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**VOLUME 11 ENVIRONMENTAL  
ASSESSMENT  
SECTION 2 ENVIRONMENTAL  
IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

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**PART 7**

**HA 218/08**

**GLOSSARY OF TERMS USED IN DMRB  
VOLUME 11, SECTIONS 1 AND 2**

**SUMMARY**

This Advice Note is a glossary for terms used in Volume 11, SECTION 1 and Volume 11, SECTION 2.

**INSTRUCTIONS FOR USE**

1. Remove Contents pages from Volume 11 and insert new Contents pages for Volume 11 dated August 2008.
2. Insert the new Advice Note HA 218/08 into Volume 11, Section 2.
3. 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



SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru  
Welsh Assembly Government

WELSH ASSEMBLY GOVERNMENT  
LLYWODRAETH CYNULLIAD CYMRU



**DRD**

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THE DEPARTMENT FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT  
NORTHERN IRELAND

# Glossary of Terms Used in DMRB Volume 11, SECTIONS 1 and 2

**Summary:** This Advice Note is a glossary for terms used in Volume 11, SECTION 1 and Volume 11, SECTION 2.

**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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# 1. GLOSSARY OF TERMS

<b>Advanced works</b>	The construction activities that are required in preparation for the construction phase of a project. Advanced works may include, for example, the clearance of vegetation or the relocation of utilities.
<b>Alternative options</b>	Different design possibilities considered during project development that have potential to fulfil the <b>Project Objectives</b> .
<b>Appraisal</b>	A process (with methodologies that differ to those of environmental impact assessment) that looks at the worth of a course of action.
<b>Assessment</b>	A process by which information about effects of a proposed plan, project or intervention is collected, assessed and used to inform decision-making.
<b>Baseline conditions</b>	The environment as it appears (or would appear) immediately prior to the implementation of the project together with any known or foreseeable future changes that will take place before completion of the project.
<b>Cumulative impact</b>	The following definition is widely accepted – <i>“Impacts that result from incremental changes caused by other past, present or reasonably foreseeable actions together with the project.”</i> <sup>1</sup> For the purposes of the DMRB Volume 11 guidance, a cumulative impact may arise as the result of: a) the combined impact of a number of different environmental topic-specific impacts from a single environmental impact assessment project on a single receptor/resource; and b) the combined impact of a number of different projects within the vicinity (in combination with the environmental impact assessment project) on a single receptor/resource.
<b>Decision-makers</b>	In England, this is the Secretary of State. In Northern Ireland, this is the Northern Ireland Ministers. In Scotland, this is the Scottish Ministers. In Wales, this is the Welsh Ministers.
<b>Design Manual for Roads and Bridges (DMRB)</b>	A set of documents that provide a comprehensive manual system which accommodates all current standards, advice notes and other published documents relating to the design, assessment and operation of trunk roads (including motorways).
<b>Designer</b>	The organisation commissioned to undertake the various stages of scheme preparation and supervision of construction. This includes specialist sub-consultants brought in to advise on specific areas of assessment and mitigation.
<b>Desirable mitigation</b>	A measure considered to be environmentally beneficial but that cannot usually be achieved using statutory powers. For example, third party agreement may be required.

<sup>1</sup> European Commission (May 1999) *Guidelines for the Assessment of Indirect and Cumulative Impacts as well as Impact Interactions*.

<b>Detailed Assessment</b>	Method applied to gain an in-depth appreciation of the beneficial and adverse consequences of the project and to inform project decisions. Detailed Assessments are likely to require detailed field surveys and/or quantified modelling techniques.
<b>Determination Decision</b>	Formal judgement as to whether a project requires statutory Environmental Impact Assessment or not.
<b>Do-Minimum Scenario</b>	The conditions that would persist in the absence of the implementation of a construction or improvement project, but given that maintenance is on-going.
<b>EIA Directive</b>	Used to refer to EC Directive 85/337/EEC as amended by EC Directive 97/11/EC and the Public Participation Directive 2003/35/EC.
<b>EIA Regulations</b>	<i>“A collective name for the various statutory instruments through which the EC Council Directive on Environmental Assessment (Directive 85/337/EEC as amended by Directive 97/11/EC” and the Public Participation Directive 2003/35/EC) “has been implemented in the UK.”<sup>2</sup></i>
<b>Effect</b>	Term used to express the consequence of an impact (expressed as the ‘significance of effect’), which is determined by correlating the magnitude of the impact to the importance, or sensitivity, of the receptor or resource in accordance with defined significance criteria. For example, land clearing during construction results in habitat loss (impact), the effect of which is the significance of the habitat loss on the ecological resource.
<b>Enhancement</b>	A measure that is over and above what is required to mitigate the adverse effects of a project.
<b>Environmental Assessment</b>	A method and a process by which information about environmental effects is collected, assessed and used to inform decision-making. Assessment processes include Strategic Environmental Assessment, Assessment of Implications on European Sites and environmental impact assessment.
<b>Environmental impact assessment</b>	<i>“The systematic, reproducible and interdisciplinary identification, prediction and evaluation, mitigation and management of impacts from proposed development and its reasonable alternatives.”<sup>3</sup></i> used for the purposes of this guidance when referring to both statutory Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and non-statutory environmental impact assessment.
<b>Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)</b>	A statutory process by which certain planned projects must be assessed before a formal decision to proceed can be made. Involves the collection and consideration of environmental information, which fulfills the assessment requirements of Directive 85/337/EEC (as amended), including the publication of an Environmental Statement.
<b>Environmental Management Plan</b>	Developed prior to any works commencing on site, the primary purpose of the Environmental Management Plan is to guide environmental management of implementation of the project as required by the Overseeing Organisation.

<sup>2</sup> Adapted from a definition given by the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (2004). *Guidelines for Environmental Impact Assessment*.

<sup>3</sup> Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (2004). *Guidelines for Environmental Impact Assessment*.

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<b>Environmental Statement (ES)</b>	A document produced in accordance with the EIA Directive as transposed into UK law by the EIA Regulations.
<b>Essential mitigation</b>	Mitigation which the Overseeing Organisation has the statutory power to achieve.
<b>Evaluation</b>	The determination of the significance of effects. Evaluation involves making judgements as to the value of the receptor/resource that is being affected and the consequences of the effect on the receptor/resource based on the magnitude of the impact.
<b>Impact</b>	Change that is caused by an action; for example, land clearing (action) during construction which results in habitat loss (impact).
<b>Improvement</b>	The doing of any act under powers conferred by Part V of the Highways Act 1980 (as amended).
<b>Minister</b>	In England, the Minister is the Secretary of State. In Northern Ireland, the Minister is the Northern Ireland Minister. In Scotland, the Minister is the Scottish Minister. In Wales, the Minister is the Welsh Minister.
<b>Mitigation</b>	Measures intended to avoid, reduce and, where possible, remedy significant adverse environmental effects.
<b>Monitoring</b>	A continuing assessment of the performance of the project, including mitigation measures. This determines if effects occur as predicted or if operations remain within acceptable limits, and if mitigation measures are as effective as predicted.
<b>Non-statutory environmental impact assessment</b>	Identifying, predicting and evaluating the environmental effects (both negative and positive) of projects for which statutory EIA is not mandatory.
<b>Non-Technical Summary (NTS)</b>	Information for the non-specialist reader to enable them to understand the main predicted environmental effects of the proposal without reference to the main Environmental Statement.
<b>Operational</b>	The functioning of a project on completion of construction.
<b>Overseeing Organisation</b>	The organisation responsible for the project i.e., the Highways Agency (an agency of the Department for Transport); Transport Wales (part of the Welsh Assembly Government); Transport Scotland (an agency of the Scottish Government); or in Northern Ireland, the Roads Agency of the Department for Regional Development.
<b>Plan</b>	A document setting out the intention or intentions of the Overseeing Organisation.
<b>Preferred option</b>	The chosen design option that most successfully achieves the project objectives and becomes subject to further design and assessment.
<b>Programme</b>	A series of steps that have been identified by the Overseeing Organisation, or series of projects that are linked by dependency.



<b>Project</b>	One, or more, aspect of a programme or plan that has been identified by the Overseeing Organisation and which usually involves a direct physical intervention.
<b>Project Brief</b>	The Project Brief defines the objective of the whole project and is the basis for the project design. The Project Brief is issued to the Overseeing Organisation by the Executive Agency of the Department for Transport; the Welsh Assembly Government; the Scottish Government; or, the Northern Ireland Department for Regional Development.
<b>Project objectives</b>	The objectives of the project, set by the Overseeing Organisation and including those set out in the Project Brief.
<b>Receptor</b>	A defined individual environmental feature usually associated with population, fauna and flora that has potential to be affected by a project.
<b>Relevant project</b>	A project that falls under Annex II of the Council Directive 85/37/EEC (as amended) and for which Determination is required.
<b>Resource</b>	A defined but generally collective environmental feature usually associated with soil, water, air, climatic factors, landscape, material assets, including the architectural and archaeological heritage, that has potential to be affected by a project.
<b>Scoping</b>	The process of identifying the issues to be addressed by the environmental impact assessment process. It is a method of ensuring that an assessment focuses on the important issues and avoids those that are considered to be not significant. <sup>4</sup>
<b>Screening</b>	The formal process undertaken to determine whether it is necessary to carry out a statutory Environmental Impact Assessment and publish an Environmental Statement in accordance with the EIA Regulations.
<b>SEA Regulations</b>	A collective term used for EC Council Directive 2001/42/EC (the SEA Directive) as transposed into UK law by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004, No. 1633 (England);</li><li>• the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes (Northern Ireland) Regulations 2004, No. 280 (Northern Ireland);</li><li>• Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 (Scotland); and</li><li>• the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes (Wales) Regulations 2004, No. 1656 (W.170) (Wales).</li></ul>
<b>Significance of effect</b>	A measure of the importance or gravity of the environmental effect, defined by significance criteria specific to the environmental topic.

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<sup>4</sup> Adapted from a definition given by the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (2004). *Guidelines for Environmental Impact Assessment*.

<b>Simple Assessment</b>	<p>Initial, brief assessment activity based on the assembly of data and information that is readily available, to fulfil one of the following functions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>To address unknown aspects in the Scoping assessment level;</li><li>To reach an understanding of the likely environmental effects to inform the final design and assessment; or,</li><li>To reach an understanding of the likely environmental effects that identifies the need for a Detailed Assessment.</li></ol>
<b>Stakeholder</b>	<p>An organisation or individual with a particular interest in the project.</p>
<b>Statutory consultee</b>	<p><i>“Organisations that the relevant determining authority is required to consult by virtue of the EIA Regulations.”<sup>5</sup></i></p>
<b>Statutory environmental bodies</b>	<p>In England and Wales, “statutory environmental bodies” means:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Any principal council as defined in subsection (1) of section 270 of the Local Government Act 1982 for the area where the land is situated;</li><li>• Where the land is situated in England; Natural England and English Heritage, and the Countryside Council for Wales and the National Assembly for Wales where, in the opinion of the Secretary of State, the land is sufficiently near to Wales to be of interest to them;</li><li>• Where the land is situated in Wales; the Countryside Council for Wales, and Natural England and English Heritage where, in the opinion of the National Assembly for Wales, the land is sufficiently near to England to be of interest to the organisation;</li><li>• The Environment Agency; and</li><li>• Any other public authority which has environmental responsibilities and which the Secretary of State or the National Assembly for Wales considers likely to have an interest in the project.</li></ul> <p>In Northern Ireland, “statutory environmental bodies” means:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Any district council for the area in which the project for construction or improvement of the road is situated; and</li><li>• Any authorities likely to be concerned by the project by reason of their specific environmental responsibilities.”</li></ul> <p>In Scotland, “statutory environmental bodies” means:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The appropriate planning authority where the proposed project is likely to affect land in their area;</li><li>• The National Park authority for any National Park where the proposed project is likely to affect land in the National Park;</li></ul>

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<sup>5</sup> Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (2004). *Guidelines for Environmental Impact Assessment*.

- Scottish Natural Heritage;
- The Scottish Environment Protection Agency established under section 20 of the Environment Act 1995;
- Historic Scotland; and
- Other bodies designated by statutory provision as having specific environmental responsibilities.

**Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)**

A formal, systematic and comprehensive process for assessing the environmental effects of a proposed plan or programme, or additionally in Scotland and Wales, strategies, in accordance with the SEA Regulations.

**Study area**

The spatial area within which environmental effects are assessed (i.e. extending a distance from the project footprint in which significant environmental effects are anticipated to occur). This may vary between the topic areas.

**Sustainable development**

The overarching aim to “*enable all people throughout the world to satisfy their basic needs and enjoy a better quality of life without compromising the quality of life of future generations*”.<sup>6</sup>

**Topic report**

Document produced to report the findings of the environmental impact assessment of an individual topic area that may or may not contain raw data.

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<sup>6</sup> *Securing the Future – UK Government sustainable development strategy*, Cm. 6467, March 2005, published by The Stationery Office, ISBN 0101646720.

## 2. ENQUIRIES

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

Division Director of Network Services –  
Technical Services Division  
The Highways Agency  
City Tower  
Manchester  
M1 4BE

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Division Director of Network Services –  
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Director, Major Transport Infrastructure Projects  
Transport Scotland  
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R J M CAIRNS  
Director of Engineering