Continuous damage through erosion or degradation of land, major disruption to local plants and animals, limited short term impacts on water resources and potential for off-site impacts.
Unacceptable	Exposure of large population with significant health effects	Widespread destruction of land, permanent changes to local eco system, long term impacts on water quality and widespread on-site and off-site impacts

Table 12-4: Environmental Impact Schedule