

# **Oldham Local Development Framework**

## **'Refining Options' Habitats Regulations Assessment**

Joint Core Strategy and Development Management Policies  
Development Plan Document

April 2010



# **Habitats Regulations Assessment of the Impact on European Protected Sites of Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council's Joint Core Strategy and Development Management Policies DPD: Refining Options**



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# **Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) of the Impact of Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council's Joint Core Strategy and Development Management Policies DPD: Refining Options**

## **1 Introduction**

- 1.1 Article 6(3) of the European Habitats Directive dealing with the conservation of European protected sites states that:

*'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 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 a Habitats Regulation Assessment:

- 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.

The Joint Core Strategy and Development Management Policies DPD: Refining Options of Oldham Council's Local Development Framework is considered to be a Local Development Document (a 'Plan') that falls under Part IV, 85A-(2) of the 2007 Habitats Regulations Amendments and therefore is required to be subject to a Habitats Regulations Assessment (to be taken at least through the screening stage (Stage 1)).

- 1.3 European protected sites (the 'Natura 2000 Network') are of exceptional importance for the conservation of important species and natural habitats within the European Union. The purpose of Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA) of land use plans is to ensure that protection of the integrity of European protected sites is an integral part of the planning process at a regional and local level. The network of European protected sites comprises Special Protection Areas (SPAs), Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Ramsar sites. Government guidance advises that potential SPAs (pSPA), candidate SACs (cSAC) and potential Ramsar (pRamsar) sites are also included in HRAs.
- 1.4 This report examines the Oldham Joint Core Strategy and Development Management Policies DPD: Refining Options and:

- Identifies by a screening process any European site that could potentially be affected by either development in areas selected by Oldham MBC as Strategic Locations or Strategic Sites, or affected by city-wide development proposals, or affected by Core Policies or Development Management Policies outlined in the Plan.
- Outlines details of the nature conservation importance of any European sites 'screened in' to the process.
- Identifies the possible impacts that the Core Policies in the Plan or that development within the Strategic Locations and Strategic Sites may have on features of nature conservation importance within European sites.
- Assesses Development Management or Core Policy impacts that could potentially have a significant effect on the favourable conservation status of European sites.
- Identifies controls within the Plan itself and other development plan documents, strategies, policies and plans that could act to avoid or mitigate these effects.

- Proposes amendments and alterations to plans and policies where necessary to avoid these impacts.
- Identifies sites and development proposals that will require further Assessment as part of the ongoing HRA of Oldham's developing Local Development Framework.

1.5 Habitats Regulation Assessments can be seen as having a number of discrete stages -

- Stage 1 - Screening
- Stage 2 – Appropriate Assessment
- Stage 3 – Assessment of Alternatives
- Stage 4 – Assessment where no alternatives are available

1.6 This document comprises Stage 1 of the Habitats Regulation Assessment process and contributes to the fulfilment of the Oldham 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 Oldham MBC's Joint Core Strategy and Development Management Policies DPD: Refining Options (hereafter referred to as 'the Plan'), may have a significant effect on the special interest of any European designated protected sites. It is also an Opinion on, and an Assessment of, whether any of the identified effects (if any) can be avoided or mitigated or whether any of the Strategic Locations/Sites need to be deselected or whether the wording of the Core Policies need to be amended.

1.7 It is noted that the Plan being assessed is still at the development stage and further Assessments may be required as the Plan develops further. There is no statutory guidance on what stage of Plan production to best prepare an HRA but Natural England recommends that HRA begins at an early stage and if necessary continues through all the stages of plan production. HRA Methodologies are at a relatively early stage of development and examples of Best Practice have not yet emerged. As Best Practice emerges the methodology undertaken for this HRA may develop.

1.8 The Greater Manchester Ecology Unit (GMEU), as the specialist ecological adviser to Oldham MBC, has prepared this Screening Opinion. Natural England and the JNCC were consulted for information on the conservation objectives and favourable condition tables for the European Sites concerned (the information is summarised below). GMEU ecologists, who are familiar with the European sites concerned and their special interest, reviewed the ecological information for the site. The key vulnerabilities and sensitivities of the European sites concerned are well understood by GMEU allowing for an informed assessment of the possible effects of the Plan, and any specific aims, objectives and policies contained in the Plan.

## **2 Brief description of the Plan**

2.1 The Plan being assessed is the Joint Core Strategy and Development Management Policies DPD: Refining Options of the Oldham MBC Local Development Framework.

The Plan:

- (i) Outlines the Council's Vision for Oldham up to the year 2026 and how managing the change necessary to achieve this vision is envisaged.
- (ii) Provides a strategic framework against which decisions about the use of land can be planned.

The Plan considers a wide variety of strategic issues, for example –

- How the Borough's economy should develop
- How its housing needs should be met
- How accessibility can be improved

- How the city's environment and heritage can be protected and enhanced
- How the use of land can help to promote a healthier and safer Borough
- How the Borough can adapt to the impacts of climate change

2.2 The policies in the Plan have been separated into two parts: part 1 forms the Core Strategy which sets out the way ahead for the LDF, and part 2 contains the development management policies on how the key elements of the LDF will be implemented. The Policies are numbered consecutively; numbers 1 to 8 are more general Core Strategy Policies while Policies 9 to 25 are more specific Development Management Policies.

The policies generally have two elements to them:

- A box containing key proposals and undertakings
- Text box setting out more detail of the policy topic area
- A 'linkages box' which shows connections between the different parts of the document

2.3 For the purposes of this Assessment the Plan is not complete; further iterations will likely arise following consultation on the Plan. An opinion is being sought at this stage of Plan development to ensure that the requirements to meet terms of the Regulations regarding Habitats Regulation Assessment can be properly planned for and addressed.

2.4 The Plan sets out strategic objectives that are significant in terms of the scale of development planned for. These objectives include:

- 80 hectares of new employment land
- Delivery of a net increase of 289 new dwellings each year during the Plan period
- New transport links (including Metrolink extensions)
- New and remodelled schools

It is envisaged that the new employment within Oldham will focus on knowledge-based industries such as media, rather than on heavy industries formerly common in Oldham.

2.5 The Strategic Objectives of the Plan are:

- To mitigate and adapt to climate change and to promote sustainable development
- To ensure that the borough's housing market is balanced and sustainable to encourage people to remain living in the borough and to attract people from outside the borough to relocate
- To promote economic diversification, growth and prosperity and sustainable economic regeneration
- To improve and value the borough's environment
- To create safer and stronger communities

2.6 As part of the Plan certain sites and areas have been identified as preferred areas to concentrate certain types of development. The rationale behind the selection of these locations can be found in the Plan. Only the broad principles of development in these locations are described in the Plan. Details of the exact nature and type of development that may be allowed in these areas are not yet available and exact spatial boundaries 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 locations to be proposed as areas where development is to be brought forward as part of the Plan. The identified Strategic Locations will be further consulted upon as part of the development of the Plan and the future allocations DPD, so it is recognised that the exact locations, and the type of preferred development at these locations, may be subject to change.

- 2.7 It should be noted that none of the preferred locations for development within Oldham lies within or directly adjacent to any European Sites, and therefore no direct land take of a European Site is proposed or envisaged. It is also notable that much of the development envisaged for Oldham will take place on previously developed land.

However, the significant scale of development proposed for Oldham requires the impact of development in the Borough as a whole on sometimes distant European sites to be considered, since it is possible that *diffuse* impacts arising from development may affect distant European sites. In fact it is most likely that, for the assessment of this plan, it is diffuse impacts that are likely to be much more important than any possible direct impacts.

### **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 future development in Oldham. 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) Habitat 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 entire north-west Region can be initially considered for assessment (screened).

#### **3.3 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 in the north west. 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 5km; that is, most operations with the potential to cause direct water and/or air pollution impacts located further than 5km 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 5km buffer in its award of special resources to local authorities for carrying out HRA of Plans; those authorities whose boundaries lie more than 5km away from a European protected sites have not received additional

resources to carry out Assessments, because it is considered that effects are much less likely to arise from development within the boundaries of these authorities. Only two European sites are (partly) within the boundary of Oldham; these are the Rochdale Canal SAC and the South Pennine Moors SAC/SPA.

Although this guidance concerning buffer zones has been taken into account when screening European protected sites in this particular assessment, in the case of a Plan affecting the development of an entire metropolitan area, the 5km buffer zone should be regarded as important but not as definitive – for example, this buffer zone may not be sufficient when assessing certain very large-scale developments or secondary impacts.

In particular, applying the 5km buffer may not be appropriate for this Plan where there are unlikely to be direct impacts on any European sites, but more likely that possible impacts will be caused by **diffuse air or water pollution** that may arise from the significant development planned for Oldham, or where there are secondary **recreational** pressures on more distant protected sites arising from increased regional and sub-regional populations. It is also possible that increased **water use** may affect distant protected sites, since water supplies to Oldham are sourced in part from areas including European sites. These factors are therefore described and considered in more detail below.

### 3.3.1 Diffuse Air Pollution

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

- Oxides of Nitrogen ( $\text{NO}_x$ )
- Ammonia ( $\text{NH}_3$ )
- Dust
- Sulphur Dioxide ( $\text{SO}_2$ )
- Low level Ozone ( $\text{O}_3$ )

(*Scott Wilson Ltd 2007*)

Of these  $\text{NO}_x$  and  $\text{SO}_3$  are the most likely airborne pollutants to arise as a result of development controlled by the LDF process (mainly through increased traffic). 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 Oldham 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.

It should be mentioned here that in the past large scale coal burning in Oldham probably affected moorland now within the South Pennine Moors SAC, in the north east of Oldham Borough, because the prevailing winds are from the South West, carrying pollution towards the moors. However, it is now considered that the most likely source of increased air pollution arising from the operation of the Plan will be increased road traffic. The following factors are relevant here:

- The Plan includes specific strategic objectives and Policies for the reduction of air pollution.
- The Plan includes proposals for significant improvements to public transport that will help to reduce possible increases in traffic.
- Any air pollution arising from increased traffic will likely disperse and deposit before reaching the moorland areas, and therefore any impacts, even if traffic increases, will be insignificant in terms of impact on the ecology of the South Pennine Moors SAC. Research has shown that  $\text{SO}_x$ ,  $\text{NO}_x$  and  $\text{NH}_3$  pollutants

- arising from vehicle exhausts deposit close to the pollutant source (concentrations fall by 90 % within 15m)
- New cars are much less polluting than older models, so although the volume of traffic on the roads of Oldham *may* increase this will not necessarily lead to any increases in air pollution levels.
- The Plan being assessed includes policies specifically aimed at reducing the impact of air pollution.
- There is no specific scientific research available indicating what levels of air pollution in the environment cause noticeable damage to *Sphagnum* mosses.

Notwithstanding the above, and because of the last point, this Assessment takes a precautionary approach to possible impacts of increased air pollution from increased traffic on the South Pennine Moors SAC and screens in any development considered likely to result in increased road traffic. However, because of the above points it is not considered reasonable to recommend that particular Plan proposals be removed from the Plan because of a (possibly incorrect) assumption that they *may* have the potential to lead to an increase in road traffic. Rather, it is recommended that this issue be raised for consideration in any detailed development proposals that may come forward later so that possible impacts can be properly assessed and mitigated.

### **3.3.2 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 Oldham are considered likely to result in this type of diffuse pollution arising and affecting a European site, these have been screened into this Assessment.

Of the sites considered under Appendix 1, diffuse water pollution could potentially have an effect on the Rochdale Canal SAC, because part of the Canal passes through Oldham and further development is planned for along the Canal.

The Rochdale Canal does pass through other urban areas outside of Oldham. Also, the water flow through the Canal is controlled by a series of locks that in places serve to slow and/or divert water flow, and this results in sedimentation occurring along the Canal, reducing the potential for diffuse spread of certain pollutants throughout the Canal. Other strategies and plans, in particular the requirements of the EU Water Framework Directive and the associated River Basin Management Plans, will require measures to be taken to ensure a reduction in pollution levels in the Canal.

### **3.3.3 Recreational Pressure**

In the case of the South Pennine Moors SAC/SPA it is generally considered in this Assessment that any recreational pressures arising from development within Oldham on this European protected site will be diffuse and therefore not significant, and/or very difficult to assess independently. However, it is possible that certain types of development within Oldham (e.g. new Canal boat berths) may have an impact on the special interest of the Rochdale Canal SAC. Where this is considered possible, such developments have been screened in to this Assessment. It is of note that the Plan states: '*The Rochdale Canal corridor will be a key asset in terms of recreation, image and quality of life*'.

### **3.3.4 Water Supply**

Oldham obtains its water supply from supplies that serve much of Greater Manchester. It is therefore very difficult to assess the impact on any remote European protected sites of any increase in water demand caused by development in Oldham alone. For this reason reliance has been placed on the results of the Appropriate Assessment of the RSS and distant European sites supplying water to the GM sub-region have been screened out of the Assessment of this Plan.

It is material to state here that United Utilities (the main water supply utility company in the north west of England) have stated that no water supply issues are envisaged for Oldham for the foreseeable future (*UU personal communication*).

**3.3.5** 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 pathway and sources, outlined above (3.1), of future development in Oldham on these European Sites. Appendix 2 summarises the results of this screening process. The outcomes of the site screening process are given below.

### **3.4 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 some potential to be affected by development proposed and planned for within Oldham Borough.

- **South Pennine Moors Special Area of Conservation**
- **South Pennine Moors Special Protection Area**
- **Rochdale Canal Special Area of Conservation**

## **4 The Nature Conservation Interest of the Rochdale Canal SAC and the South Pennine Moors SAC/SPA**

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

### **4.1 The Rochdale Canal**

#### **4.1.1 Description of the 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). Only part of the Canal is within the borough of Oldham. 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.

#### **4.1.2 Primary reason for designation of the Rochdale Canal as a European protected site**

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, 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

#### **4.1.3 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.

## 4.2 South Pennine Moors SAC/SPA

### 4.2.1 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 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.

### 4.2.2 Description of the South Pennine Moors 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.

### 4.2.3 Primary reason for designation of the South Pennine Moors SAC

### 4.2.4 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 drier 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 19<sup>th</sup> 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.

#### **4.2.5 Primary reason for the designation of the South Pennine Moors 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:

Common sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*, Dunlin *Calidris alpina schinzii*, Twite *Carduelis flavirostris*, Snipe *Gallinago gallinago*, Curlew *Numenius arquata*, Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe*, Redshank *Tringa totanus*, Ring ouzel *Turdus torquatus*, Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*

#### **4.2.6 Conservation Objectives of the 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.

## **5      Screening Opinions**

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

Operations that may damage the special interest of the canal include operations and activities that affect the growth and survival of *Luronium natans*. The most important of these are considered to be -

- 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
- Water abstraction

*(adapted from information available from Natural England)*

- 5.2 It should be noted that in this section and in Section 7 of the Report it is the *broad principle* of development that is being assessed, rather than the detail of any proposed development, since these details are not yet available. Details of possible sources, pathways and receptors for impacts are not available for assessment at this stage of Plan production.
- 5.3 Table 5.1 shows the results of the screening for the Core Policies. Each of the Policy themes has been assessed to determine whether it is:

- Unlikely to have an effect on the European Site (screened out)
- Could have a potential positive effect on a European Site (screened out)
- Could have a potential negative effect on a European Site (screened in)
- Would be likely to have a significant effect on a European Site (screened in)

**Table 5.1.1 Screening Summary of impacts of Core Strategy and Development Management Policies on the Rochdale Canal SAC. For full details of the Policies listed please refer to the Plan itself.**

Policy	Brief policy description	Possible impacts on SAC/SPA	Screening opinion
<b>Core Policies</b>			
<b>1</b>	Climate Change and Sustainable Development	No significant negative impacts on the SAC anticipated from the operation of this Policy	Screened Out
<b>2</b>	Communities – promoting and addressing the needs of local neighbourhoods	No significant negative impacts on the SAC anticipated from the operation of this Policy	Screened Out
<b>3</b>	An address of choice (housing)	No significant negative impacts on the SAC anticipated from the operation of this Policy (new housing areas too distant from SAC)	Screened Out
<b>4</b>	Promoting sustainable regeneration and prosperity (employment)	<b>Possible impacts from development of new and existing employment areas</b>	<b>Screened IN</b>
<b>5</b>	Promoting accessibility and sustainable transport choices	No significant negative impacts on the SAC anticipated from the operation of this Policy	Screened Out
<b>6</b>	Green Infrastructure (including nature conservation)	No significant negative impacts on the SAC anticipated from the operation of this Policy	Screened Out
<b>7</b>	Sustainable use of resources – waste management	Unknown – awaits HRA of GM-wide Waste Plan	Pending
<b>8</b>	Sustainable use of resources – minerals	Unknown – awaits HRA of GM-wide Minerals Plan	Pending
<b>Development Management Policies</b>			
<b>9</b>	Local environment	No significant negative impacts on the SAC anticipated from the operation of this Policy	Screened Out
<b>10</b>	Affordable housing	No significant negative impacts on the SAC anticipated from the operation of this Policy	Screened Out
<b>11</b>	Housing density and mix	No significant negative impacts on the SAC anticipated from the operation of this Policy	Screened Out
<b>12</b>	Gypsies, travellers and travelling show people	No significant negative impacts on the SAC anticipated from the operation of this Policy	Screened Out
<b>13</b>	Employment areas – identifies sites for employment use	<b>Possible impacts from diffuse air and water pollution</b>	<b>Screened IN</b>
<b>14</b>	Supporting the Economy – identifies sites and areas for employment use	<b>Possible impacts from diffuse air and water pollution</b>	<b>Screened IN</b>
<b>15</b>	Centres	<b>Possible impacts from development in Failsworth District Centre</b>	<b>Screened IN</b>
<b>16</b>	Local Services and Facilities	No significant negative impacts on the SAC anticipated from the operation of this Policy	Screened Out
<b>17</b>	Gateways and Corridors	No significant negative impacts on the SAC anticipated from the operation of this Policy	Screened Out

<b>18</b>	Energy - promotes 'green' energy	No significant negative impacts on the SAC anticipated from the operation of this Policy. Possible positive impacts from reduced road traffic.	<b>Screened Out</b>
<b>19</b>	Water and Flooding	No significant negative impacts on the SAC anticipated from the operation of this Policy Possible positive impacts from reduced road traffic.	<b>Screened Out</b>
<b>20</b>	Design	No significant negative impacts on the SAC anticipated from the operation of this Policy Possible positive impacts from reduced road traffic.	<b>Screened Out</b>
<b>21</b>	Protecting Natural Environmental Assets	No significant negative impacts on the SAC anticipated from the operation of this Policy Possible positive impacts from reduced road traffic.	<b>Screened Out</b>
<b>22</b>	Protecting Open Land	No significant negative impacts on the SAC anticipated from the operation of this Policy	<b>Screened Out</b>
<b>23</b>	Open Spaces and Sport	No significant negative impacts on the SAC anticipated from the operation of this Policy	<b>Screened Out</b>
<b>24</b>	Historic Environment	No significant negative impacts on the SAC anticipated from the operation of this Policy	<b>Screened Out</b>
<b>25</b>	Developer contributions	No significant negative impacts on the SAC anticipated from the operation of this Policy	<b>Screened Out</b>

**Table 5.1.2 Screening Summary of impacts of Core Strategy and Development Management Policies on the South Pennine Moors SAC/SPA. For full details of the Policies listed please refer to the Plan itself.**

Policy	Brief policy description	Possible impacts on SAC/SPA	Screening opinion
<b>Core Strategy – overarching policies</b>			
1	Climate Change and Sustainable Development	No significant negative impacts on the SAC anticipated from the operation of this Policy	Screened Out
2	Communities – promoting and addressing the needs of local neighbourhoods	No significant negative impacts on the SAC anticipated from the operation of this Policy	Screened Out
3	An address of choice (housing)	No significant negative impacts on the SAC anticipated from the operation of this Policy	Screened Out
4	Promoting sustainable regeneration and prosperity (employment)	No significant negative impacts on the SAC anticipated from the operation of this Policy	Screened Out
5	Promoting accessibility and sustainable transport choices	No significant negative impacts on the SAC anticipated from the operation of this Policy. Possible positive impacts from reduced road traffic	Screened Out
6	Green Infrastructure (including nature conservation)	No significant negative impacts on the SAC anticipated from the operation of this Policy. Probable positive impacts arising from enhancement of green infrastructure.	Screened Out
7	Sustainable use of resources – waste management	No significant negative impacts on the SAC anticipated from the operation of this Policy	Screened Out
8	Sustainable use of resources – minerals	No significant negative impacts on the SAC anticipated from the operation of this Policy	Screened Out
<b>Development Management Policies</b>			
9	Local environment	No significant negative impacts on the SAC anticipated from the operation of this Policy	Screened Out
10	Affordable housing	No significant negative impacts on the SAC anticipated from the operation of this Policy	Screened Out
11	Housing density and mix	No significant negative impacts on the SAC anticipated from the operation of this Policy	Screened Out
12	Gypsies, travellers and travelling show people	No significant negative impacts on the SAC anticipated from the operation of this Policy	Screened Out
13	Employment areas – identifies sites for employment use	No significant negative impacts on the SAC anticipated from the operation of this Policy	Screened Out

<b>14</b>	Supporting the Economy – identifies sites for employment use	No significant negative impacts on the SAC anticipated from the operation of this Policy	No significant negative impacts on the SAC anticipated from the operation of this Policy	<b>Screened Out</b>
<b>15</b>	Centres	No significant negative impacts on the SAC anticipated from the operation of this Policy	No significant negative impacts on the SAC anticipated from the operation of this Policy	<b>Screened Out</b>
<b>16</b>	Local Services and Facilities	No significant negative impacts on the SAC anticipated from the operation of this Policy	No significant negative impacts on the SAC anticipated from the operation of this Policy	<b>Screened Out</b>
<b>17</b>	Gateways and Corridors	No significant negative impacts on the SAC anticipated from the operation of this Policy	No significant negative impacts on the SAC anticipated from the operation of this Policy	<b>Screened Out</b>
<b>18</b>	Energy - promotes 'green' energy	No significant negative impacts on the SAC anticipated from the operation of this Policy. Possible positive impacts from reduced road traffic.	No significant negative impacts on the SAC anticipated from the operation of this Policy. Possible positive impacts from reduced road traffic.	<b>Screened Out</b>
<b>19</b>	Water and Flooding	No significant negative impacts on the SAC anticipated from the operation of this Policy	No significant negative impacts on the SAC anticipated from the operation of this Policy	<b>Screened Out</b>
<b>20</b>	Design	No significant negative impacts on the SAC anticipated from the operation of this Policy	No significant negative impacts on the SAC anticipated from the operation of this Policy	<b>Screened Out</b>
<b>21</b>	Protecting Natural Environmental Assets	No significant negative impacts on the SAC anticipated from the operation of this Policy Probable positive impacts arising	No significant negative impacts on the SAC anticipated from the operation of this Policy Probable positive impacts arising	<b>Screened Out</b>
<b>22</b>	Protecting Open Land	No significant negative impacts on the SAC anticipated from the operation of this Policy Probable positive impacts arising	No significant negative impacts on the SAC anticipated from the operation of this Policy Probable positive impacts arising	<b>Screened Out</b>
<b>23</b>	Open Spaces and Sport	No significant negative impacts on the SAC anticipated from the operation of this Policy. Possible positive impacts may arise	No significant negative impacts on the SAC anticipated from the operation of this Policy. Possible positive impacts may arise	<b>Screened Out</b>
<b>24</b>	Historic Environment	No significant negative impacts on the SAC anticipated from the operation of this Policy	No significant negative impacts on the SAC anticipated from the operation of this Policy	<b>Screened Out</b>
<b>25</b>	Developer contributions	No significant negative impacts on the SAC anticipated from the operation of this Policy	No significant negative impacts on the SAC anticipated from the operation of this Policy	<b>Screened Out</b>

## 6 Summary of the Screening Opinions

### 6.1 Impacts on the Rochdale Canal SAC

The Screening Opinion of the HRA has concluded that the operation of the following Policies in the Plan could have a significant effect on the special interest of the Rochdale Canal:

**Table 6.1 Potential effects on the special interest of the Rochdale Canal SAC arising from the operation of certain Policies in the Plan**

Policy	Potential effect/impact on the Rochdale Canal SAC
<b>4 Promoting Sustainable Regeneration and Prosperity</b>	Development in certain employment areas may conceivable affect the SAC by causing increases in diffuse water and/or air pollution
<b>13 Employment Areas</b>	Development in certain employment areas may conceivable affect the SAC by causing increases in diffuse water and/or air pollution
<b>14 Supporting Oldham's Economy</b>	Development in certain employment areas may conceivable affect the SAC by causing increases in diffuse water and/or air pollution
<b>15 Centres</b>	Failsworth Town Centre is close to the Rochdale Canal SAC and it is possible that development here may affect the SAC through diffuse water pollution, shading, increased boat traffic

- 6.2 Further Assessment of these potential impacts and potential mitigation is therefore carried out below. The potential impacts of Policy 4 are dealt with by reference to the more detailed development management policies 13 and 14. Policies 13 and 14 are closely linked. They identify and link sites and areas for employment use, **Business and Employment Areas (BEAs)** and **Saddleworth Employment Areas (SEAs)**. The Plan identifies an 'arc of opportunity' for key development opportunities, and some of these are relatively close to the Rochdale Canal SAC to merit further screening. No specific details of potential new developments in these areas are available as part of this Plan, and therefore it is the *principle* of development that is assessed here, not the specifics of any particular development.

Policy 15 encourages development in Failsworth District Centre, an area close enough to the Rochdale Canal SAC to merit further screening in this Assessment.

### **6.3 Impacts on the South Pennine Moors SAC/SPA**

Screening has concluded that the implementation of the Plan will not have a significant impact on the special interests of this European Site.

Development proposed in areas of the Borough closest to the SAC/SPA are relatively small scale and remain distant from important habitats. Diffuse water and/or air pollution from development in the Borough is considered very unlikely to affect important upland habitats within the SAC.

## 7 Assessment of Potential Effects identified through the Screening Process

**Table 7.1** Assessment of the potential effects of development on the special interest of the Rochdale Canal SAC identified through the Screening stage of the HRA, with consideration of the potentially mitigating influence of other plans, policies and strategies.

Policies 13 and 14	Development in a specifically identified location in the Policy	Potential Effects	Mitigating plans, policies and strategies	Is the impact considered to remain significant after applying mitigating influences?
<b>Hollinwood Business District</b>	The proximity of the proposed Hollinwood Business District to the Rochdale Canal SAC means that there is potential for development of this area to cause a range of impacts on the special interest of the Canal, including pollution, drainage, use of herbicides, shading, dredging and increased recreational pressures. Details of these impacts cannot be properly assessed because details of any specific development are not yet available. This Assessment considers the principle of allowing the area to be put forward as a Broad preferred location and whether there are sufficient safeguards in place to allow sites to be brought forward for development without damaging the integrity of the European site.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Proposed policy direction in the Plan requiring sustainable development (Policy 1)</li> <li>Proposed policy direction in the Plan for enhancing green infrastructure (Policy 6)</li> <li>Proposed policy direction in the Plan for protecting natural environmental assets (Policy 21)</li> <li>Proposed policy direction in the Plan for ensuring quality in new developments (Policy 20)</li> <li>Proposed policy direction in the Plan for ensuring local environmental quality (Policy 9)</li> <li>Policy EM1 of the NW RSS requiring due consideration to be given to the conservation of biodiversity and the natural environment</li> <li>Policy EM3 of the NW RSS for enhancing green infrastructure</li> <li>Policy EM5 of the NW RSS requiring integrated water management to reduce water pollution</li> <li>The Greater Manchester Biodiversity Action Plan identifying Canals as a priority habitat for conservation</li> <li>Restrictions on maximum amount of boat traffic using the Canal set by British Waterways and Natural England</li> <li>Canal condition monitoring programme undertaken by British Waterways</li> <li>Regulations controlling discharges to the Canal</li> <li>European Habitats Directive requiring Appropriate Assessment of plans</li> </ol>	<p>Providing that the mitigating plans, policies and strategies are implemented appropriately through the development management process, it is considered that there will be sufficient safeguards in place to avoid significant harm to the special interest of the Rochdale Canal arising from the in principle development of the Hollinwood Business District. It is considered that there is insufficient justification for preventing all development in this area because of potential impact on the SAC.</p>	

Development in a specifically identified location in the Policy	Potential Effects	Mitigating plans, policies and strategies	Is the impact considered to remain significant after applying mitigating influences?
<b>Chadderton Technology Park</b>	<p>The extensive and varied nature of proposed development in the Chadderton Technology Park area and the existence of possible pathways between the Broad Location and the Canal are considered to have some potential to cause impacts on the canal arising from water and air pollution. Details of these impacts cannot be properly assessed because details of specific developments are not yet available. This Assessment considers the principle of allowing the area to be put forward as a Broad preferred location and whether there are sufficient safeguards in place to allow sites to be brought forward for development without damaging the integrity of the European site</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Proposed policy direction in the Plan requiring sustainable development (Policy 1)</li> <li>2. Proposed policy direction in the Plan for enhancing green infrastructure (Policy 6)</li> <li>3. Proposed policy direction in the Plan for protecting natural environmental assets (Policy 21)</li> <li>4. Proposed policy direction in the Plan for ensuring quality in new developments (Policy 20)</li> <li>5. Proposed policy direction in the Plan for ensuring local environmental quality (Policy 9)</li> <li>6. Policy EM1 of the NW RSS requiring due consideration to be given to the conservation of biodiversity and the natural environment</li> <li>7. Policy EM3 of the NW RSS for enhancing green infrastructure</li> <li>8. Policy EM5 of the NW RSS requiring integrated water management to reduce water pollution</li> <li>9. The Greater Manchester Biodiversity Action Plan identifying Canals as a priority habitat for conservation</li> <li>10. Restrictions on maximum amount of boat traffic using the Canal set by British Waterways and Natural England</li> <li>11. Canal condition monitoring programme undertaken by British Waterways</li> <li>12. Regulations controlling discharges to the Canal</li> <li>13. European Habitats Directive requiring Appropriate Assessment of plans</li> </ol>	<p>Providing that the mitigating plans, policies and strategies are implemented appropriately through the development management process, it is considered that there will be sufficient safeguards in place to avoid significant harm to the special interest of the Rochdale Canal arising from the in principle development of the Chadderton Technology Park. It is considered that there is insufficient justification for preventing all development in this area because of potential impact on the SAC</p>

Development in a specifically identified location in the Policy	Potential Effects	Mitigating plans, policies and strategies	Is the impact considered to remain significant after applying mitigating influences?
<b>Foxdenton</b>	<p>The mixed-use nature of proposed development in the Foxdenton area and the existence of possible pathways between the area and the canal are considered to have some potential to cause impacts on the canal arising from water and air pollution. Details of these impacts cannot be properly assessed because details of specific developments are not yet available. This Assessment considers the principle of allowing the area to be put forward as a Broad preferred location and whether there are sufficient safeguards in place to allow sites to be brought forward for development without damaging the integrity of the European site</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Proposed policy direction in the Plan requiring sustainable development (Policy 1)</li> <li>2. Proposed policy direction in the Plan for enhancing green infrastructure (Policy 6)</li> <li>3. Proposed policy direction in the Plan for protecting natural environmental assets (Policy 21)</li> <li>4. Proposed policy direction in the Plan for ensuring quality in new developments (Policy 20)</li> <li>5. Proposed policy direction in the Plan for ensuring local environmental quality (Policy 9)</li> <li>6. Policy EM1 of the NW RSS requiring due consideration to be given to the conservation of biodiversity and the natural environment</li> <li>7. Policy EM3 of the NW RSS for enhancing green infrastructure</li> <li>8. Policy EM5 of the NW RSS requiring integrated water management to reduce water pollution</li> <li>9. The Greater Manchester Biodiversity Action Plan identifying Canals as a priority habitat for conservation</li> <li>10. Restrictions on maximum amount of boat traffic using the Canal set by British Waterways and Natural England</li> <li>11. Canal condition monitoring programme undertaken by British Waterways</li> <li>12. Regulations controlling discharges to the Canal</li> <li>13. European Habitats Directive requiring Appropriate Assessment of plans</li> </ol>	<p>Providing that the mitigating plans, policies and strategies are implemented appropriately through the development management process, it is considered that there will be sufficient safeguards in place to avoid significant harm to the special interest of the Rochdale Canal arising from the development of Foxdenton. It is considered that there is insufficient justification for preventing all development in this area because of potential impact on the SAC.</p>

Policy 15 Centres	Development in a specifically identified location in the Policy	Potential Effects	Mitigating plans, policies and strategies	Is the impact considered to remain significant after applying mitigating influences?
<b>Failesworth District Centre</b>	<p>The proximity of Failesworth District Centre to the Rochdale Canal SAC means that there is potential for development of this area to cause a range of impacts on the special interest of the Canal, including pollution, drainage, use of herbicides, shading, dredging and increased recreational pressures. Details of these impacts cannot be properly assessed because details of any specific development are not yet available. This Assessment considers the principle of allowing the area to be put forward as a Broad preferred location and whether there are sufficient safeguards in place to allow sites to be brought forward for development without damaging the integrity of the European site</p>	<p>1. Proposed policy direction in the Plan requiring sustainable development (Policy 1)      2. Proposed policy direction in the Plan for enhancing green infrastructure (Policy 6)      3. Proposed policy direction in the Plan for protecting natural environmental assets (Policy 21)      4. Proposed policy direction in the Plan for ensuring quality in new developments (Policy 20)      5. Proposed policy direction in the Plan for ensuring local environmental quality (Policy 9)      6. Policy EM1 of the NW RSS requiring due consideration to be given to the conservation of biodiversity and the natural environment      7. Policy EM3 of the NW RSS for enhancing green infrastructure      8. Policy EM5 of the NW RSS requiring integrated water management to reduce water pollution      9. The Greater Manchester Biodiversity Action Plan identifying Canals as a priority habitat for conservation      10. Restrictions on maximum amount of boat traffic using the Canal set by British Waterways and Natural England      11. Canal condition monitoring programme undertaken by British Waterways      12. Regulations controlling discharges to the Canal      13. European Habitats Directive requiring Appropriate Assessment of plans</p>	<p>Providing that the mitigating plans, policies and strategies are implemented appropriately through the development management process, it is considered that there will be sufficient safeguards in place to avoid significant harm to the special interest of the Rochdale Canal arising from the development of Failesworth Centre. It is considered that there is insufficient justification for preventing all development in this area because of potential impact on the SAC.</p>	

## **8. Consideration of ‘In Combination’ Effects with Other Plans and Proposals**

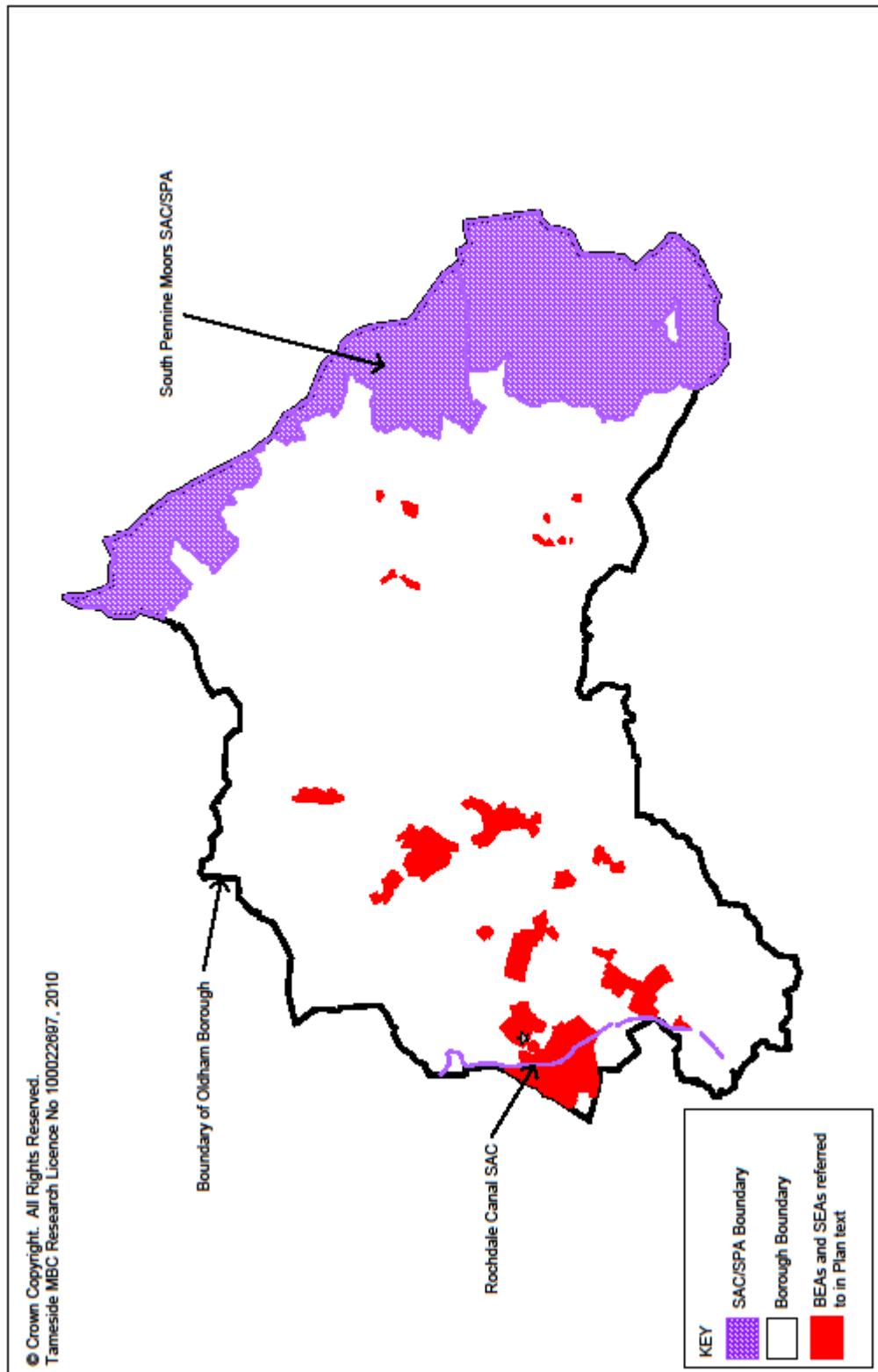
- 8.1 The Habitats Regulation Assessment must consider the likely significant effect of the Plan in relation to other proposals and plans current or planned within the relevant administrative area, other administrative authorities and prepared by other statutory organisations (e.g. Environment Agency, United Utilities) and in combination with the identified effects of those Plans.
- 8.2 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.
- 8.3 The North West Regional Spatial Strategy has considered the ‘in-combination’ effects of the Region’s Projects and Plans at a strategic level (Entec January 2007) and therefore such regionally strategic plans are not considered further in this Assessment.
- 8.4 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. These are listed in Appendix 4. One, Rochdale, has been assessed as potentially having an effect on a European site.
- 8.5 This Assessment will be updated and amended as necessary as further Plans come forward for Assessment in order to take into account possible ‘in-combination’ effects arising, particularly within Rochdale.

## **9 Summary and Recommendations**

- 9.1 Screening of European sites has established that the following European site has the potential to be affected by development in Oldham proposed by the Joint Core Strategy and Development Management Policies DPD; Refining Options.
- Rochdale Canal SAC
- 9.3 Further, more detailed Assessment of the possible effects of the operation of Core and Development Management Policies on the Rochdale Canal SAC identified in the Screening process has been undertaken.
- 9.4 Recent developments along the Rochdale Canal corridor have shown that it is possible to allow for relatively large-scale developments close to the Canal without causing significant harm to the special interests of the SAC, providing that appropriate precautions are taken. It is therefore considered unreasonable to prevent all development in areas of Oldham close to the Canal. The Assessment has therefore concluded that, although development is proposed in areas relatively close to the Canal, providing mitigating plans, policies and strategies are adopted and implemented appropriately through the development management process, *in principle* development areas planned for in the Joint Core Strategy and Development Management Policies DPD; Refining Options can be allowed to go forward without harm being caused to the special interest of the Rochdale Canal SAC. This Opinion is based on this Screening Opinion supplemented by the experience and knowledge of the author in assessing the impacts of developments considered to have the potential to affect the special interest of the Canal.
- 9.4 It is **recommended** that any developments coming forward within the areas identified in the Plan as Hollinwood, Chadderton Technology Park, Foxdenton, and Failsworth District Centre be referred for possible further HRA as part of the development management process so that appropriate mitigation for any damaging impacts can be implemented.
- 9.5 It is **recommended** that the GM Waste Plan be Assessed as part of this Assessment when available.
- 9.6 It is **recommended** that the GM Minerals Plan be Assessed as part of this Assessment when available

## REFERENCES

- DCLG (2006) Department for Communities and Local Government. *Planning for the protection of European Sites: Appropriate Assessment*. Available on-line from DCLG
- EC (1992) European Council. *Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild flora and fauna* Available on-line from EU
- ENTEC (2007) *Habitats Regulations Assessment of the North West Regional Spatial Strategy*. NWRA web-site.
- JN Cape et al *Concentrations of ammonia and nitrogen dioxide at roadside verges, and their contribution to nitrogen deposition* Environmental Pollution 132 (2004) p 469-478
- JNCC (2006) Joint Nature Conservation Committee *Rochdale Canal standard Natura 2000 data form* Available on-line from JNCC
- JNCC (2006) Joint Nature Conservation Committee *South Pennine Moors standard Natura 2000 data form* Available on-line from JNCC
- North West Regional Assembly (2008) *Adopted North West Regional Spatial Strategy*
- Scott Wilson et al 2006. Scott Wilson, levett-Therivel, Treweek Environmental Consultants and Land Use Consultants *Appropriate Assessment of Plans*. Available from <http://levett-therivel.fsworld.co.uk>
- Scott Wilson (2007). *AA of St. Helens Core Strategy Preferred Options DPD* (Draft)
- Scott Wilson 2008, *HRA Screening Assessment of the Greater Manchester Joint Waste Development Plan Document* (draft report)
- Conservation (Natural Habitats &c) (Amendment) Regulations 1997
- Natural England (2007) Conservation Objectives: Astley & Bedford Moss – Consultation Draft. Available from Natural England



**APPENDIX 1: European designated sites within the North West Region and possible effects from development within Oldham. Those highlighted in red have been ‘screened in’ to this Assessment**

Site Name	Designation	Type of Effect	Likely Effects
Asby Complex	SAC	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - No hydrological pathways between SAC and land within Oldham
	Air Pollution		None – No atmospheric pathways and any pollutants are likely to have dispersed prior to reaching SAC.
	Direct land take		None
	Habitat/Species Disturbance		None – Habitats and species in SAC are generally restricted to habitat types that do not occur in Greater Manchester
Border Mires, Kielder – Butterburn	Increased recreational Pressure		None – site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Oldham
	SAC	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - No hydrological pathways between SAC and land within Oldham
	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
Borrowdale Woodland Complex	Habitat/Species Disturbance		None – Site too distant for any direction disturbance to habitats.
	Increased recreational Pressure		None – site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Oldham
	SAC	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - No hydrological pathways between SAC and land within Oldham
	Air Pollution		None – No atmospheric pathways and any pollutants are likely to have dispersed prior to reaching SAC (see EA report).
Bowland Fells	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 Oldham
	SPA	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - No hydrological pathways between SPA and land within Oldham
	Air Pollution		None – No atmospheric pathways and any pollutants are likely to have dispersed prior to reaching SPA (see EA report).
	Direct land take		None
	Habitat/Species Disturbance		None – identified species are highly unlikely to utilise habitats within Oldham
	Increased recreational Pressure		None – site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Oldham

<b>Site Name</b>	<b>Designation</b>	<b>Type of Effect</b>	<b>Likely Effects</b>
Calf Hill & Cragg Woods	SAC	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - No hydrological pathways between SAC and land within Oldham
		Air Pollution	None – No atmospheric pathways and any pollutants are likely to have dispersed prior to reaching SAC (see EA report).
	Habitat/Species Disturbance	Direct land take	None
			None – Site too distant for any direct or indirect disturbance to habitats.
	SAC	Increased recreational Pressure	None – site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Oldham
		Water Quality/Hydrology	None - No hydrological pathways between SAC and land within Oldham
Clints Quarry	SAC	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 - Species population too distant to be affected by any development with Greater Manchester and species dispersion known to be less than 2km.
		Increased recreational Pressure	None – site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Oldham
	SAC	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - No hydrological pathways between SAC and land within Oldham
		Air Pollution	None – No atmospheric pathways and any pollutants are likely to have dispersed prior to reaching SAC (see EA report).
Cumbrian Marsh Fritillary Site	SAC	Direct land take	None
		Habitat/Species Disturbance	None - Species found in Cumbria is distinct national population, with adults being sedentary. Species not known to occur in Greater Manchester
	SPA/Ramsar	Increased recreational Pressure	None – site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Oldham
		Water Quality/Hydrology	None - No hydrological pathways between SPA and land within Oldham
	Dee Estuary	Air Pollution	None – No atmospheric pathways and any pollutants are likely to have dispersed prior to reaching SPA (see EA report).
		Direct land take	None
	Habitat/Species Disturbance		None – species identified highly unlikely to be effected by any habitat changes in Oldham
	Increased recreational Pressure		None – site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Oldham

<b>Site Name</b>	<b>Designation</b>	<b>Type of Effect</b>	<b>Likely Effects</b>
Drigg Coast	SAC	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - No hydrological pathways between SAC and land within Oldham. Oldham rivers do not discharge into Drigg Estuary
	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 – Habitats in SAC are restricted to habitat types that do not occur in Greater Manchester
	Increased recreational Pressure		None – site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Oldham
Duddon Estuary	SPA/Ramsar	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - No hydrological pathways between SAC and land within Oldham
	Air Pollution		None – No atmospheric pathways and any pollutants are likely to have dispersed prior to reaching SPA (see EA report).
	Direct land take		None
	Habitat/Species Disturbance		None – species identified highly unlikely to be effected by any habitat changes in Oldham
	Increased recreational Pressure		None – site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Oldham
Duddon Mosses	SAC	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - No hydrological pathways between SAC and land within Oldham
	Air Pollution		None – No atmospheric pathways and any pollutants are likely to have dispersed prior to reaching SPA (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 Oldham
Esthwaite Water	Ramsar	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - No hydrological pathways between Ramsar site and land within Oldham
	Air Pollution		None – No atmospheric pathways and any pollutants are likely to have dispersed prior to reaching Ramsar site (see EA report).
	Direct land take		None
	Habitat/Species Disturbance		None – habitats and species identified highly unlikely to be effected by any habitat changes in Oldham
	Increased recreational Pressure		None – site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Oldham

<b>Site Name</b>	<b>Designation</b>	<b>Type of Effect</b>	<b>Likely Effects</b>
Irthinghead Mires	Ramsar	Water Quality/Hydrology Air Pollution	None - No hydrological pathways between Ramsar site and land within Oldham None – No atmospheric pathways and any pollutants are likely to have dispersed prior to reaching Ramsar site (see EA report).
	Direct land take		None
	Habitat/Species Disturbance		None – habitats and species identified highly unlikely to be effected by any habitat changes in Oldham
	Increased recreational Pressure		None – site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Oldham
Lake District High Fells	SAC	Water Quality/Hydrology Air Pollution	None - No hydrological pathways between SAC and land within Oldham 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 or species
	Increased recreational Pressure		None – site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Oldham
Leighton Moss	SPA/Ramsar	Water Quality/Hydrology Air Pollution	None - No hydrological pathways between SPA/Ramsar Site and land within Oldham None – No atmospheric pathways and any pollutants are likely to have dispersed prior to reaching SPA and Ramsar Site (see EA report).
	Direct land take		None
	Habitat/Species Disturbance		None – Habitats and species identified highly unlikely to be effected by any habitat changes in Oldham
	Increased recreational Pressure		None – site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Oldham
Liverpool Bay	pSPA	Water Quality/Hydrology Air Pollution	None - No hydrological pathways between SPA and land within Oldham None – No atmospheric pathways and any pollutants are likely to have dispersed prior to reaching SPA (see EA report).
	Direct land take		None
	Habitat/Species Disturbance		None – no information available as to species site selected for but type of species present highly unlikely to be effected by any habitat changes in Oldham (based on knowledge of Greater Manchester bird populations)
	Increased recreational Pressure		None – site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Oldham

<b>Site Name</b>	<b>Designation</b>	<b>Type of Effect</b>	<b>Likely Effects</b>
Manchester Mosses	SAC	Water Quality/Hydrology	Potential drainage effects
	Air Pollution		Potential effects from airborne pollutants
	Direct land take		None
	Habitat/Species Disturbance		Potential for habitats to be effected by hydrological impacts and pollution
	Increased recreational Pressure		Potential effects due to increased population
Martin Mere	SPA/Ramsar	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - No hydrological pathways between SPA/Ramsar Site and land within Oldham
	Air Pollution		None – No atmospheric pathways and any pollutants are likely to have dispersed prior to reaching SPA/Ramsar Site (see EA report).
	Direct land take		None
	Habitat/Species Disturbance		None – Habitats and species identified highly unlikely to be effected by any habitat changes in Oldham
	Increased recreational Pressure		None – site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Oldham
Mersey Estuary	SPA/Ramsar	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - Strategic impacts of increased development in Oldham on the water quality in the SPA/Ramsar Site are considered under the HRA for RSS, where figures for employment land and residential development are set.
	Air Pollution		None – No atmospheric pathways and any pollutants are likely to have dispersed prior to reaching SPA/Ramsar Site (see EA report).
	Direct land take		None
	Habitat/Species Disturbance		None – Habitats and species identified highly unlikely to be significantly effected by any habitat changes in Oldham
	Increased recreational Pressure		None – site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Oldham

<b>Site Name</b>	<b>Designation</b>	<b>Type of Effect</b>	<b>Likely Effects</b>
Mersey Narrows & Wirral Foresore	pSPA	Water Quality/Hydrology	Site classification details unavailable but there are unlikely to be any hydrological pathways between SPA and land within Oldham
	Air Pollution		Site classification details unavailable but there are unlikely to be any atmospheric pathways between SPA and land within Oldham
	Direct land take		None
	Habitat/Species Disturbance		None – no information available as to species site selected for but type of species present highly unlikely to be effected by any habitat changes in Oldham (based on knowledge of Greater Manchester bird populations).
	Increased recreational Pressure		None – site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Oldham
Midland Meres & Mosses – Phase 1 & Phase 2	2 x Ramsar	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - No hydrological pathways between Ramsar site and land within Oldham
	Air Pollution		None – No atmospheric pathways and any pollutants are likely to have dispersed prior to reaching Ramsar site (see EA report).
	Direct land take		None
	Habitat/Species Disturbance		None – habitats and species identified highly unlikely to be effected by any habitat changes in Oldham
	Increased recreational Pressure		None – site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Oldham
Moor House – Upper Teasdale	SAC	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - No hydrological pathways between SAC and land within Oldham
	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 and species.
	Increased recreational Pressure		None – site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Oldham

<b>Site Name</b>	<b>Designation</b>	<b>Type of Effect</b>	<b>Likely Effects</b>
Morcombe Bay	SAC/Ramsar/SPA	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - No hydrological pathways between SAC/SPA/Ramsar Site and land within Oldham. Oldham rivers do not discharge into Morcombe Bay
	Air Pollution		None – No atmospheric pathways and any pollutants are likely to have dispersed prior to reaching SAC/SPA/Ramsar Site (see EA report).
	Direct land take		None
	Habitat/Species Disturbance		None – Habitats in SAC/SPA/Ramsar Site are restricted to habitat types that do not occur in Greater Manchester. Dispersion of Great Crested Newts is known to be less than 2km. Bird species unlikely to be effected by habitat changes within Oldham.
	Increased recreational Pressure		None – site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Oldham
Morcombe Bay Pavements	SAC	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - No hydrological pathways between SAC and land within Oldham
	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 – Habitats and species in SAC are generally restricted to habitat types that do not occur in Greater Manchester
	Increased recreational Pressure		None – site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Oldham
Naddle Forest	SAC	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - No hydrological pathways between SAC and land within Oldham
	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 Oldham

<b>Site Name</b>	<b>Designation</b>	<b>Type of Effect</b>	<b>Likely Effects</b>
North Pennine Dales Meadows	SAC	Water Quality/Hydrology Air Pollution	None - No hydrological pathways between SAC and land within Oldham 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 and species. Habitats in SAC are generally restricted to habitat types that do not occur in Greater Manchester
	Increased recreational Pressure		None – site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Oldham
North Pennine Moors	SAC/SPA	Water Quality/Hydrology Air Pollution	None - No hydrological pathways between SAC/SPA and land within Oldham None – No atmospheric pathways and any pollutants are likely to have dispersed prior to reaching SAC/SPA (see EA report).
	Direct land take		None
	Habitat/Species Disturbance		None – Site too distant for any direct or indirect disturbance to habitats and species. Species unlikely to be effected by changes to habitats in Oldham.
	Increased recreational Pressure		None – site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Oldham
Oak Mere	SAC	Water Quality/Hydrology Air Pollution	None - No hydrological pathways between SAC and land within Oldham 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 from for any direct or indirect disturbance to habitats and species.
	Increased recreational Pressure		None – site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Oldham
Peak District Moors (South Pennine Moors Phase 1)	SPA	Water Quality/Hydrology Air Pollution	None - No hydrological pathways between SPA and land within Oldham None – Any pollutants are likely to have dispersed prior to reaching SPA (see EA report).
	Direct land take		None
	Habitat/Species Disturbance		None – species identified highly unlikely to be effected by any habitat changes in Oldham
	Increased recreational Pressure		None – site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Oldham

<b>Site Name</b>	<b>Designation</b>	<b>Type of Effect</b>	<b>Likely Effects</b>
Ribble & Alt Estuaries	SPA/Ramsar	Water Quality/Hydrology Air Pollution	None - No hydrological pathways between SPA/Ramsar Site and land within Oldham None – No atmospheric pathways and any pollutants are likely to have dispersed prior to reaching SPA/Ramsar Site (see EA report).
	Direct land take		None
	Habitat/Species Disturbance		None – habitats and species identified highly unlikely to be effected by any habitat changes in Oldham
	Increased recreational Pressure		None – site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Oldham
River Dee & Bala Lake	SAC	Water Quality/Hydrology Air Pollution	None - No hydrological pathways between SAC and land within Oldham 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 and species.
	Increased recreational Pressure		None – site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Oldham
River Derwent & Bassenthwaite Lake	SAC	Water Quality/Hydrology	None – no water borne pollution pathways to SAC from Greater Manchester. Strategic impacts of increased development in Oldham on the water levels in the SAC are considered under the HRA for RSS, where figures for employment land and residential development are set.
	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 and species.
	Increased recreational Pressure		None – site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Oldham

<b>Site Name</b>	<b>Designation</b>	<b>Type of Effect</b>	<b>Likely Effects</b>
River Eden	SAC	Water Quality/Hydrology Air Pollution	None - No hydrological pathways between SAC and land within Oldham 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 and species.
		Increased recreational Pressure	None – site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Oldham
River Ehen	SAC	Water Quality/Hydrology Air Pollution	None - No hydrological pathways between SAC and land within Oldham 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 - No hydrological connections and main species (fresh water pearl mussel) does not occur in Greater Manchester
		Increased recreational Pressure	None – site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Oldham
River Kent	SAC	Water Quality/Hydrology Air Pollution	None - No hydrological pathways between SAC and land within Oldham 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 and species.
		Increased recreational Pressure	None – site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Oldham
Rixton Clay Pits	SAC	Water Quality/Hydrology Air Pollution	Possible - site lies within 800m of Oldham Unlikely – air pollution not identified as potentially damaging operation on interest of SAC
		Direct land take	None
		Habitat/Species Disturbance	Possible - site lies within 800m of Oldham
		Increased recreational Pressure	Possible - site lies within 800m of Oldham

<b>Site Name</b>	<b>Designation</b>	<b>Type of Effect</b>	<b>Likely Effects</b>
Rochdale Canal	SAC	Water Quality/Hydrology Air Pollution Direct land take Habitat/Species Disturbance Increased recreational Pressure	Possible – parts of the European site are within Oldham Borough Possible – parts of the European site are within Oldham Borough Possible – parts of the European site are within Oldham Borough Possible – parts of the European site are within Oldham Borough <b>Possible – parts of the European site are within Oldham Borough</b>
Rostherne Mere	Ramsar	Water Quality/Hydrology Air Pollution Direct land take Habitat/Species Disturbance Increased recreational Pressure	None - No hydrological pathways between Ramsar site and land within Oldham None – No atmospheric pathways and any pollutants are likely to have dispersed prior to reaching Ramsar site (see EA report). None None – habitats and species identified highly unlikely to be effected by any habitat changes in Oldham None – site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Oldham
Roudsea Wood & Mosses	SAC	Water Quality/Hydrology Air Pollution Direct land take Habitat/Species Disturbance Increased recreational Pressure	None - No hydrological pathways between SAC and land within Oldham None – No atmospheric pathways and any pollutants are likely to have dispersed prior to reaching SAC (see EA report). None None – Site too distant for any direct or indirect disturbance to habitats and species. None – site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Oldham

<b>Site Name</b>	<b>Designation</b>	<b>Type of Effect</b>	<b>Likely Effects</b>
Sefton Coast	SAC	Water Quality/Hydrology Air Pollution	None - No hydrological pathways between SAC and land within Oldham 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 and species. Habitat types do not occur in Greater Manchester
	Increased recreational Pressure		None – site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Oldham
Solway Firth	SAC	Water Quality/Hydrology Air Pollution	None - No hydrological pathways between SAC and land within Oldham 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 and species.
	Increased recreational Pressure		None – site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Oldham
South Pennine Moors	SAC	Water Quality/Hydrology Air Pollution Direct land take	Possible – parts of the European site are within Oldham Borough Possible – parts of the European site are within Oldham Borough Possible – parts of the European site are within Oldham Borough
	Habitat/Species Disturbance		Possible – parts of the European site are within Oldham Borough
	Increased recreational Pressure		Possible – parts of the European site are within Oldham Borough
South Pennine Moors Phase 2	SPA	Water Quality/Hydrology Air Pollution Direct land take	Possible – parts of the European site are within Oldham Borough Possible – parts of the European site are within Oldham Borough Possible – parts of the European site are within Oldham Borough
	Habitat/Species Disturbance		Possible – parts of the European site are within Oldham Borough
	Increased recreational Pressure		Possible – parts of the European site are within Oldham Borough

<b>Site Name</b>	<b>Designation</b>	<b>Type of Effect</b>	<b>Likely Effects</b>
South Solway Mosses	SAC	Water Quality/Hydrology Air Pollution	None - No hydrological pathways between SAC and land within Oldham 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 and species.
	Increased recreational Pressure		None – site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Oldham
Subberthwaite , Blawith & Tורver Low Commons	SAC	Water Quality/Hydrology Air Pollution	None - No hydrological pathways between SAC and land within Oldham 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 and species.
	Increased recreational Pressure		None – site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Oldham
Tarn Moss	SAC	Water Quality/Hydrology Air Pollution	None - No hydrological pathways between SAC and land within Oldham 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 and species.
	Increased recreational Pressure		None – site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Oldham
Tyne & Nent	SAC	Water Quality/Hydrology Air Pollution	None - No hydrological pathways between SAC and land within Oldham 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. Habitat not found in Greater Manchester
	Increased recreational Pressure		None – site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Oldham

<b>Site Name</b>	<b>Designation</b>	<b>Type of Effect</b>	<b>Likely Effects</b>
Ullswater Oakwoods	SAC	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - No hydrological pathways between SAC and land within Oldham
	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.
Upper Solway Flats & Marshes	Increased recreational Pressure		None – site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Oldham
	Water Quality/Hydrology		None - No hydrological pathways between SPA/Ramsar Site and land within Oldham
	Air Pollution		None – No atmospheric pathways and any pollutants are likely to have dispersed prior to reaching SPA/Ramsar Site (see EA report).
	Direct land take		None
Walton Moss	Habitat/Species Disturbance		None – species identified highly unlikely to be effected by any habitat changes in Oldham
	Increased recreational Pressure		None – site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Oldham
	Water Quality/Hydrology		None - No hydrological pathways between SAC and land within Oldham
	Air Pollution		None – No atmospheric pathways and any pollutants are likely to have dispersed prior to reaching SAC (see EA report).
Wast Water	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 Oldham
	Water Quality/Hydrology		None - No hydrological pathways between SAC and land within Oldham
	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 habitat. Habitat does not occur in Greater Manchester
	Increased recreational Pressure		None – site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Oldham

<b>Site Name</b>	<b>Designation</b>	<b>Type of Effect</b>	<b>Likely Effects</b>
West Midlands Mosses	SAC	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - No hydrological pathways between SAC and land within Oldham
	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 and species.
	Increased recreational Pressure		None – site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Oldham
Witherslack Mosses	SAC	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - No hydrological pathways between SAC and land within Oldham
	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 and species.
	Increased recreational Pressure		None – site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Oldham
Yewbarrow Woods	SAC	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - No hydrological pathways between SAC and land within Oldham
	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 and species.
	Increased recreational Pressure		None – site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Oldham

**APPENDIX 2: Screening Summary of European designated sites within the North West Region and possible impacts from development within Oldham City**

Site Name	Designation	Screened in/out	Justification
Asby Complex	SAC	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and no strategic impacts or pathways identified in RSS HRA
Border Mires, Kielder – Butterburn	SAC	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and no strategic impacts or pathways identified in RSS HRA
Borrowdale Woodland Complex	SAC	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and no strategic impacts or pathways identified in RSS HRA
Bowland Fells	SPA	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and strategic impacts considered by RSS HRA
Calf Hill & Cragg Woods	SAC	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and no strategic impacts or pathways identified in RSS HRA
Clints Quarry	SAC	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and no strategic impacts or pathways identified in RSS HRA
Cumbrian Marsh Fritillary Site	SAC	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and no strategic impacts or pathways identified in RSS HRA
Dee Estuary	SPA/Ramsar	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and strategic impacts considered by RSS HRA
Drigg Coast	SAC	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and no strategic impacts or pathways identified in RSS HRA
Duddon Estuary	SPA/Ramsar	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and no strategic impacts or pathways identified in RSS HRA
Duddon Mosses	SAC	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and no strategic impacts or pathways identified in RSS HRA
Esthwaite Water	Ramsar	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and no strategic impacts or pathways identified in RSS HRA
Irthinghead Mires	Ramsar	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and no strategic impacts or pathways identified in RSS HRA
Lake District High Fells	SAC	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and no strategic impacts or pathways identified in RSS HRA
Leighton Moss	SPA/Ramsar	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and no strategic impacts or pathways identified in RSS HRA

Site Name	Designation	Screened in/out	Justification
Liverpool Bay	pSPA	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and strategic impacts
Manchester Mosses	SAC	In	Site lies partly within Wigan MBC area
Martin Mere	SPA/Ramsar	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and strategic impacts
Mersey Estuary	SPA/Ramsar	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and strategic impacts
Mersey Narrows & Wirral Foresore	pSPA	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and strategic impacts
Midland Meres & Mosses – Phase 1 & Phase 2	2 x Ramsar	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and strategic impacts
Moor House – Upper Teasdale	SAC	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and no strategic impacts or pathways identified in RSS HRA
Morcombe Bay	SAC/Ramsar/SAC	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and no strategic impacts or pathways identified in RSS HRA
Morcombe Bay Pavements	SAC	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and no strategic impacts or pathways identified in RSS HRA
Naddle Forest	SAC	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and no strategic impacts or pathways identified in RSS HRA
North Pennine Dales Meadows	SAC	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and no strategic impacts or pathways identified in RSS HRA
North Pennine Moors	SAC/SPA	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and strategic impacts
Oak Mere	SAC	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and no strategic impacts or pathways identified in RSS HRA
Peak District Moors (South Pennine Moors Phase 1)	SPA	Out	Although within Greater Manchester the site is considered too distant for significant effects to arise and no known pathways exist between SPA and Wigan.
Ribble & Alt Estuaries	SPA/Ramsar	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and strategic impacts
River Dee & Bala Lake	SAC	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and no strategic impacts or pathways identified in RSS HRA

Site Name	Designation	Screened in/out	Justification
River Derwent & Bassenthwaite Lake	SAC	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and strategic impacts considered by RSS HRA
River Eden	SAC	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and no strategic impacts or pathways identified in RSS HRA
River Ehen	SAC	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and no strategic impacts or pathways identified in RSS HRA
River Kent	SAC	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and no strategic impacts or pathways identified in RSS HRA
Rixton Clay Pits	SAC	In	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and no strategic impacts or pathways identified in RSS HRA
Rochdale Canal	SAC	Out	Although within Greater Manchester the site is considered too distant for significant effects to arise and no known pathways exist between SPA and Wigan.
Rostherne Mere	Ramsar	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and no strategic impacts or pathways identified in RSS HRA
Roudsea Wood & Mosses	SAC	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and no strategic impacts or pathways identified in RSS HRA
Sefton Coast	SAC	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and no strategic impacts or pathways identified in RSS HRA
Solway Firth	SAC	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and no strategic impacts or pathways identified in RSS HRA
South Pennine Moors	SAC	Out	Although within Greater Manchester the site is considered too distant for significant effects to arise and no known pathways exist between SPA and Wigan.
South Pennine Moors Phase 2	SPA	Out	Although within Greater Manchester the site is considered too distant for significant effects to arise and no known pathways exist between SPA and Wigan.
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 and no strategic impacts or pathways identified in RSS HRA
Tarn Moss	SAC	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and no strategic impacts or pathways identified in RSS HRA

<b>Site Name</b>	<b>Designation</b>	<b>Screened in/out</b>	<b>Justification</b>
Tyne & Nent	SAC	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and no strategic impacts or pathways identified in RSS HRA
Ullswater Oakwoods	SAC	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and no strategic impacts or pathways identified in RSS HRA
Upper Solway Flats & Marshes	SPA/Ramsar	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and no strategic impacts or pathways identified in RSS HRA
Walton Moss	SAC	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and no strategic impacts or pathways identified in RSS HRA
Wast Water	SAC	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and no strategic impacts or pathways identified in RSS HRA
West Midlands Mosses	SAC	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and no strategic impacts or pathways identified in RSS HRA
Witherslack Mosses	SAC	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and no strategic impacts or pathways identified in RSS HRA
Yewbarrow Woods	SAC	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and no strategic impacts or pathways identified in RSS HRA

### **APPENDIX 3 – List of Other Plans and Projects Considered within the Assessment**

#### Plans Assessed under the Terms of the Habitats Regulations by GMEU

District	Plan	Outcome of Assessment
Rochdale MBC	SPD 'Energy and New Development'	No effect on European Sites
Rochdale MBC	SPD provision of Recreational Open Space in New Housing Developments	No effect on European Sites
Rochdale MBC	SPD Development of East Central Rochdale	No effect on European Sites
Rochdale MBC	SPD Biodiversity and Development	No effect on European Sites
Rochdale MBC	SPD Affordable Housing	No effect on European Sites
Manchester CC	SPD Providing for Housing Choice	No effect on European Sites
Bolton MBC	LDF Core Strategy Issues and Options	No effect on European Sites
Oldham MBC	LDF Core Strategy Issues and Options	No effect on European Sites
Bury MBC	LDF Core Strategy Issues and Options	No effect on European Sites
Oldham MBC	LDF Broad Locations for Preferred Options	Potential Effects on Rochdale Canal SAC
Wigan MBC	LDF Core Strategy Preferred Options	No identified effect on European Sites at this stage – further assessment may be needed at a later stage
Salford CC	Draft Core Strategy	No effects on European sites

#### Plans Assessed under the Terms of the Habitats Regulations by other bodies

District	Plan	Outcome of Assessment
Warrington MBC	SPD – Managing the Housing Supply	No effect on European Sites
Warrington MBC	SPD – Affordable Housing	No effect on European Sites
Warrington MBC	SPD – Travel Plans	No effect on European Sites
Warrington MBC	SPD – Planning Obligations	No effect on European Sites
Warrington MBC	SPD – Landscape Design Guide for new development	No effect on European Sites
Warrington MBC	SPD – Open Space & Recreation Provision	No effect on European Sites
Warrington MBC	SPD – Bridge Street Area	No effect on European Sites

