

Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) of the Impact on European Protected Sites of Oldham Council's Broad Locations for Preferred Options for the Local Development Framework

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Prepared by

**The Greater Manchester Ecology Unit
Ryecroft Hall
Manchester Road
Audenshaw
Manchester**

For

Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council

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Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) of the Impact of Oldham Council's Broad Locations for Preferred Options for the Local Development Framework on European Protected Sites

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 Core Strategy of Oldham Metropolitan Borough 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 The purpose of Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA) of land use plans is to ensure that protection of the integrity of European sites is a part of the planning process at a regional and local level. The network of European protected sites is referred to as 'Natura 2000' and 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) are also included in HRAs.

- 1.4 This report

- Identifies by a screening process any European sites that could potentially be affected by development in areas selected by Oldham MBC as Broad Locations for preferred [development] options.
- Outlines details of the nature conservation importance of any European sites 'screened in' to the process.
- Identifies the possible impacts that development within the Broad Locations may have on features of nature conservation importance within European sites.
- Assesses development impacts that could potentially affect the favourable conservation status of European sites.
- Identifies controls within the Core Strategy and other development plan documents, strategies, policies and plans that could act to avoid or mitigate these impacts.
- 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 the Oldham Core Strategy.

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 and 2 of the Habitats Regulation Assessment process and contributes to the fulfillment of the Council's statutory duty as regards Article 6(3); that is, it is an Opinion on and an Assessment of whether or not the selection of Broad Locations for development by Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council as part of the Core Strategy of the Oldham MBC Local Development Framework (hereafter referred to as 'the Plan') may have an impact on the special interest of any European designated protected sites and, if so, whether the identified impacts can be avoided or mitigated or whether any of the identified broad locations need to be de-selected as part of the development of the Plan.

1.7 It is noted that the Plan being assessed is at the early stages of development and further assessments may be required as the Plan develops. 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 Metropolitan Borough Council, has prepared this Assessment. Natural England and the JNCC were consulted for information on the conservation objectives and favourable condition tables for the European Sites concerned (this information is summarised below). GMEU ecologists, who are familiar with the European sites concerned and their special nature conservation interests, reviewed the ecological information for the sites. The key vulnerabilities and sensitivities of the European sites concerned are well understood by GMEU. GMEU has carried out a number of formal Appropriate Assessments of development proposals considered to have the potential to affect the European Sites concerned and also passes informed comment on any application for development within its administrative area considered to have the potential to affect European Sites. This experience allows for an informed assessment of the possible effects of the Plan, and any specific aims, objectives and policies contained in the Plan, to be made.

2 Brief description of the Plan being Assessed

2.1 The Core Strategy is part of the emerging Local Development Framework (LDF) for Oldham MBC. The Core Strategy lays out broad strategic directions to guide and manage future development in the Borough of Oldham. Broad locations within Oldham considered suitable for accommodating future medium and large scale development have been identified as part of the development of the Core Strategy. It is the possible impact of development in these identified locations on the integrity and favourable conservation status of European sites that has been Assessed in this document, *not* the Core Strategy in its entirety.

2.2 For the purposes of this Assessment the Core Strategy is not complete; an opinion is being sought at an early stage of Plan production to ensure that the requirements to meet terms of the Regulations regarding Habitats Regulation Assessment can be properly planned for and addressed.

2.3 Six possible Broad Locations have been identified. These areas are briefly described below and are represented spatially in Fig 1. Details of the exact nature and type of development that may be allowed in these areas are not yet available. At this stage of the

process only the broad type and scale of preferred development is available for Assessment and consequently the Assessment has largely considered the *principle* of allowing the Broad Locations to be proposed as areas where development is to be brought forward as part of the Plan. The identified Broad Locations will be further consulted upon as part of the development of the Core Strategy and it is recognised that Broad Locations, and the type of preferred development in these areas, may be subject to change.

2.4.1 Hollinwood Business District

This is a Masterplan area with the vision ‘a new business-led district for Oldham that meets Oldham’s needs for good quality business space in an efficient and attractive environment to support a growing and productive local economy’. Proposals for this area include office space, residential units, hotels, a new Metrolink station and new greenspace.

2.4.2 Chadderton Technology Park

This is a Masterplan area aiming to create high quality modern floor space and new jobs away from the existing manufacturing base. Proposals for this area include creating spaces for high technology companies, a new waste and recycling transfer station, new greenspace, a new Metrolink station and residential units.

2.4.3 New West End

This is a Masterplan aimed at redeveloping the west of Oldham town centre. Proposals for this area include new office space, new educational facilities, a new hotel, new retail space and residential units.

2.4.4 Mumps

This Masterplan area proposes the development of commercial office space to the east of Mumps bridge, new space for creative industries around Rhodes bank and new residential units to the west of Mumps bridge.

2.4.5 Foxdenton

Although this area has been identified as a priority area for development there are no firm plans as to the future development of the area.

2.4.6 NDC Masterplan Area

A Masterplan for the regeneration of homes and neighbourhoods in the Hathershaw and Fitton Hill areas of the borough. Development will focus on residential development, with some new retail and office space and new or redeveloped public spaces.

3 Identification of European designated sites concerned

3.1 This Assessment has first screened European designated sites in the North West of England to decide which of these sites are likely to be affected by development in the identified areas of Oldham (the Broad Locations for Preferred Options). In carrying out this screening process the Assessment has considered the main possible sources of impacts on the European sites, possible pathways to the European Sites and possible sensitive receptors in the European sites.

Possible sources and pathways for impacts arising from development in the identified Broad Locations and used in the screening of European sites are

- Water (water pollution)

- Air (air pollution)
- Direct land-take
- Shading
- Increased recreational pressure

Guidance from the Environment Agency (EA) concerning distances at which significant effects on European sites are caused by water or air pollution have been taken into account during the screening of European sites. The EA has set recommended buffer zones for certain types of operation (in particular, waste treatment operations) that are in part applicable to other types of operation. Outside of these buffer zones significant effects on European sites arising from water and air pollution are considered unlikely to arise. The largest (most cautious) buffer zone considered by the EA is 5km; that is, most operations with the potential of causing water and/or air pollution 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. These buffer zones should not be regarded as definitive – for example, they would not include possible impacts arising from very large or damaging operations (arising, for example, from a new large power station) or certain ‘secondary’ impacts such as an increase in recreational pressures caused by significantly increased regional populations.

- 3.2 First, the Assessment has considered the suite of European sites assessed within the Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) Habitat Regulations Assessment. These sites are listed in Appendix 1. This is a useful starting point for the screening opinion of this document’s HRA in order that *all* European sites considered to have the potential to be affected by development within the north-west region can be initially considered for assessment, but that a number of these European sites can then be screened out of future consideration.
- 3.3 From the screening process detailed in Appendix 1 the following European designated sites have been identified as having the potential to be affected by development within the selected Broad Locations –
- ***The Rochdale Canal SAC***
 - ***The South Pennine Moors SAC***
 - ***The South Pennine Moors SPA***

The nature conservation importance of these ‘screened in’ European designated sites is described in section 5 below.

4 Consideration of ‘In Combination’ Effects with Other Plans and Proposals

- 4.1 The Habitats Regulation Assessment must consider the likely significant impact 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 impacts of those Plans.
- 4.2 It can be considered that this will fall into two categories; those impacts 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.
- 4.3 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.
- 4.4 With respect to the localised ‘in-combination’ effects, there is at the current time an ongoing dialogue as to which part/parts of a Local Development Framework should be subjected to the HRA process and at what level of detail. Part of the debate is based on

whether all non-spatial SPDs should be considered for formal Assessment, or if it is sufficient to consider the Core Strategies Issues and Options of any particular Authorities' LDF, as this presents the key principles of the proposed SPDs. Following this, once spatial allocations are tabled the HRA can then more accurately consider both the likely significant impacts and the 'in-combination' effects from other plans and strategies on any particular European site. Once this issue has been clarified and a co-ordinated approach for the Region has been decided upon an Appendix will be produced to identify the Projects and Plans that are relevant to this HRA and assess their in-combination impacts. As regards the emerging Core Strategies and other Development Plan Documents of neighbouring authorities, those ready for initial Assessment have been screened by GMEU and none so far has been Assessed as having a significant impact on European sites. These are listed in Appendix 3.

- 4.5 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.
- 4.6 The emerging Policy Directions of the Oldham MBC Core Strategy and other Development Plan Documents (DPDs) have been considered in preparing this Assessment. None of the Policy Directions or DPDs so far Assessed are considered to have significant damaging effects on European sites; in fact many of those assessed are considered to have the potential to mitigate any identified damaging effects of the development of the identified Broad Locations.

5 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.

5.1 The Rochdale Canal

5.1.1 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.

5.1.2 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

5.1.3 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.

5.2 South Pennine Moors SAC/SPA

5.2.1 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 gravely 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.

5.2.2 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.

5.2.3 Primary reason for designation of the South Pennine Moors SAC

5.2.4 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 dryer than those further north and west, such that the bryophyte communities are less developed (although this lowered diversity may in some instances have been exaggerated by the effects of 19th century air pollution). Other components of the ground flora such as grasses, dwarf shrubs and ferns are common. Small areas of alder woodland along stream-sides add to the overall richness of the woods.

5.2.5 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*

5.2.6 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.

6 Screening Opinions

6.1 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)

6.2 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.

Table 6.1 Screening Summary Table – Rochdale Canal SAC

| Broad location | Damaging Impact | Likely significant effects of development | Screening Assessment |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------|--|----------------------|
| Hollinwood Business District | Dredging | Possible – the development zone extends to the banks of the Canal | Screened In |
| | Draining | Possible – the development zone extends to the banks of the Canal | Screened In |
| | Pollution | Possible – the development zone extends to the banks of the Canal | Screened In |
| | Shading | Possible – the development zone extends to the banks of the Canal | Screened In |
| | Increased boat traffic | Possible – the development zone extends to the banks of the Canal | Screened In |
| | Use of herbicides | Possible – the development zone extends to the banks of the Canal | Screened In |
| | Water abstraction | Possible – the development zone extends to the banks of the Canal | Screened In |
| Chadderton Technology Park | Dredging | Unlikely – site is too distant from the Canal for such direct effects to arise | Screened Out |
| | Draining | Unlikely – site is too distant from the Canal for such direct effects to arise | Screened Out |
| | Pollution | Possible – the nature of development envisioned may result in air and water pollution arising and pathways exist between the site and the Canal | Screened In |
| | Shading | Unlikely – site is too distant from the Canal for such direct effects to arise | Screened Out |
| | Increased boat traffic | Unlikely – site is too distant from the Canal for such direct effects to arise | Screened Out |
| | Use of herbicides | Unlikely – site is too distant from the Canal for such direct effects to arise | Screened Out |
| | Water abstraction | Unlikely – site is too distant from the Canal for such direct effects to arise | Screened Out |
| New West End | Dredging | Unlikely – site is too distant from the Canal for such direct effects to arise | Screened Out |
| | Draining | Unlikely – site is too distant from the Canal for such direct effects to arise | Screened Out |
| | Pollution | Unlikely – site is too distant from the Canal for such effects to arise (taking into account EA advice on buffer zones) | Screened Out |
| | Shading | Unlikely – site is too distant from the Canal for such direct effects to arise | Screened Out |
| | Increased boat traffic | Unlikely – site is too distant from the Canal for such direct effects to arise | Screened Out |
| | Use of herbicides | Unlikely – site is too distant from the Canal for such direct effects to arise | Screened Out |
| | Water abstraction | Unlikely – site is too distant from the Canal for such direct effects to arise | Screened Out |
| Mumps Masterplan | Dredging | Unlikely – site is too distant from the Canal for such direct effects to arise | Screened Out |
| | Draining | Unlikely – site is too distant from the Canal for such direct effects to arise | Screened Out |
| | Pollution | Unlikely – site is too distant from the Canal site is too distant from the Canal for such effects to arise (taking into account EA advice on buffer zones) | Screened Out |
| | Shading | Unlikely – site is too distant from the Canal for such direct effects to arise | Screened Out |
| | Increased boat traffic | Unlikely – site is too distant from the Canal for such direct effects to arise | Screened Out |
| | Use of herbicides | Unlikely – site is too distant from the Canal for such direct effects to arise | Screened Out |

| Broad location | Damaging Impact | Likely significant effects of development | Screening Assessment |
|----------------------------|------------------------|---|----------------------|
| Foxdenton | Dredging | Unlikely – site boundary does not extend to the canal banks so such direct effects are considered unlikely | Screened Out |
| | Draining | Unlikely – site boundary does not extend to the canal banks so such direct effects are considered unlikely | Screened Out |
| | Pollution | Possible - the nature of development envisioned may result in air and water pollution arising and pathways exist between the site and the Canal | Screened In |
| | Shading | Unlikely – site boundary does not extend to the canal banks so such direct effects are considered unlikely | Screened Out |
| | Increased boat traffic | Unlikely – site boundary does not extend to the canal banks so such direct effects are considered unlikely | Screened Out |
| | Use of herbicides | Unlikely – site boundary does not extend to the canal banks so such direct effects are considered unlikely | Screened Out |
| | Water abstraction | Unlikely – site is too distant from the Canal for such direct effects to arise | Screened Out |
| NDC Masterplan Area | Dredging | Unlikely – site is too distant from the Canal for such direct effects to arise | Screened Out |
| | Draining | Unlikely – site is too distant from the Canal for such direct effects to arise | Screened Out |
| | Pollution | Unlikely – site is too distant from the Canal for such direct effects to arise | Screened Out |
| | Shading | Unlikely – site is too distant from the Canal for such direct effects to arise | Screened Out |
| | Increased boat traffic | Unlikely – site is too distant from the Canal for such direct effects to arise | Screened Out |
| | Use of herbicides | Unlikely – site is too distant from the Canal for such direct effects to arise | Screened Out |
| | Water abstraction | Unlikely – site is too distant from the Canal for such direct effects to arise | Screened Out |

6.2 Possible Impacts of the Plan on the South Pennine Moors SAC/SPA– Screening Opinion

The most important operations that may damage the European special interest of the South Pennine Moors SAC/SPA are considered to include -

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

(Adapted from information available from Natural England)

Table 6.2 Screening Summary Table – South Pennine Moors SAC/SPA

| Broad location | Damaging Impact | Likely significant effects of development | Screening Assessment |
|-------------------------------------|---|---|----------------------|
| Hollinwood Business District | Cultivation | Unlikely – site is too distant from the European site and the nature of proposed development is unlikely to result in this impact arising | Screened Out |
| | Grazing | Unlikely – site is too distant from the European site and the nature of proposed development is unlikely to result in this impact arising | Screened Out |
| | Mowing or cutting | Unlikely – site is too distant from the European site and the nature of proposed development is unlikely to result in this impact arising | Screened Out |
| | Application of fertilisers | Unlikely – site is too distant from the European site and the nature of proposed development is unlikely to result in this impact arising | Screened Out |
| | Application of pesticides | Unlikely – site is too distant from the European site and the nature of proposed development is unlikely to result in this impact arising | Screened Out |
| | Burning | Unlikely – site is too distant from the European site and the nature of proposed development is unlikely to result in this impact arising | Screened Out |
| | Drainage | Unlikely – site is too distant from the European site and the nature of proposed development is unlikely to result in this impact arising | Screened Out |
| | Extraction of minerals | Unlikely – site is too distant from the European site and the nature of proposed development is unlikely to result in this impact arising | Screened Out |
| | Construction | Unlikely – site is too distant from the European site and the nature of proposed development is unlikely to result in this impact arising | Screened Out |
| | Erection of permanent structures | Unlikely – site is too distant from the European site and the nature of proposed development is unlikely to result in this impact arising | Screened Out |
| | Use of vehicles | Unlikely – site is too distant from the European site and the nature of proposed development is unlikely to result in this impact arising | Screened Out |
| | Pollution* | Unlikely – site is too distant from the European site and the nature of proposed development is unlikely to result in this impact arising | Screened Out |
| | Recreation* | Unlikely – site is too distant from the European site and the nature of proposed development is unlikely to result in this impact arising | Screened Out |
| | Agricultural intensification | Unlikely – site is too distant from the European site and the nature of proposed development is unlikely to result in this impact arising | Screened Out |
| | Alien species introduction | Unlikely – site is too distant from the European site and the nature of proposed development is unlikely to result in this impact arising | Screened Out |
| Increased predator populations | Unlikely – site is too distant from the European site and the nature of proposed development is unlikely to result in this impact arising | Screened Out | |

| Broad location | Damaging Impact | Likely significant effects of development | Screening Assessment |
|--------------------------------|---|---|----------------------|
| Chadderton Technology Park | Cultivation | Unlikely – site is too distant from the European site and the nature of proposed development is unlikely to result in this impact arising | Screened Out |
| | Grazing | Unlikely – site is too distant from the European site and the nature of proposed development is unlikely to result in this impact arising | Screened Out |
| | Mowing or cutting | Unlikely – site is too distant from the European site and the nature of proposed development is unlikely to result in this impact arising | Screened Out |
| | Application of fertilisers | Unlikely – site is too distant from the European site and the nature of proposed development is unlikely to result in this impact arising | Screened Out |
| | Application of pesticides | Unlikely – site is too distant from the European site and the nature of proposed development is unlikely to result in this impact arising | Screened Out |
| | Burning | Unlikely – site is too distant from the European site and the nature of proposed development is unlikely to result in this impact arising | Screened Out |
| | Drainage | Unlikely – site is too distant from the European site and the nature of proposed development is unlikely to result in this impact arising | Screened Out |
| | Extraction of minerals | Unlikely – site is too distant from the European site and the nature of proposed development is unlikely to result in this impact arising | Screened Out |
| | Construction | Unlikely – site is too distant from the European site and the nature of proposed development is unlikely to result in this impact arising | Screened Out |
| | Erection of permanent structures | Unlikely – site is too distant from the European site and the nature of proposed development is unlikely to result in this impact arising | Screened Out |
| | Use of vehicles | Unlikely – site is too distant from the European site and the nature of proposed development is unlikely to result in this impact arising | Screened Out |
| | Pollution* | Unlikely – site is too distant from the European site and the nature of proposed development is unlikely to result in this impact arising | Screened Out |
| | Recreation* | Unlikely – site is too distant from the European site and the nature of proposed development is unlikely to result in this impact arising | Screened Out |
| | Agricultural intensification | Unlikely – site is too distant from the European site and the nature of proposed development is unlikely to result in this impact arising | Screened Out |
| | Alien species introduction | Unlikely – site is too distant from the European site and the nature of proposed development is unlikely to result in this impact arising | Screened Out |
| Increased predator populations | Unlikely – site is too distant from the European site and the nature of proposed development is unlikely to result in this impact arising | Screened Out | |
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| Broad location | Damaging Impact | Likely significant effects of development | Screening Assessment |
|---------------------|----------------------------------|---|----------------------|
| New West End | Cultivation | Unlikely – site is too distant from the European site and the nature of proposed development is unlikely to result in this impact arising | Screened Out |
| | Grazing | Unlikely – site is too distant from the European site and the nature of proposed development is unlikely to result in this impact arising | Screened Out |
| | Mowing or cutting | Unlikely – site is too distant from the European site and the nature of proposed development is unlikely to result in this impact arising | Screened Out |
| | Application of fertilisers | Unlikely – site is too distant from the European site and the nature of proposed development is unlikely to result in this impact arising | Screened Out |
| | Application of pesticides | Unlikely – site is too distant from the European site and the nature of proposed development is unlikely to result in this impact arising | Screened Out |
| | Burning | Unlikely – site is too distant from the European site and the nature of proposed development is unlikely to result in this impact arising | Screened Out |
| | Drainage | Unlikely – site is too distant from the European site and the nature of proposed development is unlikely to result in this impact arising | Screened Out |
| | Extraction of minerals | Unlikely – site is too distant from the European site and the nature of proposed development is unlikely to result in this impact arising | Screened Out |
| | Construction | Unlikely – site is too distant from the European site and the nature of proposed development is unlikely to result in this impact arising | Screened Out |
| | Erection of permanent structures | Unlikely – site is too distant from the European site and the nature of proposed development is unlikely to result in this impact arising | Screened Out |
| | Use of vehicles | Unlikely – site is too distant from the European site and the nature of proposed development is unlikely to result in this impact arising | Screened Out |
| | Pollution* | Unlikely – site is too distant from the European site and the nature of proposed development is unlikely to result in this impact arising | Screened Out |
| | Recreation* | Unlikely – site is too distant from the European site and the nature of proposed development is unlikely to result in this impact arising | Screened Out |
| | Agricultural intensification | Unlikely – site is too distant from the European site and the nature of proposed development is unlikely to result in this impact arising | Screened Out |
| | Alien species introduction | Unlikely – site is too distant from the European site and the nature of proposed development is unlikely to result in this impact arising | Screened Out |
| | Increased predator populations | Unlikely – site is too distant from the European site and the nature of proposed development is unlikely to result in this impact arising | Screened Out |
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| Broad location | Damaging Impact | Likely significant effects of development | Screening Assessment |
|--------------------------------|---|---|----------------------|
| Mumps Masterplan | Cultivation | Unlikely – site is too distant from the European site and the nature of proposed development is unlikely to result in this impact arising | Screened Out |
| | Grazing | Unlikely – site is too distant from the European site and the nature of proposed development is unlikely to result in this impact arising | Screened Out |
| | Mowing or cutting | Unlikely – site is too distant from the European site and the nature of proposed development is unlikely to result in this impact arising | Screened Out |
| | Application of fertilisers | Unlikely – site is too distant from the European site and the nature of proposed development is unlikely to result in this impact arising | Screened Out |
| | Application of pesticides | Unlikely – site is too distant from the European site and the nature of proposed development is unlikely to result in this impact arising | Screened Out |
| | Burning | Unlikely – site is too distant from the European site and the nature of proposed development is unlikely to result in this impact arising | Screened Out |
| | Drainage | Unlikely – site is too distant from the European site and the nature of proposed development is unlikely to result in this impact arising | Screened Out |
| | Extraction of minerals | Unlikely – site is too distant from the European site and the nature of proposed development is unlikely to result in this impact arising | Screened Out |
| | Construction | Unlikely – site is too distant from the European site and the nature of proposed development is unlikely to result in this impact arising | Screened Out |
| | Erection of permanent structures | Unlikely – site is too distant from the European site and the nature of proposed development is unlikely to result in this impact arising | Screened Out |
| | Use of vehicles | Unlikely – site is too distant from the European site and the nature of proposed development is unlikely to result in this impact arising | Screened Out |
| | Pollution* | Unlikely – site is too distant from the European site and the nature of proposed development is unlikely to result in this impact arising | Screened Out |
| | Recreation* | Unlikely – site is too distant from the European site and the nature of proposed development is unlikely to result in this impact arising | Screened Out |
| | Agricultural intensification | Unlikely – site is too distant from the European site and the nature of proposed development is unlikely to result in this impact arising | Screened Out |
| | Alien species introduction | Unlikely – site is too distant from the European site and the nature of proposed development is unlikely to result in this impact arising | Screened Out |
| Increased predator populations | Unlikely – site is too distant from the European site and the nature of proposed development is unlikely to result in this impact arising | Screened Out | |
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| Broad location | Damaging Impact | Likely significant effects of development | Screening Assessment |
|--------------------------------|---|---|----------------------|
| Foxdenton | Cultivation | Unlikely – site is too distant from the European site and the nature of proposed development is unlikely to result in this impact arising | Screened Out |
| | Grazing | Unlikely – site is too distant from the European site and the nature of proposed development is unlikely to result in this impact arising | Screened Out |
| | Mowing or cutting | Unlikely – site is too distant from the European site and the nature of proposed development is unlikely to result in this impact arising | Screened Out |
| | Application of fertilisers | Unlikely – site is too distant from the European site and the nature of proposed development is unlikely to result in this impact arising | Screened Out |
| | Application of pesticides | Unlikely – site is too distant from the European site and the nature of proposed development is unlikely to result in this impact arising | Screened Out |
| | Burning | Unlikely – site is too distant from the European site and the nature of proposed development is unlikely to result in this impact arising | Screened Out |
| | Drainage | Unlikely – site is too distant from the European site and the nature of proposed development is unlikely to result in this impact arising | Screened Out |
| | Extraction of minerals | Unlikely – site is too distant from the European site and the nature of proposed development is unlikely to result in this impact arising | Screened Out |
| | Construction | Unlikely – site is too distant from the European site and the nature of proposed development is unlikely to result in this impact arising | Screened Out |
| | Erection of permanent structures | Unlikely – site is too distant from the European site and the nature of proposed development is unlikely to result in this impact arising | Screened Out |
| | Use of vehicles | Unlikely – site is too distant from the European site and the nature of proposed development is unlikely to result in this impact arising | Screened Out |
| | Pollution* | Unlikely – site is too distant from the European site and the nature of proposed development is unlikely to result in this impact arising | Screened Out |
| | Recreation* | Unlikely – site is too distant from the European site and the nature of proposed development is unlikely to result in this impact arising | Screened Out |
| | Agricultural intensification | Unlikely – site is too distant from the European site and the nature of proposed development is unlikely to result in this impact arising | Screened Out |
| | Alien species introduction | Unlikely – site is too distant from the European site and the nature of proposed development is unlikely to result in this impact arising | Screened Out |
| Increased predator populations | Unlikely – site is too distant from the European site and the nature of proposed development is unlikely to result in this impact arising | Screened Out | |
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| Broad location | Damaging Impact | Likely significant effects of development | Screening Assessment |
|----------------------------|----------------------------------|---|----------------------|
| NDC Masterplan Area | Cultivation | Unlikely – site is too distant from the European site and the nature of proposed development is unlikely to result in this impact arising | Screened Out |
| | Grazing | Unlikely – site is too distant from the European site and the nature of proposed development is unlikely to result in this impact arising | Screened Out |
| | Mowing or cutting | Unlikely – site is too distant from the European site and the nature of proposed development is unlikely to result in this impact arising | Screened Out |
| | Application of fertilisers | Unlikely – site is too distant from the European site and the nature of proposed development is unlikely to result in this impact arising | Screened Out |
| | Application of pesticides | Unlikely – site is too distant from the European site and the nature of proposed development is unlikely to result in this impact arising | Screened Out |
| | Burning | Unlikely – site is too distant from the European site and the nature of proposed development is unlikely to result in this impact arising | Screened Out |
| | Drainage | Unlikely – site is too distant from the European site and the nature of proposed development is unlikely to result in this impact arising | Screened Out |
| | Extraction of minerals | Unlikely – site is too distant from the European site and the nature of proposed development is unlikely to result in this impact arising | Screened Out |
| | Construction | Unlikely – site is too distant from the European site and the nature of proposed development is unlikely to result in this impact arising | Screened Out |
| | Erection of permanent structures | Unlikely – site is too distant from the European site and the nature of proposed development is unlikely to result in this impact arising | Screened Out |
| | Use of vehicles | Unlikely – site is too distant from the European site and the nature of proposed development is unlikely to result in this impact arising | Screened Out |
| | Pollution* | Unlikely – site is too distant from the European site and the nature of proposed development is unlikely to result in this impact arising | Screened Out |
| | Recreation* | Unlikely – site is too distant from the European site and the nature of proposed development is unlikely to result in this impact arising | Screened Out |
| | Agricultural intensification | Unlikely – site is too distant from the European site and the nature of proposed development is unlikely to result in this impact arising | Screened Out |
| | Alien species introduction | Unlikely – site is too distant from the European site and the nature of proposed development is unlikely to result in this impact arising | Screened Out |
| | Increased predator populations | Unlikely – site is too distant from the European site and the nature of proposed development is unlikely to result in this impact arising | Screened Out |
| | | | |

6.3 Notes on the Screening Process

- 6.3.1 As regards impacts from ***pollution**, the distances of the Broad Locations from the South Pennine Moors SAC are such that it is considered that only airborne pollutants arising from development would have the potential to affect the Moors. For reasons discussed in Appendix 2 it was considered that development within the Broad Locations were sufficiently distant, and possible airborne pollutants of a type and scale such that significant impacts on the Moors would be unlikely to result in significant impacts on the vegetation of the Moor.
- 6.3.2 As regards impacts from increased ***recreational activities**, although it was recognised in the Screening assessment that population increases caused by development of some of the Broad Locations could in principle cause an increase in recreational activity on the Moors an on the Rochdale Canal, it was considered that any population increases would not be sufficiently large or sufficiently close to the sensitive areas of the Moors or the Canal to cause significant impacts.

7 Summary of the Screening Opinions

7.1 Impacts on the Rochdale Canal SAC

The Screening Opinion of the HRA has concluded that development in the following areas could have an impact on the special interest of the Rochdale Canal -

Table 8.1 Potential impacts on the special interest of the Rochdale Canal SAC arising from development of certain Broad locations

| Broad Location | Potential impact on the Rochdale Canal SAC |
|------------------------------|--|
| Hollinwood Business District | Impacts could arise from water and air pollution, shading, dredging, draining, increased boat traffic, use of herbicides |
| Chadderton Technology Park | Impacts could arise from water and air pollution |
| Foxdenton | Impacts could arise from water and air pollution |

Further Assessment of these impacts is carried out below.

7.2 Impacts on the South Pennine Moors SAC

The Screening Opinion of the HRA has concluded that development within the identified Broad Locations is unlikely to have any significant impact on the special interest of the South Pennine Moors SAC/SPA. Further Assessment of impacts is therefore considered to be unnecessary.

8 Assessment of Potential Impacts identified through the Screening Process

Table 8.1 Assessment of the potential impacts 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.

| Broad Location | Potential Effects | Mitigating plans, policies and strategies | Is the impact considered to remain significant after applying mitigating influences? |
|--|--|--|--|
| <p>Hollinwood Business District</p> | <p>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 <i>principle</i> 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"> 1. Proposed policy direction in Oldham Core Strategy requiring sustainable development 2. Proposed policy direction in Oldham Core Strategy for enhancing green infrastructure 3. Proposed policy direction in Oldham Core Strategy for protecting natural environmental assets 4. Proposed policy direction in Oldham Core Strategy for ensuring quality in new developments 5. Proposed policy direction in Oldham Core Strategy for ensuring local environmental quality 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 NWRSS for enhancing green infrastructure 8. Policy EM5 of the NWRSS 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>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 the Hollinwood Business District.</p> |

| Broad Location | Potential Effects | Mitigating plans, policies and strategies | Is the impact considered to remain significant after applying mitigating influences? |
|--|--|--|--|
| <p>Chadderton Technology Park</p> | <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 <i>principle</i> 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"> 1. Proposed policy direction in Oldham Core Strategy requiring sustainable development 2. Proposed policy direction in Oldham Core Strategy for enhancing green infrastructure 3. Proposed policy direction in Oldham Core Strategy for protecting natural environmental assets 4. Proposed policy direction in Oldham Core Strategy for ensuring quality in new developments 5. Proposed policy direction in Oldham Core Strategy for ensuring local environmental quality 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 NWRSS for enhancing green infrastructure 8. Policy EM5 of the NWRSS 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>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 the Chadderton Technology Park.</p> |

| Broad Location | Potential Effects | Mitigating plans, policies and strategies | Is the impact considered to remain significant after applying mitigating influences? |
|------------------|--|--|---|
| Foxdenton | <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 <i>principle</i> 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"> 1. Proposed policy direction in Oldham Core Strategy requiring sustainable development 2. Proposed policy direction in Oldham Core Strategy for enhancing green infrastructure 3. Proposed policy direction in Oldham Core Strategy for protecting natural environmental assets 4. Proposed policy direction in Oldham Core Strategy for ensuring quality in new developments 5. Proposed policy direction in Oldham Core Strategy for ensuring local environmental quality 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 NWRSS for enhancing green infrastructure 8. Policy EM5 of the NWRSS 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>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.</p> |

9 Summary and Recommendations

9.1 Screening of European sites has established that the following sites have the potential to be affected by development in the Broad locations identified as part of the Oldham LDF Core Strategy –

- The Rochdale Canal SAC
- The South Pennine Moors SAC
- The South Pennine Moors SPA

9.2 Screening of the Broad Locations has established that development within the following Locations has the potential to cause an impact on the Rochdale Canal:

| Broad Location | Potential impact on the Rochdale Canal SAC |
|------------------------------|--|
| Hollinwood Business District | Impacts could arise from water and air pollution, shading, dredging, draining, increased boat traffic, use of herbicides |
| Chadderton Technology Park | Impacts could arise from water and air pollution |
| Foxdenton | Impacts could arise from water and air pollution |

9.3 Initial Screening has established that no significant impacts are considered likely to arise from development within the Broad Locations on the South Pennine Moors SAC/SPA.

9.4 Further, more detailed Assessment of the possible impacts of development of the Broad Locations on the Rochdale Canal SAC identified in the Screening process has been undertaken. This Assessment has concluded that, providing mitigating plans, policies and strategies are implemented appropriately through the development management process, development within the Broad Locations could proceed without harm being caused to the special interest of the Canal. It is recognised that the implementation of such plans, policies and strategies may restrict the scale and type of development brought forward in the identified Broad Locations, but that it is not justifiable to restrict development *per se* in these areas. 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.

9.5 It is recommended that any developments coming forward within the Hollinwood Business District, Chadderton Technology Park or Foxdenton Broad Locations be referred for possible HRA as part of the development management process so that appropriate mitigation for any damaging impacts can be implemented.

9.6 It is recommended that if any changes are made to the boundaries of Broad Locations or to the type of development that may be preferred in these Locations then the Locations should be subject to further Assessment under the terms of the HRA

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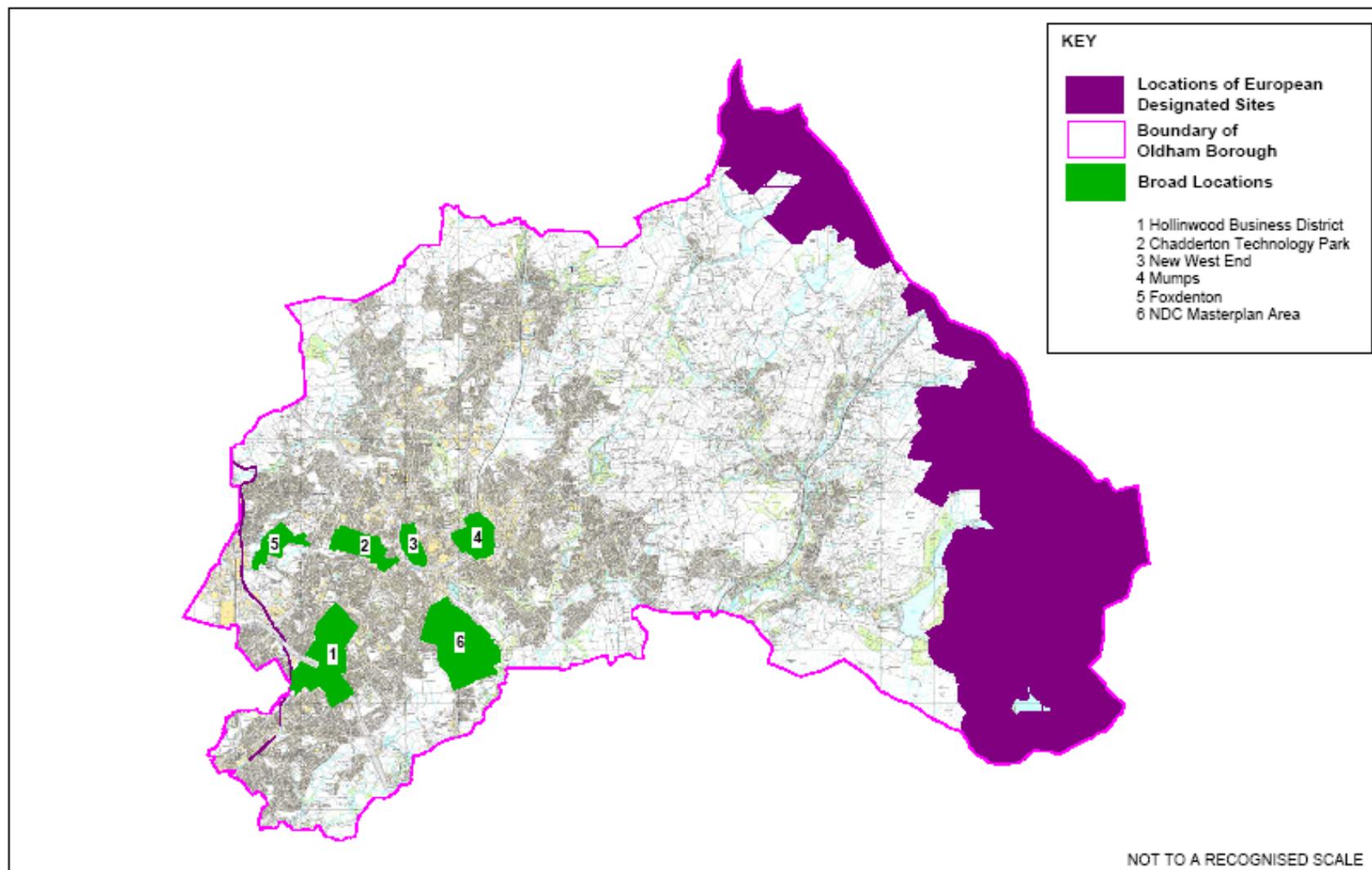


FIG 1 Broad Locations in relation to boundaries of European Designated Sites

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APPENDIX 1: European designated sites within the North West Region and possible impacts from development in Broad Locations identified within Oldham MBC

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

| | | | |
|---|------------|-----|---|
| North Pennine Moors | SAC/SPA | Out | Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise |
| Oak Mere | SAC | Out | Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise |
| Peak District Moors (South Pennine Moors Phase 1) | SPA | In | Part of site within Oldham District & vulnerable to potential impacts |
| Ribble & Alt Estuaries | SPA/Ramsar | Out | Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise |
| River Dee & Bala Lake | SAC | Out | Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise |
| River Derwent & Bassenthwaite Lake | SAC | Out | Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise |
| River Eden | SAC | Out | Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise |
| River Ehen | SAC | Out | Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise |
| River Kent | SAC | Out | Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise |
| Rixton Clay Pits | SAC | Out | Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise |
| Rochdale Canal | SAC | In | Part of site within Oldham District & vulnerable to potential impacts |
| Rostherne Mere | Ramsar | Out | Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise |
| Roudsea Wood & Mosses | SAC | Out | Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise |
| Sefton Coast | SAC | Out | Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise |
| Solway Firth | SAC | Out | Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise |
| South Pennine Moors | SAC | In | Part of site within Oldham District & vulnerable to potential impacts |
| South Pennine Moors Phase 2 | SPA | In | Part of site within Oldham District & vulnerable to potential impacts |
| South Solway Mosses | SAC | Out | Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise |
| Subberthwaite, Blawith & Torver Low Commons | SAC | Out | Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise |
| Tarn Moss | SAC | Out | Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise |
| Tyne & Nent | SAC | Out | Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise |
| Ullswater Oakwoods | SAC | Out | Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise |
| Upper Solway Flats & Marshes | SPA/Ramsar | Out | Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise |
| Walton Moss | SAC | Out | Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise |
| Wast Water | SAC | Out | Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise |
| West Midlands Mosses | SAC | Out | Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise |
| Witherslack Mosses | SAC | Out | Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise |
| Yewbarrow Woods | SAC | Out | Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise |

APPENDIX 2

WATER AND AIR AS PATHWAYS THROUGH WHICH POLLUTANTS COULD POTENTIALLY HAVE A SIGNIFICANT EFFECT ON EUROPEAN SITES

Important Air Pollutants

Oxides of Nitrogen

These are formed during high temperature combustion processes from the oxidation of nitrogen in the air. High NO_x levels can have direct effects on plants and indirect effects through increased nutrient levels in soil and water. The main sources of NO_x are road transport, public power generation using fossil fuels, combustion in industrial processes and other domestic and commercial sources (e.g. boiler operation).

Large volumes of traffic generated from new developments or large new industrial processing plants have the potential to affect peat-building vegetation in the South Pennine Moors through increased NO_x pollution. In the case of the identified Broad Locations no large new industrial processing plants capable of generating significant amounts of NO_x are planned. Although traffic may increase as a result of development within the Broad Locations the Locations are significantly distant from the European sites such that any increase in NO_x generation is considered unlikely to significantly affect the special interest of the Moors.

Sulphur dioxide

This is an acidic gas that combines with water vapour in the atmosphere to produce acid rain. Acid rain has been implicated as a significant factor in the degradation of vegetation on the South Pennine Moors SAC. The main sources of SO₂ are public power generation using fossil fuels, combustion in industrial processes, domestic combustion sources (e.g. boilers) and road transport. By far the most important source is large-scale power generation, particularly from burning coal. SO₂ can travel large distances and in sufficient quantities can affect vegetation considerable distances from the source.

New power stations, large volumes of traffic generated from new developments or large new industrial processing plants have the potential to affect peat-building vegetation in the South Pennine Moors through increased SO₂ pollution. In the case of the identified Broad Locations no power stations or large new industrial processing plants capable of generating significant amounts of SO₂ are planned. Although traffic may increase as a result of development within the Broad Locations the Locations are significantly distant from the European sites such that any increase in SO₂ generation is considered unlikely to significantly affect the special interest of the Moors.

Dust (eg PM10)

Dust (larger air-borne particles) can be associated with certain industrial processing activities, demolition & construction activities and quarrying. Dust can smother vegetation, preventing light penetration and water transport and therefore affecting growth. Dust from construction activities may be alkali in nature (e.g. cement dust) and dust from such sources can adversely affect acid habitats such as heathland and blanket bog and water pH levels, affecting the growth of aquatic vegetation.

Most dust levels become insignificant relatively close to the source (within tens of metres) because the particles settle out of the air relatively quickly. For this reason the possibility of dust arising from the development within the Broad locations affecting the South Pennine Moors SAC is not considered to be significant. Dust arising from developments close to the Rochdale Canal do have the potential to affect the aquatic plant life of the Canal and this has been taken into account in the assessment.

Ammonia

Probably the major source of nitrogen deposition (nutrient enrichment) on many wildlife sites, mainly from agricultural sources or from road vehicle emissions. Ammonia emissions from road vehicles can in some cases lead to significant nitrogen deposition within the immediate vicinity of road (typically within 10 – 15 metres).

Since no significant new roads or significant increases in traffic generation close to the South Pennine Moors no impact will arise from development t in the Broad Locations on European Protected Sites.

Water Pollution

Water pollution can arise through surface water run-off and discharge of foul water and can typically arise as a result of urbanisation. Since there are no identified pathways for water pollution to reach the South Pennine Moors from the identified Broad locations this factor is discounted as a possible damaging impact on the Moors.

However, water pollution is considered to be a potentially significant source of impact on the Rochdale Canal SAC because some of the Broad Locations are relatively close to the Canal and there are pathways through which pollution could reach the Canal (e.g. surface water outfalls).

APPENDIX 3

Plans Assessed under the Terms of the Habitats Regulations by GMEU

| District | Plan | Outcome of Assessment |
|---------------|--|-----------------------------|
| Rochdale MBC | SPD 'Energy and New Development' | No impact on European Sites |
| Rochdale MBC | SPD provision of Recreational Open Space in New Housing Developments | No impact on European Sites |
| Rochdale MBC | SPD Development of East Central Rochdale | No impact on European Sites |
| Rochdale MBC | SPD Biodiversity and Development | No impact on European Sites |
| Rochdale MBC | SPD Affordable Housing | No impact on European Sites |
| Manchester CC | SPD Providing for Housing Choice | No impact on European Sites |
| Bolton MBC | LDF Core Strategy Issues and Options | No impact on European Sites |
| Trafford MBC | LDF Core Strategy Issues and Options | No impact on European Sites |
| Bury MBC | LDF Core Strategy Issues and Options | No impact on European Sites |