

SEA and examples in Marine Planning and Policy

ACBA 7004

Alisdair Cunningham

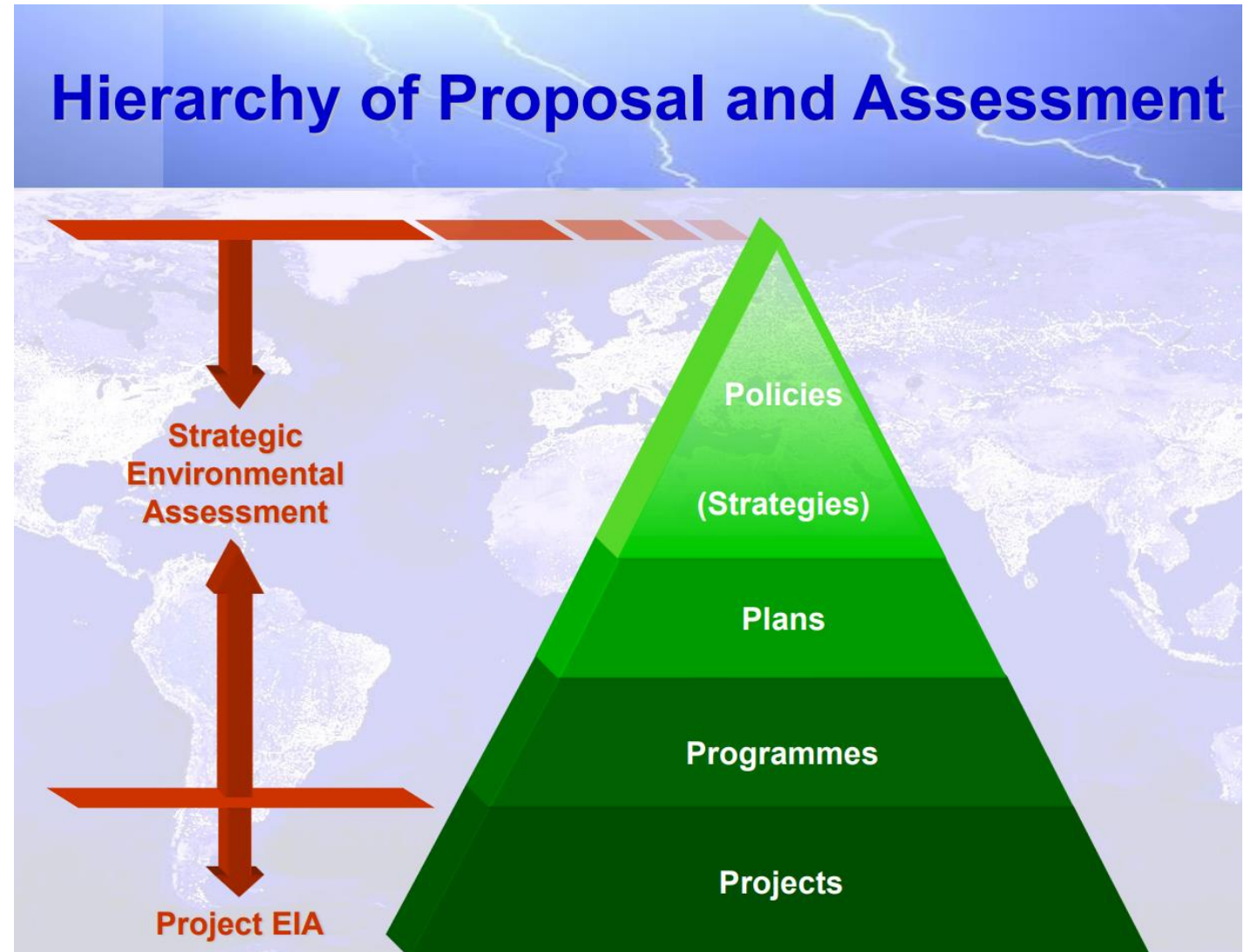
a.cunningham@uwtsd.ac.uk



Prifysgol Cymru
Y Drindod Dewi Sant
University of Wales
Trinity Saint David

Outline

- What is SEA
- SEA for Planning and Programmes
- **Activity – EIA review process (Student-led)**



Strategic Environmental Assessment





At its simplest...

- It is a formal process for assessing the effect of a plan or programme on the environment.
- [Strategic Environmental Assessment | GOV.WALES](#)

Strategic Environmental Assessment

- Strategic environmental assessment (SEA) is a systematic decision support process, ensuring that environmental and possibly other sustainability aspects are considered effectively in policy, plan and programme making.
- Tiered decision-making framework
- Evidence base



Strategic Environmental Assessment

- Strategic environmental assessment (SEA) is a tool used internationally to improve the environmental performance of plans – lead to sustainable development
- Predicts and evaluates environmental impacts of plans
- Considers their alternatives at an early stage in their preparation.
- Identifies improvements to plans through the involvement of environmental experts and the participation of the public



Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)

- A process that ensures the needs of the wider environment are considered in plan-making.
- It must be applied to certain plans and programmes, with the aim of minimising the adverse and maximising the beneficial effects on the environment.
- It is Natural Resources Wales' view, as the responsible authority under the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes (Wales) Regulations 2004 (SEA Regulations), that **Area Statements fall within the definition of a 'plan' or 'programme', as outlined in Regulation 2(1).**
- The preparation of Area Statements is a legislative requirement and a statutory duty, under the Environment (Wales) Act 2016. The provisions of the SEA regulations will, therefore, need to be considered by Natural Resources Wales.
- [Natural Resources Wales / Natural Resources Wales approach to impact assessments of Area Statements](#)

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)

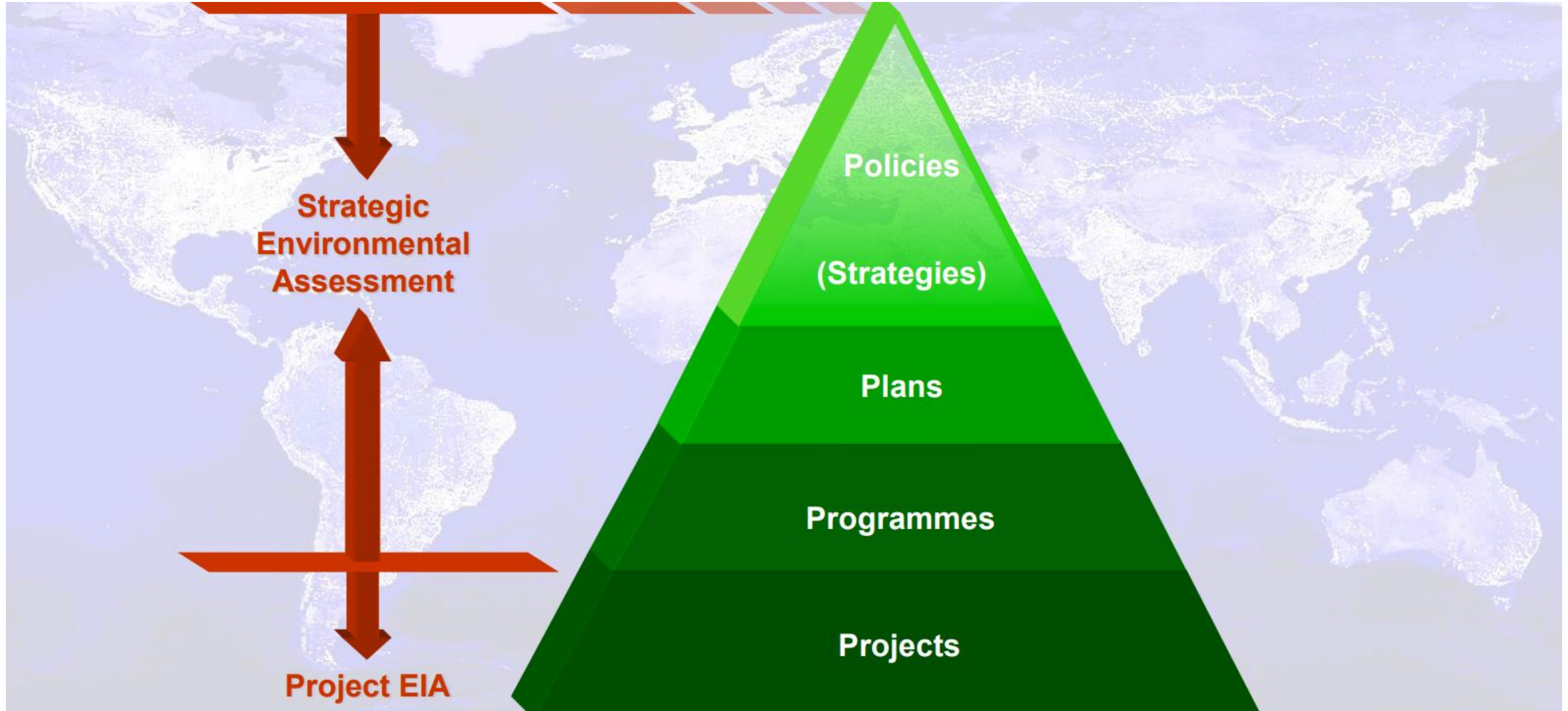
- [The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes \(Wales\) Regulations 2004 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](#)
- The framework for the SEA process is provided by **European Directive 42/2001/EC** on 'the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment'. This Directive has been brought into effect for plans or programmes solely in Wales by **The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes (Wales) Regulations 2004** and for plans or programmes operating partially in Wales or operating in other parts of the UK but having an impact in Wales by The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004.
- [qg12-023-english.pdf \(senedd.wales\)](#)



SEA Development and History Notes

- The European Union Directive on Environmental Impact Assessments (85/337/EEC) – project based
- Local effects • Many environmentally-damaging decisions are made at a strategic level.
- SEA originated from regional development / land use planning
- In Europe the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context the (Espoo Convention) laid the foundations for the introduction of SEA in 1991.
- In 2003, the Espoo Convention was supplemented by a Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment.
- The European SEA Directive 2001/42/EC required that all member states of the European Union should have ratified the Directive into their own country's law by 21 July 2004.

Hierarchy of Proposal and Assessment



Strategic Environmental Assessment

The process



- [SEA - Eia.nl](http://SEA-Eia.nl)

SEA and Biodiversity?

- Help ensure biodiversity objectives are built into plans.
- Closer department working – Planning Dpt
- Identify and evaluate alternatives to proposals that may be better for biodiversity
 - Present recommendations to avoid and reduce identified impacts and safeguard biodiversity (RSPB, 2004).



SEA and Environmental Protection

- SEA is intended to help achieve a high level of environmental protection.
- 1. **The precautionary principle** implies favouring biodiversity protection where certainty of impact is lacking. Or, where adverse impacts are identified, but not enough data to confirm 'no significant impact'.
- 2. The '**no net loss**' principle requires the status quo to be maintained in terms of quantitative and qualitative aspects of biodiversity (how much is there, how it is structured and distributed).



Strategic Environmental Assessment

- Designated sites are important at a number of stages in the SEA process, including **screening** (determining the need for SEA), **scoping** (agreeing the scope of the study), **developing and selecting alternatives and designing mitigation**. Plan alternatives that are likely to damage a designated site should not be selected, or should be selected only for reasons of overriding public interest if effective, proven mitigation or compensation is possible. **Mitigation proposals** for unavoidable impacts on designated sites must ensure that the integrity of these sites and the viability of their habitats and species populations is maintained or restored.

EIA v SEA

- An SEA is conducted before a corresponding EIA is undertaken.
- Information on the environmental impact of a plan can cascade down through the tiers of decision making and can be used in an EIA at a later stage.
- SEAs help in the preparation of an EIA but do not remove the need for one

Difference between EIA and SEA	
Environmental Impact Assessment of projects	Strategic Environmental Assessment of strategic initiatives
A Technical instrument related to activities with geographic and technical specifications	A Political instrument related to concepts
A Reactive approach - at the end of the decision-making process	A Proactive approach - at earlier stages of the decision-making process
Identifies specific impacts in the environment	Addresses issues of sustainable development
Limited review of cumulative effects	Gives early warning of cumulative effects
Emphasis on mitigating and minimizing impacts	Prevention in terms of identified environmental objectives
Least strategic Most detailed	Most strategic Least detailed

Differences between SEA and EIA

	EIA	SEA
Which type of development	Projects listed in Annex I. Annex II projects determined by a case by case basis (Schedule 1 and 2)	Any Plan or Programme (a) for certain sectors which set the framework for future development consent, or (b) Require Article 6. HD assessment
What impacts need to be assessed?	Significant effects on Biodiversity, with particular attention to species and habitats protected under the Habitats and Birds Directives	Likely significant effects on the environment, including on issues such as biodiversity and interrelationships

Differences between SEA and EIA

	EIA	SEA
Who carries out the assessment?	The developer provides necessary information to be taken into account by the competent authority. Biodiversity should be taken into account in the screening process (Annex II.a, EIA amendment Directive)	Competent authority for planning
How binding are the outcomes?	The result of consultations and information must be taken into consideration in the development consent procedure	The environmental report & opinions expressed shall be taken into account during the preparation of the plan/programme

Process of the SEA

- The structure of SEA (under the Directive) is based on the following phases:
- 1. "**Screening**", investigation of whether the plan or programme falls under the SEA legislation
- 2. "**Scoping**", defining the boundaries of investigation, assessment and assumptions required,
- 3. "**Documentation of the state of the environment**", effectively a baseline on which to base judgments,
- 4. "**Determination of the likely environmental impacts**", - Direction of Change rather than firm figures
- 5. **Public consultation**
- 6. Influencing "**Decision taking**" based on the assessment
- 7. Monitoring of the effects of plans and programmes after their implementation.

Mandatory Requirements

- Article 3(2) makes SEA **mandatory** for plans and programmes: a) which are prepared for agriculture, forestry, fisheries, energy, industry, transport, waste management, water management, telecommunications, tourism, town and country planning or land use and which set the framework for future development consent for projects listed in Annexes I and II to the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Directive (85/337/EEC);
- or b) which, in view of the likely effect on sites, have been determined to require an assessment pursuant to Article 6 or 7 of the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC).

Projects subject to the SEA

- Land use and spatial planning The Directive applies to plans and programmes in the following categories: • **Structure Plans** • **Local Plans** • **Unitary Development Plans** • **The Wales Spatial Plan** • **Waste Local Plans**
- Other regional and local authority plans and programmes • **Local Air Quality Action Plans** • **Local Housing Strategies** • **Local Transport Plans** • **Municipal Waste Management Strategies** • **Regional Economic Strategies** (prepared by **Regional Development Agencies**)



Projects subject to the SEA

- **Environmental protection and management**

- Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty Management Plans • National Park Management Plans • National policy statements on planning for waste management • Salmon Action Plans

- Other plans and programmes • Oil and Gas Licensing Rounds • Offshore Windfarm Site Licensing Rounds • Nuclear Decommissioning Strategies

Taken from : A Practical Guide to Strategic Environmental Assessment (UK Government, 2005)





Activity

Find an example of an SEA for a project or a programme.

Fill in the table on the board:

SEA purpose,

location,

summarise key points

(30 minutes)

Strategic Environmental Assessment for Gwent Levels M4 Relief Road Scheme

Wales scraps £1.4bn Gwent Levels M4 relief road scheme

Environmentalists welcome move but business leaders and Tories criticise decision



📷 The Labour government said the plans would have a substantial adverse impact on the Gwent Levels. Photograph: Graham Bell Travel/Alamy

A controversial scheme to build a £1.4bn motorway through the Gwent Levels in south Wales **has been scrapped** by the Labour-led Welsh government.

[Wales scraps £1.4bn Gwent Levels M4 relief road scheme | Wales | The Guardian](#)

Number: WG19741

M4 Corridor around Newport

We want your views on our draft Plan which aims to address transport related problems on the M4 around Newport

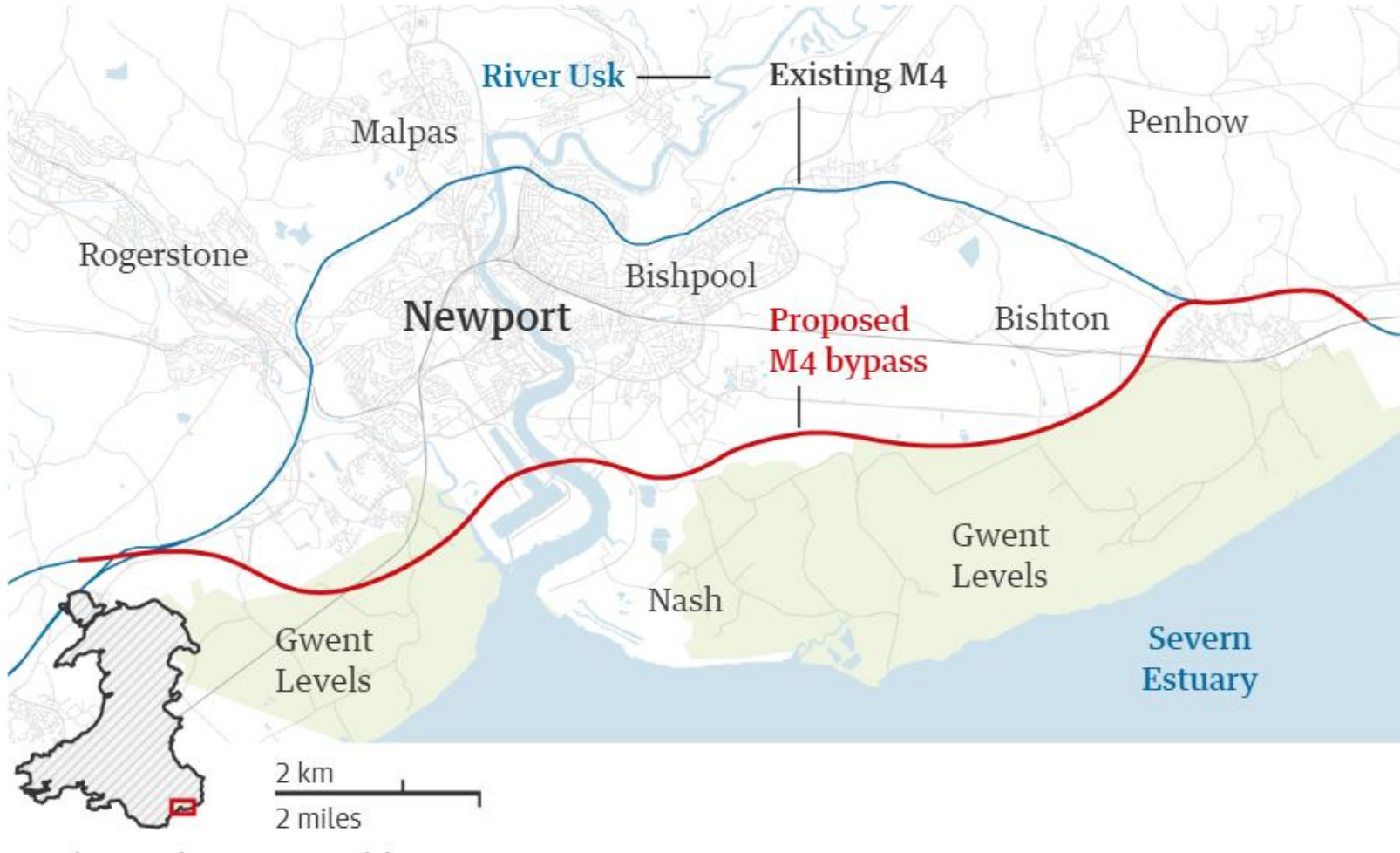


M4 Corridor around Newport draft Plan Consultation Document

Strategic Environmental Assessment Environmental Report Non Technical Summary

Date of issue: 23 September 2013
Responses by: 16 December 2013





- SSSI
- One of the largest remaining areas of ancient grazing marsh and drainage ditches (reens)
- Otters (*Lutra lutra*) and water voles (*Arvicola amphibious*)
- Breeding waders – lapwing (*Vanellus vanellus*), snipe (*Gallinago gallinago*), curlew (*Numenius arquata*)
- 144 National Notable or Red Data book invertebrate species
- Nationally scarce rootless duckweed (*Wolffia arrhizal*)

Newport Gwent

Strategic Environmental Assessment for Gwent Levels M4 Relief Road Scheme

- Click here: Watch Gwent Levels video (3 mins)

[Living Levels: Recapturing, enhancing and celebrating The Gwent Levels](#)

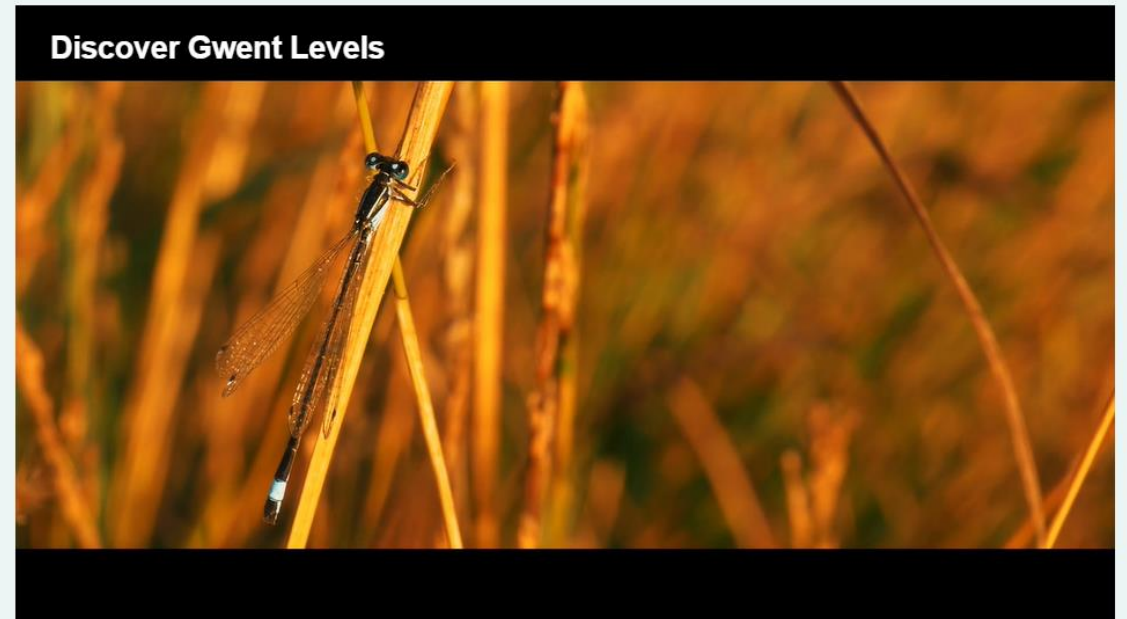
Welcome to the Gwent Levels...

...an extraordinary landscape sandwiched between the hills of south Wales and the silt-laden waters of the Severn Estuary.

Reclaimed from the sea by the Romans, over the last two thousand years, generations of people have shaped the Levels to create a distinctive landscape with a deep, rich history and a wealth of wildlife.

The **Living Levels Landscape Partnership** aims to reconnect people and communities to the Gwent Levels and provide a sustainable future for this historic and unique area.

Explore our website to discover the Living Levels.



M4 relief road scheme

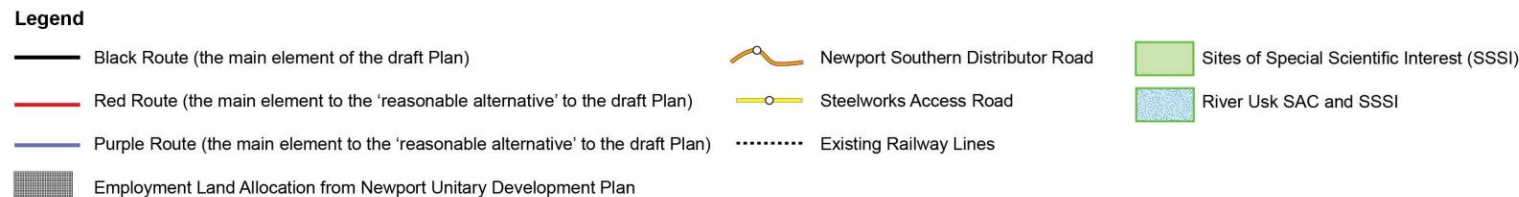


Figure 1 Black Purple and Red Routes shown within the local study area and main constraints around Newport

- **Proposed route cuts through:**
- Redwick & Llandeveyney • Whitson
- Nash & Goldcliff
- St Brides
- **It would cross:**
- River Usk Special Area of Conservation (SAC)
- **It would pass close to:**
- Magor Marsh SSSI • Newport Wetlands SSSI and National Nature Reserve



Welsh Government Justification

- Improved network links
- Reduction in congestion – economic benefits
- Reduce travel time for local commuters. Mitigation and economic benefits outweigh environmental impact
- Traffic on M4 and around Newport peaked in 2004
- Cheaper and less damaging options (investment in sustainable transport provision for eg)
- Cost – estimate £1.4 billion – burden on public expenditure in Wales

WELL-BEING GOALS

- More prosperous
- More resilient
- Healthier
- More equal
- Cohesive communities
- Vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language
- Globally responsible



Wellbeing of Future Generations Act

- The Welsh Government said it accepted during construction and operation of the new road there would be "a large or very large adverse effect on the landscape character of the Levels". But it added: "That effect has to be weighed against the significant social, economic and other environmental benefits that the scheme would bring to Newport, the wider Cardiff region and Wales as a whole."



Mitigation v Compensation

Mitigation Hierarchy

- [compensation-and-mitigation-factsheet.pdf](https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/compensation-and-mitigation-factsheet.pdf)
([woodlandtrust.org.uk](https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk))

- **AVOID:** Anticipated biodiversity losses should first be avoided by using alternative sites and design. This is especially important for habitats including ancient woodland that are irreplaceable and therefore cannot be mitigated or fully compensated for.
- **MITIGATE:** Impacts considered unavoidable should be mitigated where the impact occurs if possible.
- **COMPENSATE:** Any remaining significant biodiversity loss should be compensated for, where possible.

However, before this hierarchy comes into play it is essential that sufficient information is gathered to properly assess the impact of any given development on biodiversity.



- **suggested definitions relevant to sites designated under the Habitats and Birds Directives**

Mitigation

- Mitigation: normally involves measures that reduce and/or minimise impacts within the site boundary such as: changes to timing, engineering design, use of different piling techniques, sediment by-passing to avoid sediment loss or reductions to the extent of a project.
- However, there will be circumstances where there are impacts that affect mobile species and functionally linked habitats, which may involve measures to address these impacts beyond the boundaries of designated sites.

Compensation

- Compensation: involves measures, **such as new habitat creation, taken beyond the site boundary** that offset the residual impacts that have a detrimental impact upon the conservation objectives for a protected site.
- Compensation is a last resort and should only be considered where there are residual adverse effects on site integrity that the competent authority agrees cannot be mitigated.



Mitigation v Compensation

- Impossible either to avoid adverse impact on the ecology of the site, or to mitigate to reduce the adverse impact.
- Last resort after all on-site options have been investigated
- Like-for-like habitat
 - Site must be appropriate for the species and habitats they are intended to support
- Long-term commitment



Mitigation v Compensation

- Government guidance on best practice for mitigating or compensating during the consenting process:
- [Mitigation and Compensation Opportunity in Marine Consenting](#)

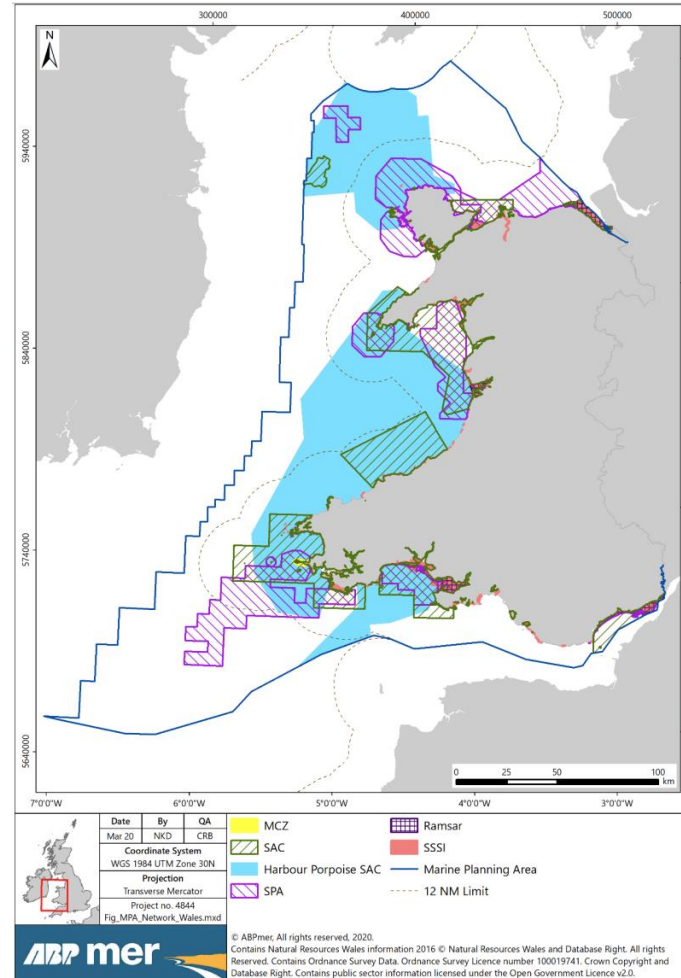
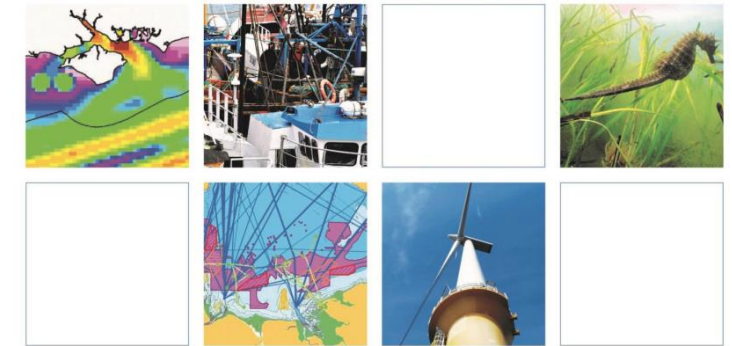


Figure 1. Welsh MPA network

Welsh Government

Mitigation and Compensation Opportunity in Marine Consenting

March 2020

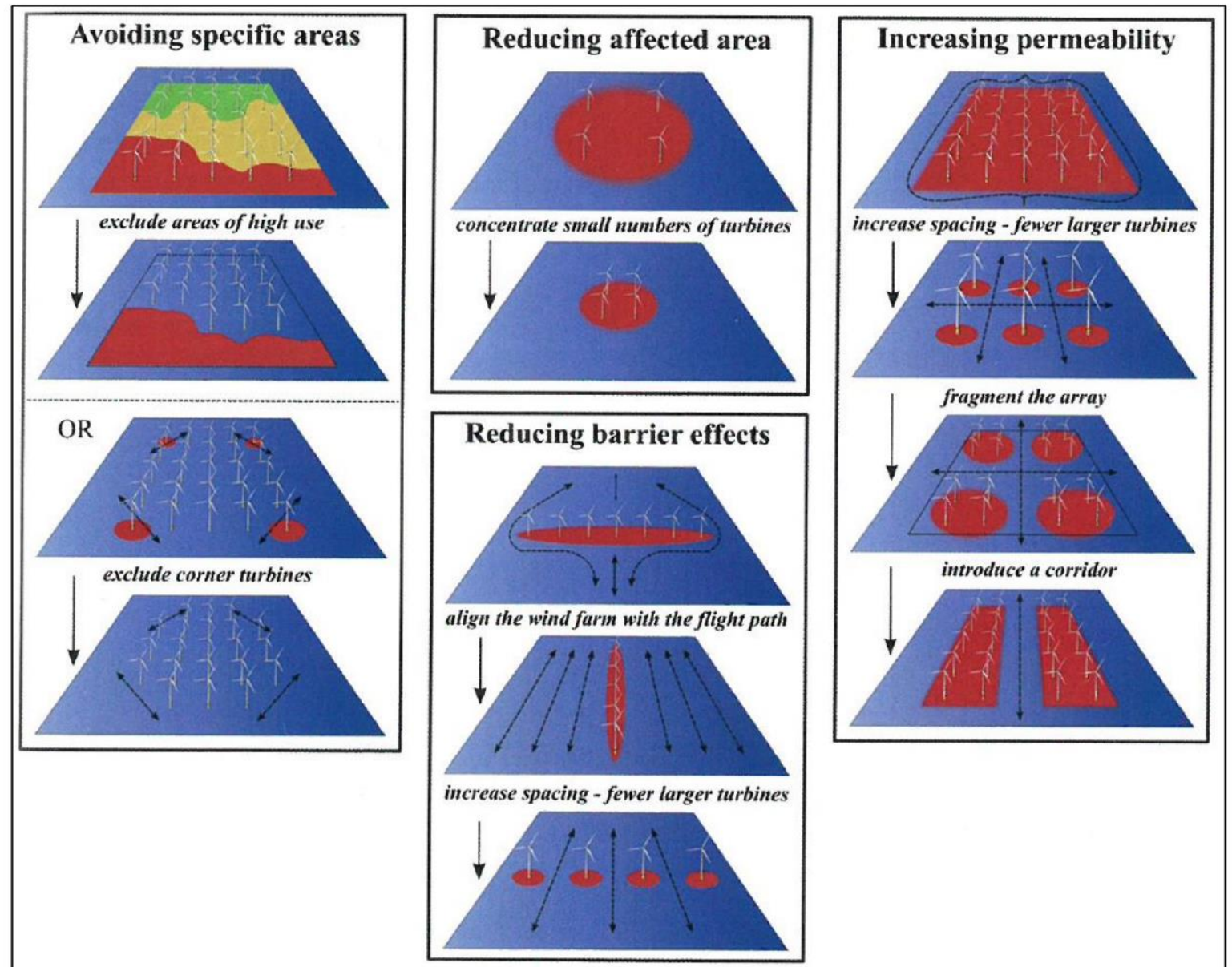


Innovative Thinking - Sustainable Solutions



Mitigation v Compensation

- Government guidance on best practice for mitigating or compensating during the consenting process:
- [Mitigation and Compensation Opportunity in Marine Consenting](#)

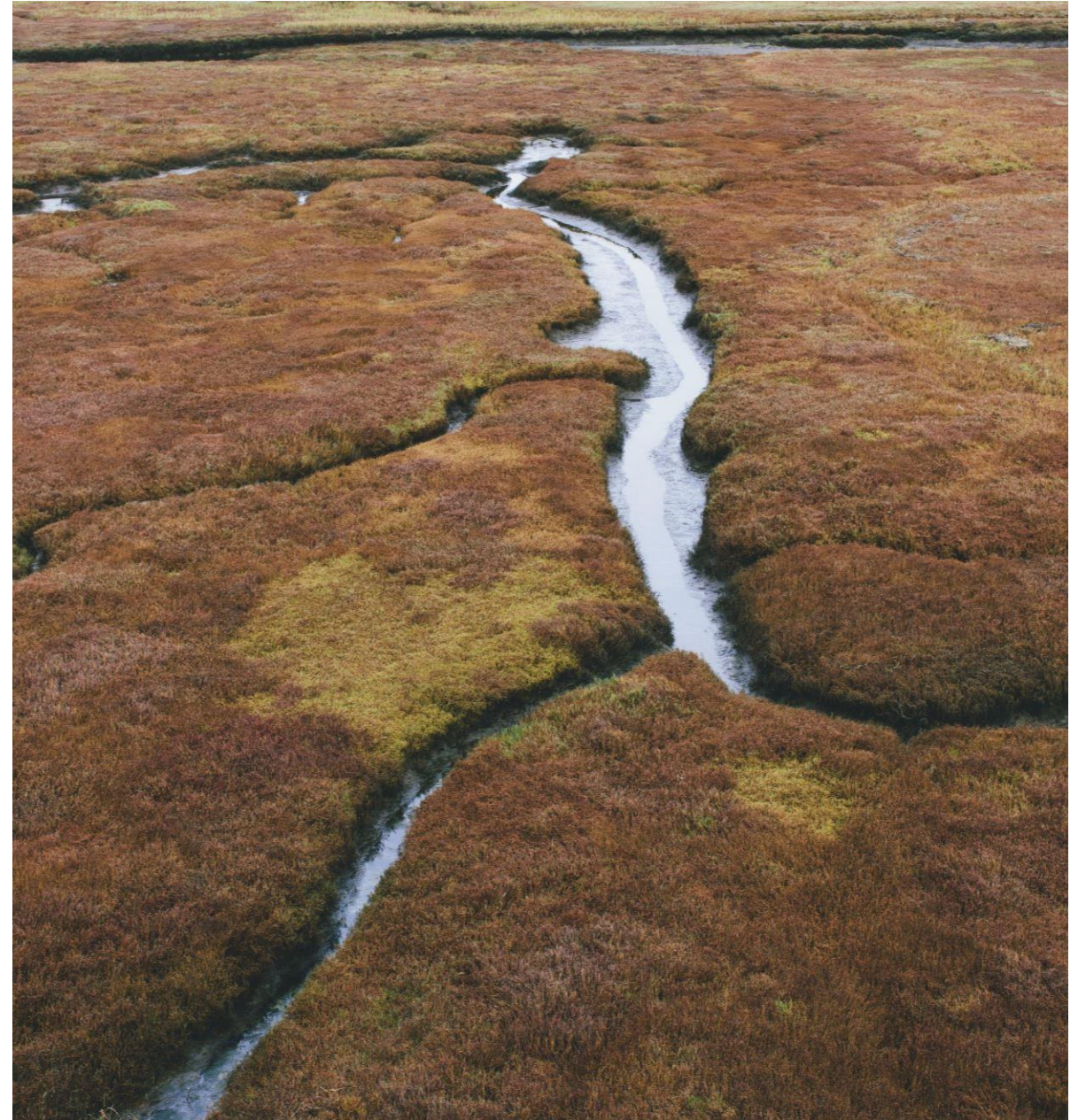


Source: Harwood and Perrow, 2019

Figure 2. Using array design to reduce barrier or collision risks

Compensation in practice: Cardiff Barrage

- Under the deal with the EU, compensation for the loss of the mudflats meant creating a new wildlife habitat by flooding 1,000 acres of farmland, 15 miles further along the coast in the Gwent Levels, with sewage water.
- At the time, FoE Director Tony Juniper said: "They are destroying a saline mudflat and creating a freshwater marsh. "It's like knocking down the Tower of Pisa and building a cinema and calling it compensation."



Compensation in practice: Cardiff Barrage

- Was the compensation a success?
- Murata & Feest (2015) determined through the analysis of bird data from the Cardiff (development) location, and the compensation area in Newport (At Gwent Levels) that “the compensation habitat was better than the original”



Water and Environment Journal
Promoting Sustainable Solutions



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A case study of evidence for showing ‘no net loss’ of bird biodiversity in a development project

Natsuki Murata¹ & Alan Feest^{2,3}

¹Birdlife International Asia Division, 4F, 2-14-6 Misaki-cho Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 101-0061, Japan; ²Institute of Advanced Studies, University of Bristol, Queen’s Building, Bristol BS8 1TR, UK; and ³Ecosulis, The Rickyard, Newton St Loe, Bath BA2 9BT

Keywords

biomass; birds; habitat compensation; rarity; species richness.

Correspondence

Alan Feest. Ecosulis, The Rickyard, Bath BA2 9BT, United Kingdom
Email: a.feest@bris.ac.uk

doi:10.1111/wej.12124

Abstract

Given the development of global pressures on habitats and biodiversity, it is important that developments are accompanied with a compensation element leading to ‘no net loss’. We show how (using a standardised sampling process) a statistical assessment of the biodiversity quality of the target organisms (birds) in a compensatory provision can be shown to be a compensation or not. We used the example of the Cardiff Bay Barrage (Wales) where a bay was inundated and compensation site at Newport Gwent Levels (Wales) created. Bird data for the Cardiff Bay prior to the inundation and for Newport following inundation of Cardiff Bay were analysed to create a series of biodiversity quality indices and these were compared statistically. The analysis showed the compensation habitat was better than the original. Results were poor for Dunlin and Redshank, already subject to regional decline in the Severn Estuary and estuaries in NW Europe.



M4 Relief Road... the debate continues!



 **Boris Johnson said he would "unblock" the Brynglas Tunnels** (Image: South Wales Echo)

Boris Johnson told MPs he would "do the things the Welsh Government has failed to do" by allowing an M4 bypass to be built around Newport during Prime Minister's Questions on Wednesday.

Mr Johnson said he would "provide the Vicks' Inhaler to the nostrils of the Welsh dragon and get Wales moving".

But the Welsh Government has pointed out the Prime Minister has "no say in the M4 relief road".

Following the Prime Minister's comments, a spokesperson said: "It's an entirely devolved matter and the First Minister has made his decision."



Activity

Read the M4 relief road SEA non-technical summary.

In pairs, provide a short summary of the assessment of significant effects **(20 mins)**

[Report \(divio-media.org\)](https://divio-media.org)

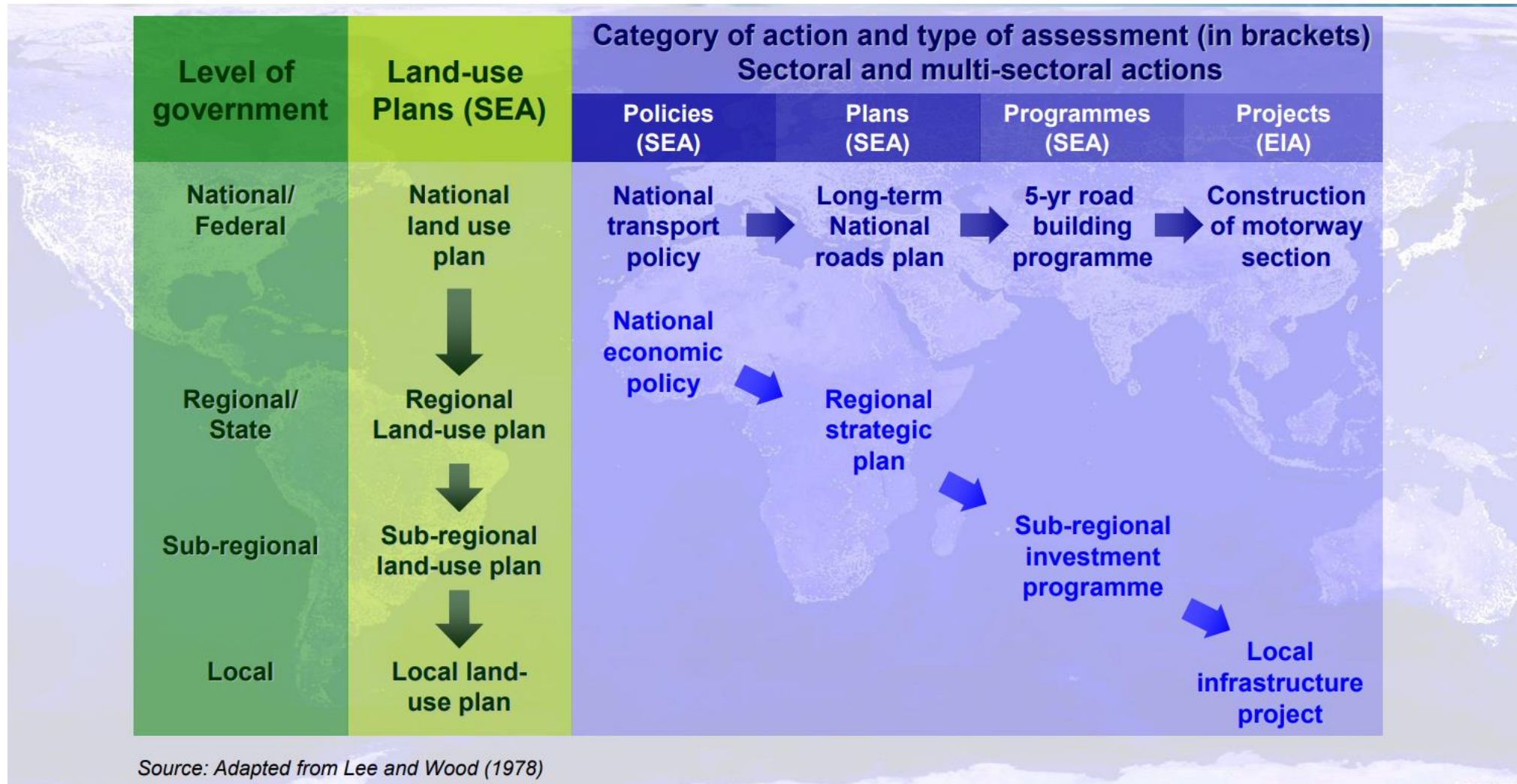
Do you think the M4 relief road should be built? Why?



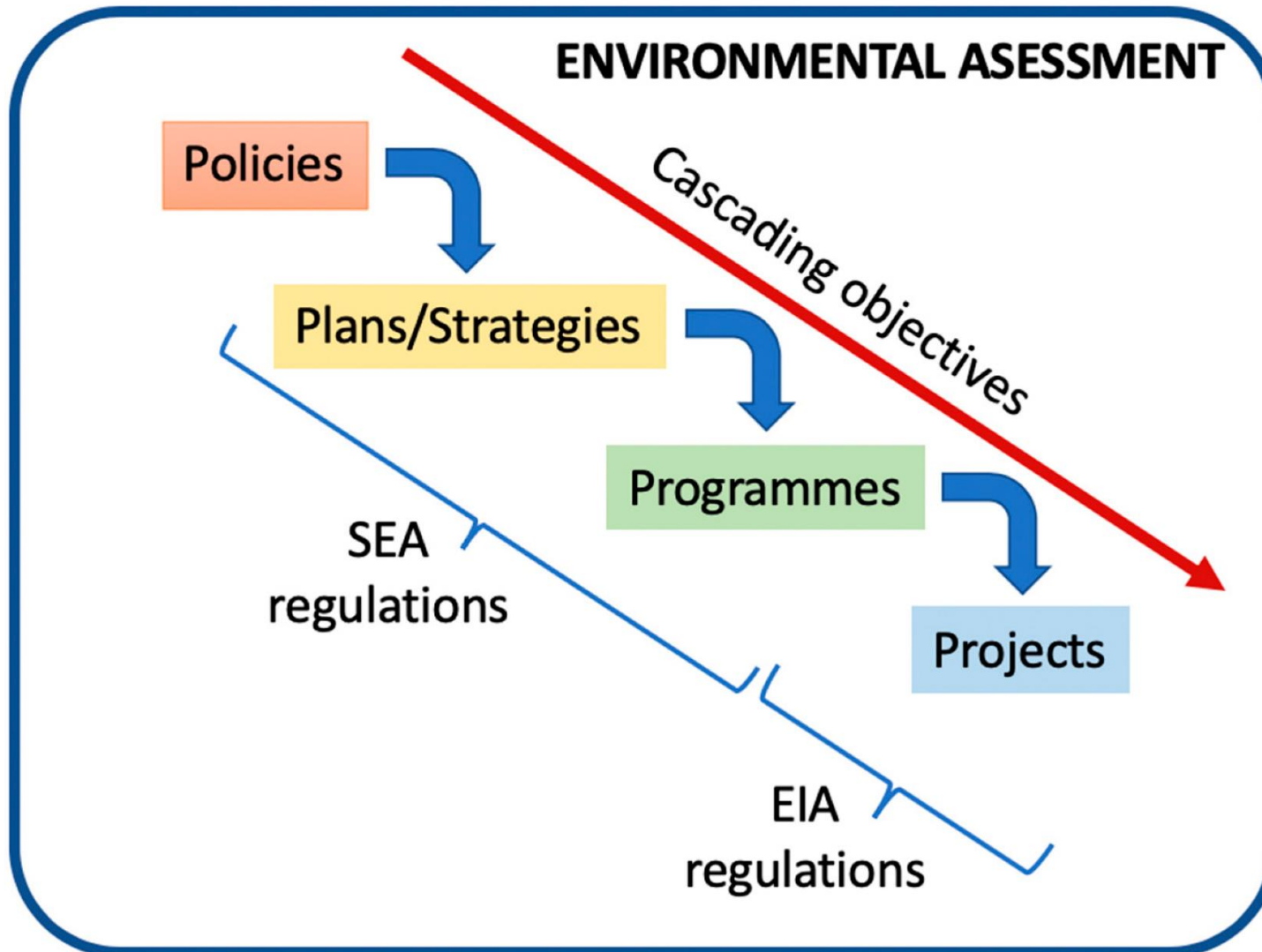
Take a break

10mins

Tiering of policy, plan, programme and project Environmental Assessment



Strategic Environmental Assessment



- [Sustainability | Free Full-Text | Advances in Implementing Strategic Environmental Assessment \(SEA\) Techniques in Central America and the Caribbean \(mdpi.com\)](#)

Strategic Environmental Assessment

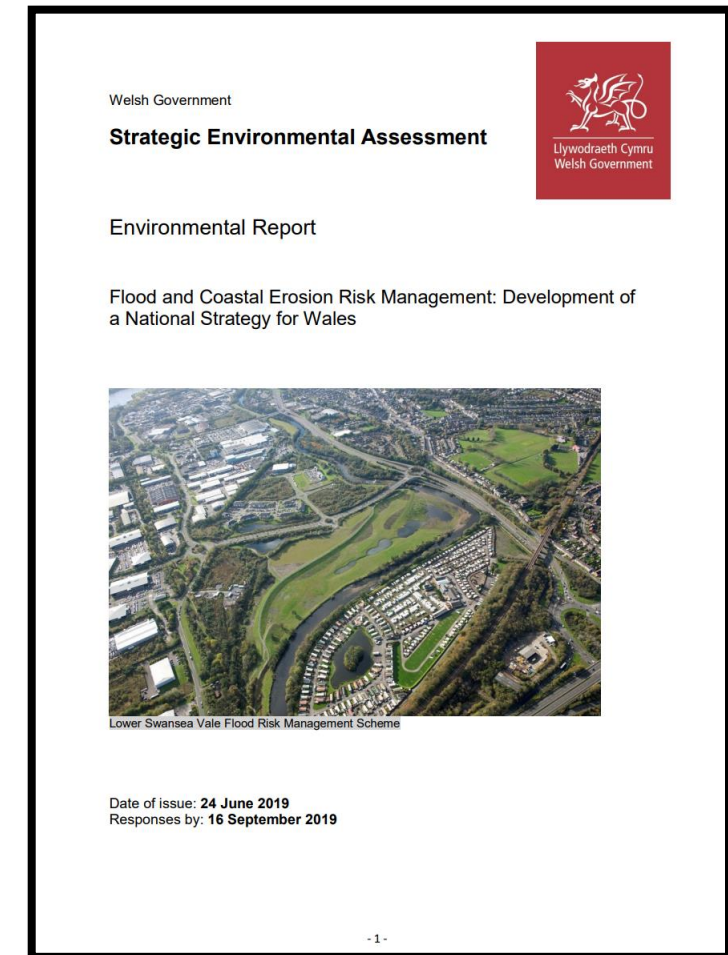
Stages in the SEA process

- It is important that you include SEA at the beginning of a plan preparation, so that it is an integral part of the process. The stages in the SEA process are:
 - setting the context and objectives, establishing the baseline and deciding the scope:
 - developing and refining alternatives and assessing effects
 - preparing the environmental report
 - consulting on the draft plan or programme and the environmental report
 - monitoring the significant effects of implementing the plan or programme on the environment
- [Strategic Environmental Assessment | GOV.WALES](#)

Useful SEA Resources

Welsh Government, 2019. Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management: Development of a National Strategy for Wales: Environmental Report.
[strategic-environmental-assessment-environmental-report.pdf](https://gov.wales/strategic-environmental-assessment-environmental-report.pdf) (gov.wales)

RTPI, 2018. Strategic Environmental Assessment: Improving the effectiveness and efficiency of SEA/SA for land use plans
[sea-sapracticeadvicefull2018c.pdf](https://rtpi.org.uk/sea-sapracticeadvicefull2018c.pdf) (rtpi.org.uk)





Take a break

10mins



- It is a formal process for assessing the effect of a **plan** or **programme** on the environment.
- [Strategic Environmental Assessment | GOV.WALES](#)

**Remember...at its simplest...
SEA**

Programmes for banning plastic wet wipes?

- [Wet wipes containing plastic - proposed ban: strategic environmental assessment - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](#)



[Wet wipe pollution | Latest news | Marine Conservation Society \(mcsuk.org\)](#)

[Our seas are swimming in wet wipes | Latest news | Marine Conservation Society \(mcsuk.org\)](#)

Programmes for banning plastic wet wipes?

- [Wet wipes containing plastic](#)
- [proposed ban: strategic environmental assessment](#) - gov.scot (www.gov.scot)



[Wet wipes: UK government begins consultation on ban](#)
- [BBC Newsround](#)

Programmes for banning plastic wet wipes?

- [Wet wipes containing plastic - proposed ban: strategic environmental assessment - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](#)



[Monster fatberg 'autopsy' reveals wet wipes, bones and false teeth | Waste | The Guardian](#)

SEA for Programmes?

- [Wet wipes containing plastic - proposed ban: strategic environmental assessment - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](https://www.gov.scot/publications/impact-assessments/2023/10/wet-wipes-containing-plastic-proposed-ban-strategic-environmental-assessment/)

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Publication - Impact assessment

Wet wipes containing plastic - proposed ban: strategic environmental assessment

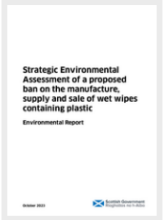
Published: **14 October 2023**

Directorate: [Marine Directorate](#)

Part of: [Environment and climate change](#), [Marine and fisheries](#)

ISBN: **9781835213797**

Consultation on strategic environmental assessment (SEA) for the proposed ban on the manufacture, supply and sale of wet wipes containing plastic.



Strategic Environmental Assessment of a proposed ban on the manufacture, supply and sale of wet wipes containing plastic

Environmental Report

 **Supporting documents**



Activity

- In preparation for the following activities, read this article: [Wet wipes: keeping them out of our seas \(and sewers\) | Friends of the Earth](#)

(10 mins)

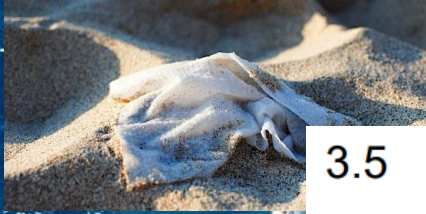


Activity

- Discuss:
 - What alternatives to a ban on wet wipes containing plastic could be considered?

(5 mins)

Reasonable alternatives to a ban



3.5 Reasonable alternatives

- 3.5.1 Scottish Water resolves approximately 36,000 sewer blockages per year. Customer awareness campaigns have been shown to result in a reduction of the numbers of blockages, but this effect wanes over time. The Scottish Government and Scottish Water have a multi-year plan in place to reduce the pathways for sewage-related debris (SRD) reaching the marine environment via Combined Sewer Overflows (CSOs). This includes improved monitoring of outfalls, and targeted improvements to sewer infrastructure and capture of solid items. However 'end of pipe' solutions for marine litter are not effective and are not the preferred solution. Our first principle is to prevent litter reaching the marine environment, to stop the problem at source and prevent plastic items becoming litter in the first place.
- 3.5.2 The UK has a voluntary water industry standard, Fine to Flush, administered by the industry body Water UK. Wipes which pass the specification tests for flushability can be labelled as Fine to Flush. Uptake of the standard has been limited. The two main manufacturers of wet wipes in the UK still use plastic in most of their products. Major retailers continue to stock wet wipes containing plastic, including their own brand products. In addition, demand for anti-bacterial wipes has increased due to Covid-19.

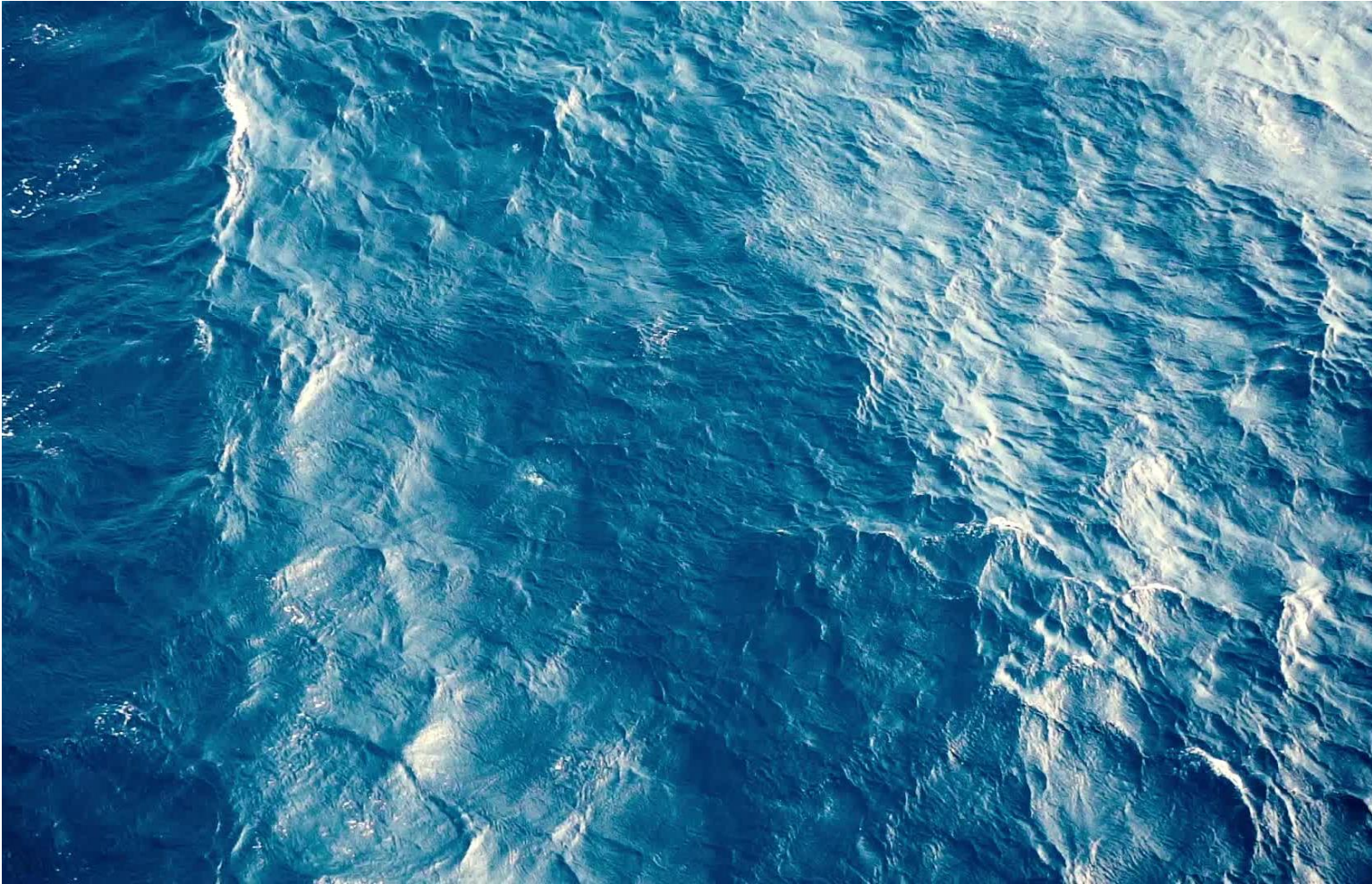
- Improved segregation of wet wipes in sewer infrastructure – considered 'end of pipe' solutions – do not solve the root issue.
- Voluntary water industry standards e.g. Fine to Flush – do not significantly change industry or consumer behaviour.
- Therefore, neither are deemed reasonable alternatives

SEA Topic	In / Out	Reason for inclusion / exclusion
Biodiversity, flora and fauna		
Population		
Human Health		
Soil, geology and hydrodynamic processes		
Water quality, resources, ecological status		
Air		
Climatic factors		
Material assets (https://www.sepa.org.uk/media/219432/lups-sea-gu4-consideration-of-material-assets-in-sea.pdf)		
Cultural heritage		
Landscape / seascape		

Activity

As a group, decide which environmental topics you would consider scoped in or out within an SEA on the proposed ban on the manufacture, supply and sale of wet wipes containing plastic, selecting from the following topics. Please provide reasoning / justification for inclusion or exclusion.

(10 mins)

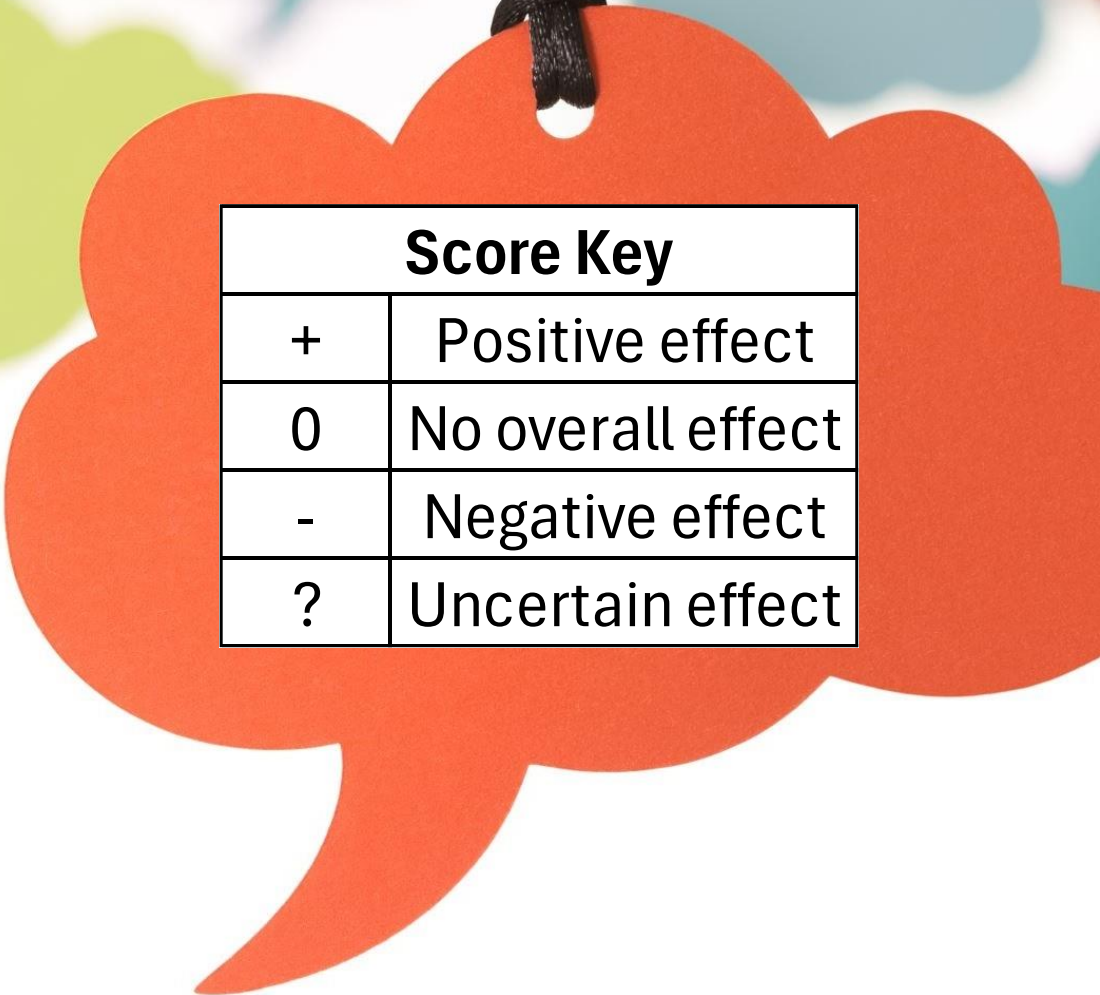


SEA for the ban on the manufacture, supply and sale of wet wipes containing plastic

- The SEA provides a high-level and qualitative assessment of the potential environmental effects that are likely to result from the proposed ban on the manufacture, supply and sale of wet wipes containing plastic.
- The assessment identifies the effects of the proposed ban on the SEA topics that are scoped into the assessment, specifically: biodiversity, flora and fauna; water quality, resources, and ecological status; and material assets.

Activity

- On the following slide, complete the table of assessment on whether the proposed ban would have a positive, negative, or neutral impact on the environmental topics scoped in using the following score grading.



Score Key	
+	Positive effect
0	No overall effect
-	Negative effect
?	Uncertain effect

Activity

SEA Topic	SEA Objective	SEA Questions	Score	Commentary
Biodiversity, flora, and fauna	To work towards achieving 'Good Environmental Status' (GES) for marine litter.	To what extent will the proposed ban of wet wipes containing plastic affect the attainment of GES for marine litter?		
	To safeguard and enhance marine and coastal ecosystems, including species, habitats and their interactions.	To what extent will the proposed ban of wet wipes containing plastic enhance marine ecosystems, and the species and habitats contained therein.		
	To protect and conserve the ecosystems and the biological diversity of UK territorial seas.	To what extent will the proposed ban of wet wipes containing plastic affect the biological diversity of UK territorial seas as a whole?		
Water quality, resources, and ecological status	To work towards achieving 'Good Environmental Status' for marine litter.	To what extent will the proposed ban of wet wipes containing plastic affect the attainment of GES for marine litter?		
	To safeguard and enhance marine and coastal ecosystems, including species, habitats and their interactions.	To what extent will the proposed ban of wet wipes containing plastic affect the water quality and ecological status of marine ecosystems?		
	To protect and conserve the ecosystems and the biological diversity of UK territorial seas.	To what extent will the proposed ban of wet wipes containing plastic affect the water quality and ecological status of UK territorial seas as a whole?		
Material assets	To work towards achieving 'Good Environmental Status' for marine litter	To what extent will the proposed ban of wet wipes containing plastic affect the attainment of GES for marine litter?		
	To work towards reducing sewer blockages and damage to infrastructure	To what extent will the proposed ban of wet wipes containing plastic affect the status and efficient working of sewer infrastructure?		

SEA & Consultation

- In October / November 2023, after the draft SEA was produced, public consultation was conducted across Scotland, England, Ireland and Wales
- Determine public views on the proposed ban with the SEA as the evidential material

6 Next steps

- 6.1.1 The consultation on the proposed ban on the manufacture, supply and sale of wet wipes containing plastic can be read at <https://consult.defra.gov.uk/wet-wipes-1/wet-wipes-containing-plastic>
Responses to the consultation on the proposed ban should be submitted via the online form at <https://consult.defra.gov.uk/wet-wipes-1/wet-wipes-containing-plastic> or in writing to Consultation Coordinator, Defra, 2nd Floor, Foss House, Kings Pool, 1-2 Peasholme Green, York, YO1 7PX, by 25 November 2023.
- 6.1.2 The consultation on this SEA Environmental Report is now open, along with the accompanying partial Business and Regulatory Impact Assessment. Views and opinions on this are now invited and should be provided by 25 November 2023.
- 6.1.3 Please send comments on the SEA and partial BRIA via: WWSEAandBRIA@gov.scot
- 6.1.4 Or send by post to:
Wet Wipe SEA and BRIA
Scottish Government
Area 1B North
Victoria Quay
Edinburgh
EH6 6QQ
- 6.1.5 Following the consultation period, the responses received will be analysed, and a Post-Adoption Statement and a Final BRIA will be prepared. These documents will explain how issues raised in the SEA and partial BRIA, and associated views in response to the consultation, have been addressed.

Wales...

NEWS

The proposed ban of the manufacture, supply and sale of wet wipes containing plastic



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The Welsh Government want to know what **your views** are on banning the manufacture, supply and sale of wet wipes containing plastic in the UK.

Consultation description

The proposal is aimed at reducing plastic and microplastic pollution, particularly in our waters.

We are seeking views on:

- The likely impact of the proposed ban on the businesses who manufacture, supply or sell wet wipes containing plastic;
- The likely impact of the proposed ban for consumers, particularly for those with protected characteristics, e.g. disabled people;
- Any wider impacts of keeping plastic containing wet wipes in circulation;
- Any wider impacts of wipes marketed as alternative or plastic-free;
- The composition of alternative wet wipes;
- If any exemptions are needed for wet wipes containing plastic; and
- The proposed timeframe for the commencement of the ban.

This is a joint consultation between The UK Government, Welsh Government, Scottish Government and Northern Ireland Executive.

This consultation is being held on [DEFRA](#)

[The proposed ban of the manufacture, supply and sale of wet wipes containing plastic | Business Wales \(gov.wales\)](#)

Success!

- The legislation will come into place by the end of 2024

[Home](#) > [Environment](#) > [Pollution and environmental quality](#)

Press release

UK-wide ban on wet wipes containing plastic to be put into law

The UK Government will introduce new world-leading legislation to ban wet wipes containing plastic.

From: [Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs](#) and [The Rt Hon Steve Barclay MP](#)

Published 22 April 2024

This was published under the 2022 to 2024 Sunak Conservative government



[UK-wide ban on wet wipes containing plastic to be put into law - GOV.UK](#)



Take a break

10mins

Review Area 1

1.1	Description of the development: the purpose(s) of the development is adequately described as well as its physical characteristics, scale and design. Quantities of material needed during construction and operation are included and, where appropriate, a description is given of the production processes.	Rating C
1.1.1	The purposes and objectives of the development are adequately explained.	A
1.1.2	The design, size or scale of the development, and nature and duration of the construction and operation activities are adequately described. Diagrams, plans, charts and/or maps are effective for this purpose.	B
1.1.3	The report adequately describes the environmental planning that went into the design of the project to minimise negative environmental effects and capture potential benefits.	C
1.1.4	Important design features, especially those for environmental planning and socio-economic management are highlighted.	C
1.1.5	There is adequate indication of the physical presence or appearance on the completed development within the receiving environment.	D
1.1.6	The nature and quantities of materials needed during both the construction and operational phases are described as well as, where appropriate, the nature of the production processes.	F
1.1.7	The number of works involved with the project during both construction and operation are estimated.	F



Activity

- **Discuss your EIA reviews as a group.**

Work through your scoring system. What were the strengths and weaknesses in your EIA report?

Is there any areas that are weak/strong across the variety of EIA?

(40 mins)

SEA and Neighbourhood Plans

- [Understand-if-your-plan-requires-a-Strategic-Environmental-Assessment-SEA-2021.02.26.pdf](#)
([neighbourhoodplanning.org](#))



Does your Neighbourhood Plan need SEA?

Not every Neighbourhood Plan needs SEA, however, when submitting a plan proposal to the local planning authority it is mandatory to provide, either:

- a statement of reasons as to why SEA was not required; or
- an Environmental Report (a key output of the SEA process).

As a rule of thumb, SEA is more likely to be necessary if both of the following two elements apply:

- a Neighbourhood Plan allocates sites for development (for housing, employment etc.); **and**
- the neighbourhood area contains sensitive environmental assets (e.g. a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) or an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)) that may be affected by the policies and proposals in the Neighbourhood Plan.

In light of these two considerations, it is very unlikely that a Neighbourhood Plan would require SEA if the plan is not allocating land for development. This is because allocating land for development is more likely to generate physical changes which lead to significant effects.

[Understand-if-your-plan-requires-a-Strategic-Environmental-Assessment-SEA-2021.02.26.pdf](#)
[\(neighbourhoodplanning.org\)](#)

SEA and Neighbourhood Plan

- A key stage in the neighbourhood planning process is determining whether or not SEA is required.

[local-development-plan-manual-edition-2-2015.pdf](#)
[\(gov.wales\)](#)

[Understand-if-your-plan-requires-a-Strategic-Environmental-Assessment-SEA-2021.02.26.pdf](#)
[\(neighbourhoodplanning.org\)](#)

SEA and Neighbourhood Plan

- Integrated Sustainability Appraisal (ISA)
- The ISA Report considers the social, economic, and environmental effects of the **Deposit Revised Local Development Plan (rLDP)**. It incorporates several statutory requirements into a single document which enables a more transparent and holistic assessment of the sustainability implications of the proposals contained in the rLDP.
- It features the joint **Sustainability Appraisal (SA)** Report and **Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)**, alongside a **Welsh Language Impact Assessment (WLIA)**, an **Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA)**, elements of a **Health Impact Assessment (HIA)**, Local and National Well-being Goals, and other considerations related to the environment including NRW's Area Statement and the Section 6 Duty (to maintain and enhance biodiversity, and promote the resilience of ecosystems).

[local-development-plan-manual-edition-2-2015.pdf \(gov.wales\)](#)

[Understand-if-your-plan-requires-a-Strategic-Environmental-Assessment-SEA-2021.02.26.pdf \(neighbourhoodplanning.org\)](#)