

**APPENDIX 7.1**  
**Qualifying Criteria for Site Evaluation**

## APPENDIX 7.1: Criteria for assessing Site Evaluation

Rating	Qualifying Criteria
<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 priority 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 significant numbers 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 any 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