

2 Scoping

2.1 The Scoping Report

2.1.1 Scoping is the process of deciding the scope and level of detail of an SEA, including the sustainability effects and alternatives to be considered, the assessment methods to be used, and the structure and contents of the Environmental Report. The purpose of the Scoping Report (UE Environmental Consulting, 2011) is to set the criteria for assessment (including the SEA objectives), and establish the baseline data and other information, including a review of relevant policies, programmes and plans. The scoping process involves an overview of key issues, highlighting areas of potential conflict.

2.1.2 The Scoping Report addresses the early stages of the SEA process and includes information about:

- ▶ Identifying other relevant policies, plans and programmes, and environmental objectives;
- ▶ Collecting baseline information;
- ▶ Identifying environmental issues and problems; and
- ▶ Developing the SEA Framework.

2.1.3 The Scoping Report was issued for consultation with stakeholders and statutory bodies⁸ for a period of five weeks between 25 October and 28 November 2011. Responses were received from four organisations. Following the receipt of responses, the information included in the Scoping Report was updated to take into account these comments.

2.2 Scoping Consultation Responses

2.2.1 Consultee responses on the Scoping Report were received from the Environment Agency, Natural England, Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust, and Isle of Wight Council (Transport Policy, and County Ecologist). **Appendix II** summarises the comments raised during the scoping consultation and details how they are taken into account during the SEA.

2.2.2 Following consultation, a revised Scoping Report responding to consultation comments was issued to the Council and bidders for the Highways PFI contract.

2.3 Policy, Plan and Programme Review

2.3.1 A programme may be influenced in various ways by other plans or programmes, or by external environmental protection objectives such as those laid down in policies or legislation. The SEA takes advantage of potential synergies and addresses any inconsistencies and constraints.

⁸ Environment Agency, English Heritage and Natural England, plus RSPB and Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust

2.3.2 **Appendix III** presents an analysis of the objectives of the key policies, plans and programmes (including legislation) that are relevant to Highways PFI and the SEA process. The review is structured first by environmental information theme (**section 1.5**), then by geographic relevance, from international to local level. It includes additional policies, plans and programmes that have been introduced since the Scoping Report was released for consultation.

2.4 Baseline Data

2.4.1 A key part of the scoping process is the collection of baseline data, the purpose of which is to help identify key issues and opportunities facing the area which might be addressed by the Highways PFI, and to provide an evidence base for the assessment. The Scoping Report provided a review of current social, economic and environmental conditions on the Isle of Wight.

2.4.2 Views on the environmental baseline conditions were invited during scoping consultation. The Scoping Report and its baseline data were updated accordingly, and are available [online](#).

2.5 Key Sustainability Issues for the Isle of Wight

2.5.1 Baseline data and the policy and plan review revealed a number of key environmental and socio-economic issues and challenges for the Isle of Wight in the context of the Highways PFI. Key sustainability issues for each environmental information theme are summarised within the SEA Scoping Report and illustrate the main potential issues identified during scoping. These issues present the Highways PFI Service Provider with a number of opportunities for achieving environmental gain on the Island.

2.6 Treatment of Red Risk Sites at Scoping

2.6.1 Particular attention was paid to the red risk sites at the scoping stage because these are the locations on the Island's highway network where the most intensive engineering interventions will be required, in the form of the capital schemes. The 18 red risk sites are clustered around eight different areas of the Island, as summarised by **Table 2.1** (see also Figure 1.1).

2.6.2 For each cluster, a series of environmental constraints maps was prepared to help guide the selection of engineering solutions (refer to Scoping Report for further details). **Table 2.2** provides a summary of known environmental constraints in close proximity to each of the red risk sites. Technical drawings of Vinci Ringway's preferred engineering solutions, for each of the capital schemes, are presented in **Appendix X**.

Table 2.1: Eighteen red risk sites and their corresponding clusters

Cluster	Red risk site(s)	IoWC site ref
St Helens	▶ Duver Road	▶ DR
Adgestone	▶ Lower Road	▶ LRA
Norton	▶ Westhill Lane (Yarmouth)	▶ WL
Ventnor	▶ Newport Road - Upper Ventnor "Graben"	▶ VS1
	▶ Gills Cliff Road, Ventnor	▶ VS2
	▶ Castle Court, Ventnor	▶ VS3
	▶ Whitwell Road, Ventnor	▶ VS4
	▶ Urban footpath south of La Falaise Car Park, Ventnor	▶ VS6
	▶ Urban footpath south of Winter Gardens, Ventnor	▶ VS7
Undercliff Drive	▶ A: Above Hunts Road	▶ VS5A
	▶ B: Woodlands	▶ VS5B
	▶ C: Caravan Park	▶ VS5C
	▶ D: Mirables	▶ VS5D
Military Road	▶ Brook Chine	▶ MR1
	▶ Shippards Chine	▶ MR2
Blackgang	▶ Old Access Road	▶ B1
	▶ The Terrace, Chale	▶ B2
Yarmouth	▶ Bouldnor Road	▶ BR

Table 2.2: Environmental constraints close to each red risk site

Location	Is it within 200m of a SAC, SPA or Ramsar?	Is it within 200m of a SSSI?	Is it located within 200m of a SINCR?	Is it within or adjacent to an area of Flood Zone 2 or 3?	Is it adjacent to listed buildings?	Is it within a Conservation Area?	Is it within 200m of an LNR or NNR?	Is it located within or adjacent to an AONB?
St Helens								
Duver Road	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	No	No
Adgestone								
Lower Road	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Yes
Norton								
Westhill Lane (Yarmouth)	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No
Ventnor and Undercliff Drive								
Newport Road - Upper Ventnor "Graben"	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes
Gills Cliff Road	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes
Castle Court	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	No
Whitwell Road	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	Yes
Undercliff Drive (4 sites)	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes
Urban Footpath south side La Falaise Car Park	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	No
Urban Footpath south side of Winter Gardens	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	No
Military Road								
Brook Chine	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes
Shippards Chine	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Yes
Blackgang								
Old Access Road	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	Yes
The Terrace, Chale	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	Yes
Yarmouth								
Bouldnor Road	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No	Yes