



Draft Allocations Plan

Habitats Regulations Assessment of the Impact on European Protected Sites

September 2018



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1 Introduction

- 1.1 The network of European protected sites (the ‘Natura 2000 Network’) comprises Special Protection Areas (SPAs), Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Ramsar sites. They are of exceptional importance for the conservation of important species and natural habitats within the European Union.

Article 6(3) of the European Habitats Directive, dealing with the Conservation of European protected sites, states:

‘Any plan or project not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site but likely to have a significant effect thereon, either individually or in combination with other plans and projects, shall be subject to appropriate assessment of its implications for the site in view of the site’s conservation objectives. In light of the conclusions of the assessment of the implications for the site and subject to the provisions of paragraph 4, the competent national authorities shall agree to the plan or project only after ascertained that it will not adversely affect the integrity of the site concerned and, if appropriate, after having obtained the opinion of the general public.’

- 1.2 Under the terms of amendments made to the Habitats Directive in 2007 the following relevant land-use plans are considered to require this assessment, hereafter to be referred to as ‘Habitats Regulations Assessment’ (HRA):

- A Local Development Document as provided for in Part 2 of the 2004 Planning Act other than a statement of community involvement.

It is considered that the Rochdale Borough Allocations Plan (hereafter referred to as ‘the Plan’) is a Local Development Document and it is therefore subject to an HRA to be taken at least through the screening stage (Stage 1).

- 1.3 The purpose of HRA of land-use plans is to ensure the protection of the integrity of European protected sites is an integral part of the planning process at a regional and local level. Government guidance advises that potential SPAs (pSPA) candidate SACs (cSAC) and potential Ramsar (pRamsar) sites are also included in HRAs.

1.4 The Process

The main steps in HRAs are as follows:

1. Screening. This identifies the likely impacts on a Natura 2000 site of a project or plan, either alone or in combination with other projects or plans, and considers whether these impacts are likely to be significant;
2. Appropriate assessment. This considers the impact on the integrity of the Natura 2000 sites of the project or plan, either alone or in combination with other projects or plans, with respect to the site’s structure and function and its conservation objectives. Additionally, where there are adverse impacts, it assesses the potential mitigation of those impacts;

3. Assessment of alternative solutions: examines alternative ways of achieving the objectives of the project or plan that avoid adverse impacts on the integrity of the Natura 2000 site;
 4. Assessment where no alternative solutions exist and where adverse impacts remain: assesses compensatory measures where, in the light of an assessment of imperative reasons of overriding public interest, it is deemed that the project or plan should proceed.
- 1.5 This document contributes to the Council’s statutory duty as regards Article 6(3). That is, it is an Opinion on, and an Assessment of, whether or not the selection of Site Allocations for development and the Policies identified within the Plan may have a significant impact on the special interest of any European protected sites. It is also an Opinion on, and an Assessment of, whether any effects identified can be avoided or mitigated or whether any of the Site Allocations need to be de-selected or the wording of any of the Policies amended. It is noted that further assessments may be required as the Plan develops further.
- 1.6 This document has been prepared by Rochdale Borough Council in association with the Greater Manchester Ecology Unit (GMEU), who are the specialist ecological advisers to the Council. GMEU ecologists are familiar with the European sites concerned and their special interest, and they have reviewed the ecological information for the sites. The key vulnerabilities and sensitivities of the European sites concerned are also well understood by GMEU allowing for an informed assessment of the possible effects of the Plan.

2 Brief Description of the Plan

- 2.1 The Plan being assessed is the Rochdale Borough Draft Allocations Development Plan Document (Draft version). As the Allocations DPD develops through various stages, this HRA will be continually updated to take account of the impact of any changes.
- 2.2 The Allocations Plan sets out how the scale of development outlined in the Core Strategy will be delivered through specific spatial allocations for housing, employment and any other identified needs. As well as allocations to deliver growth, it will also set out designations and zones relating to particular land uses for example key open spaces and opportunities for flood risk management. There are several stages in the production of the Allocations DPD: Evidence gathering, ‘call for sites’, draft document, publication and submission, examination in public and adoption.
- 2.3 Opinion has being sought at key stages of the Plan process to ensure that the requirements to meet the terms of the Regulations regarding Habitats Regulation Assessment can be properly planned for and addressed. The evidence gathering and call for sites has taken place, and a draft Plan has been produced.
- 2.4 The Allocations Plan shows:

- Sites for new housing development;
- Sites for new employment development;
- Designations of employment areas;
- Proposals for new transport infrastructure;
- Town, District and Local Centres boundaries and primary shopping frontages;
- The Green Infrastructure Network and associated designations, included protected open land;
- Areas of safeguarded land.

The draft Plan has identified 33 employment allocation sites, 90 sites allocated for housing and seven allocations for transport infrastructure. It also sets out designations and zones relating to particular land uses for example key open spaces and opportunities for flood risk management. Alongside the allocations are 22 supporting policies. The allocations are briefly described below in Table 1 below (the identification of any European sites which the allocations may impact upon is included). The rationale behind the selection of these areas and sites can be found in other documents within the overall LDF. Details of the exact layout and form development will take in each allocation is for planning application stage: at this stage of the planning process only the broad type and scale of development for each allocation is available for Assessment and consequently the Assessment has largely considered the *principle* of allowing the areas and sites to be proposed as places where development is to be brought forward as part of the Plan. The sites and accompanying policies will be further consulted upon as part of the development of the Plan.

- 2.4 It is important to note that the Core Strategy, which underpins the allocations set out in the Plan by providing a policy context, and by setting out the scale of development and criteria for where it should be located, has been subject to HRA which concluded that there would be no significant impact on European sites. Thus, the *overall* impact of the allocations in the Plan has essentially already been found to be not significant.

Table 1: Policies and Allocations contained in the draft Plan, including distances to nearest European Site where applicable

POLICIES			
Policies	Description		
AL1 / AL2 – Employment policies	Sets out the kind of uses permissible in the employment allocations, both existing employment zones and new sites		
AL/3 – AL/5 – Retail policies	Outlines the different roles of town, district and local centres, describes the uses acceptable in town centres (primary and secondary frontages) and district / local centres		
AL/6 – Sites allocated for residential development	This sets out a list of the allocated sites, and specific provisions for older people and gypsies and travellers		
AL/7 – Green Network	This sets out the criteria for protecting the Green Network against inappropriate development and for preserving its key functions		
AL/8 – Formal Sports Pitches	Sets out how formal sports pitches will be protected		
AL/9 – Local Urban Open Spaces	Sets out how local open spaces will be protected and enhanced through the planning process		
AL/10 - Allotments	Protects allotment sites and promotes the development of new sites to meet demand		
AL/11 – Mandale Park	Supports the improvement of Mandale Park in Rochdale		
AL/12 – Areas safeguarded for flood risk management	Safeguards specific sites for future flood risk management use		
AL/13 – Biodiversity and New Development	Supports biodiversity net gain and mitigation measures		
AL/14 – Areas suitable for wind energy development	Sets out the circumstances in which wind energy development would be promoted		
AL/15 – Defined Urban Area	Sets the boundary of the defined urban area for policy purposes		
AL/16 – Park and Ride: Rail and Metrolink	Sets out the locations where Park and Ride facilities could potentially be located		
AL/17 – East Lancashire Railway (ELR) – New Stations	Describes potential locations for new stations		
AL/18 – Access to new development for cyclists, pedestrians and people with impaired mobility	Sets out requirements for access provision in new development		
AL/19 – Buses (including Rapid Transit) and Taxis	Describes future proposals for public transport corridors and provisions to ensure buses and taxis have good access in new developments		
AL/20 – Highway Infrastructure Improvements and New Development	Ensures that new developments do not adversely impact on the safety or efficient operation of the highway network		
AL/21 – Service Vehicle Access to Developments	Ensures adequate provision is made for delivery vehicles off the highway		
AL/22 – Parking Provision	Sets out any flexibility of the Council’s parking standards in new developments depending on particular circumstances		
EMPLOYMENT ALLOCATIONS			
NAME	AREA (ha)	Distance from European site (km)	European site
Kingsway Business Park	114.62	Adjacent	Rochdale Canal SAC
Cowm Top	7.3	0.6	Rochdale Canal SAC
Buckley Road	1.2	1.3	Rochdale Canal SAC
Heywood Distribution Park	7.66	3.5	Rochdale Canal SAC
Smallbridge Business Park	2.99	0.6	Rochdale Canal SAC
Pilsworth Road	4.62	3.3	Rochdale Canal SAC
Eagle Technology Park	0.8	0.25	Rochdale Canal SAC
Sandbrook Business Park	3.38	0.1	Rochdale Canal SAC
Canal Basin	0.53	Adjacent	Rochdale Canal SAC

Sefton Street	1.58	1.75	Rochdale Canal SAC
Land off Finlan Road, Stakehill	1.22	0.45	Rochdale Canal SAC
Land off Riverside Drive	0.41	0.8	Rochdale Canal SAC
Land off Chichester Street	1.61	0.7	Rochdale Canal SAC
Land off Quay Street	0.69	2.1	Rochdale Canal SAC
Land at Caldershaw Centre	0.27	3.2	Rochdale Canal SAC
Land south of Bury New Road	0.64	3.4	Rochdale Canal SAC
Land off Todmorden Road	0.58	0.15	Rochdale Canal SAC
Jackson Street	0.32	0.2	Rochdale Canal SAC
Waterfold Farm (PC World)	2.05	6.55	Rochdale Canal SAC
Site of former Liquid Rock nightclub	0.3	1.0	Rochdale Canal SAC
Former Woolworths Site	9.06	0.1	Rochdale Canal SAC
Land at Royle Barn Road	1.01	0.25	Rochdale Canal SAC
Land between 21 Baillie Street and Bell Street	0.07	2.6	Rochdale Canal SAC
Spotland Bridge New Mill	0.82	2.4	Rochdale Canal SAC
Stakehill Industrial Estate	4	0.25	Rochdale Canal SAC
Lemonpark Industrial Estate	0.22	1.77	Rochdale Canal SAC
Naylors Equestrian Llp	0.27	1.9	Rochdale Canal SAC
Hanson Street Industrial Site	0.81	0.9	Rochdale Canal SAC
Birch Industrial Estate	5.6	3.9	Rochdale Canal SAC
Bradferns	0.7	Adjacent	Rochdale Canal SAC
Ladyhouse Works, Milnrow	0.26	1.5	Rochdale Canal SAC
Land adjacent to Meadowcroft Mill	0.2	2.2	Rochdale Canal SAC
South Heywood	45.1	3.3	Rochdale Canal SAC
HOUSING ALLOCATIONS (> 90 DWELLINGS OR ADJACENT TO EUROPEAN SITE)			
Land south of Heywood Distribution Park	76.47	1.89	Rochdale Canal SAC
Sites to south of Heywood Town Centre	2.28	2.59	Rochdale Canal SAC
Langley Lane / Hollin Lane	3.91	1.5	Rochdale Canal SAC
Land at Newchurch Street	2.49	0.1	Rochdale Canal SAC
Land at Keswick Close, Langley	1.28	2.65	Rochdale Canal SAC
Drake Street East, Rochdale	0.56	1.0	Rochdale Canal SAC
Riverside Phase 2	1.01	1.2	Rochdale Canal SAC
Rochdale Infirmary	4.14	1.85	Rochdale Canal SAC
Former Dexine Rubber Co	1.62	2.0	Rochdale Canal SAC
Land off Baytree Lane	2.62	0.2	Rochdale Canal SAC
New Road, Littleborough	7.45	0.15	Rochdale Canal SAC
College Bank	2.09	1.5	Rochdale Canal SAC
Central Retail Park	2.15	0.5	Rochdale Canal SAC
Castleton Sidings	3.02	0.15	Rochdale Canal SAC
Former Balderstone School	4.02	0.45	Rochdale Canal SAC
Warwick Mill	0.92	1.75	Rochdale Canal SAC
Mutual Mills, Heywood	4.1	2.1	Rochdale Canal SAC
Land at Dyehouse Lane	7.66	0.6	Rochdale Canal SAC
Trub (west of canal), Castleton	5.2	Adjacent	Rochdale Canal SAC
Former Akzo Nobel, Littleborough	7.5	Adjacent	Rochdale Canal SAC
Former Dunlop, Royle Barn Road	7.15	0.25	Rochdale Canal SAC
Willow Park, Langley	7.96	2.1	Rochdale Canal SAC
Drake Street West, Rochdale	1.07	1.1	Rochdale Canal SAC
George Street / John Street, Rochdale	1.83	1.2	Rochdale Canal SAC
Carcraft, Rochdale (Nixon Street)	5.84	0.65	Rochdale Canal SAC
TBA, Rooley Moor Road, Rochdale	14.21	5.6	Rochdale Canal SAC
British Vita, Don Street, Middleton	13.68	0.2	Rochdale Canal SAC
Lower Falinge Masterplan area	11.94	1.6	Rochdale Canal SAC
Site of Process Plastics, Norwich Street, Rochdale	1.67	Adjacent	Rochdale Canal SAC

Queensway Neighbourhood Centre, Well'I'Th' lane, Rochdale	1.48	Adjacent	Rochdale Canal SAC
Dicken Green Mill, Greenfield Lane, Rochdale	1.4	Adjacent	Rochdale Canal SAC
Lomax Transport Services, Trub Farm, Castleton	1.34	Adjacent	Rochdale Canal SAC
Maltings Lane, Castleton	1.59	Adjacent	Rochdale Canal SAC
TRANSPORT ALLOCATIONS			
Mills Hill Park and Ride	11.3	0.2	
Newhey Park and Ride	N/A	3.3 / 2.5	South Pennine Moors SAC / Rochdale Canal SAC
Potential East Lancs Railway station sites	0.2 / 0.94	2.1	Rochdale Canal SAC
Kingsway Park and Ride	1.5	0.2	Rochdale Canal SAC
Smithybridge Station Park and Ride	0.65	0.25	Rochdale Canal SAC
Stakehill Railfreight Terminal	7.35	Adjacent	Rochdale Canal SAC

Identification of European designated sites concerned

- 3.1 This Assessment has first screened European protected sites in the area to decide which of these sites might be affected by the policies and allocations of the Plan. When assessing the impact of a Plan on European protected sites it is important to consider the impact on sites not only within the administrative area covered by the Plan but also those which fall outside the Plan boundary, as these could still potentially be affected by the Plan.
- 3.2 The Assessment has considered the suite of European sites assessed within the Rochdale Core Strategy Habitats Regulations Assessment. These sites are listed in Appendix 1. This ensures that *all* European sites considered to have the potential to be affected by development within the borough can be initially considered for assessment (screened).
- 3.3 There are two European protected sites within the boundaries of Rochdale Borough: the South Pennine Moors Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and Phase 2 Special Protection Area (SPA) and the Rochdale Canal SAC, all of which extend into neighbouring authorities. There are no other European protected sites within 15 km of the borough boundary. (The South Pennine Moors SAC and SPA cover the same geographical area.)
- 3.4 The Screening Criteria

In carrying out this screening process the Assessment has considered the main possible **sources** of effects on the European sites arising from the Plan, possible **pathways** to the European sites and the effects on possible sensitive **receptors** in the European sites. Only if there is an identifiable source, a pathway and a receptor is there likely to be a significant effect.

Possible sources and pathways for effects arising from development in the identified Sites and used in the screening of European sites are considered to be:

- Water (water pollution, abstraction and hydrology)
- Air (air pollution)
- Direct land-take
- Habitat / Species disturbance
- Increased recreational pressure

Guidance from the Environment Agency (EA) concerning distances at which significant effects on European sites are caused by water or air pollution have been taken into account during the screening of European sites. The EA has set recommended buffer zones for certain types of operation (in particular, waste treatment operations) that are in part applicable to other types of operation. Outside of these buffer zones significant effects on European sites arising from water and air pollution are considered unlikely to arise. The largest (most cautious) buffer zone considered by the EA is 5 km; that is, most operations with the potential of causing direct water and / or air pollution impacts located further than 5 km from the boundary of a European site are considered very unlikely to have a significant effect on the

special interest of that site. Having taken advice the Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG) has recognised a 5 km buffer in its award of special resources to local authorities for carrying out HRA of Plans; those authorities whose boundaries lie more than 5 km away from a European protected site have not received additional resources to carry out Assessments because it is considered that effects are much less likely to arise from development within the boundaries of these authorities.

Although this guidance has been taken into account when screening European protected sites, in the case of a Plan affecting the development of an entire metropolitan area, the 5 km buffer zone should be regarded as important but not definitive – for example, this buffer zone may not be sufficient when assessing certain very large-scale developments or secondary impacts. In particular, applying the 5 km buffer zone may not be appropriate where the likely effect on a European site is caused by **diffuse air or water pollution** that may arise from large scale development, where there are secondary **recreational** pressures on more distant protected sites arising from increased regional and sub-regional population, and where increased run-off in an upstream area like Rochdale Borough can impact on areas further downstream.

3.4.1 Diffuse Air Pollution

The main types of air pollutants likely to have an adverse effect on an ecological site are:

- Oxides of Nitrogen (NO_x)
- Ammonia (NH₃)
- Dust
- Sulphur Dioxide (SO₂)
- Low level Ozone (O₃)

(Scott Wilson Ltd 2007)

Of these NO_x and SO₃ are the most likely to arise as a result of development managed by the LDF process. The greatest damage caused by these pollutants occurs close to where they are emitted (within 250 m) but an individual source of pollution may add to the general background levels, as pollutants are dispersed by prevailing winds. The main sources of these pollutants are road traffic and industrial processes. Where proposed developments within Rochdale Borough are likely to result in these pollutants arising, these have been screened into this Assessment. Where the proposed scale of development has already been assessed at the regional level, these will be screened out.

3.4.2 Diffuse Water Pollution

Effects on European sites can occur through increases in water pollution caused by nutrient enrichment and/ or industrial processes. Where proposed developments within Rochdale Borough are likely to result in this type of diffuse pollution arising and affecting a European site, these have been screened into this Assessment.

The Rochdale Canal, part of which is an SAC, passes through the borough, as does the River Roch ; impacts could be upon sites further downstream.

3.4.3 Recreational Pressure

There are two protected sites within Rochdale Borough and it is reasonable to consider that increased development in the borough will potentially mean increased recreational pressure on these two sites. However, the impact in such a way of increased development overall has already been looked at in the course of the Core Strategy HRA and thus will not be considered here.

3.5 The detailed results of the site screening process are found in appendices 1 and 2 of this document. Appendix 1 shows the likely effects of the possible pathways and sources, outlined above (3.4) of the policies / allocations on these European sites. Appendix 2 summarises the results of the screening process. The outcomes of the site screening process are given below.

3.6 Water Abstraction

New development requires additional water capacity, and may lead to the need for additional infrastructure, which could impact upon protected sites: this is particularly in respect of proposed large housing developments. According to the **United Utilities Draft Water Resources Management Plan for 2015-2040**, apart from in West Cumbria no deficits of water supply are forecast in the North West region for this period, and the Plan considers that water use is expected to decline in the Region in spite of an increased population because of the implementation of water saving measures. The Environment Agency has reviewed all of United Utilities abstraction licences that potentially affect Special Areas of Conservation in the North West and UU are working with them to implement changes to address any concerns; applications for licences near SACs / SPAs will be subject to individual HRA and allowed only on a time limited basis in order that they can be monitored.

It is considered that the above measures will ensure that allocations in the Plan will not have a significant impact on the special interest of the identified European Sites in respect of water abstraction issues.

3.7 Summary results of Screening of Sites

From the screening process detailed in Appendix 1 and 2 the following European designated sites have been identified as having the potential to possibly be affected by allocations and policies in the Plan:

- **Rochdale Canal SAC**
- **South Pennine Moors SAC**
- **South Pennine Moors Phase 2 SPA**

The nature conservation importance of these 'screened in' European designated sites is described in section 4 below.

4 The Nature Conservation Interest of the Rochdale Canal SAC, South Pennine Moors SAC and South Pennine Moors Phase 2 SPA

The following information is derived from information available from Natural England and the Joint Nature Conservation Committee and from information held by GMEU.

4.1 Description of Rochdale Canal SAC

The Rochdale Canal extends approximately 20 km from Littleborough to Failsworth, passing through urban and industrialised parts of Rochdale and Oldham and the intervening areas of agricultural land (mostly pasture). The canal's SAC designation terminates at the Oldham – Manchester administrative boundary, although the features of interest for the designation also occur within the canal in the Manchester City section of the waterbody. Water supplied to the Rochdale Canal in part arises from the Pennines. This water is acidic and relatively low in nutrients, while water from other sources is mostly high in nutrients. The aquatic flora of the canal is thus indicative of a mesotrophic water quality (i.e. is moderately nutrient-rich) although there is evidence of some local enrichment.

4.2 Primary reason for designation of Rochdale Canal SAC

The Rochdale Canal supports a significant population of **floating water-plantain** *Luronium natans* in a botanically diverse water plant community, which also holds a wide range of pondweeds *Potamogeton* spp. The canal has predominantly mesotrophic water. This population of *Luronium* is representative of the formerly more widespread canal populations of this species within north-west England, although the Rochdale Canal supports unusually dense populations of the plant. The conservation objective for the European interest of the SAC is to maintain, in favourable condition, the habitats for the population of Floating water-plantain (*Luronium natans*). Maintenance implies restoration if the feature is not currently in favourable condition.

Floating water-plantain - description and ecological characteristics

Floating water-plantain *Luronium natans* occurs in a range of freshwater situations, including nutrient-poor lakes in the uplands (mainly referable to 3130 Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the *Littorelletea uniflorae* and/or of the *Isoëto-Nanojuncetea*) and slowly-flowing lowland rivers, pools, ditches and canals that are moderately nutrient-rich.

Luronium natans occurs as two forms: in shallow water with floating oval leaves, and in deep water with submerged rosettes of narrow leaves. The plant thrives best in open situations with a moderate degree of disturbance, where the growth of emergent vegetation is held in check. Populations fluctuate greatly in size, often increasing when water levels drop to expose the bottom of the water body. Populations fluctuate from year to year, and at many sites records of *L.natans* have been infrequent, suggesting that only small populations occur, in some cases possibly as transitory colonists of the habitat. Populations tend to be more stable at natural sites than artificial ones, but approximately half of recent (post-1980) records are from canals and similar artificial habitats. Its habitat in rivers has been greatly reduced by channel-straightening, dredging and pollution, especially in lowland situations.

4.3 Possible impacts of the Plan on Rochdale Canal SAC

Operations that may damage the special interest of the canal include operations and activities that affect the growth and survival of *Lurionium natans*:

- Dredging of the canal
- Draining of the canal
- Pollution of the canal
- Shading of the canal
- Increased boat traffic using the canal
- Use of herbicides in or adjacent to the canal
- Introduction of invasive species

When assessing the Plan for its possible impact on the Rochdale Canal SAC the potential of allocations and policies in the Plan to cause the above listed damaging operations have been considered when reaching a decision as to whether the plan needs to undergo a full Appropriate Assessment. For example, if it is considered that a particular development described in the Plan (for example, new housing development) has the potential for causing any of the above damaging operations, and no mitigation is described, then it would be considered that either changes should be made to the plan to incorporate appropriate mitigation or the plan should be subject to full Appropriate Assessment.

4.4 Description of the South Pennine Moors SAC

This very large site forms part of the Southern Pennines lying between Ilkley in the north and the Peak District National Park boundary in the south. The majority of the site is within West Yorkshire but it also covers areas of Lancashire, Greater Manchester and North Yorkshire. The largest moorland blocks are Ilkley Moor, the Haworth Moors, Rishworth Moor and Moss Moor. The underlying rock is Millstone Grit which outcrops at Boulsworth Hill and on the northern boundary of Ilkley Moor. The moorlands are on a rolling dissected plateau between 300m and 450m AOD with a high point of 517m at Boulsworth Hill. The greater part of the gritstone is overlain by blanket peat with the coarse gravelly mineral soils occurring only on the lower slopes. The site is the largest area of unenclosed moorland within West Yorkshire and contains the most diverse and extensive examples of upland plant communities in the county. Extensive areas of blanket bog occur on the upland plateau and are punctuated by species rich acidic flushes and mires. There are also wet and dry heaths and acid grasslands. Three habitat types that occur on the site are rare enough within Europe to be listed on Annex 1 of the EC habitats and Species Directive (92/43) EEC. These communities are typical of and represent the full range of upland vegetation classes found in the South Pennines. This mosaic of habitats supports a moorland breeding bird assemblage which, because of the range of species and number of breeding birds it contains, is of regional and national importance. The large numbers of breeding merlin (*Falco columbarius*), golden plover (*Pluvialis apricaria*) and twite (*Carduelis flavirostris*) are of international importance.

4.5 Primary reason(s) for designation of South Pennine Moors SAC

The site supports the following important habitats:

European Dry Heath

The site is representative of upland dry heath at the southern end of the Pennine range, the habitat's most south-easterly upland location in the UK. Dry heath covers extensive areas, occupies the lower slopes of the moors on mineral soils or where peat is thin, and occurs in transitions to acid grassland, wet heath and blanket bogs. The upland heath of the South Pennines is strongly dominated by heather *Calluna vulgaris*. Its main NVC types are H9 *Calluna vulgaris* – *Deschampsia flexuosa* heath and H12 *Calluna vulgaris* – *Vaccinium myrtillus* heath. More rarely H8 *Calluna vulgaris* – *Ulex gallii* heath and H10 *Calluna vulgaris* – *Erica cinerea* heath are found. On the higher, more exposed ground H18 *Vaccinium myrtillus* – *Deschampsia flexuosa* heath becomes more prominent. In the cloughs, or valleys, which extend into the heather moorlands, a greater mix of dwarf shrubs can be found together with more lichens and mosses. The moors support a rich invertebrate fauna, especially moths, and important bird assemblages.

Blanket Bog

This site represents blanket bog in the south Pennines, the most south-easterly occurrence of the habitat in Europe. The bog vegetation communities are generally botanically poor. Hare's-tail cottongrass *Eriophorum vaginatum* is often overwhelmingly dominant, although bog-building *Sphagnum* mosses are present. Where the blanket peats are slightly drier, heather *Calluna vulgaris*, crowberry *Empetrum nigrum* and bilberry *Vaccinium myrtillus* become more prominent. The uncommon cloudberry *Rubus chamaemorus* is locally abundant in bog vegetation. Bog pools provide diversity and are often characterised by common cottongrass *E. angustifolium*. Substantial areas of the bog surface are eroding, and there are extensive areas of bare peat. In some areas erosion may be a natural process reflecting the great age (9000 years) of the south Pennine peats.

Old Sessile Oak woods

Around the fringes of the upland heath and bog of the south Pennines are blocks of old sessile oak woods, usually on slopes. These tend to be dryer than those further north and west, such that the bryophyte communities are less developed (although this lowered diversity may in some instances have been exaggerated by the effects of 19th century air pollution). Other components of the ground flora such as grasses, dwarf shrubs and ferns are common. Small areas of alder woodland along stream-sides add to the overall richness of the woods.

4.6 Description of the South Pennine Moors Phase 2 SPA

Special Protection Areas (SPAs) are strictly protected sites classified in accordance with Article 4 of the EC Directive on the conservation of wild birds, also known as the Birds Directive, which came into force in April 1979. They are classified for rare and vulnerable birds, listed in Annex I to the Birds Directive, and for regularly occurring migratory species. The South Pennine Moors SPA includes the major moorland blocks of the South Pennines from Ilkley in the north to Leek and Matlock in the south. It covers extensive tracts of semi-natural moorland habitats including upland

heath and blanket mire. The site is of European importance for several upland breeding bird species including birds of prey and waders.

4.7 Primary reason(s) for designation of South Pennine Moors Phase 2 SPA

The site qualifies for the designation by supporting populations of European importance of the following species listed on Annex I of the Directive:

During the breeding season:

Golden plover (*Pluvialis apricaria*), at least 3.3% of the breeding population in Great Britain

Merlin (*Falco columbarius*), at least 5.9% of the breeding population in Great Britain

Peregrine (*Falco peregrinus*), at least 1.4% of the breeding population in Great Britain

Short-eared owl (*Asio flammeus*), at least 2.5% of the breeding population in Great Britain

The SPA supports an internationally important assemblage of birds. During the breeding season the area regularly supports:

Actitis hypoleucos, *Calidris alpina schinzii*, *Carduelis flavirostris*, *Gallinago gallinago*, *Numenius arquata*, *Oenanthe oenanthe*, *Saxicola rubetra*, *Tringa tetanus*, *Turdus torquatus*, *Vanellus vanellus*

Conservation Objectives – South Pennine Moors

Natural England lists the conservation objectives for the South Pennine Moors as follows:

to maintain*, in favourable condition, the habitats for the populations of Annex 1 species + of European importance, with particular reference to:

- blanket mire
- dwarf shrub heath
- acid grassland
- gritstone edges

+ golden plover, merlin, short-eared owl

to maintain*, in favourable condition, the:

- blanket bog (active only)
- dry heaths
- Northern Atlantic wet heaths with *Erica tetralix*
- transition mires and quaking bogs
- old oak woods with *Ilex* and *Blechnum* in the British Isles

* Maintenance implies restoration if the feature is not currently in favourable condition.

4.8 Possible impacts of the Plan on the special interests of the South Pennine Moors SAC

Operations that may damage the European special interest of the SAC include:

- Cultivation
- Grazing
- Mowing or cutting
- Application of manure, fertilisers or lime

- Application of pesticides
- Burning
- Drainage
- Extraction of minerals including peat, topsoil and subsoil
- Construction or removal of roads, tracks, walls, fences, hardstands, banks, ditches or other earthworks or the laying or removal of pipelines and cables
- Erection of permanent structures
- Use of vehicles likely to damage the vegetation
- Pollution
- Recreational activities
- Agricultural intensification leading to loss of bird feeding areas outside the designated site

When assessing the Plan for its possible impact on the South Pennine Moors SAC the potential of allocations and policies in the Plan to cause the above listed damaging operations have been considered when reaching a decision as to whether the plan needs to undergo a full Appropriate Assessment. For example, if it is considered that a particular development described in the Plan (for example, new housing development) has the potential for causing any of the above damaging operations, and no mitigation is described, then it would be considered that either changes should be made to the Plan to incorporate appropriate mitigation or the Plan should be subject to full Appropriate Assessment. Although at this stage the Plan does not provide details of the actual operations that it will control and/or manage, general advice is provided.

4.9 Possible impacts of the Plan on the special interests of the South Pennine Moors SPA

Operations that may damage the European special interest of the SAC include:

- Cultivation
- Grazing
- Mowing or cutting
- Application of manure, fertilisers or lime
- Application of pesticides
- Burning
- Drainage
- Extraction of minerals including peat, topsoil and subsoil
- Construction or removal of roads, tracks, walls, fences, hardstands, banks, ditches or other earthworks or the laying or removal of pipelines and cables
- Erection of permanent structures
- Use of vehicles likely to damage the vegetation
- Pollution
- Recreational activities
- Agricultural intensification leading to loss of bird feeding areas outside the designated site

When assessing the Plan for its possible impact on the South Pennine Moors SPA the potential of allocations and policies in the Plan to cause the above listed damaging operations have been considered when reaching a decision as to whether the plan needs to undergo a full Appropriate Assessment. For example, if it is considered that a particular development described in the Plan (for example, new housing

development) has the potential for causing any of the above damaging operations, and no mitigation is described, then it would be considered that either changes should be made to the Plan to incorporate appropriate mitigation or the Plan should be subject to full Appropriate Assessment. Although at this stage the Plan does not provide details of the actual operations that it will control and/or manage, general advice is provided.

5 Screening Opinions

5.1 Possible Impacts of the Plan on Rochdale Canal SAC – Screening Opinion

It is not likely that any development which goes forward as a result of Plan allocations or policies will result in the dredging or draining of the canal. Further, increased use of herbicides is not something which is in the control of the Plan. However, many of the allocations outlined in the Plan (see Table 1) are immediately adjacent to the canal and it is possible that there could be increased pollution and shading of the canal from these developments.

As a result of these possible impacts, it is concluded that some allocations and policies could be ‘screened in’. The process of determining which policies / allocations should be ‘screened in’ is shown in tables 5.1 to 5.7 below.

5.2 Possible Impacts of the Plan on South Pennine Moors SAC

Impacts relating to agricultural activities are unlikely to be significantly influenced by the allocations and policies of the plan, as the plan has little impact on these matters.

However, the plan can have an impact on amounts of construction taking place, built structures, traffic and associated pollution and recreational activities.

As a result of these possible impacts, it is concluded that some allocations and policies could be ‘screened in’. The process of determining which policies / allocations should be ‘screened in’ is shown in tables 5.1 to 5.7 below.

5.3 Possible Impacts of the Plan on South Pennine Moors SPA

Impacts relating to agricultural activities are unlikely to be significantly influenced by the allocations and policies of the plan, as the plan has little impact on these matters.

However, the plan can impact on amounts of construction taking place, built structures, traffic and associated pollution and recreational activities.

Table 5.1 Screening Summary Table – Policies – all European sites

Policy	Potential for Effect	Likely Effect of Policy	Screening Assessment
AL/1- AL/2 – Employment policies	Impacts would depend on individual allocations	None	Screened out
AL/3 – AL/5 – Retail policies	Activities in town and district centres could impact on the canal	Only two local centres are close to the canal, and as these are very small local centres they are unlikely to have any significant impact	Screened out
AL/6 – Sites allocated for residential development	Most impacts would depend on individual allocations however the overall level of residential development in the borough could impact because of recreational pressures	Overall impact has already been considered in the Core Strategy HRA. This policy will have no additional effect.	Screened in
AL/7 – Green Network	Unlikely to have any negative effect because it promotes keeping land open and improvement of habitats	None	Screened out
AL/8 – Formal sports pitches	Unlikely to have any negative impact as this policy seeks to retain existing open areas rather than promote any form of development	None	Screened out
AL/9 – Local Urban Open Spaces	Unlikely to have any negative effect because it promotes keeping land open and improvement of habitats	None	Screened out
AL/10 - Allotments	Unlikely to have any negative impact as this policy seeks to retain existing open areas rather than promote any form of development	None	Screened out
AL/11 – Mandale Park	Unlikely to have any effect because it is a very localised policy for an area a significant distance from any European site	None	Screened out
AL/12 – Areas safeguarded for flood risk management	Unlikely to have any negative impact as this policy seeks to retain existing open areas rather than promote any form of	None	Screened out

	development		
AL/13 – Biodiversity and New Development	Unlikely to have any negative impact as this policy seeks biodiversity improvements when new development takes place	None	Screened out
AL/14 – Areas suitable for wind energy development	This policy specifically excludes European Protected Sites from development, although wind energy developments elsewhere in the borough, such as adjacent to European sites, may have an impact because of potential bird mortality	Wind turbine developments adjacent to the South Pennines SPA are likely to have some impact on birds in the area	Screened In
AL/15 – Defined Urban Area	Unlikely to have any negative impact as policy helps to restrict development to the existing urban area	None	Screened out
AL/16 – Park and Ride – Rail and Metrolink	Unlikely to have any negative impact because this policy seeks a reduction in road traffic generation	None	Screened out
AL/17 – East Lancashire Railway (ELR) – New Stations	Impacts would depend on individual allocations as opposed to the policy	None	Screened out
AL/18 – Access to new development for cyclists, pedestrians and people with impaired mobility	Does not involve development of a type or scale which would have any significant impact and any impact is likely to be positive because of reduction in road traffic generation	None	Screened out
AL/19 – Buses (including Rapid Transit) and Taxis	Does not involve development of a type or scale which would have any significant impact	None	Screened out
AL/20 – Highway Infrastructure Improvements and New Development	Does not involve development of a type or scale which would have any significant impact	None	Screened out
AL/21 – Service Vehicle Access to Developments	Does not involve development of a type or scale which would have any significant impact	None	Screened out
AL/22 – Parking Provision	Does not involve development of a type	None	Screened out

	or scale which would have any significant impact		
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Table 5.2 Screening Summary Table – Employment Allocations – Rochdale Canal SAC

Allocation	Damaging impact	Likely significant effects of development	Screening Assessment
Kingsway Business Park	Pollution	Some possible litter, discharges etc	Screened in
	Shading	Potentially, depending on position of buildings	Screened in
	Increased boat traffic	Not directly encouraged	Screened out
Cowm Top	Pollution	Some possible discharges because of direct drain connection	Screened in
	Shading	None –too far away	Screened out
	Increased boat traffic	No influence on this matter	Screened out
Buckley Road	Pollution	None – too far away	Screened out
	Shading	None –too far away	Screened out
	Increased boat traffic	No influence on this matter	Screened out
Heywood Distribution Park	Pollution	None – too far away	Screened out
	Shading	None – too far away	Screened out
	Increased boat traffic	No influence on this matter	Screened out
Smallbridge Business Park	Pollution	None – too far away	Screened out
	Shading	None –too far away	Screened out
	Increased boat traffic	No influence on this matter	Screened out
Pilsworth Road	Pollution	None – too far away	Screened out
	Shading	None – too far away	Screened out
	Increased boat traffic	No influence on this matter	Screened out
Eagle Technology Park	Pollution	None – too far away	Screened out
	Shading	None – too far away	Screened out
	Increased boat traffic	No influence on this matter	Screened out
Sandbrook Business Park	Pollution	None – too far away	Screened out
	Shading	None – too far away	Screened out
	Increased boat traffic	No influence on this matter	Screened out
Canal Basin	Pollution	Some possible litter, discharges etc	Screened in

	Shading	Potentially, depending on position of buildings	Screened in
	Increased boat traffic	Not directly encouraged	Screened out
Sefton Street	Pollution	None – too far away	Screened out
	Shading	None – too far away	Screened out
	Increased boat traffic	No influence on this matter	Screened out
Land off Finlan Road, Stakehill	Pollution	None – too far away	Screened out
	Shading	None – too far away	Screened out
	Increased boat traffic	No influence on this matter	Screened out
Land off Riverside Drive	Pollution	None – too far away	Screened out
	Shading	None – too far away	Screened out
	Increased boat traffic	No influence on this matter	Screened out
Land off Chichester Street	Pollution	None – too far away	Screened out
	Shading	None – too far away	Screened out
	Increased boat traffic	No influence on this matter	Screened out
Land off Quay Street	Pollution	None – too far away	Screened out
	Shading	None – too far away	Screened out
	Increased boat traffic	No influence on this matter	Screened out
Land at Caldershaw Centre	Pollution	None – too far away	Screened out
	Shading	None – too far away	Screened out
	Increased boat traffic	No influence on this matter	Screened out
Land south of Bury New Road	Pollution	None – too far away	Screened out
	Shading	None – too far away	Screened out
	Increased boat traffic	No influence on this matter	Screened out
Land off Todmorden Road	Pollution	None – too far away	Screened out
	Shading	None – too far away	Screened out
	Increased boat traffic	No influence on this matter	Screened out
Jackson Street	Pollution	None – too far away	Screened out
	Shading	None – too far away	Screened out
	Increased boat traffic	No influence on this matter	Screened out
Waterfold Farm (PC World)	Pollution	None – too far away	Screened out
	Shading	None – too far away	Screened out
	Increased boat traffic	No influence on this matter	Screened out
Site of former Liquid Rock nightclub	Pollution	None – too far away	Screened out
	Shading	None – too far away	Screened out

	Increased boat traffic	No influence on this matter	Screened out
Former Woolworths site	Pollution	None – too far away	Screened out
	Shading	None – too far away	Screened out
	Increased boat traffic	No influence on this matter	Screened out
Land at Royle Barn Road	Pollution	None – too far away	Screened out
	Shading	None – too far away	Screened out
	Increased boat traffic	No influence on this matter	Screened out
Land between 21 Baillie Street and Bell Street	Pollution	None – too far away	Screened out
	Shading	None – too far away	Screened out
	Increased boat traffic	No influence on this matter	Screened out
Spotland Bridge New Mill	Pollution	None – too far away	Screened out
	Shading	None – too far away	Screened out
	Increased boat traffic	No influence on this matter	Screened out
Stakehill Industrial Estate	Pollution	None – too far away	Screened out
	Shading	None – too far away	Screened out
	Increased boat traffic	No influence on this matter	Screened out
Lemonpark Industrial Estate	Pollution	None – too far away	Screened out
	Shading	None – too far away	Screened out
	Increased boat traffic	No influence on this matter	Screened out
Naylors Equestrian Llp	Pollution	None – too far away	Screened out
	Shading	None – too far away	Screened out
	Increased boat traffic	No influence on this matter	Screened out
Hanson Street Industrial Site	Pollution	None – too far away	Screened out
	Shading	None – too far away	Screened out
	Increased boat traffic	No influence on this matter	Screened out
Birch Industrial Estate	Pollution	None – too far away	Screened out
	Shading	None – too far away	Screened out
	Increased boat traffic	No influence on this matter	Screened out
Bradferns	Pollution	Some possible litter, discharges etc	Screened in
	Shading	Potentially, depending on position of buildings	Screened in
	Increased boat traffic	Not directly encouraged	Screened out
Ladyhouse Works, Milnrow	Pollution	None – too far away	Screened out
	Shading	None – too far away	Screened out
	Increased boat traffic	No influence on this matter	Screened out

Land adjacent to Meadowcroft Mill	Pollution	None – too far away	Screened out
	Shading	None – too far away	Screened out
	Increased boat traffic	No influence on this matter	Screened out
South Heywood	Pollution	None – too far away	Screened out
	Shading	None – too far away	Screened out
	Increased boat traffic	No influence on this matter	Screened out

Table 5.3 Screening Summary Table – Employment Allocations – South Pennine Moors SAC / SPA

Allocation	Damaging impact	Likely significant effects of development	Screening Assessment
Kingsway Business Park	Minerals extraction	None	Screened out
	Construction	None – too far away	Screened out
	Built structures	None – too far away	Screened out
	Traffic / pollution	None	Screened out
	Recreational activities	None	Screened out
Cowm Top	Minerals extraction	None	Screened out
	Construction	None – too far away	Screened out
	Built structures	None – too far away	Screened out
	Traffic / pollution	None – too far away	Screened out
	Recreational activities	None	Screened out
Buckley Road	Minerals extraction	None	Screened out
	Construction	None – too far away	Screened out
	Built structures	None – too far away	Screened out
	Traffic / pollution	None – too far away	Screened out
	Recreational activities	None	Screened out
Heywood Distribution Park	Minerals extraction	None	Screened out
	Construction	None – too far away	Screened out
	Built structures	None – too far away	Screened out
	Traffic / pollution	None	Screened out
	Recreational activities	None	Screened out

Smallbridge Business Park	Minerals extraction	None	Screened out
	Construction	None – too far away	Screened out
	Built structures	None – too far away	Screened out
	Traffic / pollution	None – too far away	Screened out
	Recreational activities	None	Screened out
Pilsworth Road	Minerals extraction	None	Screened out
	Construction	None – too far away	Screened out
	Built structures	None – too far away	Screened out
	Traffic / pollution	None – too far away	Screened out
	Recreational activities	None	Screened out
Eagle Technology Park	Minerals extraction	None	Screened out
	Construction	None – too far away	Screened out
	Built structures	None – too far away	Screened out
	Traffic / pollution	None – too far away	Screened out
	Recreational activities	None	Screened out
Sandbrook Business Park	Minerals extraction	None	Screened out
	Construction	None – too far away	Screened out
	Built structures	None – too far away	Screened out
	Traffic / pollution	None – too far away	Screened out
	Recreational activities	None	Screened out
Canal Basin	Minerals extraction	None	Screened out
	Construction	None – too far away	Screened out
	Built structures	None – too far away	Screened out
	Traffic / pollution	None – too far away	Screened out
	Recreational activities	None	Screened out
Sefton Street	Minerals extraction	None	Screened out
	Construction	None – too far away	Screened out
	Built structures	None – too far away	Screened out
	Traffic / pollution	None – too far away	Screened out
	Recreational activities	None	Screened out
Land off Finlan Road, Stakehill	Minerals extraction	None	Screened out
	Construction	None – too far away	Screened out
	Built structures	None – too far away	Screened out
	Traffic / pollution	None – too far away	Screened out

	Recreational activities	None	Screened out
Land off Riverside Drive	Minerals extraction	None	Screened out
	Construction	None – too far away	Screened out
	Built structures	None – too far away	Screened out
	Traffic / pollution	None – too far away	Screened out
	Recreational activities	None	Screened out
Land off Chichester Street	Minerals extraction	None	Screened out
	Construction	None – too far away	Screened out
	Built structures	None – too far away	Screened out
	Traffic / pollution	None – too far away	Screened out
	Recreational activities	None	Screened out
Land off Quay Street	Minerals extraction	None	Screened out
	Construction	None – too far away	Screened out
	Built structures	None – too far away	Screened out
	Traffic / pollution	None – too far away	Screened out
	Recreational activities	None	Screened out
Land at Caldershaw Centre	Minerals extraction	None	Screened out
	Construction	None – too far away	Screened out
	Built structures	None – too far away	Screened out
	Traffic / pollution	None – too far away	Screened out
	Recreational activities	None	Screened out
Land south of Bury New Road	Minerals extraction	None	Screened out
	Construction	None – too far away	Screened out
	Built structures	None – too far away	Screened out
	Traffic / pollution	None – too far away	Screened out
	Recreational activities	None	Screened out
Land off Todmorden Road	Minerals extraction	None	Screened out
	Construction	None – too far away	Screened out
	Built structures	None – too far away	Screened out
	Traffic / pollution	None – too far away	Screened out
	Recreational activities	None	Screened out
Jackson Street	Minerals extraction	None	Screened out
	Construction	None – too far away	Screened out
	Built structures	None – too far away	Screened out

	Traffic / pollution	None – too far away	Screened out
	Recreational activities	None	Screened out
Waterfold Farm (PC World)	Minerals extraction	None	Screened out
	Construction	None – too far away	Screened out
	Built structures	None – too far away	Screened out
	Traffic / pollution	None – too far away	Screened out
	Recreational activities	None	Screened out
Site of former Liquid Rock nightclub	Minerals extraction	None	Screened out
	Construction	None – too far away	Screened out
	Built structures	None – too far away	Screened out
	Traffic / pollution	None – too far away	Screened out
	Recreational activities	None	Screened out
Former Woolworths site	Minerals extraction	None	Screened out
	Construction	None – too far away	Screened out
	Built structures	None – too far away	Screened out
	Traffic / pollution	None – too far away	Screened out
	Recreational activities	None	Screened out
Land at Royle Barn Road	Minerals extraction	None	Screened out
	Construction	None – too far away	Screened out
	Built structures	None – too far away	Screened out
	Traffic / pollution	None – too far away	Screened out
	Recreational activities	None	Screened out
Land between 21 Baillie Street and Bell Street	Minerals extraction	None	Screened out
	Construction	None – too far away	Screened out
	Built structures	None – too far away	Screened out
	Traffic / pollution	None – too far away	Screened out
	Recreational activities	None	Screened out
Spotland Bridge New Mill	Minerals extraction	None	Screened out
	Construction	None – too far away	Screened out
	Built structures	None – too far away	Screened out
	Traffic / pollution	None – too far away	Screened out
	Recreational activities	None	Screened out
Stakehill Industrial Estate	Minerals extraction	None	Screened out
	Construction	None – too far away	Screened out

	Built structures	None – too far away	Screened out
	Traffic / pollution	None	Screened out
	Recreational activities	None	Screened out
Lemonpark Industrial Estate	Minerals extraction	None	Screened out
	Construction	None – too far away	Screened out
	Built structures	None – too far away	Screened out
	Traffic / pollution	None – too far away	Screened out
	Recreational activities	None	Screened out
Naylor's Equestrian llp	Minerals extraction	None	Screened out
	Construction	None – too far away	Screened out
	Built structures	None – too far away	Screened out
	Traffic / pollution	None – too far away	Screened out
	Recreational activities	None	Screened out
Hanson Street Industrial Site	Minerals extraction	None	Screened out
	Construction	None – too far away	Screened out
	Built structures	None – too far away	Screened out
	Traffic / pollution	None – too far away	Screened out
	Recreational activities	None	Screened out
Birch Industrial Estate	Minerals extraction	None	Screened out
	Construction	None – too far away	Screened out
	Built structures	None – too far away	Screened out
	Traffic / pollution	None – too far away	Screened out
	Recreational activities	None	Screened out
Bradferns	Minerals extraction	None	Screened out
	Construction	None – too far away	Screened out
	Built structures	None – too far away	Screened out
	Traffic / pollution	None – too far away	Screened out
	Recreational activities	None	Screened out
Ladyhouse Works, Milnrow	Minerals extraction	None	Screened out
	Construction	None – too far away	Screened out
	Built structures	None – too far away	Screened out
	Traffic / pollution	None – too far away	Screened out
	Recreational activities	None	Screened out
Land adjacent to Meadowcroft Mill	Minerals extraction	None	Screened out

	Construction	None – too far away	Screened out
	Built structures	None – too far away	Screened out
	Traffic / pollution	None – too far away	Screened out
	Recreational activities	None	Screened out
South Heywood	Minerals extraction	None	Screened out
	Construction	None – too far away	Screened out
	Built structures	None – too far away	Screened out
	Traffic / pollution	None	Screened out
	Recreational activities	None	Screened out

Table 5.4 Screening Summary Table – Housing Allocations – Rochdale Canal SAC

Allocation	Damaging impact	Likely significant effects of development	Screening Assessment
Land south of Heywood Distribution Park	Pollution	None –too far away	Screened out
	Shading	None –too far away	Screened out
	Increased boat traffic	No influence on this matter	Screened out
Sites south of Heywood Town Centre	Pollution	None –too far away	Screened out
	Shading	None –too far away	Screened out
	Increased boat traffic	No influence on this matter	Screened out
Langley Lane / Hollin Lane	Pollution	Some possible litter, discharges etc	Screened out
	Shading	Potentially, depending on position of buildings	Screened out
	Increased boat traffic	Not directly encouraged	Screened out
Land at Newchurch Street	Pollution	None –too far away	Screened out
	Shading	None –too far away	Screened out
	Increased boat traffic	No influence on this matter	Screened out
Land at Keswick Close, Langley	Pollution	None – too far away	Screened out
	Shading	None –too far away	Screened out
	Increased boat traffic	No influence on this matter	Screened out
Drake Street East, Rochdale	Pollution	None – too far away	Screened out

	Shading	None – too far away	Screened out
	Increased boat traffic	No influence on this matter	Screened out
Riverside Phase 2	Pollution	None – too far away	Screened out
	Shading	None –too far away	Screened out
	Increased boat traffic	No influence on this matter	Screened out
Rochdale Infirmary	Pollution	None – too far away	Screened out
	Shading	None – too far away	Screened out
	Increased boat traffic	No influence on this matter	Screened out
Former Dexine Rubber Co	Pollution	None – too far away	Screened out
	Shading	None – too far away	Screened out
	Increased boat traffic	No influence on this matter	Screened out
Land off Baytree Lane	Pollution	None – too far away	Screened out
	Shading	None – too far away	Screened out
	Increased boat traffic	No influence on this matter	Screened out
New Road, Littleborough	Pollution	Some possible litter, discharges etc	Screened out
	Shading	Potentially, depending on position of buildings	Screened out
	Increased boat traffic	Not directly encouraged	Screened out
College Bank	Pollution	None – too far away	Screened out
	Shading	None – too far away	Screened out
	Increased boat traffic	No influence on this matter	Screened out
Central Retail Park	Pollution	None – too far away	Screened out
	Shading	None – too far away	Screened out
	Increased boat traffic	No influence on this matter	Screened out
Castleton Sidings	Pollution	None – too far away	Screened out
	Shading	None – too far away	Screened out
	Increased boat traffic	No influence on this matter	Screened out
Former Balderstone School	Pollution	None – too far away	Screened out
	Shading	None – too far away	Screened out
	Increased boat traffic	No influence on this matter	Screened out
Warwick Mill	Pollution	None – too far away	Screened out
	Shading	None – too far away	Screened out
	Increased boat traffic	No influence on this matter	Screened out
Mutual Mills, Heywood	Pollution	None – too far away	Screened out
	Shading	None – too far away	Screened out

	Increased boat traffic	No influence on this matter	Screened out
Land at Dyehouse Lane	Pollution	None – too far away	Screened out
	Shading	None – too far away	Screened out
	Increased boat traffic	No influence on this matter	Screened out
Trub (west of canal), Castleton	Pollution	Some possible litter, discharges etc	Screened in
	Shading	Potentially, depending on position of buildings	Screened in
	Increased boat traffic	No influence on this matter	Screened out
Former Akzo Nobel, Littleborough	Pollution	Some possible litter, discharges etc	Screened in
	Shading	Potentially, depending on position of buildings	Screened in
	Increased boat traffic	No influence on this matter	Screened out
Former Dunlop, Royle Barn Road	Pollution	None – too far away	Screened out
	Shading	None – too far away	Screened out
	Increased boat traffic	No influence on this matter	Screened out
Willow Park, Langley	Pollution	None – too far away	Screened out
	Shading	None – too far away	Screened out
	Increased boat traffic	No influence on this matter	Screened out
Drake Street West, Rochdale	Pollution	None – too far away	Screened out
	Shading	None – too far away	Screened out
	Increased boat traffic	No influence on this matter	Screened out
George Street / John Street, Rochdale	Pollution	None – too far away	Screened out
	Shading	None – too far away	Screened out
	Increased boat traffic	No influence on this matter	Screened out
Carcraft, Rochdale (Nixon Street)	Pollution	None – too far away	Screened out
	Shading	None – too far away	Screened out
	Increased boat traffic	No influence on this matter	Screened out
TBA, Rooley Moor Road, Rochdale	Pollution	None – too far away	Screened out
	Shading	None – too far away	Screened out
	Increased boat traffic	No influence on this matter	Screened out
British Vita, Don Street, Middleton	Pollution	None – too far away	Screened out
	Shading	None – too far away	Screened out
	Increased boat traffic	No influence on this matter	Screened out
Lower Falinge Masterplan area	Pollution	None – too far away	Screened out
	Shading	None – too far away	Screened out
	Increased boat traffic	No influence on this matter	Screened out

Site of Process Plastics, Norwich Street, Rochdale	Pollution	Some possible litter, discharges etc	Screened in
	Shading	Potentially, depending on position of buildings	Screened in
	Increased boat traffic	No influence on this matter	Screened out
Queensway Neighbourhood Centre, Well'I'Th'lane, Rochdale	Pollution	Some possible litter, discharges etc	Screened in
	Shading	Potentially, depending on position of buildings	Screened in
	Increased boat traffic	No influence on this matter	Screened out
Dicken Green Mill, Greenfield Lane, Rochdale	Pollution	Some possible litter, discharges etc	Screened in
	Shading	Potentially, depending on position of buildings	Screened in
	Increased boat traffic	No influence on this matter	Screened out
Lomax Transport Services, Trub Farm, Castleton	Pollution	Some possible litter, discharges etc	Screened in
	Shading	Potentially, depending on position of buildings	Screened in
	Increased boat traffic	No influence on this matter	Screened out
Maltings Lane, Castleton	Pollution	Some possible litter, discharges etc	Screened in
	Shading	Potentially, depending on position of buildings	Screened in
	Increased boat traffic	No influence on this matter	Screened out

Table 5.5 Screening Summary Table – Housing Allocations – South Pennine Moors SAC / SPA

Allocation	Damaging impact	Likely significant effects of development	Screening Assessment
Land south of Heywood Distribution Park	Minerals extraction	None	Screened out
	Construction	None – too far away	Screened out
	Built structures	None – too far away	Screened out
	Traffic / pollution	None – too far away	Screened out
	Recreational activities	None	Screened out
Sites south of Heywood Town Centre	Minerals extraction	None	Screened out
	Construction	None – too far away	Screened out
	Built structures	None – too far away	Screened out
	Traffic / pollution	None – too far away	Screened out
	Recreational activities	None	Screened out
Langley Lane / Hollin Lane	Minerals extraction	None	Screened out
	Construction	None – too far away	Screened out

	Built structures	None – too far away	Screened out
	Traffic / pollution	None – too far away	Screened out
	Recreational activities	None	Screened out
Land at Newchurch Street	Minerals extraction	None	Screened out
	Construction	None – too far away	Screened out
	Built structures	None – too far away	Screened out
	Traffic / pollution	None – too far away	Screened out
	Recreational activities	None	Screened out
Land at Keswick Close, Langley	Minerals extraction	None	Screened out
	Construction	None – too far away	Screened out
	Built structures	None – too far away	Screened out
	Traffic / pollution	None – too far away	Screened out
	Recreational activities	None	Screened out
Drake Street East, Rochdale	Minerals extraction	None	Screened out
	Construction	None – too far away	Screened out
	Built structures	None – too far away	Screened out
	Traffic / pollution	None – too far away	Screened out
	Recreational activities	None	Screened out
Riverside Phase 2	Minerals extraction	None	Screened out
	Construction	None – too far away	Screened out
	Built structures	None – too far away	Screened out
	Traffic / pollution	None – too far away	Screened out
	Recreational activities	None	Screened out
Rochdale Infirmary	Minerals extraction	None	Screened out
	Construction	None – too far away	Screened out
	Built structures	None – too far away	Screened out
	Traffic / pollution	None – too far away	Screened out
	Recreational activities	None	Screened out
Former Dexine Rubber Co	Minerals extraction	None	Screened out
	Construction	None – too far away	Screened out
	Built structures	None – too far away	Screened out
	Traffic / pollution	None – too far away	Screened out
	Recreational activities	None	Screened out
Land off Baytree Lane	Minerals extraction	None	Screened out

	Construction	None – too far away	Screened out
	Built structures	None – too far away	Screened out
	Traffic / pollution	None – too far away	Screened out
	Recreational activities	None	Screened out
New Street, Littleborough	Minerals extraction	None	Screened out
	Construction	None – too far away	Screened out
	Built structures	None – too far away	Screened out
	Traffic / pollution	None – too far away	Screened out
	Recreational activities	None	Screened out
College Bank	Minerals extraction	None	Screened out
	Construction	None – too far away	Screened out
	Built structures	None – too far away	Screened out
	Traffic / pollution	None – too far away	Screened out
	Recreational activities	None	Screened out
Central Retail Park	Minerals extraction	None	Screened out
	Construction	None – too far away	Screened out
	Built structures	None – too far away	Screened out
	Traffic / pollution	None – too far away	Screened out
	Recreational activities	None	Screened out
Castleton Sidings	Minerals extraction	None	Screened out
	Construction	None – too far away	Screened out
	Built structures	None – too far away	Screened out
	Traffic / pollution	None – too far away	Screened out
	Recreational activities	None	Screened out
Former Balderstone School	Minerals extraction	None	Screened out
	Construction	None – too far away	Screened out
	Built structures	None – too far away	Screened out
	Traffic / pollution	None – too far away	Screened out
	Recreational activities	None	Screened out
Warwick Mill	Minerals extraction	None	Screened out
	Construction	None – too far away	Screened out
	Built structures	None – too far away	Screened out
	Traffic / pollution	None – too far away	Screened out
	Recreational activities	None	Screened out

Mutual Mills, Heywood	Minerals extraction	None	Screened out
	Construction	None – too far away	Screened out
	Built structures	None – too far away	Screened out
	Traffic / pollution	None – too far away	Screened out
	Recreational activities	None	Screened out
Land at Dyehouse Lane	Minerals extraction	None	Screened out
	Construction	None – too far away	Screened out
	Built structures	None – too far away	Screened out
	Traffic / pollution	None – too far away	Screened out
	Recreational activities	None	Screened out
Trub (west of canal), Castleton	Minerals extraction	None	Screened out
	Construction	None – too far away	Screened out
	Built structures	None – too far away	Screened out
	Traffic / pollution	None – too far away	Screened out
	Recreational activities	None	Screened out
Former Akzo Nobel, Littleborough	Minerals extraction	None	Screened out
	Construction	None – too far away	Screened out
	Built structures	None – too far away	Screened out
	Traffic / pollution	None – too far away	Screened out
	Recreational activities	None	Screened out
Former Dunlop, Royle Barn Road	Minerals extraction	None	Screened out
	Construction	None – too far away	Screened out
	Built structures	None – too far away	Screened out
	Traffic / pollution	None – too far away	Screened out
	Recreational activities	None	Screened out
Willow Park, Langley	Minerals extraction	None	Screened out
	Construction	None – too far away	Screened out
	Built structures	None – too far away	Screened out
	Traffic / pollution	None – too far away	Screened out
	Recreational activities	None	Screened out
Drake Street West, Rochdale	Minerals extraction	None	Screened out
	Construction	None – too far away	Screened out
	Built structures	None – too far away	Screened out
	Traffic / pollution	None – too far away	Screened out

	Recreational activities	None	Screened out
George Street / John Street, Rochdale	Minerals extraction	None	Screened out
	Construction	None – too far away	Screened out
	Built structures	None – too far away	Screened out
	Traffic / pollution	None – too far away	Screened out
	Recreational activities	None	Screened out
Carcraft, Rochdale	Minerals extraction	None	Screened out
	Construction	None – too far away	Screened out
	Built structures	None – too far away	Screened out
	Traffic / pollution	None – too far away	Screened out
	Recreational activities	None	Screened out
TBA, Rooley Moor Road, Rochdale	Minerals extraction	None	Screened out
	Construction	None – too far away	Screened out
	Built structures	None – too far away	Screened out
	Traffic / pollution	None – too far away	Screened out
	Recreational activities	None	Screened out
British Vita, Don Street, Middleton	Minerals extraction	None	Screened out
	Construction	None – too far away	Screened out
	Built structures	None – too far away	Screened out
	Traffic / pollution	None – too far away	Screened out
	Recreational activities	None	Screened out
Lower Falinge Masterplan area	Minerals extraction	None	Screened out
	Construction	None – too far away	Screened out
	Built structures	None – too far away	Screened out
	Traffic / pollution	None – too far away	Screened out
	Recreational activities	None	Screened out
Site of Process Plastics, Norwich Street, Rochdale	Minerals extraction	None	Screened out
	Construction	None – too far away	Screened out
	Built structures	None – too far away	Screened out
	Traffic / pollution	None – too far away	Screened out
	Recreational activities	None	Screened out
Queensway Neighbourhood Centre, Well'I'Th'lane, Rochdale	Minerals extraction	None	Screened out
	Construction	None – too far away	Screened out
	Built structures	None – too far away	Screened out

	Traffic / pollution	None – too far away	Screened out
	Recreational activities	None	Screened out
Dicken Green Mill, Greenfield Lane, Rochdale	Minerals extraction	None	Screened out
	Construction	None – too far away	Screened out
	Built structures	None – too far away	Screened out
	Traffic / pollution	None – too far away	Screened out
	Recreational activities	None	Screened out
Lomax Transport Services, Trub Farm, Castleton	Minerals extraction	None	Screened out
	Construction	None – too far away	Screened out
	Built structures	None – too far away	Screened out
	Traffic / pollution	None – too far away	Screened out
	Recreational activities	None	Screened out
Maltings Lane, Castleton	Minerals extraction	None	Screened out
	Construction	None – too far away	Screened out
	Built structures	None – too far away	Screened out
	Traffic / pollution	None – too far away	Screened out
	Recreational activities	None	Screened out

Table 5.6 Screening Summary Table – Transport Allocations – Rochdale Canal SAC

Allocation	Damaging impact	Likely significant effects of development	Screening Assessment
Mills Hill Park and Ride	Pollution	Some possible litter, discharges etc	Screened out
	Shading	Potentially, depending on position of buildings	Screened out
	Increased boat traffic	Not directly encouraged	Screened out
Newhey Park and Ride	Pollution	None –too far away	Screened out
	Shading	None –too far away	Screened out
	Increased boat traffic	No influence on this matter	Screened out
Potential East Lancs Railway Station sites	Pollution	None – too far away	Screened out
	Shading	None –too far away	Screened out
	Increased boat traffic	No influence on this matter	Screened out
Kingsway Park and Ride	Pollution	None – too far away	Screened out

	Shading	None – too far away	Screened out
	Increased boat traffic	No influence on this matter	Screened out
Smithybridge Station Park and Ride	Pollution	None – too far away	Screened out
	Shading	None –too far away	Screened out
	Increased boat traffic	No influence on this matter	Screened out
Stakehill Railfreight Terminal	Pollution	Some possible litter, discharges etc	Screened in
	Shading	None – no buildings	Screened out
	Increased boat traffic	No influence on this matter	Screened out

Table 5.7 Screening Summary Table – Transport Allocations – South Pennine Moors SAC / SPA

Allocation	Damaging impact	Likely significant effects of development	Screening Assessment
Mills Hill Park and Ride	Minerals extraction	None	Screened out
	Construction	None – too far away	Screened out
	Built structures	None – too far away	Screened out
	Traffic / pollution	None – too far away	Screened out
	Recreational activities	None	Screened out
Newhey Park and Ride	Minerals extraction	None	Screened out
	Construction	None – too far away	Screened out
	Built structures	None – too far away	Screened out
	Traffic / pollution	None – too far away	Screened out
	Recreational activities	None	Screened out
Potential East Lancs Railway Station sites	Minerals extraction	None	Screened out
	Construction	None – too far away	Screened out
	Built structures	None – too far away	Screened out
	Traffic / pollution	None – too far away	Screened out
	Recreational activities	None	Screened out
Kingsway Park and Ride	Minerals extraction	None	Screened out
	Construction	None – too far away	Screened out
	Built structures	None – too far away	Screened out
	Traffic / pollution	None – too far away	Screened out
	Recreational activities	None	Screened out

Smithybridge Station Park and Ride	Minerals extraction	None	Screened out
	Construction	None – too far away	Screened out
	Built structures	None – too far away	Screened out
	Traffic / pollution	None – too far away	Screened out
	Recreational activities	None	Screened out
Stakehill Railfreight Terminal	Minerals extraction	None	Screened out
	Construction	None – too far away	Screened out
	Built structures	None – too far away	Screened out
	Traffic / pollution	None – too far away	Screened out
	Recreational activities	None	Screened out

6 Summary of the Screening Opinions

6.1 Impacts on the Rochdale Canal SAC

The Screening Opinion of the HRA has concluded that the following policies / allocations could have a significant effect on the special interests of the Rochdale Canal SAC:

Table 6.1: Potential effects on the special interests of the Rochdale Canal SAC arising from policies and/or allocations in the Plan

	Potential effects / impacts
Policy AL/6 – Sites allocated for residential development	Most impacts would depend on individual allocations however the overall level of residential development in the borough could impact because of recreational pressures
Employment allocation - Kingsway Business Park	Potential shading from new buildings and other impacts such as litter and discharges
Employment allocation – Cown Top	Some possible discharges because of direct drain connection
Employment allocation – Canal Basin	Potential shading from new buildings and other impacts such as litter and discharges
Employment allocation - Bradferns	Potential shading from new buildings and other impacts such as litter and discharges
Housing allocation – Trub (west of canal), Castleton	Potential shading from new buildings, increased boat traffic and other impacts such as litter and discharges
Housing allocation - Former Akzo Nobel, Littleborough	Potential shading from new buildings and other impacts such as litter and discharges
Housing allocation - Site of Process Plastics, Norwich Street, Rochdale	Potential shading from new buildings, increased boat traffic and other impacts such as litter and discharges
Housing allocation - Queensway, Well'I'Th'lane, Rochdale	Potential shading from new buildings, increased boat traffic and other impacts such as litter and discharges
Housing allocation - Dicken Green Mill, Greenfield Lane, Rochdale	Potential shading from new buildings, increased boat traffic and other impacts such as litter and discharges
Housing allocation - Lomax Transport Services, Trub Farm, Castleton	Potential shading from new buildings, increased boat traffic and other impacts such as litter and discharges
Housing allocation – Maltings Lane, Castleton	Potential shading from new buildings, increased boat traffic and other impacts such as litter and discharges
Transport allocation – Stakehill Railfreight Terminal	Possible impacts such as litter and discharges

6.2 Impact on the South Pennine Moors SAC and South Pennine Moors SPA

The Screening Opinion of the HRA has concluded that the following policies / allocations could have a significant effect on the special interests of the South Pennine Moors SAC and South Pennine Moors SPA:

Table 6.2: Potential effects on the special interests of the South Pennine Moors SAC and South Pennine Moors SPA arising from policies and/or allocations identified in the Plan

Core Policy	Potential effects / impacts
Policy A6 – Sites allocated for residential development	Most impacts would depend on individual allocations however the overall level of residential development in the borough could impact because of recreational pressures and possibly traffic generation
AL/14 – Areas suitable for wind energy development	Possible impacts on birds in the vicinity of the South Pennines SPA

6.3 Further assessment of these impacts is carried out below (section 8).

7 Consideration of ‘in combination’ effects with other plans and proposals

- 7.1 The Habitats Regulation Assessment must consider the likely significant effect of the Plan in relation to other proposals and plans current or planned within the relevant administrative area, other administrative authorities and prepared by other statutory organisations (e.g. Environment Agency, United Utilities) and in combination with the identified effects of those plans.
- 7.2 The Plan sets out how the scale of development outlined in Rochdale’s Core Strategy will be delivered through specific allocations for housing, employment and other identified needs. The Core Strategy has already been subject to HRA which found no significant effects.
- 7.2 At the regional level, the Greater Manchester Strategic Framework (GMSF) will guide the development of homes, workplaces and transport in Greater Manchester over the next 20 years. This includes the identification of strategic locations and allocations, amongst them the Northern Gateway. Thus the housing and employment allocations contained within the Plan will be supplemented by further strategic sites identified by the GMSF. In terms of housing sites, the overall level of housing development in the borough could impact on European sites in terms of recreational pressures, however these GMSF sites are located in the west of the borough, significantly away from any European sites, and their contribution to this impact is likely to be marginal.
- 7.3 The Rochdale Canal SAC is shared with Oldham Borough; the HRA of the Oldham Allocations Plan has recommended only that Appropriate Assessment is carried out for specific areas which are adjacent to the canal but not near the border with Rochdale. South Pennine Moors SAC and South Pennine Moors SPA are shared with a number of other local authorities, namely Calderdale, Kirklees, Oldham, Tameside, Barnsley, Derbyshire and Sheffield, all of whom are producing Allocations Plans of their own: the table below summarises the findings of HRAs in this respect. As with Rochdale, any impacts are likely to be indirect, such as increased recreational pressure. Additionally, whilst the in-

combination impacts, especially in terms of residential allocations, might put increased recreational on European sites, it should be noted that the allocations represent the implementation of housing numbers set out in Core Strategies, which, at least in the case of Rochdale, have already been adopted and subjected to Habitats Regulations Assessment which found no significant effects.

Other local plans: conclusions in respect of South Pennine Moors

AUTHORITY	COMMENTS
Oldham	Allocations Plan HRA: no significant impacts identified
Calderdale	Core Strategy and Allocations Plan not yet produced
Kirklees	Core Strategy and Allocations Plan not yet produced
Tameside	Core Strategy Preferred Options: more detailed assessment recommended
Barnsley	Local Plan Submission: Overall, it is concluded that the majority of the policies and proposed sites within the Local Plan would not result in any harm to the European Sites. By concentrating development in existing settlements and proposed environmental and habitat protection allocations, the Local Plan will help to protect the integrity of the SAC and SPA. There is however a risk of a potentially negative effect on the European sites arising from the proposed housing allocations within the buffer zone, and further assessment will be required if they are to be allocated in the next stage of the plan.
Derbyshire (High Peak)	Local Plan: Inconclusive, further work required
Sheffield	Core Strategy: uncertain impacts of some sites, dependent on HRA of emerging Allocations Plan

8 Assessment of Potential Mitigation measures to address the identified potential impacts of the Plan on the Rochdale Canal SAC

Table 8.1: Assessment of the potential effects of policies / allocations identified in the Plan on the special interest of the Rochdale Canal SAC identified through the screening stage of the HRA with consideration of potential mitigation actions (allocations)

Strategic Location / Site	Potential Effects	Mitigation actions
Policy AL/6 – Sites allocated for residential development	Most impacts would depend on individual allocations however the overall level of residential development in the borough could impact because of recreational pressures. However it is unlikely to be significant.	Due to the insignificant nature of the impact no actions are recommended
Employment allocation - Kingsway Business Park	Potentially there could be overshadowing of the canal from new buildings and peripheral impacts such as increased litter, and construction and discharge impacts.	It is considered that planning briefs, masterplans and policies in respect of this area must specify that buildings do not overshadow the canal in a way which would be detrimental to the ecological value of the SAC, and appropriate construction / discharge statements should also be required. There should also be consideration of the appropriateness of different uses adjacent to the canal. However, these issues are set out in the relevant Core Strategy policies, and thus it is not recommended that the Allocations Plan is amended.
Employment allocation – Cowm Top	Some possible discharges because of direct drain connection	It is considered that planning briefs, masterplans and policies in respect of this area must specify sustainable drainage that reduces any impacts on watercourses

Employment allocation – Canal Basin	Potentially there could be overshadowing of the canal from new buildings and peripheral impacts such as increased litter, and construction and discharge impacts.	It is considered that planning briefs, masterplans and policies in respect of this area must specify that buildings do not overshadow the canal in a way which would be detrimental to the ecological value of the SAC, and appropriate construction / discharge statements should also be required. There should also be consideration of the appropriateness of different uses adjacent to the canal. However, these issues are set out in the relevant Core Strategy policies, and thus it is not recommended that the Allocations Plan is amended.
Employment allocations - Bradferns	Potentially there could be overshadowing of the canal from new buildings and peripheral impacts such as increased litter, and construction and discharge impacts.	It is considered that planning briefs, masterplans and policies in respect of this area must specify that buildings do not overshadow the canal in a way which would be detrimental to the ecological value of the SAC, and appropriate construction / discharge statements should also be required. There should also be consideration of the appropriateness of different uses adjacent to the canal. However, these issues are set out in the relevant Core Strategy policies, and thus it is not recommended that the Allocations Plan is amended.
Housing allocation – Trub (west of canal), Castleton	Potentially there could be overshadowing of the canal from new buildings and peripheral impacts such as increased litter, and construction and discharge impacts. In addition to this, disturbance to the SAC may arise from increased boat traffic which may be encouraged.	It is considered that planning briefs, masterplans and policies in respect of this area must specify that buildings do not overshadow the canal in a way which would be detrimental to the ecological value of the SAC, and appropriate construction / discharge statements should also be required. There should also be consideration of the appropriateness of different uses adjacent to the canal and location of boat moorings etc where disturbance to floating water-plantain is minimised and where approved by Natural England (and in accordance with any mitigation measures required by Natural England) in accordance with the Management Plan for the canal. However, these issues are set out in the relevant Core Strategy policies, and thus it is not recommended that the Allocations Plan is amended.
Housing allocation - Former Akzo Nobel, Littleborough	Potentially there could be overshadowing of the canal from new buildings and peripheral impacts such as increased litter, and construction and discharge impacts.	It is considered that planning briefs, masterplans and policies in respect of this area must specify that buildings do not overshadow the canal in a way which would be detrimental to the ecological value of the SAC, and appropriate construction / discharge statements should also be required. There should also be consideration of the appropriateness of different uses adjacent to the canal. However, these issues are set out in the relevant Core Strategy policies, and thus it is not recommended that the Allocations Plan is amended.
Housing allocation - Site of Process Plastics, Norwich Street,	Potentially there could be overshadowing of the canal from new buildings and peripheral impacts such as increased litter, and	It is considered that planning briefs, masterplans and policies in respect of this area must specify that buildings do not overshadow

Rochdale	construction and discharge impacts.	the canal in a way which would be detrimental to the ecological value of the SAC, and appropriate construction / discharge statements should also be required. There should also be consideration of the appropriateness of different uses adjacent to the canal. However, these issues are set out in the relevant Core Strategy policies, and thus it is not recommended that the Allocations Plan is amended.
Housing allocation - Queensway, Well'I'Th'lane, Rochdale	Potentially there could be overshadowing of the canal from new buildings and peripheral impacts such as increased litter, and construction and discharge impacts. In addition to this, disturbance to the SAC may arise from increased boat traffic which may be encouraged.	It is considered that planning briefs, masterplans and policies in respect of this area must specify that buildings do not overshadow the canal in a way which would be detrimental to the ecological value of the SAC, and appropriate construction / discharge statements should also be required. There should also be consideration of the appropriateness of different uses adjacent to the canal. However, these issues are set out in the relevant Core Strategy policies, and thus it is not recommended that the Allocations Plan is amended.
Housing allocation - Dicken Green Mill, Greenfield Lane, Rochdale	Potentially there could be overshadowing of the canal from new buildings and peripheral impacts such as increased litter, and construction and discharge impacts. In addition to this, disturbance to the SAC may arise from increased boat traffic which may be encouraged.	It is considered that planning briefs, masterplans and policies in respect of this area must specify that buildings do not overshadow the canal in a way which would be detrimental to the ecological value of the SAC, and appropriate construction / discharge statements should also be required. There should also be consideration of the appropriateness of different uses adjacent to the canal. However, these issues are set out in the relevant Core Strategy policies, and thus it is not recommended that the Allocations Plan is amended.
Housing allocation - Lomax Transport Services, Trub Farm, Castleton	Potentially there could be overshadowing of the canal from new buildings and peripheral impacts such as increased litter, and construction and discharge impacts. In addition to this, disturbance to the SAC may arise from increased boat traffic which may be encouraged.	It is considered that planning briefs, masterplans and policies in respect of this area must specify that buildings do not overshadow the canal in a way which would be detrimental to the ecological value of the SAC, and appropriate construction / discharge statements should also be required. There should also be consideration of the appropriateness of different uses adjacent to the canal. However, these issues are set out in the relevant Core Strategy policies, and thus it is not recommended that the Allocations Plan is amended.
Housing allocation – Maltings Lane, Castleton	Potentially there could be overshadowing of the canal from new buildings and peripheral impacts such as increased litter, and construction and discharge impacts. In addition to this, disturbance to the SAC may arise from increased boat traffic which may be encouraged.	It is considered that planning briefs, masterplans and policies in respect of this area must specify that buildings do not overshadow the canal in a way which would be detrimental to the ecological value of the SAC, and appropriate construction / discharge statements should also be required. There should also be consideration of the appropriateness of different uses adjacent to the canal. However, these issues are set out in the relevant Core Strategy policies, and thus it is not recommended that the Allocations Plan is amended.
Transport allocation – Stakehill	Potentially there could be overshadowing of the canal from new	It is considered that planning briefs, masterplans and policies in

Railfreight Terminal	buildings and peripheral impacts such as increased litter, and construction and discharge impacts. In addition to this, disturbance to the SAC may arise from increased boat traffic which may be encouraged.	respect of this area must specify that buildings do not overshadow the canal in a way which would be detrimental to the ecological value of the SAC, and appropriate construction / discharge statements should also be required. There should also be consideration of the appropriateness of different uses adjacent to the canal. However, these issues are set out in the relevant Core Strategy policies, and thus it is not recommended that the Allocations Plan is amended.
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Table 8.2: Assessment of the potential effects of policies / allocations identified in the Plan on the special interest of the South Pennine Moors SAC / SPA identified through the screening stage of the HRA with consideration of potential mitigation actions (allocations)

Core Policy	Potential Effects	Mitigation Actions
Policy AL/6 – Sites allocated for residential development	Most impacts would depend on individual allocations however the overall level of residential development in the borough could impact because of recreational pressures. However, this impact is likely to be insignificant because of the scale of the SPA/SAC	None
AL/14 – Areas suitable for wind energy development	Possible impacts on birds in the vicinity of the South Pennines SPA if wind turbines are located in that area	None, because all proposals will be subject to assessment against the relevant Core Strategy policy, which requires consideration of impact on protected species and sites

9 Summary and Recommendations

9.1 Screening of European sites has established that the following sites have the potential to be affected by policies and/or allocations identified as part of Rochdale's Core Strategy:

- Rochdale Canal SAC
- South Pennine Moors SAC and Phase 2 SPA

9.2 Screening has established that the following strategic locations and core policies have the potential to have a significant effect on the Rochdale Canal SAC:

Policy / Allocation	Potential effect on the Rochdale Canal SAC
Policy AL/6 – Sites allocated for residential development	Most impacts would depend on individual allocations however the overall level of residential development in the borough could impact because of recreational pressures
Employment allocation - Kingsway Business Park	Potential shading from new buildings and other impacts such as litter and discharges
Employment allocation – Canal Basin	Potential shading from new buildings and other impacts such as litter and discharges
Housing allocation – Trub (west of canal), Castleton	Potential shading from new buildings, increased boat traffic and other impacts such as litter and discharges
Housing allocation - Former Akzo Nobel, Littleborough	Potential shading from new buildings and other impacts such as litter and discharges
Housing allocation - Site of Process Plastics, Norwich Street, Rochdale	Potential shading from new buildings, increased boat traffic and other impacts such as litter and discharges
Housing allocation - Queensway, Well'I'Th'lane, Rochdale	Potential shading from new buildings, increased boat traffic and other impacts such as litter and discharges
Housing allocation - Dicken Green Mill, Greenfield Lane, Rochdale	Potential shading from new buildings, increased boat traffic and other impacts such as litter and discharges
Housing allocation - Lomax Transport Services, Trub Farm, Castleton	Potential shading from new buildings, increased boat traffic and other impacts such as litter and discharges
Housing allocation – Maltings Lane, Castleton	Potential shading from new buildings, increased boat traffic and other impacts such as litter and discharges
Transport allocation – Stakehill Railfreight Terminal	Possible impacts such as litter and discharges

And that the following policies /allocations have the potential to have a significant effect on the South Pennine Moors SAC and South Pennine Moors SPA:

Strategic location / core policy	Potential effect on the South Pennine Moors SAC and SPA
Policy AL/6 – Sites allocated for residential development	Most impacts would depend on individual allocations however the overall level of residential

	development in the borough could impact because of recreational pressures
AL/14 – Areas suitable for wind energy development	Possible impacts on birds in the vicinity of the South Pennines SPA

- 9.3 Further, more detailed Assessment of the possible effects of policies and/or allocations on the Rochdale Canal SAC and the South Pennine Moors SAC and SPA identified in the Screening process has been undertaken (Section 8).
- 9.4 This Assessment has concluded that, providing the recommended mitigation measures, which take the form of amending and controlling development allocated in the Plan, are put into place, controlled development within the identified areas can proceed without harm being caused to the special interests of the European sites. This opinion is based on this Screening Opinion and the experience and knowledge of the Greater Manchester Ecological Unit who have assisted in these matters.
- 9.5 It is **recommended** that any developments coming forward which might potentially adversely affect the conservation interests of the Rochdale Canal SAC through overshadowing, pollution, construction impacts, discharges, increased boat movements or any other impacts be referred for possible HRA as part of the development management process so that appropriate mitigation and control can be exercised and implemented. All these developments should also have full regard to the Management Plan for the canal and any canal strategy.
- 9.6 It is **recommended** that if any changes are made to the boundaries of any of the allocations or to the type of development that may be preferred in these areas, the allocations should be subject to further assessment under the terms of the HRA.

Appendix 1: European designated sites within the North West region and possible effects from allocations in the draft Plan

Site Name	Designation	Type of Effect	Likely Effects
Asby Complex	SAC	Water Quality / Hydrology	None – no hydrological pathways between SAC and allocations in the Plan
		Air Pollution	None – no atmospheric pathways and any pollutants are likely to have dispersed prior to reaching SAC (see EA report).
		Direct Land Take	None
		Habitat / Species Disturbance	None – site too distant for any direct or indirect disturbance to habitats.
		Increased recreational Pressure	None –site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Rochdale
Border Mires, Kielder – Butterburn	SAC	Water Quality / Hydrology	None – no hydrological pathways between SAC and allocations in the Plan
		Air Pollution	None – no atmospheric pathways and any pollutants are likely to have dispersed prior to reaching SAC (see EA report).
		Direct Land Take	None
		Habitat / Species Disturbance	None – site too distant for any direct or indirect disturbance to habitats.
		Increased recreational Pressure	None –site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Rochdale
Borrowdale Woodland Complex	SAC	Water Quality / Hydrology	None – no hydrological pathways between SAC and allocations in the Plan
		Air Pollution	None – no atmospheric pathways and any pollutants are likely to have dispersed prior to reaching SAC (see EA report).
		Direct Land Take	None
		Habitat / Species	None – site too distant for any direct or indirect disturbance to

		Disturbance	habitats.
		Increased recreational Pressure	None –site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Rochdale
Bowland Fells	SPA	Water Quality / Hydrology	None – no hydrological pathways between SAC and allocations in the Plan
		Air Pollution	None – no atmospheric pathways and any pollutants are likely to have dispersed prior to reaching SAC (see EA report).
		Direct Land Take	None
		Habitat / Species Disturbance	None – site too distant for any direct or indirect disturbance to habitats.
		Increased recreational Pressure	None –site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Rochdale
Calf Hill & Cragg Woods	SAC	Water Quality / Hydrology	None – no hydrological pathways between SAC and allocations in the Plan
		Air Pollution	None – no atmospheric pathways and any pollutants are likely to have dispersed prior to reaching SAC (see EA report).
		Direct Land Take	None
		Habitat / Species Disturbance	None – site too distant for any direct or indirect disturbance to habitats.
		Increased recreational Pressure	None –site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Rochdale
Clints Quarry	SAC	Water Quality / Hydrology	None – no hydrological pathways between SAC and allocations in the Plan
		Air Pollution	None – no atmospheric pathways and any pollutants are likely to have dispersed prior to reaching SAC (see EA report).
		Direct Land Take	None
		Habitat / Species Disturbance	None – site too distant for any direct or indirect disturbance to habitats.
		Increased recreational Pressure	None –site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Rochdale

		Pressure	Rochdale
Cumbrian Marsh Fritillary Site	SAC	Water Quality / Hydrology	None – no hydrological pathways between SAC and allocations in the Plan
		Air Pollution	None – no atmospheric pathways and any pollutants are likely to have dispersed prior to reaching SAC (see EA report).
		Direct Land Take	None
		Habitat / Species Disturbance	None – site too distant for any direct or indirect disturbance to habitats.
		Increased recreational Pressure	None –site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Rochdale
Dee Estuary	SPA / Ramsar	Water Quality / Hydrology	None – no hydrological pathways between SAC and allocations in the Plan
		Air Pollution	None – no atmospheric pathways and any pollutants are likely to have dispersed prior to reaching SAC (see EA report).
		Direct Land Take	None
		Habitat / Species Disturbance	None – site too distant for any direct or indirect disturbance to habitats.
		Increased recreational Pressure	None –site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Rochdale
Drigg Coast	SAC	Water Quality / Hydrology	None – no hydrological pathways between SAC and allocations in the Plan
		Air Pollution	None – no atmospheric pathways and any pollutants are likely to have dispersed prior to reaching SAC (see EA report).
		Direct Land Take	None
		Habitat / Species Disturbance	None – site too distant for any direct or indirect disturbance to habitats.
		Increased recreational Pressure	None –site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Rochdale
Duddon Estuary	SPA / Ramsar	Water Quality / Hydrology	None – no hydrological pathways between SAC and allocations in the

			Plan
		Air Pollution	None – no atmospheric pathways and any pollutants are likely to have dispersed prior to reaching SAC (see EA report).
		Direct Land Take	None
		Habitat / Species Disturbance	None – site too distant for any direct or indirect disturbance to habitats.
		Increased recreational Pressure	None –site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Rochdale
Duddon Mosses	SAC	Water Quality / Hydrology	None – no hydrological pathways between SAC and allocations in the Plan
		Air Pollution	None – no atmospheric pathways and any pollutants are likely to have dispersed prior to reaching SAC (see EA report).
		Direct Land Take	None
		Habitat / Species Disturbance	None – site too distant for any direct or indirect disturbance to habitats.
		Increased recreational Pressure	None –site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Rochdale
Esthwaite Water	Ramsar	Water Quality / Hydrology	None – no hydrological pathways between SAC and allocations in the Plan
		Air Pollution	None – no atmospheric pathways and any pollutants are likely to have dispersed prior to reaching SAC (see EA report).
		Direct Land Take	None
		Habitat / Species Disturbance	None – site too distant for any direct or indirect disturbance to habitats.
		Increased recreational Pressure	None –site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Rochdale
Irthinghead Mires	Ramsar	Water Quality / Hydrology	None – no hydrological pathways between SAC and allocations in the Plan
		Air Pollution	None – no atmospheric pathways and any pollutants are likely to have

			dispersed prior to reaching SAC (see EA report).
		Direct Land Take	None
		Habitat / Species Disturbance	None – site too distant for any direct or indirect disturbance to habitats.
		Increased recreational Pressure	None –site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Rochdale
Lake District High Fells	SAC	Water Quality / Hydrology	None – no hydrological pathways between SAC and allocations in the Plan
		Air Pollution	None – no atmospheric pathways and any pollutants are likely to have dispersed prior to reaching SAC (see EA report).
		Direct Land Take	None
		Habitat / Species Disturbance	None – site too distant for any direct or indirect disturbance to habitats.
		Increased recreational Pressure	None –site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Rochdale
Leighton Moss	SPA / Ramsar	Water Quality / Hydrology	None – no hydrological pathways between SAC and allocations in the Plan
		Air Pollution	None – no atmospheric pathways and any pollutants are likely to have dispersed prior to reaching SAC (see EA report).
		Direct Land Take	None
		Habitat / Species Disturbance	None – site too distant for any direct or indirect disturbance to habitats.
		Increased recreational Pressure	None –site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Rochdale
Liverpool Bay	pSPA	Water Quality / Hydrology	None – no hydrological pathways between SAC and allocations in the Plan
		Air Pollution	None – no atmospheric pathways and any pollutants are likely to have dispersed prior to reaching SAC (see EA report).
		Direct Land Take	None

		Habitat / Species Disturbance	None – site too distant for any direct or indirect disturbance to habitats.
		Increased recreational Pressure	None –site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Rochdale
Manchester Mosses	SAC	Water Quality / Hydrology	None – no hydrological pathways between SAC and allocations in the Plan
		Air Pollution	None – no atmospheric pathways and any pollutants are likely to have dispersed prior to reaching SAC (see EA report).
		Direct Land Take	None
		Habitat / Species Disturbance	None – site too distant for any direct or indirect disturbance to habitats.
		Increased recreational Pressure	None –site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Rochdale
Martin Mere	SPA / Ramsar	Water Quality / Hydrology	None – no hydrological pathways between SAC and allocations in the Plan
		Air Pollution	None – no atmospheric pathways and any pollutants are likely to have dispersed prior to reaching SAC (see EA report).
		Direct Land Take	None
		Habitat / Species Disturbance	None – site too distant for any direct or indirect disturbance to habitats.
		Increased recreational Pressure	None –site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Rochdale
Mersey Estuary	SPA / Ramsar	Water Quality / Hydrology	None – no hydrological pathways between SAC and allocations in the Plan
		Air Pollution	None – no atmospheric pathways and any pollutants are likely to have dispersed prior to reaching SAC (see EA report).
		Direct Land Take	None
		Habitat / Species Disturbance	None – site too distant for any direct or indirect disturbance to habitats.

		Increased recreational Pressure	None –site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Rochdale
Mersey Narrows & Wirral Foreshore	pSPA	Water Quality / Hydrology	None – no hydrological pathways between SAC and allocations in the Plan
		Air Pollution	None – no atmospheric pathways and any pollutants are likely to have dispersed prior to reaching SAC (see EA report).
		Direct Land Take	None
		Habitat / Species Disturbance	None – site too distant for any direct or indirect disturbance to habitats.
		Increased recreational Pressure	None –site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Rochdale
Midland Meres & Mosses – Phase 1 and Phase 2	2 x Ramsar	Water Quality / Hydrology	None – no hydrological pathways between SAC and allocations in the Plan
		Air Pollution	None – no atmospheric pathways and any pollutants are likely to have dispersed prior to reaching SAC (see EA report).
		Direct Land Take	None
		Habitat / Species Disturbance	None – site too distant for any direct or indirect disturbance to habitats.
		Increased recreational Pressure	None –site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Rochdale
Moor House – Upper Teasdale	SAC	Water Quality / Hydrology	None – no hydrological pathways between SAC and allocations in the Plan
		Air Pollution	None – no atmospheric pathways and any pollutants are likely to have dispersed prior to reaching SAC (see EA report).
		Direct Land Take	None
		Habitat / Species Disturbance	None – site too distant for any direct or indirect disturbance to habitats.
		Increased recreational Pressure	None –site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Rochdale

Morecombe Bay	SAC / Ramsar / SPA	Water Quality / Hydrology	None – no hydrological pathways between SAC and allocations in the Plan
		Air Pollution	None – no atmospheric pathways and any pollutants are likely to have dispersed prior to reaching SAC (see EA report).
		Direct Land Take	None
		Habitat / Species Disturbance	None – site too distant for any direct or indirect disturbance to habitats.
		Increased recreational Pressure	None –site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Rochdale
Morecombe Bay Pavements	SAC	Water Quality / Hydrology	None – no hydrological pathways between SAC and allocations in the Plan
		Air Pollution	None – no atmospheric pathways and any pollutants are likely to have dispersed prior to reaching SAC (see EA report).
		Direct Land Take	None
		Habitat / Species Disturbance	None – site too distant for any direct or indirect disturbance to habitats.
		Increased recreational Pressure	None –site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Rochdale
Naddle Forest	SAC	Water Quality / Hydrology	None – no hydrological pathways between SAC and allocations in the Plan
		Air Pollution	None – no atmospheric pathways and any pollutants are likely to have dispersed prior to reaching SAC (see EA report).
		Direct Land Take	None
		Habitat / Species Disturbance	None – site too distant for any direct or indirect disturbance to habitats.
		Increased recreational Pressure	None –site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Rochdale
North Pennine Dales Meadows	SAC	Water Quality / Hydrology	None – no hydrological pathways between SAC and allocations in the Plan

		Air Pollution	None – no atmospheric pathways and any pollutants are likely to have dispersed prior to reaching SAC (see EA report).
		Direct Land Take	None
		Habitat / Species Disturbance	None – site too distant for any direct or indirect disturbance to habitats.
		Increased recreational Pressure	None –site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Rochdale
North Pennine Moors	SAC / SPA	Water Quality / Hydrology	None – no hydrological pathways between SAC and allocations in the Plan
		Air Pollution	None – no atmospheric pathways and any pollutants are likely to have dispersed prior to reaching SAC (see EA report).
		Direct Land Take	None
		Habitat / Species Disturbance	None – site too distant for any direct or indirect disturbance to habitats.
		Increased recreational Pressure	None –site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Rochdale
Oak Mere	SAC	Water Quality / Hydrology	None – no hydrological pathways between SAC and allocations in the Plan
		Air Pollution	None – no atmospheric pathways and any pollutants are likely to have dispersed prior to reaching SAC (see EA report).
		Direct Land Take	None
		Habitat / Species Disturbance	None – site too distant for any direct or indirect disturbance to habitats.
		Increased recreational Pressure	None –site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Rochdale
Peak District Moors (South Pennine Moors Phase 1)	SPA	Water Quality / Hydrology	None – no hydrological pathways between SAC and allocations in the Plan
		Air Pollution	None – no atmospheric pathways and any pollutants are likely to have dispersed prior to reaching SAC (see EA report).

		Direct Land Take	None
		Habitat / Species Disturbance	None – site too distant for any direct or indirect disturbance to habitats.
		Increased recreational Pressure	None –site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Rochdale
Ribble & Alt Estuaries	SPA / Ramsar	Water Quality / Hydrology	None – no hydrological pathways between SAC and allocations in the Plan
		Air Pollution	None – no atmospheric pathways and any pollutants are likely to have dispersed prior to reaching SAC (see EA report).
		Direct Land Take	None
		Habitat / Species Disturbance	None – site too distant for any direct or indirect disturbance to habitats.
		Increased recreational Pressure	None –site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Rochdale
River Dee & Bala Lake	SAC	Water Quality / Hydrology	None – no hydrological pathways between SAC and allocations in the Plan
		Air Pollution	None – no atmospheric pathways and any pollutants are likely to have dispersed prior to reaching SAC (see EA report).
		Direct Land Take	None
		Habitat / Species Disturbance	None – site too distant for any direct or indirect disturbance to habitats.
		Increased recreational Pressure	None –site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Rochdale
River Derwent & Bassenthwaite Lake	SAC	Water Quality / Hydrology	None – no hydrological pathways between SAC and allocations in the Plan
		Air Pollution	None – no atmospheric pathways and any pollutants are likely to have dispersed prior to reaching SAC (see EA report).
		Direct Land Take	None
		Habitat / Species	None – site too distant for any direct or indirect disturbance to

		Disturbance	habitats.
		Increased recreational Pressure	None –site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Rochdale
River Eden	SAC	Water Quality / Hydrology	None – no hydrological pathways between SAC and allocations in the Plan
		Air Pollution	None – no atmospheric pathways and any pollutants are likely to have dispersed prior to reaching SAC (see EA report).
		Direct Land Take	None
		Habitat / Species Disturbance	None – site too distant for any direct or indirect disturbance to habitats.
		Increased recreational Pressure	None –site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Rochdale
River Ehen	SAC	Water Quality / Hydrology	None – no hydrological pathways between SAC and allocations in the Plan
		Air Pollution	None – no atmospheric pathways and any pollutants are likely to have dispersed prior to reaching SAC (see EA report).
		Direct Land Take	None
		Habitat / Species Disturbance	None – site too distant for any direct or indirect disturbance to habitats.
		Increased recreational Pressure	None –site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Rochdale
River Kent	SAC	Water Quality / Hydrology	None – no hydrological pathways between SAC and allocations in the Plan
		Air Pollution	None – no atmospheric pathways and any pollutants are likely to have dispersed prior to reaching SAC (see EA report).
		Direct Land Take	None
		Habitat / Species Disturbance	None – site too distant for any direct or indirect disturbance to habitats.
		Increased recreational Pressure	None –site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Rochdale

		Pressure	Rochdale
Rixton Clay Pits	SAC	Water Quality / Hydrology	None – no hydrological pathways between SAC and allocations in the Plan
		Air Pollution	None – no atmospheric pathways and any pollutants are likely to have dispersed prior to reaching SAC (see EA report).
		Direct Land Take	None
		Habitat / Species Disturbance	None – site too distant for any direct or indirect disturbance to habitats.
		Increased recreational Pressure	None –site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Rochdale
Rochdale Canal	SAC	Water Quality / Hydrology	Possible impact from some of the allocations.
		Air Pollution	Possible impact from allocations.
		Direct Land Take	None.
		Habitat / Species Disturbance	Could result from some of the allocations.
		Increased recreational Pressure	Could result from increased development in the area.
Rostherne Mere	Ramsar	Water Quality / Hydrology	None – no hydrological pathways between SAC and allocations in the Plan
		Air Pollution	None – no atmospheric pathways and any pollutants are likely to have dispersed prior to reaching SAC (see EA report).
		Direct Land Take	None
		Habitat / Species Disturbance	None – site too distant for any direct or indirect disturbance to habitats.
		Increased recreational Pressure	None –site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Rochdale
Roudsea Wood & Mosses	SAC	Water Quality / Hydrology	None – no hydrological pathways between SAC and allocations in the Plan
		Air Pollution	None – no atmospheric pathways and any pollutants are likely to have

			dispersed prior to reaching SAC (see EA report).
		Direct Land Take	None
		Habitat / Species Disturbance	None – site too distant for any direct or indirect disturbance to habitats.
		Increased recreational Pressure	None –site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Rochdale
Sefton Coast	SAC	Water Quality / Hydrology	None – no hydrological pathways between SAC and allocations in the Plan
		Air Pollution	None – no atmospheric pathways and any pollutants are likely to have dispersed prior to reaching SAC (see EA report).
		Direct Land Take	None
		Habitat / Species Disturbance	None – site too distant for any direct or indirect disturbance to habitats.
		Increased recreational Pressure	None –site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Rochdale
Solway Firth	SAC	Water Quality / Hydrology	None – no hydrological pathways between SAC and allocations in the Plan
		Air Pollution	None – no atmospheric pathways and any pollutants are likely to have dispersed prior to reaching SAC (see EA report).
		Direct Land Take	None
		Habitat / Species Disturbance	None – site too distant for any direct or indirect disturbance to habitats.
		Increased recreational Pressure	None –site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Rochdale
South Pennine Moors	SAC	Water Quality / Hydrology	Possible impact from development
		Air Pollution	Could result from increased development in the area.
		Direct Land Take	None.
		Habitat / Species Disturbance	Could result from increased development in the area.

		Increased recreational Pressure	Could result from increased development in the area.
South Pennine Moors Phase 2	SPA	Water Quality / Hydrology	Possible impact from development.
		Air Pollution	Could result from increased development in the area.
		Direct Land Take	None.
		Habitat / Species Disturbance	Could result from increased development in the area.
		Increased recreational Pressure	Could result from increased development in the area.
South Solway Mosses	SAC	Water Quality / Hydrology	None – no hydrological pathways between SAC and allocations in the Plan
		Air Pollution	None – no atmospheric pathways and any pollutants are likely to have dispersed prior to reaching SAC (see EA report).
		Direct Land Take	None
		Habitat / Species Disturbance	None – site too distant for any direct or indirect disturbance to habitats.
		Increased recreational Pressure	None –site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Rochdale
Subberthwaite, Blawith & Torver Low Commons	SAC	Water Quality / Hydrology	None – no hydrological pathways between SAC and allocations in the Plan
		Air Pollution	None – no atmospheric pathways and any pollutants are likely to have dispersed prior to reaching SAC (see EA report).
		Direct Land Take	None
		Habitat / Species Disturbance	None – site too distant for any direct or indirect disturbance to habitats.
		Increased recreational Pressure	None –site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Rochdale
Tarn Moss	SAC	Water Quality / Hydrology	None – no hydrological pathways between SAC and allocations in the Plan

		Air Pollution	None – no atmospheric pathways and any pollutants are likely to have dispersed prior to reaching SAC (see EA report).
		Direct Land Take	None
		Habitat / Species Disturbance	None – site too distant for any direct or indirect disturbance to habitats.
		Increased recreational Pressure	None –site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Rochdale
Tyne & Nent	SAC	Water Quality / Hydrology	None – no hydrological pathways between SAC and allocations in the Plan
		Air Pollution	None – no atmospheric pathways and any pollutants are likely to have dispersed prior to reaching SAC (see EA report).
		Direct Land Take	None
		Habitat / Species Disturbance	None – site too distant for any direct or indirect disturbance to habitats.
		Increased recreational Pressure	None –site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Rochdale
Ullswater Oakwoods	SAC	Water Quality / Hydrology	None – no hydrological pathways between SAC and allocations in the Plan
		Air Pollution	None – no atmospheric pathways and any pollutants are likely to have dispersed prior to reaching SAC (see EA report).
		Direct Land Take	None
		Habitat / Species Disturbance	None – site too distant for any direct or indirect disturbance to habitats.
		Increased recreational Pressure	None –site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Rochdale
Upper Solway Flats & Marshes	SPA / Ramsar	Water Quality / Hydrology	None – no hydrological pathways between SAC and allocations in the Plan
		Air Pollution	None – no atmospheric pathways and any pollutants are likely to have dispersed prior to reaching SAC (see EA report).

		Direct Land Take	None
		Habitat / Species Disturbance	None – site too distant for any direct or indirect disturbance to habitats.
		Increased recreational Pressure	None –site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Rochdale
Walton Moss	SAC	Water Quality / Hydrology	None – no hydrological pathways between SAC and allocations in the Plan
		Air Pollution	None – no atmospheric pathways and any pollutants are likely to have dispersed prior to reaching SAC (see EA report).
		Direct Land Take	None
		Habitat / Species Disturbance	None – site too distant for any direct or indirect disturbance to habitats.
		Increased recreational Pressure	None –site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Rochdale
Wast Water	SAC	Water Quality / Hydrology	None – no hydrological pathways between SAC and allocations in the Plan
		Air Pollution	None – no atmospheric pathways and any pollutants are likely to have dispersed prior to reaching SAC (see EA report).
		Direct Land Take	None
		Habitat / Species Disturbance	None – site too distant for any direct or indirect disturbance to habitats.
		Increased recreational Pressure	None –site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Rochdale
West Midlands Mosses	SAC	Water Quality / Hydrology	None – no hydrological pathways between SAC and allocations in the Plan
		Air Pollution	None – no atmospheric pathways and any pollutants are likely to have dispersed prior to reaching SAC (see EA report).
		Direct Land Take	None
		Habitat / Species	None – site too distant for any direct or indirect disturbance to

		Disturbance	habitats.
		Increased recreational Pressure	None –site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Rochdale
Witherslack Mosses	SAC	Water Quality / Hydrology	None – no hydrological pathways between SAC and allocations in the Plan
		Air Pollution	None – no atmospheric pathways and any pollutants are likely to have dispersed prior to reaching SAC (see EA report).
		Direct Land Take	None
		Habitat / Species Disturbance	None – site too distant for any direct or indirect disturbance to habitats.
		Increased recreational Pressure	None –site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Rochdale
Yewbarrow Woods	SAC	Water Quality / Hydrology	None – no hydrological pathways between SAC and allocations in the Plan
		Air Pollution	None – no atmospheric pathways and any pollutants are likely to have dispersed prior to reaching SAC (see EA report).
		Direct Land Take	None
		Habitat / Species Disturbance	None – site too distant for any direct or indirect disturbance to habitats.
		Increased recreational Pressure	None –site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Rochdale

Appendix 2: Screening Summary of European designated sites within the North West Region and possible impacts from allocations in the Plan

Site Name	Designation	Screened in / out	Justification
Asby Complex	SAC	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise
Border Mires, Kielder - Butterburn	SAC	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise
Borrowdale Woodland Complex	SAC	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise
Bowland Fells	SPA	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise
Calf Hill & Cragg Woods	SAC	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise
Clints Quarry	SAC	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise
Cumbrian Marsh Fritillary Site	SAC	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise
Dee Estuary	SPA / Ramsar	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise
Drigg Coast	SAC	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise
Duddon Estuary	SPA / Ramsar	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise
Duddon Mosses	SAC	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise
Esthwaite Water	Ramsar	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise
Irthinghead Mires	Ramsar	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise
Lake District High Fells	SAC	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise
Leighton Moss	SPA / Ramsar	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise
Liverpool Bay	pSPA	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise
Manchester Mosses	SAC	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise
Martin Mere	SPA / Ramsar	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise
Mersey Estuary	SPA / Ramsar	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise
Mersey Narrows & Wirral Foreshore	pSPA	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise
Midland Meres & Mosses – Phase 1 & Phase 2	2 x Ramsar	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise

Moor House – Upper Teasdale	SAC	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise
Morcombe Bay	SAC / Ramsar / SPA	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise
Morcombe Bay Pavements	SAC	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise
Naddle Forest	SAC	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise
North Pennine Dales Meadows	SAC	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise
North Pennine Moors	SAC / SPA	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise
Oak Mere	SAC	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise
Peak District Moors (South Pennine Moors Phase 1)	SPA	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise
Ribble & Alt Estuaries	SPA / Ramsar	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise
River Dee & Bala Lake	SAC	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise
River Derwent & Bassenthwaite Lake	SAC	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise
River Eden	SAC	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise
River Ehen	SAC	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise
River Kent	SAC	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise
Rixton Clay Pits	SAC	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise
Rochdale Canal	SAC	In	Possible impacts from both allocations and policies
Rostherne Mere	Ramsar	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise
Roudsea Wood & Mosses	SAC	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise
Sefton Coast	SAC	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise
Solway Firth	SAC	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise
South Pennine Moors	SAC	In	Possible impacts from both allocations and policies
South Pennine Moors Phase 2	SPA	In	Possible impacts from both allocations and policies
South Solway Mosses	SAC	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise
Subberthwaite, Blawith & Torver Low Commons	SAC	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise
Tarn Moss	SAC	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise
Tyne & Nent	SAC	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise

Ullswater Oakwoods	SAC	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise
Upper Solway Flats & Marshes	SPA / Ramsar	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise
Walton Moss	SAC	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise
Wast Water	SAC	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise
West Midlands Mosses	SAC	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise
Witherslack Mosses	SAC	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise
Yewbarrow Woods	SAC	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise