

Annex I

Glossary

**Appropriate Assessment:** Assessment which is catered towards the requirements of the specific context within which it is being undertaken; noting the key factors which influence or shape this context and the policy, plan or strategy which is the subject of assessment or appraisal.

**Consultation Bodies:** Authorities which because of their environmental responsibilities are likely to be concerned by the effects of implementing plans and programmes and must be consulted at specified stages of the SEA. The Consultation Bodies designated in the SEA

Regulations are:

- UK: Countryside Agency, English Heritage, English Nature, and the Environment Agency.

**Environmental Report:** The report required by the SEA Directive as part of an environmental assessment, which identifies, describes and evaluates the likely significant effects on the environment of implementing a plan or programme.

**Health Impact Assessment (HIA):** The World Health Organisation has defined HIA as:

“a combination of procedures, methods and tools by which a policy, programme or project may be judged as to its potential effects on the health of a population, and the distribution of those effects within a population” (European Centre for Health Policy, 1999); this is known as the Gothenburg Consensus definition.

**Indicator:** A measure of variables over time, often used to measure achievement of objectives.

- Output Indicator: An indicator that measures the direct output of the plan or programme. These indicators measure progress in achieving plan or programme objectives, targets and policies.
- Significant Effects Indicator: An indicator that measures the significant effects of the plan or programme.
- Contextual indicator: An indicator used in monitoring that measures changes in the context within which a plan or programme is being implemented.

**Mitigation:** Used to refer to measures to avoid, reduce or offset significant adverse effects on the environment.

**Objective:** A statement of what is intended, specifying the desired direction of change in trends.

**Scoping:** The process of deciding the scope and level of detail of an SEA, including the environmental effects and alternatives which need to be considered, the assessment methods to be used, and the structure and contents of the Environmental Report.

**Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA):** Generic term used to describe environmental assessment as applied to policies, plans and programmes. In this Guide, 'SEA' is used to refer to the type of environmental assessment required under the SEA Directive.

**SEA Directive:** European Directive 2001/42/EC "on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment".

**SEA Regulations:** The Regulations transposing the SEA Directive into UK law

**Significant environmental effects:** Effects on the environment which are significant in the context of a plan or programme. Criteria for assessing significance are set out in Annex II of the SEA Directive.

**Sustainability Appraisal:** A form of assessment used in the UK, particularly for regional and local planning, since the 1990s. It considers social and economic effects as well as environmental ones, and appraises them in relation to the aims of sustainable development.

Sustainability Appraisal fully incorporating the requirements of the SEA Directive is required for Local Development Documents and Regional Spatial Strategies in England and Local Development Plans in Wales under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, and guidance on this has been published separately.