

SEA Screening

The Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive is a European Union requirement that seeks to provide a high level of protection of the environment by integrating environmental considerations into the process of preparing certain plans and programmes. Its aim is “to contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans and programmes with a view to promoting sustainable development, by ensuring that, in accordance with this Directive, an environmental assessment is carried out of certain plans and programmes which are likely to have significant effects on the environment.”

With regards to a SPD requiring a SEA, the [NPPG](#) says:

Supplementary planning documents do not require a sustainability appraisal but may in exceptional circumstances require a strategic environmental assessment if they are likely to have significant environmental effects that have not already have been assessed during the preparation of the [Local Plan](#).

A strategic environmental assessment is unlikely to be required where a supplementary planning document deals only with a small area at a local level (see [regulation 5\(6\) of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004](#)), unless it is considered that there are likely to be significant environmental effects.

Before deciding whether significant environment effects are likely, the local planning authority should take into account the criteria specified in [Schedule 1 to the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004](#) and consult the consultation bodies.

The following is an internal assessment relating to the requirement of the Broads Authority Landscape Character Assessment SPD to undergo a Strategic Environmental Assessment.

The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 requirement	Assessment of the BA Landscape Character Assessment SPD
Environmental assessment for plans and programmes: first formal preparatory act on or after 21st July 2004	
Is on or after 21st July 2004.	Yes. The SPD will be completed in 2026.
The plan or programme sets the framework for future development consent of projects.	No. It elaborates on already adopted policy.
The plan or programme is the subject of a determination under regulation 9(1) or a	See assessment in this table.

The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 requirement	Assessment of the BA Landscape Character Assessment SPD
direction under regulation 10(3) that it is likely to have significant environmental effects.	
Criteria for determining the likely significance of effects on the environment	
1. The characteristics of plans and programmes, having regard, in particular, to	
The degree to which the plan or programme sets a framework for projects and other activities, either with regard to the location, nature, size and operating conditions or by allocating resources.	The SPD expands on adopted policy. It will be a material consideration in determining planning applications. The SPD provides background information in the form of an assessment of the landscape types and character areas of the Broads' landscape and its condition.
The degree to which the plan or programme influences other plans and programmes including those in a hierarchy	The SPD both provides evidence for the Local Plan and expands on adopted policy.
The relevance of the plan or programme for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development	The adopted policy and the SPD (which expands on adopted policy) seek to promote sustainable development and protection of the special landscape qualities of the Broads.
Environmental problems relevant to the plan or programme	The SPD provides an assessment of the Broads' landscape, to inform management and planning decisions to overcome environmental problems.
The relevance of the plan or programme for the implementation of Community legislation on the environment (for example, plans and programmes linked to waste management or water protection).	The SPD relates to adopted policies on landscape.
2. Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected, having regard, in particular, to	
The probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects	The SPD will not affect the probability, duration or frequency of the causes of

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	events. The SPD will influence decisions in relation to the management of and planning decisions that affect the landscape. If the SPD is followed, this could be a positive effect when compared to a development that does not follow a SPD.
The cumulative nature of the effects	There is potential for many poorly designed developments that do not consider the landscape context within which they sit which would have a cumulative impact on an area. This SPD sets out the landscape type and character of an area and so development that is informed by the SPD should be positively affected by it, resulting in more well-designed developments.
The transboundary nature of the effects	The Broads Authority sits within six districts so by its very nature there are transboundary considerations, in relation to administrative boundaries. Landscape qualities obviously extend beyond planning authority boundaries and this document may be used to inform developments outside the BA area but that may affect its setting.
The risks to human health or the environment (for example, due to accidents)	The SPD seeks to elaborate on adopted policies relating to landscape. There are no clear risks to human health.
The magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected)	The SPD will cover the Broads Authority which includes 6,000 permanent residents. There are also visitors throughout the year.
<p>The value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to—</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Special natural characteristics or cultural heritage; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Broads is special in its natural characteristics and cultural heritage. • Unsure if standards or limits have been exceeded in the Broads

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values; or Intensive land-use; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are different land uses within the Broads. This SPD sets out an assessment of the special landscape characteristics of the area. The SPD should potentially mean that developments informed by it are better designed in terms of how they relate to their wider context and therefore the document should have a beneficial effect on the area.
<p>The effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, Community or international protection status.</p>	<p>The area to which the SPD applies is the Broads with an equivalent status to that of a National Park. This SPD sets out the landscape types and characters found across the Broads and so any impact of the SPD should be positive.</p>

The Broads Authority considers that this screening exercise does not result in the need for a full SEA as the LCA SPD will not require development but will guide development.