Introduction
The Construction Environmental Management Plans (CEMP) describes how construction works will be managed to avoid, minimise or mitigate effects on the local environment and community surrounding the site.

The CEMP is a crucial document for the management of the adverse environmental effects of the proposed development, as Environmental Statements / EIA Reports as well as planning conditions rely on its implementation to address adverse effects. Therefore, it is important that the CEMP provides correct, up-to-date and meaningful information.

Outline CEMP
An Outline CEMP is usually prepared by the applicant to provide the future appointed contractor with a management framework to appropriately plan and implement the construction activities in order to limit detrimental effects on the different elements of the environment. Based on the outline document, a final CEMP will be then developed by the contractor. The Outline CEMP can be prepared at different stages of the planning process. It can be submitted in support of the planning application voluntarily or to conform with a planning validation checklist or because its submission has been requested by the planning authority or their consultees during pre-planning consultation phase. Alternatively, the document can be requested at post planning stage, to discharge a planning condition.

Outline CEMP Structure
The Outline CEMP represents a crucial steering document for EIA developments, for which a multitude of complex environmental effects can be potentially generated at construction stage, particularly if the site and surrounding area has a high environmental sensitivity. Therefore, it is important that the information included within the Outline CEMP is well organised, to help the contractor to identify the existing environmental baseline conditions and critical issues (for the site and surrounding), the relevant sensitive receptors and required mitigation measures.

In the case of EIA developments, the ES/EIA Report and associated standalone studies are valuable sources of information to prepare the Outline CEMP. Therefore, an effective approach would be structuring the document by mirroring the same topics scoped into the ES/EIA Report, with the addition of those issues scoped-out of EIA but that are still relevant to the CEMP.

For each topic discussed in the Outline CEMP, a useful structure is:

- **Providing a List of Available Information**

  The provision of a list of available documents, which have been produced to support the planning application and that are relevant to that topic would help the contractor to consider the correct and most up-to-date studies available for the site.
Documents may include reference to the specific chapter of the ES/EIA Report, supporting standalone assessments, site-specific environmental registers (e.g. Heritage Register, etc.).

- **Baseline information & Sensitive Receptors**

A brief description of the baseline environmental conditions based on the EIA information would assist the contractor in better understanding the existing sensitivity of the site and its surroundings. This represents an important step, for example in the case of complex historical heritage topics, where identifying the sensitivity of the site is not always straightforward (for example the extent of listings etc.). Similarly, a plan with the location of the sensitive receptors would help to clearly identify the spatial distribution of the elements that are susceptible to the adverse effects during construction of the development.

- **Existing legislation and guidance**

The inclusion of a legislation and guidance list, pertinent to each topic, can be useful to ‘spell out’ the source of the relevant regulatory requirements and ensure the Contractor reviews the applicable legislation and guidance throughout the duration of the construction works.

- **Mitigation measures proposed**

Under each environmental topic it is useful to list and describe the measures proposed within the ES/EIA Report or as a condition of planning.

This will help the contractor to identify the applicable mitigation measures and best management practices and make all arrangements for their correct implementation (e.g. understanding how they work, how to install them, how to monitor their effectiveness, the correct resources to mobilise, their costs).

**Conclusions**

An Outline CEMP that adopts a structured and functional approach for each relevant environmental topic is a valuable tool to guide the contractor in considering adverse environmental effects when planning and implementing the construction activities and reviewing and updating their CEMP at regular intervals throughout the construction phase.

*Waterman Infrastructure & Environment Ltd, April 2019.*

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