

APPENDIX 5 - QUALITY ASSURANCE CHECKLIST

Objectives and context	
• The plan's purpose and objectives are made clear.	Section 2
• Environmental issues and constraints, including international and EC environmental protection objectives, are considered in developing objectives and targets.	Scoping Report - Section 4 Env Report - Section 4
• SEA objectives, where used, are clearly set out and linked to NATA national objectives/ sub-objectives and local objectives.	Section 5.2
• Indicators and targets are defined where appropriate.	Appendix 3
• Links with other related plans, programmes and policies are identified and explained.	Section 4.2 Appendix 2
Scoping	
• Authorities with environmental responsibilities are consulted in appropriate ways and at appropriate times on the content and scope of the Environmental Report	The 3 Environmental Bodies (Natural England, Historic England, Env Agency) were consulted on Scoping Report, Strategic Options Consultation, and New Policy & Major Schemes consultation.
• The assessment focuses on the important significant issues.	Section 4 Sections 1 - 5 of the Scoping Report
• Technical, procedural and other difficulties encountered (such as technical deficiencies or lack of know-how) are discussed; assumptions and uncertainties are made explicit.	Section 4
• Reasons are given for eliminating issues from further consideration.	Sections 5 - 9
Alternatives	
• Realistic alternatives are considered for key issues, and the reasons for choosing them are documented.	Sections 5 and 6
• Alternatives include 'do minimum' and/or 'business as usual' scenarios wherever relevant.	Appendix 3 – Without the plan scenario
• The environmental effects (both adverse and beneficial) of each alternative are identified and compared.	-Env Report, Section 6 -Section 6, Scoping Report -Strategic Options Assessment Consultation
• Inconsistencies between the alternatives and other relevant plans, programmes or identified and explained.	-Section 4.2 -Appendix 2 -Assessment of Strategic Options Consultation
• Reasons are given for selection or elimination of alternatives.	Section 6
Baseline information	
• Relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and their likely evolution without the plan are described – i.e. the “without the plan” scenario.	Section 4.3 Appendix 3
• Environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected are described.	Appendix 3 – Maps
• Difficulties such as deficiencies in data or methods are explained.	Sections 4.3 and 4.4

Objectives and context	
Identification and evaluation of likely significant effects	
• Effects identified include the types listed in the Directive (biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climate factors, material assets, cultural heritage and landscape), as relevant; other likely effects are also covered drawing on appropriate NATA assessment methods.	Appendix 4a-e: assessment matrices
• Both positive and negative effects are considered, and the duration of effects (short, medium or long-term) is addressed.	Assessment Matrices in Appendix 4
• Likely secondary, cumulative and synergistic effects are identified where practicable.	Section 10
• Inter-relationships between effects are considered where practicable.	Section 10
• Where relevant, the prediction and evaluation of effects makes use of accepted standards, regulations, and thresholds.	Appendix 4
• Methods used to evaluate the effects are described.	Section 5
• Sources and levels of uncertainty in the assessment are identified and reported.	Appendices 4a-e
• Wider sustainability issues are also considered.	-Section 1.3 – Related Processes to SEA -Section 5.2 - SEA objectives encompass wider sustainability issues
Mitigation measures	
• Measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and offset any significant adverse effects of implementing the plan are indicated alongside consideration of their costs and feasibility	Sections 6 – 9 (assessment summaries) Section 11 - Monitoring
The Environmental Report	
• Is clear and concise in its layout and presentation.	Yes
• Uses simple, clear language and avoids or explains technical terms.	Yes – Glossary Appendix 1
• Uses maps and other illustrations where appropriate.	Yes, Figures and diagrams Appendix 3 – Maps
• Explains the methodology used.	Sections 1.2, 3 and 5
• Explains who was consulted and what methods of consultation were used.	Section 13 – Next Steps
• Identifies sources of information, including expert judgement and matters of opinion.	Yes, in particular Section 4.3 and Appendix 3
• Contains a non-technical summary covering the overall approach to the SEA, the objectives of the plan, the main alternatives considered, and any changes to the plan resulting from the SEA	Yes
• Integrates the SEA with the wider NATA appraisal and plan making process.	Section 1.2
Consultation	
• The SEA consultations are conducted as an integral part of the plan-making process.	Section 13.1

Objectives and context	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Authorities with environmental responsibilities and the public likely to be affected by, or having an interest in, the plan are consulted in ways and at times which give them an early and effective opportunity within appropriate time frames to express their opinions on the draft plan and Environmental Report. 	Section 13.1
Decision-making and information on the decision	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Environmental Report and the opinions of those consulted are taken into account in finalising and adopting the plan. 	To be completed after Autumn 2017 consultation.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An explanation is given of how they have been taken into account. 	To be completed after Autumn 2017 consultation.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reasons are given for choosing the plan as adopted, in the light of other reasonable alternatives considered 	Environmental Statement - To be completed after Autumn 2017 consultation.
Monitoring measures	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Measures proposed for monitoring are clear, practicable and linked to the indicators and objectives used in the SEA 	Section 11
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • During implementation of the plan, monitoring is used where appropriate to make good deficiencies in baseline information in the SEA 	Section 11.4
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitoring enables unforeseen adverse effects to be identified at an early stage. (These effects should include predictions which prove to be incorrect.) 	Section 11
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposals are made for action in response to significant adverse effects. 	Section 11