

OP02 – Soil Stripping

What is this?

The purpose of this document is to outline the procedures for ensuring that all soil stripping operations are carried out in a manner which causes minimal environmental damage.

What does the responsible manager need to do?

The responsible manager must ensure that:

- They identify what resources are required for soil stripping (ie personnel, plant, time etc)
- Suitably qualified and/or experienced personnel are employed to undertake the works (whether directly employed or contracted), and in the case of a contractor, they are evaluated to prove competence
- All employees or contractors operating mobile plant are suitably trained and authorised on that particular piece of equipment and hold, or are working towards, an NVQ to deem them competent
- The location and scale of the soil stripping is in accordance with the existing planning permission and detailed documents submitted as part of the application to a planning condition
- Soil sampling is undertaken and the results recorded as required by the conditions of the planning permission or other permits
- Different soil types are identified prior to the commencement of soil stripping operations, and they are stripped and stored separately, so far as is reasonably practicable
- The storage and placement of soils is undertaken to maintain the quality of the soils (including method of working and taking account of weather conditions/time of year)
- Guidance is sought from an independent planning consultant, if required
- All regulatory requirements relating to archaeological investigation, excavation and soil stripping are complied with; and that these activities proceed in a planned and logical sequence in advance of mineral extraction
- All persons involved are given adequate information and training with regard to the stripping of soils
- In the event of adverse weather, ie strong wind blowing towards receptors, giving rise to the possibility of dust nuisance, suitable preventative actions will be undertaken and, if necessary, soil stripping will cease and the incident recorded on the relevant form
- All plant and equipment is suitably inspected and maintained as per Regulation 12(1)(a)(iii) Quarries Regulations 1999
- All equipment uses a fuel facility that is compliant with Environment Agency rules. In addition the fuel should be of the correct specification



- All fuel facility monitoring and overfill devices should be within the scheme of inspection and maintenance
- Site emergency procedures are clearly displayed and understood by employees or contractors
- Correct signage is in place to warn the workforce and visitors of any danger
- Any measures outlined within the site permit and planning consent are complied with
- Environmental incidents and complaints are recorded
- All personnel are fully briefed on the hours of work.

What do employees need to do?

All employees are responsible for ensuring that:

- They comply with the company's reporting procedure in relation to the stripping of soil
- Any incidents, changes or queries are brought to the attention of the responsible manager immediately
- They operate equipment with due regard to the environmental conditions
- All rules and procedures are clearly understood
- Daily inspections sheets should be completed
- Basic maintenance is undertaken.

Associated documentation

EMS Sections

- Planning
- Operational Control

Operational Procedures

- OP25 - Control of Contractors

Forms

- EF03 – Internal Communication
- EF14b – Daily Mobile Plant Inspection Checklist
- EF15 – Incident Investigation

