

Oldham

Supplementary

Planning

Document

Vibrant Centres

**Habitats Regulations Screening
Opinion**

Adopted July 2012



Oldham
Council

Habitats Regulations Screening Opinion of the Impact on European Protected Sites of Oldham MBC Vibrant Centres Supplementary Planning Document (Parts 1 and 2)

January 2012



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For

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Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) of the Impact of Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council's Vibrant Centres Supplementary Planning Document

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 plan is considered to require a Habitats Regulation Assessment:

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

Oldham Council's 'Vibrant Centres' Supplementary Planning Document Part 1 (Vibrant Centres) and Part 2 (Shop and Business Frontage Design Guidance) 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 Vibrant Centres Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) and:

- Identifies by a screening process any European site that could potentially be affected by policies and directions in the SPD.
- Outlines details of the nature conservation importance of any European sites 'screened in' to the process.
- Identifies the possible impacts that SPD may have on features of nature conservation importance within European sites.
- Assesses any development impacts that could potentially have a significant effect on the favourable conservation status of European sites.
- Identifies any controls within the SPD 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.

- 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 Council’s statutory duty as regards Article 6(3). That is, it is an Opinion on whether or not the operation of policies and directions within the SPD (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 whether any of the identified effects (if any) can be avoided or mitigated or whether any Policies need to be amended.
- 1.7 It is noted that the Plan being assessed is still at the development stage and further Assessment 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.
- 1.8 The Greater Manchester Ecology Unit (GMEU), as the specialist ecological adviser to Oldham Council, 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 sites. 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 objectives of the SPD are to:
- Provide clear and consistent guidance for promoting and maintaining the vitality and viability of Oldham Town Centre and the borough’s other Centres of Chadderton, Failsworth, Hill Stores, Lees, Royton, Shaw and Uppermill.
 - Provide clear and consistent guidance for new proposals and for changes of use for food and drink uses, including hot food takeaways.
 - Manage the concentration and clustering of hot food takeaways.
 - Manage the impact on the local environment or the amenity of neighbouring residents and business uses.
 - Ensure all development contributes positively to the visual appearance of the area during opening and non-opening hours.
 - Manage impacts on traffic generation or highway safety as a result of these developments.
 - Contribute to community safety.
 - Provide guidance and advice on the design of shop fronts and business premises.

The Plan is very much concerned with managing development within existing centres of population within the Borough. It is not concerned with the management of industrial processes, medium-large scale business operations, new housing developments or new transport infrastructure. The scope of any possible impacts on the special nature conservation interest of any European sites will be limited by the limited scope of the Plan.

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 the operation of the Plan. When assessing the impact of a Plan on European protected sites it is important to consider the impact on sites not only within the administrative area covered by the Plan but also those which fall outside the Plan boundary, as these could still potentially be affected by the Plan.

3.2 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. It is recognised that the RSS itself will soon be rescinded, but the evidence used in the preparation of the RSS, including the HRA, remain current and relevant.

Sites assessed 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 operation of 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 on 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 large-scale 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. Only two European sites are within 5km of the boundary of Oldham; these are the **Rochdale Canal SAC and the South Pennine Moors SAC/SPA**.

Given the limited scope of the Plan being assessed (that is, any development managed by the operation of the Plan is likely to be small scale) and the locations of the existing centres of population where the Plan will operate it is concluded that there will be no impact on the South Pennine Moors SAC/SPA arising from the operation of the Plan, because the European site is too distant from the main population centres in the Borough for any limited-scope operations that this Plan will manage for any impacts to arise.

However, the Rochdale Canal SAC does pass through population centres where the SPD will operate and it is considered that the following sources may be managed by the operation of the Plan –

- Water pollution
- Air pollution

The Rochdale Canal has therefore been screened in to this Assessment. Possible impacts on the Canal are therefore considered in more detail below.

4.1 The Rochdale Canal SAC

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.

5 Screening Opinion

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 the aquatic plant *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)

Table 5.1; the results of the screening for the Plan.

Operation	Potential Impact of the Plan	Mitigating factors and comments
Dredging	No impact	
Draining	No impact	
Pollution	Possibility of more litter in the Canal	There are specific controls in the Plan to reduce any possible impacts arising from litter
	Possibility of increased localised air and water pollution	There are specific controls in the Plan to reduce or eliminate any localised increases in air and water pollution
Shading	No impact	
Increased boat traffic	No impact (because the Plan manages the night-time economy and therefore will not impact on recreational use of the Canal)	
Use of herbicides	No impact	
Water abstraction	No impact	

6. Consideration of 'In Combination' Effects with Other Plans and Proposals

- 6.1 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.
- 6.2 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.
- 6.3 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.
- 6.4 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.
- 6.5 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.

7 Summary and Recommendations

7.1 Screening of European sites has established that the following European site has the potential to be affected by development in Oldham managed by the Vibrant Centres Supplementary Planning Document:

- Rochdale Canal SAC

7.2 Further, more detailed Assessment of the possible effects of the operation of Core Policies on the Rochdale Canal SAC identified in the Screening process has been undertaken.

7.3 The Assessment has concluded that, providing mitigating plans, policies and strategies are adopted and implemented appropriately through the development management process, development managed by the Vibrant Centres Supplementary Planning Document can proceed 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 Moss.

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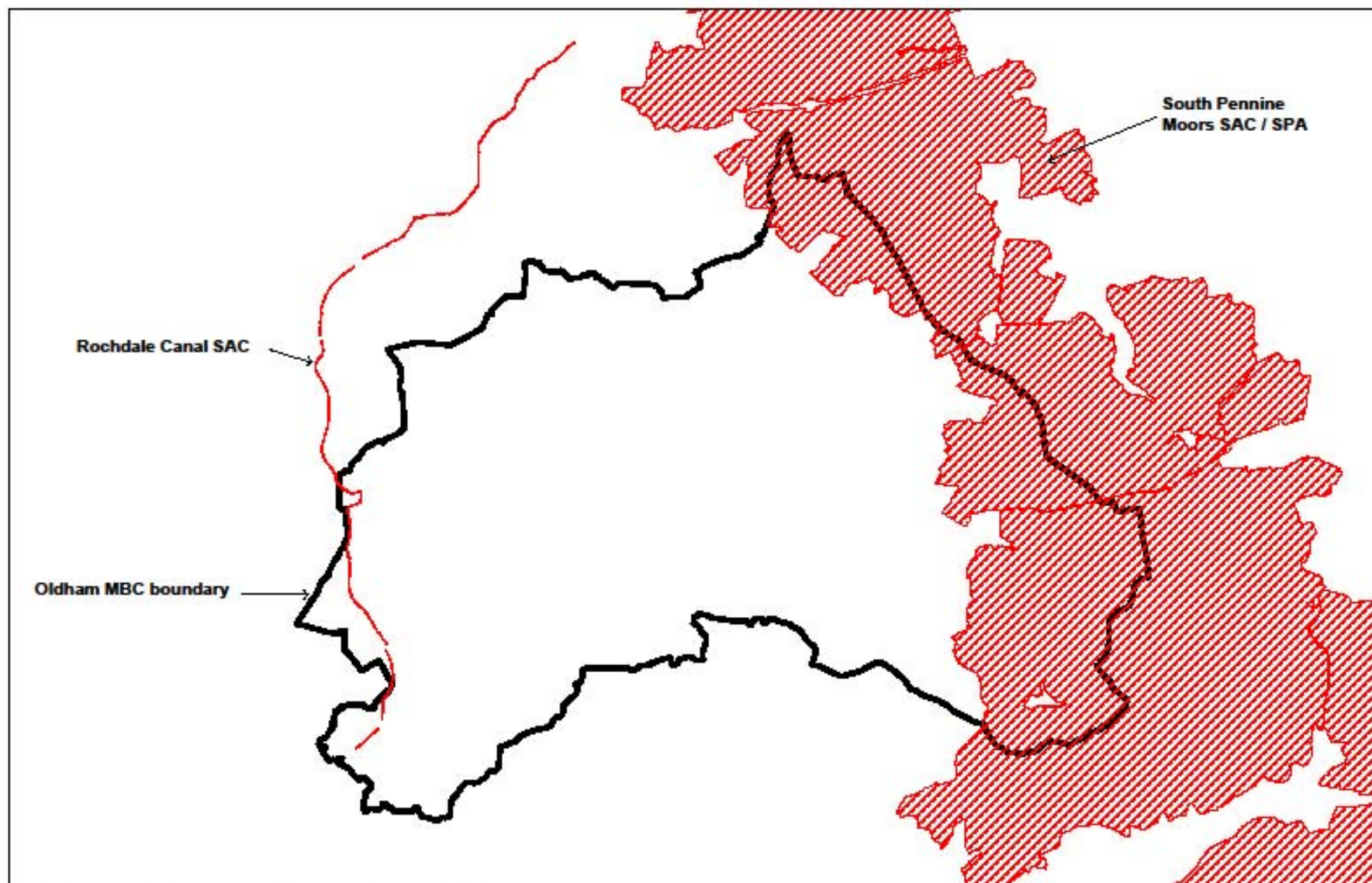


Fig 1. Shows the locations of European protected Sites in relation to the boundary of Oldham MBC

APPENDIX 1: European designated sites within the North West Region and possible effects from the operation of the Plan. 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
		Increased recreational Pressure	None – site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Oldham
Border Mires, Kielder – Butterburn	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 direction disturbance to habitats.
		Increased recreational Pressure	None – site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Oldham
Borrowdale Woodland 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 (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
Bowland Fells	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

Site Name	Designation	Type of Effect	Likely Effects
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).
		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
Clints Quarry	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 - 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
Cumbrian Marsh Fritillary Site	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 - Species found in Cumbria is distinct national population, with adults being sedentary. Species not known to occur in Greater Manchester
		Increased recreational Pressure	None – site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Oldham
Dee Estuary	SPA/Ramsar	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 – 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

Site Name	Designation	Type of Effect	Likely Effects
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

Site Name	Designation	Type of Effect	Likely Effects
Irthinghead Mires	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
Lake District High Fells	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 or species
		Increased recreational Pressure	None – site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Oldham
Leighton Moss	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 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	None– although there is hydrological connectivity the site is distant (more than 15km) from 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 – 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)

Site Name	Designation	Type of Effect	Likely Effects
		Increased recreational Pressure	None – site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Oldham
Manchester Mosses	SAC	Water Quality/Hydrology	None – site is too distant
		Air Pollution	None – site is too distant
		Direct land take	None – site is too distant
		Habitat/Species Disturbance	None – site is too distant
		Increased recreational Pressure	None – site is too distant
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. Site is distant (more than 15km) from the Oldham boundary
		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

Site Name	Designation	Type of Effect	Likely Effects
Mersey Narrows & Wirral Foreshore	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

Site Name	Designation	Type of Effect	Likely Effects
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

Site Name	Designation	Type of Effect	Likely Effects
North Pennine Dales Meadows	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. 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	None - No hydrological pathways between SAC/SPA and land within Oldham
		Air Pollution	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	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 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	None - No hydrological pathways between SPA and land within Oldham
		Air Pollution	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

Site Name	Designation	Type of Effect	Likely Effects
Ribble & Alt Estuaries	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
River Dee & Bala Lake	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
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

Site Name	Designation	Type of Effect	Likely Effects
River Eden	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
River Ehen	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 - 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	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
Rixton Clay Pits	SAC	Water Quality/Hydrology	None – site is too distant
		Air Pollution	None – site is too distant
		Direct land take	None – site is too distant
		Habitat/Species Disturbance	None – site is too distant
		Increased recreational Pressure	None – site is too distant

Site Name	Designation	Type of Effect	Likely Effects
Rochdale Canal	SAC	Water Quality/Hydrology	Possible – screened in
		Air Pollution	Possible – screened in
		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
Rostherne Mere	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
Roudsea Wood & 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

Site Name	Designation	Type of Effect	Likely Effects
Sefton Coast	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. 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	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
South Pennine Moors	SAC	Water Quality/Hydrology	None – hydrological impact pathways are in reverse direction.
		Air Pollution	None – 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 Phase 2	SPA	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - No hydrological pathways between SPA and land within Oldham
		Air Pollution	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

Site Name	Designation	Type of Effect	Likely Effects
South Solway 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
Subberthwaite , Blawith & Torver Low Commons	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
Tarn Moss	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
Tyne & Nent	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. Habitat not found in Greater Manchester
		Increased recreational Pressure	None – site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Oldham

Site Name	Designation	Type of Effect	Likely Effects
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.
		Increased recreational Pressure	None – site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Oldham
Upper Solway Flats & Marshes	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 – 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
Walton Moss	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
Wast Water	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 habitat. Habitat does not occur in Greater Manchester
		Increased recreational Pressure	None – site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Oldham

Site Name	Designation	Type of Effect	Likely Effects
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 managed by the Plan

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 considered by RSS HRA
Manchester Mosses	SAC	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to occur
Martin Mere	SPA/Ramsar	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and strategic impacts considered by RSS HRA
Mersey Estuary	SPA/Ramsar	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and strategic impacts considered by RSS HRA
Mersey Narrows & Wirral Foreshore	pSPA	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and strategic impacts considered by RSS HRA
Midland Meres & Mosses – Phase 1 & Phase 2	2 x Ramsar	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and strategic impacts considered by RSS HRA
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 considered by RSS HRA
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 considered by RSS HRA
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	Out	Site considered too distant for effects to occur
Rochdale Canal	SAC	In	Effects could arise through increases in water and air pollution
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

Site Name	Designation	Screened in/out	Justification
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 Relevant 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	LDF Core Strategy	No effect on European Sites identified at this stage – further assessment may be needed at a later stage
Trafford MBC	LDF Core Strategy	No effect on European Sites
Bolton MBC	LDF Core Strategy	No effect on European Sites
All GM Districts	Waste Plan	No effect on European Sites
Bury MBC	LDF Core Strategy	No effect on European Sites
Oldham MBC	LDF Core Strategy	No effect on European Sites identified at this stage – further assessment may be needed at a later stage
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
Manchester CC	LDF Core Strategy	No effect on European Sites
All GM Districts	Minerals Plan	No effect on European Sites