



RESPONSIBLE
SUSTAINABLE
KNOWLEDGEABLE

Aberdeenshire
COUNCIL

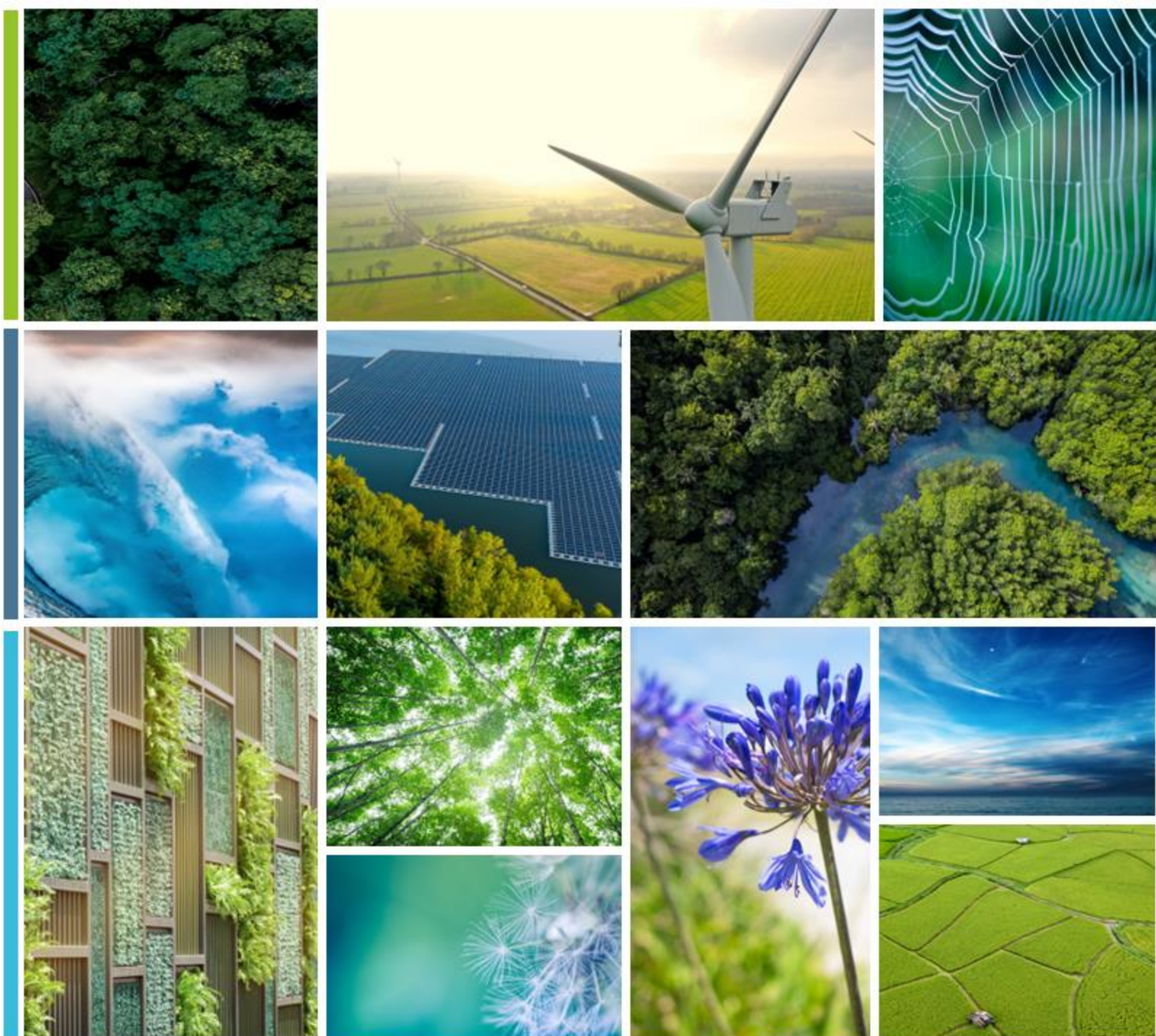


Morrison 
Construction

Making EIA
mitigation effective
for everyone

7th October 2026

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Introduction

Covered in this presentation

1. Introduction to facilitators
2. Environmental mitigation from the point of view of:
 - The EIA practitioner
 - The Planning Authority
 - The Principal Contractor
3. Discussion page

Format and timing

Each workshop for 35 minutes:

- 10 minutes of introduction
- 20 minutes of discussion
- 5 minutes of summary/wash-up

Session timings and locations:

11.25 – 12.00 Breakout Room 3.6

12.05 – 12.40 Main Hall

13.40 – 14.15 Breakout Room 2.2

Introduction to facilitators

Joe Somerville
Director
RSK Environment



Elizabeth Tully
Senior Planner
Aberdeenshire Council



Evan Cale
Environmental Manager
Morrison Construction



David Hoare
Technical Director
RSK Environment



Galina Fomina
Planner
Aberdeenshire Council



Andy Maclean
Environmental Manager
RSK Environment



Conaill Carolan
Environmental Manager
RSK Environment



The EIA practitioner's view of environmental mitigation

Legislative and regulatory context

- Assumes legal compliance as a basic given
- Focus within the Regulations on likely significant effects – not all possible environmental impacts and/or the mitigation required to address them

The EIA practitioner's motivations

Motivations:

- Maintain good relationships with client (Applicant) and consultees.
- Focus on reducing to a reasonable level the number and extent of adverse significant effects reported in the EIA Report/Environmental Statement
- Potentially ignorant of how environmental mitigation might be delivered on the ground
- Priority to deliver a competent EIA Report and application that is unlikely to be subject to legal challenge and/or is “inquiry-proof”.
- Managing a very high workload with up to 15 different specialists providing inputs and mitigation proposals
- Motivated to allow the Applicant to maintain flexibility in how mitigation is delivered later in the process

The Planning Authority's view of environmental mitigation

What we need from an EIAR

- Tell us what the significant effects are
- Clearly identify the mitigation required
- Explain how that mitigation will be secured and implemented

Why this matters

- To be able to draft a competent planning condition to secure the mitigation.
 - Six tests:
 1. Necessary
 2. Relevant to Planning
 3. Relevant to Development
 4. Enforceable
 5. Precise
 6. Reasonable in all other respects
- Allow contractors to understand responsibilities and carry out work accordingly

The Principal Contractor's View of Environmental Mitigation

Key Focus Areas

- Pollution prevention (fuel, concrete, CoSHH).
- Surface water and groundwater protection.
- Erosion and sediment control.
- Dust and air quality management.
- Noise and vibration control.
- Waste management, minimisation and resource efficiency.
- Protection of ecological features, habitats, and species.
- Biosecurity and control of invasive non-native species (INNS).
- Community and stakeholder engagement.
- Protection of sites of archaeological and cultural significance.



The Principal Contractor's View of Environmental Mitigation

Why do we do it?

- Meet legal and regulatory requirements
- Protect the environment
- Maintain construction progress by identifying and controlling environmental risks early.
- Satisfy client and stakeholder expectations.
- Reduce project costs associated with delays, incidents, remediation, waste disposal etc.
- Protect company reputation and demonstrate responsible environmental management.
- Ethically it is the right thing to do.



Discussion

Scenarios for you to discuss in small groups

Questions:

- 1) From an EIA Practitioner's point of view, is the mitigation commitment well-written?
- 2) From a Planning Authority's point of view, can a condition be written that passes the six tests?
- 3) From a Principal Contractor's point of view, what information is needed for the commitment to form part of the Contract and delivered?



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