

Expansion of Stansted Airport BAA

To help meet the future demand for air travel BAA is proposing to expand the capacity of Stansted airport from 15 million passengers per annum (mppa) to 25 mppa. This requires an extension to the award winning terminal building designed by Sir Norman Foster, together with other development within the existing airport boundary. The airport has a very important role in supporting the economic development of the eastern region including the growth of technology-based industries in the Cambridge area. A BAA objective is that the expansion of the airport must take full account of environmental and sustainability issues. BAA appointed Entec to help carry out the environmental impact assessment of the proposals and to prepare the environmental statement. Subsequently, the appointment was extended to provide advice on sustainable development. A member of Entec's environmental assessment team worked on secondment to BAA for six months to co-ordinate the preparation of the environmental statement. In addition, Entec carried out a high level technical review of the overall environmental statement as well as preparing specific sections on planning policy, housing, demographic forecasts, rural character and waste.



Entec also carried out a sustainability appraisal of the proposals. In the absence of any official guidance on methodology, an objectives-led approach was developed, based on Entec's own extensive experience. The appraisal was carried out in consultation with a stakeholder group that included representatives of local authorities and other organisations. This approach has since been used as a model of good practice by others, including the Ministry of Defence.

BAA submitted the planning application and the supporting environmental statement in August 2001. Entec is continuing to advise BAA on issues arising through the planning application process and on sustainable development.

*Environmental impact
assessment and
sustainability
appraisal of airport
expansion proposals
in sensitive
countryside
location*

