

Annex 1 - Checklist for assessment of effects on Special Landscape Qualities (SLQs)

This Checklist includes the steps which need to be taken to assess the effects of a proposal on Special Landscape Qualities (SLQ). Refer to the main guidance, including appendices for more detailed information.

Step 1	Review and describe the proposal
✓	Review and describe the proposal (including associated elements such as access tracks, borrow pits, lighting, drainage and planting), focusing on aspects relevant to potential effects on the SLQs.
✓	Refer to relevant supporting material, e.g. design statement, Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR), Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment/Appraisal (LVIA/LVA) and/or visualisations and Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) maps.
<p>By the end of Step 1 you should have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A summary of the proposal that focuses on aspects relevant to the SLQs 	

Step 2	Identify the SLQs that may be affected by the proposal
Step 2a	Refer to relevant information
✓	Refer to the SLQ report for the National Scenic Area or National Park and the SLQ descriptions (plus SLQ maps if available).
✓	Refer to other landscape material which may provide more information or context for the SLQs. This may include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Landscape Character Assessment Coastal Character Assessment Wild Land Area description Sites of historic significance descriptions
Step 2b	Site visit and identify key SLQs
✓	Identify on site the likely key SLQs that are relevant to and might be affected by the proposal.
✓	Consider how the individual key SLQs come together and are experienced by people.
✓	Consider how the SLQs are experienced from different parts of the NSA/ National Park, including whilst moving through the area and from key locations (for example arrival, exit or crossing points, hill tops, or public attractions).

✓	Identify assessment points/routes for assessing potential effects on the key SLQs.
✓	Consider from where the proposal would be visible in relation to the SLQs identified above.
Step 2c	Identify the study area
✓	Identify the area over which the proposal is likely to have effects on the key SLQs.
✓	Produce a map of the study area showing its boundary, location of all elements of the proposal and the assessment points.
Step 2d	Assess the sensitivity of the key SLQs to the proposal
✓	Assess the sensitivity of the key SLQs identified (step 2b) to the proposal within the study area (step 2c).
✓	Consider whether SLQs may be grouped based on being experienced together and having similar sensitivity to the proposal. If SLQ are grouped, explain the reasons behind each of these groups.
Step 2e	Consult relevant organisations
✓	Discuss and agree key SLQs and proposed study area with relevant decision-making authority and/or consultees.
<p>By the end of Step 2 you should have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A summary of the key SLQs, any groupings of these and their sensitivity • A map of the study area showing its boundary, location of all elements of the proposal and assessment points • Summary of decision-maker and/ or consultees' responses and how these have/ will be considered and addressed 	

Step 3	Assessment of effects on SLQs and design objectives
Step 3a	Design objectives in direct response to SLQs
✓	Identify design objectives in direct response to the key SLQs identified in Step 2 and the proposal (examples in Table 1 of the main guidance document).
✓	Consider how the proposed design may conserve and enhance the SLQs.

Step 3b	Assessment of effects on SLQs
✓	Assess the effects of all elements of the proposal on the key SLQs (including cumulative effects and primary (embedded) mitigation).
✓	Assess the significance of these effects (assigning defined levels if useful).
Step 3c	Further mitigation, design amendment and final assessment of residual effects
✓	Identify if any further mitigation/ enhancement measures could be implemented to avoid, minimise and/or compensate for any predicted significant effects on key SLQs. Make changes to the design of the proposal as a consequence.
✓	Assess the significance of residual effects of the proposal on the key SLQs after all mitigation has been incorporated
<p>By the end of Step 3 you should have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identified design objectives in relation to relevant SLQs • Assessed effects and mitigation measures to reduce predicted significant effects • Assessed residual significant effects on key SLQs within the study area and assessed how the proposal will conserve and enhance the SLQs 	

Step 4	Summary of significant effects on SLQs
✓	Based on the analysis in Steps 2-3, draw out the type, location, extent, pattern, duration, permanence and level of significant effects on the key SLQs (individual and grouped) in relation to the extent of the SLQs and the study area.
<p>By the end of Step 4 you should have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A summary of significant effects on key SLQs within the study area 	