



**Strategic Environmental Assessment of Local
Implementation Plans: Sources of baseline data for
Stage A**

by C Treleven and K Townley

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IMPLEMENTATION PLANS:
SOURCES OF BASELINE DATA FOR STAGE A**

Version: Final

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1 Introduction

The purpose of this report is to assist London Boroughs with the Strategic Environmental Assessment of their Transport Local Implementation Plans. This report should be read together with the Advice report prepared by C4S/TRL for London Boroughs in September 2004.

Stage A of Strategic Environmental Assessment requires several steps. One of these is the gathering of Baseline data. This document presents a variety of sources of environmental baseline data that are of relevance to transport plans.

Chapter 2 of this document provides general websites, which provide data of relevance to a variety of SEA topics.

Chapters 3-5 each provide websites that are of major significance for the SEA of transport plans in urban areas. Although 'Noise' is not listed as an example of an environmental topic in the SEA regulations, it is of major importance in urban areas, so a chapter has been devoted to this subject.

Chapter 6 is devoted to the remaining SEA topics, which have not been dealt with in chapters 3-5. Chapter 7 deals with copyright and how to present baseline data.

Chapter 8 provides sources that discuss environmental variables that are relevant to transport, including the trends in those variables, underlying causes and solutions. The purpose of chapter 8 is to brief any Borough staff who do not have extensive experience of the interaction of transport and the environment.

The lists provided in chapters 2-6 are all internet based. This in order to allow accessibility to every user, and to minimise the need for users to order reports. This also means that these sources should be up-to-date in future, which will be of value to Boroughs when amending LIPs in response to comments from the consultations or from TfL.

The lists in this document are by no means exhaustive. They have however been selected for their relevance to the SEA of LIPs. All have been reviewed during October 2004. The websites in each chapter are not listed in priority order.

C4S cannot guarantee the robustness of data in these websites. Individual Boroughs should consider whether or not the data in each website serves the needs of their SEA and LIP. One test of the robustness of data will come when each Borough's Environmental Report is sent out for consultation.

Other sources of baseline data are available. See Appendix 4 of reference ODPM2003. Table A4.2 of DfT2004 provides a more up-to-date list of the sources in ODPM2003. The sources of data listed in both these references have been checked for their relevance to SEA of LIPs, and included in this document where they were found to be relevant.

Users of this document are also strongly advised to seek out the results of previous data collection and collation exercises in their Boroughs. In particular, a Borough's State of the Environment/Sustainability report should be checked. Boroughs are also advised to ask neighbouring Boroughs which sources of information are proving useful to them in their LIP/SEA preparation.

2 General websites

The websites in Table 2.1 below have been selected for their relevance to more than one SEA topic.

Some individual sites hold enough information for a thorough evaluation of the environmental situation in a Borough. They are very useful for learning about the pertinent issues in Boroughs, besides simply offering data. For example, the 'Static maps- regional' facility on <http://www.magic.gov.uk/> provides a long list of environmental issues.

Table 2.1: General sources

Internet Site providing relevant information	Comment	Topics covered
http://www.statistics.gov.uk	National and local. Provides a range of statistics. For specific transport statistics follow the transport link	Population, Human health
http://www.neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk	Local level. Provides a range of local statistics	Population, Human health
http://www.magic.gov.uk/	National/Regional/Local level. Provides access to mapping of various environmental layers	Landscape, soil, water, flora, fauna
http://defra.gov.uk	National level.	Air quality, water, soil, fauna, flora, landscape, climatic factors
http://environment-agency.gov.uk	National level	Air quality, water, soil, fauna, flora, landscape, climatic factors
http://www.nerc.ac.uk	National level. The Natural Environmental Research Council covers a range of general issues from climatic change, biodiversity and sustainable communities	Biodiversity, Climatic change, Flora, Fauna
http://www.odpm.gov.uk	National level	All topic areas
http://www.dft.gov.uk	National level	All topic areas
http://www.tfl.gov.uk	National level	All topic areas
http://www.nasca.org.uk/pages/index.cfm	National/Regional level. Provides information over a variety of issues.	Air quality, noise, landscape.
http://www.regionalobservatories.org.uk/	National/Regional/Local level. Provides information about regional strategies and link to the South East.	Range of topics
http://www.cfit.gov.uk/reports/	National level. Various reports that cover a range of topics.	Range of topics

3 Air Quality

Air quality is of major concern in many metropolitan areas of the UK. The sites in Table 3.1 below deal with this topic in detail.

Table 3.1 Websites for air quality

Internet Site providing relevant information	Comment
http://www.airquality.co.uk/archive/index.php	National and local. Information about air quality emissions and forecasting
http://www.foe.co.uk/campaigns/transport/case_studies/heathrow.html	Regional/Local level (depending on Borough location) Information regarding air pollution (and noise) at Heathrow and the building of terminal 5.
http://www.london.gov.uk/mayor/strategies/air_quality/air_quality_strategy.jsp	Local level. The Mayors air quality strategy
http://www.london-lez.org/	Local level. The London Low Emission Zone feasibility study.
http://www.londonair.org.uk/london/asp/home.asp	Local Level. Air quality data for each area. Site run by Kings College and data can be obtained from Kings.
http://www.heathrowairwatch.org.uk/data_archive.php?action=automatic_monitors	Regional/Local level (depending on location to Heathrow) Information provided about air quality due to Heathrow.

4 Human Health

The human health topic in SEA has overlaps into the areas of accidents, exercise and general human wellbeing.

The two TfL links in the table below provide bespoke data for London on accidents. In the UK as a whole, accidents involving two-wheeled powered vehicles show a strongly rising trend. Accidents involving four-wheeled powered vehicles are on a downward trend, at least for serious injuries to the occupants of the vehicles. Accidents to pedestrians and cyclists are usually considered separately.

Table 4.1 Websites for Human Health

Internet sites providing relevant information	Comment
http://www.dh.gov.uk/Home/fs/en	National level. Provides health and transport related issues
http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/ http://www.londonhealth.gov.uk/hinl2004.htm	National and Regional level. Information about crime
http://www.londonhealth.gov.uk/hinl2004.htm	Local level. Report on health in London
http://www.tfl.gov.uk/streets/downloads/pdf/LRSR/Annual_Reports/Accidents_casualtiesonLondonsroads2003Jul04.pdf http://www.tfl.gov.uk/streets/roadsafety-reports.shtml	Local level. Accidents and casualties on London Roads (statistics provided) The second website listed provides 'quarterly reports', 'annual reports' and 'topic fact sheets'.
http://www.londonhealth.gov.uk/hia.htm	Local level. Information about health impact assessments for each of the topic areas
http://www.transtat.dft.gov.uk	Regional/Local. Statistical information for traffic levels, accidents.

5 Noise

The link to 'londonnoisemap' below gives information on noise levels from traffic in London. However, this may not include other sources of noise, such as industrial premises and aircraft.

Table 5.1: Specific websites for Noise

Internet sites providing relevant information	Comment
http://www.foe.co.uk/campaigns/transport/case_studies/heathrow.html	Regional/Local level (depending upon borough location). Information regarding Noise (and air pollution) at Heathrow and the building of terminal 5.
http://www.londonnoisemap.com/	Local level. Access noise levels within an area
http://www.london.gov.uk/mayor/strategies/noise/downloads.jsp	Local level. Mayor of Londons "Sounder City Strategy" links to leaflets and information regarding the strategy

6 Other SEA topics

Climatic factors are of relevance to transport in two ways:

- (i) Transport is a growing source of greenhouse gas emissions, which cause climate change.
- (ii) Transport may need to adapt to changing climate, and LIPs may therefore require schemes that do this. Flooding and extreme weather events are both predicted to increase in the South East of England, under current climate change scenarios.

Table 6.1: Specific websites for Climatic factors

Internet sites providing relevant information	Comment
http://www.dft.gov.uk/stellent/groups/dft_science/documents/page/dft_science_027568.hcsp	National level. Provides guidance on preparing for climate change, relevant to transport
http://www.london.gov.uk/gla/publications/environment/londons_warming02.pdf	Regional level. Provides background information into climate change in general. Note: with only a slight reference to transport
http://www.ukcip.org.uk/	National level. Provides background information. Registration required to access documents (registration is free of charge)
http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/climatechange/index.htm	National level. General information
http://www.metoffice.gov.uk/research/hadleycentre/	National level. Figures for climate change data provided
http://www.rssb.co.uk/pdf/ClimateChangeFR.pdf	National level. The effect of climate change on the railways
http://www.foe.co.uk/campaigns/climate/issues/climate_change/	National level. Friends of the Earth information on climate change

Table 6.2: Specific websites for Biodiversity

Internet sites providing relevant information	Comment
http://www.foe.co.uk/campaigns/biodiversity/	National level. Friends of the Earth
http://nbn.org.uk/	National and Local level. National Biodiversity network. Provides a variety of information including biodiversity in London
http://www.english-nature.org.uk/	National level. General information on biodiversity
http://www.countryside.gov.uk/	National level. Information on countryside issues within towns
http://www.lbp.org.uk/	Local level. The London Biodiversity partnership. Can provide information into what species are in each borough
http://www.ukbap.org.uk	Local level. Provide Local Biodiversity action plans
http://www.london.gov.uk/mayor/strategies/biodiversity/index.jsp	Local level. The Mayors biodiversity strategy
http://www.blueplanetinternet.co.uk/rp/resources2.php?MemberID=&SelSubjectID=9	Lists information about species that inhabit London.

Table 6.3: Specific websites for Fauna

Internet sites providing relevant information	Comment
http://www.rspb.org.uk/england/southeast/index.asp	Regional level. RSPB reserves in the South East and information about types of birds
http://www.wildlifetrusts.org/index.php?section=localtrustsites&trust_id=000021	Local level. Information regarding the London wildlife trust

Table 6.4: Specific websites for Flora

Internet sites providing relevant information	Comment
http://www.plantlife.org.uk/	National/local level. Can identify important plant areas around the UK
http://www.london.gov.uk/mayor/strategies/biodiversity/docs/Building_Green_main_text.pdf	Local level. Guide to using plants in London

Table 6.5: Specific websites for Cultural Heritage, including architectural and archaeological heritage

Internet sites providing relevant information	Comment
http://worldsquares.com	Local level. Transformation of key heritage sites
http://www.english-heritage.org.uk	National level. Outlines heritage areas around Britain and historical surveys of various cities.
http://www.archaeology.co.uk/directory/results.asp?cat=2&type=c&res=1	National and Regional level. Information about local archaeological centres
http://www.ahfund.org.uk/	National level. Architectural heritage fund helps promote the conservation of old buildings and general information on restoration
http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/filestore/pdf/policy/changinglondon.pdf	Local level. Changing London document, provides information into Londons historic importance
http://www.chr.org.uk/	Local level. Provides cultural heritage resources for the London. Provides links to museums and archaeology in London

Table 6.6: Specific websites for water

Internet sites providing relevant information	Comment
http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/subjects/waterquality/?lang=_e	National/Regional/local levels. Map provides information into the water within a location as well as general information on water quality
http://www.ceh.ac.uk/	National level. Centre for ecology and hydrology

Table 6.7: Specific websites for population

Internet sites providing relevant information	Comment
http://www.statistics.gov.uk	National/Regional/Local level. Population statistics for borough areas
http://www.gad.gov.uk/Population/index.asp	National level. Population statistics

Table 6.8 Specific websites for Soil

Internet sites providing relevant information	Comment
http://www.bgs.ac.uk/	National/Regional/Local levels. Provides general information as well as geo-reports about certain areas (However, a small charge is required for these particular reports)
http://www.ceh.ac.uk/	National level. Centre for ecology and hydrology
http://www.silsoe.cranfield.ac.uk/nsri/	National level. Soil resources institute

Table 6.9: Specific websites for Landscape

Internet sites providing relevant information	Comment
http://www.tfl.gov.uk/streets/downloads/pdf/streetscape-guidance/SSG-1-158-v2.pdf	Local Level. TfL streetscape guidance
http://www.countryside.gov.uk	National and Regional. Provides information about work in the south east

Table 6.10: Specific websites for material assets

Internet sites providing relevant information	Comment
http://www.lsx.org.uk/programmes/scoppaper_page1754.aspx	See bullet points for 'Roads', 'Rivers and canals' and 'General Design and Construction'. The site contains some data, but more advice of relevance to construction in London.
http://www.aggregain.org.uk/specifier.html http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/subjects/waste/315439/ http://www.alg.gov.uk/scrap-it/statistics.htm	A source of data on the environmental impacts of materials. National/Regional level. Provides waste statistics and the national waste survey. Provides statistics on abandoned vehicles in London.
http://www.lga.gov.uk/Documents/Publication/Abandoned%20Vehicles.pdf	Local Government Association research report, providing a survey of abandoned vehicles in 2004.

7 Copyright issues and presenting baseline data

7.1 Copyright

The websites listed in this document are hosted by a wide variety of organisations. Before using information from these sources, Boroughs should consider who owns the copyright on the information. The sites themselves often provide information about the circumstances under which material may be used from the site. See for example:

<http://www.magic.gov.uk/help/copyright.html>

Boroughs' own legal departments should be able to provide further advice on copyright law. See also:

- (i) The pages on copyright on the UK Patent Office's website:

<http://www.patent.gov.uk/copy/index.htm>

- (ii) The Chartered Institute of Patent Agents is a professional body for practitioners in UK copyright law:

<http://www.cipa.org.uk/pages/home>

- (iii) The Association for Geographic Information:

<http://www.agi.org.uk/>

7.2 Presenting baseline data

Once baseline data has been gathered, it needs to be documented and presented. The key issue when presenting the data is to focus on the readers.

The readers of the environmental report include consultation bodies, non-governmental organisations and the public. Most importantly, many of these people will not have the same level of technical understanding as the Borough staff who write the environmental report. This situation points clearly to the need for:

- (i) Text to be provided in the Environmental Report that explains what the data represents;
- (ii) The text to be free of jargon, abbreviations and complex phrasing;
- (iii) Decisions about when to use text, maps, graphs and tables, and for these to be given clear labels.

The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister has provided an example table, which shows how SEA baseline data can be presented. See Figure 11, on page 42 of reference ODPM2003. Note that this reference is not specific to the SEA of a transport plan.

8 Background information, causes and trends

The websites listed in this chapter provide information, rather than predominantly statistical data. This chapter is designed to broaden the knowledge of any Borough environmental or SEA officers who have limited experience of transport's effects on the environment.

8.1 Pollution from vehicles

The link below explains the latest understanding of three issues relating to vehicles and the environment: Particulates, NO_x and Ozone; Noise; and CO₂ emissions.

<http://register.consilium.eu.int/pdf/en/04/st13/st13160.en04.pdf>

The link below summarises a recent EU report on CO₂ emissions from road vehicles. The site also explains sources of air quality problems, such as differences between real-world vehicle emissions and those measured in testing, and pollution problems due to re-chipping diesel engines.

<http://org.eea.eu.int/documents/newsreleases/TERM2004-en>

Information on the procedure for removing abandoned vehicles in London:

<http://www.alg.gov.uk/scrap-it/>

Information on procedure for addressing commercial vehicles with high emissions levels:

<http://www.vosa.gov.uk/vosa/forms/smoky%20vehicle%20report%20form.pdf>

8.2 Accidents and health

The link below may require a subscription to the website. It summarises a report that quantifies the cost of medical treatment, number of deaths and cost of sick-leave due to traffic noise.

<http://www.environmentdaily.com/articles/index.cfm?action=article&ref=17534>

For London, see the 'research reports' listed at:

<http://www.tfl.gov.uk/streets/roadsafety-reports.shtml>

8.3 Climate Change

The site below lists indicators, reports and data on climate change.

http://themes.eea.eu.int/Environmental_issues/climate

8.4 Sustainable development

The link below discusses environment and resources as part of sustainable development. See the icons for air quality, climate change, biodiversity, soil and waste.

http://www.sustainable-development.gov.uk/areas/subject/env_nat_res.htm

The Quality of Life Counts (1999) Government Statistical service:

<http://www.sustainable-development.gov.uk/sustainable/quality99/index.htm>

The government's 2003 report on sustainable development provides a chapter on the environment:

<http://www.sustainable-development.gov.uk/ar2003/07.htm>

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ODPM2003: *The Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive: Guidance for planning authorities, on applying the European Directive 2001/42/EC*

http://www.odpm.gov.uk/stellent/groups/odpm_planning/documents/page/odpm_plan_026670.pdf