

ENABLING WORKS – ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

Why this TOTM?

Over the last year we have experienced significant environmental incidents and near misses during enabling works.

As many sites are commencing, enabling works are required – causing environmental harm is a significant risk at this stage.

As a business we need to ensure compliance with legal, client and company requirements.

What Enabling Activities have the potential to cause environmental damage?

Vegetation clearance and tree removal	Bulk excavation, trenching and footings
Site clearance, trial holes and earthworks	Topsoil stripping; stockpiling of soil, spoil and materials
Dewatering and temporary drainage works	Service diversions and temporary services
Establishment of access, haul roads and hardstanding areas	Planning site compounds and laydown areas
Demolition works	Ground and land contamination investigations, ground remediation

Where to start?

STOP – PAUSE – CHECK THE EMP

Prior to undertaking any enabling works, make sure there is a clear understanding of the relevant environmental risks on site.

Check the project **Environmental Management Plan and Constraints Map – NO WORKS CAN COMMENCE unless the EMP has been reviewed and approved with an Environmental Advisor.** Once understood, appropriate control / mitigation measures can be applied.

Contact the project Environmental Planner and Environmental Advisor who will be able to assist in the understanding and explanation of the environmental risks / control measures.

What are the key areas for consideration?

Vegetation Clearance and Tree removal
 Site Compound, Laydown Areas & Trial Holes
 Waste and Material Management
 Pollution Prevention
 Demolition Works

Guidance and Toolbox Talks available:

- [CDGD20-02 Site Set-up for Small Projects](#)
- [CDGD20-01 Site Set-up for Medium and Large Projects](#)
- [EVTT01-60 Vegetation Clearance Toolbox Talk](#)
- [EVTT01-60 - Video -Toolbox Talk Vegetation Clearance](#)

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Vegetation Clearance and Tree Removal

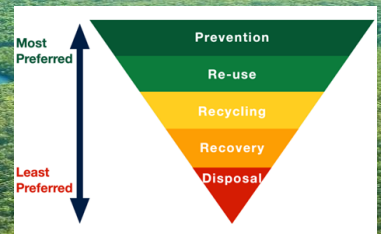
- Consider - Does the vegetation / tree(s) need to be removed? Are there any other options?
- Prior to any vegetation removal / tree works a **Vegetation Clearance Permit (EVFR05-14) MUST BE IN PLACE** and approved by a member of the Environmental Team.
- All Wildlife Exclusion Areas and Root Protection Areas must be clearly demarcated on site and in the site layout drawings.
- Clearance should be outside of nesting bird season (1st March – 30th Sept). If unavoidable, an ecologist is required to undertake checks prior to removal.
- Ensure control measures are included in RAMS and complete appropriate toolbox talks.

Site Compound, Laydown Areas and Trial Holes

- Site compounds should be established on existing hard standing. If this is not possible select location with environmental considerations in mind e.g. ecology, archaeology, reuse of aggregates.
- For trial holes, refer to the EMP to check if an archaeological or ecological control measures (e.g. watching brief, further surveys) are necessary prior to starting.

Material and Waste Management

- Apply the waste hierarchy to all potential waste on site.
- Review reduction and reuse options through the Site Material and Waste Management Plan.
- Can soils be reused on site? A Material Management Plan may be necessary – consult an Environmental Advisor.



Pollution Prevention

- Follow control measures stated in the Environmental Management Plan and include in the RAMS.
- Identify and protect surface water drains.
- Permit to Pump required for all temporary water pumping activities.
- Ensure control measures are in place to manage silty runoff.

Demolition

- Check surrounding area and buildings to be demolished are included in an ecology survey.
- Ensure completion of any additional surveys e.g. asbestos, pre-demolition bat survey.
- Reduce / reuse waste (consult an Environmental Advisor).

