

8.0 GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Ambient: totally encompassing sound in a given situation at a given time usually a composite of sounds from many sources near and far.

Amenity: the attributes which create and influence the quality of life of individuals or communities, such as environmental conditions, physical, social, recreational or cultural features.

Attenuation: storage of run-off so that the time for it to reach receiving rivers or streams is delayed

A-Weighted Decibel, dB(A): decibels measured on a sound level meter incorporating a frequency weighting (A weighting) which differentiates between sounds of different frequency (pitch) in a similar way to the human ear. Measurements in dB(A) broadly agree with people's assessment of loudness. A change of 3 dB(A) is the minimum perceptible under normal conditions, and a change of 10 dB(A) corresponds roughly to halving or doubling the loudness of a sound.

Catchment: geographical area from which rainfall contributes to stream flow

Compound channel (2-stage channel) section: a channel with both a main channel and floodplain(s) where floodwaters can be controlled

Computer 'modelling': method of using computers for simulating river flows

Decibel (dB): the unit of sound intensity. It is derived from the logarithm of the ratio between the value of a quantity and a reference value. The threshold of normal hearing is in the range of 0 - 140 dB, the upper limit being the threshold of pain. A change of 1 dB is only perceptible under controlled conditions.

Freeboard: additional level of flood defences over the maximum predicted floodwater level

Flow 'magnitude': size (in m³/s) of river flow

Fluvial flood: river flood

Gradient: slope of stream or river

'Hard' flood defence solutions: flood defences comprised of walls etc.

Hydrological: movement of water on and over surface of earth

Infiltration: seepage of rainwater through the ground

Landscaping: a general term used for the means by which development is made to fit visually into its surroundings by use of space and control of siting and layout and use of trees, shrubs or grass (soft landscaping) and / or fences, walls or paving (hard landscaping).

Lateral seepage: movement of water through a flood defence embankment

m³/s: river flow rate (l cubic metre per unit time)

'Non-attenuated' stormwater run-off: rainfall run-off that makes its way directly to the receiving stream or river

OD - ordnance datum (Malin Head)

Oil interceptors: filters that prevent the flow of contaminating pollutants into the river flow

Outfall: point of discharge

Overbank Area: the floodplains of river channel that exist above bank full levels

Overtopping: the release of floodwater from a channel when levels exceed the levels of flood defences

Peak flow: maximum river flow as derived from specific storm/rainfall event

River is 'ungauged': the river flow is not monitored

Runoff: rainfall that flows over the earth's surface and into rivers or streams

'Spate' River: fast flowing, rapidly reacting river

'Soft' flood defence solutions: flood defences comprised of landscaped embankments etc.

Time to peak: time taken for water to flow through River Dargle network to Bray