

Appendix 10.2

Appendix 10.2: Ecological Assessment

Geographical Reference for Ecological Assessment

Ecological Valuation
<p>International Importance: 'European Site' including Special Area of Conservation (SAC), Site of Community Importance (SCI), Special Protection Area (SPA) or proposed Special Area of Conservation. Proposed Special Protection Area (pSPA). Site that fulfils the criteria for designation as a 'European Site' (see Annex III of the Habitats Directive, as amended). Features essential to maintaining the coherence of the Natura 2000 Network. Site containing 'best examples' of the habitat types listed in Annex I of the Habitats Directive. Resident or regularly occurring populations (assessed to be important at the national level) of the following: Species of bird, listed in Annex I and/or referred to in Article 4(2) of the Birds Directive; and/or Species of animal and plants listed in Annex II and/or IV of the Habitats Directive. Ramsar Site (Convention on Wetlands of International Importance Especially Waterfowl Habitat 1971). World Heritage Site (Convention for the Protection of World Cultural & Natural Heritage, 1972). Biosphere Reserve (UNESCO Man & the Biosphere Programme). Site hosting significant species populations under the Bonn Convention (Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals, 1979). Site hosting significant populations under the Berne Convention (Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats, 1979). Biogenetic Reserve under the Council of Europe. European Diploma Site under the Council of Europe. Salmonid water designated pursuant to the European Communities (Quality of Salmonid Waters) Regulations, 1988, (S.I. No. 293 of 1988).</p>
<p>National Importance: Site designated or proposed as a Natural Heritage Area (NHA). Statutory Nature Reserve. Refuge for Fauna and Flora protected under the Wildlife Acts. National Park. Undesignated site fulfilling the criteria for designation as a Natural Heritage Area (NHA); Statutory Nature Reserve; Refuge for Fauna and Flora protected under the Wildlife Act; and/or a National Park. Resident or regularly occurring populations (assessed to be important at the national level) of the following: Species protected under the Wildlife Acts; and/or Species listed on the relevant Red Data list. Site containing 'viable areas' of the habitat types listed in Annex I of the Habitats Directive.</p>
<p>County Importance: Area of Special Amenity. Area subject to a Tree Preservation Order. Area of High Amenity, or equivalent, designated under the County Development Plan. Resident or regularly occurring populations (assessed to be important at the County level) of the following: Species of bird, listed in Annex I and/or referred to in Article 4(2) of the Birds Directive; Species of animal and plants listed in Annex II and/or IV of the Habitats Directive; Species protected under the Wildlife Acts; and/or Species listed on the relevant Red Data list.</p>

Ecological Valuation

Site containing area or areas of the habitat types listed in Annex I of the Habitats Directive that do not fulfil the criteria for valuation as of International or National importance.
County important populations of species or viable areas of semi-natural habitats or natural heritage features identified in the National or Local BAP, if this has been prepared.
Sites containing semi-natural habitat types with high biodiversity in a county context and a high degree of naturalness, or populations of species that are uncommon within the county.
Sites containing habitats and species that are rare or are undergoing a decline in quality or extent at a national level.

Local Importance (higher value):

Locally important populations of Priority species or habitats or natural heritage features identified in the Local BAP, if this has been prepared;
Resident or regularly occurring populations (assessed to be important at the Local level) of the following:
Species of bird, listed in Annex I and/or referred to in Article 4(2) of the Birds Directive;
Species of animal and plants listed in Annex II and/or IV of the Habitats Directive;
Species protected under the Wildlife Acts; and/or
Species listed on the relevant Red Data list.
Sites containing semi-natural habitat types with high biodiversity in a local context and a high degree of naturalness, or populations of species that are uncommon in the locality;
Sites or features containing common or lower value habitats, including naturalised species that are nevertheless essential in maintaining links and ecological corridors between features of higher ecological value.

Local Importance (lower value):

Sites containing small areas of semi-natural habitat that are of some local importance for wildlife;
Sites or features containing non-native species that are of some importance in maintaining habitat links.