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## Glossary of terms

<b>Baseline</b>	A description of the present state of an area, based upon past trends where available and, in the absence of any plan, the predicted future state of an area.
<b>Consultation body</b>	An Authority which because of its environmental responsibility is likely to be concerned by the effects of implementing plans and programmes and must be consulted at specified stages of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA). The Consultation bodies designated in the SEA Regulations are English Heritage, Environment Agency and Natural England.
<b>Environmental Assessment</b>	A method or procedure for predicting the effects on the environment of a proposal, either for an individual project or a higher-level 'strategy' (policy, plan or programme), with the aim of taking account of these effects in decision-making. In the SEA Directive, an environmental assessment means "the preparation of an environmental report, the carrying out of consultations, the taking into account of the environmental report and the results of consultations in decision-making and provision of information on the decision" in accordance with the Directive's requirements.
<b>Environmental Report</b>	The report required by the SEA Directive as part of an environmental assessment, which identifies, describes and evaluates the likely significant effects on the environment of implementing a plan or programme.
<b>European Union (EU)</b>	A family of democratic European countries, committed to economic and political co-operation.
<b>Habitats Regulations Assessment</b>	An assessment of the potential effects of planning policies on European nature conservation sites, which lie within and outside the County.
<b>Health Impact Assessment</b>	A combination of procedures, methods and tools by which a policy, programme or project may be judged as to its potential effects on the health of a population, and the distribution of those effects within a population.
<b>Indicator</b>	A measure of variables over time, often used to measure the achievement of objectives.
<b>Mitigation</b>	Used in this context to refer to measures to avoid, reduce or offset significant effects on the environment.
<b>New Approach to Appraisal (NATA)</b>	A framework used to appraise transport projects and proposals.
<b>Objective</b>	A statement of what is intended, specifying the desired direction of change.
<b>Scoping</b>	The process of deciding the scope and level of detail of an SEA, including the environmental effects and alternatives which need to be considered, the assessment methods to be used, and the structure and contents of the Environmental Report.
<b>Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)</b>	Generic term used to describe environmental assessment as applied to policies, plans and programmes. In this context SEA is used to refer to the type of environmental assessment required under the SEA Directive.
<b>SEA Directive</b>	European Directive 2001/42/EC on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment. Local Transport Plans are covered by the SEA Directive.
<b>Significant environmental effects</b>	Effects on the environment which are significant in the context of a plan or programme. Criteria for assessing significance are set out in Annex II of the SEA Directive