

## Joint Defra / EA Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management R&D Programme

SCHO1006BLKQ-E-P

### **Landscape and Environmental Design Guidance** Science Summary SC020101/SS

Staff from the Environment Agency's National Environmental Assessment Service (NEAS) have worked with consultants Furguson McIlveen and WS Atkins to produce guidance notes on how the Environment Agency should handle landscape and environmental design issues in the development of capital projects. This information will be used by staff managing the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process or involved in developing capital projects. Use of the guidance will encourage consistency and value for money within projects and ensure Agency projects are designed and implemented to the right standard.

The guidance, which will be available to Environment Agency staff on the intranet, centres around breaking the overall process down into small steps, allowing full consideration of the environmental opportunities and constraints at each stage. It also gives guidance on how to manage these issues and includes a list of design quality standards to inform designers of the approach they should adopt.

The guidance contains a series of notes on how to interpret standard methodologies such as the Landscape and Visual impact Assessment Methodology when working on Environment Agency schemes. It also outlines how to deal with trees, design walls and embankments to fit within a landscape, use landscape protection zones and run planting maintenance contracts.

The document will be regularly updated by the Landscape sub group of NEAS's Good practice Review Group, ensuring that it will remain a useful source of information on landscape and environmental design.

**This Summary relates to information from Project SC020101. The set of practical guidelines, collectively referred to as the "Environmental Design Principles and Quality Standards", can be found at the following location:-**

<http://intranet.ea.gov/organisation/ncs/neas/contents.htm>

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This project was funded by the Environment Agency's Science Group, which provides scientific knowledge, tools and techniques to enable us to protect and manage the environment as effectively as possible.

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