

**CORRECTIONS WITHIN DESIGN MANUAL FOR ROADS AND BRIDGES  
AUGUST 2009**

**SUMMARY OF CORRECTION – HA 200/08 VOLUME 11, SECTION 1, PART 1  
AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**

Please replace pages 1/1 and 1/2.

Additional text has been inserted in Table 1.1 – Section 3, 11.3.5 Geology and Soils.

We apologise for the inconvenience caused.

*Highways Agency  
August 2009*

London: The Stationery Office

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**VOLUME 11 ENVIRONMENTAL  
ASSESSMENT  
SECTION 1 INTRODUCTION**

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**PART 1**

**HA 200/08**

**AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF  
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**

**SUMMARY**

This Advice Note introduces guidance for environmental assessment in relation to all trunk road projects. It sets the overall aims and objectives of the Environmental Assessment process.

**INSTRUCTIONS FOR USE**

1. Remove Contents pages from Volume 11 and insert new Contents pages for Volume 11 dated August 2008.
2. Remove the existing document entitled 'The Application of the Advice Note' located in Volume 11, Section 1, Part 1 which is superseded by this document and archive as appropriate.
3. Insert the new Advice Note HA 200/08 into Volume 11, Section 1.
4. Please archive this sheet as appropriate.

Note: A quarterly index with a full set of Volume Contents Pages is available separately from The Stationery Office Ltd.



THE HIGHWAYS AGENCY



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THE DEPARTMENT FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT  
NORTHERN IRELAND

# Aims and Objectives of Environmental Assessment

**Summary:** This Advice Note introduces guidance for environmental assessment in relation to all trunk road projects. It sets the overall aims and objectives of the Environmental Assessment process.

**REGISTRATION OF AMENDMENTS**

<b>Amend No</b>	<b>Page No</b>	<b>Signature &amp; Date of incorporation of amendments</b>	<b>Amend No</b>	<b>Page No</b>	<b>Signature &amp; Date of incorporation of amendments</b>

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**VOLUME 11 ENVIRONMENTAL  
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SECTION 1 INTRODUCTION**

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**PART 1**

**HA 200/08**

**AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF  
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**

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1. Introduction and Application
2. Aims and Objectives of the Guidance
3. Integrating with Project Approvals and Delivery
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# 1. INTRODUCTION AND APPLICATION

1.1 The purpose of Volume 11 is to give guidance for the Environmental Assessment of projects. All types of projects can have significant effects on the environment. Decision-makers need to be able to understand these effects and the Environmental Assessment process provides a way of assessing and reporting these effects. Volume 11, therefore, covers the Environmental Assessment of all projects.

1.2 In this context, the Environmental Assessment process referred to above covers statutory Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), non-statutory environmental impact assessment, and Assessment of Implications on European Sites. Reference is also made to Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Transport Appraisal and how these are linked to project-based environmental impact assessments.

1.3 Table 1.1 sets out the structure of Volume 11.

1.4 SECTION 1 sets the overall framework for project-based Environmental Assessments.

1.5 SECTION 2 covers the general principles that apply specifically to environmental impact assessments for projects and therefore sets the context for the more detailed topic-specific environmental impact assessment guidance presented in SECTION 3.

1.6 SECTION 3 is broken down into a set of specific topic areas. SECTION 3 gives specific guidance on environmental impact assessment methods, forecasting techniques and the levels of design detail and consultations needed for each environmental topic to enable the assessment to be undertaken. The topic-specific sections also provide guidance on the provision and assessment of mitigation and enhancement measures as well as providing specific clarification on reporting requirements.

1.7 SECTION 4 provides guidance for the Assessment of Implications on European Sites process.

Volume 11	Reference	Title
<b>SECTION 1 - Introduction</b>		
11.1.1	HA 200	Aims and Objectives of Environmental Assessment
<b>SECTION 2 - Principles of Environmental Impact Assessment</b>		
11.2.1	HA 201	General Principles and Guidance of Environmental Impact Assessment
11.2.2	HA 202	Environmental Impact Assessment
11.2.3	HD 47	Screening of Projects for Environmental Impact Assessment
11.2.4	HA 204	Scoping of Environmental Impact Assessments
11.2.5	HA 205	Assessment and Management of Environmental Effects
11.2.6	HD 48	Reporting of Environmental Impact Assessments
11.2.7	HA 218	Glossary of Terms Used in DMRB Volume 11, SECTIONS 1 and 2
<b>SECTION 3 - Environmental Impact Assessment Topics</b>		
11.3.1	HA 207	Air Quality
11.3.2	HA 208	Cultural Heritage
11.3.3	HA 209	Landscape
11.3.4	HA 210	Nature Conservation
11.3.5		Geology and Soils
11.3.6	HA 212	Materials
11.3.7	HA 213	Noise
11.3.8	HA 214	Effects on All Travellers
11.3.9	HA 215	Community and Private Assets
11.3.10	HA 216	Road Drainage and the Water Environment
<b>SECTION 4 – Assessment of Implications on European Sites</b>		
11.4.1	HD 44/09	Assessment of Implications on European Sites

Table 1.1 Structure of DMRB Volume 11 Environmental Assessment

1.8 Advice on the overall project reporting process, covering Environment, Economics, Traffic and Engineering, is given in TD 37 (DMRB 5.1.2 Scheme Assessment Reporting).

**Implementation**

1.9 This guidance should be used forthwith on projects in accordance with the Overseeing Organisation's specific instructions.



## 2. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE GUIDANCE

2.1 The aim of this guidance is to provide advice which reflects both legislative and best practice requirements. It seeks to ensure information about the environmental effects of projects is collected, assessed and used to inform option choice, design and decision-making in a timely and cost effective manner.

2.2 The objectives of this guidance are to provide:

- a) a consistent approach to project-based environmental assessment and its reporting; and
- b) an approach by which the Overseeing Organisation can be assured that they have complied with all environmental regulations as well as their own policies and procedures.

2.3 Specifically, the guidance seeks to promote:

- a) a level of environmental assessment that is appropriate to the project;
- b) consideration of the likely environmental effects of possible alternatives to inform option and design choice in a way which enables the importance of the predicted effects and the scope for mitigating these effects to be assessed;
- c) consideration and reporting of the likely environmental effects of possible projects so planning and design decisions can be made that promote sustainable development and other environmental policies;
- d) opportunities for stakeholders, including the public and statutory environmental bodies to comment at appropriate times on proposals taking account of their environmental implications and the specific requirements of the Overseeing Organisation;
- e) a basis for the development of environmental management measures responding to the environmental requirements of the project; and
- f) environmental commitments which are carried through to the construction and operational stages of the project.

### 3. INTEGRATING WITH PROJECT APPROVALS AND DELIVERY

3.1 It will be the role of the Overseeing Organisation to ensure that the environmental issues are fully integrated in the project planning, option choice, design, assessment and approval processes. This should be undertaken in a manner that reflects the environmental sensitivity of the project and the environmental risks associated with the project decision that the assessment is to inform.

3.2 It is emphasised that it is not necessary to undertake assessment to a similar level of detail at every stage of project approval and delivery. For example, once it is established no significant effects are likely, assessment should stop and the decision reported accordingly. The converse is also true, if greater assessment detail earlier in a project's planning, design and development would better inform decision-making, a more detailed assessment should be undertaken. This is discussed further in SECTION 2, Part 1, Chapter 2.

3.3 The Designer should seek agreement and approval from the Overseeing Organisation to the proposed levels of assessment to be applied at each stage of project approval. If certain topics need to be described and assessed in greater detail this would be achieved by varying the assessment levels to the particular requirements of the project. A robust explanation of the reasons why different topics are examined to different levels of detail would be required within the assessment reports (refer to SECTION 2, Part 6).

3.4 In some cases it may be necessary to consider environmental effects not described in the guidance in detail, or to vary methods to suit the particular requirements of a project. In such cases the Designer should seek agreement and approval from the Overseeing Organisation.

3.5 The effects of a proposed project may be direct, indirect, secondary, cumulative, short, medium and long-term, and can be positive or negative and permanent or temporary. Therefore, whilst parts of the assessment may be carried out within each topic as a discrete activity, there may be interactions between the topics as well as cumulative effects that arise in relation to other development projects (refer to SECTION 2, Part 5). These should all be considered before the level of assessment is decided upon. It is for the Designer

to co-ordinate the work of taking these topics forward and to consider the wider interactions and effects in developing and refining possible design options and any preferred option identified with the Overseeing Organisation.

3.6 It should not be assumed that an assessment of a project, which has not been taken forward for a number of years, is still valid. Since some information may date with time and so render the assessments as out-of-date, a good scoping exercise should highlight these deficiencies. Advice and approval from the Overseeing Organisation should be sought in such instances.

## 4. EXPERTISE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

4.1 It is important that those involved in projects have sufficient relevant expertise to conduct environmental assessments in the project delivery process. The level of expertise should be commensurate with the level of complexity of the project and the likely significance of environmental effects to be encountered.

4.2 The level of experience should reflect the anticipated level of environmental risks associated with the project. Appendix E of GD 02/08 (DMRB 0.2.1) gives indicative levels of experience, professional status, training and competency that the Overseeing Organisation considers necessary to enable Designers to fulfil typical project roles. The Overseeing Organisation should ensure that contractual arrangements obtain the necessary expertise called for by GD 02/08.

## 5. REFERENCES

### Legislation:

- Council Directive 85/337/EEC: Council Directive of 27 June 1985 on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment, *Official Journal No. L 175*, 05/07/1985.
- Council Directive 92/43/EEC: Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora, *Official Journal L 206*, 22/07/1992.
- Council Directive 97/11/EC: Council Directive 97/11/EC of 3 March 1997 amending Directive 85/337/EEC on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment, *Official Journal No. L 073*, 14/03/1997.
- Council Directive 97/62/EC: Council Directive 97/62/EC of 27 October 1997 adapting to technical and scientific progress Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora *Official Journal No L 305*, 08/11/1997.
- Council Directive 2001/42/EC: Directive 2001/42/EC on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment, *Official Journal No. L 197*, 21/07/2001.
- Council Directive 2003/35/EC: Directive 2003/35/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 May 2003 providing for public participation in respect of the drawing up of certain plans and programmes relating to the environment and amending with regard to public participation and access to justice Council Directives 85/337/EEC and 96/61/EC, *Official Journal No. L 156*, 25/06/2003.
- Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005, *The Stationery Office Limited*, ISBN 0105900893.
- Highways Act 1980.
- New Roads and Street Works Act 1991.
- Roads (Scotland) Act 1984.
- Scottish Statutory Instrument 1999 No. 1 The Environmental Impact Assessment (Scotland) Regulations 1999, *The Stationery Office Limited*, ISBN 0 11 0591070.
- Scottish Statutory Instrument 2004 No. 475 The Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Amendment (Scotland) Regulations 2004, *The Stationery Office Limited*, ISBN 0110693124.
- Scottish Statutory Instrument 2006 No. 614 The Environmental Impact Assessment (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2006, *The Stationery Office Limited*, ISBN 0110714725.
- Scottish Statutory Instrument 2007 No. 80 The Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Amendment (Scotland) Regulations 2007, *The Stationery Office Limited*, ISBN 9780110717333.
- Scottish Statutory Instrument 2007 No. 349 The Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Amendment (No. 2) (Scotland) Regulations 2007, *The Stationery Office Limited*, ISBN 9780110776217.
- Statutory Instrument 1988 No. 1221 (S.122) The Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Regulations 1988, *The Stationery Office Limited*, ISBN 0110872215.
- Statutory Instrument 1988 No. 1241 The Highways (Assessment of Environmental Effects) Regulations 1988, *The Stationery Office Limited*, ISBN 011087241X.
- Statutory Instrument 1993 No. 3160 The Roads (Northern Ireland) Order 1993, *The Stationery Office Limited*, ISBN 0110342895.
- Statutory Instrument 1994 No. 1002 The Highways (Assessment of Environmental Effects) Regulations 1994, *The Stationery Office Limited*, ISBN 0110440021.
- Statutory Instrument 1994 No. 2716 The Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994, *The Stationery Office Limited*, ISBN 0110457161.
- Statutory Instrument 1999 No. 369 The Highways (Assessment of Environmental Effects) Regulations 1999, *The Stationery Office Limited*, ISBN 0 11 082053 3.
- Statutory Instrument 2000 No. 192 The Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) (England) Regulations 2000, *The Stationery Office Limited*, ISBN 0110858638.

Statutory Instrument 2007 No. 1062 The Highways (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2007, *The Stationery Office Limited*, ISBN 9780110765969.

Statutory Instrument 2007 No. 1843 The Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) (Amendment) Regulations 2007, *The Stationery Office Limited*, ISBN 9780110777160.

Statutory Rule 1995 No. 380 The Conservation (Nature Habitats, etc.) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1995, *The Stationery Office Limited*, ISBN 0337918805.

Statutory Rule 1999 No. 89 Roads (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1999, *The Stationery Office Limited*, ISBN 0 337 93407.

**Guidance:**

European Commission (2000): Managing Natura 2000 sites: The provisions of Article 6 of the ‘Habitats’ Directive 92/43/EEC. *Office for Official Publications of the European Communities*.

European Commission (2001): Assessment of plans and projects significantly affecting Natura 2000 sites. Methodological guidance on the provisions of Article 6(3) and Article 6(4) of the ‘Habitats’ Directive 92/43/EEC. *Office for Official Publications of the European Communities*.

European Commission (2007): Guidance document on Article 6(4) of the ‘Habitats Directive’ 92/43/EEC.

GD 02/08 Quality Management Systems for Highway Design (Design Manual for Roads and Bridges Volume 0.2.1).

TD 37 Scheme Assessment Reporting (DMRB 5.1.2).

## 6. ENQUIRIES

All technical enquiries or comments on this Advice Note should be sent in writing as appropriate to:

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