

Habitats Regulations Assessment of the Impact on European Protected Sites of the Trafford Council Land Allocation Plan

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Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) of the Impact of Trafford Council's Land Allocations Plan on European Protected Sites

1 Introduction

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

'Any plan or project not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site but likely to have a significant effect thereon, either individually or in combination with other plans and projects, shall be subject to assessment of its implications for the site in view of the site's conservation objectives. In light of the conclusions of the assessment of the implications for the site and subject to the provisions of paragraph 4, the competent national authorities shall agree to the plan or project only after ascertained that it will not adversely affect the integrity of the site concerned and, if appropriate, after having obtained the opinion of the general public.'

- 1.2 Under the terms of amendments made to the Habitats Directive in 2007 the following relevant land-use plan is considered to require a Habitats Regulation Assessment:

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

The Land Allocations Plan of Trafford Council's Local Development Framework is considered to be a Local Development Document (a 'Plan') that falls under Part IV, 85A-(2) of the 2007 Habitats Regulations Amendments and therefore is required to be subject to a Habitats Regulations Assessment (to be taken at least through the screening stage (Stage 1)).

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

- 1.4 This report examines the Trafford Land Allocations Plan and:

- Identifies by a screening process any European site that could potentially be affected by either development in areas selected by Trafford Council as Strategic Locations and other Land Allocations, or affected by borough-wide development proposals.
- Outlines details of the nature conservation importance of any European sites 'screened in' to the process.
- Identifies the possible impacts that development within the Strategic Locations and other Land Allocations may have on features of nature conservation importance within European sites.
- Identifies controls within the Plan and other development plan documents, strategies, policies and plans that could act to avoid or mitigate any identified effects.
- Proposes amendments and alterations to the Plan, if necessary.
- Identifies sites and development proposals that will require further Assessment as part of the ongoing HRA of Trafford's Land Allocations Plan.

- 1.5 Habitats Regulation Assessments can be seen as having a number of discrete stages -
- Stage 1 - Screening
 - Stage 2 – Appropriate Assessment
 - Stage 3 – Assessment of Alternatives
 - Stage 4 – Assessment where no alternatives are available
- 1.6 This document comprises Stage 1 of the Habitats Regulation Assessment process and contributes to the fulfilment of Trafford Council's statutory duty as regards Article 6(3). That is, it is an Opinion on, and an Assessment of, whether or not the selection of Strategic Locations and Strategic Sites for development identified within Trafford Council's Land Allocations Plan (hereafter referred to as 'the Plan'), may have a significant effect on the special interest of any European designated protected sites. It is also an Opinion on, and an Assessment of, whether any of the identified effects (if any) can be avoided or mitigated or whether any of the Land Allocations need to be deselected or whether the wording of the Plan needs to be amended.
- 1.7 It is noted that the Plan being assessed is still at the development stage and further Assessments may be required as the Plan develops further. There is no statutory guidance on what stage of Plan production to best prepare an HRA but Natural England recommends that HRA begins at an early stage and if necessary continues through all the stages of plan production. HRA Methodologies are at a relatively early stage of development and examples of Best Practice have not yet emerged. As Best Practice emerges the methodology undertaken for this HRA may develop.
- 1.8 The Greater Manchester Ecology Unit (GMEU), as the specialist ecological adviser to Trafford Council, has prepared this Screening Opinion. Natural England and the JNCC were consulted for information on the conservation objectives and favourable condition tables for the European Sites concerned (the information is summarised below). GMEU ecologists, who are familiar with the European sites concerned and their special interest, reviewed the ecological information for the sites. The key vulnerabilities and sensitivities of the European sites concerned are well understood by GMEU allowing for an informed assessment of the possible effects of the Plan, and any specific aims, objectives and policies contained in the Plan. GMEU have already undertaken a HRA for Trafford Council's DPD 1 Core Strategy (2011).

2 Brief description of the Plan

2.1 The Plan being assessed is the Land Allocations Plan of the Trafford Council Local Development Framework.

The Plan identifies:

- Sites for housing, employment and other development;
- Design and infrastructure requirements for major sites;
- Town, District and Local Centre boundaries and Primary Shopping Areas;
- Land to be safeguarded for recreation;
- Land to be protected as environmental assets;
- Land to be protected as historical assets and;
- Land to be protected as Green Belt;
- Land to be protected from development in this Plan period.

It is a Plan that -

- Provides the spatial strategy for the borough;
- Identifies the overall scale of development that should take place, and where it should be focused;
- Supports the delivery of the key infrastructure and facilities;
- Offers protection for important nature conservation sites, sites of historical interest and areas of open greenspace.

Different Chapters of the Plan are concerned with –

- Strategic Locations for Development
- Housing
- Provision for Gypsy, Roma and Travellers Community
- Regeneration, including priority areas for Regeneration
- Transport
- Flooding
- Low carbon Growth Areas
- Employment
- Town Centre, District Centre and Local Centre Developments
- Out-of-centre Retail
- The Historic Environment
- The Natural Environment and Green Infrastructure
- Sports and leisure provision
- Green Belt

Policies are described in detail for all of the above topic areas.

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

2.3 The Plan sets out a relatively detailed Spatial Framework for Trafford. The overall direction for different parts of Trafford is set out in a series of identified sites and areas.

2.4 It is important to note that none of the preferred locations for significant new development within Trafford lies within or directly adjacent to any European Sites and therefore no direct land take of a European Site is proposed or envisaged during the implementation of the Plan. In fact no European protected sites lie within the administrative boundary of Trafford Council and the majority of the locations proposed for significant development lie more than

5km away from any European protected sites. It is also notable that much of the development envisaged for Trafford will take place on previously developed land.

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

3 Identification of European designated sites concerned

3.1 This Assessment has first screened European protected sites in the North of England to decide which of these sites are likely to be affected by future development in Trafford. When assessing the impact of a Plan on European protected sites it is important to consider the impact on sites not only within the administrative area covered by the Plan but also those which fall outside the Plan boundary, as these could still potentially be affected by the Plan.

3.2 As a useful starting point, the Assessment has considered the suite of European sites assessed within the North West Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) Habitat Regulations Assessment. It is recognised that the RSS itself will soon be rescinded, but the evidence used in the preparation of the RSS, including the HRA, remains current and relevant.

Sites assessed are listed in Appendix 1. This ensures that *all* European sites considered to have the potential to be affected by development within the entire north of England can be initially considered for assessment (screened).

3.3 The Screening Criteria

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

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

- Water (water pollution and hydrology)
- Air (air pollution)
- Direct land-take
- Habitat/Species Disturbance
- Increased recreational pressure

Guidance from the Environment Agency (EA) concerning distances at which significant effects on European sites are caused by water or air pollution have been taken into account during the screening of European sites in the north. The EA has set recommended buffer zones for certain types of operation (in particular, waste treatment operations) that are in part applicable to other types of operation. Outside of these buffer zones significant effects on European sites arising from water and air pollution are considered unlikely to arise. The largest (most cautious) buffer zone considered by the EA is 5km; that is, most operations with the potential to cause direct water and/or air pollution impacts located further than 5km from the boundary of a European site are considered very unlikely to have a significant effect on the special interest of that site and it was this buffer zone that was used in the HRA for Trafford's Core Strategy. Only two European sites are within 5km of the boundary of Trafford; these are **Rixton Clay Pits SAC** and the **Manchester Mosses SAC**.

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

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

3.3.1 Diffuse Air Pollution

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

- Oxides of Nitrogen (NO_x)
- Ammonia (NH₃)
- Dust
- Sulphur Dioxide (SO₂)
- Low level Ozone (O₃)

(Scott Wilson Ltd 2007)

Of these NO_x and SO₃ are the most likely to arise as a result of development controlled by the LDF process (mainly through increased traffic). The greatest damage caused by these pollutants occurs close to where they are emitted (within 250 m) but an individual source of pollution may add to the general background levels, as pollutants are dispersed by prevailing winds. The main sources of these pollutants are road traffic and industrial processes. Where proposed developments within Trafford are likely to result in these pollutants arising, these have been screened into this Assessment. Where the proposed scale of development has already been assessed at the Regional level, these will be screened out.

Part of the Manchester Mosses SAC (Holcroft Moss) lies very close to the M62 motorway. It is considered possible that, if the Plan being assessed results in increased vehicular traffic flow along the motorway, then this increase in traffic may result in increased (damaging) deposition of NO_x and SO_x on the sensitive habitats of the Moss (mostly *Sphagnum* mosses). The following points are relevant to this Assessment:

- Research has shown that SO_x, NO_x and NH₃ pollutants arising from vehicle exhausts deposit close to the pollutant source (concentrations fall by 90% within 15m). The Design Manual for Roads and Bridges identifies 200m as the distance beyond which the contribution of traffic emissions to local pollutant concentrations is considered to be negligible.
- The M62 is the major east-west transport link across north-west England. The motorway serves many urban conurbations, including Liverpool, Warrington, Greater Manchester, Leeds/Bradford and Hull. Any increase in traffic on the M62 will therefore be difficult to attribute solely to any increased development in Trafford.
- New cars are much less polluting than older models, so although the volume of traffic on the M62 may increase this will not necessarily lead to any increases in air pollution levels.
- The Trafford Council Core Strategy includes policies specifically aimed at reducing the impact of air pollution from vehicular traffic.

- There is no specific scientific research available indicating what levels of air pollution in the environment cause noticeable damage to *Sphagnum* mosses

Notwithstanding the above, and because of the last point, this Assessment takes a precautionary approach to possible impacts of increased air pollution from increased traffic on the Manchester Mosses SAC and screens in any development considered likely to result in increased traffic flow along the M62. However, because of the above points it is not considered reasonable to recommend that particular draft Plan proposals be removed from the Plan because of a (possibly incorrect) assumption that they *may* have the potential to lead to an increase in traffic along the M62. Rather, it is recommended that this issue be raised for consideration in any detailed development proposals that may come forward later so that possible impacts can be properly assessed and mitigated.

3.3.2 Point Source Pollution

For industrial processes, the current guidance that is used when assessing point source emissions is the Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control H1 Guidance for the Environmental Assessment and Appraisal of Best Available Techniques. Not all industrial processes/emissions will require assessment. A simple screening tool is provided with the guidance to determine which pollutants emitted from a process are released in significant amounts and which are not. For those pollutants which are emitted in significant amounts, detailed modelling may be required if the process is located near to sensitive receptors/locations of relevant exposure. The H1 document indicates that designated sites (including European sites) which are located within 10 km of the pollutant source should be considered as a sensitive receptor within an assessment. For major emitters (large power stations, refineries, or iron and steelworks) this distance increases to 15km.

With regards to development associated with the Land Allocations Plan, there is the potential that further assessment will be required for new industrial processes located within 10km (or 15km for major scale emitters) of European sites. Only two European Sites fall within this area; they are **Rixton Clay Pits SAC** and the **Manchester Mosses SAC**.

Assessment may take the form of the simple screening exercise or more detailed modelling. It is assumed that any proposed industrial processes will need to carry out an appropriate air quality assessment in order to obtain their operating permit from the local authority or Environment Agency. It is also assumed that each process will implement appropriate mitigation measures to minimise their impact on European sites.

3.3.3 Diffuse Water Pollution

Effects on distant European sites can occur through increases in water pollution caused by nutrient enrichment and/or industrial processes. Where proposed developments within Trafford are considered likely to result in this type of diffuse pollution arising and affecting a European site, these have been screened into this Assessment.

Of the sites considered under Appendix 1, diffuse water pollution could potentially have an effect on the Mersey Estuary SPA/Ramsar Site, because the Manchester Ship Canal passes through Trafford and this eventually discharges into the Estuary. Further, large-scale development is planned for along the Canal and an increase in shipping on the Canal is promoted in the Plan.

Prior to discharging into the Estuary the Ship Canal does pass through other Metropolitan areas, and the Estuary itself is adjacent to the Merseyside conurbation. The water flow through the Canal is controlled by a series of locks that in places serve to slow and/or divert water flow and this results in sedimentation occurring along the Canal, reducing deposition into the Mersey Estuary. It would therefore be very difficult to establish whether any water pollution arising from development in Trafford was responsible for a significant effect on pollution in the Estuary. Other strategies and plans, in particular the requirements of the EU Water Frameworks Directive and the associated River Basin Management Plans, will

require measures to be taken to ensure a reduction in pollution levels in the Canal and in the Estuary. It is noted that the HRA for the Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) did not identify development with Greater Manchester as likely to have a significant effect on this European protected site.

For the above reasons the Mersey Estuary has been screened out of this HRA.

3.3.4 Recreational Pressure

The effects of increased regional and sub-regional populations on recreational pressures on north west European protected sites has been considered in the HRA of the North West RSS and is therefore not considered in detail in this report. There are no European protected sites within Trafford and those closest to Trafford are not subject to significant recreational pressures. It is therefore generally considered that any recreational pressures arising from development within Trafford on European protected sites will be very diffuse and therefore not significant, and/or very difficult to assess independently. However where housing allocations are within 5km of the Manchester Mosses SAC, this potential impact has been screened in on the precautionary principle.

3.3.5 Water Supply

Trafford obtains its water supply from supplies that serve much of Greater Manchester through a large ring main and, in future, from an improved East-West main water pipeline. It is therefore very difficult to assess the impact on any remote European protected sites of any increase in water supply caused by development in Trafford alone. For this reason reliance has been placed on the results of the Appropriate Assessment of the RSS and distant European sites supplying water to the GM sub-region have been screened out of the Assessment of this Plan.

It is material to state here that United Utilities (the main water supply utility company in the north west of England) have stated that no water supply issues are envisaged for Trafford for the foreseeable future, even given the scale of proposed new development in the Borough (United Utilities Water Resources Management Plan 2013).

3.3.6 The detailed results of the site screening process are found in Appendices 1 and 2 of this document. Appendix 1 shows the likely effects of the possible pathway and sources, outlined above (3.1), of future development in Trafford on these European sites. Appendix 2 summarises the results of this screening process. The outcomes of the site screening process are given below.

3.4 Summary Results of Screening of Sites

From the screening process detailed in Appendix 1 and 2 the following European designated sites have been identified as having some potential to be affected by development proposed and planned for within the Trafford Land Allocations Plan.

- **Manchester Mosses SAC**
- **Rixton Clay Pits SAC**

The sites have been screened in largely because they lie within 5km of the boundary of Trafford. The nature conservation importance of these 'screened in' European designated sites is described below.

There are no European sites within the administrative boundary of Trafford Council and therefore, direct impacts such as habitat loss will not occur from the operation of the Plan.

4 The Nature Conservation Interest of the Manchester Mosses SAC and Rixton Clay Pits SAC

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 Description of Rixton Clay Pits SAC

Situated in the east of Warrington MBC east of Warrington town centre, this site comprises parts of an extensive disused brickworks excavated in glacial boulder clay. The excavation has left a series of hollows, which have filled with water since workings ceased in the 1960s, leading to a variety of pond sizes. New ponds have also been created more recently for wildlife and amenity purposes. **Great crested newt *Triturus cristatus*** are known to occur in at least 20 ponds across the site and the population density of the species on this site is very high. The site also supports species-rich grassland, scrub and mature secondary woodland.

4.2 Primary Reason For Designation Of Rixton Clay Pits

The primary reason for the designation of Rixton Clay Pits is its significant population of great crested newts (*Triturus cristatus*), a European protected species. Sites are selected as SACs where there is evidence of a relatively large and robust population of great crested newts, based on reliable recent survey data.

4.3 Conservation Objectives for Rixton Clay Pits

The conservation objectives for this site are:

“Avoid the deterioration of the qualifying natural habitats and the habitats of qualifying species, and the significant disturbance of those qualifying species, ensuring the integrity of the site is maintained and the site makes a full contribution to achieving Favourable Conservation Status of each of the qualifying features.”

4.4 Description of the Manchester Mosses SAC

Mossland formerly covered a very large part of low-lying Greater Manchester, Merseyside and southern Lancashire, and provided a severe obstacle to industrial and agricultural expansion. While most of the mossland has been converted to agriculture or lost to development, several examples have survived as degraded raised bog, such as Astley & Bedford Mosses (Wigan), Risley Moss (Warrington) and Holcroft Moss (Warrington) on the Mersey floodplain. Their surfaces are now elevated above surrounding land due to shrinkage of the surrounding tilled land, and all except Holcroft Moss have been cut for peat at some time in the past. While past drainage has produced dominant purple moor grass (*Molinia caerulea*), bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*) and birch (*Betula*) spp. scrub or woodland, wetter pockets have enabled the peat-forming species to survive. Recent rehabilitation management on all three sites has caused these to spread. These sites form part of the Chat Moss complex, parts of which lie within Trafford.

4.5 Primary Reason For Designation of The Manchester Mosses SAC

The site(s) supports degraded bog still capable of natural regeneration (JNCC code 7120), which has the potential to be restored to active raised bog (JNCC code 7110).

SAC sites have been selected on a site-by-site basis and according to the *Interpretation manual of European habitats* (European Commission DG Environment 1999); “where the hydrology can be repaired and where, with appropriate rehabilitation management, there is a reasonable expectation of re-establishing vegetation with peat-forming capability within 30 years”.

4.6 Conservation Objectives of the Manchester Mosses

The Conservation Objectives for the Manchester Mosses SAC is:

“Avoid the deterioration of the qualifying natural habitats and the habitats of qualifying species, and the significant disturbance of those qualifying species, ensuring the integrity of the site is maintained and the site makes a full contribution to achieving Favourable Conservation Status of each of the qualifying features.”

A series of site-specific standards defining favourable condition has been produced by Natural England. However these relate to management of the habitats on the site and are not particularly applicable to assessing the effects of development proposals on the SAC. Therefore in order to consider these potential impacts the operations that may damage the special interest of the SAC have to be considered. These 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
- Pollution including atmospheric pollutants and NOx
- Recreational activities

(Adapted from information available from Natural England)

5 Screening Opinions

5.1 Possible Impacts of the Plan on Rixton Clay Pits – Screening Opinion

Great crested newts rarely travel more than 500m from their breeding sites, and Natural England's Mitigation Guidelines (2001) quotes up to 1.3km as the longest distance travelled. Rixton Clay Pits is more than 2km from the boundary of Trafford Council.

There are no direct hydrological connections between the SAC and any sites within Trafford.

Although publicly accessible, Rixton Clay Pits is regarded as a specialised *local* recreational resource. It is not promoted as a regional or sub-regional recreation resource, and is not promoted as a resource within or by Trafford. It is therefore considered to be very unlikely that any increases in recreational activity arising from the Plan will significantly affect Rixton Clay Pits.

Since the site lies to the west of Trafford and prevailing wind directions are predominantly from the west and south west the possibility of air pollution from Trafford affecting the site is considered to be remote. In any case, none of the habitats present at Rixton Clay pits are considered to be particularly susceptible to small changes in air pollution.

It is therefore concluded that there will be no direct or indirect effects arising from the Plan on the special nature conservation interest of Rixton Clay Pits.

5.2 Possible Impacts of the Plan on the Manchester Mosses SAC – Screening Opinion

Of the Operations listed above those considered to be the most important in relation to matters subject to the LDF process in Trafford are:

- 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
- Pollution including atmospheric pollutants and NOx
- Recreational activities

Although it is recognised that the Manchester Mosses are not within the boundaries of Trafford, it is considered that some or all of the above impacts may result from the implementation of the Trafford Land Allocations Plan because of the proximity of the European site to Trafford and 'secondary' impacts arising. For example, developments within Trafford may need to be served by new infrastructure that directly affects the Mosses. **The Manchester Mosses SAC is therefore considered to be the only European site that could potentially be significantly affected by the operation of the Plan. Possible impacts of Plan allocations on this European site have therefore been assessed in some detail below.**

It should be noted that in this section and in Section 6 of the Report it is the *broad principle* of development that is being assessed, rather than the detail of any proposed development, since these details are not yet available. Details of possible sources, pathways and receptors for impacts are not available for assessment at this stage of Plan production.

Strategic Locations

The Strategic Locations were previously subject to a screening process as part of the HRA for the Trafford's Core Strategy. The Strategic Locations remain unchanged since the Core

Strategy and therefore this initial screening remains unchanged. That is: only one Strategic Location, Carrington, has the potential to effect/impact the Manchester Mosses SAC with potential effects arising from atmospheric pollution and recreational pressure.

Table 5.1 therefore shows the results of the screening for the other chapters or themes of the Land Allocations Plan. Each of these chapters has been assessed to determine whether it is:

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

Table 5.1 Initial Screening of Chapters (excluding Strategic Locations)

No.	Chapter Heading	Summary	Potential Impact on Manchester Mosses SAC?	Screening Assessment
7	Housing	Provides details of how housing demand in the Borough will be managed. Gives detailed housing policies and details of site allocations for housing.	Some of the proposed housing allocations could potentially result in recreational pressures on the SAC. Could have a potentially negative effect on a European Site	Screened In
8	Gypsy, Roma and Travellers	Identifies suitable sites for use as Gypsy and Traveller sites	Currently only one site has been allocated for this use, which is an existing Caravan Park. This site lies outside of the 5km buffer for the SAC. Unlikely to have an effect on the European Site.	Screened Out
9	Regeneration	Identifies three priority regeneration areas for the Borough	Two of the three regeneration areas (Old Trafford and Sale West) lie outside of the 5km buffer for the SAC, and therefore would have no impact on the SAC. The third, Partington, lies within the buffer but the priorities for regeneration relate to improving public transport, open space and local shopping facilities. These measures could have a potentially positive effect on a European Site.	Screened Out
10	Transport	Identifies priority sites and areas for the development of all types of transport in the Borough	This chapter includes measures to improve and increase active travel within the borough and to improve public transport, all of which could result in a reduction in atmospheric pollution by reducing car usage. Could have a potentially positive effect on a European Site The chapter also includes measures for heavy rail and works to the highway network. While some of these may have potentially positive effects on the SAC by, for example reducing congestion, others have the potential to negatively effect the SAC.	Screened In
11	Flooding	Identifies safeguarded places for flood management	The safeguarded areas are outside of the 5km buffer zone of the SAC and the proposals are unlikely to have an effect on the European Site. Trafford's Local Flood Implementation Plan will be subject to its own HRA.	Screened Out

No.	Chapter Heading	Summary	Potential Impact on Manchester Mosses SAC?	Screening Assessment
12	Low Carbon Growth Areas	Encourages low-carbon growth throughout the Borough, particularly within three identified Low Carbon Growth Areas where opportunities for a range of low carbon energy generating facilities will be created	The reduction of carbon emissions generated by the built environment could have a potentially positive effect on the European Site. However the exact nature of the any low carbon energy generating facilities is not specified within the Plan. Some types of this technology could have a potentially negative effect on the European Site, due to increases in atmospheric pollution	Screened In
13	Employment	Identifies priority sites for employment	The Employment Areas all lie outside of the 5km buffer of the SAC and are therefore too distant from the European Site for direct effects to arise. Unlikely to have an effect on the European Site	Screened Out
14, 15, 16, 17, 18,19	Town, District and Local Centres	Includes policies for the guided development of town, district and local centres. Identifies these centres.	Allocations within these centres are unlikely to have a direct effect on the SAC. Unlikely to have an effect on the European Site.	Screened Out
20	Out-of-Centre Retail	Identifies the existing major retail warehouse parks in the Borough and provides policies and guidance for the future development of these sites.	Allocations within these centres are unlikely to have a direct effect on the SAC. Unlikely to have an effect on the European Site.	Screened Out
21	Historic Environment	Identifies Conservation Areas, Historic Sites and areas of Archaeological interest and describes the protection of these Areas	None identified. Unlikely to have an effect on the European Site.	Screened Out
22	Natural Environment	Identifies Trafford's natural assets	Could have a potential positive effect on a European Site	Screened Out
23	Green Infrastructure	Identifies existing areas of Green Infrastructure and identifies opportunities for new Green Infrastructure	Could reduce recreational pressure on SAC. Could have a potential positive effect on a European Site	Screened Out
24	Sports and Leisure	Identifies existing sports and leisure facilities, school playing fields and golf courses together with opportunities for new facilities	Could reduce recreational pressure on SAC. Could have a potential positive effect on a European Site	Screened Out
25	Open Space	Identifies areas of existing open space	Could reduce recreational pressure on SAC. Could have a potential positive effect on a European Site	Screened Out
26	Green Belt	Re-iterates continued protection of the Green Belt	None. Unlikely to have an effect on the European Site.	Screened Out

6 Summary of the Screening Opinion – Manchester Mosses SAC

6.1 Impacts on the Manchester Mosses SAC

The Screening Opinion of the HRA has concluded that development in the following areas could have a significant effect on the special interest of the Manchester Mosses:

Table 6.1 Potential effects on the special interest of the Manchester Mosses SAC arising from development of Strategic Locations and Chapters

Strategic Site/Chapter	Potential effect/impact on the Manchester Mosses SAC
6 - Carrington Strategic Location	Effects could arise from potential atmospheric pollution and recreational pressure
7 - Housing	Effects could arise from potential recreational pressure
10 - Transport	Effects could arise from potential atmospheric pollution (Highway Network) and from drainage, construction and erection of permanent structures (Heavy rail/HS2)
12 - Low Carbon Growth Areas	Effects could arise from potential atmospheric pollution

6.2 Further Assessment of these potential impacts and potential mitigation is therefore carried out below.

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

- 7.1 The Habitats Regulation Assessment must consider the likely significant effect of the Plan in relation to other proposals and plans current or planned within the relevant administrative area, other administrative authorities and prepared by other statutory organisations (e.g. Environment Agency, United Utilities) and in combination with the identified effects of those Plans.
- 7.2 It can be considered that this will fall into two categories: those effects associated with regional strategic plans and proposals and those related to more localised ‘in-combination’ effects, either with adjacent Authorities or geographically localised plans from other statutory agencies.
- 7.3 The North West Regional Spatial Strategy has considered the ‘in-combination’ effects of the Region’s Projects and Plans at a strategic level (Entec January 2007) and therefore such regionally strategic plans are not considered further in this Assessment. However, proposals for the high speed rail link (HS2) have been developed after this regional assessment and therefore need to be considered within this assessment.
- 7.4 The proposed route for HS2 runs through Trafford in two locations: in the east of the borough near Warburton Green and Davenport Green; and in the west of the borough, south of Partington. The western arm after it leaves Trafford runs in very close proximity to Holcroft Moss, part of the Manchester Mosses SAC.
- 7.4 As regards the emerging Core Strategies and other Development Plan Documents of neighbouring Greater Manchester authorities, those ready for Assessment have been screened by GMEU. These are listed in Appendix 3. Of these four, Rochdale, Oldham, Tameside and Bury have been assessed as potentially having an effect on a European site. However, the European Site in question is the Rochdale Canal, which has been screened out of this Assessment.
- 7.5 The HRA of Wigan Council’s LDF has identified potential site allocations that could have a significant effect on the Manchester Mosses SAC. However, this Assessment concluded that providing mitigating plans, policies and strategies are adopted and implemented appropriately through the development management process, development within the Sites could proceed without harm being caused to the special interest of the SAC. It was not justifiable to restrict development *per se* in any of the identified areas. At this stage it is therefore considered that there will be no identifiable in-combination effects with Trafford’s Core Strategy.
- 7.6 Given the nature of the Manchester Mosses SAC, plans and proposals in Warrington MBC area also need to be considered. The HRA of Warrington’s Core Strategy and Third Local Transport Plan has concluded that “No significant adverse effects on the nature conservation interests of Manchester Mosses SAC are anticipated” and no in-combination effects have been identified. A number of Supplementary Planning Documents have been produced, which are listed in Appendix 3. However none of these were found to have a significant effect on the SAC.
- 7.7 Given the nature of the Manchester Mosses SAC, plans and proposals in St Helens MBC area also need to be considered. The HRA of St Helens Core Strategy concludes that “the Core Strategy when considered as a whole will not lead to significant adverse effects on Manchester Mosses SAC” and no in-combination effects with other plans were identified.
- 7.8 This Assessment will be updated and amended as necessary as further Plans come forward for Assessment in order to take into account possible ‘in-combination’ effects arising, particularly within Wigan, Salford, Warrington and Trafford.

8 ASSESSMENT OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS IDENTIFIED THROUGH THE SCREENING PROCESS

Table 8.1 Assessment of the potential impacts of development on the special interest of the Manchester Mosses SAC identified through the Screening stage of the HRA with consideration of the potentially mitigating influence of other plans, policies and strategies.

Strategic Location / Chapter	Potential Effects	Mitigating plans, policies and strategies	Is the impact considered to remain significant after applying mitigating influences?
<p>6 - Carrington Strategic Location</p>	<p>The proposed use of this site includes general industrial accommodation, although no details are available as to the exact nature of this industry. There is the potential for an increase in atmospheric pollution depending on the type of industry.</p> <p>The proposal also includes the development of a minimum of 1560 residential units. There is the potential for this to place recreational pressure on the SAC.</p> <p>Details of these impacts cannot be fully assessed at this stage because details of any specific development are not yet available. This Assessment considers the <i>principle</i> of allowing the area to be put forward as a Strategic Location and whether there are sufficient safeguards in place to allow it to be brought forward for development without damaging the integrity of the European site.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Policies within the adopted Core Strategy namely: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SL5 – Carrington Strategic Location • L5 on Climate Change, particularly the requirements relating to pollution. • SL5 - Policy to protect and enhance the Mossland. • Policy R3 on Green Infrastructure. • Policy R2 on Natural Environment. • Policy R5 on Open Space & Recreation 2. The proposal includes provision for recreational facilities and improved access to nearby open countryside. 3. The Greater Manchester Biodiversity Action Plan identifying Mosslands as a priority habitat for conservation. 4. European Habitats Directive requiring Appropriate Assessment of plans. 	<p>Providing that the mitigating plans, policies and strategies are adopted and implemented appropriately through the development management process, it is considered that there will be sufficient safeguards in place to avoid significant harm to the special interest of the Manchester Mosses arising from the development at this Strategic Location. However, individual applications for the Location that include any general industry (B2) will need further assessment to ensure there will be no significant effect on the SAC.</p>

Strategic Location / Chapter	Potential Effects	Mitigating plans, policies and strategies	Is the impact considered to remain significant after applying mitigating influences?
<p>7 - Housing</p>	<p>Proposals for new housing could have a negative effect on the SAC in relation to recreational pressures. However the majority of the allocations lie outside of the 5km buffer and are closer to other recreation sites within Trafford (e.g. the Mersey Valley. The exception to this is residential developments within the Partington Priority Regeneration area and the Carrington Strategic Location. The housing sites within Carrington Strategic Location are considered above.</p>	<p>5. Policies within the adopted Core Strategy namely:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy L3 on Regeneration & Reducing Inequalities. • Policy L4 on Sustainable Transport & Accessibility, particularly the requirements relating to pedestrian and cycling network. • Policy L8 on Planning Obligations. • Policy R3 on Green Infrastructure. • Policy R2 on Natural Environment. • Policy R5 on Open Space & Recreation <p>6. The Greater Manchester Biodiversity Action Plan identifying Mosslands as a priority habitat for conservation.</p> <p>7. European Habitats Directive requiring Appropriate Assessment of plans</p>	<p>Providing that the mitigating plans, policies and strategies are adopted and implemented appropriately through the development management process, it is considered that there will be sufficient safeguards in place to avoid significant harm to the special interest of the Manchester Mosses arising from the proposed housing allocations within this plan.</p>

Strategic Location / Chapter	Potential Effects	Mitigating plans, policies and strategies	Is the impact considered to remain significant after applying mitigating influences?
<p>10 - Transport</p>	<p>Heavy rail (HS2) - As stated above the proposed route of HS2 runs in very close proximity to the Manchester Mosses SAC. Given this the scheme has the potential to effect the SAC in relation to drainage, construction and erection of permanent structures.</p> <p>Highway Network (Safeguarded Routes – TR3) – the Plan includes proposals to safeguard the routes of a number of road schemes. Two of these lie within 5km of the Manchester Mosses SAC:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A6144(M) Carrington Spur-A6144 Manchester Road link extension • A6144 Manchester Road – A57 Cadishead Way (Salford) Manchester Ship Canal bridge and road link <p>These new roads could generate increased atmospheric pollution from new road journeys but may also reduce pollution by decreasing local congestion</p>	<p>The Land Allocation plan currently includes measure to support “preparations for the arrival fo High Speed Trains” and not allowing any development that will prejudice this proposal. The development of HS2 will not be controlled through the local planning system, rather by Act of Parliament, and will be subject to its own separate Habitats Regulations Assessment</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Policies within the adopted Core Strategy namely: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy L5 on Climate Change, particularly the requirements relating to pollution. • Policy R3 on Green Infrastructure. • Policy R2 on Natural Environment. 2. The Greater Manchester Biodiversity Action Plan identifying Mosslands as a priority habitat for conservation. 3. European Habitats Directive requiring Appropriate Assessment of plans. 	<p>Given the national scale and timetable for HS2 no further assessment of any in-combination effects with Trafford’s Local Plan can be undertaken at this time.</p> <p>Providing that the mitigating plans, policies and strategies are adopted and implemented appropriately through the development management process, it is considered that there will be sufficient safeguards in place to avoid significant harm to the special interest of the Manchester Mosses arising from these land allocations. However individual transport schemes, particularly those associated with the A6144 are likely to require further assessment.</p>

Strategic Location / Chapter	Potential Effects	Mitigating plans, policies and strategies	Is the impact considered to remain significant after applying mitigating influences?
<p>12 - Low Carbon Growth Areas</p>	<p>The Land Allocations Plan identifies three Low Carbon Growth Areas one of which, Carrington, lies within 5km of the Manchester Mosses SAC. The Growth Areas are identified as areas “where development by virtue of the scale, the mix of uses and density will create opportunities for the delivery a range of low carbon energy generating facilities”. Some types of these generating facilities can produce other forms of air pollution, such as nitrogen oxide, and could therefore have a potentially negative effect on the SAC.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Policies within the adopted Core Strategy namely: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy L5 on Climate Change, particularly the requirements relating to pollution. 2 European Habitats Directive requiring Appropriate Assessment of plans. 3 The proposal to produce an SPD to provide guidance on appropriate technologies. 	<p>Providing that the mitigating plans, policies and strategies are adopted and implemented appropriately through the development management process, it is considered that there will be sufficient safeguards in place to avoid significant harm to the special interest of the Manchester Mosses arising from these land allocations. However it is recommended that the proposed SPD includes specific guidance on measures required to avoid harm to the Manchester Mosses SAC, particularly through atmospheric pollution.</p>

9 Summary and Recommendations

9.1 Screening of European sites has established that the following European site has the potential to be affected by development in Trafford proposed by the Publication Core Strategy

- Manchester Mosses SAC

9.2 Screening of these factors has established that development within the following land allocations have the potential to have a significant effect on the Manchester Mosses SAC:

Strategic Site/Chapter	Potential effect/impact on the Manchester Mosses SAC
6 - Carrington Strategic Location	Effects could arise from potential atmospheric pollution and recreational pressure
7 - Housing	Effects could arise from potential recreational pressure
10 - Transport	Effects could arise from potential atmospheric pollution (Highway Network) and from drainage, construction and erection of permanent structures (Heavy rail/HS2)
12 - Low Carbon Growth Areas	Effects could arise from potential atmospheric pollution

9.3 Further, more detailed Assessment of the possible effects of the operation of proposals within the Land Allocation Plan on the Manchester Mosses SAC identified in the Screening process has been undertaken (Section 8).

9.2 This Assessment has concluded that, providing mitigating plans, policies and strategies set out in the Land Allocations Plan policies are adopted and implemented appropriately through the development management process, development within the identified areas could proceed without harm being caused to the special interest of the Moss. It is recognised that the implementation of such plans, policies and strategies may restrict the scale and type of development brought forward in the identified allocations, but that it is not justifiable to restrict development *per se* in these areas. This opinion is based on this Screening Report supplemented by the experience and knowledge of the author in assessing the impacts of developments considered to have the potential to affect the special interest of the Moss.

9.3 It is **recommended** that individual applications for the Carrington Strategic Location that include any general industry (B2) be referred for possible HRA, as part of the development management process, so that detailed assessment can take place and appropriate mitigation for any damaging impacts can be properly implemented.

9.4 It is **recommended** that any transport schemes associated with the A6144 that could potentially have a negative effect on the Manchester Mosses be referred for possible HRA, as part of the development management process, so that detailed assessment can take place and appropriate mitigation for any damaging impacts can be properly implemented.

9.5 It is **recommended** that the proposed SPD on Low Carbon Growth Areas includes specific guidance on measures required to avoid harm to the Manchester Mosses SAC, particularly through atmospheric pollution.

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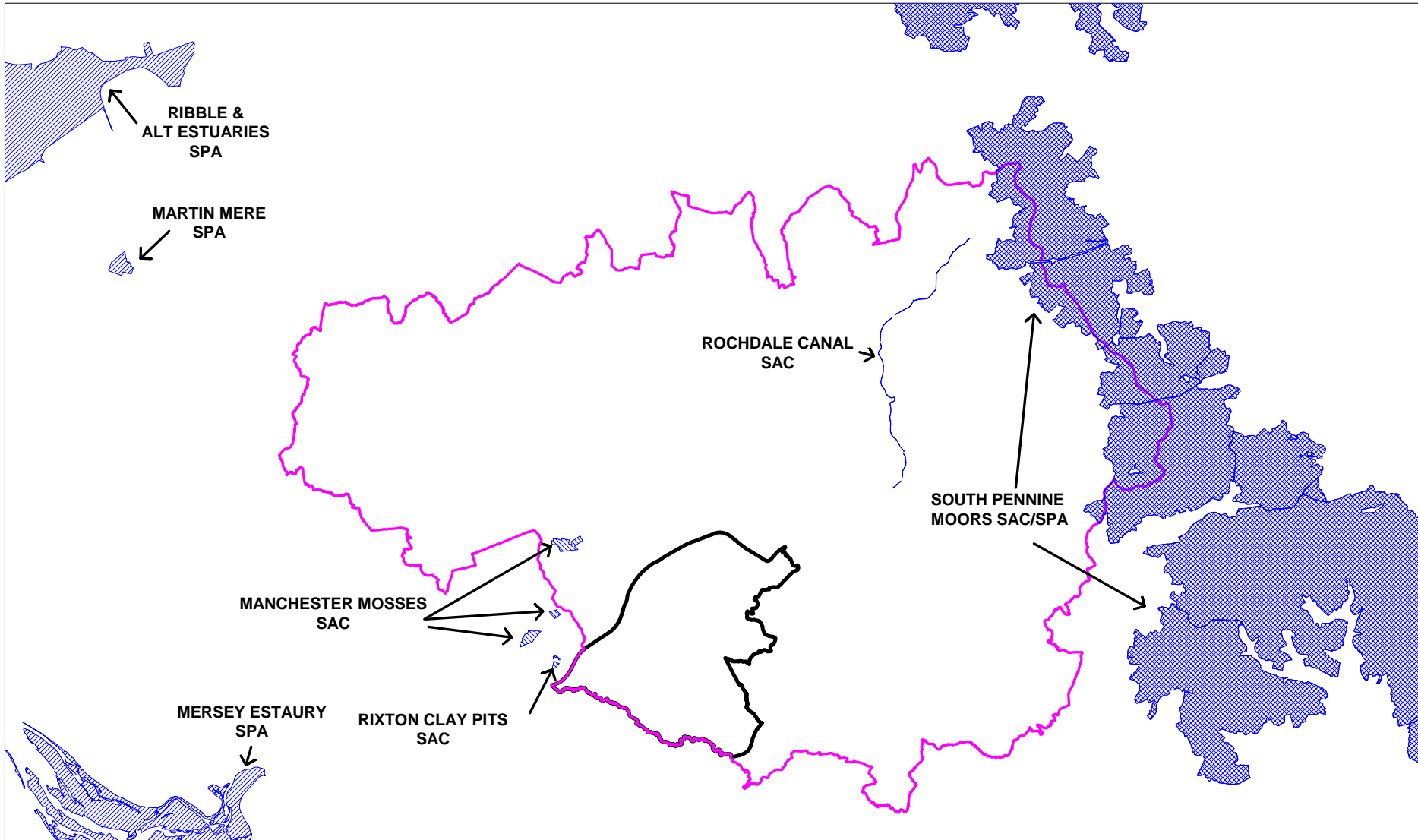


Fig 1 Location of European Protected Sites in relation to Trafford Borough (Borough boundary shown in black)

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

Site Name	Designation	Type of Effect	Likely Effects
Asby Complex	SAC	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - No hydrological pathways between SAC and land within Trafford
		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 Trafford
Border Mires, Kielder – Butterburn	SAC	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - No hydrological pathways between SAC and land within Trafford
		Air Pollution	None – No atmospheric pathways and any pollutants are likely to have dispersed prior to reaching SAC (see EA report).
		Direct land take	None
		Habitat/Species Disturbance	None – Site too distant for any direction disturbance to habitats.
		Increased recreational Pressure	None – site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Trafford
Borrowdale Woodland Complex	SAC	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - No hydrological pathways between SAC and land within Trafford
		Air Pollution	None – No atmospheric pathways and any pollutants are likely to have dispersed prior to reaching SAC (see EA report).
		Direct land take	None
		Habitat/Species Disturbance	None – Site too distant for any direct or indirect disturbance to habitats.
		Increased recreational Pressure	None – site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Trafford
Bowland Fells	SPA	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - No hydrological pathways between SPA and land within Trafford
		Air Pollution	None – No atmospheric pathways and any pollutants are likely to have dispersed prior to reaching SPA (see EA report).
		Direct land take	None
		Habitat/Species Disturbance	None – identified species are highly unlikely to utilise habitats within Trafford
		Increased recreational Pressure	None – site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Trafford

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

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

Site Name	Designation	Type of Effect	Likely Effects
Irthinghead Mires	Ramsar	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - No hydrological pathways between Ramsar site and land within Trafford
		Air Pollution	None – No atmospheric pathways and any pollutants are likely to have dispersed prior to reaching Ramsar site (see EA report).
		Direct land take	None
		Habitat/Species Disturbance	None – habitats and species identified highly unlikely to be effected by any habitat changes in Trafford
		Increased recreational Pressure	None – site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Trafford
Lake District High Fells	SAC	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - No hydrological pathways between SAC and land within Trafford
		Air Pollution	None – No atmospheric pathways and any pollutants are likely to have dispersed prior to reaching SAC (see EA report).
		Direct land take	None
		Habitat/Species Disturbance	None – Site too distant for any direct or indirect disturbance to habitats or species
		Increased recreational Pressure	None – site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Trafford
Leighton Moss	SPA/Ramsar	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - No hydrological pathways between SPA/Ramsar Site and land within Trafford
		Air Pollution	None – No atmospheric pathways and any pollutants are likely to have dispersed prior to reaching SPA and Ramsar Site (see EA report).
		Direct land take	None
		Habitat/Species Disturbance	None – Habitats and species identified highly unlikely to be effected by any habitat changes in Trafford
		Increased recreational Pressure	None – site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Trafford
Liverpool Bay	SPA	Water Quality/Hydrology	None– although there is hydrological connectivity the site is distant (more than 15km) from Trafford.
		Air Pollution	None – No atmospheric pathways and any pollutants are likely to have dispersed prior to reaching SPA (see EA report).
		Direct land take	None
		Habitat/Species Disturbance	None – no information available as to species site selected for but type of species present highly unlikely to be effected by any habitat changes in Trafford (based on knowledge of Greater Manchester bird populations)
		Increased recreational Pressure	None – site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Trafford

Site Name	Designation	Type of Effect	Likely Effects
Manchester Mosses	SAC	Water Quality/Hydrology	None
		Air Pollution	Potential effects from airborne pollutants
		Direct land take	None
		Habitat/Species Disturbance	Potential for habitats to be effected by pollution
		Increased recreational Pressure	None
Martin Mere	SPA/Ramsar	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - No hydrological pathways between SPA/Ramsar Site and land within Trafford
		Air Pollution	None – No atmospheric pathways and any pollutants are likely to have dispersed prior to reaching SPA/Ramsar Site (see EA report).
		Direct land take	None
		Habitat/Species Disturbance	None – Habitats and species identified highly unlikely to be effected by any habitat changes in Trafford
		Increased recreational Pressure	None – site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Trafford
Mersey Estuary	SPA/Ramsar	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - Strategic impacts of increased development in Trafford on the water quality in the SPA/Ramsar Site are considered under the HRA for RSS. Site is distant (more than 15km) from the Trafford boundary
		Air Pollution	None – No atmospheric pathways and any pollutants are likely to have dispersed prior to reaching SPA/Ramsar Site (see EA report).
		Direct land take	None
		Habitat/Species Disturbance	None – Habitats and species identified highly unlikely to be significantly effected by any habitat changes in Trafford
		Increased recreational Pressure	None – site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Trafford

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

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

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

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

Site Name	Designation	Type of Effect	Likely Effects
River Eden	SAC	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - No hydrological pathways between SAC and land within Trafford
		Air Pollution	None – No atmospheric pathways and any pollutants are likely to have dispersed prior to reaching SAC (see EA report).
		Direct land take	None
		Habitat/Species Disturbance	None – Site too distant for any direct or indirect disturbance to habitats and species.
		Increased recreational Pressure	None – site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Trafford
River Ehen	SAC	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - No hydrological pathways between SAC and land within Trafford
		Air Pollution	None – No atmospheric pathways and any pollutants are likely to have dispersed prior to reaching SAC (see EA report).
		Direct land take	None
		Habitat/Species Disturbance	None - No hydrological connections and main species (fresh water pearl mussel) does not occur in Greater Manchester
		Increased recreational Pressure	None – site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Trafford
River Kent	SAC	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - No hydrological pathways between SAC and land within Trafford
		Air Pollution	None – No atmospheric pathways and any pollutants are likely to have dispersed prior to reaching SAC (see EA report).
		Direct land take	None
		Habitat/Species Disturbance	None – Site too distant for any direct or indirect disturbance to habitats and species.
		Increased recreational Pressure	None – site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Trafford
Rixton Clay Pits	SAC	Water Quality/Hydrology	Possible - site lies within 15km of Trafford
		Air Pollution	Unlikely – air pollution not identified as potentially damaging operation on the special interest of the SAC
		Direct land take	None
		Habitat/Species Disturbance	Possible - site lies within 15km of Trafford
		Increased recreational Pressure	Possible - site lies within 15km of Trafford

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

Site Name	Designation	Type of Effect	Likely Effects
Sefton Coast	SAC	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - No hydrological pathways between SAC and land within Trafford
		Air Pollution	None – No atmospheric pathways and any pollutants are likely to have dispersed prior to reaching SAC (see EA report).
		Direct land take	None
		Habitat/Species Disturbance	None – Site too distant for any direct or indirect disturbance to habitats and species. Habitat types do not occur in Greater Manchester
		Increased recreational Pressure	None – site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Trafford
Solway Firth	SAC	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - No hydrological pathways between SAC and land within Trafford
		Air Pollution	None – No atmospheric pathways and any pollutants are likely to have dispersed prior to reaching SAC (see EA report).
		Direct land take	None
		Habitat/Species Disturbance	None – Site too distant for any direct or indirect disturbance to habitats and species.
		Increased recreational Pressure	None – site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Trafford
South Pennine Moors	SAC	Water Quality/Hydrology	None – hydrological impact pathways are in reverse direction.
		Air Pollution	None – Any pollutants are likely to have dispersed prior to reaching SAC (see EA report).
		Direct land take	None
		Habitat/Species Disturbance	None – Site too distant for any direct or indirect disturbance to habitats and species.
		Increased recreational Pressure	None – site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Trafford
South Pennine Moors Phase 2	SPA	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - No hydrological pathways between SPA and land within Trafford
		Air Pollution	None – Any pollutants are likely to have dispersed prior to reaching SPA (see EA report).
		Direct land take	None
		Habitat/Species Disturbance	None – species identified highly unlikely to be effected by any habitat changes in Trafford
		Increased recreational Pressure	None – site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Trafford

Site Name	Designation	Type of Effect	Likely Effects
South Solway Mosses	SAC	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - No hydrological pathways between SAC and land within Trafford
		Air Pollution	None – No atmospheric pathways and any pollutants are likely to have dispersed prior to reaching SAC (see EA report).
		Direct land take	None
		Habitat/Species Disturbance	None – Site too distant for any direct or indirect disturbance to habitats and species.
		Increased recreational Pressure	None – site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Trafford
Subberthwaite , Blawith & Torver Low Commons	SAC	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - No hydrological pathways between SAC and land within Trafford
		Air Pollution	None – No atmospheric pathways and any pollutants are likely to have dispersed prior to reaching SAC (see EA report).
		Direct land take	None
		Habitat/Species Disturbance	None – Site too distant for any direct or indirect disturbance to habitats and species.
		Increased recreational Pressure	None – site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Trafford
Tarn Moss	SAC	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - No hydrological pathways between SAC and land within Trafford
		Air Pollution	None – No atmospheric pathways and any pollutants are likely to have dispersed prior to reaching SAC (see EA report).
		Direct land take	None
		Habitat/Species Disturbance	None – Site too distant for any direct or indirect disturbance to habitats and species.
		Increased recreational Pressure	None – site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Trafford
Tyne & Nent	SAC	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - No hydrological pathways between SAC and land within Trafford
		Air Pollution	None – No atmospheric pathways and any pollutants are likely to have dispersed prior to reaching SAC (see EA report).
		Direct land take	None
		Habitat/Species Disturbance	None – Site too distant for any direct or indirect disturbance to habitats. Habitat not found in Greater Manchester
		Increased recreational Pressure	None – site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Trafford

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

Site Name	Designation	Type of Effect	Likely Effects
West Midlands Mosses	SAC	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - No hydrological pathways between SAC and land within Trafford
		Air Pollution	None – No atmospheric pathways and any pollutants are likely to have dispersed prior to reaching SAC (see EA report).
		Direct land take	None
		Habitat/Species Disturbance	None – Site too distant for any direct or indirect disturbance to habitats and species.
		Increased recreational Pressure	None – site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Trafford
Witherslack Mosses	SAC	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - No hydrological pathways between SAC and land within Trafford
		Air Pollution	None – No atmospheric pathways and any pollutants are likely to have dispersed prior to reaching SAC (see EA report).
		Direct land take	None
		Habitat/Species Disturbance	None – Site too distant for any direct or indirect disturbance to habitats and species.
		Increased recreational Pressure	None – site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Trafford
Yewbarrow Woods	SAC	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - No hydrological pathways between SAC and land within Trafford
		Air Pollution	None – No atmospheric pathways and any pollutants are likely to have dispersed prior to reaching SAC (see EA report).
		Direct land take	None
		Habitat/Species Disturbance	None – Site too distant for any direct or indirect disturbance to habitats and species.
		Increased recreational Pressure	None – site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Trafford

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

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

Site Name	Designation	Screened in/out	Justification
Liverpool Bay	SPA	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and strategic impacts considered by RSS HRA
Manchester Mosses	SAC	In	Site lies within 5km of Trafford
Martin Mere	SPA/Ramsar	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and strategic impacts considered by RSS HRA
Mersey Estuary	SPA/Ramsar	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and strategic impacts considered by RSS HRA
Mersey Narrows & Wirral Foreshore	SPA	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and strategic impacts considered by RSS HRA
Midland Meres & Mosses – Phase 1 & Phase 2	2 x Ramsar	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and strategic impacts considered by RSS HRA
Moor House – Upper Teasdale	SAC	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and no strategic impacts or pathways identified in RSS HRA
Morcombe Bay	SAC/Ramsar/SAC	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and no strategic impacts or pathways identified in RSS HRA
Morcombe Bay Pavements	SAC	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and no strategic impacts or pathways identified in RSS HRA
Naddle Forest	SAC	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and no strategic impacts or pathways identified in RSS HRA
North Pennine Dales Meadows	SAC	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and no strategic impacts or pathways identified in RSS HRA
North Pennine Moors	SAC/SPA	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and strategic impacts considered by RSS HRA
Oak Mere	SAC	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and no strategic impacts or pathways identified in RSS HRA
Peak District Moors (South Pennine Moors Phase 1)	SPA	Out	Although within Greater Manchester the site is considered too distant for significant effects to arise and no known pathways exist between SPA and Trafford.
Ribble & Alt Estuaries	SPA/Ramsar	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and strategic impacts considered by RSS HRA
River Dee & Bala Lake	SAC	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and no strategic impacts or pathways identified in RSS HRA

Site Name	Designation	Screened in/out	Justification
River Derwent & Bassenthwaite Lake	SAC	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and strategic impacts considered by RSS HRA
River Eden	SAC	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and no strategic impacts or pathways identified in RSS HRA
River Ehen	SAC	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and no strategic impacts or pathways identified in RSS HRA
River Kent	SAC	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and no strategic impacts or pathways identified in RSS HRA
Rixton Clay Pits	SAC	In	Site is within 5km of Trafford
Rochdale Canal	SAC	Out	Although within Greater Manchester the site is considered too distant for significant effects to arise and no known pathways exist between SPA and Trafford
Rostherne Mere	Ramsar	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and no strategic impacts or pathways identified in RSS HRA
Roudsea Wood & Mosses	SAC	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and no strategic impacts or pathways identified in RSS HRA
Sefton Coast	SAC	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and no strategic impacts or pathways identified in RSS HRA
Solway Firth	SAC	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and no strategic impacts or pathways identified in RSS HRA
South Pennine Moors	SAC	Out	Although within Greater Manchester the site is considered too distant for significant effects to arise and no known pathways exist between SPA and Trafford.
South Pennine Moors Phase 2	SPA	Out	Although within Greater Manchester the site is considered too distant for significant effects to arise and no known pathways exist between SPA and Trafford.
South Solway Mosses	SAC	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise
Subberthwaite, Blawith & Torver Low Commons	SAC	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and no strategic impacts or pathways identified in RSS HRA
Tarn Moss	SAC	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and no strategic impacts or pathways identified in RSS HRA

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

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

Plans Assessed under the Terms of the Habitats Regulations by GMEU

District	Plan	Outcome of Assessment
Rochdale MBC	SPD 'Energy and New Development'	No effect on European Sites
Rochdale MBC	SPD provision of Recreational Open Space in New Housing Developments	
Rochdale MBC	SPD Development of East Central Rochdale	
Rochdale MBC	SPD Biodiversity and Development	
Rochdale MBC	SPD Affordable Housing	
Rochdale MBC	LDF Core Strategy (Adopted)	Potential effect on Rochdale Canal SAC
Manchester CC	SPD Providing for Housing Choice	No effect on European Sites
Manchester CC	LDF Core Strategy (Adopted)	Potential Effect on Rochdale Canal SAC
Bolton MBC	LDF Core Strategy (Publication)	No effect on European Sites
Bolton MBC	Local Plan Land Allocations	
Trafford MBC	LDF Core Strategy LDF Core Strategy (Adopted)	Potential Effect on Manchester Mosses SAC
Bury MBC	LDF Core Strategy (Publication)	Potential effect on Rochdale Canal SAC
Oldham MBC	LDF Core Strategy (Adopted)	Potential Effects on Rochdale Canal SAC
Wigan MBC	LDF Core Strategy (Adopted)	Potential Effect on Manchester Mosses SAC
Salford CC	LDF Draft Core Strategy (Publication Draft) -withdrawn	Potential Effects on Manchester Mosses
Greater Manchester	Greater Manchester's Minerals Plan (Publication Report)	No effects on European sites identified

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

District	Plan	Outcome of Assessment
Stockport MBC	LDF Core Strategy	No effect on European Sites
Greater Manchester	Greater Manchester Waste Plan	States that "It can be concluded that the JWDPD has established a sufficient policy framework to mitigate its contribution to adverse effects on the integrity of European sites"
Warrington MBC	SPD – Managing the Housing Supply	No effect on European Sites
Warrington MBC	SPD – Affordable Housing	
Warrington MBC	SPD – Travel Plans	
Warrington MBC	SPD – Planning Obligations	
Warrington MBC	SPD – Landscape Design Guide for new development	
Warrington MBC	SPD – Open Space & Recreation Provision	
Warrington MBC	SPD – Bridge Street Area	
Warrington MBC	Core Strategy and Third Local Transport Plan	Concludes that "No significant adverse effects on the nature conservation interests of Manchester Mosses SAC are anticipated".
St Helens MBC	LDF – Core Strategy Publication Draft	Concludes that "the Core Strategy when considered as a whole will not lead to significant adverse effects on Manchester Mosses SAC".