

ROCHDALE PUBLICATION CORE STRATEGY

**Habitats Regulations Assessment of the
Impact on European Protected Sites of
the Rochdale Borough Council Core
Strategy Development Plan Document**



Local Development Framework

January 2013



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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):

- The Regional Spatial Strategy under Part 1 of the 2004 Planning Act.
- 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 Core Strategy (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 Strategic Locations and Strategic Sites for development and the Core 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 strategic Locations / Sites need to be de-selected or the wording of any of the Core 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 Core Strategy Development Plan Document (Publication version). As the Core Strategy DPD has developed through various stages, this HRA has been continually updated to take account of the impact of any changes.
- 2.2 The Core Strategy is the leading document of the Local Development Framework and it will set a strategic framework for growth and development in the borough up to 2028. It will also set out what the overall scale of development needs to be and broadly where it should be focussed within the borough. The Preferred Options report was developed following on from the initial Issues and Options report (which contained six spatial options), further refining the preferred approach to a spatial strategy and introducing draft policies. Following submission to the Secretary of State the Core Strategy was withdrawn and revised draft was produced in August 2012. The main change was in terms of the economic policies, which omitted previous proposals for a growth area south of Heywood and introduced a criteria based approach to managing the release of land to meet future employment needs. The publication version also omitted the development of land between Oldham Road and Broad Lane.

- 2.3 Opinion has being sought at key stages of the Core Strategy process to ensure that the requirements to meet the terms of the Regulations regarding Habitats Regulation Assessment can be properly planned for and addressed.
- 2.4 The Plan has identified five economic growth corridors / areas, seven housing-led regeneration areas ('Strategic Housing Locations'), one additional housing site outside the urban area, and three strategic mixed use sites. These are areas within the borough where development will be centred. The areas are briefly described below in Table 1 and are represented spatially in figure 1.1. The rationale behind the selection of these areas and sites can be found in other documents within the overall LDF. Details of the exact nature and type of development which may be allowed in these areas are not yet available. At this stage of the process only the broad type and scale of preferred development 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 identified areas and sites will be further consulted upon as part of the development of the Core Strategy and it is recognised that the locations, and the type of preferred development in these areas, may be subject to change.
- 2.5 The Core Policies of the Plan have also been considered in preparing this Assessment. The details of these Core Policies can be found elsewhere in the LDF documentation. The results of the Assessment of the Core Policies can be found in section 5 of this report.

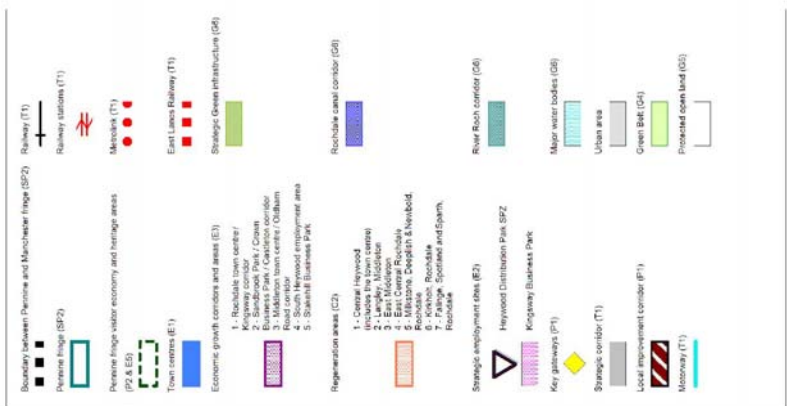
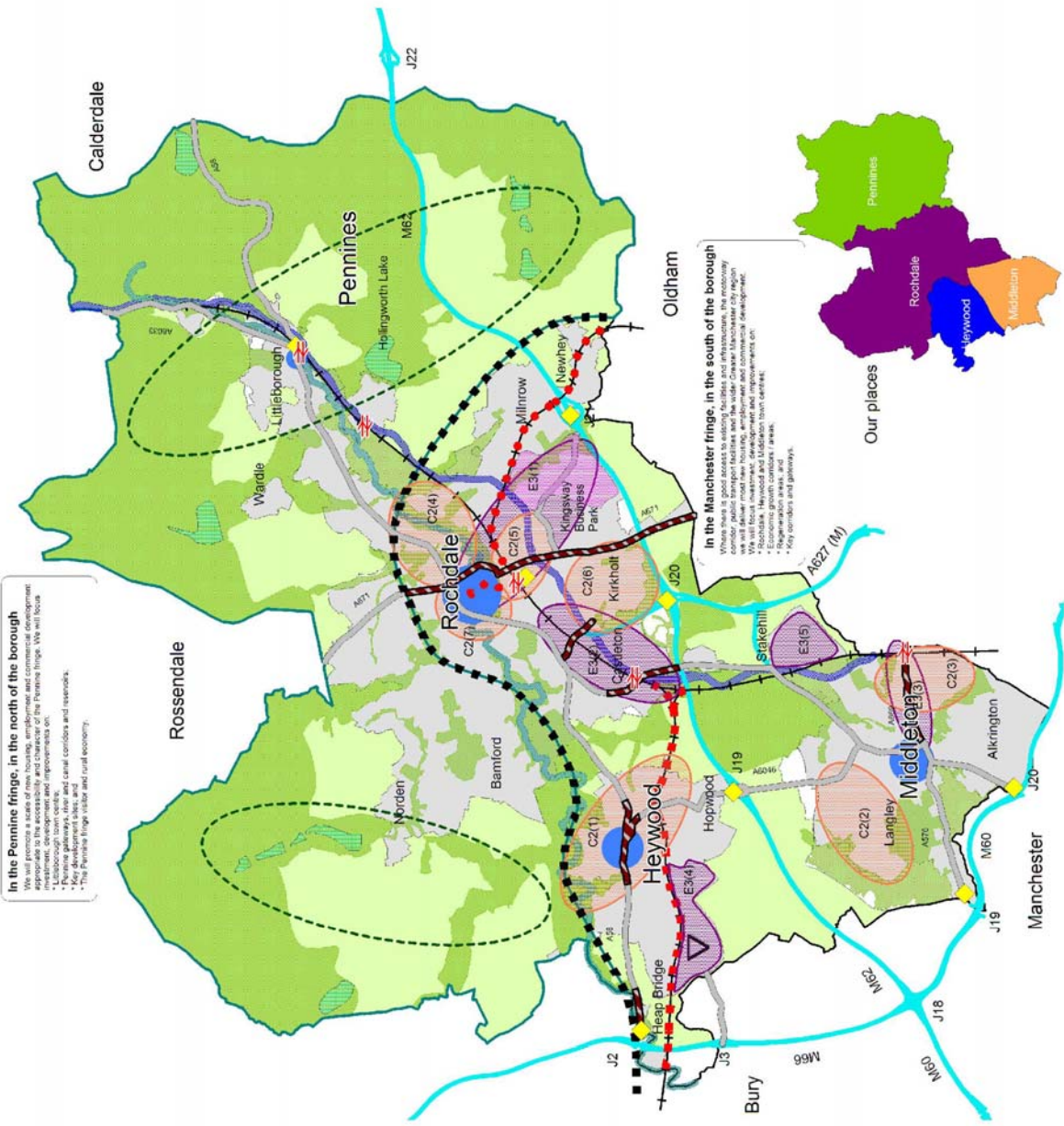
Table 1.1 : Growth Corridors, Regeneration Areas and Strategic Sites identified in the Plan ('Strategic Locations')

NAME	AREA (ha)	Distance from European site (km)	Strategic Proposal
Economic Growth Corridors			
Rochdale Town Centre / Kingsway corridor		Adjacent	Suited to a wide range of uses including manufacturing and distribution, and offices and leisure close to the town centre and close to public transport interchanges on Kingsway
Sandbrook Park / Crown Business Park / Castleton Corridor		Adjacent	Suited to distribution and manufacturing
South Heywood employment area		2	Suited mainly to distribution with some manufacturing and offices
Middleton Town Centre / Oldham Road		Adjacent	Offices close to the town centre and manufacturing
Stakehill Business Park		Adjacent	Redevelopment and re-modelling of plots to widen market appeal; infrastructure and environmental improvements.
Strategic Housing Locations			
Central Heywood (includes town centre)		3.3	Delivering 950 additional dwellings for sale and rent, as well as a new leisure village, improving the town centre public realm and improving the quality of open space, including links to the wider Roch valley.
East Central Rochdale		1.4	Delivering 150 new homes of a type and design which matches local need, creating new community facilities to serve the wider area, providing new, better quality, employment opportunities and creating better quality open spaces and links to the River Roch corridor.
Milkstone and Deeplish (including Oldham Road corridor and canal basin)		0.6	Providing 400 homes on vacant and underused sites, creating better quality employment premises within existing employment areas, improving the area around Rochdale station, Oldham Road corridor and the canal corridor, creating higher quality links to the town centre and Kingsway Business Park.
Kirkholt		0.5	Removing obsolete housing and replacing with high quality housing, maximising opportunities on other development sites within the estate such as surplus school sites and poor quality open space, improving the local centre and other community facilities, creating a high quality green space network
Langley		2	Delivering a range of high quality housing, maximising opportunities on other development sites, such as surplus school sites and poor quality open space, improving the local centre and other community facilities, creating a high quality green space network.
Falinge, Spotland and Sparth, Rochdale		1.4	Delivering new apartments as part of the retail led mixed use redevelopment of the town centre.
East Middleton		0.18	Providing good quality housing on

			brownfield sites, including improvements to open space and the river corridor
Strategic Mixed Use Sites			
Ealees, Littleborough		Adjacent	Development for tourism, leisure and related uses, with ancillary uses of offices, small scale and complimentary retail, and a limited element of housing. Canal – side location.
Akzo Nobel, Littleborough		Adjacent	Residential / offices, possibly hotel, pub and restaurant.
Rooley Moor Road, Rochdale		2.7	This will be a mix of employment and business uses (class B1, B2 and B8) and public recreational open space, with some housing and community uses including small-scale retail that meet an identified local need.
Two Bridges Road, Newhey		2.9	Employment uses appropriate to a residential area, including offices, research and light industry
Trub Farm, Castleton		Adjacent	Allocated for mixed use development comprising housing, leisure, retail and employment. Adjacent to the canal.
Corus site, Castleton		0.24	

In the Pennine fringe, in the north of the borough
 We will promote a scale of new housing, employment and commercial development for the Pennine fringe, in the north of the borough. We will focus on investment, development and regeneration on:
 • Lidoborough town centre
 • Economic growth corridors and areas
 • Key development sites and corridors
 • The Pennine fringe visitor and rural economy.

In the Manchester fringe, in the south of the borough
 We will focus on the regeneration of the Manchester fringe, in the south of the borough. We will deliver new housing, employment and commercial development for the Manchester fringe, in the south of the borough. We will focus on investment, development and regeneration on:
 • Economic growth corridors and areas
 • Key development sites and corridors
 • Key corridors and gateways.



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3 Identification of European designated sites concerned

- 3.1 This Assessment has first screened European protected sites in the North West of England to decide which of these sites are likely to be affected by development in Rochdale Borough (and in particular by developments within the growth corridors and strategic sites). 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 As a useful starting point, the Assessment has considered the suite of European sites assessed within the North West Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) 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 north-west region 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 SAC / SPA and the Rochdale Canal SAC, both of which extend into neighbouring authorities. There are no other European protected sites within 15 km of the borough boundary.
- 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 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

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 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 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 controlled 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 distant 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 River Roch passes through Rochdale Borough and this could impact upon sites further downstream.

3.4.3 Recreational Pressure

The effects of increased regional and sub-regional populations on recreational pressures on north west European protected sites has been considered in the HRA of the North West RSS and is therefore not considered in detail in this report. However, 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.

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 future development in Rochdale Borough 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 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 be affected by development within the strategic Economic Growth Corridors, strategic development sites, regeneration areas, Strategic Transport Schemes and the Core Policies:

- **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 *Luronium 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

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.

It is recognised that an overall aim of the Plan is to mitigate the effects of climate change, and that the effects of climate change are a serious threat to the conservation of the SAC. This has been recognised during the preparation of the Opinion. However, in order to maximise the possible beneficial effects of the Plan on the conservation of the European special interest of the SAC it is important that operations controlled or managed by the Plan do as little harm to the SAC as possible.

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/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 SAC/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 the plan 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. In fact, the Plan will include policies which will be protective 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, if there are no appropriate mitigation measures present in the Plan, there could be increased pollution and shading of the canal from these developments. As well as this, the Plan specifies mooring locations and possible marina development, which could increase boat traffic on the canal.

As a result of these possible impacts, it is concluded that some allocations and policies could be ‘screened in’. The process of determining which allocations / policies should be ‘screened in’ is shown in tables 5.1 and 5.1(2) below.

5.2 Possible Impacts of the Plan on South Pennine Moors SAC / 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 have an impact on minerals extraction. It can also 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 allocations / policies should be ‘screened in’ is shown in tables 5.2 and 5.2(2) below.

Table 5.1 Screening Summary Table – Strategic Locations – Rochdale Canal SAC

Strategic Location	Damaging impact	Likely significant effects of development	Screening Assessment
Rochdale Town Centre / Kingsway corridor	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
Sandbrook Park / Crown Business Park / Castleton Corridor	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
South Heywood employment 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
Middleton Town Centre / Oldham 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
Stakehill 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
Central Heywood (includes 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
East Central 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
Milkstone and Deeplish (including Oldham Road corridor and canal basin)	Pollution	Some possible litter, discharges etc	Screened in
	Shading	Potentially, depending on position of buildings	Screened in
	Increased boat traffic	Possible increase in canal-related leisure uses	Screened in
Kirkholt	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
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
Falinge, Spotland and Sparth, 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
East 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
Ealees, Littleborough	Pollution	Some possible litter, discharges etc	Screened in
	Shading	Potentially, depending on position of buildings	Screened in
	Increased boat traffic	Yes, potentially, as canal-based leisure is encouraged	Screened in
Akzo Nobel, Littleborough	Pollution	Some possible litter, discharges etc	Screened in
	Shading	Potentially, depending on position of buildings	Screened in
	Increased boat traffic	Yes, potentially, as canal-based leisure is encouraged	Screened in
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
Two Bridges Road, Newhey	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 Farm, Castleton	Pollution	Some possible litter, discharges etc	Screened in
	Shading	Potentially, depending on position of buildings	Screened in
	Increased boat traffic	Yes, potentially, as canal-based leisure is encouraged	Screened in
Corus site, Castleton	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 5.1 (2) Screening Summary Table – Core Policies – Rochdale Canal SAC

Core Policy	Potential for Effect	Likely Effect of Core Policy	Screening Assessment
E1 – Establishing thriving town centres	Unlikely to have any negative effect, as town centres are too distant from the SAC	Town centres are not close to the SAC	Screened out
E2 – Increasing jobs and prosperity	Could have a potential negative effect on the SAC	New employment development and uses within the growth corridors may be adjacent to the SAC, therefore there may be pollution / shading impacts	Screened in
E3 – Focusing on economic growth corridors and areas	Could have a potential negative effect on the SAC	Some of the employment areas in question are adjacent to the SAC and therefore there may be pollution / shading impacts	Screened in
E4 – Managing the release of land to meet future employment needs	Only sites which can accommodate development without unacceptable impacts on biodiversity will be permitted	None	Screened out
E5 – Encouraging the visitor economy	Could have a potential negative effect on the SAC	Could encouraged increased boat use and some types of pollution e.g. litter	Screened in
E6 - Supporting and Diversifying the rural economy	Could have a potential negative effect on the SAC	New facilities and buildings could have a shading impact. Areas for possible promotion include Hollingworth Lake	Screened in
C1 – Delivering the right amount of housing in the right places	Could have a potential negative effect on the SAC	Some of the housing / regeneration areas are adjacent to the SAC, so there may be issues of shading and discharges	Screened in
C2 – Delivering the right type of housing	Unlikely to have any negative effect as the type of housing does not impact upon the effect it has on the SAC	None	Screened out
C3 – Providing affordable homes	Unlikely to have any negative effect as the type of housing does not impact upon the effect it has on the SAC	None	Screened out
C4 – meeting the needs of gypsies and travellers	Unlikely to have any negative effect as the type of housing does not impact upon	None	Screened out

	the effect it has on the SAC		
C5 – Improving health and well being	Does not involve development of a type or scale which would have any significant impact	None	Screened out
C6 – Improving education and skills	Does not involve development of a type or scale which would have any significant impact	None	Screened out
C7 – Improving community facilities and cohesion	Does not involve development of a type or scale which would have any significant impact	None	Screened out
P1 – Improving image	Could have a potential negative effect on the SAC	One of the key gateways identified is adjacent to the SAC in Littleborough, and there could be issues of shading and discharges	Screened in
P2 – Protecting and enhancing character, landscape and heritage	Does not involve development of a type or scale which would have any significant impact	None	Screened out
P3 – Improving design	This promotes good design practice which supports bio-diversity and is likely to have a positive impact.	None	Screened out
R1 – tackling climate change and reducing CO2 emissions	This aims to reduce CO2 and other pollution, and is likely to have a positive impact	None	Screened out
R2 – Managing green belt	Has a protectionist nature which is likely to prevent canalside locations from being inappropriately developed.	None	Screened out
R3 – Managing other protected open land	Could have a potential negative effect on the SAC	Any development could have a shading impact as well as possible discharges	Screened in
R4 – Enhancing green spaces and corridors	Likely to protect and improve the canal and its biodiversity.	None	Screened out
R5 – Protecting biodiversity and geodiversity	Likely to protect and improve the canal and its biodiversity.	None	Screened out
R6 – Managing water resources	Could have a potential negative effect on the SAC	Any flood prevention measures may have a negative impact	Screened in

and flood risk			
R7 – Reducing pollution	Likely to have a positive impact.	None	Screened out
R8 – Managing waste	Likely to have a positive impact and inappropriate waste is minimised.	None	Screened out
R9 – Managing mineral resources	Unlikely to have any negative effect as mineral workings are unlikely to be in proximity to the canal.	None	Screened out
T1 – Delivering sustainable transport	Likely to have a positive impact by reducing pollution.	None	Screened out
T2 – Improving accessibility	Does not involve development of a type or scale which would have any significant impact	None	Screened out

Table 5.2 Screening Summary Table – Strategic Locations – South Pennine Moors SAC / SPA

Strategic Location	Damaging impact	Likely significant effects of development	Screening Assessment
Rochdale Town Centre / Kingsway corridor	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 – too far away	Screened out
Sandbrook Park / Crown Business Park / Castleton Corridor	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 – too far away	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 – too far away	Screened out
	Recreational activities	None – too far away	Screened out
Middleton Town Centre / Oldham 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 – too far away	Screened out
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 – too far away	Screened out
Central Heywood (includes 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 – too far away	Screened out
East Central 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 – too far away	Screened out
Milkstone and Deepish	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

Kirkholt	Recreational activities	None – too far away	Screened out
	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
Langley	Recreational activities	None – too far away	Screened out
	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
Falinge, Spotland and Sparth, Rochdale	Recreational activities	None – too far away	Screened out
	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
East Middleton	Recreational activities	None – too far away	Screened out
	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
Land between Oldham Road and Broad Lane, Rochdale	Recreational activities	None – too far away	Screened out
	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
Ealees, Littleborough	Recreational activities	None – too far away	Screened out
	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 – too far away	Screened out
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 – too far away	Screened out
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 – too far away	Screened out
Two Bridges Road, Newhey	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 – too far away	Screened out
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 – too far away	Screened out
Corus site, 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 – too far away	Screened out

Table 5.2 (2) Screening Summary Table – Core Policies – South Pennine Moors SAC / SPA

Core Policy	Potential for Effect	Likely Effect of Core Policy	Screening Assessment
E1 – Establishing thriving town centres	Unlikely to have any negative effect as town centres too distant from SAC / SPA	None	Screened out
E2 – Increasing jobs and prosperity	Could have a potential negative effect on the SAC	Greater economic development could lead to greater pollution in the wider area	Screened in
E3 – Focusing on economic growth corridors and areas	Unlikely to have any negative effect as these areas too distant from SAC / SPA	None	Screened out
E4 – Managing the release of land to meet future employment needs	Only sites which can accommodate development without unacceptable impacts on biodiversity will be permitted	None	Screened out
E5 – Encouraging the visitor economy	Could have a potential negative effect on the SAC	Increased recreational pressure	Screened in
E6 - Supporting and Diversifying the rural economy	Could have a potential negative effect on the SAC	Increased recreational pressure	Screened in
C1 – Delivering the right amount of housing in the right places	Unlikely to have any negative effect as housing areas too distant from SAC / SPA	None	Screened out
C2 – Delivering the right type of housing	Unlikely to have any negative effect as housing areas too distant from SAC / SPA	None	Screened out
C3 – Providing affordable homes	Unlikely to have any negative effect as housing areas too distant from SAC / SPA	None	Screened out
C4 – meeting the needs of gypsies and travellers	Unlikely to have any negative effect as housing areas too distant from SAC / SPA	None	Screened out
C5 – Improving health and well being	Unlikely to have any negative effect as does not involve development close to SAC / SPA	None	Screened out
C6 – Improving education and	Unlikely to have any negative effect as	None	Screened out

skills	does not involve development close to SAC / SPA		
C7 – Improving community facilities and cohesion	Unlikely to have a negative effect as does not involve any development in the vicinity of the protected sites	None	Screened out
P1 – Improving image	Does not involve development in the proximity of the SAC / SPA	None	Screened out
P2 – Protecting character, landscape and heritage	Unlikely to have a negative effect as does not involve any development in the vicinity of the protected sites	None	Screened out
P3 – Improving design	This promotes good design practice which supports bio-diversity and any impact is likely to be positive.	None	Screened out
R1 – tackling climate change and reducing CO2 emissions	Could have a potential negative effect on the SAC	Windfarm developments could have negative impacts on the SAC / SPA	Screened in
R2 – Managing green belt	The SAC / SPA is in the Green Belt, but this is a protectionist policy so it is unlikely to have any negative impact.	None	Screened out
R3 – Managing other protected open land	This land is not in proximity of the SAC / SPA so there is unlikely to be any impact.	None	Screened out
R4 – Enhancing green spaces and corridors	This policy relates to areas significant distance from the SAC / SPA so there is unlikely to be any impact.	None	Screened out
R5 – Protecting biodiversity and geodiversity	Likely to have a positive impact on the SAC / SPA and its conservation interests.	None	Screened out
R6 – Managing water resources and flood risk	Water conservation is promoted in this policy so any impact on the SAC / SPA is likely to be positive	None	Screened out
R7 – Reducing pollution	By the nature of this policy any impact is likely to be positive	None	Screened out
R8 – Managing waste	By the nature of this policy any impact is likely to be positive	None	Screened out

R9 – Managing mineral resources	Could have a potential negative effect on the SAC	Mineral extraction would be likely to have a negative impact	Screened in
T1 – Delivering sustainable transport	There is unlikely to be any impact, but if there is any it is likely to be positive because the policy will help to reduce pollution	None	Screened out
T2 – Improving accessibility	This aims to promote public and accessible transport and therefore any impact is likely to be positive, i.e. reduction in pollution	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 development in the following areas could have a significant effect on the special interests of the Rochdale Canal SAC:

Table 6.11: Potential effects on the special interests of the Rochdale Canal SAC arising from development of Growth Corridors, Regeneration Areas and Strategic Sites identified in the Plan

Strategic Location	Potential effects / impacts
Rochdale Town Centre / Kingsway Corridor	Potential shading from new buildings and other impacts such as litter and discharges
Sandbrook Park / Crown Business Park / Castleton Corridor	Potential shading from new buildings and other impacts such as litter and discharges
Stakehill Business Park	Potential shading from new buildings and other impacts such as litter and discharges
Milkstone and Deeplish (including Oldham Road corridor and canal basin)	Potential shading from new buildings, increased boat traffic and other impacts such as litter and discharges
Kirkholt	Potential shading from new buildings and other impacts such as litter and discharges
Ealees, Littleborough	Potential shading from new buildings, increased boat traffic and other impacts such as litter and discharges
Akzo Nobel, Littleborough	Potential shading from new buildings, increased boat traffic and other impacts such as litter and discharges
Trub Farm, Castleton	Potential shading from new buildings, increased boat traffic and other impacts such as litter and discharges

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

Table 6.12: Potential effect on the special interest of the Rochdale Canal SAC arising from the Core Policies:

Core Policy	Potential effects / impacts
E2 – Increasing jobs and prosperity	New employment development and uses within the growth corridors may be adjacent to the SAC, therefore there may be pollution / shading impacts
E3 – Focusing on economic growth	Some of the employment areas in question are

corridors and areas	adjacent to the SAC and therefore there may be pollution / shading impacts
E5 – Encouraging the visitor economy	Could encouraged increased boat use and some types of pollution e.g. litter
E6 - Supporting and Diversifying the rural economy	New facilities and buildings could have a shading impact. Areas for possible promotion include Hollingworth Lake (feeder reservoir for canal)
C1 – Delivering the right amount of housing in the right places	Some of the housing / regeneration areas are adjacent to the SAC, so there may be issues of shading and discharges
P1 – Improving image	One of the key gateways identified is adjacent to the SAC in Littleborough, and there could be issues of shading and discharges
R3 – Managing other protected open land	Any development could have a shading impact as well as possible pollution impacts
R6 – Managing water resources and flood risk	Any flood prevention measures may have a negative impact

6.2 Impact on the South Pennine Moors SAC / SPA

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

Table 6.21: Potential effects on the special interests of the South Pennine Moors SAC / SPA arising from development of Growth Corridors, Regeneration Areas and Strategic Sites identified in the Plan

Strategic Location	Potential effects / impacts
None.	

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

Table 6.22: Potential effect on the special interest of the South Pennine Moors SAC / SPA arising from the Core Policies:

Core Policy	Potential effects / impacts
E2 – Increasing jobs and prosperity	Greater economic development could lead to greater pollution in the wider area
E5 – Encouraging the visitor economy	Increased recreational pressure
E6 – Supporting and Diversifying the rural economy	Increased recreational pressure
R1 – Tackling climate change and reducing CO2 emissions	Windfarm developments could have negative impacts on the SAC / SPA
R9 – Managing mineral resources	Mineral extraction would be likely to have a negative impact

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 It can be considered that this will fall into two categories: those effects associated with regional strategic plans and proposals and those related to more localised ‘in-combination’ effects, either with adjacent authorities or geographically localised plans from other statutory agencies.
- 7.3 There is no longer a regional plan for the North West.
- 7.4 As regards the emerging Core Strategies and other Development Plan Documents of neighbouring Greater Manchester authorities, those ready for initial Assessment have been screened by GMEU. One, Oldham, has been assessed as potentially having an affect on the Rochdale Canal SAC. Therefore there is potential for an ‘in-combination’ impact from the Rochdale Core Strategy and the Oldham Core Strategy.
- 7.5 The Assessment of the Oldham ‘Broad Locations for Preferred Options’ document concluded that three strategic sites, Hollinwood Business District, Chadderton Technology Park and Foxdenton, could impact on the Rochdale Canal SAC but that providing mitigating plans, policies and strategies are implemented appropriately through the development management process, development within these Broad Locations could proceed without harm being caused to the special interest of the Canal. Further, none of these sites border any strategic sites in Rochdale Borough. It is concluded that the controlled impact of these locations is not likely to significantly affect the in-combination impact with the Rochdale Core Strategy.
- 7.6 The South Pennine Moors SAC / SPA is shared with a number of other local authorities, namely Calderdale, Kirklees, Oldham, Tameside, Barnsley, Derbyshire and Sheffield, all of whom are producing Core Strategies of their own. However, as with Rochdale, any impacts are likely to be indirect, such as increased recreational pressure. It is important to bear this in mind when considering the Rochdale Core Strategy, and to incorporate suitable mitigation measures.
- 7.7 In terms of localised ‘in combination’ impacts, it is important to consider that the HRA is produced in conjunction with the Sustainability Appraisal of the Plan, and that document also picks up on the possible impacts of the Plan on biodiversity and protected sites. The Plan is also closely related to the Council’s Borough Masterplan and Community Strategy, which reflect the strategic locations in the Plan and which can be influenced by the 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 development of strategic locations 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	Likely situation following mitigation measures identified
Rochdale Town Centre / Kingsway Corridor	The detail in respect of types of uses and locations is not included in the plan, as this will be for a later stage; however, it has to be assumed that 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. Guidance in respect of these matters should be contained in the Core Strategy and any allocations DPD.	The measures identified are likely to mitigate potential impacts and allow the strategic sites to be taken forward without detriment to the SAC.
Sandbrook Park / Crown Business Park / Castleton Corridor	The detail in respect of types of uses and locations is not included in the plan, as this will be for a later stage; however, it has to be assumed that 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. Guidance in respect of these matters should be contained in the Core Strategy and any allocations DPD.	The measures identified are likely to mitigate potential impacts and allow the strategic sites to be taken forward without detriment to the SAC.
Stakehill Business Park	The detail in respect of types of uses and locations is not included in the plan, as this will be for a later stage; however, it has to be assumed that 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. Guidance in respect of these matters should be contained in the Core Strategy and	The measures identified are likely to mitigate potential impacts and allow the strategic sites to be taken forward without detriment to the SAC.

<p>Milkstone and Deeplish (including Oldham Road corridor and canal basin)</p>	<p>The detail in respect of types of uses and locations is not included in the plan, as this will be for a later stage; however, it has to be assumed that 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.</p>	<p>any allocations DPD. 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. Guidance in respect of these matters should be contained in the Core Strategy and any allocations DPD. Policy should also specify 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) and in accordance with the Management Plan for the canal.</p>	<p>The measures identified are likely to mitigate potential impacts and allow the strategic sites to be taken forward without detriment to the SAC.</p>
<p>Kirkholt</p>	<p>The detail in respect of types of uses and locations is not included in the plan, as this will be for a later stage; however, it has to be assumed that potentially there could be overshadowing of the canal from new buildings and peripheral impacts such as increased litter, and construction and discharge impacts.</p>	<p>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. Guidance in respect of these matters should be contained in the Core Strategy and any allocations DPD.</p>	<p>The measures identified are likely to mitigate potential impacts and allow the strategic sites to be taken forward without detriment to the SAC.</p>
<p>Ealees, Littleborough</p>	<p>The detail in respect of types of uses and locations is not included in the plan, as this will be for a later stage; however, it has to be assumed that 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</p>	<p>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. Guidance in respect of these matters should be contained in the Core Strategy and</p>	<p>The measures identified are likely to mitigate potential impacts and allow the strategic sites to be taken forward without detriment to the SAC.</p>

	may arise from increased boat traffic which may be encouraged.	any allocations DPD. Policy should also specify 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) and in accordance with the Management Plan for the canal.	
Akzo Nobel, Littleborough	The detail in respect of types of uses and locations is not included in the plan, as this will be for a later stage; however, it has to be assumed that 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. Guidance in respect of these matters should be contained in the Core Strategy and any allocations DPD. Policy should also specify 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) and in accordance with the Management Plan for the canal.	The measures identified are likely to mitigate potential impacts and allow the strategic sites to be taken forward without detriment to the SAC.
Trub Farm, Castleton	The detail in respect of types of uses and locations is not included in the plan, as this will be for a later stage; however, it has to be assumed that 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. Guidance in respect of these matters should be contained in the Core Strategy and any allocations DPD. Policy should also specify location of boat moorings etc where disturbance to floating water-plantain is minimised and where	The measures identified are likely to mitigate potential impacts and allow the strategic sites to be taken forward without detriment to the SAC.

		approved by Natural England (and in accordance with any mitigation measures required by Natural England) and in accordance with the Management Plan for the canal.	
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Table 8.2: Assessment of the potential effects of Core Policies on the special interest of the Rochdale Canal SAC identified through the screening stage of the HRA with consideration of potential mitigation actions (allocations)

Core Policy	Potential Effects	Mitigation Actions	Likely situation following mitigation measures identified
E2 – Increasing jobs and prosperity	New employment development and uses within the growth corridors may be adjacent to the SAC, therefore there may be pollution / shading impacts. Also development has the potential to reduce pollution in certain areas.	The core policies needs to outline that development adjacent to the canal will be controlled in terms of its scale, height and location, so that shading detrimental to the conservation interests of the SAC does not occur. It is recommended that this is done through core strategy policy and development management policy / the allocations DPD. Proposed policy R7 already emphasises the need for new development not to create pollution and to help tackle existing pollution problems.	It is considered that, if the policy is amended as recommended, and together with proposed policy R/7, this policy will not be detrimental to the conservation interests of the SAC.
E3 – Focusing on economic growth corridors and areas	Some of the employment areas in question are adjacent to the SAC and therefore there may be pollution / shading impacts. Also development has the potential to reduce pollution in certain areas.	The core policies needs to outline that development adjacent to the canal will be controlled in terms of its scale, height and location, so that shading detrimental to the conservation interests of the SAC does not occur. It is recommended that this is done through core strategy policy and development management policy /	

		<p>the allocations DPD.</p> <p>Proposed policy R7 already emphasises the need for new development not to create pollution and to help tackle existing pollution problems.</p>	
E5 – Encouraging the visitor economy	<p>Could encouraged increased boat use and some types of pollution e.g. litter</p>	<p>The core policies must refer to the need to control moorings and marina development in order to help regulate the impact on the conservation interests of the SAC. It is recommended that this is done through core strategy policy and development management policy / the allocations DPD.</p>	
E6 - Supporting and Diversifying the rural economy	<p>New facilities and buildings could have a shading impact. Areas for possible promotion include Hollingworth Lake (feeder reservoir for canal)</p>	<p>The core policy needs to outline that development adjacent to the canal will be controlled in terms of its scale, height and location, so that shading detrimental to the conservation interests of the SAC does not occur. It is recommended that this is done through core strategy policy and development management policy / the allocations DPD.</p> <p>Proposed policy R7 already emphasises the need for new development not to create pollution and to help tackle existing pollution problems.</p>	
C1 – Delivering the right amount of housing in the right places	<p>Some of the housing / regeneration areas are adjacent to the SAC, so there may be issues of shading. Also development has the potential to reduce pollution in certain areas.</p>	<p>The core policy needs to outline that development adjacent to the canal will be controlled in terms of its scale, height and location, so that shading detrimental to the conservation interests of the SAC does not occur. It is recommended that this is done through core strategy policy and development management policy / the allocations DPD.</p>	

		Proposed policy R7 already emphasises the need for new development not to create pollution and to help tackle existing pollution problems.	
P1 – Improving image	One of the key gateways identified is adjacent to the SAC in Littleborough, and there could be issues of shading. Also development has the potential to reduce pollution in certain areas.	The core policy needs to outline that development adjacent to the canal will be controlled in terms of its scale, height and location, so that shading detrimental to the conservation interests of the SAC does not occur. It is recommended that this is done through core strategy policy and development management policy / the allocations DPD. Proposed policy R7 already emphasises the need for new development not to create pollution and to help tackle existing pollution problems.	
R3 – Managing other protected open land	Any development could have a shading impact. Also development has the potential to reduce pollution in certain areas.	The core policies should make reference to the need for new development to avoid shading of the canal, and this can be achieved through consideration of scale, height and location. The policies must also take a proactive approach to new development and pollution, so that new development helps to address existing problems wherever possible.	
R6 – Managing water resources and flood risk	Any flood prevention measures may have a negative impact	This core policy must emphasise the importance of flood prevention measures having regard to the conservation interests of the SAC.	It is considered that if the policy is amended as recommended, it will not be detrimental to the conservation interests of the SAC.

Table 8.3: Assessment of the potential effects of development of strategic locations 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)

Strategic Location / Site	Potential Effects	Mitigation actions	Likely situation following mitigation measures identified
None			

Table 8.4: Assessment of the potential effects of Core Policies 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	Likely situation following mitigation measures identified
E2 – Increasing jobs and prosperity	Greater economic development could lead to greater pollution in the wider area, although development may also have the ability to address existing pollution problems.	It must be made clear that economic development can only take place providing that it does not increase pollution and tackles existing issues, and the appropriate place for this would be under core policy R7 – reducing pollution	It is considered that if these mitigation measures are implemented, there will be sufficient safeguards in place to ensure this core policy does not have a negative impact upon the conservation interests of the SAC / SPA.
E5 – Encouraging the visitor economy	Increased recreational and possibly development pressure	It must be emphasised that recreational developments must not lead to negative impacts on the conservation interests of the SAC / SPA, and therefore must be restricted in their scale and nature as appropriate in the vicinity of the SAC / SPA. The policy should outline what development / uses, if any, may be permitted in the vicinity of the SAC / SPA.	It is considered that if these mitigation measures are implemented, there will be sufficient safeguards in place to ensure this core policy does not have a negative impact upon the conservation interests of the SAC / SPA.

E6 - Supporting and Diversifying the rural economy	Increased recreational and possibly development pressure	The policy should outline what development / uses, if any, may be permitted in the vicinity of the SAC / SPA.	It is considered that if these mitigation measures are implemented, there will be sufficient safeguards in place to ensure this core policy does not have a negative impact upon the conservation interests of the SAC / SPA.
R1 – Tackling climate change and reducing CO2 emissions	Windfarm developments could have negative impacts on the SAC / SPA	The policy must make it clear that renewable energy developments must not have any negative impacts upon the conservation interests of the SAC / SPA.	It is considered that if these mitigation measures are implemented, there will be sufficient safeguards in place to ensure this core policy does not have a negative impact upon the conservation interests of the SAC / SPA.
R9 – Managing mineral resources	Mineral extraction in, or adjacent to, the SAC / SPA would be likely to have a negative impact	The recommended approach is a general presumption against mineral developments in the SAC / SPA area, unless they are able to take place with no negative impacts on the conservation interests of the SAC / SPA.	It is considered that if these mitigation measures are implemented, there will be sufficient safeguards in place to ensure this core policy does not have a negative impact upon the conservation interests of the SAC / SPA.

9 Summary and Recommendations

9.1 Screening of European sites has established that the following sites have the potential to be affected by development in the growth corridors and strategic locations 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:

Strategic location / core policy	Potential effect on the Rochdale Canal SAC
Rochdale Town Centre / Kingsway Corridor	Potential shading from new buildings and other impacts such as litter and pollution
Sandbrook Park / Crown Business Park / Castleton Corridor	Potential shading from new buildings and other impacts such as litter and pollution
Milkstone and Deeplish (including Oldham Road corridor and canal basin)	Potential shading from new buildings, increased boat traffic and other impacts such as litter and pollution
Kirkholt	Potential shading from new buildings and other impacts such as litter and pollution
Ealees, Littleborough	Potential shading from new buildings, increased boat traffic and other impacts such as litter and pollution
Akzo Nobel, Littleborough	Potential shading from new buildings, increased boat traffic and other impacts such as litter and pollution
Trub Farm, Castleton	Potential shading from new buildings, increased boat traffic and other impacts such as litter and pollution
E2 – Increasing jobs and prosperity	New employment development and uses within the growth corridors may be adjacent to the SAC, therefore there may be pollution / shading impacts
E3 – Focusing on economic growth corridors and areas	Some of the employment areas in question are adjacent to the SAC and therefore there may be pollution / shading impacts
E5 – Encouraging the visitor economy	Could encouraged increased boat use and some types of pollution e.g. litter
E6 – Diversifying the rural economy	New facilities and buildings could have a shading impact. Areas for possible promotion include Hollingworth Lake (feeder reservoir for canal)
C1 – Delivering the right amount of housing in the right places	Some of the housing / regeneration areas are adjacent to the SAC, so there may be issues of shading and discharges
P1 – Improving image	One of the key gateways identified is adjacent to

	the SAC in Littleborough, and there could be issues of shading and discharges
R3 – Managing other protected open land	Any development could have a shading impact as well as possible pollution issues
R6 – Managing water resources and flood risk	Any flood prevention measures may have a negative impact

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

Strategic location / core policy	Potential effect on the South Pennine Moors SAC / SPA
E2 – Increasing jobs and prosperity	Greater economic development could lead to greater pollution in the wider area
E5 – Encouraging the visitor economy	Increased recreational pressure
E6 - Supporting and Diversifying the rural economy	Increased recreational pressure
R1 – Tackling climate change and reducing CO2 emissions	Windfarm developments could have negative impacts on the SAC / SPA
R9 – Managing mineral resources	Mineral extraction would be likely to have a negative impact

9.3 Further, more detailed Assessment of the possible effects of development of the strategic locations and core policies on the Rochdale Canal SAC and the South Pennine Moors SAC / 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 in the strategic locations through the Plan and amending the core policies, are put into place, controlled development within the identified areas can proceed without harm being caused to the special interests of the European sites. It is therefore important that the Plan must restrict the scale, form and location of development within the strategic locations identified in the Plan, but it is not justifiable to not allow development at all in these areas. 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 any proposals for major transport infrastructure schemes or other major development proposals included under the Plan allocations and policies which may adversely affect the conservation interests of any European protected site be referred for possible HRA as part of the

development management process so that appropriate control and mitigation can be exercised.

- 9.7 It is **recommended** that if any changes are made to the boundaries of any of the strategic locations 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.
- 9.8 It is **recommended** that any developments within or adjacent to the European protected sites (which are not already required to undertake Environmental Impact Assessment) are subject to requirement for ecological statements which set out details of how impacts on conservation interests from construction, discharge, waste and pollution will be avoided. These should also outline what measures will be taken to enhance conservation interests when there are opportunities to do so, and should also include a management and monitoring plan.

Changes to Core Strategy as a result of the HRA recommendations

- 9.9 Amend reasoned justification text of policy G7 of the Core Strategy (Increasing the value of biodiversity and geodiversity) to make reference Habitat Regulations assessment as follows:

“Where a development has the potential to affect the conservation interests of a site protected by European legislation, we will require full assessment of any impacts and mitigation measures, including Habitats Regulations Assessment as well as any required Environmental Assessment.”

Appendix 1: European designated sites within the North West region and possible effects from development within Rochdale MBC

Site Name	Designation	Type of Effect	Likely Effects
Asby Complex	SAC	Water Quality / Hydrology	None – no hydrological pathways between SAC and land within Rochdale
		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 land within Rochdale
		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 land within Rochdale
		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
Bowland Fells	SPA	Water Quality / Hydrology	None – no hydrological pathways between SPA and land within Rochdale
		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 land within Rochdale
		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 land within Rochdale
		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

Cumbrian Marsh Fritillary Site	SAC	Water Quality / Hydrology	None – no hydrological pathways between SAC and land within Rochdale
		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 SPA / Ramsar and land within Rochdale
		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 land within Rochdale
		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 SPA / Ramsar and land within Rochdale

		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 land within Rochdale
		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 land within Rochdale
		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 land within Rochdale
		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 land within Rochdale
		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 land within Rochdale
		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 – long distance hydrological pathway between land in Rochdale and pSPA but too distant for any impact
		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
Manchester Mosses	SAC	Water Quality / Hydrology	None – no hydrological pathways between SAC and land within Rochdale
		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 SPA / Ramsar and land within Rochdale
		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 – long distance hydrological pathway between land in Rochdale and SPA / Ramsar but too distant for any impact
		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

		Pressure	Rochdale
Mersey Narrows & Wirral Foreshore	pSPA	Water Quality / Hydrology	None – no hydrological pathways between pSPA and land within Rochdale
		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 2 x Ramsar and land within Rochdale
		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 land within Rochdale
		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 /	Water Quality / Hydrology	None – no hydrological pathways between SAC / Ramsar and land

	SPA		within Rochdale
		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
Morecome Bay Pavements	SAC	Water Quality / Hydrology	None – no hydrological pathways between SAC and land within Rochdale
		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 land within Rochdale
		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 land within Rochdale
		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 / SPA and land within Rochdale
		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 land within Rochdale
		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 SPA and land within Rochdale
		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 SPA / Ramsar and land within Rochdale
		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 land within Rochdale
		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 land within Rochdale
		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 Eden	SAC	Water Quality / Hydrology	None – no hydrological pathways between SAC and land within Rochdale
		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 land within Rochdale
		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 land within Rochdale
		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

Rixton Clay Pits	SAC	Water Quality / Hydrology	None – no hydrological pathways between SAC and land within Rochdale
		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 increased development in the area.
		Air Pollution	Possible impact 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.
Rostherne Mere	Ramsar	Water Quality / Hydrology	None – no hydrological pathways between Ramsar and land within Rochdale
		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 land within Rochdale
		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 land within Rochdale
		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 land within Rochdale
		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	Possible.
		Habitat / Species Disturbance	Could result from increased development in the area.
		Increased recreational Pressure	Could result from increased development in the area.

		Pressure	
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	Possible.
		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 land within Rochdale
		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 land within Rochdale
		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 land within Rochdale
		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 land within Rochdale
		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 land within Rochdale
		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 SPA / Ramsar and land within Rochdale
		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 land within Rochdale
		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 land within Rochdale
		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 land within Rochdale
		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
Witherslack Mosses	SAC	Water Quality / Hydrology	None – no hydrological pathways between SAC and land within Rochdale
		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 land within Rochdale
		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 development within Rochdale MBC

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	2 x Ramsar	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise

1 & Phase 2			
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