

Collaborative Scoping

Kate Wigley (LUC)
Alison Baisden (HES)
Fiona Rice (SNH)



Purpose and Aims of Scoping

Purpose

- To establish the scope and level of detail of information to be provided in the ES/EIA Report to be prepared by the developer

Aims

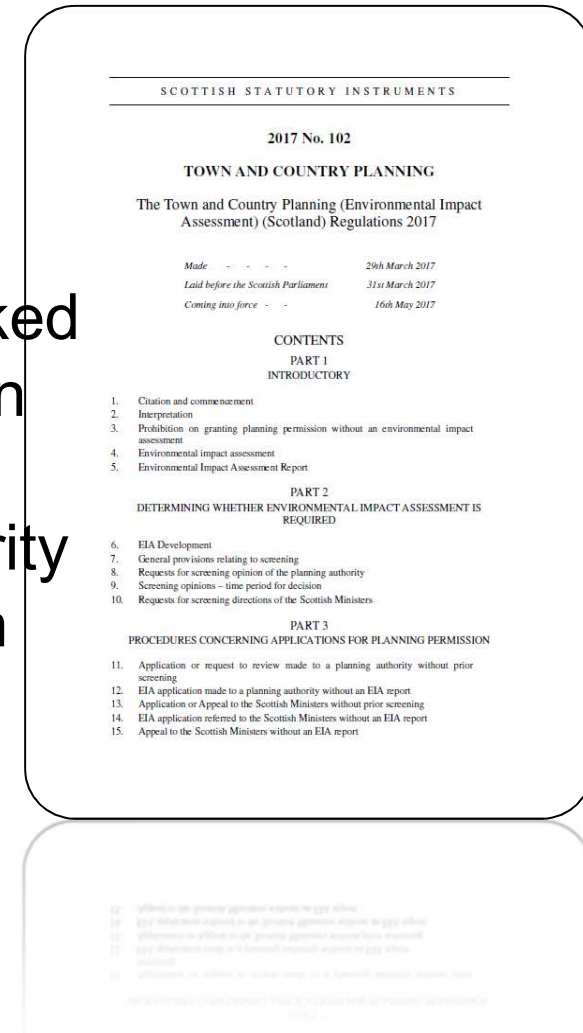
This stage should be used to:

- Focus the assessment on the environmental issues and impacts
- Identify any areas of uncertainty
- Scope out issues
- Discuss and agree suitable methods of survey, impact assessment and mitigation



Scoping and the 2017 Regulations

- It is not mandatory *but*
- It is good practice
- Statutory once the developer has asked the competent authority for an opinion
- In these cases, the competent authority is required to consult the consultation bodies
- Competent Authority has 35 days to issue an opinion



Scoping – what the guidance says

Scoping should result in

- A list of activities that may cause significant environmental effects
- A list of environmental receptors that are likely to be affected and an initial strategy for mitigation
- Agreement on the issues that do not need detailed assessment
- A plan for conducting technical studies, incl. survey methodologies
- Agreement on the form information will be presented in

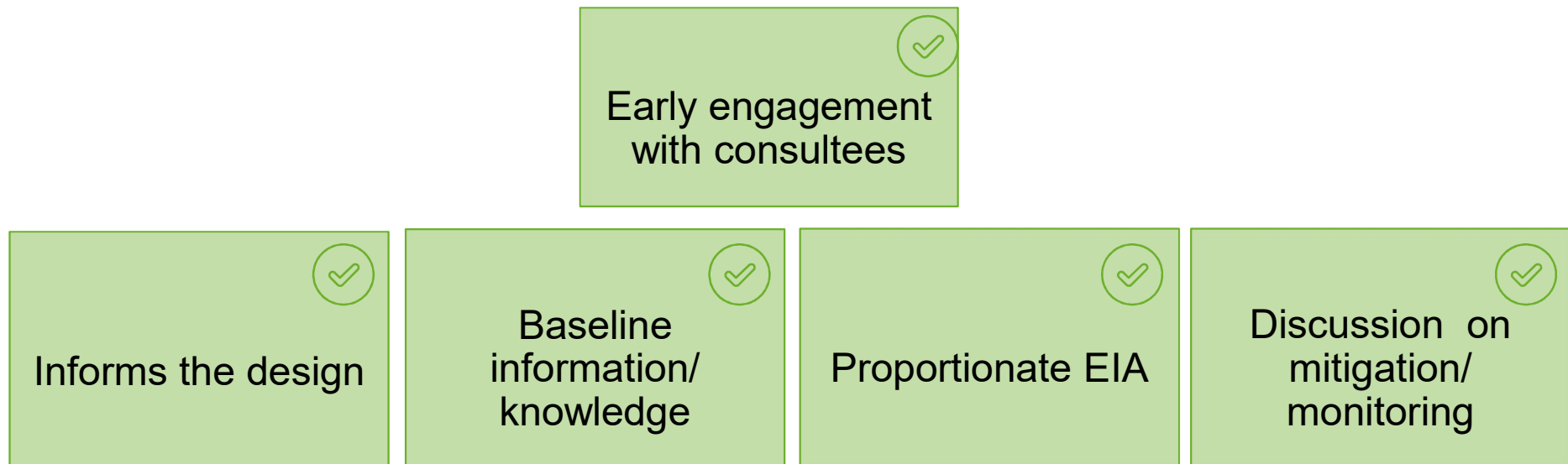


Scoping – Why Bother?

- Scoping accepted as good practice

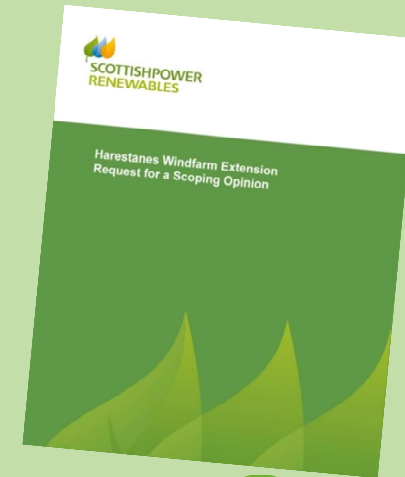
- 2017 EIA Regulations “ *where a scoping opinion is issued, the EIA report must be based on that scoping opinion.* ”

- Developers sometimes question the benefits (‘tick-box’ exercise)



Scoping – What is the ‘Best Method’?

- EIA Regulations, PAN 1/2013 and Circular 1/2017 do not prescribe a format for ‘scoping’
- Simple Letter
- Scoping Report
- Pre-Application Round Table Meeting (plus scoping & ‘gatecheck’)
- Setting up of Project Specific Statutory Consultee Steering Group



Scoping – What Makes it Effective?

Challenges

- Early stage in the project design and development ‘chicken and egg’
- Confidentiality – limited information obtained
- Proportionate scoping – a balancing act
- How to take account of mitigation measures?
- Conflicting advice

Overcoming them

- Graphics, graphics, graphics!



- Focussed scoping – in/out



- Ongoing engagement



Benefits of Scoping: Consultation Bodies

Improved Development Proposals

- *Highlights environmental 'showstoppers' / barriers to development*
- *Allows for discussion of alternatives and mitigation approaches*
- *Allows for on-going engagement on the design and development of a project including environmental enhancements*

Targeted and Proportionate Environmental Assessment

- *Identifies key issues and focuses resources on them*
- *Allows for discussion of appropriate assessment methods and best practice guidance*
- *Reduces requirement for further environmental information*



Responding to a Scoping Request

We have **specific duties** to provide relevant environmental information, advice and assistance to developers. We therefore aim to:

- *Understand the proposals*
- *Provide or confirm baseline environmental information*
- *Signpost relevant policy and guidance*
- *Identify potentially significant environmental impacts*
- *Recommend assessment methods*
- *Identify any alternatives / mitigation*
- *Issue focussed advice*



How to get the best out of the Scoping Stage

We consider that the **benefits** of scoping can be maximised through:

- *Engaging competent experts*
- *Providing as much information as reasonably available*
 - *Site Location Plan*
 - *Project Description*
 - *Constraints Mapping*
 - *GIS Shapefiles and ZTV modelling*
 - *Suggested Methodology*
 - *Visualisation Viewpoints*
- *Allowing time for effective engagement*
- *Open and constructive dialogue*



The Scoping Stage Done Well

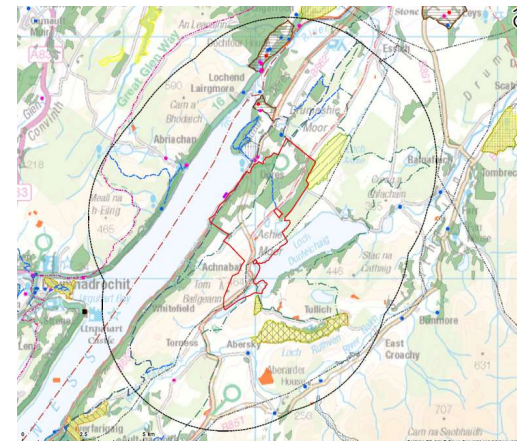
Impact Arts Centre, Edinburgh

- *New performance centre development affecting a World Heritage Site and A-listed buildings*
- *Scoping occurred during the design stages of the development*
- *Specific advice offered on assessing World Heritage Site Impacts including Socio-Economic effects*



Red John Pumped Storage Hydro

- *New hydro scheme affecting scheduled monuments*
- *Pre-Scoping advice on alternatives as well as assessment methods*



HISTORIC
ENVIRONMENT
SCOTLAND

ÀRAINNEACHD
EACHDRAIDHEIL
ALBA

Collaborative Scoping – Approaches

1: Formal Scoping Report

- Most forms of EIA development

2: Pre-scoping round table meeting, scoping, 'gatecheck' (scoping part 2)

- Local Planning Authorities (Highland Council)
- Energy Consents Unit (S36/S37) – wind farms/OHLs

3: Project Specific Environmental Steering Groups

- Road schemes (A9/A96)
- Overhead transmission lines (KTR)



Discussion Session

Discuss the benefits and challenges of the each of following EIA Scoping approaches in groups of 3-5:

1: Formal Scoping Report

2: Pre-scoping round table meeting, scoping, 'gatecheck' (scoping part 2)

3: Project Specific Environmental Steering Groups



Feedback and Questions

We want your **feedback** on Scoping Approaches that work well for you!

Please also let us know if you have any **questions?**

Feel free to contact us at:

Fiona.Rice@nature.scot

Kate.Wigley@landuse.co.uk

alison.baisden@hes.scot

