EIA Quality Mark Case Study

Heathrow Airtrack

Key Issues
Temple was integral to the development of a preferred route option across the sensitive Staines Moor helping to shape decisions so as to minimise environmental impacts and scheme risks. Temple co-ordinated an extensive team of specialists to engage with stakeholders, assess the potential and minimise likely impacts of the scheme.

Temple undertook a number of key, related assessment processes:
- Environmental Impact Assessment, including scope and methodology report.
- Health Impact Assessment
- Sustainability Appraisal
- Level Crossing Assessment
- Code of Construction Practice
- Mitigation Strategies

Purpose of the project
In 2007 Temple Group was commissioned by Heathrow Airport Ltd (BAA Ltd) to provide environmental services to support preparation of an order application for the Heathrow Airtrack Scheme – a proposed rail link between Terminal 5 and South-West rail network, servicing the South and West of the airport – under the Transport and Works Act.

Description of the project
The project involves the use of mainly existing rail lines between Heathrow T5 and London Waterloo, as well as areas south and west of London. Around 4km of new track would also be required (including a short tunnel section) together with a short link chord into Staines and some additional platform capacity and ticket hall at the station. A depot would also be constructed at Feltham.
The project included extensive additional facilities for pedestrians, cyclists and recreational users along the route.

Once operational, a twice hourly service in each direction would run between the airport and key stations, with a total journey time of 40-45 minutes.

Originally intended to be constructed 2011-2014, the project is currently on indefinite hold.

**Lessons learnt**

A full Environmental Statement (ES) and associated documents were published within the client’s time frames, including additional supporting information. Subsequently, additional information resulted in two addendums to the original proposal and ES. The ES was produced to support a Transport and Works Act application.

Temple brought the following to the project:

- In depth understanding of the TWA process
- An holistic, integrated approach to environmental assessment
- A strong working relationship and understanding of key priorities of the statutory consultees
- Historic knowledge of the local environs and community concerns.

**Contact details**

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