



# IMPACT ASSESSMENT UPDATE

## IRELAND-UK BRANCH OF IAIA: FEBRUARY 2008 NEWSLETTER

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> 'Affiliates and Branches'  
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## **1. INTRODUCTION**

Dear Members,

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

Since the October 2007 newsletter, emails have been sent to members on:

- [Draft Branch Vision statement](#)
- Member input to the branch events programme and newsletter
- [Best Practice in Impact Assessment - strategic approaches to biodiversity in SEA and HIA \(Galway\)](#)
- [Environmental Protection Agency's draft SEA Process Checklist \(Ireland\)](#)
- IAIA newsletter
- [Planning Bill \(England\)](#)
- Request for recommendations of [good SEA/SA/AA reports](#)
- [IEMA's Environmental Assessment Forum 2008](#)
- Request for case studies on infrastructure developments and waterbirds
- Environmental Knowledge Exchange: IEMA NW event, Manchester

For the next Branch newsletter (April/May 2008), please email any contributions to [ie\\_uk@iaia.org](mailto: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](mailto:ie_ukbranch@iaia.org).

### **IAIA Events**

• **IAIA 2008** 'The Art and Science of Impact Assessment' is in **Perth**, Western Australia, on **4 - 9 May 2008**. Visit [www.iaia.org](http://www.iaia.org) for complete conference information.

### **• Best Practice in Impact Assessment - strategic approaches to biodiversity in SEA and HIA:**

29 February 2008, Galway, Ireland:

The COHAB Initiative Secretariat in association with the International Association for Impact Assessment and the Secretariat of the U.N. Convention on Biological Diversity: An international workshop exploring the ecosystem approach to Strategic Environmental Assessment and Health Impact Assessment, incorporating climate change risk assessment. Speakers include IAIA Branch members Jo Treweek (*'Guidance on biodiversity-inclusive impact assessment'*) and Ben Cave (*'interdisciplinary issues in impact assessment'*). See <http://www.cohabnet.org/sea.htm>

### **IAIA Newsletter**

The January 2008 and October 2007 IAIA newsletters are now available for members to login and download at [www.iaia.org](http://www.iaia.org) > login > Publications > Newsletter Members.

## 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](http://www.iaia.org) for full details of membership services and benefits, including:

- Subscription to *Impact Assessment & Project Appraisal*, one of the best professional journals in the world
- Newsletter with international news about the profession
- Direct access to web site, resource networks, searchable database
- Direct access to training courses and customised training
- Reduced rate for attendance at IAIA's annual conference
- Opportunities to attend and participate in international and regional conferences
- Opportunities to represent IAIA at international fora
- Networking in special interest area Sections
- Organisational linkages
- Direct access to e-news network and listservs
- International recognition through contribution to the work of IAIA and the profession, and through partnerships with other members and organisations
- Opportunities to assist in global and regional capacity building
- Special Interest Areas

### 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 (5 held to date in Norwich, Dublin, Liverpool, Edinburgh and Manchester) 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, including consultation responses, and collaborations with other national organisations
- Branch webpage with relevant & useful information from Branch activities

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

Adam Boyden  
Chair, IAIA Ire-UK Branch, on behalf of the Branch Committee

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## **2. BRANCH NEWS**

### **1. Draft Vision for Branch - consultation with members**

As promised in January, a **draft 'Vision' statement** for the Ireland-UK Branch has been prepared by the Branch committee, led by Branch committee member Josh Fothergill. The 'vision' states what the Branch aims to become and achieve.

The final version will be submitted, with the proposed annual programme of Branch activities, to IAIA headquarters in late March in order to support an application for official 'permanent' status for the Ireland-UK Branch. It is likely that the application for permanent status would be determined by the IAIA Board at IAIA 08 in Perth.

Members are requested to review the draft Vision statement at [www.iaia.org/modx/index.php?id=354](http://www.iaia.org/modx/index.php?id=354) > **Documents**.

We would welcome and request your thoughts and feedback on the Vision statement, to [josh.fothergill@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:josh.fothergill@environment-agency.gov.uk) and request all feedback by **29 February 2008** in order to be able to take the Vision forward during March.

### **2. Future Branch Events**

Discussions are currently underway with potential hosts regarding future Ireland-UK Branch events in 2008 in Belfast, Glasgow, Oxford, Leeds and Bath. Full details will be available when dates and locations are confirmed. Branch events could include workshops which are planned to feed into the [Update to the International Study of the Effectiveness of Environmental Assessment](#), following the [IEMA Environmental Assessment Forum](#) in April.

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](mailto:ie_uk@iaia.org) by **29 February 2008**. As [above](#), the Branch's annual programme of activities will be submitted in late March to IAIA headquarters in order to support an application for official 'permanent' status for the Branch.

### 3. Future IAIA Conference in the UK?

Discussions are continuing between various parties with a view to putting together a bid to host the IAIA international conference in the UK in 2010, in England. An update will be provided to members when further details are progressed.

### 4. Recent publications by Branch members:

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

- Wood, G., 2008. Thresholds and criteria for evaluating and communicating impact significance in environmental statements: 'See no evil, hear no evil, speak no evil'. [Environmental Impact Assessment Review 28](#), pp22-38 (January 2008).
- Desmond, M., 2007. Decision criteria for the identification of alternatives in strategic environmental assessment. [Impact Assessment and Project Appraisal](#), Volume 25, Number 4, 1 December 2007, pp. 259-269(11).
- Birley, M., A fault analysis for health impact assessment: procurement, competence, expectations, and jurisdictions. [Impact Assessment and Project Appraisal](#), Volume 25, Number 4, 1 December 2007, pp. 281-289(9)
- Jackson, T. and B. Illsley, 2007. An analysis of the theoretical rationale for using strategic environmental assessment to deliver environmental justice in the light of the Scottish Environmental Assessment Act. [Environmental Impact Assessment Review 27](#), pp607-623 (October 2007)

### 5. Branch event in Manchester, October 2007:

The Ireland-UK Branch of IAIA met for the fifth time since its inception in 2005 at the University of Manchester on 24 October 2007. The meeting was hosted by the School of Environment and Development (SED) and supported by the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA)'s North West Region. The event focused on the theme of **'Changing Climates for Environmental Assessment'**. Over 50 delegates, including consultants, regulators, planners, industry, non-governmental organisations and the research community, attended and listened to a wide range of presentations throughout the day.

The morning session concentrated on climate change and the consequences for environmental assessment. Professor John Handley (University of Manchester) set the scene by highlighting current research on the assessment of climate change impacts, drawing on the new and emerging tools available and concluding that adaptation research is a critical area. Bill Sheate (Collingwood Environmental Planning) presented initiatives in London for climate change adaptation including the current strategy and integrated appraisal. Dermot Smith (Environment Agency) concluded the morning session with an exploration of the role for EIA and SEA in climate change, and challenging practitioners and decision-makers to address these questions:

- What are the effects of a project/strategy on climate through greenhouse gas emissions?
- What effects will climate change have on the long term sustainability of a project/strategy?

- What effects will climate change have on the impacts from a project/strategy?

In the afternoon, Cassandra Wesolowski (PhD student) and Dr Jeremy Carter (Research Associate) presented some current research ongoing in the SED, relating to addressing alternatives through a tiered environmental assessment framework for radioactive waste management, and sustainability appraisal and flood risk management in England, respectively. Sue Kidd and Urmila Jha-Thakur (University of Liverpool) then engaged the delegates in a participatory presentation to develop a current research study on developing the learning potential of appraisal in spatial planning. Finally, Adam Boyden (Nicholas Pearson Associates, and current Branch Committee Chair) presented the role and functions of the Ireland-UK Branch, and highlighted some recent activities, in particular the input of Branch members to European Union research evaluating the 'EIA Directive', and the potential role of the Branch in the new International Study of Effectiveness of Environmental Assessment 10 Year Review.

We would like to thank Parsons Brinckerhoff for their generous support in sponsoring the event.

*Carys Jones and Adam Barker  
School of Environment and Development, University of Manchester*

The presentation slides from the event are now available on the Branch webpage <http://www.iaia.org/modx/index.php?id=354>.

## **6. Update to the International Study of the Effectiveness of Environmental Assessment:**

As heralded in previous Branch newsletters, the following 'Preliminary Notice of the IAIA International Study of EA Effectiveness 10-year update' is taken from the IAIA January 2008 newsletter:

'Over the next 18 months, an Update of the International Study of EA Effectiveness (completed in 1996) will be undertaken. IAIA and the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency (CEAA) co-sponsored the original study, which was carried out with the support of a consortium of countries and international organisations (see [http://www.iaia.org/Non\\_Members/EIA/EAE/EAE\\_10E.PDF](http://www.iaia.org/Non_Members/EIA/EAE/EAE_10E.PDF)). As before, the Update is expected to involve a number of agencies and individuals on an 'as interested' basis and draw on a range of commissioned work and in-kind contributions.

The Update will be on a smaller scale than the original study, which will serve as a baseline for retrospective review of trends, issues and progress since 1996. It is expected that the Update of EIA and SEA process effectiveness will be based largely on existing work. Additionally, however, an IAIA theme meeting on cumulative and large scale effects is proposed to address an area of particular and pressing concern to practitioners (as identified in members response to the survey of the President designate in April 2007). Consideration is also being given to extended treatment of sustainability issues through integrated assessment, engaging other domains of impact assessment. In that regard, much will depend on available resources and interest.

Some of the tools that may be used to gather and analyze information on the lessons of experience are described in the accompanying box. Further information including options for participation by IAIA members will be included in the next issues of the IAIA Newsletter. In the interim, we will be contacting IAIA branches, sections and others to canvass their views on opportunities and ways forward.



Members with specific ideas or interests can contact Barry Sadler, who will serve as Director pro tem of the Update ([Bsadler01@aol.com](mailto:Bsadler01@aol.com)).'

*Barry Sadler*

#### **Effectiveness Study Update – Some Potential Tools for Information Gathering**

- Survey of IAIA members and specialized constituencies to benchmark progress on EA and other core domains of impact assessment
- Trend and issues analysis to identify and compare key developments over the last decade, internationally and for selected countries
- Focus groups to take stock of the pros and cons of experience with EIA/SEA processes and their application in selected countries
- Effectiveness and performance review of quality of ES, direct and indirect contribution to decision-making processes and the linkages to environmental outcomes, societal benefits and policy and institutional adaptations (system-wide check or case-specific)
- SWOT analysis of procedures and methodologies related to quality assurance, assessing and mitigating cumulative and large scale effects
- Foresight process on the prospects for and pragmatics of designing and applying integrated approaches to sustainability issues, particularly substantive linkage of economic, social and environmental considerations
- Use of IAIA Annual Meeting as a shop window on the above themes

The IAIA theme meeting on cumulative and large scale effects is proposed in Calgary, USA in November 2008, and it is hoped that there will be significant contributions from Ireland, the UK and the rest of Europe.

In 2007, several members and organisations in Ireland & the UK have expressed an interest in assisting the future study. Barry Sadler will be working with the IEMA and IAIA Branch members to progress study inputs from Ireland and the UK. The IEMA's 2008 [Environmental Assessment Forum in April 2008](#) (see 'Other events' below) will mark the start of the involvement, and will be followed by a series of workshops, which could include IAIA Branch events (see [above](#)). If you would like to know more and potentially help with the Study, please contact Barry as above or [ie\\_uk@iaia.org](mailto:ie_uk@iaia.org).

#### **7. Planning Bill for England: IAIA Branch and IEMA Response**

The Planning Bill for England was introduced in the House of Commons on 27<sup>th</sup> November 2007, following the consultation on the Planning White Paper earlier in 2007 (see October 2007's IAIA Branch newsletter). Key points to note include a new apparent reluctance to subject the proposed new National Policy Statements to Strategic Environmental Assessment under the SEA Directive or to formal Sustainability Appraisal, as the Bill refers to only an 'appraisal of sustainability' being required. Also noted are amendments to the framework for decisions by the proposed new Infrastructure Planning Commission on nationally significant infrastructure projects, which now include consideration of whether adverse impacts outweigh the benefits (previous wording in the White Paper had caused concerns as to whether adverse impacts outside breaches of legislation would be considered).

Following the IAIA Branch's and IEMA's joint response to the Planning White Paper in August, members of the Branch assisted IEMA in preparing a joint



response to the Houses of Parliament's Scrutiny Unit, for consideration by the Public Bill Committee. The response focuses on the question of SEA of National Policy Statements, and can be found on the [Branch website.](#)

The progress of the Bill and the responses of IEMA/IAIA Ire-UK and other organisations (which also pick up the SEA issue), can be seen here:

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2007-08/planning.html#2007-08>

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### **3. IMPACT ASSESSMENT NEWS**

#### **1. Scottish EIA Regulations and revised Guidance:**

Following a consultation paper in June 2007, the Environmental Impact Assessment (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2007 (SSI no. 484), came into force in November 2007. The regulations provide a new statutory footing for requiring consideration to the need for EIA before determining a planning application for approval of reserved matters (under the terms of an outline planning permission), in line with the EIA Directive and recent European Court of Justice rulings in relation to multi-stage consents. The regulations also allow for a revised or updated ES to be required at the reserved matters stage to update an ES previously submitted at the outline stage.

See [http://www.opsi.gov.uk/legislation/scotland/ssi2007/ssi\\_20070484\\_en\\_1](http://www.opsi.gov.uk/legislation/scotland/ssi2007/ssi_20070484_en_1)

Also at the end of November 2007, and in October, the Scottish Government published:

- Planning Circular 8-2007: The Environmental Impact Assessment (Scotland) Regulations 1999, which supersedes Circular 15-1999. The new Circular includes new updated guidance on EIA screening, and takes into account recent amendments to the Regulations and recent EIA case law.
- Consultation Report and Responses to the consultation on the draft Circular earlier in 2007.
- 'EIA Directive: Questions and Answers': a paper which attempts to answer 'frequently answered questions' on the application of the EIA Directive in Scotland.
- (in October) Consultation Report on responses to the 'EIA for Reserved Matters' consultation paper of June 2006.

The above publications are available at

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/Recent/>

#### **2. Welsh EIA Regulations for Multi-stage Planning Permissions:**

Following draft regulations in England (see October 2007 Branch newsletter), and published regulations in Scotland (see above), the Welsh Assembly Government has consulted on proposals to apply EIA procedures fully to multi-stage planning permissions, in light of recent European Court of Justice judgments. The new regulations would amend the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (England and Wales) Regulations 1999 (SI 1999/293) in Wales. The Draft Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Amendment) (Wales) Regulations 2008 and covering letters can be viewed here: <http://wales.gov.uk/consultations/currentconsultation/plancurrcons/eiaregs2008/?lang=en>

### 3. Welsh EIA Regulations for rural restructuring:

The Environmental Impact Assessment (Agriculture) (Wales) Regulations 2007 (SI No. 2933 (W.253)), in force in October 2007, apply EIA to projects for the restructuring of rural land holdings, and the intensive agricultural cultivation of semi-natural areas, and also implement the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) for those projects. Physical works that give a significantly different arrangement to constituent parts of a rural land holding, including fields, water bodies, and other areas of land will be subject to the Regulations. The types of work which might constitute a project would be:

- the removal or addition of large lengths of field boundaries;
- the re-contouring of agricultural land by the addition, removal or distribution of earth or other material;
- filling-in or excavating ponds, lakes or reservoirs.

Only large scale projects are likely to be caught within the Regulations if they involve changes to more than 4km of field boundaries, movements of more than 10,000 cubic metres of earth or rock, or otherwise restructure an area of more than 100 hectares. The regulations will apply mainly to farmers and other managers of agricultural land. <http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si200729>

Also, the link below should give up-to-date information on screening decisions and the EIA register:

[http://new.wales.gov.uk/topics/environmentcountryside/env\\_cons\\_management/conservation\\_biodiversity/eia\\_regs/?lang=en](http://new.wales.gov.uk/topics/environmentcountryside/env_cons_management/conservation_biodiversity/eia_regs/?lang=en)

*Pilar Clemente-Fernandez, Parsons Brinckerhoff,  
IAIA Ire-UK Branch Committee*

### 4. Public Participation Directive amends Northern Ireland EIA Regulations:

The Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2008 amend the 1999 Planning EIA Regulations for Northern Ireland to give effect to Article 3 of Directive 2003/35/EC (Public Participation Directive) as it affects decision making for applications and appeals for EIA development. The Regulations require more extensive notifications when an Environmental Statement (ES) is submitted, requiring the Department of the Environment to notify persons and environmental organisations likely to be affected by, or having an interest in, an EIA application. The regulations also apply EIA consultation requirements to 'other information' provided voluntarily by an applicant relating to the ES. This follows similar amendments in Scotland, England and Wales and for other consenting regimes in Northern Ireland, in 2006 and 2007 (see Branch newsletters for January and March 2007).

[http://www.opsi.gov.uk/sr/sr2008/nisr\\_20080017\\_en\\_1](http://www.opsi.gov.uk/sr/sr2008/nisr_20080017_en_1)

### 5. SEA Process Checklist for Ireland - Consultation Draft:

The Consultation Draft of the SEA Process Checklist was issued in January by Ireland's Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for a six week consultation period ending on **29 February 2008**.

<http://www.epa.ie/downloads/consultation/name,24012,en.html>

It should be noted that the Checklist is a Process Checklist and the intention is that the Checklist is applied during the SEA Process. This should prompt any activities, required to be undertaken or information, required to be included, respectively, in the SEA Process and associated outputs. The "Checklist" should

not be used solely as an end of process Checklist, though it can also serve this purpose. Please forward any comments, observations and/or suggestions you may have on the Draft Checklist by 29 February 2008 to Tadhg O'Mahony, SEA Section, Office of Environmental Assessment, Environmental Protection Agency, Regional Inspectorate, Inniscarra, County Cork. Comments can also be forwarded electronically to [t.omahony@epa.ie](mailto:t.omahony@epa.ie) quoting "SEA Process Checklist" in the Subject line. On receipt of feedback, the various comments will be collated and circulated within the SEA Work Group for consideration. The "Checklist" will then be updated and placed on the EPA's Website as a Consultation Document. It is intended that the Checklist will be piloted formally on a number of key SEAs being undertaken during 2008. Once finalised, the Checklist will be published on the EPA's website and will be updated on a regular basis.

*Tadhg O'Mahony, Environmental Protection Agency*

## **6. Northern Ireland's Area Plans fall foul of SEA:**

In September 2007, the High Court in Northern Ireland pronounced the preparation of two Area Plans in Northern Ireland unlawful under the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2004 which implement the EU Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive. The challenge was brought by Seaport Investments Ltd, Magherafelt District Council and others over the Magherafelt Area Plan 2015 and the Northern Area Plan 2016. The High Court held that the two plans were in breach of the Regulations on the basis that:

1. The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2004 ('the SEA Regulations') had failed to properly transpose the SEA Directive, as the Department of the Environment (DoE) is both the body responsible for preparing the Development Plans and the consultation body under the SEA Regulations. The SEA Regulations also failed to include an appropriate timeframe in which third parties could express opinions on the draft Development Plan and SEA documents.
2. The Environmental Reports prepared by the DoE when preparing the Development Plans had failed to satisfy the requirements of Schedule 2 of the SEA Regulations as there was a failure to assess all likely environmental effects, including in relation to the description of environmental features likely to be significantly affected, the alternatives assessed and the adequacy of the non-technical summary.

Since that time a remedies hearing has taken place and the judgment was handed down on 13 November 2007. The Court accepted the DoE's argument that neither the Draft Magherafelt and Northern Area Plans nor the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2004 should be quashed and instead declared that:

1. both the designation of the Department of Environment (DOE) as 'the consultation body' under the SEA Regulations (where the DOE is also the responsible body that promotes the plan or programme), and the absence of appropriate timeframes in the SEA Regulations, do not properly transpose the requirements of the SEA Directive;
2. both the Environmental Report prepared for the Area Plans, and the sequencing of the Environmental Report and the Area Plans, were not in substantial compliance with the SEA Regulations and the SEA Directive.

The DoE is understood to be considering the implications of the judgement. This case is likely to have implications for most of Northern Ireland's Area Plans and for SEA throughout the UK, as close attention to the SEA Directive will be

required to ensure that development plans are not left vulnerable to legal challenge. See:

[http://www.planningni.gov.uk/AreaPlans\\_Policy/Plans/Magherafelt/magherafelt.htm](http://www.planningni.gov.uk/AreaPlans_Policy/Plans/Magherafelt/magherafelt.htm) and  
[http://www.courtsni.gov.uk/NR/rdonlyres/BD682D62-7F68-497D-9947-445B786B03C5/0/j\\_j\\_WEAC5799Final.htm](http://www.courtsni.gov.uk/NR/rdonlyres/BD682D62-7F68-497D-9947-445B786B03C5/0/j_j_WEAC5799Final.htm)

## **7. Recommended lists of good practice SEA/SA and HRA/AA reports:**

In December 2007, Levett-Therivel sustainability consultants compiled updated lists of recommended SEA/SA/environmental reports and appropriate assessment/Habitats Regulations Assessment reports that respondents considered good in various ways. The SEA/SA reports list is organised roughly by the elements of good practice that the reports display: good baseline/scoping, the SA framework, assessment, consultation, links to decision-making and other forms of assessment, and monitoring. No attempt was made to specify in advance what is meant by 'good practice', or to vet the recommendations. Both lists can be found here under 'News and recent publications':

<http://www.levett-therivel.fsworld.co.uk/>

## **8. Guidance issued on the Validation of Planning Applications (England):**

In December 2007, following the draft Government guidance in August 2007, the Department for Communities and Local Government issued their final guidance on the new procedures for the validation of planning applications by local planning authorities, and the types of information that can be required to be submitted with planning applications from April 2008.

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

Where EIA is not required, local authorities will only be able to require material on its adopted local list for validation purposes. The final 'national list of local requirements that may be adopted locally', now includes 'landscaping details, including proposals for landscape maintenance and management'. While the DCLG did not embrace requests to include where appropriate for assessments of landscape and visual impact, sustainability, climate change, or health impact, it remains for local authorities to consult on their own proposed local list, which may differ from the national recommendations where this can be justified. Local authorities remain able to request additional information after validation, in order to ensure sufficient information is provided to determine planning applications.

## **9. UK Government to be challenged in Europe over EIA Screening:**

The UK Government's decision not to require Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for a proposed medium-security hospital at the former Royal Navy base HMS Forest Moor in Nidderdale, near Harrogate, North Yorkshire, is set to face a legal challenge in the European Court of Justice. The site lies within the Nidderdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB); local objectors, led by Christopher Mellor, maintain that an EIA should be carried out in order to protect the environmental interests of the AONB. Mr Mellor argues that former Communities Secretary Ruth Kelly failed to give adequate reasons for the decision not to seek an EIA.

In January 2008, in *R (Christopher Mellor) v Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government*, the Court of Appeal decided to refer to the European Court of Justice to determine whether reasons have to be given for screening decisions that Environmental Impact Assessment is not required. It is the second time objectors to the scheme have brought the case to the courts. In May 2006, Harrogate Borough Council backed down to the first legal challenge to its decision not to require EIA, and consented to the planning permission being quashed. It then decided in October 2007 that EIA was required, only for the Secretary of State to direct in December 2007 that no EIA was necessary. See:

<http://www.nidderdaleherald.co.uk/nidderdale-news/Euro-challenge-to-Nidderdale-prison.3709011.jp>

[http://www.landmarkchambers.co.uk/content\\_view.cfm?cid=1813](http://www.landmarkchambers.co.uk/content_view.cfm?cid=1813)

[http://www.39essex.co.uk/index.php?case\\_id=001367](http://www.39essex.co.uk/index.php?case_id=001367)

## **10. Planning Policy Statement: 'Planning and Climate Change' (England):**

The UK Government's PPS on climate change was published in December 2007 to supplement PPS1 'Delivering Sustainable Development' by setting out how the spatial planning system in England should contribute to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and stabilising climate change and take account of the unavoidable consequences. The PPS reaffirms that the Government considers that climate change is the 'greatest long-term challenge facing the world today'.

It states that the ambition and policies in the PPS should be fully reflected by regional planning bodies, the Mayor of London and planning authorities in preparing their regional and spatial development strategies and local development documents, and refers to the use of Sustainability Appraisal (incorporating SEA) to shape regional and local planning strategies and policies that support the PPS's key objectives. Applicants for planning permission 'should consider how well their proposals for development contribute to the Government's ambition of a low-carbon economy and how well adapted they are for the expected effects of climate change,' as policies in the PPS are capable of being material to decisions on planning applications. Assessments of new developments (of impact on, and vulnerability to, climate change) should be provided through Design & Access Statements or Environmental Statements where required.

See: <http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/ppsclimatechange> and DCLG press release: <http://www.communities.gov.uk/news/corporate/614965>

## **11. SEA for Scottish Climate Change Bill Consultation Proposals:**

In June 2007, the Scottish Government announced that Government would consult on a Scottish Climate Change Bill to set a mandatory target for cutting emissions by 80% by 2050. The Consultation Proposals for the Scottish Climate Change Bill were published in late January:

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2008/01/28100005/0>

The Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Environmental Report on the Consultation Proposals was published earlier in February. This is undertaken under the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005, which requires a formal environmental assessment of new plans, programmes, policies and strategies that are likely to have significant effects on the environment.

See: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2008/02/08142328/0>

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## **12. Draft Planning Policy Statement: PPS4 Planning for Sustainable Economic Development (England):**

At the same time as 'Planning and Climate Change', consultation draft PPS4, published in December 2007, *'sets out how planning bodies in England should, in the wider context of delivering sustainable development, positively plan for sustainable economic growth and respond to the challenges of the global economy, in their plan policies and planning decisions'*. It urges local authorities in England to promote new business and economic growth *'unless there is good reason to believe the costs would outweigh the benefit'*. The draft statement responds to recommendations made in the *Review of Land Use Planning* by Kate Barker published in December 2006. Consultation runs until **17 March 2008**.

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

## **13. SEA for major expansion of offshore wind power:**

On 2 January 2008, the UK's Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR) announced plans for a major expansion of offshore wind aimed at generating enough electricity to power all UK homes by 2020. The department launched a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of a draft plan to enable further rounds of wind leasing, offshore oil and gas licensing and hydrocarbon gas storage licensing in UK waters. The draft plan could allow companies to develop up to 25GW of offshore wind by 2020, in addition to the 8GW already planned.

<http://www.gnn.gov.uk/environment/fullDetail.asp?ReleaseID=337237&NewsAreaID=2&avigatedFromDepartment=True>  
<http://www.offshore-sea.org.uk/site/index.php>

## **14. Towards a coherent network of Marine Protected Areas:**

On 23 January 2008, the fifth anniversary of Lundy - England's only Marine Nature Reserve and 'No Take Zone' – Natural England published the views of national and international marine experts and scientists who believe that political will and leadership is key to safeguarding life beneath our waves through a network of sites like Lundy. National and international marine experts met at Natural England's Marine Protected Areas conference in October 2007 to discuss the way forward for a network of Marine Protected Areas. A summary of the views and agreed priorities has now been published. The UK is currently working towards a network of Marine Protected Areas for biodiversity conservation and sustainable use, in the proposed Marine Bill.

<http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/press/releases2008/230108.htm>  
<http://naturalengland.communisis.com/naturalenglandshop/docs/NERR006.pdf>

## **15. Energy Bill and Nuclear White Paper: a Nuclear Power future for the UK:**

In January 2008, with the publication of the Energy Bill and the Nuclear White Paper, the UK Government invited energy companies to bring forward plans to build and operate new nuclear power stations as part of the UK's strategy for 'a secure, diverse, low carbon energy mix'. The 'future of nuclear power' consultation ran until October 2007.

The Energy Secretary expects the first nuclear power station to begin operating "well before 2020"; the Government will identify the most suitable sites for new



plant by 2009, and expects they will be near existing nuclear facilities. The steps promised to encourage investment in nuclear power in the coming months include:

- Making use of the provisions of the Planning Bill to ensure that nuclear development projects are treated like other critical infrastructure projects; and
- in March/ April 2008 publishing a consultation on draft Strategic Siting Assessment criteria, to rule out those areas of the country in which there are no suitable sites and establish the framework for assessing the suitability of proposed sites. The SSA is expected to be undertaken in 2008/09 and include Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) as part of the process. It is expected that applications will focus on areas in the vicinity of existing nuclear facilities (see also below).

The purpose of the Energy Bill is 'to update and strengthen the legislative framework so that it is appropriate for today's energy market and fit for the challenges we face on climate change and security of supply'. The Energy Bill also includes provisions to 'boost renewable energy, carbon capture and storage and increase the UK's gas storage capacity'.

The Energy Bill and Nuclear White Paper, and their accompanying 'Impact Assessments' can be found via links below.

<http://www.dti.gov.uk/energy/bill/page40931.html>

<http://www.dti.gov.uk/energy/nuclear-whitepaper/page42765.html>

#### **16. British Energy prepares sites for new nuclear power stations:**

In November 2007, British Energy also named four of its sites in southern England – Bradwell, Dungeness, Hinkley and Sizewell - as contenders for the location of new nuclear power stations. as it has entered into transmission connection agreements with National Grid for grid access from 2016 onwards for these sites. Subject to National Grid obtaining the necessary consents, the added connection capacity will accommodate any potential new nuclear power stations at these sites. It has commissioned a range of geological, environmental impact assessment (EIA), marine, transmission system and other studies for its sites, and is exploring the possibility of achieving the Biodiversity Benchmark.

See <http://www.british-energy.com/article.php?article=217>

#### **17. Severn Estuary tidal power study launched:**

UK Ministers have announced that a feasibility study for a possible tidal power scheme on the Severn Estuary, between England and Wales, will involve a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) exercise and should conclude with full public consultation early in 2010. The work will be undertaken by a cross-Government team which will involve the Welsh Assembly Government and local authorities on both sides of the estuary.

The study will assess in broad terms the costs, benefits and impact of a tidal power scheme and will consider the environmental, social, economic and energy market implications of a project which could provide some five per cent of UK electricity from the second highest tidal range in the world. The main technologies under scrutiny would involve either barrages or lagoons. As the estuary is designated for its international nature conservation importance, any scheme would be likely to require the creation of replacement habitats at the largest scale. In 2007 the Sustainable Development Commission reported that such a scheme could be justified but only if it was carried out as a public sector project



with ambitious environmental mitigation measures (see October 2007 Branch newsletter). See:

<http://www.planningportal.gov.uk/england/professionals/en/1115315444722.html>  
<http://www.gnn.gov.uk/environment/fullDetail.asp?ReleaseID=346694&NewsAreaID=2&NavigatedFromDepartment=True>

## **18. Draft Sustainable Residential Development Planning Guidelines for Public Consultation (Ireland)**

On 10 February 2008, John Gormley, Ireland's Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government launched new draft planning guidelines on Sustainable Residential Development in Urban Areas, which will act as a blueprint for the future sustainable development of Irish cities, towns and villages in the coming years. The guidelines are accompanied by a best practice urban design manual which illustrates how the guidelines can be implemented across the different scales of urban development around the country. The guidelines are focused on creating sustainable communities by incorporating the highest design standards and providing a co-ordinated approach to the delivery of essential infrastructure and services. The objectives of these new guidelines are to:

- Set out stronger planning requirements to facilitate the development of sustainable communities through strengthening planning and the provision of necessary supporting services and amenities;
- help achieve the most efficient use of urban land through housing densities that are appropriate to the location involved and availability of supporting services and infrastructure, particularly transport; and
- set high standards in terms of space and facilities to meet the needs of the Irish context.

The closing date for receipt of comments and submissions is 6 May 2008.

<http://www.environ.ie/en/DevelopmentandHousing/PlanningDevelopment/Plannin/g/News/MainBody,16687,en.htm>

## **19. England's Water Strategy – Future Water**

The UK Government's new water strategy for England, *Future Water* was published 7 February 2008. This strategy sets out the Government's long-term vision for water and the framework for water management in England.

Hilary Benn, Secretary of State for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, announced: *"We've come to expect some of the highest quality water in the world and an almost endless supply... The more we use the less there is for the countryside and the wildlife around us, and the more greenhouse gases are emitted... . Because of our need to adapt to climate change and other pressures such as changing land use, we need to find ways of using water much more efficiently and sustainably. Future Water sets out some of the practical steps we will need to take to ensure that good clean water is available for people, businesses and nature. It looks ahead to 2030 and describes the water management we want by then. Because almost everything we do affects water in some way, ... it looks at every aspect of water use. We are all becoming increasingly aware of the need to value water more, use it more wisely and play our part in taking responsibility for protecting this essential and unique resource. This strategy helps us do so."*

See <http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/water/strategy/index.htm>

## 20. England's Healthy Living Strategy to strengthen health impact assessment?

A new cross-government strategy to promote healthier lives was published in January 2008, which signals that the planning system will have a major role to play in improving the nation's health and tackling the current obesity concerns. The strategy indicates that local authorities will be encouraged to use their planning powers to limit the spread of fast food outlets in particular areas, such as those close to parks and schools, and ensure new developments encourage walking and cycling. The strategy also promises that the Government will:

- invest in training for planners so the health implications of local plans and planning applications can be routinely considered;
- develop and promote a toolkit which will draw together all the ways in which planning policy and powers can be applied to promote physical activity;
- encourage local planning authorities to support the vision of a more physically active society, when considering planning applications relating to all types of outdoor space, including open space and playing fields;
- include options for strengthening the role of assessing health impacts within the current consultation on the New Approach to Transport Appraisals.

See <http://www.planningportal.gov.uk/england/professionals/en/1115315444712.html>  
[www.dh.gov.uk/en/Policyandguidance/Healthandsocialcaretopics/Obesity/DH\\_082383](http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Policyandguidance/Healthandsocialcaretopics/Obesity/DH_082383)

## 21. Transport Strategy and Review of the New Approach to Appraisal:

The UK Department for Transport (DfT)'s strategy 'Towards a Sustainable Transport System: Supporting Economic Growth in a Low Carbon World', published in October 2007, confirms the UK Government's commitment to a transport policy which delivers economic growth and lower carbon emissions. It summarises the policy and investment plans over the period to 2014; and describes how the UK Government will implement a new approach to strategic transport planning for the period 2014-19 and beyond.

See: <http://www.dft.gov.uk/about/strategy/transportstrategy/>

Alongside the Transport Strategy above, the DfT launched a consultation to seek views on the key issues that need to be addressed within DfT's New Approach to Appraisal (NATA) transport appraisal guidance. This forms part of the analytical work in response to the Eddington and Stern Reviews.

Consultation closes **31 March 2008**.

See: <http://www.dft.gov.uk/consultations/open/consulnaterefresh/>

## 22. Consultation on adding capacity at Heathrow Airport:

The DfT is undertaking a consultation on ways in which Heathrow Airport in London could be developed over the next 20 years or more. It 'reports on the outcome of work since the Air Transport White Paper in 2003 and describes how additional runway capacity might be provided, its likely impacts and how they might be addressed'. Consultation closes on **27 February 2008**.

See <http://www.dft.gov.uk/consultations/open/heathrowconsultation/>

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### 23. Edie Environmental Consultancy Survey 2007:

'Both consultants and their clients are confident that there will be steady growth in the field of Environmental Impact Assessment and Strategic Environmental Assessment', according to the Edie Environmental Consultancy Survey 2007. 'Such assessments are no longer unusual, and can now be considered a mainstream part of the planning process and, even when there may not be a legal requirement, developers are now well aware that a well-researched assessment may go a long way to allaying concern about the potential impact of a scheme, both among the public and in the offices of planning authorities.' See: <http://www.edie.net/consultancy-2007/story.asp?id=4343>

### 24. National Society for Clean Air becomes Environmental Protection UK:

The National Society for Clean Air (NSCA), the UK's longest established environmental organisation, has relaunched itself as **Environmental Protection UK**. NSCA were formally renamed Environmental Protection UK on 18th October 2007 at an event held at the UK's House of Lords, where the organisation also launched its new brand and five year strategy 'Future Focus'. See <http://www.environmental-protection.org.uk/>

### 25. Climate change impacts on Europe's birds

A Climatic Atlas of European Breeding Birds - which maps potential changes in distribution of all of the continent's regularly occurring nesting birds – shows that for the average bird species the potential distribution by the end of this century will shift nearly 550 km north east, equivalent to the distance from Plymouth to Newcastle. The average bird's distribution will also be reduced in size by a fifth and overlap the current range by only 40 per cent. Alarming, the atlas shows that three quarters of all of Europe's nesting bird species are likely to suffer declines in range. See: <http://www.rspb.org.uk/news/details.asp?id=tcm:9-180304>

### 26. Quality of EIAs for flora and fauna in Irish Environmental Impact Statements:

IAIA member Pádraic Fogarty has recently completed his MSc in Environmental Protection at Sligo Institute of Technology. His dissertation researched the quality of the Flora and Fauna chapters of a selection Irish EISs from 2005, the abstract for which is as follows:

'Ireland ratified the Convention on Biological Diversity in 1996 and, along with its EU partners, is committed to halting the loss of biodiversity by 2010. Indications to date, including European Court findings against Ireland, are that biodiversity is continuing to be lost. Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is a process by which the potential impacts arising from a project are predicted and significant, adverse impacts are mitigated. Biodiversity is a fundamental component of EIA and is dealt with through the chapter more commonly known as 'Flora and Fauna'. Ecological Impact Assessment (EcIA) is the process by which biodiversity impacts are identified. This study sought to examine the most tangible output from EIA, the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), in order to determine whether it is fulfilling its potential as a tool for protecting biodiversity. 18 EISs from 2005 were reviewed using a modified version of the Lee and Colley review package, as developed by the EIA centre in the University of Manchester. It was found that only two of these met minimum standards as required by the methodology. The principle reason for this was a widespread failure to adequately predict impacts using quantitative data. Other common shortcomings included: a

lack of appropriate baseline information upon which impacts could be predicted; an absence of standardised methodologies for valuing ecological resources; the use of ill-defined and subjective terms regarding the significance of features; and vague or aspirational measures proposed as mitigation. Among the 16 that failed to reach a 'satisfactory' status there was a great deal of variation, with some coming close to 'satisfactory' and others being grossly inadequate. It was found that ecological resources were routinely undervalued or dismissed as of 'local importance' – a euphemism for 'no importance' – with significant impacts only reported within legally protected sites. Further study is recommended into other aspects of EIA, particularly the implementation of proposed mitigation.'

For further information please email: [padraic@openfield.ie](mailto:padraic@openfield.ie)

*Pádraic Fogarty, Openfield Ecological Services*

## **27. A GIS-based Website for SEA Public Participation launched by Offaly County Council in Ireland:**

A GIS-based website has been officially launched by Offaly County Council, in the Republic of Ireland, to assist and complement the public participation process of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of the new Development Plan. The website is part of a research project being carried out by IAIA member Ainhoa Gonzalez in the Dublin Institute of Technology (DIT) on the advantages and disadvantages of using Geographical Information Systems (GIS) in SEA. A similar website was applied to the SEA of the Kilkenny County Development Plan in 2007. The method promotes the use of GIS through all SEA stages with the aim to identify the benefits that may derive from its application, and evaluate the barriers and limitations that may impinge upon the effective uptake of GIS in SEA processes.

See: <http://gisea.nuim.ie/offaly.html> (direct link to the website); <http://www.offaly.ie/offalyhome/yourcouncil/serviceindex/planning/Forms/CDPlanRview20092015/> (Access to the website through the County Council's Official website)

Offaly County Council is supporting the research and, in doing so, endeavouring to adopt best practice in relation to the implementation of the legislation. The website provides an opportunity to examine and comment on the environmental data used in the preparation of the SEA as well as on how the new County Development Plan might affect – or better protect – the environment. Your comments and feedback will greatly assist in the development of better SEA techniques. For further information on the research method, approach and preliminary findings, please e-mail: [ainhoag@yahoo.com](mailto:ainhoag@yahoo.com)

*Ainhoa Gonzalez*

## **28. Report of the 8<sup>th</sup> International HIA Conference, October 2007:**

The 8<sup>th</sup> International HIA conference, hosted by the Institute of Public Health in Ireland, took place in Dublin Castle, Ireland on October 16<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> 2007.

The conference theme was "Healthy Public Policy – Is Health Impact Assessment the Cornerstone?" and a number of sub-themes addressed current issues including intersectoral working in HIA, sustainable approaches to embedding HIA and evidence for HIA.

Almost 200 delegates from 17 countries around the world participated in the conference. A wide range of sectors were represented including health, academic, private companies, community & voluntary groups, and local government, reflecting the diverse interest in HIA.

Twelve plenary speakers addressed the conference including Paul Hunt, UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Health, Josep Figueras from the WHO European Centre on Health Policy, Ross Marshall (Former IAIA president, and Ireland-UK IAIA Branch committee member), from the Environment Agency of England and Wales, Gail Findlay from the London Health Commission, Catherine Ross from Georgia Institute of Technology and Owen Metcalfe from the Institute of Public Health in Ireland. In addition, there were three themed parallel sessions which included a mix of individual presentations and workshops. Poster presentations were on display throughout the event. All presentations can now be accessed on the Institute's website <http://www.publichealth.ie/hia>

A number of activities supplementary to the conference programme also took place. Introductory and Advanced pre-conference workshops were held on October 15<sup>th</sup> to cater for both those new to HIA and to allow a forum for advanced practitioners to meet and share ideas. The WHO European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies took the opportunity that evening to launch their book 'The Effectiveness of Health Impact Assessment' which concludes a three year project. Special interest meetings were held during the lunch break on both days of the conference to facilitate discussion on the HIA Gateway website to and commence planning for the 9<sup>th</sup> International Conference which will take place in Liverpool on 9-10 October 2008.

*Teresa Lavin, Institute of Public Health in Ireland*

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#### **4. OTHER EVENTS:**

**CIRIA training:** <http://www.ciria.org/prcd.htm?code=1516>

- Control of water pollution from construction  
19 February 2008, London; 15 April 2008, Manchester
- Environmental Good Practice on Site  
5 March 2008, London  
19 May 2008, Birmingham  
22 September 2008, London
- Working with wildlife  
18 March 2008, Birmingham  
16 June 2008, Bristol

#### **Environmental Protection UK events:**

- Environment and Health - Prevention Before Cure:  
21 February 2008, Bristol
- Health Impacts of Environmental Noise:  
20 February 2008, Glasgow
- Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act Seminar:  
27 February 2008, Bath

<http://www.environmental-protection.org.uk/events/>

**EcoBuild: Innovate & Green**

26-28 February 2008, London

'Europe's Most Important Annual Conference For Sustainability And Innovation In Design, Construction And The Built Environment.'

[www.innovateandgreen.co.uk](http://www.innovateandgreen.co.uk)

**Climate Change, Energy and the Way Ahead**

27 February 2008, London (evening)

Speaker: Professor Lord Nicholas Stern:

<http://www.lse.ac.uk/collections/LSEPublicLecturesAndEvents/events/2008/20071128t1116z001.htm>

**Appropriate Assessment under Regulation 48 of the Habitats Regulations**

IEMA Wales region event:

27 February 2008 (evening), Cardiff: <http://www.iema.net/events>

**Coastnet Conference - Strategic Environmental Assessment:**

28 February 2008, London

This conference aims to highlight experiences in the process of SEA throughout Europe, with emphasis on its application to marine and coastal areas. See

<http://www.coastnet.org.uk/?a=3,1&u=41>

**Institute of Acoustics – Windfarm Noise**

28 February 2008, Armagh: <http://www.ioa.org.uk/viewupcoming.asp>

**• Best Practice in Impact Assessment - strategic approaches to biodiversity in SEA and HIA:**

29 February 2008 at the Galway Radisson SAS Hotel, Galway, Ireland:

See above [IAIA events](#)

**IAP2 Certificate Programme in Public Participation:**

10 - 14 March and 31 March - 4 April, London

The International Association for Public Participation (IAP2)'s Certificate Course offers a clear and thoroughly tested approach to building personal and organisational skills in engaging people in a meaningful way. The course is delivered in three discrete modules over five days. It provides a clearly articulated and unique approach to involving the public in decisions that affect them and using public input to make better decisions. The three modules are:

- Planning for Effective Public Participation (two days)
- Effective Communication for Public Participation (one day)
- Techniques for Effective Public Participation (two days)

At the end of the three modules, participants will receive a Certificate from IAP2 that is increasingly recognised in countries as diverse as the US, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, Uruguay, and the UK.

For further details and registration forms for all three courses, please see:

<http://www.iap2.org/cde.cfm?event=193458>



**CIWEM events:**

- Critical Infrastructure and Flooding: Responding to Realities (CIWEM/ Environment Agency): 26 March 2008, London
- Water Framework Directive Update: 4 June 2008, London  
<http://www.ciwem.org/events/>

**IEEM Workshop: Evaluation and Impact Assessment in Ecology**

8 April 2008, Limerick: <http://www.ieem.co.uk/>

**IEMA Environmental Assessment Forum 2008:**

24 April 2008, Birmingham Botanical Gardens

Building on the Institute of Environmental Assessment and Management (IEMA)'s 2007 SEA Forum, IEMA have decided to expand the 2008 forum to enable Environmental Impact Assessment, SEA and related issues to be addressed. The Environmental Assessment (EA) Forum 2008 features distinguished speakers on EA and will incorporate a series of seminars designed to give delegates the opportunity to explore how effective Environmental Assessment is and how its effectiveness can be increased.

The Forum will also mark the start for the IEMA's involvement in the update of the [International Study into the effectiveness of Environmental Assessment](#) (see Branch news above), and as such the Forum will be followed up by a series of subsequent workshops.

Former IAIA President Ross Marshall, head of the Environment Agency's National Environmental Assessment Service, will chair the event, and IAIA member Carys Jones will give an international perspective on effectiveness. See <http://www.iema.net/conferences/intro/eaforum> for details and booking.

***N.B. IAIA members get a £55 discount off the non-IEMA attendance fee.***

**IEEM Conferences:**

- Spring Conference: Environmental Liability Directive: Helping Towards 2010? 16 April 2008, London
- Summer Conference: Ecological Economics: 3 June 2008, London
- Autumn Conference: Mitigation: 18-20 November 2008, Glasgow  
<http://www.ieem.co.uk/>

**RTPI Conferences** [www.rtpiconferences.co.uk](http://www.rtpiconferences.co.uk)

- Strategic environmental assessments – the Masterclass  
29 April 2008, London
- Renewable Energy – The Masterclass  
14 May 2008, London
- Sustainable communities  
16 May 2008, London
- Planning for the natural environment  
12 June 2008, London



**IAIA 2008**

'The Art and Science of Impact Assessment' in **Perth**, Western Australia, on **4 - 9 May 2008**. Visit [www.iaia.org](http://www.iaia.org) for complete conference information.

**SEA Directive: Implementation in Practice**

3-5 June 2008, London

A 3-day interactive workshop aimed at responsible authorities who are implementing the SEA Directive, consultees, regulators and academics. Optional additional training day on 'Developing Environmental Strategies in Practice' on 6 June. Contact Ulrika Wernmark, Centre for Professional Development, Imperial College London Consultants, on 0207 594 6886, [cpd@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:cpd@imperial.ac.uk), [www.imperial.ac.uk/cpd/sea](http://www.imperial.ac.uk/cpd/sea)

**IEMA Conference**

4-5 June 2008, Bournemouth

[www.iema.et](http://www.iema.et)

**Comprehensive Health Impact Assessment Training**

9 – 13 June 2008, Liverpool, and November 2008

IMPACT, the International Health Impact Assessment Consortium at University of Liverpool: 5-day training course at the Foresight Centre on the University of Liverpool campus. Contact [impact@liverpool.ac.uk](mailto:impact@liverpool.ac.uk) or see [www.ihia.org.uk](http://www.ihia.org.uk)

**Public Participation and Corporate Social Responsibility: from why to how**  
International Association for Public Participation (IAP2) (UK & Ireland)  
International Conference:

27-29 August 2008, University of Strathclyde, Glasgow

<http://www.strath.ac.uk/Departments/CADISPA/conference/index.html>

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***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.***

***Been Forwarded this newsletter? Why Not Join the IAIA:*** [www.iaia.org](http://www.iaia.org)

See Ireland-UK Branch webpage: [www.iaia.org/modx/index.php?id=354](http://www.iaia.org/modx/index.php?id=354)

([www.iaia.org](http://www.iaia.org) > 'Affiliates and Branches' > 'Ireland-UK Branch')

Adam Boyden

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

Email: [ie\\_uk@iaia.org](mailto:ie_uk@iaia.org)

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