

Developments in EIA of national highway schemes in the UK

IAIA

April 2004

Purpose of Presentation

- current EIA procedures for trunk roads in the UK
- future direction

Outline

- background and history
- Volume 11: how it works
- need for change
- issues
- examples

UK trunk road network

- 4 administrations:
 - England
 - Wales
 - Scotland
 - Northern Ireland

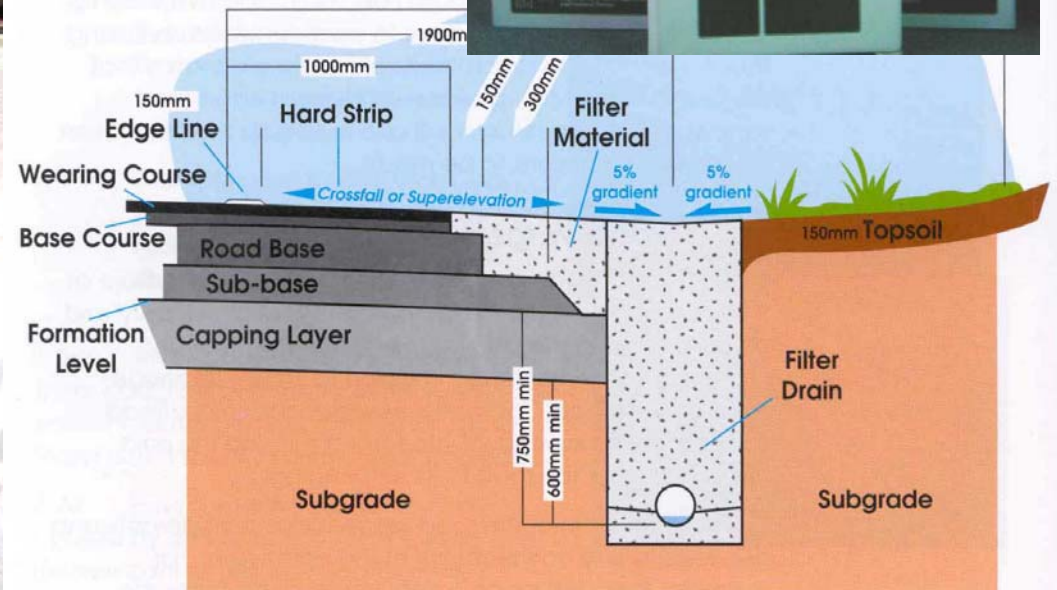
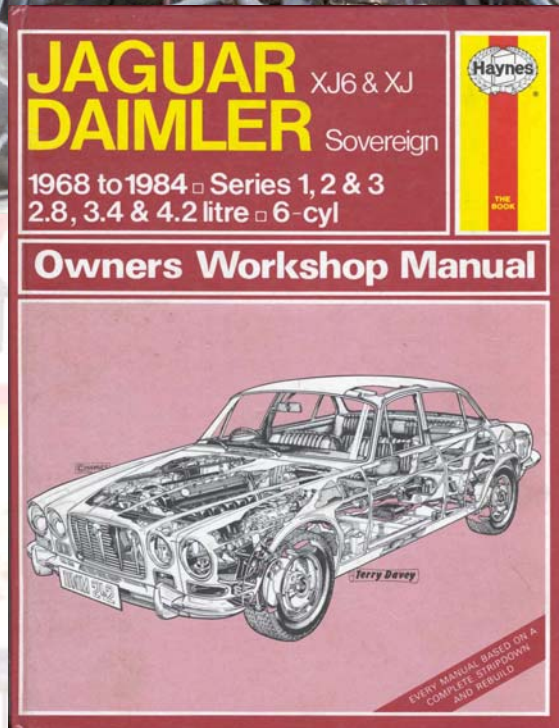


Legislation / Policy Context

- EU/international
- UK
- devolved administrations: Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland

Trunk road authorities

- Responsible for:
 - planning and design
 - construction
 - operation and maintenance



Design Manual for Roads and Bridges

EIA History

- Manual of Environmental Appraisal: 1983
- EIA Directive/regulations: 1985/88
- Volume 11: 1993
- EIA Directive/regulations: 1997/98 and 99

Stage 1

**corridors/
locations**

Stage 2

options

Stage 3

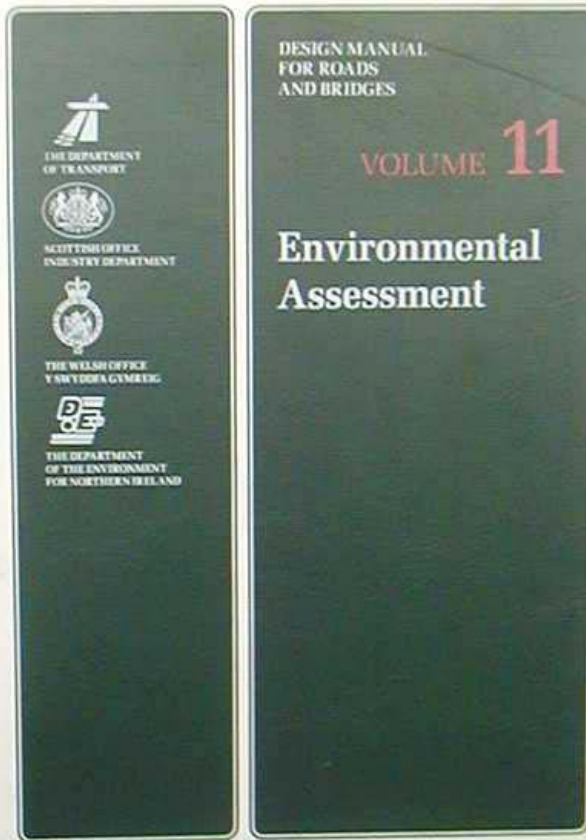
preferred option

**PLANNING
& DESIGN
PROCESS**

**Consents
Procedure**

Factors Considered

- engineering
- economic
- environmental
- statutory requirements



Environmental assessment should be considered as a continuous process used to inform all decisions in the development and design of a trunk road scheme.

Assessment and design must be considered as an iterative process.

Focus

- projects
- EIA integrated into design
- the “how” and the “why”
- culminates in consents procedures

“How To”

- general:
 - aims and objectives
 - reporting
 - significance
 - mitigation
- specific-guidance: 12 environmental topics

Topics

- air quality
- cultural heritage
- construction
- ecology/nature
- landscape
- land use
- noise and vibration
- community and non-vehicle travellers
- water
- geology and soils
- policies and plans

Topic-Specific Guidance

- what to do at each stage
- specific methods
- consultation bodies
- mitigation
- references/ links

Volume 11 Issues

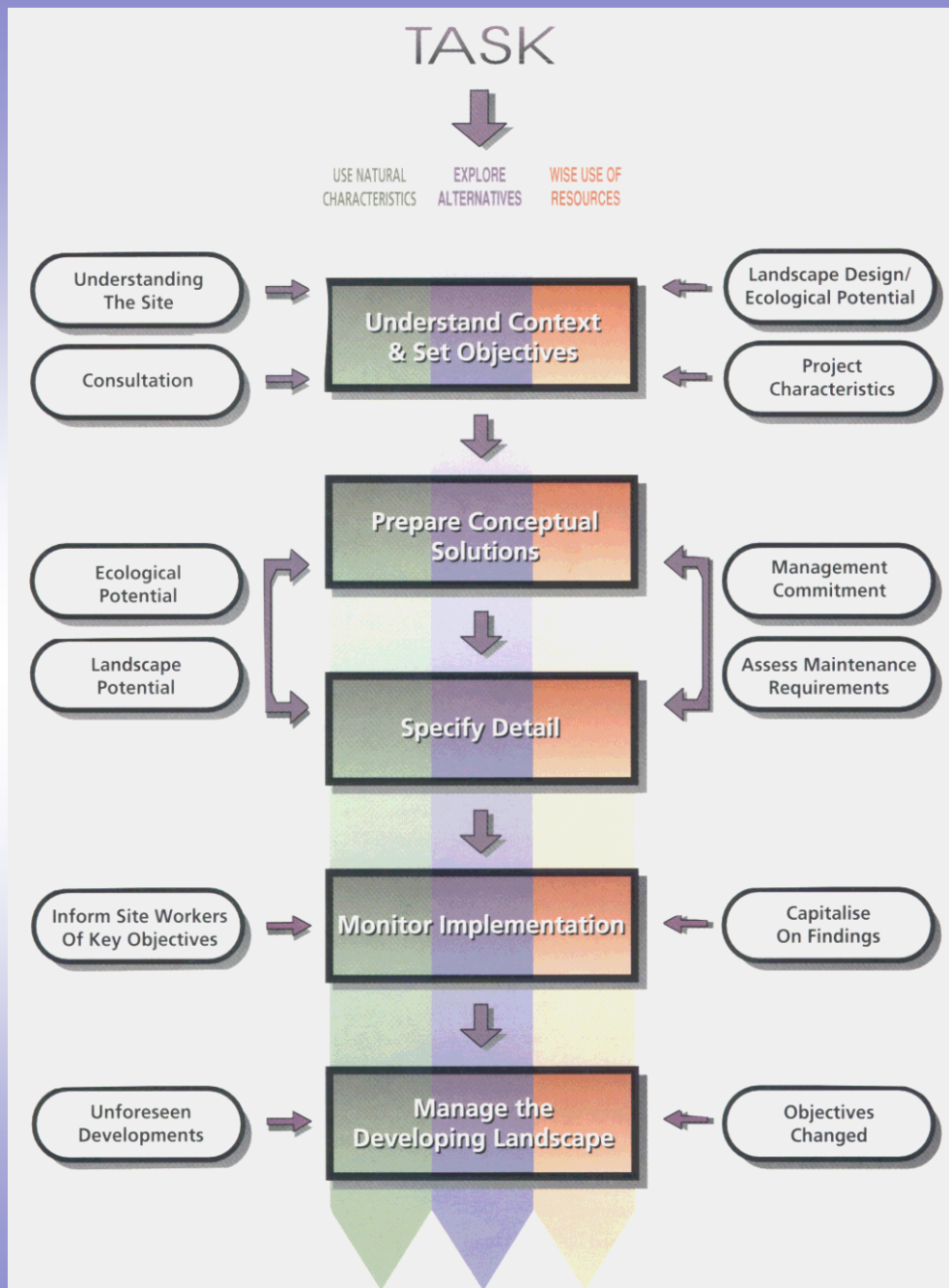
- need for flexibility
- screening
- scoping
- stakeholder involvement
- legislative/policy changes
- extent/scope of DMRB
- delivery/procurement mechanisms
- integration with other appraisal methods

Need for Flexibility

- more and different projects
- use of scoping
- devolution/ legislative environment
- integration with other appraisal guidance
- scope/extent: SEA; implementation

Scottish Executive

Cost-Effective Landscape: Learning from Nature



National Assembly for Wales

- Government of Wales Act 1998:
 - statutory duty to promote sustainable development in the exercise of its functions
- sustainable development appraisal:
 - environmental information: DMRB, STAG, WebTAG

Upper Forth Crossing at Kincardine



Way Forward

- retain Volume 11's national status
- update to incorporate:
 - new legislative requirements
 - current good practice
 - experience to date
- develop flexible approach