



***EASTERLY ALTERNATION
INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT***

***Environmental Impact Assessment
Environmental Statement, Volume II
Chapter 1: Introduction***

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1. Introduction

1.1 Background

- 1.1.1 Heathrow Airport Limited (hereafter referred to as the 'Applicant') is seeking planning permission for development of infrastructure that will facilitate full runway alternation when Heathrow Airport (the 'Airport') is operating in an easterly direction (hereafter referred to as 'the Proposed Development'). Easterly and westerly operations are dictated by the wind direction as described in **Chapter 2: Heathrow Airport and its Surrounds**. A description of full runway alternation when the Airport is operating in a westerly direction is described in **Chapter 2: Heathrow Airport and its Surrounds**.
- 1.1.2 The location of the Proposed Development is identified in **Figure 1.1** and **Figure 1.2** and is described in **Chapter 2: Heathrow Airport and its Surrounds**. The term the 'Site' is used throughout this Environmental Statement to describe the area in which the Proposed Development would be constructed. This area is spatially defined in a red line boundary plan shown in **Figure 2.2**.
- 1.1.3 The Proposed Development will result in departures and arrivals in an easterly direction and allow full alternation between the northern and southern runways, as they currently do on westerly operations. Runway alternation in an easterly direction has not occurred at the Airport routinely because it was prevented by a historic agreement known as the Cranford Agreement. The Cranford Agreement was ended by the UK Government in January 2009, and the Proposed Development will provide the infrastructure required to enable full alternation of the runways during easterly operations. Full runway alternation would provide, more equitable distribution of noise around the Airport.
- 1.1.4 Further information on the Cranford Agreement and on the infrastructure requirements is provided in **Chapter 3: Description of the Proposed Development**.
- 1.1.5 This Environmental Statement has been prepared in accordance with Regulations 18(3) and 18(4) of the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (as amended)¹ (hereafter referred to as the 'EIA Regulations 2017'). The EIA Regulations 2017 apply to development which is given planning permission under Part III of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990². The Environmental Statement sets out the current state of the environment, a description of the Proposed Development, the legislative and policy framework under which the Application has been made, the approach to the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and its findings.

¹ HM Government, (2017). *The Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017*. [Online] Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2017/571/contents> [Accessed: 02 October 2024].

² HM Government, (1990). *The Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended)*. [Online] Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1990/8/contents> [Accessed: 02 October 2024].

1.2 The Project Team

- 1.2.1 In line with Regulation 18(5)(a) – (b) of the EIA Regulations 2017¹, this Environmental Statement has been prepared by a suitably qualified team of competent experts and is accompanied by a statement outlining their relevant expertise (**Appendix 1.3: Easterly Alternations Infrastructure project team and statement of competencies** sets out the team and expertise).
- 1.2.2 The technical chapters of this Environmental Statement have been prepared on behalf of the Applicant by WSP UK Limited (WSP) and Logika Group Limited (Logika) who are experts in the environmental and social assessment of aviation activities, having significant experience of working with airports across the UK and the world to support growth and achieving more sustainable operations. The relevant determining authority for this application is the London Borough of Hillingdon (LBH).
- 1.2.3 WSP and Logika are responsible for the coordination, compilation and procedural review of the Environmental Statement. WSP UK is also registered under the EIA Quality Mark operated by the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA) which recognises commitment to excellence in EIA activities.



1.3 Environmental Impact Assessment

- 1.3.1 The term 'environmental impact assessment' (EIA) describes a procedure that must be followed for certain types of projects before they can be 'consented'. The procedure is a means of drawing together, in a systematic way, an assessment of a project's likely significant environmental effects. This helps to ensure that the importance of the predicted effects and the scope for reducing them are properly understood by the public and the relevant competent authority before it makes its consenting decision.
- 1.3.2 The aim of EIA is to:

*"...protect the environment by ensuring that a local planning authority when deciding whether to grant planning permission for a project, which is likely to have significant effects on the environment, does so in the full knowledge of the likely significant effects, and takes this into account in the decision making process" and "ensure that the public are given early and effective opportunities to participate in the decision making procedures."*³

The Environmental Statement

- 1.3.3 The Environmental Statement is the written output of the work undertaken to allow the EIA to be undertaken. This work has been undertaken in accordance with the requirements set out in the EIA Regulations 2017¹. The EIA Regulations 2017 implement the requirements

³ Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities and Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, (2020). *Guidance: Environmental Impact Assessment*. [online] Available at: [Environmental Impact Assessment - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/86422/Environmental_Impact_Assessment_-_GOV.UK.pdf) [Accessed: 02 October 2024].

of Directive 2011/92/EU (as amended by EU Directive 2014/52/EU) on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment.

1.3.4 The EIA Regulations 2017 set out the types of development which must always be subject to an EIA (Schedule 1 development) and other developments (Schedule 2 development) which require an assessment if they give rise to likely significant environmental effects and either:

- Meets or exceeds the applicable threshold criteria for that class of development in Schedule 2; OR
- The development is to be carried out partly or wholly within a sensitive area (as defined in Part 1 of the EIA Regulations 2017).

1.3.5 The Proposed Development meets the criteria outlined in Schedule 2 10(e) and therefore is a Schedule 2 development and it is considered likely that it could cause significant environmental effects. For the Proposed Development, the Applicant has opted to undertake an EIA and prepared this Environmental Statement.

1.3.6 The Environmental Statement is provided in four volumes:

- **Volume I: Non-Technical Summary (NTS);**
- **Volume II: Main Environmental Statement (this document);**
- **Volume III: Appendices;** and
- **Volume IV: Noise Figures.**

1.3.7 A **NTS (Volume I)** provides a non-technical summary of the Proposed Development and the likely significant effects.

1.3.8 **Volume II** contains the main text of the Environmental Statement and is broken down into introductory Chapters (1 to 5), and technical Chapters (6 to 13) as per the structure in **Table 1.1**.

1.3.9 Volume III provides a suite of appendices including reports, surveys and data which have informed the preparation of the Environmental Statement. **Volume III** also includes **Appendix 1.2 Glossary of Terms and Abbreviations**. A breakdown of the information required by the EIA Regulations can be found in **Appendix 1.4: Location of Information within the Environmental Statement**.

1.3.10 Due to the quantity of noise figures produced, **Volume IV** includes all the noise figures referenced in **Chapter 7: Noise and Vibration**. The figures associated with the other chapters are provided in **Volume III**.

Table 1.1 Contents of the Environmental Statement

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| Volume I: Non-Technical Summary | |
| Non-Technical Summary | |
| Volume II: Main Environmental Statement (this document) | |
| Chapter 1 | Introduction |
| Chapter 2 | Heathrow Airport and its Surrounds |
| Chapter 3 | Description of the Proposed Development |
| Chapter 4 | Legislation, Policy Context and Planning History |
| Chapter 5 | Approach to the EIA |
| Chapter 6 | Air Quality |
| Chapter 7 | Noise and Vibration |
| Chapter 8 | People and Communities |
| Chapter 9 | Public Health |
| Chapter 10 | Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment |
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| Appendix 1.5 | Scoping Report |
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| Appendix 2.1 | Wake Vortex Statement |
| Appendix 2.2 | Heathrow Airport and its Surrounds Figures |
| Appendix 3.1 | Description of the Proposed Development Figures |

| Volume III: Appendices | |
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| Appendix 4.1 | Heathrow Airport Planning History |
| Appendix 5.1 | Longford Engagement Letter and Survey |
| Appendix 6.1 | Air Quality Modelling Methodology |
| Appendix 6.2 | Air Quality Detailed Results |
| Appendix 6.3 | Air Quality Figures |
| Appendix 6.4 | Air Quality Longford Monitoring Survey |
| Appendix 7.1 | Introduction, Human Hearing and Acoustics Terminology |
| Appendix 7.2 | Noise Management and Mitigation at Heathrow Airport |
| Appendix 7.3 | Noise and Vibration Baseline Conditions |
| Appendix 7.4 | Construction Noise and Vibration |
| Appendix 7.5 | Air Noise |
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| Appendix 8.1 | Equality Statement |
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| Appendix 12.2 | HRA Screening Report |
| Appendix 12.3 | Preliminary Ecological Appraisal |
| Appendix 12.4 | Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment |
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| Appendix 12.7 | Biodiversity Figures |
| Appendix 13.1 | Long List of Committed Developments |
| Appendix 13.2 | Shortlist of Committed Development |
| Appendix 13.3 | Cumulative Effects Assessment Figures |
| Volume IV: Noise Figures | |
| Figures | Noise Figures |

1.3.11 The Environmental Statement is one of a suite of documents which supports the planning application for the Proposed Development. Other key documents supporting the planning application that are referred to in the Environmental Statement include:

- **Flood Risk Assessment;**
- **Whole Life Carbon Assessment Report;**
- **Construction Environmental Management Plan;**
- **Circular Economy Statement;**
- **Statement of Community Involvement;** and
- **Planning Statement.**

1.3.12 A full list of documents is available in the **Planning Statement**.