

Examples of typical SEA objectives and assessment criteria for water

SEA topic	SEA objective	
Water	To protect and enhance the water environment and minimise risks of flooding.	
SEA sub-topic	SEA sub-objective	Example assessment criteria Will the Plan ...
Water Quality	To improve water quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ... protect, maintain and/ or improve water quality in rivers/ canals? • ... protect, maintain and/ or improve water quality in lakes/ lochs and other inland water bodies? • ... protect, maintain and/ or improve water quality in estuaries? • ... protect, maintain and/ or improve coastal water quality? • ... protect, maintain and/ or improve groundwater quality? • ... protect, maintain and/ or improve Bathing Waters quality? • ... protect, maintain and/ or improve Shellfish Waters quality? • ... protect and/ or improve designated areas comprising the water environment? • ... lead to water quality protection and/ or improvement measures?
Water Pollution	To reduce levels of water pollution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ... reduce emissions of diffuse/ point source water pollution? • ... reduce levels of nitrates to the water environment in Nitrate Vulnerable Zones? • ... reduce generation/ deposition of atmospheric pollutants which could potentially affect the water environment? • ... reduce water pollution by contaminated urban surface runoff?
Water Resources	To ensure sustainable use of water resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ... ensure or improve sustainability of water abstraction? • ... ensure or improve sustainability of flow regulation? • ... result in changes in flow regime (e.g. low flow, variability of flow/ levels)? • ... result in installation of impoundments?
Hydromorphology	To improve the morphological status	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ... minimise changes to hydromorphology and/ or improve current status? • ... cause changes to riverbank/ shoreline structure or profiles? • ... result in opening of existing culverts? • ... increase naturalised banks of watercourses? • ... increase potential for erosion of riverbanks or shorelines? • ... lead to loss of bankside vegetation? • ... lead to loss of floodplain wetlands? • ... result in dredging/ gravel removal? • ... result in the installation of in-channel structures?

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Flooding	To reduce the risk of flooding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ... increase impermeable surface area (e.g. paving of Greenfield areas)? • ... lead to development in floodplains/ low coastal areas? • ... decrease regional pumping rates? • ... increase culverting of watercourses? • ... reduce the risk of coastal flooding? • ... reduce the risk of fluvial flooding? • ... reduce the risk of pluvial flooding? • ... reduce the risk of groundwater flooding? • ... reduce the risk of drainage flooding? • ... improve resilience to flooding? • ... improve the ability to recover from flooding? • ... improve the provision for flood warning?
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Note: This table provides a framework to illustrate how this guidance could be used.