

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) was undertaken to inform decisions on the proposals as they were being developed. Extensive surveys carried out since early 2004 provided information on environmental constraints and issues which were incorporated in the decision-making process.

The aim of EIA is to:

- Gather information about the environment of the study area and identify environmental constraints and opportunities which may influence or be affected by the proposed scheme.
- Identify and assess potential environmental impacts
- Identify and incorporate design features and measures to either avoid or reduce adverse impacts, or enhance beneficial impacts

The EIA considers the biological, physical and historic environment, as well as human welfare and current or planned future use of the environment.

