

# Environmental Information Consultation Document (EICD)

## Chapter 3

## 3. The approach to environmental assessment

### 3.1 Introduction

- 3.1.1 As indicated in **Chapter 1: Setting the scene for consultation – environmental information**, the purpose of this Environmental Information Consultation Document (EICD) is to provide information to allow communities to understand the environmental effects of the Project over the course of its construction and operation. This information is presented to enable meaningful and constructive consultation, and for members of the public to provide an informed response as part of the 2026 Public Consultation.
- 3.1.2 This chapter of the EICD explains the overarching environmental assessment approach undertaken by each of the specialist environmental assessment teams to allow reporting of the environmental effects as presented in **Chapters 5 to 18**. To do so, this chapter introduces key concepts of the assessment approach and provides a guide for interpreting the information presented.
- 3.1.3 Responses to the 2019 Airport Expansion Consultation (AEC) included feedback on impact assessment methodologies that will be used to inform the assessments that will be set out in the Environmental Statement (ES), supporting the Development Consent Order (DCO) application. Such feedback is not relevant to the assessment approach taken to inform this EICD, which has been developed to inform an assessment that is robust yet accessible to the public.

### 3.2 Environmental aspects

- 3.2.1 **Chapters 5 to 18** of this Environmental Information Consultation Document (EICD) present the assessment of effects for environmental aspects. Use of the term ‘aspect’ aligns with the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations.
- 3.2.2 The EIA Regulations define the range of environmental aspects that must be considered, where applicable, through the EIA process. The aspects in this EICD broadly reflect those identified through EIA scoping and set out in the scoping opinions published by the Planning Inspectorate (PINS) in 2018 and 2025 [2]<sup>1</sup> as having the potential for likely significant effects as a result of the Project.
- 3.2.3 Each environmental aspect (as presented in **Chapters 5 to 18**) has a bespoke assessment methodology based on relevant legislation, policy and guidance. This is summarised within each of the environmental aspect chapters. However, there are concepts which are relevant to all environmental aspects in this EICD such as the ‘baseline’, ‘study area’, ‘environmental measures’ and ‘significance of effects’. These are explained further below.

---

<sup>1</sup> As indicated in **Chapter 1** the EIA process is a mandatory requirement of the DCO process and is being undertaken concurrently with 2026 Public Consultation as part of the DCO pre-application process.

- 3.2.4 For the purposes of the 2026 Public Consultation, consideration of Traffic Network Users (TNU), an environmental aspect that will be included in the Environmental Statement (ES), is presented within the **Transport Information Consultation Document (TICD)**. The **TICD** presents the emerging surface access strategies and an assessment of the potential implications for transport network users of the Project.
- 3.2.5 Our approach to Project design ensures that resilience to major accidents and disasters have been incorporated from the outset through stringent health, safety, security and environment requirements.
- 3.2.6 Further details of the proposed approach to TNU and major accidents and disasters is set out in **Chapter 19: Next steps and preparation of the Environmental Statement (ES)**.

## 3.3 Establishing a baseline

- 3.3.1 To demonstrate how a project may influence (have an effect on) an environmental aspect, a comparison is made against the environmental conditions in circumstances where there is no project. This is described as the 'baseline'. Baseline information provides the reference point against which environmental changes resulting from the Project are assessed and any likely significant effects identified.
- 3.3.2 Each of the specialist environmental aspect assessment teams has established a baseline within a defined study area. These study areas have been determined based on the geographic extent of potential likely significant effects related to each aspect, and the sensitivity of receptors to any change in baseline conditions.
- 3.3.3 Receptors are the environmental features, resources or users that have the potential to be affected by the Project such as people, buildings, schools or environmental features e.g. a watercourse. Understanding the baseline helps to identify and define the receptors that are present within the study area, where they are located, and their condition, value and vulnerability to changes in existing environmental conditions.
- 3.3.4 Baseline environmental information has been collected using a combination of desk-based reviews of publicly available information, baseline field surveys, and insights obtained through consultation and engagement. Where relevant to the assessment, details of the applicability of baseline information is presented, for instance the date it was collected.
- 3.3.5 Relevant baseline information is incorporated into the assessments to characterise and explain the environmental effects of each aspect. For aspects where baseline data collection is ongoing, this is explained in the aspect chapters, along with any assumptions or limitations relevant to the assessment.
- 3.3.6 It is also necessary to define a future baseline. The future baseline represents the anticipated changes in environmental conditions that will occur in the absence of the Project. For example, with advances in automobile technologies and government policies, annual improvements to air quality conditions have been recorded to date in many areas including at Heathrow, and these are projected to continue into the

future. Considering future environmental baseline scenarios therefore ensures that the reference point for the assessment reflects evolving conditions.

## 3.4 Environmental measures

- 3.4.1 We have undertaken a process of evaluation to inform the design evolution. This has incorporated environmental considerations from the outset, and in doing so has sought to ‘design out’ potentially adverse environmental effects, whether that be through the physical design of the infrastructure or management and control measures that would be implemented during the construction and operation of the Project. This evaluation, accounting for feedback from the Airport Expansion Consultation (AEC) and technical engagement, has informed the Project that is being presented for this 2026 Public Consultation.
- 3.4.2 The ongoing iterative assessment and design process has identified environmental measures that are being presented as part of this 2026 Public Consultation. As indicated within **Chapter 1**, these are set out in the environmental measures documents, **Chapter 2** and throughout this Environmental Information Consultation Document (EICD).
- 3.4.3 Environmental measures are measures built into the Project, such as physical design features or operating restrictions, to avoid, prevent, reduce or where possible offset any identified likely significant adverse effects on the environment. They can also be used to create or enhance positive environmental benefits.
- 3.4.4 The assessments within this EICD treat the identified environmental measures as embedded and inherent within the Project. This is consistent with the approach that will be undertaken in the Environmental Statement (ES). **Chapters 5 to 18** of this EICD do not itemise each of the environmental measures identified and incorporated into the assessment process. Instead, where this helps explain the assessment of effects, these measures are summarised or examples provided, with a signpost given to other consultation documents where the measures are described in more detail (such as the environmental measures documents). The assessment also makes clear where details of certain environmental measures are still being developed.

## 3.5 What is a significant environmental effect?

- 3.5.1 The assessment of environmental effects predicts changes in baseline conditions arising from the Project and evaluates whether such changes affect identified receptors in a way that is likely to be significant.
- 3.5.2 Likely significant effects (beneficial and adverse) are identified and described within each environmental aspect chapter. This Environmental Information Consultation Document (EICD) focuses on reporting likely significant effects.
- 3.5.3 The significance of an effect is determined by considering the combination of how important or sensitive a receptor is, and how big a change it will experience due to the Project.

- 3.5.4 The way in which significance is assigned to an environmental effect varies by aspect. For example, the sensitivity or value of a biodiversity receptor is primarily determined according to the level of regulatory protection afforded to a habitat or species. The magnitude of an air quality effect is primarily related to applicable legislative thresholds for pollutant levels.
- 3.5.5 The size of the change that is expected due to the Project is measured against the current and future baselines (as they would be without the Project). The significance of an environmental effect is typically the product of the sensitivity/vulnerability or value of the receptor and the predicted magnitude (scale, duration, geographical extent, permanence) of the change.
- 3.5.6 For instance, a highly sensitive receptor may only experience a small change from the construction or operation of the Project, but given its sensitivity or vulnerability, the effect could be considered substantial enough for it to be deemed significant. Conversely, the change may be so extensive that even though the receptor is not very sensitive it could still be deemed a significant effect. In some instances, and as indicated in the relevant aspect chapters, there is recognised technical guidance on how significance should be calculated. Conclusions are also often informed by professional judgement.
- 3.5.7 In order to define significance, specialists drawing conclusions will use technical guidance that is typically provided by government departments such as the Department for Transport, or recognised professional industry bodies for a particular environmental aspect and the assessment approach to be taken. These could include the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management or Institute of Air Quality Management. In some instances, this guidance requires 'professional judgement' to be used.
- 3.5.8 The term 'professional judgement' is commonly used in the context of Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) to refer to the opinion of a technically competent and qualified expert who has appropriate experience to make an informed judgement using the information available.
- 3.5.9 For each environmental aspect chapter and indication of how the significance of effect has been drawn is provided. Unless indicated otherwise, the aspect chapters in the EICD use the same approach to define significance that will be undertaken within the Environmental Statement.
- 3.5.10 The Project and the environmental measures will be further refined prior to submission of the Development Consent Order (DCO) application. Therefore, the assessment in the EICD is based upon some assumptions and takes a precautionary approach.

## 3.6 Approach to assessment results

- 3.6.1 Changes to the baseline will occur over the course of both the construction and operational activities of the Project.
- 3.6.2 As indicated within **Chapter 2: Description of the Project**, the Project will be delivered over a circa 25-year delivery period, where both construction and operational activities will occur at the same time as existing airport operations. As certain infrastructure is completed, including the new runway, further construction of new terminals will occur at the same time as newly expanded operations. These could result in increased passenger numbers and flights.
- 3.6.3 The assessment results are reported differently for each environmental aspect. Some aspect assessments report predicted effects at specific points in time, helping communities understand how the effects will change over the course of the approximately 25-year Project delivery period. Predicted effects for other aspects will not change over the Project delivery period and are only presented once. Either way, a reasonably likely 'worst-case' assessment approach has been followed. This ensures that the maximum potential adverse effects have been identified.
- 3.6.4 As explained in **Chapter 4: People, place and Community Areas**, some aspect chapters also report assessments by Community Area to help local communities understand how the Project will affect them. Other chapters report assessments to explain the likely significant effects on a specific receptor group, such as a particular species.
- 3.6.5 In some instances, and as identified within relevant aspect chapters, consideration has been given to what changes in the Project delivery period, as well as the pace of the airport's growth, might mean for the assessment of effects. This is described as sensitivity testing within the applicable chapters.
- 3.6.6 As indicated previously, the EICD presents an assessment at a point in time where the details of the Project proposals are still being developed in order to reflect consultation feedback. As such, when further details of the Project's construction delivery timeframe, infrastructure components and operation are confirmed, including environmental measures, further detailed assessment will be undertaken. This assessment will also include details of further baseline data collection, and with the refinements to assessment methodologies agreed with technical stakeholders. Therefore, the assessment results reported within the Environmental Statement (ES) ES will be derived from assessment methodologies that are more detailed meaning the results may be more precise than those reported within the EICD.
- 3.6.7 Nevertheless, the EICD does still present the same environmental effects, and temporal and geographic extent of these effects as will be presented in the ES. This is because a precautionary and conservative approach has been necessary, for instance in defining a 'reasonable worst case scenario'.

## 3.7 Airspace design

- 3.7.1 The airspace design will be developed by a new body created by the Department for Transport and the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA); the UK Airspace Design Service (UKADS) which was established in May 2026. Accordingly, UKADS will be designing and delivering the airspace change for the South East of England, including the airspace change for our new runway and additional capacity, as part of the UK's Airspace Modernisation Strategy [1]. We will be a partner to UKADS, but no longer sponsor or lead the airspace design process.
- 3.7.2 Heathrow has engaged with UKADS to agree initial airspace parameters and scenarios to support the Project. For the purposes of the environmental assessment, these have led to a series of assumptions that relate to the geographical areas within which flight paths may be designed, referred to as design envelopes. It has been assumed that the flight paths could be located anywhere within these design envelopes. This assumption has informed the approach to the assessment of air noise, landscape and visual, biodiversity and health effects, which are all influenced, to some extent, by overflying aircraft.

## 3.8 Summary of Environmental aspect chapter reporting

- 3.8.1 The preceding sections of this chapter outline the overarching approach to the assessment of environmental effects undertaken for this Environmental Information Consultation Document (EICD). **Table 3.1** provides an overview of the environmental information included within each of the aspect chapters, and how the assessment of effects has been reported. However, there may be some divergence from this general approach within some environmental aspect chapters.

**Table 3.1: Summary guide to environmental aspect chapters**

| Chapter subheading                      | Content summary                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|-----------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| What is meant by 'environmental aspect' | Provides a description of what the assessment for each environmental aspect relates to. For example, 'land quality' is the term for an assessment of how the Project affects land contamination, ground stability, agricultural land quality, minerals safeguarding and geodiversity. |
| Why 'environmental aspect' might change | Outlines how the Project may affect each of the individual components of the aspect, for instance the activities or operational changes that could result in a change to baseline conditions.                                                                                         |
| Legislation, policy and guidance        | References the key legislation, national, regional and local policy, and guidance relevant to each environmental aspect that influences the assessment and methodology. An exhaustive list is not presented.                                                                          |

| Chapter subheading                                                                  | Content summary                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Assessment summary                                                                  | Explains the approach to the assessment and how conclusions have been drawn. This sets out any specific assumptions or limitations of the assessment undertaken.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Baseline                                                                            | Summarises how the baseline has been established and any ongoing or future work to be undertaken. A dedicated section describing the baseline in detail is not typically presented, but details of the baseline are presented integral to the Assessment results section. This is so the reader does not need to move back and forth in the document to compare the baseline with the results presented                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Assessment approach                                                                 | <p>Outlines how the assessment of environmental effects has been undertaken, e.g. whether any quantitative metrics have been used, what the assessment considers and any guidance that is followed.</p> <p>How significance has been defined is set out within this section. A separate subheading titled 'Environmental measures' is typically included which sets out the measures that have been included within the assessment.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Assessment results and summary of likely significant 'environmental aspect' effects | <p>Presents the assessment of effects based on work completed to date, integrating relevant baseline information. This summarises those effects that are likely to be significant.</p> <p>The assessment explains which environmental measures have been considered in the assessment. Some aspects present effects across the Project as a whole, where those effects are spread out or broadly similar across locations. Others present effects by Community Area where the effects differ between places. In some cases, predicted effects are also presented for specific points in time across the Project delivery period, where they vary over time, or by receptor type such as surface waterbodies.</p> <p>The way in which the significance of effect has been determined is summarised within the relevant aspect chapters with the conclusion emboldened.</p> |
| Next steps and preparation of the Environmental Statement (ES)                      | Outlines further baseline data collection, design, technical engagement and assessment work that will be undertaken to support the assessment that will be reported within the Environmental Statement (ES).                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |

## 3.9 In-combination and cumulative effects

- 3.9.1 An in-combination and cumulative effects assessment will be undertaken as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and presented within the Environmental Statement (ES), in line with the requirements of the EIA Regulations.
- 3.9.2 In-combination effects occur when a single receptor experiences more than one effect arising from Project activities. For example, a local resident may be affected by the combination of dust, noise and visual effects during construction, or traffic, recreation and air quality effects during operation. In isolation, these effects may not be significant, but when considered together, the overall result could be significant. Assessing in-combination effects provides a more holistic understanding of the overall impact on receptors. This can highlight the need for additional environmental measures and help protect receptors that may be particularly vulnerable to multiple environmental changes.
- 3.9.3 Cumulative environmental effects are those arising from the Project, upon for example local communities, which individually might not be significant but, when considered in addition to effects from other infrastructure or development projects that are likely to be built, could be significant. Assessing these effects is important because the Project will not occur in isolation. This helps ensure that environmental measures remain effective and proportionate to the combined impacts.
- 3.9.4 As the Project will be constructed over approximately 25 years, some overlap with other Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs) in the South East is expected. Although overlapping construction activities (temporally and geographically) could give rise to cumulative environmental effects, significant cumulative effects are not anticipated on account of the robust nature of their respective Codes of Construction Practice, or similar. Furthermore, we will, where practicable, coordinate mitigation with independent local and wider strategic projects. We would do this through working groups to manage physical, schedule and/or operational interfaces and reduce cumulative effects, including those related to materials demand, workforce requirements, highway diversions and railway use.
- 3.9.5 Once operational, the expanded airport could potentially cause adverse cumulative environmental effects when added to the effects from other developments in the surrounding area. For example, there could be increased pressure on the local road network due to additional traffic generated by the Project together with that from other residential, commercial and industrial developments. If adverse cumulative effects are predicted to be greater, or different, from those assessed for the Project alone, additional environmental measures will be developed and implemented to reduce or manage these new effects. Accordingly, no significant adverse cumulative effects are anticipated.

## 4. References

1. The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017, SI 2017/572. Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2017/572/contents> [Accessed 5 June 2026].
2. EIA scoping and set out in the scoping opinions published by the Planning Inspectorate (PINS) in 2018 and 2025. Available at: <https://national-infrastructure-consenting.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/TR020003/documents>

## 5. Glossary of terms

| Term/Acronym                                                       | Definition                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Preliminary Environmental Information Report</b>                | Environmental information prepared at pre-application stage to inform consultation and engagement on the Development Consent Order (DCO) Project.                                                                                                                                                                        |
| <b>Active travel</b>                                               | Getting around by walking, cycling or wheeling rather than by car.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>Agricultural land quality</b>                                   | The value of soils as an asset that provides important ecosystem services, including land which has the widest range and versatility for use, including for growing agricultural and horticultural crops.                                                                                                                |
| <b>Air noise</b>                                                   | Noise associated with aircraft flying to and from the airport. Air noise includes take off as the aircraft accelerates along the runway (from the 'start of roll' on the runway) and landing as aircraft slow down on the runway (including of reverse thrust braking).                                                  |
| <b>Air quality</b>                                                 | The level of pollution in the air we breathe.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <b>Airports National Policy Statement (ANPS)</b>                   | The ANPS sets out the Government's policy on the need for new airport capacity in the Southeast of England, the Government's preferred location and scheme to deliver new capacity, and particular considerations relevant to a development consent application to which the ANPS relates. Currently being consulted on. |
| <b>Airspace</b>                                                    | The invisible infrastructure in the sky that helps aircraft operate safely. This includes the flight paths that aircraft use when taking off and landing, as well as holding patterns used by aircraft when waiting to land.                                                                                             |
| <b>Airspace change</b>                                             | The process of redesigning flight routes or airspace structure, coordinated nationally, to better manage aircraft movements and their effects.                                                                                                                                                                           |
| <b>Airspace designs</b>                                            | The planned layout of flight paths and airspace structure used to organise how aircraft operate safely and efficiently.                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>Baseline</b>                                                    | The existing environmental state against which future changes and impacts are assessed.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>Biodiversity</b>                                                | All the habitats, plants, animals and associated ecosystems that could be affected by the construction and operation phases of development either negatively or positively.                                                                                                                                              |
| <b>Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management</b> | The professional body representing ecologists and environmental managers, setting standards for professional practice and competence.                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>Civil Aviation Authority</b>                                    | The statutory body which oversees and regulates all aspects of civil aviation in the United Kingdom.                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| <b>Climate change</b>                                              | The long-term shift in global or regional climate patterns. It is attributed directly or indirectly to human activity altering atmospheric composition, alongside natural variability, resulting in higher temperatures, rising sea levels and extreme weather.                                                          |

| Term/Acronym                                       | Definition                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|----------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Code of Construction Practice (CoCP)</b>        | Code which sets out the standards and procedures to which developers and contractors must adhere when undertaking construction of major projects. This will assist with managing the environmental impacts and will identify the main responsibilities and requirements of developers and contractors in constructing their projects.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>Community Area</b>                              | Areas have been mapped to understand how baseline conditions vary between local communities and how effects may be experienced at a neighbourhood scale. These areas are comprised of administrative geographies such as wards and output areas (OAs) for which 2021 Census and ONS data is available. The Community Areas have been defined to reflect functional communities, patterns of connectivity and physical boundaries, while also having regard to local authority boundaries. They provide a consistent local geography through which variations in demographic profile, deprivation, health, labour market conditions and place characteristics can be described and compared. |
| <b>Compensation</b>                                | Measures provided to offset residual adverse effects that cannot be avoided or mitigated.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| <b>Consultation</b>                                | Refers to the presentation of environmental information to members of the public, at a set point in time, to request and facilitate an informed response that can influence Project outcomes                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| <b>Contamination</b>                               | The presence of hazardous substances in or under the ground, or in water bodies. It occurs when human activities leave a legacy of pollution (such as from old industrial sites, landfills or chemical spills) that poses an unacceptable risk to health or the environment.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| <b>Cumulative effects</b>                          | The combined impact of multiple developments or activities over time, considering both direct and indirect effects on the environment. These are assessed to understand the overall influence beyond individual developments.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| <b>Development Consent Order (DCO) application</b> | An application for consent to undertake a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project made to the Planning Inspectorate who will consider the application and make a recommendation to the Secretary of State, who will decide on whether development consent should be granted for the Project.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| <b>Development Consent Order (DCO)</b>             | This is the means of obtaining consent for developments categorised as Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects, under the Planning Act 2008. This is the means of obtaining permission consent for developments categorised as Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects, under the Planning Act 2008.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| <b>Economic Development Framework (EDF)</b>        | The Economic Development Framework in the UK is a strategic approach aimed at promoting economic growth and poverty reduction. It emphasizes the importance of institutions that encourage private investment, stable business conditions and responsible governance.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |

| Term/Acronym                                                  | Definition                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|---------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Economy</b>                                                | The system of production, employment and consumption within a defined geographic area.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>Effect</b>                                                 | Term used to express the consequence of an impact (expressed as the 'significance of effect') which is determined by correlating the magnitude of the impact to the importance, or sensitivity, of the receptor or resource in accordance with defined significance criteria. For example, land clearing during construction results in habitat loss (impact), the effect of which is the significance of the habitat loss on the ecological resource.                                 |
| <b>Engagement</b>                                             | Refers to targeted, continuous interactions with key stakeholders that are focused on specific environmental technical issues and can result in such stakeholders actively participating in directing Project outcomes.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| <b>Environment Agency</b>                                     | The Environment Agency is a non-departmental public body in the UK, established in 1996, responsible for protecting and enhancing the environment and promoting sustainable development, operating under the Environment Act 1995.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| <b>Environmental aspects</b>                                  | Distinct environmental components or topics, such as air quality, biodiversity or human health, which may be affected by the Project                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| <b>Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)</b>                  | The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017. The EIA regulations require that the effects of a project, where these are likely to have a significant effect on the environment, are considered in the decision-making process for the Project. A statutory process is followed to identify, describe and assess the likely significant environmental effects of certain types of development before a decision is made on whether to grant consent. |
| <b>Environmental Information Consultation Document (EICD)</b> | A report prepared to present environmental information for consultation at pre-application stage of the Project.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>Environmental measures</b>                                 | Environmental measures proposed in an Environmental Impact Assessment are designed to limit or remove any significant adverse environmental effects of a development.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>Proposed environmental measures</b>                        | Refers to interventions (such as physical design features or operating restrictions) that are proposed to avoid, prevent, reduce or, if possible, offset any identified adverse effects on the environment.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <b>Environmental Statement (ES)</b>                           | The written output presenting the full findings of the Environmental Impact Assessment.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| <b>Environmentally Managed Growth (EMG)</b>                   | Provides a framework for managing growth within agreed environmental limits. It sets out the process for monitoring, reporting and mitigating environmental effects with associated independent scrutiny.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| <b>Evaluation</b>                                             | A systematic review of environmental information, constraints and alternatives used to guide how a project is designed and developed.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |

| Term/Acronym                                                | Definition                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Flood storage</b>                                        | A structure that holds floodwater during times of flood and returns it to a river at a controlled rate, once the flood peak has passed.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| <b>Freight forwarding</b>                                   | The specialist logistics services that manage, coordinate and facilitate the movement of air cargo through the airport.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| <b>Future baseline</b>                                      | The predicted environmental conditions at a specified future point in time, assuming all committed developments and trends are implemented. It provides the reference scenario against which the impacts of proposed projects are assessed.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <b>Future Runway Operations (FRO)</b>                       | A document outlining Future Runway Operations (FRO) and the reasons for the proposals, including how future use of runways would provide predictable periods of respite from aircraft noise, manage night flights and how other operational measures could help reduce and mitigate noise impacts.                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| <b>Geodiversity</b>                                         | The range of rocks, minerals, fossils, soils and landforms that underlie and determine the character of our natural landscape and environment. Locations in which important geodiversity is found are afforded protection against development and, outside of statutorily protected land such as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs), are designated at a regional and local level (known as Regionally Important Geological Sites, RIGS and Locally Important Geological Sites, LIGS). |
| <b>Green Loop</b>                                           | A continuous, predominantly recreational route within the Active Green Network that connects communities, workplaces, public open spaces, biodiversity sites and cultural locations via a network of existing and new footpaths, cycleways and bridleways, enhancing connectivity around the airport while supporting active travel and mitigating Green Belt impacts.                                                                                                                           |
| <b>Greenhouse gases</b>                                     | A group of seven gases reported under international climate agreements due to their capacity to trap heat in the Earth's atmosphere. These gases arise from human activities and so are the focus of efforts to reduce their release and so minimise future impacts of a warming climate.                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| <b>Growth</b>                                               | The increase in airport activities in term of passenger numbers and aircraft movements.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| <b>Habitat</b>                                              | The place or environment in which a plant or animal naturally or normally lives.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>Heathrow Expansion National Policy Statement (HENPS)</b> | Provides the basis for decision making on any development consent application for a new Northwest Runway at Heathrow Airport.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>Historic environment</b>                                 | All aspects of the environment resulting from the interaction between people and places through time, including all surviving physical remains of past human activity, whether visible, buried or submerged, and landscape and planted or managed flora.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |

| Term/Acronym                                                   | Definition                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|----------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>In-combination effects</b>                                  | Effects that occur when two or more environmental impacts interact, potentially amplifying or mitigating overall significance. Also referred to as Effect Interactions.                                                                                                                         |
| <b>Labour market</b>                                           | The supply of and demand for labour, including people in employment and those seeking work.                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| <b>Land contamination</b>                                      | Land which may have been affected by substances such as metals, oils and asbestos as a result of its current or past uses, waste disposal or accidental leaks and spills.                                                                                                                       |
| <b>Land quality</b>                                            | A term used to cover several different components: land contamination; ground stability; agricultural land quality (including soils); minerals safeguarding, and geodiversity.                                                                                                                  |
| <b>Landscape</b>                                               | The combination of natural and built elements that make up the character of an area. It includes landform, vegetation, rivers and waterbodies, settlement pattern, roads, infrastructure and open spaces.                                                                                       |
| <b>Minerals safeguarding</b>                                   | A term used to describe the process of protecting important non-renewable natural resources (such as sand and gravel, clay and building stones) from development which would prevent their current or future extraction and processing to be used in the construction industry.                 |
| <b>Mitigation</b>                                              | Measures designed to avoid, reduce or manage the impacts of a project. These may include measures identified through the Environmental Impact Assessment, as well as measures required through statutory obligations, planning requirements or other project commitments.                       |
| <b>Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects * (NSIP)</b> | Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIP) are major infrastructure developments in England and Wales that are required to be consented under the Planning Act 2008. These include proposals for power plants, large renewable energy projects, new airports and airport extensions. |
| <b>Noise</b>                                                   | Unwanted, unpleasant or disruptive sound. Noise can interfere with activities, affect health and detract from the character and enjoyment of places.                                                                                                                                            |
| <b>Noise insulation</b>                                        | Measures to reduce the transmission of external noise into a building by improving the sound insulation performance of the building elements such as windows, roofs and doors.                                                                                                                  |
| <b>Odour</b>                                                   | A smell - essentially the sensation you experience when chemical compounds in the air stimulate the olfactory receptors in the nose. These compounds can come from natural sources (like flowers or food) or artificial ones (like perfumes or industrial emissions).                           |
| <b>Planning Inspectorate (PINS)</b>                            | The Planning Inspectorate (PINS) deals with planning appeals, national infrastructure planning applications, examinations of local plans and other planning-related and specialist casework in England and Wales.                                                                               |

| Term/Acronym                         | Definition                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Pre-application stage</b>         | The phase of a project before a formal application for development consent is submitted, when design, environmental assessment, and consultation and engagement take place.                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| <b>Precautionary approach</b>        | Assumption of a likely significant effect in the absence of sufficient evidence to rule it out.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <b>Preferred scheme</b>              | Proposed layout and development plan that sets out how the airport would expand and operate in the future as part of Heathrow expansion. It brings together all major design elements required to deliver the third runway and associated infrastructure, showing how the airport would be configured, built and phased over time.                                                         |
| <b>Receptors</b>                     | A component of the environment or a group of people that may be affected by the Development Consent Order (DCO) Project.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| <b>Recreational routes</b>           | Public Rights of Way (PRoW) including public footpaths, bridleways, restricted byways and byways open to all traffic (BOATs), permissive footpaths, national trails, permitted access land, locally promoted walking routes and cycle routes.                                                                                                                                              |
| <b>Sensitivity</b>                   | The vulnerability or value of an environmental receptor, which in combination with magnitude, determines whether an environmental effect is significant.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| <b>Significance (of effect)</b>      | A professional judgement on whether an effect is important in Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) terms, based on the sensitivity of the receptor and the level of change.                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| <b>Significant effect</b>            | An environmental effect that will be considered by the Government when coming to a decision on whether the Development Consent Order (DCO) Project should be granted consent. It can be positive or negative and is determined by considering the combination of the sensitivity of an environmental receptor, and the magnitude of change it would experience because of the DCO Project. |
| <b>Stakeholder</b>                   | Any person or organisation with an interest in the Project who can either affect, or be affected by, the policies, objectives and outcome.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>Study areas</b>                   | Study areas define the geographic scope in which environmental effects are considered. The study area should be appropriate to the scale of the Project's impacts and identify the most relevant geographic population.                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>Surface access strategy</b>       | Sets out how access to Heathrow by all travel modes will be managed.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>The Project</b>                   | The overarching Heathrow expansion. A structured, timebound programme of work designed to deliver specific planned improvements to Heathrow's capacity, infrastructure and operational capability.                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| <b>Transport Network Users (TNU)</b> | People who use the surface transport networks that serve and surround Heathrow. This includes people travelling to and from Heathrow by land-based transport from across the UK, which is sometimes referred to as surface access. It also includes people using the transport network to access local services, homes, schools, businesses or leisure facilities.                         |

| Term/Acronym                              | Definition                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|-------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                           | Transport network users comprise of people who are walking, wheeling, cycling and horse riding on Public Rights of Way (PRoW)*, footways and cycleways; people travelling on public transport, such as rail, underground, bus or coach services, and people travelling in private vehicles. |
| <b>UK Airspace Design Service (UKADS)</b> | A single national body established in May 2026 to responsible for the design and coordination of flightpaths at airports in the southeast of England as part of the Government's airspace modernisation strategy, including the detailed airspace design for the Project.                   |
| <b>Vulnerability</b>                      | Propensity or predisposition of a receptor to be adversely affected by a climate hazard.                                                                                                                                                                                                    |