

**OLDHAM METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL
AND
ROCHDALE METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL**

LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK

HABITATS REGULATIONS ASSESSMENT

FOR THE

**DRAFT URBAN DESIGN GUIDE SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING
DOCUMENT(S)**

MARCH 2007



DRAFT DESIGN GUIDANCE PREPARED BY OLDHAM AND ROCHDALE COUNCILS AS SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENTS

Explanatory Note:

The Government has reformed the system of development planning in England. Development Plans are used to control and guide the development and use of land. As part of the reformed system, Oldham and Rochdale Metropolitan Borough Councils must prepare a “Local Development Framework”.

The Local Development Framework will be a folder of different documents, including Development Plan Documents which set out the Council’s approach to future development in the Borough.

This document is part of a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD). It has been prepared jointly between Oldham and Rochdale Councils. Policies can be expanded on or supported by SPDs in order to provide more detail, interpretation of policies and to assist developers. These will be taken into account when planning applications are determined.

It is a government requirement that Supplementary Planning Documents must be prepared together with:

- a sustainability appraisal,
- a habitats regulations assessment, and
- an equalities impact assessment.

Members of the public may comment on the Supplementary Planning Document and any of the three supporting documents. A document outlining who has been consulted in the preparation of the Supplementary Planning Document, and issues they raised, is also available alongside these documents. This is called a Consultation Statement.

Members of the public may comment on this document during the six-week public consultation period as indicated on the public notice and comments form.

Comments made on the document cannot be treated as confidential.

If you would like further help in interpreting this document please contact

- Oldham Council Strategic Planning and Information team on Telephone: 0161 770 4151 / 4139. E-mail spi@oldham.gov.uk.

or

- Rochdale Council Strategic Planning Team on Telephone: 01706 924369. E-mail: strategic.planning@rochdale.gov.uk

All documents connected with the Local Development Framework are available on the Council’s web sites at www.oldham.gov.uk or www.rochdale.gov.uk.

সাপ্লিম্যান্টারী প্লানিং ডকুমেন্টস্ (প্লানিংসংক্রান্ত সম্পূরক দলিল) হিসেবে ওল্ডহাম এবং রচডেল কর্তৃক প্রস্তুতকৃত খসড়া নকশা (ডিজাইন) সম্পর্কিত দিকনির্দেশনা

ব্যাখ্যামূলক টীকাঃ

ইংল্যান্ডে উন্নয়ন পরিকল্পনা তথা ডিভালপমেন্ট প্লানিংয়ের পদ্ধতি সরকার সংশোধন করেছে। জমিজমার উন্নয়ন এবং ব্যবহারের বিষয়টি নিয়ন্ত্রণ এবং এ ব্যাপারে দিকনির্দেশনা দেয়ার জন্যে উন্নয়ন পরিকল্পনাগুলো ব্যবহৃত হয়ে থাকে। সংশোধিত পদ্ধতির অংশ হিসেবে, ওল্ডহাম এবং রচডেল মেট্রোপলিটান বারা কাউন্সিল দ্বয়কে অবশ্যই একটি "স্থানীয় উন্নয়ন অবকাঠামো" তৈরি করতে হবে।

"স্থানীয় উন্নয়ন অবকাঠামো"টি হবে বিভিন্ন দলিলের একটি ফোল্ডার, যার একটি হবে "উন্নয়ন পরিকল্পনাসংক্রান্ত দলিল-দস্তাবেজ"। এই বারায় ভবিষ্যৎ উন্নয়নের প্রতি কাউন্সিলের দৃষ্টিভঙ্গিগুলো কিরূপ হবে তা উল্লিখিত দলিল-দস্তাবেজে তুলে ধরা হয়েছে।

এই দলিলটি হচ্ছে সাপ্লিম্যান্টারী প্লানিং ডকুমেন্ট (এস.পি.ডি) তথা সম্পূরক উন্নয়ন দলিলের একটি অংশ; এটি ওল্ডহাম এবং রচডেল কাউন্সিল যৌথভাবে তৈরি করেছে। নীতিমালার বিশদ ব্যাখ্যা দেয়ার জন্যে এবং ডিভালপারদের (নির্মাণকারী) সহায়তা করার লক্ষ্যে সাপ্লিম্যান্টারী প্লানিং ডকুমেন্ট (এস.পি.ডি) তথা সম্পূরক উন্নয়ন দলিলগুলো দ্বারা প্লানিংসংক্রান্ত পলিসি তথা নীতিমালা পরিবর্তন অথবা সমর্থন করা যেতে পারে। প্লানিংয়ের দরখাস্তগুলোর ব্যাপারে সিদ্ধান্ত নেয়ার ক্ষেত্রে এ জিনিসগুলো বিবেচিত হবে। এই খসড়া দলিলটি ওল্ডহাম এবং রচডেল কাউন্সিল যৌথভাবে প্রস্তুত করেছে এবং চূড়ান্তভাবে অনুমোদিত হবার পর এটি সাপ্লিম্যান্টারী প্লানিং ডকুমেন্ট (এস.পি.ডি) তথা সম্পূরক উন্নয়ন দলিলের মর্যাদা লাভ করবে।

নিম্নবর্ণিত বিষয়গুলোর পাশাপাশি সাপ্লিম্যান্টারী প্লানিং ডকুমেন্ট তথা উন্নয়নসংক্রান্ত সম্পূরক দলিলপত্রগুলো অবশ্যই প্রস্তুত হবার ব্যাপারটি হচ্ছে একটি সরকারি অত্যাবশ্যক কাজঃ

- টিকে থাকতে পারবে কিনা সে'সংক্রান্ত একটি মূল্যায়ন
- একটি হ্যাবিটেট রেগুলেশন্স এসেসম্যান্ট (প্রাণী ও গাছগাছালির স্বাভাবিক আবাস সম্পর্কিত বিধিমালা মূল্যায়ন), এবং
- সমতার প্রভাব বিষয়ক এসেসম্যান্ট

সাপ্লিম্যান্টারী প্লানিং ডকুমেন্ট এবং সহায়ক দলিল তিনটির উপর জনসাধারণ ইচ্ছে করলে মন্তব্য করতে পারবেন। সাপ্লিম্যান্টারী প্লানিং ডকুমেন্টটির প্রস্তুত প্রক্রিয়ায় কার কার সাথে সলা-পরামর্শ করা হয়েছে এবং তারা কোন্ কোন্ উদ্বেগ/সমস্যাগুলো তুলে ধরেছেন সে বিষয়ক একটি দলিলও এ দলিলপত্রের পাশাপাশি পাওয়া যাবে। এটি কনসালটেশন স্টেইটম্যান্ট হিসেবে পরিচিত।

এ দলিলের ব্যাপারে, পাবলিক নোটিশ এবং মন্তব্যের ফর্মে উল্লেখ মোতাবেক, জনসাধারণ ইচ্ছে করলে মতামত প্রদান ও সলা-পরামর্শের জন্যে নির্ধারিত ছয়-সপ্তাহ সময়ের মধ্যে মন্তব্য করতে পারেন।

এ দলিলের উপর যে মন্তব্যগুলো করা হবে সে'গুলো গোপনীয় হিসেবে বিবেচিত হবে না।

এ দলিলটি বুঝার ব্যাপারে যদি আপনার আর কোন সাহায্যের প্রয়োজন পড়ে তবে অনুগ্রহ করে যোগাযোগ করুনঃ

- ওল্ডহাম কাউন্সিলের স্ট্র্যাটেজিক প্লানিং এবং ইনফরমেশন টিম, টেলিফোনঃ 0161 770 4151 / 4139;
ই-মেইলঃ spi@oldham.gov.uk

অথবা

- রচডেল কাউন্সিলের স্ট্র্যাটেজিক প্লানিং টিম, টেলিফোনঃ 01706 924369;
ই-মেইলঃ strategic.planning@rochdale.gov.uk

স্থানীয় উন্নয়ন অবকাঠামোর সাথে সংশ্লিষ্ট সকল দলিলপত্র কাউন্সিল দ্বয়ের www.oldham.gov.uk এবং www.rochdale.gov.uk ওয়েব সাইটগুলোতে রয়েছে।

ઓલ્ડહામ અને રોચડેલ કાઉન્સિલો મારફત પ્લાનિંગ(યોજના બનાવવા)ના પૂરક દસ્તાવેજો તરીકે તૈયાર કરવામાં આવેલ રૂપરેખાને લગતુ કાયુ માર્ગદર્શન

સમજણ આપતી નોંધ :

સરકારે ઈંગ્લેંડમાં વિકાસની યોજનાને લગતી પધ્ધતિનીનવરચના કરી છે. જમીનના વિકાસ તથા ઉપયોગની ઉપર કાબુ રાખવા તથા તેને લગતુ માર્ગદર્શન પૂરૂ પાડવા માટે વિકાસની યોજનાઓનો ઉપયોગ થઈ રહ્યો છે. નવરચના કરાયેલ પધ્ધતિના ભાગરૂપે, ઓલ્ડહામ મેટ્રોપોલીટન બરો કાઉન્સિલે હવે સ્થાનિક વિકાસનું માળખુ તૈયાર કરવુ પડે છે.

સ્થાનિક વિકાસનું માળખુ એ વિવિધ દસ્તાવેજોનું એક ફોલ્ડર હશે કે જેમાં વિકાસની યોજનાને લગતા દસ્તાવેજો હશે, જે બરોમાં ભવિષ્યના વિકાસ માટે કાઉન્સિલ ક્યો અભિગમ અપનાવશે તે જણાવવામાં આવેલ હશે.

આ દસ્તાવેજ , પૂરક દસ્તાવેજોનો એક ભાગ છે. કાર્યનિતીઓની વધુ વિગતો તથા તેની સમજણ આપવા તથા વિકાસ કરનારાઓને મદદ કરવા માટે પ્લાનિંગના પૂરક દસ્તાવેજો વિષે પ્લાનિંગની કાર્યનિતીઓ વિકસાવી શકાશે અથવા પ્લાનિંગના પૂરક દસ્તાવેજો મારફત તેને ટેકો આપી શકાશે. જ્યારે પ્લાનિંગની અરજીઓ નક્કી કરવામાં આવશે ત્યારે આ બાબતને ગણતરીમાં લેવામાં આવશે. આ કાયો દસ્તાવેજ ઓલ્ડહામ અને રોચડેલ કાઉન્સિલ મારફત ભાગિદારીમાં તૈયાર કરવામાં આવેલ છે અને તેને અંતિમ મંજૂરી મળી જાય પછી તેઓને પ્લાનિંગના પૂરક દસ્તાવેજ તરીકેનો હોદ્દો મળશે.

પ્લાનિંગના પૂરક દસ્તાવેજોને નીચેનાઓ સાથે તૈયાર કરવામાં આવે તે એક સરકારી જરૂરીયાત છે :

- જળવાઈ રહે તેને લગતુ મૂલ્યાંકન
- સાધન સામગ્રી પૂરી પાડવાને લગતા નિયમોની આકારણી, અને
- સમાનતા ઉપર તેની શું અસર થશે તેની એક આકારણી

આમ જનતાના સભ્યો કદાચ પ્લાનિંગના પૂરક દસ્તાવેજો તથા ટેકો આપતા ત્રણ દસ્તાવેજો ઉપર ટીકા-ટિપ્પણી કરે. આ દસ્તાવેજોની સાથે સાથે, પ્લાનિંગના પૂરક દસ્તાવેજોને તૈયાર કરવા માટે કોની સાથે સલાહમંત્રણાં કરવામાં આવી છે, અને તેઓએ કયા મુદ્દા ઉભા કર્યા છે તે જણાવતો એક દસ્તાવેજ ઉપલબ્ધ છે. આને સલાહમંત્રણાંના દસ્તાવેજ તરીકે ઓળખવામાં આવે છે.

જાહેર નોટીસ અને ટીકા-ટિપ્પણી કરવા માટેના ફોર્મ ઉપર જણાવ્યા અનુસાર છ અઠવાડીયાના સમયગાળા દરમ્યાન આમ જનતા આ દસ્તાવેજ ઉપર ટીકા-ટિપ્પણીપણ કરી શકે છે..

દસ્તાવેજ ઉપર કરવામાં આવેલ ટીકા-ટિપ્પણીને ખાનગી નહીં રાખી શકાય.

જો તમારે આ દસ્તાવેજનો અનુવાદ કરવા માટે મદદની જરૂર હોય તો મહેરબાની કરીને નીચેનાનો સંપર્ક સાધો.

- ઓલ્ડહામ કાઉન્સિલ સ્ટ્રેટેજિક પ્લાનિંગ એન્ડ ઈન્ફર્મેશન ટીમ, ટેલીફોન 0161 770 4151/4139 અથવા ઈમેઇલ : spi@oldham.gov.uk.

અથવા

- રોચડેલ કાઉન્સિલ સ્ટ્રેટેજિક પ્લાનિંગ ટીમ, ટેલીફોન 01706 924369 અથવા ઈમેઇલ : strategic.planning@rochdale.gov.uk

સ્થાનિક વિકાસના માળખા સાથે સંકળાયેલ દરેક દસ્તાવેજો કાઉન્સિલની વેબસાઇટો ઉપરથી ઉપલબ્ધ છે. www.oldham.gov.uk અથવા www.rochdale.gov.uk.

ضمنی منصوبہ بندی کی دستاویزات کے بطور اولڈہم اور راجڈیل کونسل کی جانب سے تیار کیا گیا نقشے کی راہنمائی کا مسودہ

وضاحتی نوٹ:

حکومت نے انگلینڈ میں تعمیر و ترقی کے سلسلے میں منصوبہ بندی کے نظام میں اصلاح و تجدید کی ہے۔ تعمیر و ترقی کے منصوبوں کو زمین کی اصلاح و ترقی اور استعمال کو کنٹرول کرنے اور راہنمائی کیلئے استعمال کیا جاتا ہے۔ اس ترمیم شدہ نظام کے حصے کے طور پر اولڈہم اور راجڈیل میٹرو پولیٹن بارو کونسل کو لازمی طور پر مقامی تعمیر و ترقی سے متعلقہ ایک لائحہ عمل تیار کرنا چاہیئے۔

مقامی تعمیر و ترقی سے متعلقہ لائحہ عمل مختلف دستاویزات پر مبنی ایک مجموعے کی شکل میں ہو گا مثلاً تعمیر و ترقی کے منصوبے سے متعلقہ دستاویزات جن میں کونسل کی بارو میں آئندہ تعمیر و ترقی کے متعلق سوچ بیان کی جائے گی۔

یہ دستاویز ضمنی منصوبہ بندی کی دستاویز (SPD) کا حصہ ہے۔ اسے اولڈہم کونسل اور راجڈیل کونسل نے مشترکہ طور پر تیار کیا ہے۔ منصوبہ بندی کی حکمت عملیوں میں سپلیمنٹری پلاننگ ڈاکومنٹس یعنی ضمنی منصوبہ بندی کی دستاویزات کے ذریعے توسیع یا تائید و حمایت کی جاسکتی ہے، تاکہ مزید معلومات مہیا کی جاسکیں، حکمت عملیوں کی تشریح کی جاسکے اور ٹھیکیدار کی مدد و تائید کی جاسکے۔ جب تعمیر و ترقی کی منصوبہ بندی ک درخواستوں کا تعین کیا جائے گا تو ان کو زیر غور لایا جائے گا۔ یہ مسودہ اولڈہم اور راجڈیل کونسل نے مشترکہ طور پر تیار کیا ہے اور ایک دفعہ اسے حتمی طور پر منظور کر لیا گیا تو یہ منصوبہ بندی کی ضمنی دستاویزات کی حیثیت اختیار کر لے گا۔

یہ گورنمنٹ کا تقاضا ہے کہ منصوبہ بندی کی ضمنی دستاویزات کو درج ذیل دستاویزات کے ساتھ تیار کیا جانا چاہیئے:

- استحکام کے متعلق جائزہ
- نباتات اور جانوروں کے مسکن سے متعلقہ ریگولیشنز کا جائزہ، اور
- مساوات کے لحاظ سے اثر کا جائزہ

پبلک کے افراد ضمنی منصوبہ بندی کی دستاویز اور ان تین معاون دستاویزات میں کسی کے متعلق اظہار رائے کر سکتے ہیں۔ ایک دستاویز جس میں بتایا گیا ہے کہ ضمنی منصوبہ بندی کی دستاویز کی تیاری میں کن کن کے ساتھ مشاورت کی گئی ہے اور ان کی جانب سے اٹھائے گئے نکات (مسائل) ان دستاویزات کے علاوہ بھی دستیاب ہے۔ اس کو مشاورتی بیان کہا گیا ہے۔

پبلک کے افراد چھ ہفتوں پر مشتمل مشاورتی عرصے کے دوران اپنی رائے کا اظہار کر سکتے ہیں جیسا کہ پبلک نوٹس اور اظہار رائے کے فارم میں بتایا گیا ہے۔ دستاویز کے متعلق ظاہر کئے گئے خیالات کو صیغہ راز میں نہیں رکھا جائے گا۔

اگر اس دستاویز کو سمجھنے کیلئے آپ کو کوئی مزید مدد درکار ہو تو برائے کرم درج ذیل سے رابطہ کریں۔

- اولڈہم کونسل سٹریٹجک پلاننگ اینڈ انفارمیشن ٹیم کو اس نمبر پر فون کریں:

0161 770 4151/4139

آپ ٹیم کو spi@oldham.gov.uk پر ای میل بھی کر سکتے ہیں۔

یا

- راجڈیل کونسل سٹریٹجک پلاننگ ٹیم کو اس نمبر پر فون کریں:

01706 924369

آپ ٹیم کو strategic.planning@rochdale.gov.uk پر ای میل بھی کر سکتے ہیں۔

وہ تمام دستاویزات جن کا تعلق مقامی تعمیر و ترقی سے متعلقہ لائحہ عمل سے ہے کونسل کی ویب سائٹ سے حاصل کی جاسکتی ہیں: www.oldham.gov.uk

یا www.rochdale.gov.uk

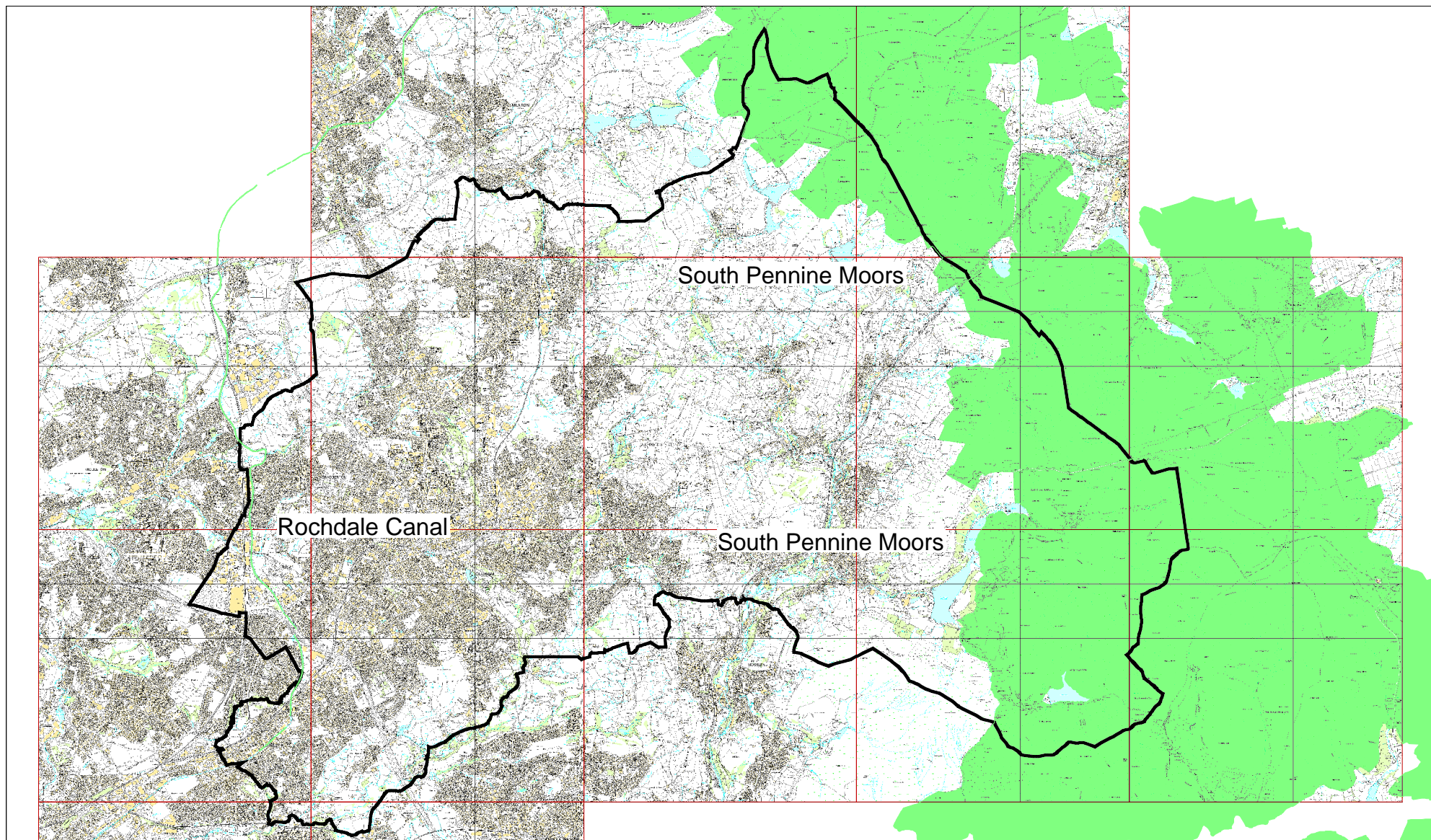
Introduction

- i. Draft guidance on urban design has been prepared by Tibbalds Planning and Urban Design Ltd, in partnership with Rochdale Metropolitan Borough Council (MBC), Oldham MBC and the Oldham and Rochdale Housing Market Renewal Pathfinder.
- ii. The guidance comprises a series of documents:
 - The Urban Design Guide;
 - The Residential Design Guide; and
 - The Public Realm Design Guide.
- iii. The guidance has been prepared through joint-working by the four partners identified above. However it is the intention that Oldham MBC will adopt the series of documents as one Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) as outlined in it's Local Development Scheme (LDS). Rochdale MBC are intending to adopt the documents as a series of separate SPDs as identified in it's LDS.
- iv. Oldham MBC and Rochdale MBC are required under Articles 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive to assess the potential effects of their policies on European Sites which lie within and outside the borough's. The purpose of Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) is to ensure that the protection of the integrity of European sites is a part of the planning process.
- v. There are two European Sites which fall within the borough's:
 - Rochdale Canal Special Area of Conservation (SAC) - which falls partly within both Oldham Borough and Rochdale Borough; and
 - South Pennine Moors SAC and Special Protection Area (SPA) - which falls partly within both Oldham Borough and Rochdale Borough.
- vi. For information Appendix 1 and 2 contain a map showing the location of the European sites in Oldham Borough and Rochdale Borough respectively.
- vii. To meet this requirement Oldham MBC and Rochdale MBC requested the Greater Manchester Ecology Unit to carry out a HRA on the series of urban design guides that the borough's intend to adopt as SPD(s). In accordance with the draft guidance from the Department for Communities and Local Government¹ this process involves 3 stages:

¹ Planning for Protection of European Sites: Appropriate Assessment - Guidance for Regional Spatial Strategies and Local development Documents (Department for Communities and Local Government, August 2006)

- AA task 1 - Identifying likely significant effects;
 - AA task 2 - Appropriate assessment and ascertaining the effect on site integrity; and
 - AA task 3 - Mitigating measures and alternative solutions.
- viii. Task 1, also referred to as 'screening', determines whether the subsequent steps (tasks 2 and 3) of appropriate assessment are required. In this instance the Greater Manchester Ecology Unit has concluded that the guidance would only have a positive effect on the special interest of the SAC and therefore carrying out a full appropriate assessment of the guidance is considered unnecessary.
- ix. The results of task 1 are included as appendices 3 and 4. Appendix 3 assessed the likely impact of the guidance on the Rochdale Canal. Appendix 4 assesses the likely impact of the guidance on South Pennines Moor.
- x. Members of the public may comment on the Habitats Regulations Assessment during the six-week consultation period as indicated on the public notice and comments form.

European Designated Sites in Oldham Borough



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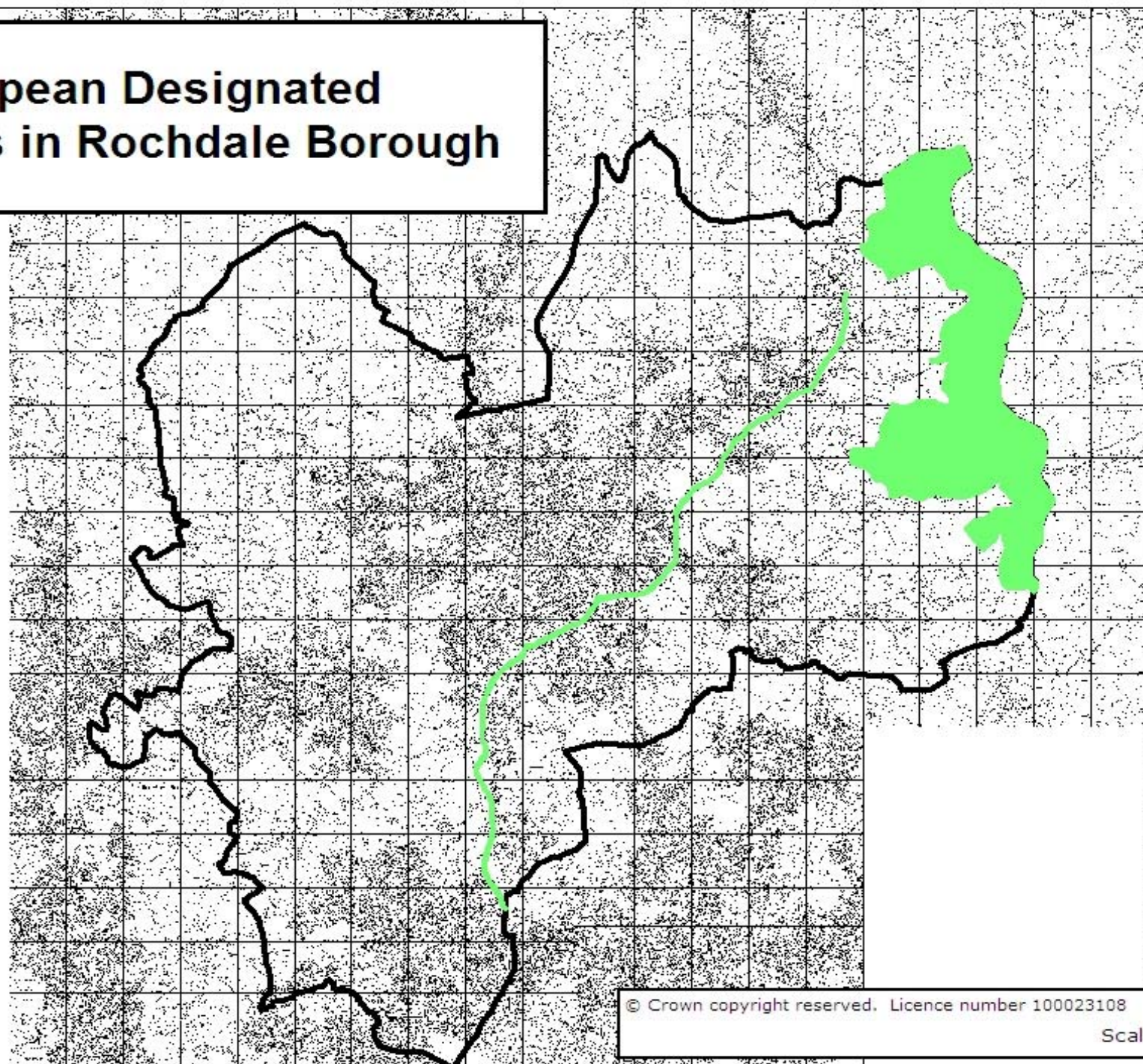
Regeneration Directorate
Oldham MBC
Oldham Business Centre
Cromwell Street
Oldham
OL1 1WR



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Drawing No:	
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European Designated Sites in Rochdale Borough



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Scale 1:100,000

Appendix 3 - AA task 1 - Identifying Significant Effects

Screening opinion on the need for appropriate assessment to be carried out on the impact of the Oldham and Rochdale Urban Design Guide supplementary planning document on the South Pennine Moors Special Area of Conservation (SAC)

1 Brief description of the plan

The document aims to assist all those involved in the development process in Oldham and Rochdale to design and implement high quality design of places, buildings and landscapes.

The Urban Design Guide includes a number of detailed Design Guides, which set out good practice design principles for all types of development and expand on policies relating to design as set out in the Development Plans of the two Boroughs concerned.

The document is not site specific but covers potential development across the whole of both of the districts. Developments affected by the document could therefore occur within, or immediately adjacent to, the South Pennine Moors SAC, although it is recognised that most of the area of the SAC cannot be described as urban, and that overriding policies protecting the special interest of the SAC will have the effect of significantly restricting any built development within the SAC.

2 Description of South Pennine Moors SAC

This 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 plateaux and are punctuated by species rich acidic flushes and mires. There are also wet and dry heaths and acid grasslands. Three habitat types which 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.

3 Primary reason for designation of the SAC

3.1 The site supports the following important habitats

European Dry Heaths

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 **7130 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 Bogs

This site represents **blanket bog** in the south Pennines, the most south-easterly occurrence of the habitat in Europe. The bog vegetation communities are botanically poor. Hare's-tail cottongrass *Eriophorum vaginatum* is often overwhelmingly dominant and the usual bog-building *Sphagnum* mosses are scarce. 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 with *Ilex* and *Blechnum* in the British Isles

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 Operations that may damage the special interest of the SAC include

- 4.1 Cultivation
- 4.2 Grazing
- 4.3 Mowing or cutting
- 4.4 Application of manure, fertilisers or lime
- 4.5 Application of pesticides
- 4.6 Burning
- 4.7 Drainage
- 4.8 Extraction of minerals including peat, topsoil and subsoil
- 4.9 Construction or removal of roads, tracks, walls, fences, hardstands, banks, ditches or other earthworks or the laying or removal of pipelines and cables
- 4.10 Erection of permanent structures
- 4.11 Use of vehicles likely to damage the vegetation
- 4.12 Pollution

5 Impact of the Oldham and Rochdale SPD on the special features of the South Pennine Moors SAC

Potentially Damaging Operation	Impact of SPD	Mitigation
Cultivation	None	None required
Grazing	None	None required
Mowing or cutting	None	None required
Application of manure, fertilisers or lime	None	None required
Application of pesticides	None	None required
Burning	None	None required
Drainage	Should built development be allowed in the SAC drainage may be required	The document(s) incorporate policies for the proper protection of valuable ecological components of the natural environment, notably: In the overarching Urban Design Guide, principle 7e clearly states that 'development must support biodiversity' In the Public Realm Design Guide there is clear guidance about the need to 'maintain and enhance ecological value' (p.24) In the Residential Design Guide there is clear guidance on the need to 'maintain and enhance ecological value and biodiversity' (p.31) The Good Practice for Design and Planning stresses the need for ecological constraints to be considered early in the planning stages of new developments (p.12-13)
Extraction of minerals	None	
Construction or removal of roads, tracks, walls, fences, hardstands, banks, ditches or other earthworks or the laying or removal of pipelines and cables	Should additional built development be allowed in the SAC there will be a direct impact from land-take (habitat and species loss) and indirect impact from habitat fragmentation and increased public pressure.	The document(s) incorporate policies for the proper protection of valuable ecological components of the natural environment, notably: In the overarching Urban Design Guide, principle 7e clearly states that 'development must support biodiversity' In the Public Realm Design Guide there is clear guidance about the need to 'maintain and enhance ecological value' (p.24) In the Residential Design Guide there is clear guidance on the need

		to maintain and enhance ecological value and biodiversity' (p.31) The Good Practice for Design and Planning stresses the need for ecological constraints to be considered early in the planning stages of new developments (p.12-13)
Erection of permanent structures	Should additional built development be allowed in the SAC there will be a direct impact from land-take (habitat and species loss) and indirect impact from habitat fragmentation and increased public pressure.	The document(s) incorporate policies for the proper protection of valuable ecological components of the natural environment, notably: In the overarching Urban Design Guide, principle 7e clearly states that 'development must support biodiversity' In the Public Realm Design Guide there is clear guidance about the need to 'maintain and enhance ecological value' (p.24) In the Residential Design Guide there is clear guidance on the need to 'maintain and enhance ecological value and biodiversity' (p.31) The Good Practice for Design and Planning stresses the need for ecological constraints to be considered early in the planning stages of new developments (p.12-13)
Use of vehicles likely to damage the vegetation	None	None required
Pollution	Built development may cause pollution of the SAC through air water and ground sources.	The document(s) incorporate policies for the proper protection of valuable ecological components of the natural environment, notably: In the overarching Urban Design Guide, principle 7e clearly states that 'development must support biodiversity' In the Public Realm Design Guide there is clear guidance about the need to 'maintain and enhance ecological value' (p.24) In the Residential Design Guide there is clear guidance on the need to 'maintain and enhance ecological value and biodiversity' (p.31) The Good Practice for Design and Planning stresses the need for ecological constraints to be considered early in the planning stages of new developments (p.12-13)

6 Conclusions and recommendations

It is not possible to assess the actual effects of any particular development on the South Pennine Moors SAC from overarching planning guidance such as the Oldham and Rochdale Urban Design Guide

However the overall impact of this SPD on the South Pennine Moors SAC can be assessed as **neutral** or **positive**, because:

- the document has been prepared for use in predominantly urban areas and much of the SAC cannot be described as urban
- overriding policies protecting the special value of the SAC will significantly restrict built development within the SAC
- the overall aim of the document is to encourage high quality design in built developments in Oldham and Rochdale. Good design includes protecting and enhancing valuable ecological components of the environment, a point explicitly made across all the component documents that make up the SPD.

My conclusion is that there will be **no significant damaging effects** arising from application of the principles outlined in this document on the special interest of the South Pennine Moors SAC. Any effects on the SAC arising from the application of the principles of good practice described in the document should in fact be positive. In fact, if the principles set out in the documents are followed built development within the SAC should be avoided.

It can be concluded carrying out a full appropriate assessment of the impact of the Oldham and Rochdale Urban Design Guide on the South Pennine Moors SAC is considered unnecessary.

Appendix 4 - AA task 1 - Identifying Significant Effects

Screening opinion on the need for an appropriate assessment to be carried out on the impact of the Oldham and Rochdale Urban Design Guide Supplementary Planning Document on the Rochdale Canal Special Area of Conservation (SAC)

1 Brief description of the plan

The document aims to assist all those involved in the development process in Oldham and Rochdale to design and implement high quality design of places, buildings and landscapes.

The Urban Design Guide includes a number of detailed Design Guides, which set out good practice design principles for all types of development and expand on policies relating to design as set out in the Development Plans of the two Boroughs concerned.

The document is not site specific but covers potential development across the whole of both of the districts. Developments affected by the document could therefore occur immediately adjacent to the SAC, particularly because much of the length of the canal lies within urban areas.

2 Description of the Rochdale Canal SAC

This partially restored section of 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). 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.

3 Primary reason for designation of the Rochdale Canal Special Area of Conservation

The Rochdale Canal supports a significant population of **floating water-plantain *Luronium natans*** in a botanically diverse waterplant 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 north-west England.

3.1 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 Operations that may damage the special interest of the SAC include operations and activities that affect the growth of *Luronium natans*

- 4.1 Dredging
- 4.2 Draining
- 4.3 Pollution
- 4.4 Shading
- 4.5 Increased boat traffic
- 4.6 Use of herbicides in or adjacent to the canal

5 Impact of the Urban Design SPD on the special interest of the Rochdale Canal SAC

Potentially Damaging Operation	Impact of SPD	Mitigation
Dredging of the canal	None	None required
Draining of the canal	None	None required
Pollution of the canal	There is potential for pollution of the canal arising from development of sites close to the canal, both during construction and operational phases of development	The document(s) incorporate principles for the proper protection of valuable ecological components of the natural environment, notably: In the overarching Urban Design Guide, principle 7e clearly states that 'development must support biodiversity' In the Public Realm Design Guide there is clear guidance about the need to 'maintain and enhance ecological value' (p.24) In the Residential Design Guide there is clear guidance on the need to maintain and enhance ecological value and biodiversity' (p.31) The Good Practice for Design and Planning stresses the need for ecological constraints to be considered early in the planning stages of new developments (p.12-13)
Shading of the canal	There is potential for parts of the canal to be shaded by new built developments close to the canal, particularly during operational phases of development	The document(s) incorporate policies for the proper protection of valuable ecological components of the natural environment, notably: In the overarching Urban Design Guide, principle 7e clearly states that 'development must support biodiversity' In the Public Realm Design Guide there is clear guidance about the need to 'maintain and enhance ecological value' (p.24) In the Residential Design Guide there is clear guidance on the need to maintain and enhance ecological value and biodiversity' (p.31) The Good Practice for Design and Planning stresses the need for ecological constraints to be considered early in the planning stages of new developments (p.12-13)
Increase in boat traffic	There is the potential for an increase in boat traffic resulting directly and indirectly from an increase in built development close to the canal.	The document(s) incorporate policies for the proper protection of valuable ecological components of the natural environment, notably: In the overarching Urban Design Guide, principle 7e clearly states that 'development must support biodiversity' In the Public Realm Design Guide there is clear guidance about the need to 'maintain and enhance ecological value' (p.24) In the Residential Design Guide there is clear guidance on the need 'to maintain and enhance ecological value and biodiversity' (p.31) The Good Practice for Design and Planning stresses the need for ecological constraints

		to be considered early in the planning stages of new developments (p.12-13)
Use of herbicides	There is the potential for herbicides to be used as part of the construction and operational phases of any built developments close to the canal	<p>The document(s) incorporate policies for the proper protection of valuable ecological components of the natural environment, notably:</p> <p>In the overarching Urban Design Guide, principle 7e clearly states that 'development must support biodiversity'</p> <p>In the Public Realm Design Guide there is clear guidance about the need to 'maintain and enhance ecological value' (p.24)</p> <p>In the Residential Design Guide there is clear guidance on the need to 'maintain and enhance ecological value and biodiversity' (p.31)</p> <p>The Good Practice for Design and Planning stresses the need for ecological constraints to be considered early in the planning stages of new developments (p.12-13)</p>

6 Conclusions and recommendations

It is not possible to assess the actual effects of any particular development on the Rochdale Canal from overarching planning guidance such as the Oldham and Rochdale Urban Design Guide

However the overall impact of this SPD on the Rochdale Canal SAC can be assessed as **neutral** or **positive**, since the overall aim of the document is to encourage high quality design in built developments in Oldham and Rochdale. Good design includes protecting and enhancing valuable ecological components of the environment, a point explicitly made across all the component documents that make up the SPD.

My conclusion is that there will be **no significant damaging effects** arising from application of the principles outlined in this document on the special interest of the Rochdale Canal SAC. Any effects on the SAC arising from the application of the principles of good practice described in the document should in fact be positive.

It can be concluded that carrying out a full appropriate assessment of the impact of the Oldham and Rochdale Urban Design Guide on the Rochdale Canal SAC is considered unnecessary.