

17. Interactions

For each topic, significant interaction and interdependencies between environmental topics will be outlined in individual environmental topic chapters. Care will be taken in the EIS to ensure that all possible interactions are taken into consideration and cross-referenced.

18. Cumulative impacts

Cumulative impact can cover all aspects of the environment. While a single activity may itself result in a minor impact, it may, when combined with other impacts (minor or significant) in the same geographical area, and occurring at the same time, result in a cumulative impact that is collectively significant. Cumulative impacts will take consideration of existing and/or approved projects.

The cumulative impact section of the EIS will be prepared broadly in accordance with the 'Guidelines for the Assessment of Indirect and Cumulative Impacts as well as Impact Interactions', prepared for the European Commission and the EPA Advice Notes on Current Practice.

19. Alternatives

Directive 2014/52/EU amending the Directive 2011/92/EU requires:

'A description of the reasonable alternatives (for example in terms of project design, technology, location, size and scale) studied by the developer, which are relevant to the proposed project and its specific characteristics, and an indication of the main reasons for selecting the chosen option, including a comparison of the environmental effects.'

and further states:

'..including, as appropriate, an outline of the likely evolution of the current state of the environment without implementation of the project (baseline scenario), as a means of improving the quality of the environmental impact assessment process and of allowing environmental considerations to be integrated at an early stage in the project's design'.

Alternatives can take various forms all of which will be examined. A number of broad types of alternatives can be considered: "no action" option, alternative locations, alternative routes, alternative processes or equipment, alternative site layouts, alternative operating conditions, construction methodologies, alternative ways of dealing with potential environmental impacts.

The main alternatives to be considered as part of the proposed project will relate to alternative routes, alternative construction methodologies and timing of construction.