

6 Consultation and Scoping

6.1 Introduction

6.1.1 This chapter explains the following closely linked elements of the EIA process:

- *Consultation* with statutory consultees, other relevant bodies/organisations, and members of the public; and
- *Scoping* to determine the appropriate assessment approach and technical content of the ES.

6.1.2 Further information on Transport Scotland's public engagement and consultation activities for the A9 can be found in A9 Dualling: Engaging with Communities (June 2013), which is provided as Appendix A6.1 of this ES.

Consultation

6.1.3 Consultation has provided an iterative and on-going input to the progression of the proposed scheme throughout the EIA and design process. This chapter summarises consultation undertaken and provides a summary of the key issues raised and how these have been taken into account. Appendix A6.2 (List of Consultees) provides a list of consultees and Appendix A6.3 (Summary of Consultation Responses) provides a summary of consultation responses.

6.1.4 The chapter describes the consultation activities undertaken as part of the EIA, which commenced in November 2012, and includes both the initial review of the DMRB Stage 2 findings and production of the Stage 2 Addendum Report (Jacobs, 2013), and the DMRB Stage 3 assessment of the proposed scheme as reported within this ES.

6.1.5 As explained in Chapter 2 (Need for the Scheme), an SEA has been undertaken to enable programme-level consideration of the potential effects of the full A9 dualling from Perth to Inverness (Halcrow, 2013). The SEA has involved extensive consultation, the outputs from which have been reviewed and taken into account in both the design and environmental assessment of the proposed scheme, as referred to where relevant in this ES.

6.1.6 The main aims of consultation during the EIA process were to:

- ensure that statutory consultees, other bodies with a particular interest in the environment, and members of the public were informed of the proposals and provided with an opportunity to comment;
- collate baseline information regarding existing environmental site conditions;
- obtain input to the identification of potential impacts and the development of appropriate mitigation;
- inform the scope of the environmental assessment and ES reporting; and
- seek consultee input to the design.

Scoping

6.1.7 As explained in Chapter 5 (Overview of Assessment Process), the scope of EIA for the proposed scheme was defined taking into account DMRB assessment guidance. However, the scope was also informed by the consultation process described in this chapter; through meetings with consultees, review of information received and issues raised, and by a range of technical discussions on detailed methodologies.

6.1.8 A screening and scoping report was completed and submitted to Transport Scotland and statutory consultees in March 2013 (Jacobs, 2013) this set out the scope of the EIA and proposed structure of the ES. A Record of Determination (RoD) confirmed the need for EIA and the scope of the

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assessment in line with the Screening and Scoping Report (Transport Scotland, 2013). A copy of the RoD is provided in Appendix A6.4.

6.1.9 The specific aims of EIA scoping were to:

- identify key environmental issues to be considered as part of the EIA; and
- agree appropriate detailed methodologies for technical assessments with statutory consultees, such as SNH and SEPA.

6.2 Approach and Methods

6.2.1 The approach to consultation and scoping for the proposed scheme is described below.

Identification of Consultees

6.2.2 The process undertaken to identify relevant consultees for the proposed scheme aimed to ensure that all relevant consultees were engaged. This involved the following stages:

- Review of consultees involved on other major and recent highways projects and previous studies undertaken for the proposed scheme. The list of consultees involved in STPR was also reviewed and used to identify consultees for the proposed scheme.
- Input from the project team environmental specialists. The project team reviewed and updated the initial list of consultees with organisations and local environmental groups of importance to their area of expertise (e.g. Tayside Geodiversity, Tayside Bat Group).
- Consideration of scale, size and potential impact of the proposed scheme. In addition to those directly affected by the proposed scheme (e.g. landowners), communities outwith the direct area of influence were considered for the potential for the proposed scheme to affect them.

6.2.3 A large number of consultees were identified through this process, as listed in Appendix A6.2 (List of Consultees). Of these, 25 consultee organisations were of particular relevance to the Stage 3 EIA assessment reported in this ES. The organisations consulted and the information they provided relevant to the EIA are listed in Appendix A6.3 (Summary of Consultation).

6.2.4 Landowner consultation has been undertaken throughout the assessment process and has informed the proposed scheme design and has been utilised in the land use assessment in Chapter 7 (Community and Private Assets).

Key Stages of EIA Consultation

6.2.5 The EIA consultation carried out is described below.

DMRB Stage 2 Addendum Consultation (December 2012 to February 2013)

6.2.6 As explained in Chapter 3 (Alternatives Considered), the consultation outputs from the Stage 2 consultation informed refinement of the Stage 2 design by Jacobs from September 2012 onwards. This included consultation feedback on the two Stage 2 design options that had been presented by Transport Scotland in January 2012 during public exhibitions.

6.2.7 The Stage 2 Addendum consultation was also informed by further consultation with key consultees including SNH, SEPA, Historic Scotland and Perth & Kinross Council and with potentially affected landowners where possible. This included consultation on the refined Stage 2 design ('Option 3B Addendum') in February 2013 to confirm in-principle acceptance of the changes, prior to finalisation of the design and completion of the Stage 2 Addendum Report (Jacobs, 2013).

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DMRB Stage 3 Consultation (March to October 2013)

- 6.2.8 In March 2013, to assist the EIA for the proposed scheme, the consultees (listed in Table 6.2 of Section 6.4: Key Issues Raised by Consultees) were invited to provide any information that may be relevant to the environmental assessment for this section of the A9. The feedback received is recorded in Appendix A6.3 (Summary of Consultation) and in the relevant chapters of this ES.

Public Exhibitions (June 2013)

- 6.2.9 Public exhibitions were held in June 2013, to present an update on the proposed scheme and seek comment from the general public. The exhibitions were hosted by Transport Scotland with support from members of the project team, including the environmental team, and representatives for the other A9 schemes being progressed. Exhibition visitors had the opportunity to fill in a comments sheet, and this feedback was provided to the project team. A deadline was set for this feedback, and responses invited via email or letter. Verbal comments were also captured by the teams.
- 6.2.10 All exhibitions provided an update with regard to the full A9 dualling from Perth to Inverness including the SEA (see above), and more detailed information on certain sections including the Luncarty to Pass of Birnam project. The following public exhibitions were held between 11.30am and 7.30pm:
- Monday 03 June 2013: Aviemore Community Centre, PH22 1SF.
 - Wednesday 05 June 2013: Kincaig Community Hall, PH21 1NB.
 - Thursday 06 June 2013: Birnam Arts and Conference Centre, PH8 0DS.
 - Friday 07 June 2013: Talla nan Ròs - Kingussie, PH21 1HW.
 - Monday 10 June 2013: Inverness Town House, IV1 1JJ.
 - Wednesday 12 June 2013: Bankfoot Church Centre, PH1 4BS.
 - Thursday 13 June 2013: Pitlochry Town Hall, PH16 5EA.
 - Friday 14 June 2013: Dewars Centre, Perth, PH2 0TH.

- 6.2.11 Comments relating to the proposed scheme were categorised under the following headings: Non-Motorised User Provision, Environmental Impacts and Mitigation and Scheme Design.

Additional Consultation (December 2013 to February 2014)

- 6.2.12 SEPA, SNH and Historic Scotland were given the opportunity to provide detailed comments on the draft ES. Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust, also provided comment on behalf of Perth & Kinross Council on the cultural heritage assessment. These comments have been addressed, informed by discussions with the consultees during finalisation of this ES.

On-going Stakeholder Engagement

- 6.2.13 In addition to consultee meetings as explained above, there was on-going communication between consultees and the project team throughout the EIA process between October 2012 and March 2014, via email, telephone and letter. Consultees were able to provide up-to-date baseline information, and advice was sought on scope of work, progressing design and assessment.
- 6.2.14 The public exhibitions were supplemented with ongoing consultation with community councils along this section of the A9. Community councils located along this section of A9 or in close proximity include Luncarty, Redgorton & Moneydie, Stanley, Auchtergaven, and Spittalfield & District. The community councils were met as a group and also individually as necessary to obtain community input on the proposed scheme. This also enabled the project team to provide a progress update and notify the community council representatives of approximate milestone dates.

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- 6.2.15 Discussions with potentially affected landowners were also undertaken throughout the DMRB Stage 3 design process, and where possible requirements were incorporated into the design. This included consideration of aspects such as road alignment and land-take, and revised access arrangements to land and properties.

6.3 Consultation Summary

Consultee Communication

- 6.3.1 Table 6.1 presents a summary of the consultation meetings held as part of the EIA process from 2012 to 2014. This is intended to record the key meetings only, and not the on-going consultation as described above which included meetings in January and February 2014 to discuss consultee comments on the draft ES. As previously noted, consultation is an iterative and on-going feature of the project, so will also continue beyond that reported within this ES.

Table 6.1: Summary of EIA Consultation Meetings

Consultee	Topic/Purpose	Date
Statutory/Mandatory Consultees		
Historic Scotland	Discuss and agree scope and approach for the Stage 3 assessment.	27 February 2013
Perth & Kinross Council	To present and discuss A9 L-B scheme, including programme.	10 December 2012
	Highways design, including drainage, access/accommodation works, flooding, NMU, road maintenance, environment, structures and geotechnical.	28 March 2013
	Stakeholder consultation meeting, to review developing design.	09 July 2013
	Stakeholder consultation meeting, to review Stage 3 design.	21 November 2013
SNH	A9 PES and Luncarty schemes.	18 January 2013
	To discuss Luncarty to Pass of Birnam Appropriate Assessment.	25 September 2013
SEPA	Consultation meeting including drainage design review.	21 February 2013
	To discuss drainage design, CAR and EIA.	15 May 2013
	To review Luncarty drainage and CAR.	10 July 2013
	Teleconference to discuss flood risk, water quality, crossings and CAR.	09 December 2013
	A9 Luncarty design and EIA principles review meeting.	19 December 2013
Non-Statutory Consultees		
Sustrans	A9 Dualling including Luncarty to Birnam, to discuss interaction with NCN and other cycle facility impacts.	02 October 2013
Community Councils	Consultation with community council representatives.	28 November 2012
	Progress update and notification of approximate milestone dates.	23 July 2013
		22 January 2013 28 January 2013
British Horse Society (BHS)	To discuss provision for equestrians within the proposed scheme.	29 October 2013

- 6.3.2 In addition to the individual meetings listed above there have been a number of consultation meetings covering the overall A9 programme.

6.4 Key Issues Raised by Consultees

- 6.4.1 Table 6.2 provides a matrix of the input from consultees during the March 2013 Stage 3 EIA consultation, in the context of each environmental parameter reported in this ES. Table 6.2 also includes a list of consultees from whom no response was received or no comments raised.

Further details of the key input provided by consultees in relation to environmental issues is provided in Appendix A6.3 (Summary of Consultation Responses). This also includes a response to key queries/comments and, where appropriate, explains how these were taken into account as part of the EIA process with cross-referencing to the relevant chapters of the ES.

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Table 6.2: Scoping Matrix of Key Consultee Responses to EIA Scoping Consultation (March 2013)

Consultee	Environmental Parameter												
	General	Community & Private Assets	Geology, Contaminated Land & Groundwater	Water Environment	Ecology & Nature Conservation	Landscape & Visual	Cultural Heritage	Air Quality	Noise & Vibration	Effects on All Travellers	Community Effects	Materials	Policies & Plans
Statutory Consultees													
Historic Scotland							X						
Perth & Kinross Council			X	X									
Perth & Kinross Heritage Trust (on behalf of Perth & Kinross Council)							X						
Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA)	X		X	X				X				X	
Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH)					X	X				X			
Tay District Salmon Fisheries Board (TDSFD)				X	X								
Transport Scotland - Standards Branch & Structures	X												
Non-Statutory Consultees													
Bat Conservation Trust					X								
British Geological Survey			X										
British Horse Society										X			
ByCycle										X			
Cycle Touring Club (Scotland) (CTC)										X			
Deer Commission Scotland (SNH)					X					X			
Forestry Commission Scotland (Perth and Argyll)					X								
Ramblers Association										X			
SUSTRANS										X			
Tayside Bat Group (formerly Perth Bat Group)					X								
Tayside Biodiversity Partnership					X								
Tayside Geodiversity			X										

No Comments or Issues Raised	No Response		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visit Scotland • Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB); though data provided. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First Group • National Trust 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Network Rail • Perth Museum Biological Records Centre 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scottish Mink Initiative • Scottish Wildcat Association

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6.5 References

Atkins (2009). A9 Dualling: Luncarty to Pass of Birnam Strategic Planning Study - Stage 2 Environmental Assessment Report.

Halcrow (2013). A9 Dualling Programme: Strategic Environmental Assessment – Environmental Report (June 2013).

Jacobs (2013). A9 Dualling: Luncarty to Pass of Birnam Strategic Planning Study - Stage 2 Addendum Report, March 2013.

Jacobs (2013). A9 Dualling: Luncarty to Pass of Birnam Environmental Screening & Scoping Report.

Transport Scotland (2012). Community Engagement A9 Dualling Project.
<http://www.transportscotland.gov.uk/road/projects/a9/the-project/Community-engagement>

Transport Scotland (2013). EC Directive 97/11 Environmental Impact Assessment (Scotland) Regulations 2011 Record of Determination. MTRIPS Transport Scotland, 18 November 2013.