

Habitats Regulations Assessment of the Saddleworth Neighbourhood Plan 2025-2045 (v2.3)

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For

Saddleworth Parish Council

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Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) of the Impact of Saddleworth Neighbourhood Plan on the Natura 2000 network; European Protected Sites

1. Introduction

European protected sites (*aka* the National Sites Network) are of exceptional importance for the conservation of important species and natural habitats at a European scale. 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 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 should also be included in HRAs.

Article 6(3) of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) 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.”

The Saddleworth Neighbourhood Plan is regarded as a Plan which is considered likely to have significant effect on one or more European protected site and should therefore be subject to assessment.

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

- Stage 1 - Screening
- Stage 2 – Appropriate Assessment
- Stage 3 - Derogation where no alternatives are available

This document forms Stage 1 and Stage 2 of the Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA) process and contributes to the fulfilment of the Council’s statutory duty as regards Article 6(3). It is a **Screening Opinion and Assessment** concerned with reaching an opinion as to whether the Plan needs to be amended to avoid harm to European sites or needs to go forward for further, more detailed Assessment of impacts. It is not a stand-alone document and must be read in conjunction with the full Plan.

An HRA is an iterative document; further Assessments may be required if further changes are made to the Plan in future.

This report has been prepared by ecologist from the Greater Manchester Ecology Unit (GMEU). GMEU ecologists are familiar with the European designated sites concerned and their special interests, and with the negative and positive factors affecting the integrity of these sites. The HRA has been undertaken using the professional judgement of GMEU ecologists.

1.1 Stage 1 – Screening

The purpose of the Screening stage of the HRA process is to identify the risk or the possibility of significant adverse effects on a European site which could undermine the achievement of a site's conservation objectives, and which therefore require further detailed examination through an appropriate assessment. If risks that might undermine a site's conservation objectives can clearly be ruled out (based on the consideration of objective information), a proposal will have no likely significant effect (LSE) and no appropriate assessment will be needed.

In order for a policy or an allocation in a Plan to be screened out of the HRA process a conclusion must be made 'beyond reasonable scientific doubt' that the policy or allocation will not have an LSE on the Natura 2000 site or its qualifying features.

Case law has established in relation to screening that:

- An effect is likely if it 'cannot be excluded on the basis of objective information' (Waddenzee C127-02 ∞ 45). This requires consideration and a conclusion made against known and presented data/survey or results/scientific evidence (for example, literature review).
- An effect is significant if it 'is likely to undermine the conservation objectives' [of the European protected site (Waddenzee (C127-02 ∞ 48)]. This excludes from consideration other impacts not related to the qualifying features and their conservation objectives.
- The Sweetman (case C258-11) also offers some simple guidance that the screening step 'operates merely as a trigger', in order to progress to further assessment stages through the process.

1.2 Stage 2 – Appropriate Assessment

In 2017 the decision of the Court of Justice of the European Union (People over Wind, case C323/17) concluded that it was not appropriate within the Screening Stage to consider measures that would mitigate for impacts on the qualifying or designated features of the Natura 2000 site. This ruling has resulted in an update to the Habitats Regulations 2017 as they have been translated into UK domestic legislation and updated to reflect the exit of the UK from the European Union.

In a Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment, evidence and detail should be considered which can demonstrate that a Plan including any embedded measures or additional mitigation can result in a conclusion that there would be no 'adverse effect on integrity' (AEOI), when considering a Natura 2000 site's conservation objectives.

In applying the Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment the relevant competent Authority, in this case the Parish Council, must also consider whether there is a relevant planning mechanism (which may apply at a different level of the planning hierarchy) which can secure the necessary mitigation via either conditions or obligations.

In the case of a high level Strategic Plan the level of detail in land use plans concerning developments that will be permitted under the Plan at some time in the future is rarely sufficient to allow the fullest quantification of potential adverse effects. It is therefore necessary to be cognisant of the fact that HRAs for plans can be tiered, with assessments being undertaken with increasing specificity at lower tiers. This is in line with DCLG guidance and court rulings that the level of detail of the assessment, whilst meeting the relevant requirements of the Habitats Regulations, should be 'appropriate' to the level of plan or project that it addresses.

Current Government guidance says:

"The scope and content of an appropriate assessment will depend on the nature, location, duration and scale of the proposed plan or project and the interest features of the relevant

site. 'Appropriate' is not a technical term. It indicates that an assessment needs to be proportionate and sufficient to support the task of the competent authority in determining whether the plan or project will adversely affect the integrity of the site."

That is, the Plan must make every effort to ensure that no Policies or Allocations will cause harm to the special nature conservation interest of European sites. However, where some doubt remains as to whether harm will occur the plan must show that sufficient safeguards will be in place in other levels of the planning hierarchy to ensure that no harm will be caused to the special interest of European sites.

A precautionary approach should always be taken.

1.3 In Combination Assessment

The Habitats Regulations also include a requirement for an assessment not only for a Plan alone but also for consideration of any LSE in combination with other projects or plans. An 'in combination' assessment should be undertaken for any impact that is shown to have an effect even where it might be considered 'de minimis' for the plan in isolation. In the application of the in combination test projects or plans are also considered to include reasonably foreseeable proposals (RFP), which may include projects, plans or schemes which have not concluded their passage through the development planning process, whether they are in full or outline or include other strategic planning documents.

1.4 Scope of the Assessment

This report examines the Saddleworth Neighbourhood Plan 2024-2045 v2.2 and:

- Identifies by a Screening process any European site that could potentially be affected by the implementation of the Plan.
- Identifies Policies that may have impacts on European protected sites.
- Identifies Policies that may require further Assessment as part of the ongoing HRA of the Plan as it develops and makes recommendations, where necessary, on possible changes to the wording of future policies.

2. Brief description of the Plan

The Plan being assessed is the ‘Saddleworth Neighbourhood Plan 2025-2045 V2.2 produced by Saddleworth Parish Council.

The primary purposes of the Plan are to give the residents the power to develop a vision for their neighbourhood and to shape the development and growth of their locality.

It covers the period 2025-2045, although its contents may also be relevant after that date.

The Neighbourhood Plan sits beside a number of other planning documents that are also important in making planning decisions, which are considered here in the test of in-combination effects. These Plans will also include their own Habitats Regulation Assessments:

- Greater Manchester Joint Minerals DPD (2013)
- Greater Manchester Joint Waste DPD (2012)
- Places for Everyone Joint Strategic Development Plan for Greater Manchester (2023)
- Greater Manchester’s Transport 2040,
- Oldham Council’s forthcoming Local Plan,
- The Peak National Park Management and Local Plans

Saddleworth is a geographically large rural Parish situated on the western side of the South Pennines (Map 1) and crossed by two Rivers – the River Tame in the east and the river Medlock in the west. Part of the Parish is within the Peak District National Park.

The Plan states –

“Saddleworth was at the forefront of the industrial revolution with many water-powered textile mills springing up along the River Tame and the emergence of one of the most impressive turnpike road networks in the country. The construction of the Huddersfield Narrow Canal, with its three miles long tunnel under the Pennines, was one of the major engineering feats of its day. The second half of the twentieth century witnessed a transformation of Saddleworth from a community of industrial stone built villages to a largely dormitory area for the major employment centres on both sides of the Pennines. The motorway network accelerated this change. Local shops and services declined in most of the villages and with this change came a decline in the local economy. House building mushroomed especially in the west, as Saddleworth was transformed from an industrial landscape to a district of attractive Pennine villages with a valued industrial heritage”

The population of Saddleworth is around 26,000, with around 12,000 households.

The Neighbourhood Plan cannot override sites which have been allocated for development in higher tier Plans such as the Oldham Local Plan. The role of the Neighbourhood Plan is to ensure that the character and quality of the Parish is enhanced if any allocated sites are brought forward for development.

3. Identification of European designated sites concerned

This Assessment has first Screened all European protected sites in the North of England to generate a long list and decide which of these sites are likely to be affected by future development in Saddleworth. 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.

As a useful starting point, the Assessment has considered the suite of European sites assessed within Habitat Regulations Assessments of other, adopted Local Plans in and around Greater Manchester.

The long list of sites assessed is listed in Appendix 1 and Appendix 2. This ensures that *all* European sites considered to have the potential to be affected by development can be initially considered for assessment (screened).

3.1 The Screening Criteria

In carrying out this screening process, the Assessment has considered the main possible **sources** of effects on the European sites arising from the Plan, possible **pathways** to the European sites and the effects on possible sensitive **receptors** in the European sites. Only if there is an identifiable source, a pathway and a receptor is there likely to be a significant effect.

Possible sources and pathways for effects arising from development on the identified Sites and used in the screening of European sites are considered to be:

- Land take (direct habitat loss)
- Cultivation (agriculture)
- Diffuse and localised air pollution including dust and odour
- Noise disturbance
- Light spill or shading
- Human presence/disturbance
- Emissions to water (surface or ground water) containing pollutants or sediments
- Ground water depression or flow interception
- Decrease in surface water run-off e.g. through interception in a void
- Increase in surface water run-off
- Introduction and spread of invasive species
- Effects on functionally linked land*
- Changes to predator/prey relationships

**Areas of land or sea outside of the boundary of a European site may be important ecologically in supporting the populations for which the site has been designated or classified. Occasionally impacts to such habitats can have a significant effect upon the species interest of such sites, where these habitats are considered to be 'functionally linked' to the site.*

Guidance and precedence concerning distances at which significant effects on European sites are caused by water or air pollution has been taken into account during the screening of European sites. Recommended buffer zones for certain types of 'most damaging' operations (for example, the operation of landfill sites) have been used in the screening of sites. The buffer zones are based on distances before air pollution sources and water pollution sources become so diffuse as to be indiscernible or impossible to ascribe to particular point sources.

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 is 15km; that is, most operations with the potential of causing direct water and/or air pollution

impacts located further than 15km from the boundary of a European site are considered very unlikely to have a significant effect on the special interest of that site.

Natural England also publish SSSI 'Impact Risk Zones' (IRZs) providing guidance on the types of development which should be considered for their possible impacts on SSSIs, and which impacts should be considered. All European designated sites are also designated as SSSIs. IRZs have also been taken into account when screening European sites that could be affected by the Plan. Whilst IRZs are tool to aid the consideration of *single* applications and their likely risks of impacts and consequently the need to consult Natural England, it acts as a useful guide in considering screening. However, it is not used exclusively in this HRA as the current process considers the policy framework rather than individual applications.

Although the guidance concerning buffer zones/risk zones has been taken into account when screening European protected sites in this particular assessment, the buffer/risk zones should be regarded as important but not as definitive; for example, this buffer zone may not be sufficient when assessing certain very large-scale developments or secondary impacts.

In particular applying a 15km buffer may not be appropriate for this Plan where there are unlikely to be direct impacts on any European sites, but where it is more likely that possible impacts will be caused by diffuse air or water pollution or point-source air or water pollution that may arise from development planned for Saddleworth, or where there are secondary recreational pressures on more distant protected sites arising from increased regional and sub-regional populations

3.2 Summary Results of Screening of Sites

The detailed results of the site Screening process are found in Appendices 1 and 2 of this document;

- Appendix 1 shows the likely effects of and the possible pathway & sources outlined above on the long list of European sites, from development in Saddleworth.
- Appendix 2 summarises the results of the Screening process, identifying a short list of Natura 2000 sites (screened in), which may be effected by likely effects from policies within the Plan. These are discussed further below.

From the Screening process, detailed in Appendix 1 and 2 the following European designated sites have been identified as having some potential to be affected by development proposed and planned for within the Saddleworth Draft Neighbourhood Plan.

- Rochdale Canal SAC
- South Pennine Moors SAC
- Dark Peak Moors (South Pennine Moors Phase 1) SPA
- South Pennine Moors Phase 2 SPA

Other European sites in the UK are essentially considered too distant from the Parish of Saddleworth for harmful effects to occur from the implementation of the Plan.

4 The Nature Conservation Interest of the Screened In European Sites

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

4.1 Rochdale Canal SAC

Description of Rochdale Canal SAC

The Rochdale Canal SAC extends approximately 20 km from Littleborough at Ben Healey Bridge to Failsworth, passing through urban and industrialised parts of the Metropolitan Boroughs of Rochdale and Oldham and the intervening areas of agricultural land (mostly pasture). Water supplied to the Rochdale Canal in part arises from the Pennines. This water is acidic and relatively low in nutrients, while water from other sources is mostly high in nutrients. The aquatic flora of the canal is thus indicative of a mesotrophic waterbody (i.e. is moderately nutrient-rich) although there is evidence of some local enrichment. The canal continues through Failsworth and terminates at Castlefield in Manchester City, although this section of the canal is not included within the SAC.

Primary Reason for Designation of Rochdale Canal

Qualifying and notifiable features associated with the Rochdale Canal SAC comprise a single species of aquatic plant: floating water-plantain (*Luronium natans*). The Rochdale Canal supports a significant population of floating water-plantain (*Luronium natans*) in a botanically diverse water plant community, which also holds a wide range of pondweeds *Potamogeton* spp. The canal has predominantly mesotrophic water. This population of *Luronium* is representative of the formerly more widespread canal populations of north-west England, although the Rochdale Canal supports unusually dense populations of the plant.

Floating water-plantain; description and ecological characteristics

Luronium natans is a species of aquatic plant commonly known as floating water plantain. It is native to western and central Europe, from Spain to the UK to Norway, and east as far as Ukraine. *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 other aquatic and 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; this could be because falls in water levels affect competing species more than the *Luronium natans*.

The operations that may damage the special interest of the SAC that have to be considered include:

- Application of pesticides
- Dredging
- Drainage, both within and outside the boundaries of the site
- 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 next to the Canal (shading)
- Diffuse air pollution
- Diffuse water pollution Increased boat movements (recreation)
- Climate change

4.2 South Pennine Moors SAC/SPA (Phases 1 and 2)

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 that 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 that occur on the site are rare enough within Europe to be listed on Annex 1 of the EC Habitats and Species Directive (92/43) EEC. These communities are typical of and represent the full range of upland vegetation classes found in the South Pennines.

This mosaic of habitats supports a moorland breeding bird assemblage, which, because of the range of species and number of breeding birds it contains, is of regional and national importance. The large numbers of breeding merlin (*Falco columbarius*), golden plover (*Pluvialis apricaria*) and twite (*Carduelis flavirostris*) are of international importance.

Description of the South Pennine Moors SPAs

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.

Primary reason for designation of the South Pennine Moors SAC

The site supports the following important habitats:

- European Dry Heath
- Blanket Bog
- Old Sessile Oak Woods

Primary reason for the designation of the South Pennine Moors SPAs

The site(s) qualify for the designation by supporting populations of European importance of the following species listed on Annex I of the Directive:

For Phase 1 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*)

For Phase 2 during the breeding season:

- Golden plover (*Pluvialis apricaria*), at least 1.9% of the breeding population in Great Britain
- Merlin (*Falco columbarius*), at least 2.3% of the breeding population in Great Britain
- Breeding Bird Assemblage

Conservation Objectives of the South Pennine Moors designated sites

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.

The operations that may damage the special interest of the designated sites and which have to be considered in any HRA include:

- Cultivation
- Grazing
- Mowing or cutting
- Application of manure, fertilisers or lime
- Application of pesticides
- Burning
- Drainage, both within and outside the boundaries of the site
- 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
- Recreational disturbance
- Diffuse air pollution
- Diffuse water pollution
- Climate change

5 Initial Screening Opinion

5.1 The Screening Criteria

The first stage of an HRA is a Likely Significant Effect Test (Screening). This is essentially a risk assessment to decide whether a particular Policy or site can be effectively 'screened out' from further, more detailed assessment or needs to go forward for more detailed Assessment. The essential question to ask is –

“Is the Policy or the use of a Site, either alone or in combination with other relevant Policies and Plans, likely to result in a significant effect upon the integrity of European sites?”

In carrying out this Screening process the Assessment has considered the main possible sources of effects on the European sites arising from the implementation of the Plan, possible pathways to the European sites and the effects on possible sensitive receptors in the European sites, where -

- The Source is the direct or indirect changes (land take, emissions to air or water, hydrological changes) potentially occurring as a result of the policy or development at an identified site.
- The Pathway is the route or mechanism by which any likely significant effect would manifest in the environment and would be able to reach the receptor.
- The Receptor is the European Site and more specifically the qualifying features and conservation objectives for the site.

Only if there is an identifiable Source, a Pathway and a Receptor is there likely to be a likely significant effect.

Possible sources and pathways for (unmitigated) effects used in the screening of potential Policy impacts on European sites are considered to be:

- Land take
- Diffuse and localised air pollution including dust and odour
- Noise
- Light spill
- Human presence/disturbance (including recreational disturbance)
- Emissions to water (surface or ground water) containing pollutants
- Ground water depression or flow interception (i.e. hydrological impacts)
- Decrease in surface water run-off e.g. through interception in a void (i.e. hydrological impacts)
- Introduction or spread of invasive species

The results of the Screening are shown in the 'Screening Summary' tables below.

5.2 Each of the Policies in the Plan have been assessed to determine whether they are:

- Unlikely to have an effect on a European Site – Screened Out
- Could have a potential positive effect on a European Site – Screened Out
- Could have a potential negative effect on a European Site – Screened In
- Would be likely to have a significant negative effect on a European Site – Screened In

Only Policies with potential negative effects or likely significant effects should be “Screened In” for further Assessment. This assessment has been made based on the content and type of each Policy and the HRA must be read together with the Plan.

- 5.3 The timescales over which effects (both stand-alone and in-combination) have been considered are the lifetime of the Plan and the lifetime of any proposals (including operational and restoration timescales) that may come forward during the Plan.
- 5.4 Details of the Policy Type listed in Table 5.1 can be found in Appendix 4.

Table 5.1 Initial Screening Summary of impacts of Saddleworth Neighbourhood Plan 2024-2044 (Consultation) on the Notational Sites Network. Policies Screened In to this Assessment are identified in red text.

POLICY	BRIEF POLICY DESCRIPTION	POLICY TYPE*	POSSIBLE IMPACTS ON EUROPEAN SITE	SCREENING OUTCOME
Environment				
Policy 1	<p>GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE</p> <p>All developments should aim to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • deliver the provision of new appropriately-sized open and/or green spaces, in line with identified needs/ deficiencies such as pocket parks and active green spaces (e.g. green walls and green roofs) and their maintenance, and an overall enhancement in the provision of green infrastructure and/or open spaces; • deliver a positive impact on the relationship between urban and natural features, where the development is adjacent to existing green spaces, so that it integrates positively with any natural features (for example, this would include green corridors such as canals and former railway lines); and • create or enhance existing green space, and replace any loss of green space with an equal or greater new provision of green space. 	E	This policy could have potentially positive impact on European sites by reducing recreational pressures on the uplands.	Screened Out
Policy 2	<p>BIODIVERSITY</p> <p>Developments should aim to –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • protect and enhance any existing wildlife, and attract new species, particularly by keeping features that support existing wildlife, providing alternatives where there are overriding reasons for their removal, and incorporating new supporting provision in new buildings and across the development. 	I	This policy on the whole could have a positive effect, although tree planting may affect land functionally linked to designated sites	Screened In

POLICY	BRIEF POLICY DESCRIPTION	POLICY TYPE*	POSSIBLE IMPACTS ON EUROPEAN SITE	SCREENING OUTCOME
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> support wildlife movement and foraging through, for example, the provision of green infrastructure such as native hedgerow and tree planting (or additional species which have been agreed to provide greater diversity and resilience), and the use of native wild flower planting in areas of green spaces. respect the need for increased tree coverage in the Saddleworth lowlands4 , and in particular encouraging the expansion of native species across the district. <p>Developments will not be supported which:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> do not meet Oldham Council's target provision for the replacement of trees; result in the removal or degradation of existing green spaces such as wildlife corridors; or would result in the loss of or harm to irreplaceable habitats such as Ancient Woodland. 			
Policy 3	<p>PROTECTED SPACES</p> <p>3.1 The South Pennine Moors Special Protection Area (SPA) and Special Area of Conservation (SAC) are of particular importance in Saddleworth. Development is required to meet policies within PfE and Oldham Council's Local Plan which address recreational impacts on the SAC/SPA, including any "functionally linked" land. Any specific proposals for facilitating tourism or tree planting are required to be assessed at a project level for any significant likely effects on the special interest of designated sites. Developments which fail to do so, or which do not mitigate against such impact will not be supported.</p> <p>3.2 In the SPA/SAC specific mitigation at a project level may include requiring dogs to be on leads and the provision of advice for avoiding fire risks.</p>	E	Positive effects on designated sites	Screened Out

POLICY	BRIEF POLICY DESCRIPTION	POLICY TYPE*	POSSIBLE IMPACTS ON EUROPEAN SITE	SCREENING OUTCOME
Policy 4	LOCAL GREEN SPACES	E	Positive effects on designated sites	Screened Out
Policy 5	CHARACTER AND QUALITY OF LAND ADJACENT TO THE NATIONAL PARK	E	Positive effects on designated sites	Screened Out
Policy 6	CONVERSION OF AGRICULTURAL BUILDINGS (BARN CONVERSIONS) A proposal for change of use of agricultural buildings or stables will be supported if it is deemed to have no detrimental impact on the agricultural economy, nor on the openness and people's enjoyment of the green belt	I	Depending on the location of buildings to be converted, an increase in recreational pressure or direct disturbance to habitats and species could occur.	Screened In
Policy 7	PROTECTION OF IMPORTANT VIEWS Development proposals which will detract or harm a valued viewpoint through interruption of key identified views or through inappropriate development by virtue of its design will not be supported unless there is a clear and convincing justification.	G	No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this Policy	Screened Out
Policy 8	EROSION AND FLOODING Aims to avoid / mitigate erosion and flood risks	H	No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this Policy	Screened Out
Design				
Policy 9	SUSTAINABLE CONSTRUCTION Developments must aim to deliver: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> modern standards of design and construction, where appropriate, to minimise the environmental impact of the construction process. meeting or exceeding national environmental guidelines and recommendations for zero-carbon homes the inclusion, where appropriate, of small-scale and/ or district energy provision, including solar power, hydropower 	I	The SSSI Impact Risk Zones identify some of energy generation proposals as a risk and they could have the potential to have a significant effect on the European Sites, depending on their location, type and scale.	Screened In

POLICY	BRIEF POLICY DESCRIPTION	POLICY TYPE*	POSSIBLE IMPACTS ON EUROPEAN SITE	SCREENING OUTCOME
Policy 10	DESIGN, CHARACTER AND HERITAGE Development that enhances or preserves Conservation Areas and heritage assets in the area...will be supported	H	No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this Policy	Screened Out
Policy 11	DESIGN MASTERPLANS With particular regard to major developments, imposes a requirement for Master planning	G	No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this Policy	Screened Out
Policy 12	CHEW BROOK VALE Imposes neighbourhood-scale requirements on a proposed mixed-use development allocation	H	No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this Policy. This site was Screened as part of the HRA for Places for Everyone and was Screened Out.	Screened Out
Health, Wellbeing and Education				
Policy 13	SAFETY AND WELLBEING Major developments should aim to deliver: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> new and/or enhanced spaces that deliver routes for active travel. public realm which is conducive to public use, while minimising the risk of anti-social behaviour 	A	No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this Policy	Screened Out
Policy 14	HEALTH, SOCIAL CARE AND EDUCATION Development will be required to provide or contribute to health, social care and education infrastructure made necessary by that development or where it gives rise to the need for additional or improved infrastructure to mitigate its impact on existing provision.	B	No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this Policy	Screened Out

POLICY	BRIEF POLICY DESCRIPTION	POLICY TYPE*	POSSIBLE IMPACTS ON EUROPEAN SITE	SCREENING OUTCOME
Housing				
Policy 15	<p>HOUSING</p> <p>Development will be supported which delivers a range of housing types, with specific focus on the provision of affordable, social and intermediate housing (<i>This policy does not apply to neighbourhoods in the Peak District National Park</i>). Housing objectives appear to be aimed at maintaining existing populations by providing affordable homes for younger people and smaller homes for older people, rather than substantively increasing local populations overall.</p>	D	No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this Policy	Screened Out
Policy 16	<p>CONSULTATION</p> <p>Major developments should have as a condition of their approval, the formation of a consultation group with local residents and groups, to discuss the development between planning approval and completion.</p>	G	No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this Policy	Screened Out
Policy 17	<p>DERELICT AND EMPTY PROPERTIES AND SITES</p> <p>Developments will be supported which bring derelict/ empty properties back into use</p>	D	No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this Policy	Screened Out
Policy 18	<p>COMMUNITY AND SELF BUILD</p> <p>Developments will be particularly supported which are for individual self-build or community led projects</p>	D	No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this Policy	Screened Out
Retail, commerce and Tourism				
Policy 19	<p>RETAIL, COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT</p> <p>New office, retail and commercial development will be supported within existing or new employment areas subject to the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the scale and nature of the proposals would not have significant harmful impacts on the amenities of adjoining sites; 	I	Potential air pollution effects resulting from increased traffic generation	Screened In

POLICY	BRIEF POLICY DESCRIPTION	POLICY TYPE*	POSSIBLE IMPACTS ON EUROPEAN SITE	SCREENING OUTCOME
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the scale and nature of the proposals would not have an unacceptable impact on existing commercial activity on adjacent land, including agricultural activity; and the proposal would not have unacceptable impacts on the local road network, particularly in respect of the volume of HGV traffic. 			
Policy 20	HOMEWORKING AND CONNECTIVITY Policy relating to provision for homework and high quality broadband connectivity	G	No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this Policy.	Screened Out
Policy 21	TOURISM AND LEISURE Broad and wide ranging policy relating to new tourism, community, leisure and sports facilities <i>(This policy does not apply to neighbourhoods in the Peak District National Park)</i>	I	Some aspects of this policy have the potential for negative impacts on European Sites (by causing increased recreational disturbance)	Screened In
Policy 22	AGRICULTURAL LAND There will be a strong presumption against the loss of agricultural land or land that provides future potential agricultural opportunities.	F/G	No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this Policy.	Screened Out
Policy 23	SERVICES Developments will be supported which make provision for or allow for the retention of key services within individual village centres, in particular supporting the model of 20-minute neighbourhoods.	D	No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this Policy.	Screened Out
Travel and Transport				
Policy 24	PARKING STANDARDS FOR HOUSING New housing development should aim to deliver: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> provision for two parking spaces per dwelling. The exception to this would be new one-bedroom housing, which would make provision for one parking space per property, or in the case of houses in multiple occupancy, one space per tenant; 	G	No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this Policy.	Screened out

POLICY	BRIEF POLICY DESCRIPTION	POLICY TYPE*	POSSIBLE IMPACTS ON EUROPEAN SITE	SCREENING OUTCOME
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • provision of visitor car parking, with a ratio of 0.5 spaces per dwelling, in line with the preferred design guidelines encouraging off-road parking; • provision for cycle parking, including secure lockable storage facilities. 			
Policy 25	<p>CYCLING, PEDESTRIAN AND LEISURE INFRASTRUCTURE</p> <p>Broad policy relating to the provision of cycle and pedestrian access as well as faculties within commercial development and diversion of rights of way</p>	I	Some aspects of this policy have the potential for negative impacts on European Sites (increased recreational disturbance)	Screened in
Policy 26	<p>ACCESSIBILITY TO TRANSPORT</p> <p>Development will be supported which delivers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • easy access to existing public transport • high-quality pedestrian and cycle access design for major developments. • safe, accessible, secure cycle storage and facilities • Improved accessibility for walking, wheeling and cycling. • 	I	Some aspects of this policy have the potential for negative impacts on European Sites, particularly with regard to the final point (recreational disturbance)	Screened in
Policy 27	<p>PUBLIC TRANSPORT</p> <p>Broad and wide ranging policy relating to various aspects of public transport provision</p>	A	No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this Policy.	Screened out
Policy 28	<p>CLEAN FUEL VEHICLES</p> <p>Development will be supported which deliver provision of electric charging (or alternative renewable provision) as standard.</p>	D	No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this Policy.	Screened out
Policy 29	<p>AIR QUALITY AND VIBRATION MONITORING</p> <p>Encourages robust air quality monitoring and encourages vibration monitoring close to local buildings, particularly those of heritage value</p>	D	No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this Policy.	Screened out

* See Appendix 4

6.0 Summary of the Initial Screening Opinion - Assessment of Likely Significant Effect

6.1 The Screening Opinion of the HRA has concluded that the operation of the following Policies in Saddleworth Neighbourhood could have a likely significant effect on the European Sites Identified below.

POLICY NUMBER	POLICY NAME	SUMMARY SCREENING OPINION			
		Rochdale Canal SAC	South Pennine Moors SAC	Dark Peak Moors (South Pennine Moors Phase 1) SPA	South Pennine Moors Phase 2 SPA
2	BIODIVERSITY	Screened Out	Possible impacts if tree planting encouraged on functionally linked land	Possible impacts if tree planting encouraged on functionally linked land	Possible impacts if tree planting encouraged on functionally linked land
6	CONVERSION OF AGRICULTURAL BUILDINGS (BARN CONVERSIONS)	Screened Out	Possible impacts from increased recreational pressure, depending on the location of buildings concerned	Possible impacts from increased recreational pressure, depending on the location of buildings concerned	Possible impacts from increased recreational pressure, depending on the location of buildings concerned
9	SUSTAINABLE CONSTRUCTION	Screened Out	Possible impacts depending on location and type of any proposed energy generation schemes	Possible impacts depending on location and type of any proposed energy generation schemes	Possible impacts depending on location and type of any proposed energy generation schemes
19	RETAIL, COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT	Screened Out	Possible impacts depending on location and type of any proposed developments, particularly new employment areas	Possible depending on location and type of any proposed developments, particularly new employment areas	Possible depending on location on and type of any proposed developments, particularly new employment areas
21	TOURISM AND LEISURE	Screened Out	Possible impacts from increased recreational pressure	Possible impacts from increased recreational pressure	Possible impacts from increased recreational pressure
25	CYCLING, PEDESTRIAN AND LEISURE INFRASTRUCTURE	Screened Out	Possible impacts from increased recreational pressure	Possible impacts from increased recreational pressure	Possible impacts from increased recreational pressure

26	ACCESSIBILITY TO TRANSPORT	Screened Out	Possible impacts from increased recreational pressure	Possible impacts from increased recreational pressure	Possible impacts from increased recreational pressure
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Following the analysis of the Policies, impacts on the Rochdale Canal can be Screened Out and are not considered further.

Further Assessment of remainder of the potential impacts is carried out below in Section 7. These are largely considered to be:

- Recreation pressure
- Air pollution
- Effects on functionally linked land

7.0 Appropriate Assessment (consideration of available mitigation)

The initial Screening process identified the following sources to have a likely significant effect on the European designated Sites:

- Recreation pressure
- Air pollution
- Effects on functionally linked land

As part of the Assessment, the nature and scale of the Plan being assessed needs to be taken into consideration. As a Neighbourhood Plan, it does not allocate any sites for development, and does not define the quantum or scale of development proposed. Rather, it outlines the type and detailed requirements that any development brought forward in Saddleworth should meet.

Specific Protection Provided to Designated Sites

Policy 3 – PROTECTED SPACES includes the following wording –

“The South Pennine Moors Special Protection Area (SPA) and Special Area of Conservation (SAC) are of particular importance in Saddleworth. Development is required to meet policies within PfE and the [Oldham] Local Plan which address recreational impacts on the SAC/SPA, including any functionally linked land.

Any specific proposals for facilitating tourism or tree planting are required to be assessed at a project level for any significant likely effects on the special interest of designated sites. Developments which fail to do so, or which do not mitigate against such impact will not be supported.

In the SPA/SAC specific mitigation at a project level may include requiring dogs to be on leads and the provision of advice for avoiding fire risks”.

This Policy wording provides a significant safeguard for any projects which may be considered to have potential impacts on designated sites.

Housing and Commercial Development

Decisions concerning the allocation of sites, and the quantum of future development in the area, will be made in the Places for Everyone (PfE) and Oldham’s Local Plan. In respect of the PfE Plan, an HRA has been prepared. In terms of the location of sites allocated for development, and the scale and quantum of development planned in PfE, this HRA has concluded that no significant effects on relevant designated sites are considered likely to arise in terms of any impacts on functionally linked land or in terms of air pollution effects, providing that appropriate mitigation measures are applied. Mitigation measures are set out in two joint Supplementary Planning Documents,

- South Pennine Moors Special Area of Conservation Special Area of Conservation / Special Protection Areas Joint SPD, November 2024,
- Holcroft Moss Planning Obligations Joint SPD, November 2024

The conclusion of this HRA is considered to be directly relevant to the Neighbourhood Plan being assessed in this report – that is, built developments in the Saddleworth Plan area are considered unlikely to affect designated sites through air pollution effects or impacts on functionally linked land, providing that mitigation measures included with the PfE and associated Supplementary Planning Documents are implemented.

In terms of recreational disturbance effects, the HRA of the PfE originally recommended that housing developments over a certain size threshold, and within a set distance of the South Pennine Moors SPA/SAC, should be required to make a financial contribution to measures to mitigate the effects of recreational disturbance which could arise from population increases. Subsequently, Natural England have concluded that because there is insufficient empirical evidence available to demonstrate a recreational impact on notable bird species, there is no current basis for applying the financial contribution requirement to new developments.

Tourism and Leisure and Cycling, Pedestrian and Leisure Infrastructure

While the objectives of encouraging sustainable tourism to the area, and the promotion of cycling and walking, are on the whole creditable objectives, there is some risk that increased tourism to the area, and facilitating access, could lead to an increase in recreational disturbance of the uplands. The most significant disturbance impacts arise from increased risks of fire in the uplands, and risk to nesting birds posed by dog walking off leads.

Policy 3 will require any specific access proposals to the uplands to be Assessed at a project level for any significant likely effects on the special interest of designated sites. The Policy will serve to mitigate potential likely significant effects.

Tree Planting

While the encouragement of tree planting is a creditable objective, and it is noted that tree planting will not be allowed in the uplands or on peat substrates, there is a small risk that tree planting at lower elevations could also harm the special interest of designated sites by affecting functionally linked land.

Policy 3 will require any specific tree planting proposals in the uplands to be Assessed at a project level for any significant likely effects on the special interest of designated sites. The Policy will serve to mitigate potential likely significant effects.

8 Consideration of 'In Combination' Effects with Other Plans and Proposals

Given the nature of the Plan, as a Neighbourhood Plan, and after consideration of the HRA of PfE, it is not considered at this stage that there will be any other 'in combination' effects with any other Plan.

It is noted that the Peak District National Park Authority is the statutory Planning Authority for the National Park area, part of which lies within Saddleworth. The Peak District National Park Plan (Core Strategy) has been subject to Assessment under the terms of the Habitats Regulations and it was concluded that the operation of the Plan would not have any likely significant effects on designated sites. This conclusion, taken together with mitigation measures proposed in PfE and in the Neighbourhood Plan, supports a conclusion that the implementation of the Core Strategy of the National Park together with the Neighbourhood Plan will not have any in-combination effects.

The draft Oldham Local Plan (2024) has been subject to HRA and this has concluded that, subject to recommended mitigation, the Local Plan will not cause any Likely Significant effects on the designated sites network.

It is recognised that this Neighbourhood Plan forms part of a wider Plan hierarchy, sitting beneath the strategic plan for Greater Manchester (Places for Everyone, PfE) and the Oldham Local Plan. The PfE has been separately subject to its own HRA process, and the developing

Local Plan will also be subject to an HRA. The HRA of PfE concluded that the Plan would not have any Likely Significant Effects on designated sites, providing that mitigation measures are implemented. The required mitigation will apply to this Plan and has been taken into account in the conclusion of no in-combination effects.

9.0 Summary and Recommendations

Screening of European sites has established that the following European sites have the potential to be affected by development in Saddleworth proposed by the Saddleworth Neighbourhood Plan:

- Rochdale Canal SAC
- South Pennine Moors SAC
- Dark Peak Moors (South Pennine Moors Phase 1) SPA
- South Pennine Moors Phase 2 SPA

Further, more detailed Assessment of the possible effects of the operation of Objectives and Policies included in the Plan on the European Sites identified in the Screening process has been undertaken.

A number of Policies within the Plan were initially Screened In as potentially having a damaging effect on European Sites due to increased recreational use, air pollution effects or effects on functionally linked land. Following further Assessment, air pollution effects were ruled out, but potential effects on functionally linked land, and through increased recreational disturbance, were further considered.

Wording included in Policy 3 (Protected Spaces) will act to mitigate for any possible likely significant effects of the Plan on designated sites. It is therefore concluded that it should be entirely possible to avoid and mitigate any adverse impacts on designated sites as a result of the operation of the Neighbourhood Plan, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects.

It is **recommended** that if any changes are made to the Plan as a result of either further public consultation or during any future Examination, the HRA will need to be revisited and revised to ensure that these changes would not result in a significant effect on any European Site.

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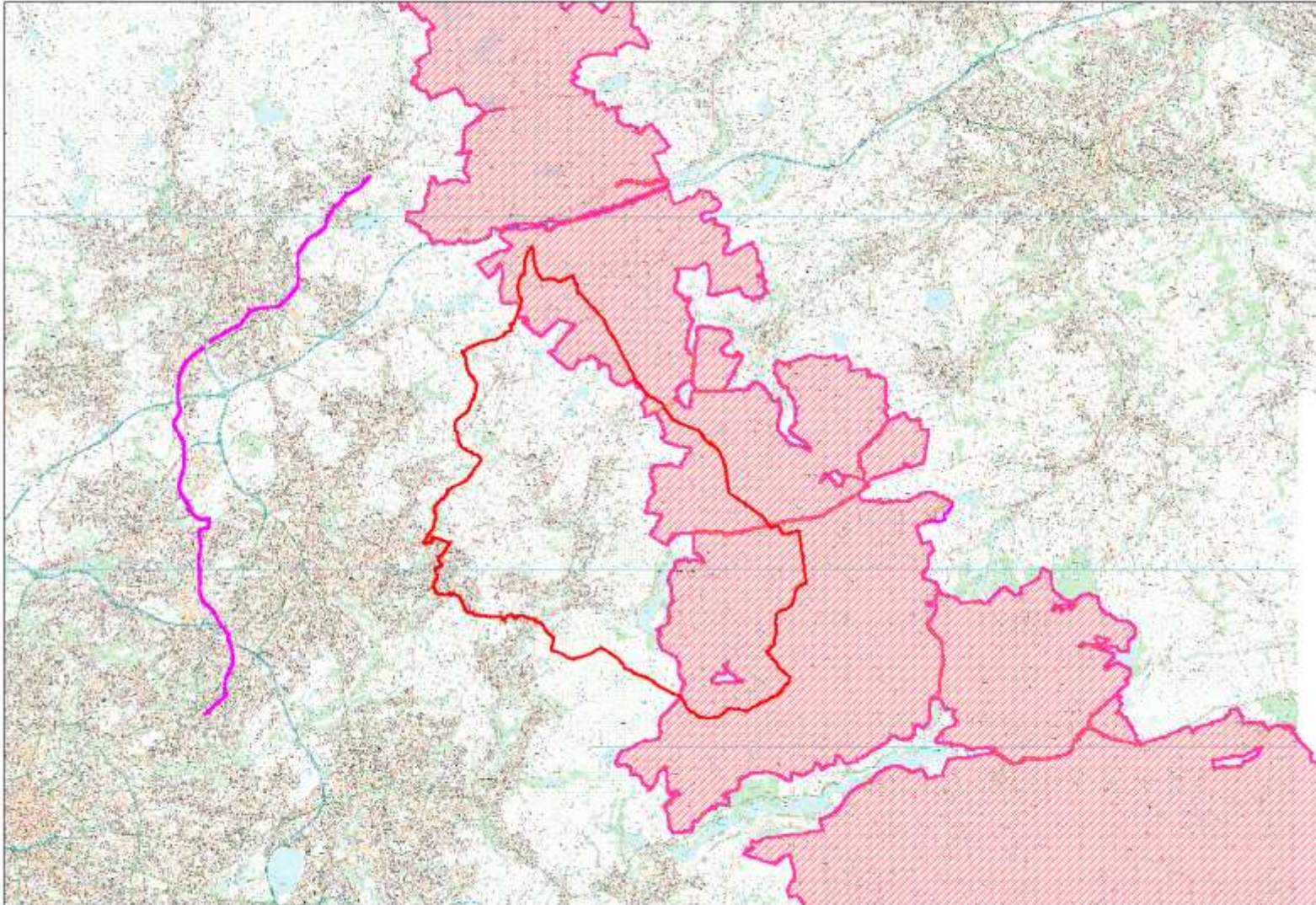
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Map 1 Showing Natura 2000 Network European sites along with 15km distance from Saddleworth boundary (Parish boundary in red)

APPENDIX 1: European designated sites within the Northern England and possible effects from development within Saddleworth. Those highlighted Sites 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 Saddleworth
		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 Saddleworth
Bolton Fell Moss	SAC	Water Quality/ Hydrology	None - No hydrological pathways between SAC and land within Saddleworth
		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 – Site too distant for any direction disturbance to habitats.
		Increased recreational Pressure	None – site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Saddleworth
Border Mires, Kielder – Butterburn	SAC	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - No hydrological pathways between SAC and land within Saddleworth
		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 – Site too distant for any direction disturbance to habitats.
		Increased recreational Pressure	None – site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Saddleworth

Site Name	Designation	Type of Effect	Likely Effects
Borrowdale Woodland Complex	SAC	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - No hydrological pathways between SAC and land within Saddleworth
		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 – 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 Saddleworth
Bowland Fells	SPA	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - No hydrological pathways between SPA and land within Saddleworth
		Air Pollution	None – No atmospheric pathways and any pollutants are likely to have dispersed prior to reaching SPA.
		Direct land take	None
		Habitat/Species Disturbance	None – identified species are highly unlikely to utilise habitats within Saddleworth
		Increased recreational Pressure	None – site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Saddleworth
Calf Hill & Cragg Woods	SAC	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - No hydrological pathways between SAC and land within Saddleworth
		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 – 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 Saddleworth

Site Name	Designation	Type of Effect	Likely Effects
Clints Quarry	SAC	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - No hydrological pathways between SAC and land within Saddleworth
		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 - 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 Saddleworth
Cumbrian Marsh Fritillary Site	SAC	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - No hydrological pathways between SAC and land within Saddleworth
		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 - 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 Saddleworth
Dee Estuary	SPA/Ramsar	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - No hydrological pathways between SPA and land within Saddleworth
		Air Pollution	None – No atmospheric pathways and any pollutants are likely to have dispersed prior to reaching SPA.
		Direct land take	None
		Habitat/Species Disturbance	None – species identified highly unlikely to be effected by any habitat changes in Saddleworth
		Increased recreational Pressure	None – site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Saddleworth

Site Name	Designation	Type of Effect	Likely Effects
Drigg Coast	SAC	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - No hydrological pathways between SAC and land within Saddleworth. Saddleworth 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.
		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 Saddleworth
Duddon Mosses	SAC	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - No hydrological pathways between SAC and land within Saddleworth
		Air Pollution	None – No atmospheric pathways and any pollutants are likely to have dispersed prior to reaching SPA.
		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 Saddleworth
Esthwaite Water	Ramsar	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - No hydrological pathways between Ramsar site and land within Saddleworth
		Air Pollution	None – No atmospheric pathways and any pollutants are likely to have dispersed prior to reaching Ramsar site.
		Direct land take	None
		Habitat/Species Disturbance	None – habitats and species identified highly unlikely to be effected by any habitat changes in Saddleworth
		Increased recreational Pressure	None – site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Saddleworth

Site Name	Designation	Type of Effect	Likely Effects
Irthinghead Mires	Ramsar	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - No hydrological pathways between Ramsar site and land within Saddleworth
		Air Pollution	None – No atmospheric pathways and any pollutants are likely to have dispersed prior to reaching Ramsar site.
		Direct land take	None
		Habitat/Species Disturbance	None – habitats and species identified highly unlikely to be effected by any habitat changes in Saddleworth
		Increased recreational Pressure	None – site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Saddleworth
Lake District High Fells	SAC	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - Hydrological connectivity with Thirlmere considered as part of United Utilities strategic HRA of WRMP (2013). No pathway for water borne pollution to SAC.
		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 – 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 Saddleworth
Leighton Moss	SPA/Ramsar	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - No hydrological pathways between SPA/Ramsar Site and land within Saddleworth
		Air Pollution	None – No atmospheric pathways and any pollutants are likely to have dispersed prior to reaching SPA and Ramsar Site.
		Direct land take	None
		Habitat/Species Disturbance	None – Habitats and species identified highly unlikely to be effected by any habitat changes in Saddleworth
		Increased recreational Pressure	None – site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Saddleworth

Site Name	Designation	Type of Effect	Likely Effects
Liverpool Bay	SPA	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - No hydrological pathways between SPA and land within Saddleworth
		Air Pollution	None – No atmospheric pathways and any pollutants are likely to have dispersed prior to reaching SPA.
		Direct land take	None
		Habitat/Species Disturbance	None – Habitats and species identified highly unlikely to be effected by any habitat changes in Saddleworth
		Increased recreational Pressure	None – site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Saddleworth
Manchester Mosses	SAC	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - No hydrological pathways between SAC and land within Saddleworth
		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 identified highly unlikely to be effected by any habitat changes in Saddleworth
		Increased recreational Pressure	None – site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Saddleworth
Martin Mere	SPA/Ramsar	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - No hydrological pathways between SPA/Ramsar Site and land within Saddleworth
		Air Pollution	None – No atmospheric pathways and any pollutants are likely to have dispersed prior to reaching SPA/Ramsar Site.
		Direct land take	None
		Habitat/Species Disturbance	None – Habitats and species identified highly unlikely to be effected by any habitat changes in Saddleworth
		Increased recreational Pressure	None – site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Saddleworth

Site Name	Designation	Type of Effect	Likely Effects
Mersey Estuary	SPA/Ramsar	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - No hydrological pathways between SPA/Ramsar Site and land within Saddleworth
		Air Pollution	None – No atmospheric pathways and any pollutants are likely to have dispersed prior to reaching SPA/Ramsar Site.
		Direct land take	None
		Habitat/Species Disturbance	None – Habitats and species identified highly unlikely to be significantly effected by any habitat changes in Saddleworth
		Increased recreational Pressure	None – site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Saddleworth
Mersey Narrows & Wirral Foreshore	SPA	Water Quality/Hydrology	Site classification details unavailable but there are unlikely to be any hydrological pathways between SPA and land within Saddleworth
		Air Pollution	Site classification details unavailable but there are unlikely to be any atmospheric pathways between SPA and land within Saddleworth
		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 Saddleworth (based on knowledge of Greater Manchester bird populations).
		Increased recreational Pressure	None – site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Saddleworth
<i>Midland Meres & Mosses Phase 1 & 2</i>	2 x Ramsar	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - No hydrological pathways between Ramsar site and land within Saddleworth
		Air Pollution	None – No atmospheric pathways and any pollutants are likely to have dispersed prior to reaching Ramsar site.
		Direct land take	None
		Habitat/Species Disturbance	None – habitats and species identified highly unlikely to be effected by any habitat changes in Saddleworth
		Increased recreational Pressure	None – site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Saddleworth

Site Name	Designation	Type of Effect	Likely Effects
Moor House – Upper Teasdale	SAC	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - No hydrological pathways between SAC and land within Saddleworth
		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 – 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 Saddleworth
Morecambe Bay and Duddon Estuary	SAC/Ramsar/SPA	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - No hydrological pathways between SAC/SPA/Ramsar Site and land within Saddleworth. Saddleworth rivers do not discharge into Morecambe Bay
		Air Pollution	None – No atmospheric pathways and any pollutants are likely to have dispersed prior to reaching SAC/SPA/Ramsar Site.
		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 Saddleworth.
		Increased recreational Pressure	None – site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Saddleworth
Morecambe Bay Pavements	SAC	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - No hydrological pathways between SAC and land within Saddleworth
		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 Saddleworth

Site Name	Designation	Type of Effect	Likely Effects
Naddle Forest	SAC	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - No hydrological pathways between SAC and land within Saddleworth
		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 – 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 Saddleworth
North Pennine Dales Meadows	SAC	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - No hydrological pathways between SAC and land within Saddleworth
		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 – 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 Saddleworth
North Pennine Moors	SAC/SPA	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - No hydrological pathways between SAC/SPA and land within Saddleworth
		Air Pollution	None – No atmospheric pathways and any pollutants are likely to have dispersed prior to reaching SAC/SPA.
		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 Saddleworth.
		Increased recreational Pressure	None – site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Saddleworth

Site Name	Designation	Type of Effect	Likely Effects
Oak Mere	SAC	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - No hydrological pathways between SAC and land within Saddleworth
		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 – 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 Saddleworth
Peak District Moors (South Pennine Moors Phase 1)	SPA	Water Quality/Hydrology	Possible – Parts of the SPA lie within the Saddleworth
		Air Pollution	Possible – Parts of the SPA lie within the Saddleworth
		Direct land take	Possible – Parts of the SPA lie within the Saddleworth
		Habitat/Species Disturbance	Possible – Parts of the SPA lie within the Saddleworth
		Increased recreational Pressure	Possible – Parts of the SPA lie within the Saddleworth
Ribble & Alt Estuaries	SPA/Ramsar	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - No hydrological pathways between SPA/Ramsar Site and land within Saddleworth
		Air Pollution	None – No atmospheric pathways and any pollutants are likely to have dispersed prior to reaching SPA/Ramsar Site.
		Direct land take	None
		Habitat/Species Disturbance	None – habitats and species identified highly unlikely to be effected by any habitat changes in Saddleworth
		Increased recreational Pressure	None – site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Saddleworth

Site Name	Designation	Type of Effect	Likely Effects
River Dee & Bala Lake	SAC	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - No hydrological pathways between SAC and land within Saddleworth
		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 – 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 Saddleworth
River Derwent & Bassenthwaite Lake	SAC	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - Hydrological connectivity with Thirlmere considered as part of United Utilities strategic HRA of WRMP (2013). No pathway for water borne pollution to SAC.
		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 – 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 Saddleworth
River Eden	SAC	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - No hydrological pathways between SAC and land within Saddleworth
		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 – 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 Saddleworth

Site Name	Designation	Type of Effect	Likely Effects
River Ehen	SAC	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - No hydrological pathways between SAC and land within Saddleworth
		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 - 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 Saddleworth
River Kent	SAC	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - No hydrological pathways between SAC and land within Saddleworth
		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 – 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 Saddleworth
Rixton Clay Pits	SAC	Water Quality/Hydrology	None – no hydrological connectivity between the site and Saddleworth. Water bodies on site are fed by rain water.
		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 - 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 Saddleworth

Site Name	Designation	Type of Effect	Likely Effects
Rochdale Canal	SAC	Water Quality/Hydrology	Possible – Impact Risk Zones identifies discharge of water or liquid waste as potential risks
		Air Pollution	Possible – Impact Risk Zones identifies air pollution from certain livestock & poultry units, slurry lagoons & digestate stores and combustion process as potential risks
		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 Saddleworth
Rostherne Mere	Ramsar	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - No hydrological pathways between Ramsar site and land within Saddleworth
		Air Pollution	None – No atmospheric pathways and any pollutants are likely to have dispersed prior to reaching Ramsar site.
		Direct land take	None
		Habitat/Species Disturbance	None – habitats and species identified highly unlikely to be effected by any habitat changes in Saddleworth
		Increased recreational Pressure	None – site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Saddleworth
Roudsea Wood & Mosses	SAC	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - No hydrological pathways between SAC and land within Saddleworth
		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 – 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 Saddleworth

Site Name	Designation	Type of Effect	Likely Effects
Sefton Coast	SAC	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - No hydrological pathways between SAC and land within Saddleworth
		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 – 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 Saddleworth
Shell Flat & Lune Deep	SAC	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - No hydrological pathways between SAC and land within Saddleworth
		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 – 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 Saddleworth
Solway Firth	SAC	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - No hydrological pathways between SAC and land within Saddleworth
		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 – 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 Saddleworth

Site Name	Designation	Type of Effect	Likely Effects
South Pennine Moors	SAC	Water Quality/Hydrology	Possible – Parts of the SPA lie within the Saddleworth.
		Air Pollution	Possible – Parts of the SPA lie within the Saddleworth
		Direct land take	Possible – Parts of the SPA lie within the Saddleworth
		Habitat/Species Disturbance	Possible – Parts of the SPA lie within the Saddleworth
		Increased recreational Pressure	Possible – Parts of the SPA lie within the Saddleworth
South Pennine Moors Phase 2	SPA	Water Quality/Hydrology	Possible – Parts of the SPA lie within the Saddleworth.
		Air Pollution	Possible – Parts of the SPA lie within the Saddleworth.
		Direct land take	Possible – Parts of the SPA lie within the Saddleworth.
		Habitat/Species Disturbance	Possible – Parts of the SPA lie within the Saddleworth.
		Increased recreational Pressure	Possible – Parts of the SPA lie within the Saddleworth.
South Solway Mosses	SAC	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - No hydrological pathways between SAC and land within Saddleworth
		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 – 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 Saddleworth

Site Name	Designation	Type of Effect	Likely Effects
Subberthwaite, Blawith & Torver Low Commons	SAC	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - No hydrological pathways between SAC and land within Saddleworth
		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 – 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 Saddleworth
Tarn Moss	SAC	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - No hydrological pathways between SAC and land within Saddleworth
		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 – 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 Saddleworth
Tyne & Nent	SAC	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - No hydrological pathways between SAC and land within Saddleworth
		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 – 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 Saddleworth

Site Name	Designation	Type of Effect	Likely Effects
Ullswater Oakwoods	SAC	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - No hydrological pathways between SAC and land within Saddleworth
		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 – 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 Saddleworth
Upper Solway Flats & Marshes	SPA/Ramsar	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - No hydrological pathways between SPA/Ramsar Site and land within Saddleworth
		Air Pollution	None – No atmospheric pathways and any pollutants are likely to have dispersed prior to reaching SPA/Ramsar Site.
		Direct land take	None
		Habitat/Species Disturbance	None – species identified highly unlikely to be effected by any habitat changes in Saddleworth
		Increased recreational Pressure	None – site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Saddleworth
Walton Moss	SAC	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - No hydrological pathways between SAC and land within Saddleworth
		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 – 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 Saddleworth

Site Name	Designation	Type of Effect	Likely Effects
Wast Water	SAC	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - No hydrological pathways between SAC and land within Saddleworth
		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 – 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 Saddleworth
West Midlands Mosses	SAC	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - No hydrological pathways between SAC and land within Saddleworth
		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 – 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 Saddleworth
Witherslack Mosses	SAC	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - No hydrological pathways between SAC and land within Saddleworth
		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 – 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 Saddleworth

Site Name	Designation	Type of Effect	Likely Effects
Yewbarrow Woods	SAC	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - No hydrological pathways between SAC and land within Saddleworth
		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 – 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 Saddleworth

APPENDIX 2: Screening Summary of European designated sites within the Northern England and possible impacts from development within Saddleworth

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

Site Name	Designation	Screened in/out	Justification
Liverpool Bay	SPA	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and strategic impacts considered by Saddleworth's HRA
Manchester Mosses	SAC	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and strategic impacts considered by Saddleworth's HRA
Martin Mere	SPA/Ramsar	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and strategic impacts considered by Saddleworth's HRA
Mersey Estuary	SPA/Ramsar	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and strategic impacts considered by Saddleworth's HRA
Mersey Narrows & Wirral Foreshore	SPA	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and strategic impacts considered by Saddleworth's 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 Saddleworth's HRA
Moor House – Upper Teasdale	SAC	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and no strategic impacts or pathways identified in Saddleworth's HRA
Morecambe Bay and Duddon Estuary	SAC/Ramsar/ SAC	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and no strategic impacts or pathways identified in Saddleworth's HRA
Morecambe Bay Pavements	SAC	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and no strategic impacts or pathways identified in Saddleworth's HRA
Naddle Forest	SAC	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and no strategic impacts or pathways identified in Saddleworth's HRA
North Pennine Dales Meadows	SAC	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and no strategic impacts or pathways identified in Saddleworth's HRA
North Pennine Moors	SAC/SPA	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and strategic impacts considered by Saddleworth's HRA
Oak Mere	SAC	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and no strategic impacts or pathways identified in Saddleworth's HRA
Peak District Moors (South Pennine Moors Phase 1)	SPA	In	Parts of the SPA lie within the Saddleworth boundary
Ribble & Alt Estuaries	SPA/Ramsar	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and strategic impacts considered by Saddleworth's HRA
River Dee & Bala Lake	SAC	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and no strategic impacts or pathways identified in Saddleworth's 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 United Utilities WRMP (2013)
River Eden	SAC	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and no strategic impacts or pathways identified in Saddleworth's HRA
River Ehen	SAC	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and no strategic impacts or pathways identified in Saddleworth's HRA
River Kent	SAC	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and no strategic impacts or pathways identified in Saddleworth's HRA
Rixton Clay Pits	SAC	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and no strategic impacts or pathways identified in Saddleworth's HRA
Rochdale Canal	SAC	In	Possible impacts from water/liquid waste discharges, air pollution and/or combustion process
Rostherne Mere	Ramsar	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and no strategic impacts or pathways identified in Saddleworth's HRA
Roudsea Wood & Mosses	SAC	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and no strategic impacts or pathways identified in Saddleworth's HRA
Sefton Coast	SAC	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and no strategic impacts or pathways identified in Saddleworth's HRA
Shell Flats & Lune Deep	SAC	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and no strategic impacts or pathways identified in Saddleworth's HRA
Solway Firth	SAC	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and no strategic impacts or pathways identified in Saddleworth's HRA
South Pennine Moors	SAC	In	Parts of the SAC lie within the Saddleworth boundary
South Pennine Moors Phase 2	SPA	In	Parts of the SPA lie within the Saddleworth boundary
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 Saddleworth's HRA
Tarn Moss	SAC	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and no strategic impacts or pathways identified in Saddleworth's 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 Saddleworth's HRA
Ullswater Oakwoods	SAC	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and no strategic impacts or pathways identified in Saddleworth's 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 Saddleworth's HRA
Walton Moss	SAC	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and no strategic impacts or pathways identified in Saddleworth's HRA
Wast Water	SAC	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and no strategic impacts or pathways identified in Saddleworth's HRA
West Midlands Mosses	SAC	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and no strategic impacts or pathways identified in Saddleworth's HRA
Witherslack Mosses	SAC	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and no strategic impacts or pathways identified in Saddleworth's HRA
Yewbarrow Woods	SAC	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and no strategic impacts or pathways identified in Saddleworth's HRA

Appendix 3 – List of Other Relevant Plans and Projects Considered as part of the Assessment

Plans Assessed under the Terms of the Habitats Regulations

District	Plan	Outcome of Assessment
Rochdale MBC	Local Development Framework - Core Strategy 2010	No effect on the integrity of Manchester Mosses SAC, Rixton Clay Pits SAC and River Mersey SPA
Rochdale MBC	Draft Allocations Plan 2018	No effect on the integrity of Manchester Mosses SAC, Rixton Clay Pits SAC and River Mersey SPA
Trafford MBC	Core Strategy 2012	No effect on the integrity of European sites
Bolton MBC	Core Strategy 2011 and Site Allocations Plan 2014	No effect on the integrity of European sites
Stockport MBC	Core Strategy 2011	No effect on the integrity of European sites
Oldham MBC	Joint Core Strategy and Development Management Policies 2011	No effect on the integrity of European sites
Wigan MBC	Core Strategy 2013	No effect on the integrity of European sites
Manchester City Council	Core Strategy 2012	No effect on the integrity of European sites
All GM Districts	Combined Minerals Plan 2013	No effect on the integrity of European sites
All GM Districts	Combined Waste Plan 2012	No effect on the integrity of European sites
Greater Manchester	Places for Everyone Strategic Plan	No effect on the integrity of European sites, providing that recommended mitigation is implemented
Warrington MBC	Proposed Submission Version Local Plan 2019	No effect on the integrity of European sites provided recommendations in HRA are adopted

Appendix 4

Summary Policy Assessment Categories From Chapter F of the Habitats Regulations Assessment Handbook (DTA Publications, 2019)

Abbreviation	Category/Policy Type
A	General statements of policy / general aspirations (screened out)
B	Policy listing general criteria for testing the acceptability / sustainability of proposals (screened out)
C	Proposal referred to but not proposed by the plan (screened out)
D	General plan-wide environmental protection / site safeguarding/ threshold policies (screened out)
E	Policies or proposals that steer change in such a way as to protect European sites from adverse effects(screened out)
F	Policy that cannot lead to development or other change (screened out)
G	Policy or proposal that could not have any conceivable effect on a site (screened out)
H	Policy or proposal the (actual or theoretical) effects of which cannot undermine the conservation objectives (either alone or in combination with other aspects of this or other plans or projects) (screened out)
I	Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant effect on a site alone (screened in)
J	Policy or proposal with an effect on a site but unlikely to be significant effect alone so need to check likely significant effects in combination
K	Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in combination (screened out after the in combination test)
L	Policy or proposal which might be likely to have a significant effect in combination (screened in after the in combination test)
M	Bespoke area, site or case-specific policies or proposals intended to avoid or reduce harmful effects on a European Site (screened in)