



**APPENDIX 11.1**  
**ECOLOGICAL EVALUATION ASSESSMENT FOR HABITATS**



**Scheme for ecological evaluation of sites (Nairn & Fossitt, 2004)**

<b>Rating</b>	<b>Qualifying Criteria</b>
<b>A</b>	<p><b>Internationally Important</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sites designated (or qualifying for designation as *SAC or *SPA under the EU Habitats or Birds Directives.</li> <li>• Undesignated sites containing good examples of Annex I <u>priority</u> habitats under the EU Habitats Directive.</li> <li>• Major salmon river fisheries.</li> <li>• Major salmonid (salmon, trout or char) lake fisheries.</li> </ul>
<b>B</b>	<p><b>Nationally Important</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sites or waters designated or proposed as an *NHA or statutory Nature Reserves.</li> <li>• Undesignated sites containing good examples of Annex I habitats (under EU Habitats Directive).</li> <li>• Undesignated sites containing <u>significant numbers</u> of resident or regularly occurring populations of Annex II species under the EU Habitats Directive or Annex I species under the EU Birds Directive or species protected under the Wildlife (Amendment) Act 2000.</li> <li>• Major trout river fisheries.</li> <li>• Water bodies with major amenity fishery value.</li> <li>• Commercially important coarse fisheries.</li> </ul>
<b>C</b>	<p><b>High Value, Locally Important</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sites containing semi-natural habitat types with high biodiversity in a local context and a high degree of naturalness, or significant populations of locally rare species.</li> <li>• Small water bodies with known salmonid populations or with good potential salmonid habitat.</li> <li>• Sites containing <u>any</u> resident or regularly occurring populations of Annex II species under the EU Habitats Directive or Annex I species under the EU Birds Directive.</li> <li>• Large water bodies with some coarse fisheries value.</li> </ul>
<b>D</b>	<p><b>Moderate Value, Locally Important</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sites containing some semi-natural habitat or locally important for wildlife.</li> <li>• Small water bodies with some coarse fisheries value or some potential salmonid habitat.</li> <li>• Any water body with unpolluted water (Q-value rating 4-5).</li> </ul>
<b>E</b>	<p><b>Low Value, Locally Important</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Artificial or highly modified habitats with low species diversity and low wildlife value.</li> <li>• Water bodies with no current fisheries value and no significant potential fisheries value.</li> </ul>

\*SAC = Special Area of Conservation

SPA = Special Protection Area

NHA = Natural Heritage Area

**Citation:**

Nairn, R. & Fossitt, J. (2004). The ecological impacts of roads, and an approach to their assessment for national roads schemes. In: J. Davenport & J.L. Davenport (eds) *The effects of human transport on ecosystems: cars and planes, boats and trains*, 98-114. Royal Irish Academy, Dublin.