



IMPACT ASSESSMENT UPDATE

IRELAND-UK BRANCH OF IAIA:

**October 2008
Newsletter**

www.iaia.org
> 'Affiliates and Branches'
> 'Ireland-UK Branch'

Contents

1. INTRODUCTION

- Dear Members
- IAIA Events
- IAIA Newsletters

2. BRANCH NEWS

1. Next event: SEA Forum, Leeds, 23 October 2008
2. Forthcoming Branch event: Upgrading EIA for Greater Effectiveness, Oxford Brookes University, 4 December 2008
3. Past Branch Event: 'Towards World Leadership in Environmental Assessment', May 2008, Glasgow
4. Call for Future Branch Events
5. Elections to Branch committee
6. Recent publications by Branch members

3. MEMBERS SECTION

1. EIA/EMS input to IAIA Effectiveness Study
2. Climate Change in EIA

4. IMPACT ASSESSMENT NEWS

1. EU Guidance on EIA Screening published
2. Review of Sustainability Appraisal in Spatial Planning
3. EIA Regulations amended in England, Wales, Northern Ireland
4. National Planning Framework for Scotland 2 SEA
5. Scottish Government SEA Pathfinder Project

6. SNIFFER SEA Guidance on Air, Water and Soil
7. EU approves SEA protocol to the Espoo Convention
8. Highways Agency revises Design Manual for Roads and Bridges
9. **Ireland's Planning System and Flood Risk Management**
10. Minerals EIA Regulations amended in England
11. NI Agricultural EIA Regulations amended
12. Consultation on the Strategic Siting Assessment Process and Siting Criteria for New Nuclear Power Stations in the UK
13. Severn Estuary tidal power options unveiled
14. Managing Radioactive Waste Safely
15. Health Impact Assessment of Greenspace - a Guide
16. DEFRA guidance defines contaminated land
17. Ecological Risk Assessment for contaminants in soils
18. Northern Ireland Environment Agency launched
19. Constructive Conservation in Practice Guide
20. Environment Agency launches Green Roof toolkit
21. What makes an Eco-Town?

5. OTHER EVENTS

- IEMA Workshops:
 - SEA Workshop
 - Screening and Scoping in EIA
 - EIA Review Workshop
 - RTPI Strategic Environmental Assessments and Sustainability Appraisal Masterclass
 - RTPI Annual Planning for Health in the Community Conference
 - RTPI Annual Planning for Climate Change Conference
 - Exploring the Learning Potential of Strategic Environmental Assessment in Spatial Planning
 - EIA: One-day courses
 - IEEM Conference: Mitigation – Smoke and Mirrors or Biodiversity Enhancement?
 - environmental futures 08: creating the climate for change
 - Health Impact Assessment in Wales: Best Practice Workshop
 - 9th Annual Bristol Planning Law and Policy Conference
 - IEMA Environmental Knowledge Transfer 2009
-



1. INTRODUCTION

Dear Members,

Welcome to the IAIA Ireland-UK Branch Newsletter 'Impact Assessment Matters' for October 2008. This brings together recent news of legislation, guidance, consultations and events relating to impact assessment.

Since the June 2008 newsletter, emails have been sent to members on:

- Habitats Regulations Assessment - Questionnaire
- Branch / IEMA event: SEA Forum, Leeds, October 2008
- Branch event: Upgrading Impact Assessment for Greater Effectiveness, Oxford Brookes University, December 2008
- Event: Getting Better Value from SEA. Glasgow, October 2008 [by Anna McLaughlan, University of Strathclyde]

For the next Branch newsletter (December 2008), please email any contributions to ie_uk@iaia.org, with 'IAIA Branch news' in the subject line.

You can also always circulate any more urgent items to all IAIA Branch members on the listserv by sending an email to ie_ukbranch@iaia.org.

IAIA Events

- **Assessing and Managing Cumulative Effects: IAIA Special Topic Meeting:** Calgary, Alberta, Canada, **6 – 9 November 2008**
- **IAIA 2009:** the IAIA international conference will be in Ghana in **May 2009**.

See www.iaia.org for details.

IAIA Newsletters

The **October** and **July 2008** IAIA newsletters are now available for members to login and download at www.iaia.org > login > Publications > Newsletter Members. The October 2008 newsletter includes a note of the Board of Directors meeting in Perth at IAIA08, which approved permanent status for the Ireland-UK Branch.

Adam Boyden
Associate, Nicholas Pearson Associates
Chair, IAIA Ire-UK Branch, on behalf of the Branch Committee



2. BRANCH NEWS

Next event: SEA Forum, Leeds, 23 October 2008:

IEMA has teamed up with the Branch to hold a one-day SEA Forum at the Park Plaza Hotel, Boar Lane, City Square, Leeds on Thursday 23 October 2008. The event will look consider how integration of Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) / Sustainability Appraisal (SA) can make it more efficient and effective; including presentations from the CLG, Academy for Sustainable Communities and leading SEA practitioners.

The day is open to all those with an interest in SEA / SA from across the UK and Ireland, and should be of particular value to all those involved in Sustainability Appraisal of DPDs (Development Plan Documents).

The day will include a breakout session to learn more about consideration of either Climate Change (Mitigation and Adaptation) or Water Management (Strategic Flood Risk Assessment and the Water Framework Directive) within SEA/ SA.

A booking form is available on the [Branch webpage](#). Further information and online booking can be found at:

<http://www.iema.net/index.php?module=ievents&func=view&startdate=20080916&enddate=20090316&startnum=41&eid=633>

Forthcoming Branch event: Upgrading EIA for Greater Effectiveness, Oxford Brookes University, 4 December 2008:

The Branch and Oxford Brookes University are collaborating to stage an event on 4 December 2008. Our theme **for the day is linked to the IAIA's** Update of the International Study of Environmental Assessment Effectiveness (completed in 1996), and to the need to take impact assessment forward.

Increased effectiveness may come, for example, through changes to the law, through process and practice, or from developing links between strategic and project level environmental assessment. The December event will aim to address some of these possibilities.

Further details, a booking form and other ways to book are available at <http://www.brookes.ac.uk/schools/be/development/courses/ua.html> and the [Branch webpage](#).

A leaflet is also available at

<http://www.brookes.ac.uk/schools/be/development/media/UpgradingIA.pdf>

We wish to make this a lively meeting, with active contributions – oral and written – from many participants. If you or your organisation wishes to take this opportunity to demonstrate the work you are doing or the ideas you have around this theme, please get in touch with Jake Piper (jake.piper@brookes.ac.uk) and Adam Boyden (ie_uk@iaia.org) to discuss your ideas: we welcome offers for presentations and posters for specific sessions.

We are very pleased to have Peter Brett Associates and Atkins as sponsors for this event. Other display and sponsorship opportunities exist – if interested, please contact Dr Jake Piper at jake.piper@brookes.ac.uk

Past Branch Event: 'Towards World Leadership in Environmental Assessment', May 2008, Glasgow

The most recent Branch event was held as a 3-part free workshop on 14th, 21st, 28th May 2008 at the University of Strathclyde, Glasgow, jointly with IEMA's Scotland West Region. Each workshop was attended by 50 – 80 delegates, and generated useful debate and feedback as to the perceived strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats for SEA in Scotland, and the scope for future improvements. Some 60-70% of respondents to the questionnaire after sessions 1 and 3 rated the event 'Good', with 25-30% rating it 'Excellent'. Many comments were raised by delegates, which will be taken account of in planning future events. A full report will be presented in the next Branch newsletter.

Call for Future Branch Events

If you have any ideas (themes, locations, speakers) for possible future Branch events, or would like to consider hosting or collaborating on an event, we would like to hear from you. Please email ie_uk@iaia.org.

Elections to Branch committee

The Branch organising committee of 9 members was established in 2006 for a period of 2 years, and have overseen the activities of the Branch to date. A new Branch committee needs to be formed of interested members later in 2008.

We will therefore shortly be calling for members to volunteer to join the committee in order to help progress and organise impact assessment-related activities across Ireland and the UK. It is hoped that there will be more than 10 volunteers, in which case an election will be held. We hope you agree this is an exciting time for impact assessment and the Branch, and will consider standing. Please send an email to ie_uk@iaia.org for further information at this stage. Thanks to those who have already responded to this initial call for interest!

Recent publications by Branch members:

The following recent publications have been authored by IAIA Ireland-UK Branch members:

- Gazzola, P., 2008. Trends in education in environmental assessment: a comparative analysis of European EA-related Master programmes. [Impact Assessment and Project Appraisal](#), 26(2), June, pages 148-158.
- Perdicoulis, A., and J Piper, 2008. Network and system diagrams revisited: Satisfying CEA requirements for causality analysis. [Environmental Impact Assessment Review](#), October, pages 455-468.
- Rankin, M., Griffin, B., and M. Broderick, 2008. Setting the Standards, in Mining Environmental Management, July, page 10.
- Retief, F., Jones, C., and S. Jay, 2008. The emperor's new clothes – Reflections on strategic environmental assessment (SEA) practice in South Africa. [Environmental Impact Assessment Review](#), October, pages 504-514.

3. MEMBERS SECTION

EIA/EMS input to IAIA Effectiveness Study

Work towards the IAIA 10 year update study of the effectiveness of environmental assessment is continuing. In the June newsletter, IAIA member Lisa Palframan (University of Hertfordshire) requested examples of cases where EIA had been linked to an Environmental Management System (EMS). She received responses from a number of people. It seems that the active linking of EIA to EMS is not widespread, although she has been able to document several examples and to recommend how and why these tools should be used in a more co-ordinated way. Lisa is currently finalising her report and she would like to thank everyone who contacted her.

Climate Change in EIA

As part of an MSc in Environmental Management for Business from the University of Hertfordshire, Remi Olaogun investigated stakeholders' views of the treatment of climate change issues in Environmental Impact Assessment. The results of **Remi's dissertation** are summarised as follows:

A questionnaire approach was used to examine views of developers, consultants, individuals with personal interests (such as NGOs, *including IAIA members*) and those in Government such as planners from all regions of England. The results have highlighted opinions of the four groups on the effectiveness of current treatment of climate change issues in EIA. The respondents have regarded EIA to be a fairly useful tool for mitigating the impacts of climate change in major developments and identified some major constraints on its consideration as:

- Low level of importance placed on its consideration on climate change issues possibly due to the vague quantification on a long term basis
- Low level of importance placed on the follow up process in EIA by developers after project approval
- Complex consideration of socio-economic factors during scoping in EIA could affect consideration of climate change
- Lack of adequate understanding of the responsibilities of each group of stakeholder engaged in the decision making process

This research has shown that current EIA practice and guidance does not adequately address climate change issues in the consent of major developments. As EIA has been used to mitigate the effect of developments on the environment, but has not been used to its full potential to address climate change, recommendations were made to improve its effectiveness:

- Consideration of climate change could be made compulsory at the all stages of EIA.
- Guidance on good EIA practice for a range of mitigation measures to precisely address carbon emission for Annex 1 and Annex 2 developments could be provided.
- Local Authorities with experience of successfully considering climate change in EIA and decision making, could offer advice, training and seminars to those with less experience.
- Greater investment in renewable energy sources and cleaner technology should be encouraged to eliminate carbon emissions from major developments, and assessed in EIAs.

- Incorporating tools such as SEA, CBA and LCA into EIA would be necessary to effectively mitigate climate change issues in developments.
- Providing a standard checklist for assessing climate change issues in the consent of major developments and rendering a regular feedback process to improve EIA follow up.
- Greater efforts in public consultation and participation for renewable energy developments should be made to eliminate conflicts by enabling stakeholders to understand their responsibilities better in the decision making process.

Please contact Remi at O.Olaogun@herts.ac.uk for further details.

4. IMPACT ASSESSMENT NEWS

EU Guidance on EIA Screening published

The EU's Directorate responsible for the Environment has published guidance on the interpretation of Annex I and II projects of the EIA Directive. The guidance brings together information from across the EU, including case law to assist the definition of projects within the screening process. The guidance aims to reduce the uncertainty surrounding the scope of the EIA Directive and assist the interpretation of definitions of certain projects set out in the Directive. The document can be found at:

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/eia/pdf/interpretation_eia.pdf

This document aims to reduce the uncertainty surrounding the scope of the EIA Directive and the meaning of certain project definitions in the EIA Directive so as to ensure that those projects likely to have significant effects on the environment do not fall outside the scope of the Directive due to issues of interpretation. The objective of this guidance is two-fold.

- Firstly, the document aims to improve understanding of what can be reasonably considered to be covered by certain project categories that have proved particularly difficult to interpret in practice.
- Secondly, the document is intended to provide an overview of existing useful sources of information at EU level, including rulings of the European Court of Justice (ECJ), definitions provided in other directives and relevant guidance documents.

The guidance does not address the issue of how the screening of Annex II projects should be carried out. It aims to help in deciding whether specific projects fall within the scope of the EIA Directive, but not (for Annex II projects) whether they should undergo an EIA.

Review of Sustainability Appraisal in Spatial Planning

A new Sustainable Development Research Network (SDRN) report has identified a number of key issues currently facing the practice of Sustainability Appraisal (SA) within the spatial planning process. The report, by Land Use Consultants and The Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI), recommended that policy appraisal approaches need to be developed which play a more influential role within the spatial planning process. Although the report uncovered evidence of areas where SA recommendations are making a real difference to development plan policies, evidence was also found which suggests that recommendations are often ignored.

Other key areas for improvement which were identified include a need to make the SA process more practitioner-friendly as well as a need for joint-working practices between spatial planning practitioners, other policy-makers and members of the research community.

The UK **Government's Department for Communities and Local Government** (DCLG) have also commissioned further research which aims to address some of the recommendations set out in the SDRN report, by helping to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of SA and Strategic Environmental Assessment practice in spatial planning in England.

See <http://www.sd-research.org.uk/post.php?p=908>

EIA Regulations amended in England, Wales, Northern Ireland

Amendments have been made to the regulations governing Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) in England, Wales and Northern Ireland, to apply EIA procedures fully to multi-stage planning permissions, in force in September (England) and October (Wales, NI).

In May 2006 the European Court of Justice made key judgements on the way the UK deals with outline planning applications under the EIA regulations, including that EIAs could be required at reserved matters stage if a scheme might have significant environmental impacts, creating the need to amend the **UK's EIA** regulations.

The amendments now allow EIA to be required at the 'subsequent application' stages of multi-stage consents, i.e. at the reserved matters stage of an outline planning application, when matters are approved under planning conditions, and also when the conditions of Reviews of Old Minerals Permissions are determined, where significant environmental effects are considered likely and no EIA has previously been carried out. The amendments also allow for the updating, at the subsequent application stage, of an ES previously submitted at the outline planning application or ROMP stage. Thus, the need for a project to undergo EIA needs to be kept under review throughout the development planning process.

This follows previous consultations on draft amendments, and the amendment of EIA regulations in Scotland (see October 2007 and February 2008 Branch newsletters).

The new regulations further amend the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (England and Wales) Regulations 1999 and the Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1999. Explanatory memoranda are available alongside the amended Regulations for England and Wales, providing an informal consolidated version of the T&CP (EIA) Regulations taking account of the amendment. The amended regulations can be found using the following links:

- Town & Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2008 (SI 2008 No. 2093)
<http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si200820>
- Town & Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Amendment) (Wales) Regulations 2008 (Welsh SI 2008 No. 2335)
<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-guide-docs-pub/bus-business-documents/bus-business-documents-doc-laid.htm>
- The Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Amendment No.2) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2008 (SR 2008 No. 372)
<http://www.opsi.gov.uk/sr/sr200803>

The revision of Circular 2/99 on EIA, and the guide to EIA good practice and procedures for England, are due to be issued by the Department for Communities and Local Government later this year.

National Planning Framework for Scotland 2 SEA: Supplementary Assessment of the Environmental Effects of Candidate National Developments Environmental Report Annex 2 - Consultation Paper

In accordance with the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005, a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of **Scotland's** National Planning Framework is currently being undertaken. An Environmental Report was produced in January 2008, which described the anticipated environmental effects of the Discussion Draft Document, which proposed nine National Developments.

However, since the Discussion Draft was produced, a number of new ideas and proposals have come forward that have not so far been subjected to the full SEA process of assessment and consultation. The Scottish Government has therefore undertaken further environmental assessment work and the findings from this part of the process will be used to inform the redrafting of the National Planning Framework. Particular consideration is being given to projects which have been proposed by stakeholders as possible alternative National Developments. The supplementary report sets out the findings of an additional process of environmental assessment of Candidate National Developments.

Consultation ends on **31 October 2008**. See:

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2008/09/17124524/0>

Scottish Government SEA Pathfinder Project

EnviroCentre Ltd., in partnership with Collingwood Environmental Planning, was commissioned by the Scottish Government to undertake Stage 1 – Research of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Pathfinder Project. The aim of this research has been to *"Examine current SEA practice in Scotland to identify recommendations for establishing good-practice for future SEA implementation in Scotland"*.

A bespoke evaluation framework was developed collaboratively, to examine the performance of seven Case Study Responsible Authorities from different sectors across Scotland. This enabled the identification of SEA benefits, issues and potential good-practice recommendations through collaboration with the project steering group and Case Studies, to produce a series of SEA good practice recommendations and recommendations for action. Recommendations for action will be the starting point of SEA Pathfinder Project Stage 2 – Action Plan.

Stage 1 – Research is currently drawing to a close. Validation, through a key SEA stakeholder group, of the proposed good practice recommendations is scheduled for early November 2008. The recommendations will then be finalised and published along with a full report on the project.

Notification of publication for the Scottish Government SEA Pathfinder Project Recommendations will be circulated via the IAIA network. See www.envirocentre.co.uk/sea for further details and information.

Natasha Madeira & Peter Phillips – EnviroCentre, Glasgow

SNIFFER SEA Guidance on Air, Water and Soil

SNIFFER commissioned EnviroCentre Ltd. in collaboration with Collingwood Environmental Planning to develop SEA Guidance for Practitioners on how to Consider Air, Water and Soil. The aim of this project was to produce practical, effective and resource efficient guidance for SEA practitioners in Scotland and Northern Ireland to provide support on how to take into account, during the planning process, the potential environmental effects of implementing a plan, programme or strategy upon air, water and soil.

The approach involved extensive literature review, SEA specialist and advisory group consultation with air, soil and water specialists from key stakeholders and environmental bodies in Scotland, England, Wales, Republic of Ireland and **Northern Ireland. The draft guidance has recently been subject to two month's public consultation published by the end of 2008.**

Notification of publication for the SNIFFER SEA Guidance will be circulated via the IAIA network. See www.envirocentre.co.uk/sea for further details and information.

Peter Phillips & Natasha Madeira – EnviroCentre, Glasgow

EU approves SEA protocol to the Espoo Convention

The European Union is now a party to the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment under the 1991 UN/ECE Espoo Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context, after the Council of the EU approved the Protocol on 3rd October 2008.

The Espoo (EIA) Convention sets out the obligations of parties to assess the environmental impact of certain activities at an early stage of planning, and lays down the general obligation of Member States to notify and consult each other on all major projects under consideration that are likely to have a significant adverse environmental impact across boundaries. The SEA Protocol augments the Espoo Convention by ensuring that individual parties integrate environmental assessment into their plans and programmes at the earliest stages, and provides for extensive public participation in the governmental decision-making process.

See <http://www.unece.org/env/eia/> and <http://register.consilium.europa.eu/pdf/en/08/st13/st13179.en08.pdf>

Highways Agency revises Design Manual for Roads and Bridges

In August 2008, the Highways Agency launched a significant update of Volume 11 (Environmental Assessment) of the Design Manual for Roads and Bridges (DMRB). The update covers Sections 1 and 2 setting out a more focussed fit-for-purpose approach to EIA for Highways Agency developments in England and Wales. See <http://www.standardsforhighways.co.uk/dmr/vol11/index.htm> for details.

Josh Fothergill, IEMA

Ireland's Planning System and Flood Risk Management

In September 2008, the Republic of Ireland's Department for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government published Consultation Draft Guidelines for Planning Authorities on 'The Planning System and Flood Risk

Management', which propose comprehensive mechanisms for incorporating flood risk identification, assessment and management into the planning process. See <http://www.environ.ie/en/PublicationsDocuments/FileDownload,18428,en.pdf>

Minerals EIA Regulations amended in England

Guidance published in July 2008 explains the scope and intended effect of the new **Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Mineral Permissions and Amendment) (England) Regulations 2008** which apply EIA to reviews of mineral planning permissions not covered by the *Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (England and Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2000* and make additional provisions applying to all reviews of mineral permissions. See:

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/mineralpermissionsguidance>

The regulations and explanatory memo can be found here

http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2008/pdf/uksi_20081556_en.pdf

http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2008/em/uksiem_20081556_en.pdf

NI Agricultural EIA Regulations amended

Northern Ireland's agricultural EIA Regulations have been amended to correct a number of errors: **The Environmental Impact Assessment (Agriculture) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2008** can be found at:

http://www.opsi.gov.uk/sr/sr2008/nisr_20080278_en_1

<http://www.opsi.gov.uk/sr/sr200802>

Consultation on the Strategic Siting Assessment Process and Siting Criteria for New Nuclear Power Stations in the UK

In the White Paper on Nuclear Power, published in January 2008, the UK Government confirmed that it would carry out a Strategic Siting Assessment to identify criteria that will be used to assess the strategic suitability of appropriate sites for new nuclear power stations. The UK Government has since issued a consultation document on the Strategic Siting Process and Criteria, and is seeking views on a study of the environmental and sustainability effects of the Criteria. The Government has also published a Habitats Regulations Assessment Screening Report. The consultation runs until **11 November 2008**. See <http://www.berr.gov.uk/consultations/page47143.html>

Severn Estuary tidal power options unveiled

Ten potential projects for generating renewable energy in the Severn Estuary are now being considered as part of the UK Government-commissioned feasibility study, being carried out by Parsons Brinkerhoff. The consultants will now examine the ten schemes, which range from large to small, in more detail. The list includes an outer barrage from Minehead to Aberthaw, which would be the largest barrage and make maximum use of the tide. A middle barrage from Brean Down to Lavernock Point is the most well-studied option, known as the Cardiff-Weston barrage. The UK Government expects to run the first 3-month public consultation around the end of 2008, inviting views on:

- the scope of the Strategic Environmental Assessment that is being carried out within the feasibility study;
- which of the 10 possible schemes under consideration will be short-listed for detailed impact assessment during 2009;

- how the feasibility study is being conducted, the issues it is considering and how these are being approached. See: <http://www.berr.gov.uk/whatwedo/energy/sources/renewables/explained/severntidalpower/page41473.html>

Managing Radioactive Waste Safely

In June 2008 the Government published a White Paper '*Managing Radioactive Waste Safely: A Framework for Implementing Geological Disposal*¹'. The White Paper outlines UK Government's framework for managing higher activity radioactive waste in the long-term through geological disposal, coupled with safe and secure interim storage. The Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA) is responsible for planning, and delivering, the geological disposal facility. The White Paper sets various requirements on the NDA including:

- Following publication of the White Paper, the NDA will set out its framework for public and stakeholder engagement and communication during development of the geological disposal facility. Stakeholders will be invited to comment on the framework to allow an engagement and communications strategy to be developed. Views will be sought on what stakeholders want from engagement with the NDA, the timing of that involvement and their preferred means of engagement. The resulting strategy must be agreed by Government.
- **Government is committed to ensuring that the NDA's geological disposal facility programme fully assesses and accounts for environmental impact and sustainability issues through the application of Strategic Environmental Assessment, Sustainability Appraisal and Environmental Impact Assessment.** The Government expects the NDA to undertake sustainability appraisal, meeting the requirements of the SEA Directive. The Government and the NDA will undertake work on the scope of that sustainability appraisal following publication of the White Paper. There will be close co-ordination and integration of this work and it will continue after candidate communities have been identified to enable local issues and views to be integrated into the sustainability appraisal. Following the publication of the White Paper, NDA will prepare and publish for consultation its proposals for sustainability appraisal and environmental assessment.

The NDA has developed two consultation documents to meet these requirements:

[NDA Consultation on a Public and Stakeholder Engagement and Communications Framework for Geological Disposal](#)

This consultation document sets out the principles and framework on which the NDA Public and Stakeholder Engagement and Communications Strategy for geological disposal will be developed. It outlines the proposed aims and objectives of the Strategy and how the NDA proposes to involve stakeholders in its work programme on geological disposal.

[NDA Consultation on a Framework for Sustainability Appraisal and Environmental Assessment for Geological Disposal](#)

This consultation document sets out NDA's proposed approach to sustainability appraisal and environmental assessment for the geological disposal facility programme. It outlines the proposed aims and objectives of the assessments,

¹ <http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/radioactivity/mrws/pdf/white-paper-final.pdf>

when they will be undertaken in relation to the Managing Radioactive Waste Safely (MRWS) site selection process and how stakeholders could be involved.

NDA would like responses to the consultation documents by **30 November 2008**. Questions are posed throughout the documents to help stakeholders to be able to make comments and an open question is posed at the end of the consultation documents to enable people to make any further comments. The documents can be downloaded from the NDA website see: <http://www.nda.gov.uk/strategy/waste/geological-disposal/background-documentation.cfm>.

Responses can be submitted to gdf.pse@nda.gov.uk and gdf.sustainability@nda.gov.uk respectively.

*Elizabeth Atherton, Head of Stakeholder and Community Engagement,
Radioactive Waste Management Directorate, NDA*

Health Impact Assessment of Greenspace - a Guide

Guidance on undertaking health impact assessment (HIA) of greenspace projects (including greenspace policies, strategies, plans, frameworks, programmes and projects) has been developed by Greenspace Scotland and partners. See <http://www.greenspacescotland.org.uk/default.asp?page=462>

DEFRA guidance defines contaminated land

The UK's Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) for England and Wales has provided non-statutory guidance on how local authorities should decide whether there is a 'significant possibility of significant harm' under the contaminated land regime. See:

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/land/contaminated/pdf/legal-definition.pdf>

Ecological Risk Assessment for contaminants in soils

The Environment Agency (England and Wales) has developed an ecological risk assessment (ERA) framework for contaminated soils in collaboration with the Department for Food, Environment and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), Natural England, Welsh Assembly Government, the Countryside Council for Wales, local authorities and industry. The ERA framework provides a structured approach for assessing the risks to ecology from chemical contamination in soils (a requirement under Part 2A (Contaminated Land) of the Environmental Protection Act 1990). It has been designed to:

- establish whether pollutant linkages are likely to exist between the contamination and the designated ecological receptors; and
- gather sufficient information for making decisions regarding whether harm to these receptors is occurring or could occur in the future.

See: <http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/subjects/landquality/113813/2143247/?version=1>

Northern Ireland Environment Agency launched

The new Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) was launched on 1st July, replacing the Environment and Heritage Service. Alongside launching the Agency, the NI Environment Minister announced a range of new measures to modernise and strengthen environmental regulation. See:

http://www.communityni.org/index.cfm/section/news/key/010708_environment_agency

Constructive Conservation in Practice Guide

English Heritage (EH) has launched a new guide *Constructive Conservation in Practice*, which details 20 conservation-led development schemes in England and aims to stimulate greater awareness of constructive conservation and to increase confidence in the use of historic places to support regeneration, place-making and community development.

See <http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/server/show/nav.19808>

Environment Agency launches Green Roof toolkit

The Environment Agency has launched a toolkit to encourage more green roofs in London. Green roofs can:

- Help maintain pre-development or greenfield surface water run-off volumes and rates from development sites.
- Improve biodiversity on all new development sites.
- Help ensure that developments are designed to adapt to climate change.
- Help improve the quality of water/run-off.

For more information see www.environment-agency.gov.uk/greenroofs

What makes an Eco-Town?

A report by the Commission for Architecture in the Built Environment (CABE) and BioRegional offers advice to the agencies involved in developing proposals for **England's Eco-Towns**, and challenges them to be ambitious. It draws on work done by BioRegional (the entrepreneurial charity which initiated the Peabody Trust's BedZED eco-village in south London) on building sustainable settlements; and on CABE's understanding of what it takes to create workable and sustainable places. The report provides clear criteria against which the eco-town proposers can judge the sustainability of their plans.

See <http://www.cabe.org.uk/default.aspx?contentitemid=2771>

5. OTHER EVENTS:

IEMA Workshops: See <http://www.iema.net/events>

- **SEA Workshop:**

22 October 2008, North West England:

One day workshop looking at conceptual and methodological issues facing practitioners, designed for professionals with a working knowledge of SEA and an interest in wider Sustainability Appraisal and Integrated Appraisal.

- **Screening and Scoping in EIA:**

12 November 2008, South East England:

9 December 2008, Yorkshire & Humberside:

EIA is a powerful tool, but knowing when an EIA is needed (screening) and what should be included in the assessment (scoping) is not always simple. It is clear that getting the Screening and Scoping right is critical to undertaking a compliant EIA, and also provides opportunities to generate significant efficiencies in the process as a whole. This one day course provides clear guidance for local planning authorities, consultants, and other frontline professionals involved in the early stages of EIA.

- **EIA Review Workshop:**

20-21 November 2008, Midlands:

Understanding how to analyse environmental information submitted in support of planning applications, particularly information contained in Environmental Statements (ESs), is an important aspect of any planning officer's job. This two day interactive review course has been designed by the IEMA to help planning officers with this aspect of their role. The course will focus on; EIA & Decision Making, Quality in EIA, and EIA Review.

RTPI Strategic Environmental Assessments and Sustainability Appraisal Masterclass

22 October 2008, London: This one-day masterclass will explain how to fulfil latest legal requirements, and how to use the SEA/ SA process to help improve plans. See

<http://www.rtpiconferences.co.uk/rtpi/event.php?product=2079&type=public>

Branch / IEMA Event: Regional SEA Forum, Leeds

23 October 2008 – see [above](#)

RTPI Annual Planning for Health in the Community Conference

23 October 2008, London

One day conference 'aimed at those in the planning, housing, health and social care arena who are in the front line of addressing this integrated agenda.'

<http://www.rtpiconferences.co.uk/brochures/10316.pdf>

RTPI Annual Planning for Climate Change Conference

7 November 2008, London

See <http://www.rtpiconferences.co.uk/brochures/10321.pdf>

Exploring the Learning Potential of Strategic Environmental Assessment in Spatial Planning:

11 November 2008, Dundee, 4pm

Town and Regional Planning Research Seminar at the University of Dundee, School of Social and Environmental Sciences, Lecture room 5016 Matthew Building. Thomas Fischer, Department of Civic Design, University of Liverpool: The main focus of Thomas' talk will be an ESRC/Academy for Sustainable Communities (ASC) research project on the 'learning potential of strategic environmental assessment (SEA) in spatial planning', which was conducted in 2007-08. In particular, Thomas will talk about the process of designing a suitable framework for analysis and some empirical results which were generated for the city regions of Southampton, Ravenna (Italy) and Brunswick (Germany), based on interviews with main stakeholders. Please contact Tony Jackson a.a.jackson@dundee.ac.uk for full details.

EIA: One-day courses:

- [Environmental Statement Preparation and Review](#)

14 November 2008

- [EIA Project Management](#)

1 December 2008

ADH Training & Consulting Ltd., Bloxham, Banbury, Oxfordshire. For further details contact: Shirley@adhtrain-consult.co.uk 01608 663217



IEEM Conference: Mitigation – Smoke and Mirrors or Biodiversity Enhancement?

18-20 November, Glasgow

'Mitigation is defined as 'any deliberate action taken to alleviate adverse effects, whether by controlling the sources of impacts or the exposure of ecological receptors to them'. The statistics record declining habitats and reduced species diversity. Are we fiddling while Rome burns? Is planning and conservation legislation and policy providing the impetus and enforcement required to deliver effective mitigation? Is mitigation of the quality needed to restore and enhance biodiversity? Or, does it only avoid, reduce, moderate, minimise or repair, thereby becoming a lost opportunity? Should we be delivering enhancements as a part of mitigation action? How is mitigation being evaluated? Can we meet the Countdown 2010 challenge to halt biodiversity loss?'

<http://www.ieem.org.uk/>

environmental futures 08: creating the climate for change

Environment Agency Annual Conference:

24-25 November 2008, London

<http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/aboutus/672157/672903/2106728/>

Health Impact Assessment in Wales: Best Practice Workshop

27 November 2008, Cardiff University

'The Welsh Health Impact Assessment Support Unit (WHIASU) will be holding an All Wales HIA Network Event on entitled 'Communicating and Sharing Current Practice in Wales'. WHIASU intend it to be the first in a series and we aim to alternate these between north and south Wales. The workshop is open to those interested in or practicing HIA in Wales and will be a free half day session. It will aim to disseminate positive examples of HIA practice in Wales and provide a forum in which to discuss themes and issues further. Places are limited. If you would like to register or express an interest in attending then please contact Chloe Chadderton (whiasu@cardiff.ac.uk) at Cardiff University.'

See <http://www.wales.nhs.uk/sites3/home.cfm?OrgID=522>

9th Annual Bristol Planning Law and Policy Conference

'The 'New' Planning System- Delivering Change?'

27 November 2008, Bristol

<http://environment.uwe.ac.uk/plpc/>

Branch event – Upgrading EIA for Greater Effectiveness

4 December 2008, Oxford – see [above](#)

IEMA Environmental Knowledge Transfer

28 January 2009, Oxford

<http://www.iema.net/conferences/knowledgeexchange>

This newsletter is for members of the IAIA within the Ireland & United Kingdom 'region', who automatically become members of the Ireland-UK Branch on joining. See www.iaia.org/modx/index.php?id=354 (www.iaia.org > 'Affiliates and Branches' > 'Ireland-UK Branch')



The Ireland-UK Branch of IAIA

Membership of the IAIA in Ireland and the UK comes with the added value of automatic membership of the **Ireland-UK Branch**. In 2005, the regional Branch was created, which aims to promote interaction between impact assessment researchers at leading Irish and UK universities with professionals in the field.

The existence of the Branch provides additional benefits to members, including:

- Additional networking opportunities for members at IAIA Branch events with reduced rates for members
- Branch Newsletter with domestic impact assessment news, events listing and **members' contributions**
- Opportunities to contribute to the promotion of impact assessment interests at national level
- Branch webpage

For more information on the Branch please see www.iaia.org and follow > Affiliates and Branches > Ireland-UK Branch (www.iaia.org/modx/index.php?id=354).

Been Forwarded this newsletter? Why Not Join the IAIA

The International Association for Impact Assessment exists to improve and better inform the decision-making of today that has environmental consequences for tomorrow.

The IAIA is the leading global networking organisation on impact assessment for sustainable decision-making, providing an international forum for communicating information on best practice and innovation. It is truly a multi-disciplinary organisation covering the many aspects of impact assessment, and has 1500 members in more than 120 countries, including private and public sector planners and managers, consultants and policy analysts, university and college lecturers, researchers and students, and community bases.

A primary purpose of IAIA is developing international and local capacity to make wise decisions regarding the anticipation, management and planning of environmental change. Considering ecological and human consequences is essential to enhance the quality of life for all.

Who Should Join

Individuals and organisations in research, industry, government, community groups, consultancies or educational institutions - those who want to be more informed, more effective participants in the development of better environmental outcomes.

See www.iaia.org for full details of membership services and benefits.

Adam Boyden

Chair, IAIA Ire-UK Branch, On Behalf of the IAIA Ire-UK Branch Committee

Email: ie_uk@iaia.org

Associate, Nicholas Pearson Associates (Environmental Planners, Landscape Architects, Ecologists), Bath, BA1 2LN, England, Tel: 01225 445548

Email: adam.boyden@npaconsult.co.uk