

Good practice strategic environmental assessment / sustainability appraisal

Two lists of good practice SEA/SAs follow:

- UK environmental or SA reports
- overseas SEA reports.

They are organised roughly by the elements of good practice that they display: good baseline, alternatives, assessment, public participation, presentation, links to decision-making, links to other forms of assessment, and other topics.

The methodology for compiling this list was: Riki Therivel e-mailed 119 people in early December 2005, asking for recommendations for good SEAs, and for the e-mail to be passed on to other relevant individuals; sent a reminder a week later; compiled the responses; circulated a draft list for fine-tuning; and sent around the final list on 23 December. No attempt was made to specify in advance what is meant by 'good practice', nor to vet the recommendations. Consultants were encouraged to – and often did – recommend reports prepared by their consultancies. The recommender's name is shown in the final column. *Inclusion of reports in this list does not mean that they are necessarily SEA Directive compliant, or even that the section being recommended is compliant!*

It is hoped that the reports will give readers ideas for carrying out good SEAs and inspiration for further improving the SEA process. Feel free to share them and use them however you want. Please send any comments and/or your own recommendations to riki@levett-therivel.fsworld.co.uk. I hope to update this list every few months.

UK

SA/SEA is particularly good because...	SA/SEA for	Web-link to SA/ environmental report	Recommended by...
Baseline and policy context			
Use of maps (pre-Directive)	Sefton UDP SA	http://www.sefton.gov.uk/-PDF/websusappraisal.pdf	Thomas Fischer, Liverpool University
Prepared in-house, makes good use of baseline data	Bracknell Forest Local Development Framework scoping report	http://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/baseline-data-and-indicators.pdf	Riki Therivel, Levett-Therivel
Provides a detailed spatial baseline to add assessment, in particular for sites.	Thurrock Borough Council Scoping Report	http://www.thurrock.gov.uk/planning/strategic/pdf/sc_report_appendixb.pdf	Alex White, Scott Wilson
	Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea LDF Interim SA report	http://www.rbkc.gov.uk/Planning/localdevelopmentframework/rbkc_vol_II_baseline_figures.asp	
Concise SEA focussing on key baseline, plans and programmes	North West Regional Assembly	http://nwda-cms.amaze.co.uk/DocumentUploads/SEAoftheRES.pdf	David Kenyon, Clive Harridge Entec UK
Prepared in-house, concise, good use of baseline data	Torbay Local Development Document	http://www.torbay.gov.uk/sustainability_appraisal	Clare Reid, South West Regional Assembly
Comprehensive evidence gathering & PPP review done in partnership with council. Clear development of objectives through integrating baseline and context and development through	St Helens Local Development Framework Scoping Report	http://www.sthelens.gov.uk/website/publications.nsf/urban_regeneration_and_housing/2eba20210a3448768025705a00530bd7?opendocument	Orlando Venn, Scott Wilson

consultation with large variety of stakeholders.			
Good use of model outputs and GIS to characterise baseline.	Greater Manchester Local Transport Plan	http://www.gmltp.co.uk/pdfs/A2_4_gm_sea.pdf	Chris Ferrary Steer Davies Gleave
The baseline and narrative are easily accessible and readable.	Southampton City Council Local Transport Plan 2	http://www.southampton.gov.uk/transport/transportplanning/provlt2/sea/default.asp#0	Nick Pincombe Halcrow Group Ltd
Alternatives			
The same core options are considered throughout the appraisal of the core strategy (limited to four main options with three sub-options for option 4)	Teignbridge District Council Integrated SEA/SA of LDDs to be included in the Teignbridge LDF 2001 to 2016; initial options – core strategy	http://www.teignbridge.gov.uk/index.cfm?Articleid=2885	Thomas Fischer, Liverpool University
Prepared in-house and latterly by Jacobs Babbie. Good list of realistic alternatives for the plan	West Dunbartonshire Local Plan	http://www.wdcweb.info/planninganddevelopment/DisplayArticle.asp?ID=6193	Fiona Harris Jacobs Babbie
I like the alternatives that have been chosen and assessed, they display a range of options. The SA shows how SEA can be used for a site area that EIA could also be used. This could show links between the two processes.	South Kilburn SPD part of Brent LDF	http://www.brent.gov.uk/skilburn.nsf/61b63a407eca7a438025663c0065cadd/8e778cde030b1fa580256fa1003b727c!OpenDocument	Lewis Hurley London Borough of Hillingdon
Looks at a wide range of options. Uses generic options to give spatial aspect to decision-making without being site specific	Hampshire County Council Waste and Minerals Development Framework Chapter 3 “Overview of the Strategy Preferred Options”	Available as a Word Document via Mike.Long@hants.gov.uk or on www.levett-therivel.co.uk under SEA, good practice examples. The emerging Minerals and Waste Development Framework is a partnership between Hampshire County Council and the city authorities of Southampton and Portsmouth. This is a draft version and still subject to change.	Mike Long HCC
Assessment			
Clear methodology and assessment of proposal sites.	West Dunbartonshire Local Plan	http://www.wdcweb.info/planninganddevelopment/DisplayArticle.asp?ID=6193	Fiona Harris Jacobs Babbie
Sets out a number of significance criteria for different issues in LTPs.	Somerset County Council LTP2	http://www.somerset.gov.uk/somerset/ete/transport/localtransportplans/ltp2consultation/index.cfm?override=publications&pubid=1744	Emma James Environ
SEA prepared in-house, methodology designed	Runnymede Borough Council	http://ww2.runnymede.gov.uk/business/ImpactAssess/	John Willmott-French

to fully integrate SEA into a set of Impact Assessment tools used by the Council.	Local Development Framework Core Strategy Document.	site/IAConsultations.asp	Runnymede Borough Council
Assesses the transport effects of the plan before linking this into the environmental effects, good use of evidence.	Cornwall County Council LTP2	http://www.cornwall.gov.uk/index.cfm?articleid=350	Emma James Environ
Comprehensive analysis of Area Action Plan	Northstowe Area Action Plan	http://egov.scambs.gov.uk/df/representation.php?docid=69	Paul Knott, Scott Wilson
Good use of evidence	Buckinghamshire County Council LTP2	http://www.buckscc.gov.uk/transport_plan/ltp2/A5_SEA.doc.pdf	Emma James Environ
Proposals for compensation, convincing 'no plan' and 'business as usual' alternatives, clear explanation of methodology, links to more detailed work/studies	Humber Estuary Flood Defence Strategy	http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/commondata/acrobat/123_1150722.pdf	Riki Therivel, Levett-Therivel
In-house SEA with excellent quantified basis of assessment	Derbyshire County Council Local Transport Plan	http://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/Images/doc1_tcm2-83718.pdf	Chris Ferrary Steer Davies Gleave
Public participation			
Emphasis on consultation, preparation of a series of topic papers to inform the baseline	Bedfordshire Minerals Local Development Framework	http://www.environcommunication.co.uk/MWDF-SA.htm	Jo Curran, Environ
This is a good example of the use of a Steering Group in carrying out an SEA	Surrey County Council Waste Local Development Framework (Draft final SEA)	http://www.surreycc.gov.uk/SCCWebsite/sccwspages.nsf/searchresults/45c494a7775fecc280256f35005c2eb9?OpenDocument	John Willmott-French Runnymede Borough Council
Non-technical summary is an accessible means of providing information on the assessment of options to all stakeholders.	Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea LDF Interim SA Report NTS	http://www.rbkc.gov.uk/Planning/localdevelopmentframework/isar_sea.pdf	Alex White, Scott Wilson
Use of a scoping report NTS to encourage comment on sustainability issues (not on web)	Chelmsford BC	full report: http://www.chelmsford.gov.uk/media/pdf/o/h/FULLCSsustainabilityappraisal_1.pdf Can provide electronic copies of NTSS	David Kenyon, Clive Harridge Entec UK
Shows good example of participation of stakeholders in refining and appraising options.	Black Country Study (West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy)	http://www.blackcountryconsultium.co.uk/consultphase3.asp?ses=	Tim Perkins, Clive Harridge Entec UK Ltd
Appraisal Scope: A detailed set of appraisal questions that gives you a clear insight in the thinking of the appraisal team	Yorkshire & Humber, Pre-draft Regional Spatial Strategy	Expected to be posted on http://www.yhassembly.gov.uk/index.cfm?routine=content&channel=Regional%20Spatial%20Strategy (bottom of the page) on 18 Jan 06	Wout Janssen, South East England Regional Assembly

Appraisal of options: There is a clear detailed appraisal table but it helpfully is preceded by a summary table, giving you all information in a nutshell			
Presentation and non-technical summary			
Prepared in-house, readable, clearly oriented to statutory consultees and the public	Bracknell Forest Local Development Framework scoping report	http://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/ldf-sa-sea-scoping-report.pdf	Riki Therivel, Levett-Therivel
Non-technical summary is an accessible means of providing information on the assessment of options to all stakeholders.	Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea LDF Interim SA Report NTS	http://www.rbkc.gov.uk/Planning/localdevelopmentframework/isar_sea.pdf	Alex White, Scott Wilson
Use of a scoping report NTS to encourage comment on sustainability issues (not on web) SA report itself is on web	Chelmsford BC	http://www.chelmsford.gov.uk/media/pdf/o/h/FULLCSsustainabilityappraisal_1.pdf	David Kenyon Entec UK Can provide electronic copies of NTSs
Clear reporting	Buckinghamshire County Council LTP2	http://www.buckscc.gov.uk/transport_plan/ltp2/A5_SEA.doc.pdf	Emma James Environ
Readable in-house SA scoping report that nicely focuses on key issues	London Borough of Hillingdon Local Development Framework	http://www.hillingdon.gov.uk/environment/planning/scoping_report_feb_05.pdf	Lewis Hurley, LB Hillingdon
Clear report structure, good alternatives	Tees Tidal Flood Risk Management Strategy	Available on Environment Agency website in late January 2006	Ross Marshall, Joanne Murphy, Environment Agency
Particularly clear explanation of the intended overall process and key stages in integrating SEA into M&WDF and LTP. Twin track use of baseline data.	Hampshire County Council Chapter 5 of consultant's report "Integrating SEA within Hampshire".	Available as Word Document via Mike.Long@hants.gov.uk or on www.levett-therivel.co.uk under SEA, good practice examples The chapter was a framework for the whole SEA process for both plans and will have been deviated from as particular needs and outcomes have become apparent for the individual workstreams	Mike Long HCC
Readable, characterises District and assesses issues at the right amount of detail.	New Forest District Council LDF Scoping Report	(to come)	Kim Harding Land Use Consultants
Good use of topic based papers, drawing out issues relevant to RSS and influence of RSS on them, plus presentation	East Midlands Plan Scoping Report	http://www.emra.gov.uk/regionalplan/documents/EM_SA_ScopingReport.pdf	Jeremy Owen Land Use Consultants

of data in high quality finish			
Executive Summary is clear and concise	Yorkshire & Humber, Pre-draft Regional Spatial Strategy	Expected to be posted on http://www.yhassembly.gov.uk/index.cfm?routine=content&channel=Regional%20Spatial%20Strategy (bottom of the page) on 18 Jan 06	Wout Janssen, South East England Regional Assembly
Links to decision-making			
Shows clear links to plan-making process and documents how SA affected decisions.	Yorkshire and Humber Regional Spatial Strategy	Expected to be posted on http://www.yhassembly.gov.uk/index.cfm?routine=content&channel=Regional%20Spatial%20Strategy (bottom of the page) on 18 Jan 06	Riki Therivel, Levett-Therivel
Prepared in-house and the SA is very integrated with the decision-making process. Robustly assesses policies, strategic development areas and individual sites proposed for development.	Draft Sustainability Appraisal Report for Bracknell Forest Borough's Core Strategy and Site Allocations Development Plan Documents.	http://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/environment/env-planning-and-development/env-planning-policy/env-strategic-environment-assessment/env-core-strategy.htm (from mid-January 2006)	
Honest about what can be addressed and achieved; clear about the problems connected with implementation of higher level policy targets	RSS for the East of England East of England Plan sustainability Appraisal Report targets	http://www.eera.gov.uk/category.asp?cat=382	Thomas Fischer, Liverpool University
Example mitigation measures recommended to feed into strategy development process	Brighton & Hove Local Transport Plan	http://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/downloads/bhcc/transport/prov_ltp2/AppC_LTP2-web.pdf	Chris Ferrary, Steer Davies Gleave
Focuses on incorporating mitigation measures into development of a detailed programme, where policy alternatives are determined elsewhere	Merton Local Implementation Plan	http://www.merton.gov.uk/environment/mertonenvreportfinalv7.pdf	Chris Ferrary Steer Davies Gleave
Shows influence of SEA outcomes upon recommendations (to improve environmental performance of LTP)	Excerpt from Hampshire County Council Chapter 5 of LTP revised to reflect SEA outcomes + request (with example) for additional technical comment to assist in topic policy preparation.	Emerging as part of LTP work. Still subject to change. To become available as part of eventual LTP document, or on www.levett-therivel.co.uk under SEA, good practice examples	Mike Long HCC
Good account of changes made to SPD in response to SA	Location and Design of Major Waste Management Facilities.	http://www.peterborough.gov.uk/pdf/env-plan-mw-SA%20of%20SPD%20Final%20Report%2026.10.05.pdf	Taran Livingston Land Use Consultants

	Cambridgeshire and Peterborough SPD		
Links to other types/levels of assessment			
Specifically incorporates Health Impact Assessment	Greater Manchester Local Transport Plan	http://www.gmltp.co.uk/pdfs/A2_4_gm_sea.pdf	Chris Ferrary Steer Davies Gleave
Integration of health issues into SEA.	Black Country Study (West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy)	http://www.blackcountryconsultium.co.uk/consultphase3.asp?ses=	Tim Perkins Entec UK Ltd
Good analysis of cumulative and transboundary impacts; links to appropriate assessment	Yorkshire and Humber Regional Spatial Strategy	Expected to be posted on http://www.yhassembly.gov.uk/index.cfm?routine=content&channel=Regional%20Spatial%20Strategy (bottom of the page) on 18 Jan 06	Riki Therivel, Levett-Therivel
It makes a good attempt at cumulative effects assessment	Southampton City Council Local Transport Plan 2	http://www.southampton.gov.uk/transport/transportplanning/provltip2/sea/default.asp#0	Nick Pincombe Halcrow Group Ltd
In-house SA. Good example of tiering as local level SA is based on Regional Spatial Strategy	Torbay Local Development Document	http://www.torbay.gov.uk/sustainability_appraisal	Clare Reid, South West Regional Assembly
The SA shows how SEA can be used for a site area that EIA could also be used. This could show links between the two processes.	South Kilburn SPD part of Brent LDF	http://www.brent.gov.uk/skilburn.nsf/61b63a407eca7a438025663c0065cadd/8e778cde030b1fa580256fa1003b727c!OpenDocument	Lewis Hurley London Borough of Hillingdon
Other			
Good monitoring proposals	Humber Estuary Flood Defence Strategy	http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/commodata/acrobat/123_1150722.pdf	Riki Therivel, Levett-Therivel
Prepared by Jacobs Babbie using the Scottish SEA templates adapted for use in Northern Ireland context (Scoping due December '05)	arc21 Waste Management Plan	(to come)	Fiona Harris Jacobs Babbie
Good retail focus, fills in missing planning and appraisal hierarchy	Stevenage Town Centre Supplementary Planning Guidance	http://www.stevenage.gov.uk/council/dev-planning/developing/spg/050420-sa-report(final)-updated1.pdf	Andy Spracklen and Helen Sargant, EDAW
Voluntary SEA	Wye navigation plan	http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/commodata/acrobat/wwwdraft_e2_1143266.pdf	
Example of a concise approach to use of SA objectives	South West Regional Spatial Strategy	http://www.southwest-ra.gov.uk/swra/downloads/ourwork/RSS/Scoping_Report_Sept_04.pdf	Jeremy Owen Land Use Consultants

OVERSEAS

SEA is particularly good because...	SEA for	Web-link to SEA report	Recommended by...
good local participation	Ghana SEA	Expected to be on Environmental Protection Agency (Ghana) website	Farida Shaikh
Used Agenda 21 as a framework for qualitative appraisal of the strategy; allowed early inputs to the planning process to make changes to the strategy in time; had a carefully designed SEA process to tie in with the planning consultation process; adopted a robust, but pragmatic process to look at the environmental carrying capacity in the SEA and planning; had the SEA outcomes linked to the question of sustainability	Territorial Development Strategy Review, Hong Kong	http://www.epd.gov.hk/epd/english/environmentinhk/eia_planning/sea2005/0505_sea_report_199601.html	Elvis Au
Included environmental appraisal/assessment of choice of transport modes (road vs rail); Was the first attempt in Hong Kong to look at the economic appraisal of environmental impacts;	Second Railway Development Strategy, Hong Kong	http://www.epd.gov.hk/epd/english/environmentinhk/eia_planning/sea2005/0505_sea_report_200001.html	Elvis Au
Has a continuous, transparent, interactive public engagement process; environmental sustainability driven; has linkages with sustainability assessment; adopts a stage-wise process in tandem with the planning process	Hong Kong 2030 Study	On-going. Various working papers and interim reports can be found at http://www.info.gov.hk/hk2030/hk2030content/home_eng/2030_e.htm	Elvis Au
Very readable with comprehensive baseline environment section. Detailed assessment and mitigation.	Midlands Waste Management Plan 2005-2010	http://www.tipperarynorth.ie/rawdata/Plans2005/WMP05/Environmental%20Report%20(web).pdf	Fiona Harris Jacobs Bابتie
Highly participative process – SEA Round Table, good monitoring provisions which have proved to work in practice	Waste management plan of Vienna (1999 – 2001)	Environmental report (in German) : http://www.arbter.at/pdf/UB_endgendg.PDF Accompanying scientific evaluation study (in German): http://www.arbter.at/pdf/Wis_begl_endbericht.pdf After 4 years of implementation a study on the actual	Kerstin Arbter, SEA consulting and research, Vienna, Austria

		effects of the SEA was carried out (in German): http://www.arbter.at/pdf/Auswirkungen_SUP_Wr_AWP_Kurz.pdf	
SEA fully integrated into the planning process, good example of stakeholder participation – SEA Round Table, clear process design	Waste management plan of Vorarlberg (one of the nine Austrian provinces), 2005 - 2006	http://www.vorarlberg.at/vorarlberg/umwelt_zukunft/umwelt/abfallwirtschaft/neuigkeiten/vorarlbergerabfallwirtschaft.html (in German)	Kerstin Arbter, SEA consulting and research, Vienna, Austria
	Short descriptions of Austrian pilot SEAs	http://www.arbter.at/sup/sup_f.html (in German)	Kerstin Arbter, SEA consulting and research, Vienna, Austria
Prepared in-house in a cross departmental group with help from process consultant. Was written in a continuous dialogue with the planners and focussed clearly on the most important problem for Copenhagen. Result: The plan was clarified/ changed in the process and extensive follow-up has taken place.	The Spatial Plan for Copenhagen 2005	http://www.netpublikationer.dk/kk/5155/pdf/Miljo.pdf (in Danish)	Lone Kørnøv, Aalborg University, Denmark
Good on all points: approach, methodology, participation, influence, capacity building, awareness raising	Nepal hydropower	World Bank website (I haven't been able to find direct link – Riki)	Rob Verheem
Good process, methodology, participative, monitoring system	India Mumbai transport		Rob Verheem
Good methodology, integration of social, environmental and economic assessment, appears to be participative, influenced the Environmental management plan.	Romania mine sector		Rob Verheem
Good on methodology (integrating environment and economic analysis) and participation (extensive)	Egypt Energy Environment Review		Rob Verheem
Good on methodology, integrated assessment, participative	India Gujarat Road sector		Rob Verheem
Good on approach, process, methodology and influence, and appears to be very cost and time effective	Indonesia Watsal Water sector policy reform		Rob Verheem