**Identifying environmental aspects** should take account of whether a particular activity, product or service causes:

* air emissions
* effluent discharges
* waste arisings
* land contamination
* use of resources (e.g., water, fuel and natural resources and materials).

The above aspects relate to those an organisation can control. There are other aspects over which the organisation may have “control” or “influence”. These can include:

* product design — to improve environmental performance or extend life of products
* packaging — to minimise the use of material resources and energy
* performance — of contractors (on site) and suppliers of goods and materials
* land use — improve biodiversity and wildlife habitats on site.

**What is an Environmental Impact?**

Once the environmental aspect and the cause of that aspect have been identified, the next step is to identify the potential environmental impacts associated with it that may adversely affect the environment and human health. An environmental impact is described as a “change to the environment, whether adverse or beneficial, wholly or partially resulting from an organisation’s environmental aspects.

The principal types of impacts are:

* those associated with inputs, e.g. extracted resources used in the form of raw materials and energy — that can give rise to land degradation and depletion of natural resources
* those associated with outputs, e.g. emissions to air, discharges to water and waste arisings — that may cause pollution
* those associated with on-site activities and processes, e.g. storage, cleaning, assembly and packaging — that can also cause pollution or loss of materials and other resources.

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| **ACTIVITY** | **ENVIRONMENTAL ASPECT**  **Hazard** | **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT**  **Risk** | **LIKLEY HOOD** | **SEVERITY** | **SIGNIFICANCE RATING** | **CONTROL MEASURES** | **LEGISLATION** | **REVISED RISK AFTER CONTROLS** |
| **Site Set Up** | Destruction of habitat,  damage to  vegetation, injury to  fauna. | Loss of Biodiversity Pollution of surface water, storm water drains and watercourses | Unlikely | High | Medium | * Minimize vegetation clearance. * Avoid all contact with fauna and threatened flora. * Avoid parking or storing construction materials and fuel under trees where practical. * Avoid creating stockpiles under trees, in order to avoid compaction within the root zone. * Do not undertake tree felling or hedgerow clearance during the bird nesting season. * Comply with Tree Preservation Order if applicable. * Do not try to touch or otherwise disturb any Great Crested Newts. | Water Resources Act 1991 Environmental Protection Act 1990 Pollution Prevention and Control Act 1999 | Low |
| **Office activities** (Fixed offices and temporary offices upon construction sites) | Paperwork | Reduction in natural resources. Greenhouse effect from generation. |  |  |  | * Paper supplies to be sourced from sustainable supply chains via office stationery supplier. * Certificate of compliance or information substantiating the source are to be held. * Printers within the building are set to double side print to reduce paper usage where possible. * Emails to contain environmental awareness message asking whether item needs to be printed off. * Paper re-cycling undertaken. | The Environmental Protection (Duty of Care) Regulations 1991 | low |
| **Transport use and storage of hazardous chemicals** | Spillage from transport, storage and or use of hazardous chemical or substances | Impacts on surface water quality  Contamination of water course |  |  |  | * Only small quantities to be stored transported and or used * Transport, storage and use of hazardous material or substance as per specific regulations/Legislation |  |  |
| **Emissions to air: Dust** | Uncontrolled dust emissions | Contamination of surrounding ground and or items |  |  |  | * Visual dust monitoring in accordance with local operating procedure. |  |  |

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| **RISK RATING** | | | |
|  | **LOW** | **MODERATE** | **HIGH** |
| **NEGLIGIBLE** | **Low** | **Low** | **Medium** |
| **UNLIKELY** | **Low** | **Low** | **Medium** |
| **LIKELY** | **Medium** | **Medium** | **High** |
| **CERTAIN** | **Medium** | **High** | **High** |

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| The rating given will be calculated following a chart score of **severity of the impact** rated **low, moderate, high** and the **likelihood of the impact** occurring rated **negligible, unlikely, likely** and **certain** where low/negligible will not result in a significant impact to high/certain leading to critical damage to the environment.  The two ratings are plotted on the chart and the subsequent rating shown in the chart  **The items will be determined as follows:**  **Green =** low environmental impact  **Yellow =** medium environmental impact  **Red =** high environmental impact |