

SCHEDULE 2

CRITERIA FOR DETERMINING FURTHER ASSESSMENT (which reproduces the provisions of Annex III of the Directive)

Location of projects

2. The environmental sensitivity of geographical areas likely to be affected by projects must be considered, having regard to—

- (a) the existing land use;
- (b) the relative abundance, quality and regenerative capacity of natural resources in the area;
- (c) the absorption capacity of the natural environment, paying particular attention to the following areas—
 - (i) wetlands;
 - (ii) coastal zones;
 - (iii) mountain and forest areas;
 - (iv) nature reserves and parks;
 - (v) areas classified or protected under Member States' legislation; special protection areas designated by Member States pursuant to Council Directive [79/409/EEC](#) on the conservation of wild birds⁽¹⁾ and Council Directive [92/43/EEC](#) on the conservation of natural habitats and wild fauna and flora⁽²⁾;
 - (vi) areas in which the environmental quality standards laid down in Community legislation have already been exceeded;
 - (vii) densely populated areas;
 - (viii) landscapes of historical, cultural or archaeological significance.

(1) O.J. No L 103, 25.4.1979, p.1. Directive as last amended by the 1994 Act of Accession.

(2) O.J. No L 206, 22.7.1992, p.7.