



Securing Environmental Enhancement through EIA

Workshop at Scotland's Community
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Jim Mackay

Securing Environmental Enhancement through EIA

- Not restricted to EIA projects but easier; we shall explore several practical scenarios in workshop
- Put “requirement” or “beyond regulation” to one side – we’ll come back to that
- Historically EIA has focused on negative impacts
- Even where not legally required, good for developer because:
 - environmental credentials
 - demonstrates good faith to community
 - better value product, economic benefits



One Planet Prosperity

Securing Environmental Enhancement through EIA - best opportunities?

- | | |
|---|---------|
| • Screening / pre-application engagement (suggestions from developers themselves more likely to be secured) | • +++++ |
| • Scoping | • ++++ |
| • Draft EIA | • + |
| • Planning application accompanied by EIA | • + |
| • Further information requests/EIA addenda | • + |
| • Planning conditions | • ++ |
| • Discharge | • + |
| • Construction, enforcement | • ++ |



Hypothetical windfarm proposal

Typical of hundreds installed, and still being installed

Environmental Enhancement Opportunities:

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****CASE STUDY 1: Insert here typical submitted plan of windfarm, showing long access over non-designated land - access opportunities, health link; much peatland being crossed (opportunities for peatland management for C sequestration); watercourses being crossed (opportunities for enhancement e.g. removal of undesirable fish passage obstacles); removal of inappropriate forestry on bogs etc. 10 minutes to consider****

More than 25 km of constructed access track
More than 10 turbines
Moorland (peat) and forestry
Watercourse crossings
No designated sites

****Insert pictures here exemplifying environmental opportunities on windfarms, including peatland drain blocking techniques, habitat restoration, cyclists/walkers on access tracks, removal of trees from bogs, interpretation facilities****

The accompanying peat management plan does not identify any opportunities for peatland enhancement. It focuses on minimising the adverse impacts on peat, but goes no further. And the carbon assessment which specifically has carbon sequestration improvement:

****Insert here typical extract of a carbon assessment which fails to identify any carbon sequestration improvement opportunities despite clearly many significant opportunities to do so – must do better!****

****CASE STUDY 2: Insert here a simplified diagram of real large vegetable processing plant, showing outline of planning application site, adjacent permissions including the efw plant, the boundary of the locally important nature site, watercourse adjacent to site and culverted watercourse crossing site. 10 minutes to consider.****

Hypothetical Vegetable Processing Plant

Clues:

- Adjacent site has consent for energy from waste plant, with much heat output
- Right hand side is a SINC (blanket bog, marshy grassland, mixed semi-natural woodland)
- Some gas emissions, including from old coal-mining shafts
- Housing scheme identified next door

EIA Environmental Enhancement Opportunities

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****Insert pictures here exemplifying environmental opportunities on industrial site, including potential joint projects combining district heating opportunities with the efw plant, housing, food processing hot water requirements, deculverting of watercourse and introduction of natural features, scope to de-canalise the adjacent watercourse?, managed access if appropriate for SINC and management (cf Kraft Meadows), utilisation of coalbed methane to reduce risk and use methane instead of venting, waste and water management in food processing and circular economy ****

**Hypothetical
hard rock quarry**

- Close to a city
- Currently farmland
- Culverted
watercourse on site
- Straightened
watercourse outside
boundary

**EIA Environmental
Enhancement
Opportunities**

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******CASE STUDY 3: Insert here the layout
plan of a hard rock quarry giving few clues
to opportunities now that the team is firing
on all cylinders. 10 minutes to consider.******

****Insert pictures here exemplifying environmental opportunities on a quarry site. Most restorations will nowadays include wetland/pond/nature conservation features, but why not go further and include long term management, interpretation, observation hides, paths, access to be maintained to particular rock feature exposures of educational or scientific value, opportunities for water recreation, opportunities for rock climbing on appropriate retained faces. Capture additional ideas generated by group.****

Peatland management and/or restoration

Wetland management and/or restoration

Wetland creation

Wet woodland planting

Identify natural features which would benefit from improvement and added habitat enhancement

Linking green/blue infrastructure, including core paths

Adequate buffer strips between development and the water environment

Improved engineering design (bridges with set-back abutments > single span bridge > bottomless culvert > oversized closed culvert)

Replacing frequently used fords with watercourse crossings

Removal of redundant structures in the water environment

Deculverting, improved/management of riparian planting Erosion control

Removal of in-stream rubbish, and (only where relevant to flood risk reduction) removal of woody debris or fallen trees

Riparian protection Re-meandering of watercourses

Meandering and naturalising existing drains on site

Non-native species removal

Securing Environmental Enhancement through EIA

- 1. Can this fit with more efficient EIA processes?
- 2. Mitigation measures are taken to mean “any features of the development and any measures envisaged in order to **avoid**, **prevent** or **reduce** and, if possible, **offset** likely significant **adverse** effects on the environment...”
- (England – biodiversity “Net gain”)
- So: “requirement” or “beyond regulation”? Discuss...

