Please see Annex SW3 for supporting information, and the “Introduction” for Health and Safety considerations and advice on the use of the guidance.

1. **Control of dust, dirty water, noise and air pollution**
   A check is needed to ensure that adequate controls and procedures have been put in place on the site to control excessive dust, dirty water run-off, noise or air pollution. In making such assessments, the planning conditions and approved methods of working need to be compliance monitored. Also, check that despite the controls/procedures being in place, adjoining agricultural land, watercourses or other land uses are not adversely affected by dust, water contamination, noise or smell.

2. **Dirty water storage**
   Is the dirty water run-off being adequately stored in silt lagoons? How are the lagoons being emptied and how frequently? Where and how is the dirty water disposed of - is it allowed to flow directly into a watercourse after allowing for the settlement of silt or is it emptied by tanker and spread on agricultural land? Will the silt lagoons remain in-situ after site working or are they only temporary? Are adequate bunds in place around fuel storage tanks etc. to contain accidental spillage and leaks?

3. **Flooding**
   On occasions, despite normally adequate controls being in place to prevent dirty water run-off, there may be times following an extremely heavy storm or prolonged spell of bad weather when there is flooding on site. Checks need to be made to ensure that in the event of flooding, it is contained on site and not allowed to flood adjoining agricultural land. Temporary drainage or pumping facilities may need to be put in place.

4. **Pumping**
   Are there adequate pumping facilities on site to remove water from the excavated areas or other low lying areas?
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For more detailed information see:
- [MPG7 The Reclamation of Mineral Workings (DoE 1996)](Paragraphs 33-50, 97-102 and Annex A)
- Guidance on Good Practice for the Reclamation of Mineral Workings to Agriculture (DoE 1996) (Pages 13-23)
- [Planning Conditions for Mineral Extraction and Waste Management Facilities](

Cross references:
- AP 1, 2, 3
- SW 5, 6, 7
1. Control of dust, dirty water, noise and air pollution

Most modern planning permissions usually contain conditions which impose strict controls in order to prevent nuisance to adjoining land users. In addition, the environmental statements that accompany detailed planning applications will have tried to assess the level of impact and, where appropriate, suggested mitigating measures. However, despite all these measures, it is important to check that all the controls and procedures, set out in the planning conditions or cited in the environmental statement, are in place and working effectively. From the agricultural perspective, problems can arise on adjoining farmland if:

- excessive dust settles on grass or crops thus reducing palatability, quality and yield
- watercourses, used for irrigation or drinking water supplies, are contaminated with dirty water
- excessive noise disturbs livestock, and
- there is an increased risk of disease due to airborne contaminants

2. Dirty water storage

Checks need to be made to ensure that the lagoons are adequately sized and not leaking. In most cases, water will pass into a nearby watercourse after allowing sediment to settle in the lagoon. Many such lagoons will remain in-situ throughout the whole working life of the site and may even form part of the long-term restoration proposals, but in other cases, they may only be temporary during a particular working phase. For other liquid storage such as fuel oil, the normal requirement is for an impermeable bund to be placed around the storage tank, which is capable of containing 110% of the tank’s total volume. In all cases, the aim is to prevent pollution of groundwater and watercourses. If there any doubts, the EA should be consulted.

3. Flooding

There will, on occasions, be extremely heavy storms, prolonged spells of rain or rapidly thawing snow when, despite all the measures in place, there will be flooding of the site. Every effort should be made to contain the water on site to prevent pollution of nearby watercourses. It may be necessary to install temporary drainage facilities, such as ditches or grips. Areas of land which may be prone to flooding can be cultivated to increase water infiltration. This will also help to prevent rapid surface run-off and just as importantly, prevent soil erosion. Loosening of the soil surface should also be carried out if no more soil stripping is likely before the winter. This will help prevent run-off and soil erosion during the winter months. The same technique can also be used during restoration when soil has been replaced but no crop has been sown.
4. Pumping

Inadequate pumping facilities in excavated or low-lying areas of the site will not only hamper site operations, but also increase the risk of contaminating groundwater.