

The Great Grid Upgrade

Sea Link

Preliminary Environmental Information Report

Volume: 2

Part 3 Kent Onshore Scheme

Appendix 3.5.B Assessment Criteria

Version A

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3.5.B Assessment Criteria

3.5.B.1 Defining Receptor Value/Sensitivity

3.5.B.1.1 Table 3.5.B.1 presents the criteria for assigning value/sensitivity to water environment receptors. These criteria are drawn from LA113: Road Drainage and the Water Environment (National Highways, 2020).

Table 3.5.B.1: Assessment of receptor value criteria

Value/sensitivity	Criteria
Very high	<p>Nationally significant attribute of high importance, for example:</p> <p>Watercourse having a Water Framework Directive (WFD) classification shown in a River Basin Management Plan (RBMP) and $Q95 \geq 1.0\text{m}^3/\text{s}$.</p> <p>Site protected under European legislation for example, SPA, SAC and Ramsar site with designated interest features dependent on the hydrological/surface water regime.</p> <p>Land uses defined as ‘essential infrastructure’ or ‘highly vulnerable’ development under the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).</p> <p>River supporting a regionally important abstraction for potable water supply.</p>
High	<p>Regionally significant attribute of high importance, for example:</p> <p>Watercourse having a WFD classification shown in a RBMP and $Q95 < 1.0\text{m}^3/\text{s}$.</p> <p>Land uses defined as ‘more vulnerable’ under the NPPF.</p> <p>River supporting a locally important abstraction for potable water supply.</p>
Medium	<p>Locally significant, of moderate quality and rarity, for example:</p> <p>Watercourses not having a WFD classification shown in a RBMP and having a $Q95 > 0.001\text{m}^3/\text{s}$.</p> <p>Site protected under UK legislation whose designated interest is dependent on the hydrological/surface water regime e.g. Local Wildlife Site, salmonid waters.</p> <p>Land uses defined as ‘less vulnerable’ under the NPPF.</p>

Value/sensitivity	Criteria
	River supporting abstraction for non-potable water supply at the local scale.
Low	Lower quality, for example: Watercourses not having a WFD classification shown in a RBMP and Q95 $\leq 0.001\text{m}^3/\text{s}$. Land uses defined as 'water compatible' under the NPPF.

3.5.B.2 Defining Impact Magnitude

3.5.B.2.1 Table 3.5.B.2 presents the criteria for assigning a magnitude of impact. These criteria are also drawn from LA113: Road Drainage and the Water Environment (National Highways, 2020).

Table 3.5.B.2: Assessment of impact magnitude criteria

Impact magnitude	Criteria/examples
Large	Loss or extensive change to a fishery Loss of regionally important public water supply Reduction in water body WFD classification Increase in peak flood level (>100mm).
Moderate	Partial loss in productivity of a fishery Degradation of regionally important public water supply or loss of major commercial/ industrial/agricultural supplies Contribution to reduction in water body WFD classification Increase in peak flood level (>50mm).
Small	Potential for a low risk of pollution Increase in peak flood level (>10mm).
Negligible	No measurable change to baseline surface water quality or WFD water body status. Negligible change to peak flood level ($\leq \pm 10\text{mm}$)

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