



Latchmore Brook Catchment Restoration Scheme - EIA

26th February

LUC and Cascade Consulting

www.landuse.co.uk



Outline

- Background
- Project team
- Outline of the proposal
- Topic to be covered in EIA
- Final outputs
- Consultation and key dates



Background

- LUC and team commissioned by Forestry Commission to prepare Planning Application and accompanying Environmental Statement.
- Environmental Statement will be prepared in accordance with the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2011.
- Requirement for an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) was not deemed necessary by the New Forest National Park Authority. However, Natural England requested an EIA. The Forestry Commission are therefore volunteering an EIA for the proposed restoration scheme.

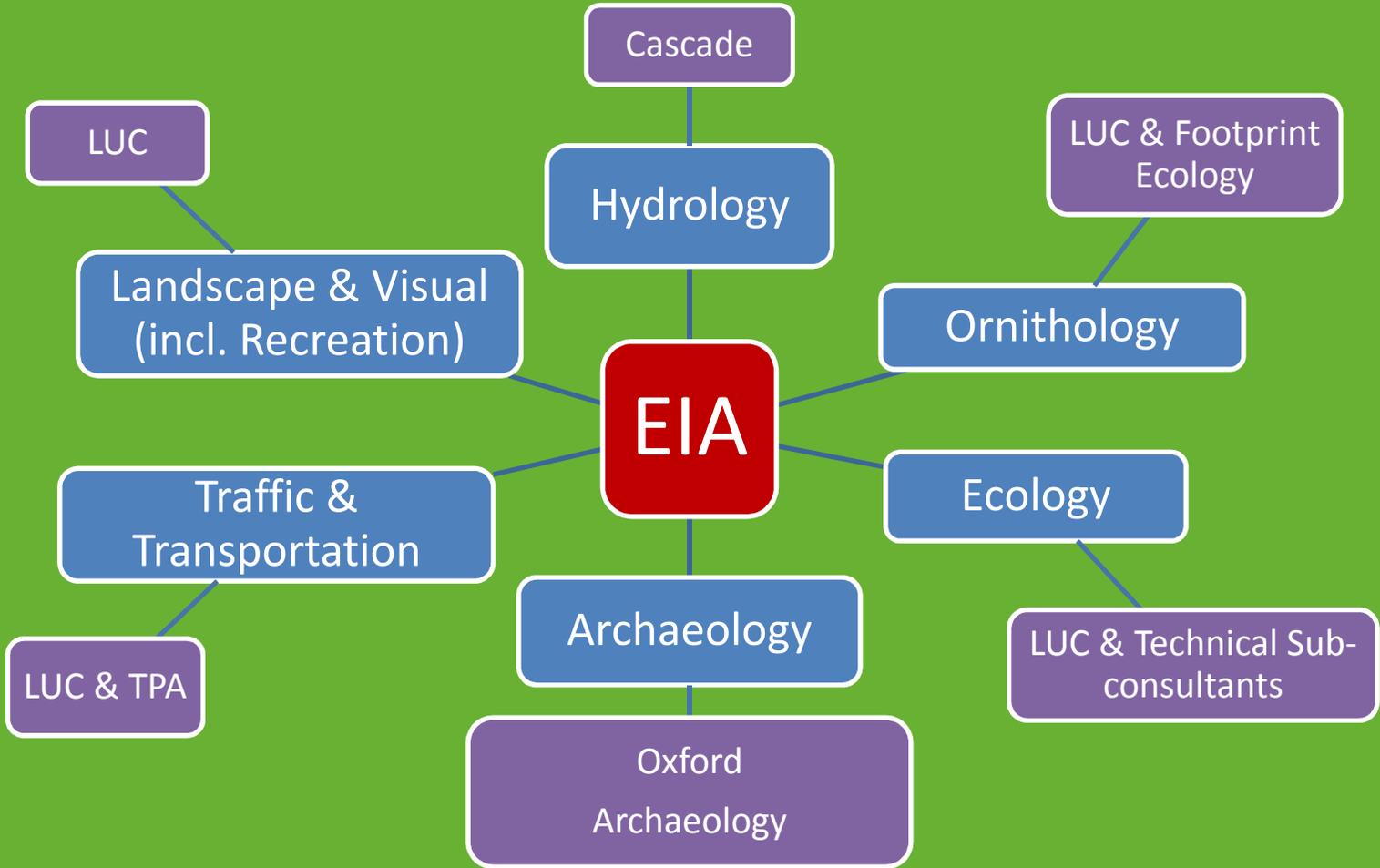
- LUC is an Environmental Planning, Design and Management consultancy.
- Have played a pioneering role in Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) in the UK since the 1970s.
- Our EIA experience includes renewable energy, transport and waster resource projects, housing and mixed used developments, mineral extraction and waste management.
- Our involvement ranges from the early feasibility to post application stages, including Public Inquiry work.
- We have also been commissioned to independently review Environmental Statements, undertake EIA research projects, and prepare good practice guidance on behalf of government agencies.



Independent Assessors

- Our role = undertake an independent assessment of the environmental effects of the proposal.
- LUC and Cascade Consulting are registered practitioners at the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA) and will ensure that the EIA process and methodologies follow best practice.
- Have secured the IEMA Quality Mark for EIA, which provides assurance that an objective EIA will be carried out according to the IEMA Code of Practice.

Project Team by Topic



The Proposed Options

Potential restoration options are currently being considered.

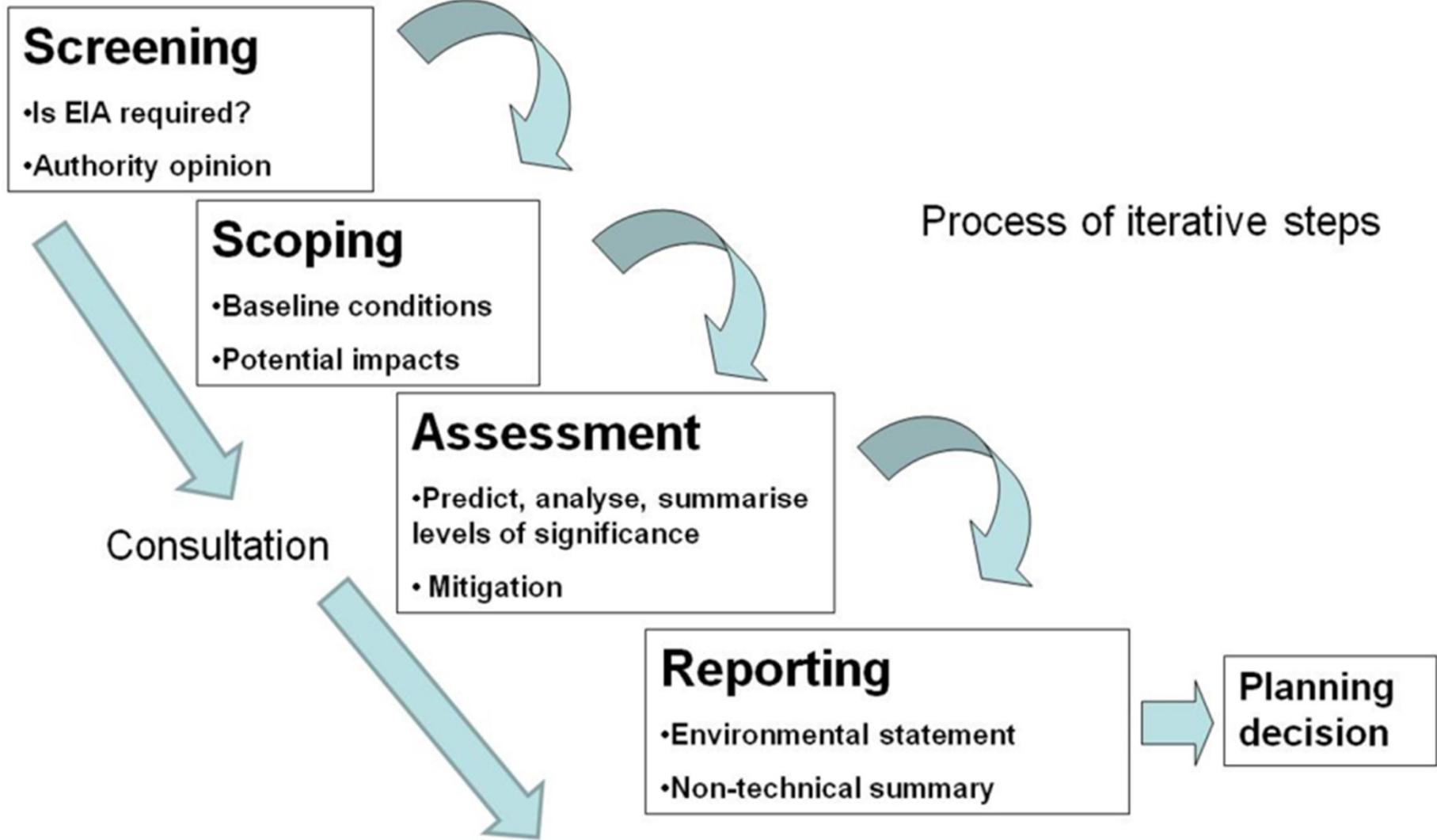
Preferred option will be informed by the findings of the EIA.

Potential works may include a combination of:

- Meander restoration along sections of the Latchmore Brook.
- Bed level raising of main channel, tributaries and side drains.
- Complete infill of certain sections of the existing main channel, tributaries or side drains.
- Use of debris dams where agreement can be reached.
- Repair of nick points and drain infill within mires to restore and stabilise water levels.
- Removal of spoil banks.
- Tree felling, scrub and vegetation clearance.
- Replacement, maintenance or relocation of access structures (fords, culverts, bridges).



The EIA Process



Ecology

- This section will cover fish, macro-invertebrates, *Odanata*, birds, reptiles, otter, bats and plants.
- Historical data will be studied but current baseline survey data will be collected for all these ecological components.
- Best practice survey guidelines will be followed at all times.
- This will provide us with a comprehensive dataset which will allow us to make an impartial assessment of the potential impacts of the proposed scheme.



Hydrology

- Assessment will include hydrology, geomorphology, water quality and flood risk
- Will take account of other directives and frameworks including:
 - Requirements of EIA regulations
 - WFD (hydromorphology and water quality/ no deterioration)
 - National Planning Policy Framework (flooding)

Hydrology

Data request made including from Latchmore Brook or nearest available:

- Hydrology (nearest continuous flow monitoring dataset (Docken's Water), spot flows, rainfall data)
- Geomorphology (River Habitat Survey (RHS) data, EA WFD assessment)
- Water quality (routine water quality monitoring, EA WFD assessment)
- Flood risk (EA Flood Risk Maps and the EA flood risk model)
- Other sources (JBA work, historic mapping etc.)

Hydrology

Noted that existing data may be lacking and surveys will be undertaken during 2014: This will include:

- Spot flows/cross sections
- Spot water quality samples
- Sediment surveys

Hydrology Assessment

- JBA still in process of modelling options
- EIA will look at construction and operational impacts
- Mitigation may be required to minimise impacts. Will follow best practice/PPG but will need to be tailored to specific site and works in question
- Operational impacts will be assessed, with regard to relevant directives and guidance

Archaeology

- The following will be considered:
 - Designated and undesignated archaeological sites.
 - Known and potential archaeological sites.
 - Areas of archaeological sensitivity.
- Archaeology assessment will conform to the standards set by the Institute of Archaeologists (IfA) and the National Planning Policy Framework (2012).
- Baseline survey's will make use of all relevant and accessible archival and historic sources, including LIDAR analysis and a digest of data held by the National Monuments Record, Hampshire Historic Environment Record and the English Heritage National Mapping Programme.
- Further research will be carried out as necessary in order to ensure that the data resource used for the EIA is as comprehensive as possible.

Traffic & Transportation



- The baseline assessment will review the proposed vehicle access routes and assess the appropriateness of the route for construction vehicles in relation to alignment, vehicle restrictions and width constraints.
- The construction access routes will be agreed with the Highway Authority.
- ES will include an assessment of the likely vehicle movements during the construction phase and the type and frequency of vehicle movements.
- ES will also outline any proposed mitigation measures e.g. construction vehicle management plan. This will outline measures such as:
 - Use/creation of passing places.
 - Restriction of hours of construction activity.
 - Facilities to ensure adjacent highways are kept clean from mud and dust.

Landscape & Visual



LVIA considers potential effects on:

- The landscape as a resource in its own right;
- Views and visual amenity as experienced by people.

Principal source is Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (2013) by LI and IEMA.

Principal steps will be:

- Identification of landscape receptors;
- Identification of the nature of views and visual amenity;
- Selection of representative viewpoints for visual assessment;
- Description of likely significant effects on landscape and visual resources;
- Judgement of the level and significance of landscape and visual effects, with reference to the sensitivity of the resource/receptor (its susceptibility and value) and magnitude of effect (a combination of the scale of effect, geographical extent and duration/reversibility).

Landscape & Visual



Key Considerations:

- Close relationship between the character of landscapes within the New Forest, ecological and hydrological systems, land management regimes and recreational use. Potential for indirect and secondary effects.
- Assessment of the 'do nothing' option.
- Assessment of impact on the special qualities which underpin the National Park designation.
- Assessment of cumulative effect of localised works and potentially wider visual effects of longer term landscape changes that could result from works and associated ongoing management.



Final Outputs

- The EIA will be drawn together and presented in an **Environmental Statement** and supporting **Non-Technical Summary**
- These documents will form the Planning Application to be submitted to the New Forest National Park Authority

Consultation

- Stakeholders will be consulted at the following stages:
 - Preliminary/Pre-application consulting (including the scoping stage)
 - Consultation during the EIA process
 - Formal consultation
- A variety of consultation methods will be used to engage with stakeholders, including:
 - Stakeholder meetings
 - Public Exhibitions
 - Detailed, technical stakeholder consultations
 - EIA Scoping Report consultation
 - Planning Application consultation
 - Website



Key Dates

Spring 2014

- Public exhibition
- Submission of scoping report

Summer 2014

- Second public exhibition

Winter 2014

- Submission of planning application