

Strategic Environmental Assessment 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 Supplementary Planning Documents (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.

Assessment of the Design Guide and Code SPD

The following is an internal assessment relating to the requirement of the Design Guide and Code SPD to undergo a Strategic Environmental Assessment.

The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 requirement	Assessment of the Design Guide and Code 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 2024/2025.
The plan or programme sets the framework for future development consent of projects.	No. It elaborates on already adopted policy.

The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 requirement	Assessment of the Design Guide and Code SPD
The plan or programme is the subject of a determination under regulation 9(1) or a direction under regulation 10(3) that it is likely to have significant environmental effects.	See assessment in this table.
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 does relate generally to the location, nature, size and operating conditions of future schemes.
The degree to which the plan or programme influences other plans and programmes including those in a hierarchy	The SPD does not influence other plans, rather 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.
Environmental problems relevant to the plan or programme	The SPD relates to adopted policies on design. The environmental problem is design.
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 design. The environmental problem is design.

The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 requirement	Assessment of the Design Guide and Code SPD
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 events. The SPD will influence the design of buildings. 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 buildings in an area cumulatively impacting on an area. This SPD sets out guidance for good design and so any impact of a building or buildings, that follows this SPD, will be positive.
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. Design of a building can impact the local area, but this SPD sets out guidance for good design and so any impact of a building, that follows this SPD, will be positive.
The risks to human health or the environment (for example, due to accidents)	The SPD seeks to elaborate on adopted policies relating to design. There are no clear risks to human health. This SPD sets out guidance for good design and so any impact of a building, that follows this SPD, will be positive.
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.

The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 requirement	Assessment of the Design Guide and Code SPD
<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; • Exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values; or • Intensive land-use; 	<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 • This SPD sets out guidance for good design and so any impact of a building, that follows this SPD, will be positive.
<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 guidance for good design and so any impact of a building, that follows this SPD, will be positive.</p>

The Broads Authority considers that this screening exercise does not result in the need for a full SEA.