

SCHEDULE 3

Selection criteria referred to in Article 4.3 of the Directive

2. Location of development

The environmental sensitivity of geographical areas likely to be affected by development shall be considered, with particular regard to—

- (a) the existing and approved land use;
- (b) the relative abundance, availability, quality and regenerative capacity of natural resources (including soil, land, water and biodiversity) in the area and its underground;
- (c) the absorption capacity of the natural environment, paying particular attention to the following areas—
 - (i) wetlands, riparian areas, river mouths;
 - (ii) coastal zones and the marine environment;
 - (iii) mountain and forest areas;
 - (iv) nature reserves and parks;
 - (v) areas classified or protected under national legislation and areas designated pursuant to Council [Directive 92/43/EEC](#) on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora⁽¹⁾ and Council [Directive 2009/147/EC](#) on the conservation of wild birds⁽²⁾;
 - (vi) areas in which there has already been a failure to meet the environmental quality standards laid down in Union legislation and relevant to the development, or in which it is considered that there is such a failure;
 - (vii) densely populated areas;
 - (viii) landscapes and sites of historical, cultural or archaeological significance.

(1) O.J. No. L206, 22.7.92, p7

(2) O.J. No. L20, 26.1.2010, p7