



APPENDIX 11.1
ECOLOGICAL EVALUATION ASSESSMENT FOR HABITATS

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

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

*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.