



**Cyfoeth  
Naturiol**  
Cymru  
**Natural  
Resources**  
Wales

# Natural Resources Wales and Planning Consultations

March 2015

**Natural Resources Wales is a Welsh Government Sponsored Body. Our purpose is to ensure that the natural resources of Wales are sustainably maintained, enhanced and used, now and in the future.**

## **Purpose**

This document is a checklist to help our staff identify matters to comment on in response to planning consultations. The list is not exhaustive and does not replace any legislative, legal or other duty which may be imposed.

We will keep the checklist under review, for example to take account of changes in legislation, case law, feedback from local planning authorities and developers and our experience of its effectiveness.

## **Contacts**

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## Checklist

Natural Resources Wales will comment on development proposals:

1. Within or likely to affect European sites: Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) (designated and candidate), Special Protection Areas (SPA) (classified and potential) and Ramsar sites (designated and proposed).
2. Within or likely to affect a site of special scientific interest; or is within a consultation area around a SSSI notified to the LPA by NRW.
3. In or likely to affect National Nature Reserves (NNR), Marine Nature Reserves (MNR) and Geological Conservation Review (GCR) sites.
4. Likely to affect European Protected Species, when the need for a survey has been identified, a survey has been undertaken and LPA need further advice.
5. Likely to affect nationally fully protected species protected under the Wildlife & Countryside Act, when the need for a survey has been identified, a survey has been undertaken and LPA need further advice.
6. Requiring Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) including the scoping stage and applications accompanied by an Environmental Statement but excluding screening (unless the consultation is from Welsh Government to allow them to issue a screening direction in relation to an appeal or call in).
7. Likely to affect the purposes of National Parks or Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty.
8. Likely to have a more than local impact on a historic landscape listed in the Register of Landscapes of Historic Interest in Wales (CADW/CCW).
9. Likely to affect a watercourse including:
  - a. Carrying out of works or operations in the bed of or on the banks of a river or stream, including discharge to a watercourse;
  - b. Development on, or under to any flood bank, sea defence, or other flow control structure; or
  - c. Culverting or control of flow of any river or stream, including piping; or
  - d. Development within 7m of a Main River.
10. Relating to the use of land as a cemetery, including extensions.
11. For intensive animal facilities including fish farming, fisheries, poultry and pigs.
12. Located in flood zones C1 and C2 as defined by the Welsh Government Development Advice Maps; and/or Natural Resources Wales flood maps (Zone 2 and 3), excluding extensions up to 250m<sup>2</sup>.

13. Involving groundworks and/or non-mains foul or surface water disposal within Source Protection Zones, Nitrate Vulnerable Zones or defined water protection zones.
14. For new establishments; or modifications to existing establishments which could have significant repercussions on major accident hazards; or within 250m, where the siting or development is such as to increase the risk or consequences of a major accident.
15. On potentially contaminated land which may pollute controlled waters.
16. Involving the use of land for the deposit of refuse or waste.
17. Involving groundworks upon historic closed landfills or within 250m of an active open landfill.
18. Involving or including mining operations.
19. For the purpose of refining or storing mineral oils and their derivatives.
20. Relating to the retention, treatment or disposal of sewage, trade-waste, slurry or sludge (other than the laying of sewers, the construction of pumphouses in a line of sewers, the construction of septic tanks and cesspools serving single dwelling houses or single caravans or single buildings in which not more than ten people will normally reside, work or congregate, and works ancillary thereto).

In addition any -

21. Planning appeals related to an objection or advised condition from NRW or its founding bodies (CCW, EAW and FCW).
22. Planning appeals relating to non-determination of planning applications where the proposal falls under one or more of the criteria listed in this document.
23. Stages of Local Development Plans (LDPS).
24. Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPGS).
25. Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) / Sustainability Appraisal (SA) and Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) of LDP and SPG.

This list is not prioritised and more than one criteria may apply.