

## **A1 Road Widening Schemes** Highways Agency

Environmental assessments were required for two road-widening schemes on the A1 trunk road in North Northumberland. Through carriageway dualling, the schemes are intended to provide a major benefit to road safety and, by improving transport networks in the region, help promote economic development in this rural area. Proposals involved land-take alongside the present carriageway and a displacement of traffic flows to the new carriageway.

This had potential to affect land use, ecology, geology, archaeology, amenity, noise, and air and water quality. One scheme has now been completed and constructed, and the other is in preparation. The provision of robust environmental assessment is crucial to the development of such schemes.

Entec provide technically rigorous environmental assessment documents in accordance with the Design Manual for Roads and Bridges (DMRB) (Volumes 10 and 11). All impacts are quantified wherever possible, and mitigation proposals are provided. Mitigation has included the addition of mammal fencing and culvert ledges to reduce badger and otter fatalities in the area, and selective planting of trees and shrubs to attenuate visual impacts and enhance ecological value whilst retaining landscape character. One of the schemes necessitates closure, on the grounds of safety, of two minor roads and a number of field access points. Obtaining views on the scheme from local interest groups is therefore integral to the process to enable measures to be incorporated into the scheme design which are acceptable both to the client and those affected by the scheme.

Entec's work provides the framework for assessing all environmental issues associated with the dualling schemes. Entec is currently using these data to prepare an environmental masterplan for use at the design stage.



*Environmental impact assessment for  
proposed dual carriageway scheme*

