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Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)

Scoping guidelines for the Environmental Impact Assessment
of projects (May 2002)



**ENVIRONMENT
AGENCY**

The Environment Agency is the most important environmental adviser and regulator in England and Wales. Its aim is to protect and improve the environment and so contribute to sustainable development. An important part of this work is the Agency's involvement in Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). Identification of key issues early in the EIA process is known as scoping.

The Environment Agency has produced *scoping guidelines*, which are targeted at developers, their consultants, local planning authority staff, Environment Agency staff, and others involved in the promotion and appraisal of proposed projects that are likely to have a significant effect on the environment. The *guidelines* update and replace guidance that was published in 1996.

The *guidelines* comprise a *handbook* and 76 *guidance notes* on a CD ROM that describe the impacts of a comprehensive range of individual development types (see list below).

Aims of the guidelines

- To explain the role and importance of scoping in EIA;
- To guide scoping activities;
- To provide guidance on key issues common to many project types;
- To provide project-specific scoping guidance;
- To assist the Environment Agency in fulfilling its role as statutory consultee under the EIA regulations.

The *guidelines* are not intended to be prescriptive, but to encourage a consistent approach to scoping for projects that may have significant effects on the environment. Guidance offered and used at the scoping phase is more efficient for all concerned than waiting until the final designs are submitted.

The *guidelines* are not intended to replace consultation with specialists from the competent authority, the Environment Agency or other consultees; they are of a general advisory nature for use when considering project proposals and to encourage early, informed liaison.

The *guidelines* are available directly from:

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Price: £95

Site operations**A Site operations**

- 1 Construction work
- 2 Demolition and decommissioning works
- 3 Redevelopment and clean-up of contaminated land
- 4 Vegetation management and conservation enhancements

Development type**B Agriculture, forestry, aquaculture, pest control**

- 1 Afforestation and deforestation
- 2 Arable farming and the intensification of previously uncultivated land
- 3 Control of pest species, including disease vectors
- 4 Deliberate introduction of non-native and genetically modified species
- 5 Freshwater and marine fish farms
- 6 Intensive horticulture, including greenhouses
- 7 Livestock units (including pigs, cattle, sheep and poultry)

C Coastal and estuarine developments

- 1 Barrages (*see also I6, Tidal power developments*)
- 2 Coastal defence, including beach nourishment
- 3 Ports, shipyards, harbours, piers and jetty developments (including navigation works)
- 4 Sea outfalls

D Extraction of natural resources and their primary processing

- 1 Dredging of riverine, estuarine and marine sediments (including commercial dredging and dredging for navigation) and reclamation
- 2 Opencast mining and quarrying for coal, minerals, ores, etc.
- 3 Petro-chemical industry – offshore developments, including exploration
- 4 Petro-chemical industry – onshore developments, including exploration
- 5 Restoration of mineral extraction sites

E Infrastructure developments

- (*see also Section K, Multi-modal transport*)
- 1 Business parks (i.e. office buildings or repairs or servicing facilities)
 - 2 Pipelines (oil and gas)
 - 3 Residential developments
 - 4 Retail and out-of-town shopping parks

F Leisure and tourism

- 1 Camping and caravan sites
- 2 Golf courses
- 3 Leisure centres and swimming pools, holiday complexes and hotels
- 4 Marinas (*see also C3 and J6*)
- 5 Off-road recreation activities
- 6 Water-based recreation
- 7 Angling and sport fishing, including fish stocking

G Manufacturing industries

- 1 Abattoirs
- 2 Animal feed manufacture
- 3 Chemical manufacture, processing and storage (*see also Section L, Waste management*)
- 4 Food and drink manufacture
- 5 Industrial estates for light manufacturing
- 6 Leather manufacture
- 7 Mineral production and processing (e.g. coke ovens, glass, ceramics, cement, asbestos)
- 8 Motor vehicle, aircraft and train manufacture
- 9 Natural timber, and man-made wood products (e.g. medium density fibreboard)
- 10 Production and processing of metals
- 11 Pulp, paper and board production
- 12 Rubber manufacture
- 13 Textile manufacture

H Other sectors

- 1 Cemeteries and crematoria
- 2 Kennels, catteries and stables

I Power generation and transmission

- (*See also L1, Incineration*)
- 1 Hydroelectric power developments, including dams and reservoirs

- 2 Nuclear facilities, construction and decommissioning
- 3 Overhead transmission lines
- 4 Reprocessing of nuclear fuel
- 5 Thermal power stations (non-nuclear)
- 6 Tidal power developments (*see also C1, Barrages*)
- 7 Wind farms, both onshore and offshore

J River and water management

- 1 River channel works and bank protection
- 2 Discharges to surface waters
- 3 Flood diversion channels
- 4 Flood storage areas and flood embankments
- 5 Interbasin transfer of water
- 6 Navigation works and canal restoration
- 7 Reservoirs (*see also I1, Hydroelectric power developments*)
- 8 Restoration and enhancement of river channels
- 9 Surface-water abstractions
- 10 Groundwater abstractions
- 11 Bridges and culverts

K Multi-modal transport

- (*See C3 and J6 water transport issues*)
- 1 Airports and airfields
 - 2 Light transit systems and tramways
 - 3 Motorway service areas, petrol stations and vehicle maintenance facilities
 - 4 New roads, road widening and other road-improvement schemes
 - 5 Railways and railway stations (including rail-freight terminals)
 - 6 Underground transit systems
 - 7 Vehicle parks and park-and-ride schemes

L Waste management

- 1 Incineration, including animal carcasses and incineration with energy recovery
- 2 Landfill sites
- 3 Sewage treatment works (extension and installation)
- 4 Solid waste management facilities
- 5 Composting of organic waste

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