

Proportionate EIA: An introduction to applying pragmatism to EIA Screening and Scoping Process

Lucy Wood and Joanna Meakin

21st May 2019



Agenda

- Introductions
- EIA Process Refresher
 - What is Environmental Impact Assessment?
 - Screening
 - Scoping
- The Screening process
- Group activity 1
- The Scoping Process
- Proportionate EIA
- Group activity 2
- Q&A

Introduction



LUCY WOOD
DIRECTOR



JOANNA MEAKIN
ENVIRONMENTAL
PLANNER



- Infrastructure & Environmental Planning Team
- Independent Planning & Design Consultancy
- 13 UK offices
- Managing environmental risk through planning
- Strategic (plan-making or masterplanning) and project level
- Environmental, health, socio-economic, sustainability
- IEMA EIA Quality Mark

What is Environmental Impact Assessment?

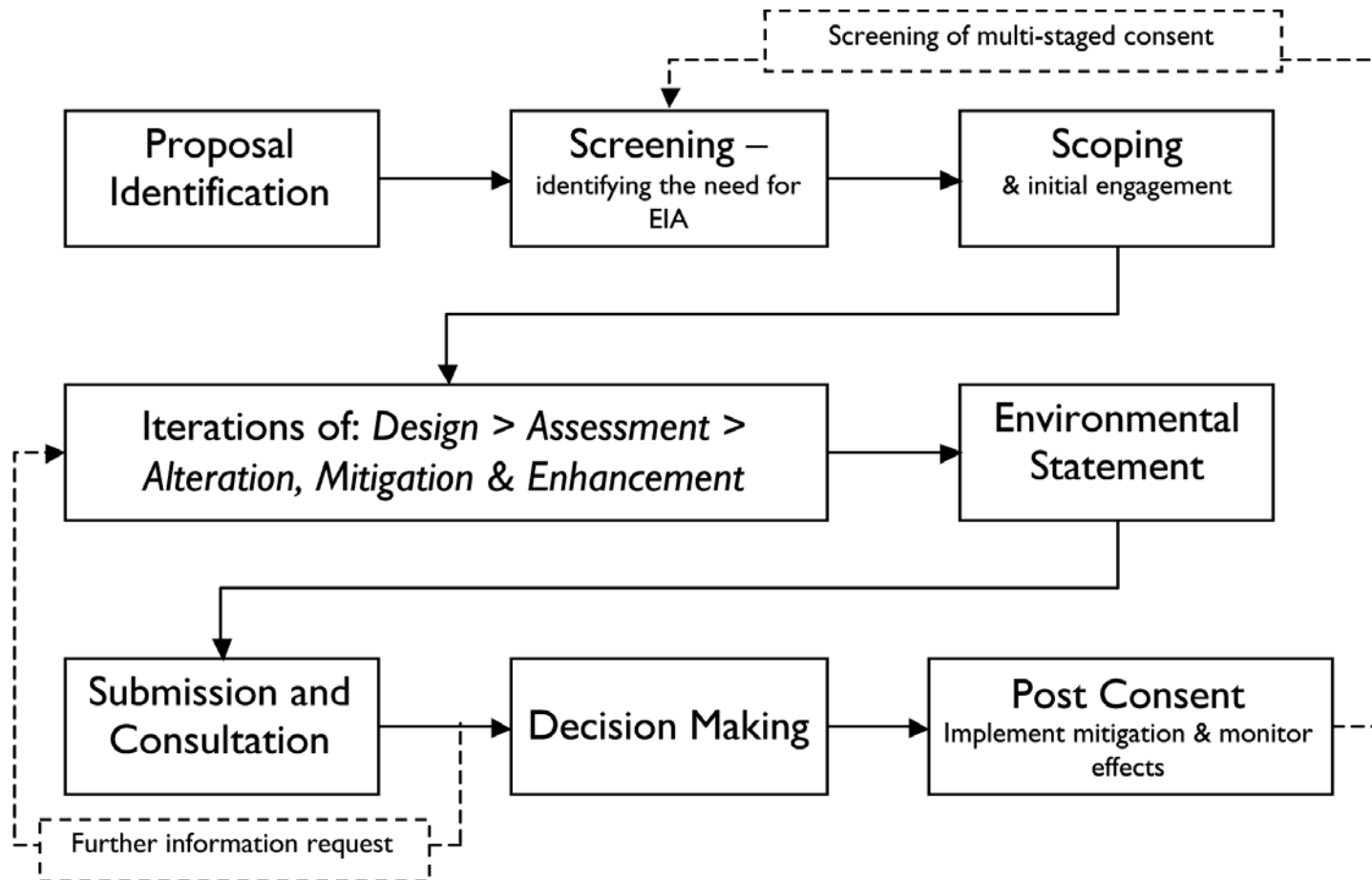
“In a nut shell EIA is just an information gathering exercise carried out by the developer and other bodies which enables a Local Planning Authority to understand the environmental affects of a development before deciding whether or not it should go ahead.”

[EIA: A Campaigner’s Guide, Friends of the Earth]

“The aim of Environmental Impact Assessment is to protect the environment by ensuring that a local planning authority when deciding whether to grant planning permission for a project, which is likely to have significant effects on the environment, does so in the full knowledge of the likely significant effects, and takes this into account in the decision making process.”

[PPG Paragraph: 002 Reference ID: 4-002-20140306 Revision date: 06 03 2014]

The EIA Process



EIA Screening (See Part 2 EIA Regs)

EIA Regulations divide projects into two groups for screening, to be considered 'EIA Development' a scheme must fall into one of these:

- Schedule One Projects:
 - EIA Mandatory in each case
- Schedule Two projects:
 - EIA required where there are likely to be significant environmental effects.
 - To establish this we consider the criteria set out in Schedule 3:
 - Characteristics of the development;
 - Location of the development; and
 - Characteristics of potential impact.

EIA Screening Continued

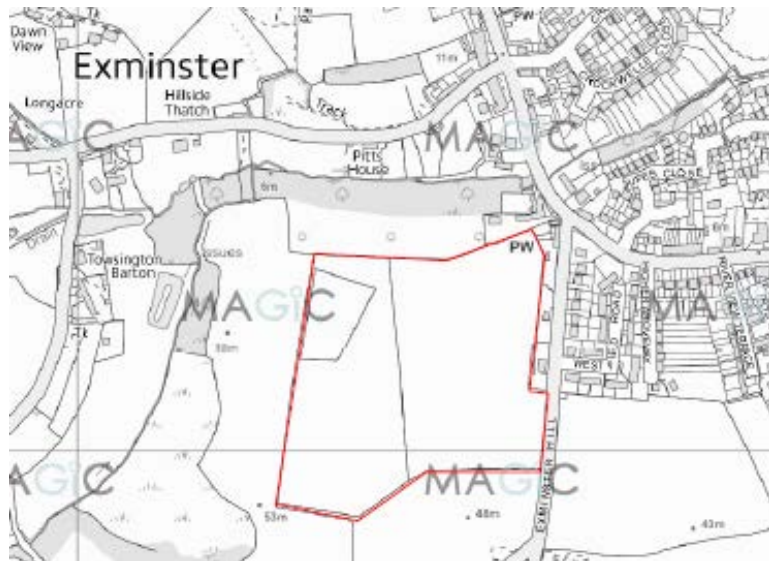
- Potential cumulative effects

*“The local planning authorities should always have regard to the possible cumulative effects arising from any **existing** or **approved** development.”*

Paragraph: 024 Reference ID: 4-024-20170728

- Evidence-based Screening Report with request for Screening Opinion
- Determining authority has 3 weeks to respond
- Screening Direction from Secretary of State

Group Activity 1 – Land to the South of Exminster and Construction of Roads Screening



EIA Scoping (See Part 4 EIA Regs)

Submission of the proposed approach to the EIA, including:

- Which disciplines are to be included; and
- How each discipline will be approached.

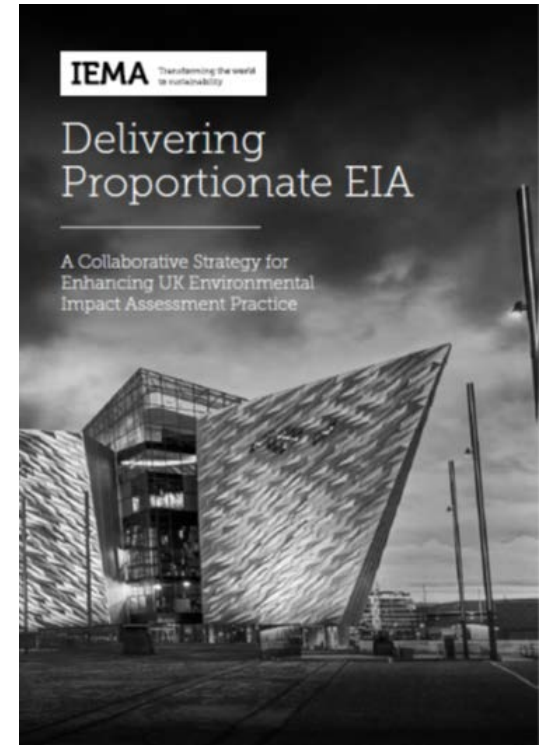
Not a mandatory process – you do not have to request an opinion.

Once a request has been made, the ES must be “based on” the EIA Scoping Opinion

We request an EIA Scoping Opinion through the submission of EIA Scoping report to LPA – they have 5 weeks to respond

Proportionate EIA

- ‘Proportionate EIA’ becoming synonymous with good practice
- Not a ‘kitchen sink approach’
- Improving Scoping – front loaded and evidence-based yet flexible
- Embracing Innovation & Digital - Modernising EIA to deliver effective and efficient assessment and reporting that adds value to projects and their interaction with the environment.



Group Activity 2 - Scoping

- Site constraints
- Sensitivity of surrounding area / key receptors
- Previous versus proposed land use
- Likely effects – construction and operation
- Stakeholders/consultees
- Mitigation?
- Disciplines to scope in and out
- Cumulative effects

Any Questions?