

Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening Report

Open Spaces in New Residential Development Supplementary Planning Guidance

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1. Introduction

- 1.1 This screening assessment is designed to determine whether or not the 'Open Spaces in New Residential Development' Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) should be subject to a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) in accordance with the European Directive 2001/42/EC and associated Environmental Assessment of Plans and programmes Regulations 2004.

2. Background to the Open Spaces in New Residential Development SPG

- 2.1 The 'Open Spaces in New Residential Development' SPG applies to the Isle of Anglesey and Gwynedd Local Planning Authority areas, and supports and supplements the relevant policies contained within the adopted Anglesey and Gwynedd Joint Local Development Plan (JLDP), 31 July 2017.
- 2.2 The SPG provides guidance relating to the relevant planning mechanisms that will facilitate the provision and maintenance of an appropriate level of open space of recreational value in respect of new housing developments of 10 or more residential units in the Plan area. Policy ISA 5 in the adopted Plan aims to facilitate the provision of suitable open spaces in areas where existing open spaces cannot meet the needs of the proposed housing development. The SPG does not introduce a new policy. Rather, the purpose of the Guidance will be to support the relevant policies in the Anglesey and Gwynedd Local Development.

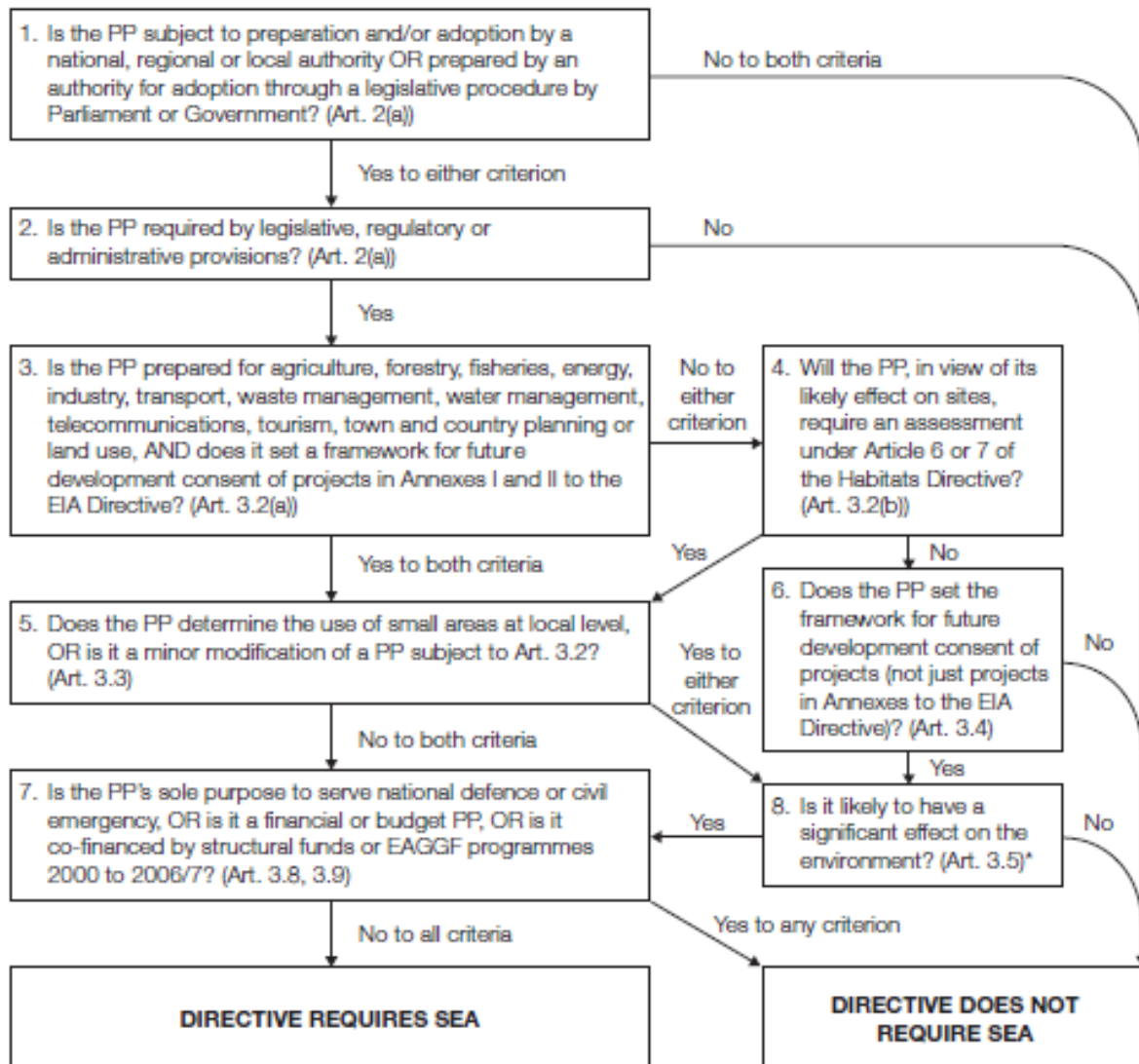
3. Strategic Environmental Assessment

- 3.1 The objective of Strategic Environmental Assessment is to provide a high level of protection of the environment and to contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans and programmes with a view to promoting sustainable development.
- 3.2 The SEA Regulations 2004 place an obligation on local authorities to undertake a SEA on plans or projects:
- That are required for town and country planning or land use; and
 - Set the framework for future development consent of projects listed in Annex I or II to European Council Directive 85/337/EEC
- 3.3 The SPG sets the framework for development in the future, which means it could be considered a 'plan' or 'programme' within the meaning of the SEA Directive and could therefore require an 'environmental assessment'. The regulations advise that a specified set of criteria (set out in Schedule 1 of the regulations) should be used to demonstrate whether a plan should be subject of an SEA. These criteria have been considered in determining whether the SPG should be the subject of a SEA.

4.1 SEA Screening

- 4.1 This section assesses if the SPG falls under the legislation that will require a SEA to be undertaken. The following flowchart will be used against the document to assess whether a SEA is required under the European Directive:

This diagram is intended as a guide to the criteria for application of the Directive to plans and programmes (PPs). It has no legal status.



*The Directive requires Member States to determine whether plans or programmes in this category are likely to have significant environmental effects. These determinations may be made on a case by case basis and/or by specifying types of plan or programme.

Figure 1: Source: A Practical Guide to the SEA Directive ODPM 2005

4.2 Table 4.1 below outlines the responses to the questions posed in Figure 1 in relation to the Sustainable Communities SPG.

Table 4.1: Application of the flowchart – is a SEA required?

Question in Flowchart	Assessment
1. Is the SPG subject to preparation and/or adoption by a national, regional or local authority, OR prepared by an authority for adoption through a legislative procedure by Parliament or Government? (Article 2(a))	Yes. The guidance has been prepared by and will be adopted by Anglesey County Council and Gwynedd Council.

2. Is the SPG required by legislative, regulatory or administrative provisions? (Article 2(a))	Yes. The JLDP commits the Councils to produce a 'Open Spaces in New Residential Development' SPG in order to provide advice about how to apply Policy ISA 5 in the JLDP.
3. Is the SPG prepared for agriculture, forestry, fisheries, energy, industry, transport, waste management, water management, tourism, telecommunications, town and country planning or land use, AND does it set a framework for future development consent of projects in Annex I and II to the EIA Directive? (Article 3.2(a))	Yes. The adopted SPG will be material planning consideration and therefore used for Town and Country Planning processes.
4. Will the SPG, in view of its likely effect on sites, require an assessment under Article 6 or 7 of the Habitat Directive? (Article 3.2(b))	This SPG has been subject to a separate HRA screening assessment.
5. Does the SPG determine the use of small areas at local level OR is it a minor modification of a plan/programme subject to Article 3.2? (Article 3.3)	Yes. The SPG supports the JLDP to assess relevant planning applications.
6. Does the SPG set the framework for future development consent of projects (not just projects in Annexes to the EIA Directive)? (Article 3.4)	The SPG will be used for Town and Country Planning processes and could be used with wider planning policies to create a decision making framework.
7. Is the SPG's sole purpose to serve national defence or civil emergency, OR is it a financial or budget SPG OR is it co-financed by structural funds or EAGGF programmes 2000 to 2006/7? (Article 3.8, 3.9)	Not applicable
8. Is it likely to have a significant effect on the environment? (Article 3.5)	See Table 4.2

4.3 Table 4.2 below uses criteria taken from Schedule 1 of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and programmes Regulations 2004 to determine if the SPG is likely to have a significant effect on the environment in order to answer question 8 in Table 4.1

Table 4.2: Criteria for determining the likely significance of environmental effects of the SPG

SA Directive Criteria	Potential Effects of SPG	Is there a likely significant effect?
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1. The characteristics of plans and programmes, having regard, in particular to:

<p>1.1 The degree to which the plan or programme sets a framework for projects and other activities, either with regard to the location, nature, size and operating conditions or by allocation resources.</p>	<p>The SPG is primarily a guidance document and is not considered to alter the strategic policy framework. It does not present new policies or proposals or amend existing policies in the JLDP and serves only to expand on the existing policies in the JLDP relating to the provision of open spaces in residential developments. . The framework has already been set by the adopted JLDP policies which have already been subject to SEA. The SPG is not a rigid land use allocation but sets the broad planning context and development principles associated with open spaces of recreational value within the context set in Policy ISA 5.</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>1.2 The degree with which the plan or programme influences other plans and programme including those in a hierarchy.</p>	<p>The purpose of this SPG is to provide guidance on adopted JLDP policies. As such it will not influence other plans and programmes. It will only provide further additional details and will not introduce new policies or amend existing adopted policies.</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>1.3 The relevance of the plan or programme for the integration of environmental consideration in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development.</p>	<p>The SPG provides guidance relating to the provision of open spaces of recreational value in residential developments in accordance with Policy ISA 5 and other relevant policies which were subject to SEA. Facilitating the provision of appropriately sized open spaces of recreational value as part of residential developments, contributes towards ensuring the development of sustainable communities</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>1.4 Environmental problems relevant to the plan or programme.</p>	<p>The SPG itself will not have any adverse impacts on the environment. The guidance ensures that environmental and landscape considerations are taken into account as part of the planning application process. It not only aims to enhance the quality of life but also contributes to the conservation of</p>	<p>No</p>

	biodiversity, nature and landscapes through the provision of open spaces.	
1.5 The relevance of the plan or programme for the implementation of Community legislation on the environment (e.g. waste management or water protection.)	Not relevant. The SPG supplements adopted planning policies and is not relevant to the implementation of community legislation on the environment.	No
2. Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected, having regard, in particular, to:		
2.1 The probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects.	It is considered that the effects of implementing the SPG will be positive as it will help mitigate against any adverse social/environmental effects associated with developments.	No
2.2 The cumulative nature of the effects.	The effect of this SPG will be largely beneficial, therefore any cumulative impacts will also be beneficial.	No
2.3 The trans-boundary nature of the effects.	The SPG will be limited for use within the Anglesey and Gwynedd Local Planning Authority Areas.	No
2.4 The risks to human health or the environment (e.g. due to accidents).	It is not considered that the SPG would present a risk to human health or the environment. By facilitating the adequate and suitable provision of open spaces, the Guidance promotes social inclusion, improved health and well-being by ensuring that everyone, including children and young people, the elderly and those with disabilities, has easy access to the natural environment, and to good quality, well designed facilities and open spaces.	No
2.5 The magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected).	Since the SPG supports policies in the adopted JLDP the SPG covers the Anglesey and Gwynedd Local Planning Authority areas and will primarily assist the LPAs to have a positive effect on the resident population in these areas.	No

<p>2.6 The value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) the special natural characteristics or cultural heritage; ii) Exceeded environmental quality standards or limit value; iii) Intensive land use 	<p>It is considered that the SPG will not have any effect on areas which have value/are vulnerable. Any planning application will be assessed against the relevant policies before planning permission is granted.</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>2.7 The effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, Community or international protection status.</p>	<p>No effect. The SPG does not allocate land for particular development but provides the framework for the suitable / required amount of provision of open spaces. Conversely, the designation of open spaces will have a positive effect on landscapes.</p>	<p>No</p>

5. SEA Screening Assessment Summary

- 5.1 It is considered that the Open Spaces of Recreational Value in New Development SPG is unlikely to have significant effects on the environment. The SPG is not setting any new policies or allocations or amending policies in the adopted JLDP. Rather it is providing further guidance on existing policies contained within the Anglesey and Gwynedd JLDP which has been subject to SEA. As such, a SEA of the Guidance is not required.