Habitats Regulations Assessment of the Impact on European Protected Sites of Wigan Council's Site Allocation Plan

April 2015, amended September 2015

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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 having ascertained that it will not adversely affect the integrity of the site concerned and, if appropriate, after having obtained the opinion of the general public.'

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

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

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

1.3 The purpose of Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA) of land use plans is to ensure that protection of the integrity of European sites is a part of the planning process at a regional and local level. The network of European protected sites is referred to as 'Natura 2000' and comprises Special Protection Areas (SPAs), Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Ramsar sites. Government guidance advises that potential SPAs (pSPA), candidate SACs (cSAC) and potential Ramsar (pRamsar) sites are also included in HRAs.

1.4 A HRA Screening has already been undertaken on Wigan's Core Strategy (July 2011 and 2012).

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 an addendum to Stage 1 of the Habitats Regulation Assessment process and contributes to the fulfilment of the Council's statutory duty as regards Article 6(3). That is, it is an Opinion on and an Assessment of whether or not the selection of potential housing and employment sites for development by Wigan Council (hereafter referred to as the Plan) may have an impact on the special interest of any European designated protected sites and, if so, whether the identified impacts can be avoided or mitigated or whether any of the Sites need to be deselected as part of the development of the Plan.

1.7 It is noted that the Plan being assessed is at the development stage and further assessments may be required as the Plan develops. There is no statutory guidance on what stage of Plan production to best prepare an HRA but Natural England recommends

that HRA begins at an early stage and if necessary continues through all the stages of plan production. HRA Methodologies are at a relatively early stage of development and examples of Best Practice have not yet emerged. As Best Practice emerges the methodology undertaken for this HRA may develop.

1.8 The Greater Manchester Ecology Unit (GMEU), as the specialist ecological adviser to Wigan Council, has prepared this Assessment. Natural England and the JNCC were consulted for information on the conservation objectives and favourable condition tables for the European Sites concerned (this information is summarised below). GMEU ecologists, who are familiar with the European sites concerned and their special nature conservation interests, reviewed the ecological information for the sites. The key vulnerabilities and sensitivities of the European sites concerned are well understood by GMEU. GMEU has carried out a number of formal Appropriate Assessments of development proposals considered to have the potential to affect some of the European Sites concerned and also passes informed comment on any application for development within its administrative area considered to have the potential to affect European Sites. This experience allows for an informed assessment of the possible effects of this Plan, and any specific aims, objectives and policies contained in the Plan, to be made.

2 BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PLAN BEING ASSESSED

2.1 The Site Allocations Document is part of the emerging Local Plan for Wigan Council. The 'Core Strategy' is the main planning policy document for Wigan Borough for the next 10 years and looks forward to 2026. Supplementary Plans and any more detailed planning policies and documents that are prepared need to be consistent with the Core Strategy. The Spatial and Core Policies of the Core Strategy have been considered in a separate HRA Screening exercise.

2.2 The Allocations Plan proposes a wide range of sites for 1) potential future housing development, and 2) potential future employment, commercial, retail and industrial development. The locations of these sites are shown in Maps 2 and 3 at the end of this document.

2.3 For the purposes of this Assessment the Allocations 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 the terms of the Regulations regarding Habitats Regulation Assessment can be properly planned for and addressed and if necessary site allocations removed or amended. It is the *possible* impact of development in the identified sites and locations on the integrity and favourable conservation status of European sites that has been Assessed in this document.

2.4 The following general points are relevant -

- None of the sites being proposed for housing and / or employment use lies within or directly adjacent to any European Designated Site, therefore no direct land-take of a European Site is proposed.

- There is limited hydrological connectivity between any of the sites being proposed for development and any European Designated Site. Predominant water flows are *away* from the nearest SAC.

- All of the proposed development sites lie to the north and east of the closest European Designated Sites. Since the prevailing wind direction for Wigan is from the south-west significant air pollution that may arise from any potential development site is considered very unlikely to have any impact on the special nature conservation interest of any European Designated Site.

- The majority of the sites being proposed for development lie over 5km from any European Protected Sites. Sites within 5km have been screened as part of this

Assessment.

3 IDENTIFICATION OF EUROPEAN DESIGNATED SITES CONCERNED

3.1 The HRA of the Core Strategy (Preferred Options) (GMEU 2009) initially identified only one European protected site that could potentially be affected by the implementation of the Core Strategy. The results of this screening process were repeated in the HRA of the Core Strategy (Proposed Submission Version) dated July 2011 and should be read alongside this Screening Assessment because the results are the same.

3.2 Summary Results of Screening of European Designated Sites

From the screening process detailed in HRA of the Core Strategy (Proposed Submission Version July 2011), the following European designated site has been identified as having the potential to be affected by development of sites proposed in the Site Allocations Document;

- **Manchester Mosses SAC**

That is, the Manchester Mosses SAC is an identified **Receptor**

The nature conservation importance of this 'screened in' European designated site is described in section 4 below.

Other European Protected Sites have been screened out of the Assessment because they are considered to be too distant from the boundary of the administrative area of Wigan Council for any significant effects to occur; that is, no pathways have been identified between any other European sites and potential development sites in Wigan (see below for discussion of sources and pathways).

4 THE NATURE CONSERVATION INTEREST OF THE MANCHESTER MOSSES 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 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 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.

4.2 Primary Reason For Designation of The Manchester Mosses SAC

The site 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".

4.3 Conservation Objective of the Manchester Mosses

The Conservation Objective for the Manchester Mosses SAC is to maintain the bog habitat, subject to natural change, in favourable condition (Natural England 2007). The specific designated features for Astley and Bedford Moss, the area of the SAC that lies within Wigan, are:

- M20 - *Eriophorum vaginatum* blanket and raised mire
- M25 - *Molinia caerulea - Potentilla erecta* mire
- M3 - *Eriophorum angustifolium* bog pool community
- M2 - *Sphagnum cuspidatum* / *recurvum* (fallax) bog pool community

On this site favourable condition requires the maintenance of the extent of each designated habitat type. Maintenance implies restoration if evidence from a condition assessment suggests a reduction in extent. 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 impact 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:

1. Cultivation
2. Grazing
3. Mowing or cutting
4. Application of manure, fertilisers or lime
5. Application of pesticides
6. Burning
7. Drainage, both within and outside the boundaries of the site
8. Extraction of minerals including peat, topsoil and subsoil
9. Construction or removal of roads, tracks, walls, fences, hardstands, banks, ditches or other earthworks or the laying or removal of pipelines and cables
10. Erection of permanent structures
11. Use of vehicles likely to damage the vegetation
12. Pollution including atmospheric pollutants and NOxs
13. Recreational activities
14. Introduction / spread of invasive species
15. Disturbance

(Adapted from information available from Natural England)

In terms of this Screening Report it is important to note that no sites being considered for future development in the Plan will involve direct land take of the SAC, no sites are adjacent to the SAC and no sites will involve changes to the management of the SAC.

The only possible impacts considered possible to occur from the development of the allocated sites therefore include only -

- Water Pollution
- Air Pollution
- Recreation / Burning
- Disturbance
- Introduction / spread of invasive species

These sources are therefore considered in more detail below.

5 Sources and Pathways

5.1 Air Pollution

5.1.1 Current levels of understanding of air quality effects on semi-natural habitats are not adequate to allow a rigorous assessment of the likelihood of significant effects of atmospheric pollution on the integrity of the Manchester Mosses SAC. That is, the sensitivities of many individual species and of some ecosystems to air pollution have not been studied in any depth. In this situation a precautionary approach is recommended, indeed required, by the terms of the Habitats Directive.

5.1.2 The National Expert Group on Trans-boundary Air Pollution (*2013*) has concluded that:

- In 1997, critical loads for acidification were exceeded in 71% of UK ecosystems. This was expected to decline to 47% by 2010.
- Reductions in SO2 concentrations over the last three decades have virtually eliminated the direct impact of sulphur on vegetation.
- By 2010, deposited nitrogen was expected to be the major contributor to acidification, replacing the reductions in SO2.
- Current nitrogen deposition is probably already changing species composition in many nutrient-poor habitats (including bogs) by increasing nutrient levels, and these changes may not readily be reversed.
- The effects of nitrogen deposition are likely to remain significant beyond 2010.
- Current ozone concentrations threaten crops and forest production nationally. The effects of ozone deposition are likely to remain significant beyond 2010.
- Reduced inputs of acidity and nitrogen from the atmosphere may provide the conditions in which chemical and biological recovery from previous air pollution impacts can begin, but the timescales of these processes are very long relative to the timescales of reductions in emissions.

5.1.3 Grice *et al* do however suggest that air quality in the UK will improve significantly over the next 15 years due primarily to reduced emissions from road transport and power stations in processes managed by a separate legislative regime.

5.1.4 Housing and economic development sites can contribute to the atmospheric pollution load through emission of the following pollutants:

- Carbon Dioxide (CO2) - Carbon dioxide is one of the major combustion products from burning fossil fuels. It is also produced in certain non-combustion chemical reactions, for instance in the manufacture of cement. Carbon dioxide is a long-lived pollutant and will remain in the atmosphere for between 50 and 200 years. Carbon dioxide contributes to the greenhouse effect.
- Oxides of Nitrogen (NOx) - Oxides of nitrogen are formed during high temperature combustion processes from the oxidation of nitrogen in the air. The principal source of oxides of nitrogen is road traffic, which is responsible for approximately half the emissions in Europe. NOx concentrations are therefore greatest in urban areas where traffic is heaviest. An increase in the deposition of nitrogen from the atmosphere to soils is generally regarded to lead to an increase in soil fertility, which can have a serious deleterious effect on the quality of semi-natural, nitrogen-limited terrestrial habitats. High NOx levels can also have directly toxic effects on plants.
- Ammonia (NH3) – This is probably the major source of nitrogen deposition to many wildlife sites; it is primarily agricultural in origin, although it is also produced through some industrial process and by the composting of organic matter.
- Sulphur dioxide (SO2) – this is an acidic gas that combines with water vapour in the atmosphere to produce acid rain. Both wet and dry depositions have been implicated in the damage and destruction of vegetation and in the degradation of soils and watercourses. Major SO2 problems now only tend to occur in cities in which coal is still widely used for domestic heating, in heavy industry and in power stations. This is not the case in Wigan.

- Low-level ozone (O3) – this is unlike the other pollutants mentioned in that it is not emitted directly into the atmosphere but is a secondary pollutant produced by a complex reaction between nitrogen dioxide (NO2), hydrocarbons and sunlight. Unlike the other pollutants, it cannot therefore be directly related to increases in housing, traffic etc. Although peak levels of ozone are generally reducing, annual average levels are generally increasing.
- Hydrogen chloride and hydrogen fluoride (HCl and HF) – Both of these chemicals are produced in small amounts as a result of certain energy from waste facilities, principally incineration. HF is the most phytotoxic of all air pollutants. It accumulates in very high concentrations in the margins of leaves. In sensitive species this may lead to distortion of the leaf shape, chlorosis (yellowing), red colouration and, in extreme cases, death of tissues. HCl can also have local, direct, effects on plants, but there is little information available about dose-response relations.
- Dioxins - These are long-lived organic compounds, which form when chlorinated substances in waste, such as PVC plastic, are burnt and accumulate in the human food chain. Dioxin emissions to air from incinerators are thought to have decreased significantly in recent years. Four sources account for 74% of the total air emissions. These are legal municipal waste incineration (26%), sinter plants (18%), residential wood combustion (boilers, stoves, fireplaces, 16%) and incineration of hospital waste (14%). The incineration of hazardous industrial waste contributes less than 1%.
- Heavy metals – specifically Cadmium (Cd), which is a normal constituent of soil and water at low concentrations. The main sources of cadmium emissions are from waste incineration, and iron and steel manufacture. Cadmium and other heavy metals are mainly present in the ash produced by incinerators, but small amounts are released directly to atmosphere via the exhaust stack. Emissions of cadmium have declined substantially over recent years; this is mainly attributable to the decline in coal combustion to generate power. Environmentally, cadmium is dangerous because many plants and some animals absorb it easily and it becomes concentrated in tissues.

5.1.5 For the following reasons, only NOx and ammonia are considered further as specific pollutants in this assessment:

- Despite the general association with nitrogen dioxide, ozone levels are not as high in urban areas (where high levels of nitrogen dioxide are emitted) as in rural areas. This is largely due to the long-range nature of this pollutant, which is sufficiently great that the source of emission and location of deposition often cross national boundaries. As such, low-level ozone impacts can only be practically addressed at the national and international level.
- Although methane and carbon dioxide are important greenhouse gases it is not possible to relate quantities of these gases to particular effects on specific European sites. It is therefore not possible to consider these within the scope of this Assessment other than by noting that increased emission of these chemicals will contribute at a global scale to accelerating rates of climate change.
- Sulphur dioxide concentrations are overwhelmingly influenced by the output of power stations and industrial processes that require the combustion of coal and oil. There is an enormous range in sensitivity to hydrogen chloride and hydrogen fluoride between species, and there are no commonly available critical levels for avoidance of visible injury to vegetation. Coupled with the fact that quantities emitted by industrial processes will typically result in ground-level concentrations lower than the concentration that will harm vegetation, these chemicals are not considered further in this assessment.
- As with ozone, the distance from emission to deposition of dioxins can be many hundreds of miles, potentially crossing trans-national boundaries, and is dependent upon meteorological conditions. Most importantly, amounts of dioxins formed in incinerators do not depend on chlorine levels, but primarily on the design and operating temperatures of the facility. It is therefore not possible to consider dioxin emissions in detail within this assessment. However, it is important to note that

dioxins are *only* emitted by incineration and that incinerators are required by law to control their dioxin emissions below set thresholds.
- Since ammonia is of relevance to European sites primarily through its effect upon nitrogen deposition, it is not considered independently of nitrogen deposition in this assessment.

5.1.6 Eutrophication of sensitive habitats through atmospheric deposition is a widely acknowledged phenomenon, although it is extremely difficult to measure or to pinpoint sources and pathways as its effects are often hidden by changes in local nutrients (i.e. via direct fertilisation) or changes in grazing pressure or vegetation management

5.1.7 The most acute impacts of NOx take place close to where they are emitted, but individual sources of pollution will also contribute to an increase in the general background levels of pollutants at a wider scale, as small amounts of NOx and other pollutants from the pollution source are dispersed more widely by the prevailing winds.

The main sources of NOx in the UK are –

- Road and other transport (approximately 47%; greater in urban areas);
- Public power generation using fossil fuels (22%).
- Combustion in industrial processes (14%).
- Domestic and commercial sources (4%), e.g. commercial boilers in schools, hospitals etc.

By far the largest contribution to NOx will generally be made by the increases in road traffic associated with new development.

It has been shown that at distances greater than 55 metres from the kerbside, ground level concentrations of NOx represent less than 1% of the critical levels that could cause harm. According to the Department of Transport's Transport Analysis Guidance, "*Beyond 200m, the contribution of vehicle emissions from the roadside to local pollution levels is not significan*t"

New housing and economic development sites may generate increases in traffic although the level of increase will depend upon the nature of the facility. But as long as these new facilities are situated more than 200m from the boundary of a European site impacts from this source will not be significant. **There are no sites within the current Plan that fall within 200m of the Manchester Mosses SAC**. The nearest allocated site to the SAC is 1.5 km from the SAC boundary.

Further, the impact on more distant sites from diffuse pollution arising from increased traffic flows to and from new development sites is very difficult to identify and measure separately from general background diffuse pollution and is therefore impossible to assess as part of this Assessment. However I would reiterate that the prevailing wind direction in Wigan is from the south west, pushing any air pollution arising in Wigan away from the Manchester Mosses SAC towards the north east.

Nevertheless this Assessment has adopted a precautionary approach and has considered the potential impacts of air pollution arising from allocated housing sites within 5km of the SAC and from employment sites within 10 km of the SAC.

5.1.8 **Dust**

Dust arising from construction activities associated particularly with construction sites can have a detrimental impact on the habitats associated with the Manchester Mosses SAC. However most impacts from dust arise close to the source (within 250m) since large dust particles fall to ground relatively quickly. There are no allocated sites within 1.5 km of the boundary of the SAC and therefore impacts from dust are considered unlikely to arise.

5.1.9 Core Strategy Policy Wording – air pollution

In response to recommendations made in the HRA Screening of the Core Strategy Policy ref. CP 12 of the Wigan Core Strategy now states that –

"*We will help wildlife to prosper and safeguard important geological features by:*

1. Protecting our Special Area of Conservation at Manchester Mosses (and other internationally designated sites outside of the borough) and European protected species in accordance with legislation"

The supporting text of the above Policy goes on to state –

"*In recognition of the special value of the Manchester Mosses Special Area of Conservation, the need for air quality assessments including in-combination assessments in relation to road traffic and diffuse air pollution, will be reviewed for all development in the south-eastern part of the borough. Any proposals which are identified as having the potential to impact negatively on the Special Area of Conservation as identified in our Habitats Regulation Assessment will require a full assessment and any negative impact will need to be mitigated effectively*".

5.2 Water Pollution and Water Flows

Water pollution can have a harmful effect on habitats and species.

At high levels, toxic chemicals and metals can result in immediate death of aquatic life, and can have detrimental effects even at lower levels, including increased vulnerability to disease and changes in wildlife behaviour.

Eutrophication, the enrichment of plant nutrients in water, increases plant growth and consequently results in oxygen depletion. Algal blooms, which commonly result from eutrophication, increase turbidity and decrease light penetration. The decomposition of organic wastes that often accompanies eutrophication deoxygenates water further, augmenting the oxygen depleting effects of eutrophication. In the marine environment, nitrogen is the limiting plant nutrient and so eutrophication is associated with discharges containing available nitrogen.

Some pesticides, industrial chemicals, and components of sewage effluent are suspected to interfere with the functioning of the endocrine system, possibly having negative effects on the reproduction and development of aquatic life.

Although the Manchester Mosses SAC supports habitats that can be sensitive to some types of water pollution currently water flows are predominantly *away* from the SAC. The SAC supports plant communities associated with ombrogenous peat - the peat is fed from rainfall which then drains off (away from) the SAC.

Nevertheless there are some sites put forward in the allocations plan that are close to watercourses that *may* have connections (pathways) to the SAC and taking the precautionary approach these sites are considered further below. Providing that the risk of water pollution is identified it would be possible to carefully scrutinise drainage plans on sites where there may be a potential risk and to properly inform and design drainage schemes for these sites that avoid any possibility of pollution of the SAC arising. For this reason it is considered unreasonable to remove sites from the Allocations Plan on the grounds of possible water pollution impacts **but** sites identified are classified as 'screened in' as part of this Assessment so that the potential risk is properly identified and capable of being addressed as part of the development management process.

5.2.1 Diffuse Water Pollution

In theory diffuse water pollution arising from various distant sources but entering main watercourses could have a harmful effect on the special nature conservation interest of distant European Sites. However it is practically impossible to attribute the effects of diffuse water pollution from distant sources on a particular European Site to a particular development or operation.

The control of the effects of diffuse water pollution is therefore best subject to other statutory regimes (e.g. EU Water Frameworks Directive) rather than being able to be subject to any meaningful control under the terms of this Plan/Assessment

5.3 Species Disturbance

Development sites, and particularly industrial operations, can cause significant noise and visual disturbance issues (e.g. heavy vehicle movements and loud machinery). Birds are the faunal group that is most often considered in relation to disturbance, largely as this is the group on which disturbance impacts have been most studied.

Concern regarding the effects of disturbance on birds stems from the fact that they are expending energy unnecessarily and the time they spend responding to disturbance is time that is not spent feeding. Disturbance therefore risks increasing energetic output while reducing energetic input, which can adversely affect the 'condition' and ultimately survival of the birds. In addition, displacement of birds from one feeding site to others can increase the pressure on the resources available within the remaining sites, as they have to sustain a greater number of birds. Moreover, the more time a breeding bird spends disturbed from its nest, the more its eggs are likely to cool and the more vulnerable they are to predators.

Human activity can affect birds either directly (e.g. through causing them to flee) or indirectly (e.g. through damaging their habitat). The most obvious direct effect is that of immediate mortality such as death by shooting, but human activity can also lead to behavioural changes (e.g. alterations in feeding behaviour, avoidance of certain areas etc.) and physiological changes (e.g. an increase in heart rate) that, although less noticeable, may ultimately result in major population-level effects by altering the balance between immigration/birth and emigration/death.

Bird populations are not cited as an important (determining) criteria in the designation of the Manchester Mosses SAC.

Disturbance is therefore not considered further in this Assessment.

5.4 Invasive Species

Some types of industrial development (e.g. waste transfer stations) have the potential to introduce aggressive alien species to areas where they have not occurred previously because large volumes of material are transported from many disparate areas into concentrated areas. If not properly controlled within the boundaries of the waste site these species may be spread into the wider landscape.

Potential new Waste / Recycling sites are dealt with in a separate Plan and this Plan has been subject to separate HRA. In addition, this potential source of harm can be dealt with by the statutory controls placed on waste disposal sites.

Potential impacts from the introduction of invasive species are not therefore considered further in this Assessment.

5.5 Recreational pressure

It is not envisaged that the development of new employment sites will lead to any increased recreational pressures on the SAC. However new housing development *may* result in increases in recreational pressure on European designated sites because of increased local populations.

The Manchester Mosses SAC sites and the wider area are not widely promoted as a recreational resource. The site(s) and the general area lack suitable infrastructure to support visitors and lack suitable recreational facilities and attractions and as a consequence receive relatively few visitors, in spite of being within reach of a potentially very large urban population. The habitats (peat bog) and species supported within the SAC are not considered to be 'important' from a tourist or visitor point of view. The SAC is not, and is very unlikely in future, to be promoted as public open space in connection with new housing developments. It is not anticipated that this situation will change in the foreseeable future, and not in the lifespan of the Plan being assessed.

Further, Wigan Borough has very good provision of publicly accessible greenspace that does not include any part of the SAC. This resource is being promoted through the 'Wigan Greenheart' Project and through the development of the 'Great Manchester Wetland', a project to develop the green spaces in Wigan being led by the Lancashire Wildlife Trust. Parts of the Manchester Mosses SAC are owned and managed by the Lancashire Wildlife Trust. The Trust manages these sites sensitively with nature conservation interests being the primary concern.

Further, it is very difficult to assess the potential impact of any increases in the population of south-east Wigan on the special nature conservation features of the SAC and difficult to manage recreational pressures by managing the development of housing sites through the land-use planning process. It is considered that this potential impact is best considered and managed through control of access to the SAC (i.e. at the *Receptor* level).

The increase in the population of Wigan that may result from the development of the housing allocations in the Plan is not therefore considered likely to result in significant increased recreational pressure on the SAC.

Given the above it is considered to be unreasonable to exclude any sites from the allocation plan on the basis of possible increases in recreation pressures on the SAC.

5.6 Those Sources considered further in this Assessment therefore include only Air Pollution (including dust) and Water Pollution.

Table 5.1 Precautionary Screening distance summary for those impacts considered relevant

Source/Pathway	Screening Distance from European Site
Air pollution	5km – housing sites 10km – employment sites
Air quality (dust)	500m
Water pollution	5km – housing sites 10km – employment sites

6 SCREENING OPINION

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

Following the discussion above, a Screening Assessment has been made of the potential impact of sites allocated for housing and/or employment on the special nature conservation interest of the Manchester Mosses SAC.

6.2 It should be noted that in this section 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. The results of the screening are shown in Tables 6.1 and Table 6.2.

6.3 Table 6.1 shows the results of the screening for the proposed housing site allocations and Table 6.2 contains the results of the screening of the proposed employment and commercial site allocations.

Table 6.1 Screening Summary Table of the impact of Potential Housing Sites within Wigan Borough on the special nature conservation interest of the Manchester Mosses SAC (sites within 5km of the SAC)

Site Ref (SHLAA)	Site ref / name	Potential Impacts on SAC	Comments / Mitigation	Screening Conclusion
0004	**Garrett Hall, Tyldesley**	Water Pollution Air Pollution Dust	• Potential hydrological connectivity with the SAC (Ellenor Brook). It is recommended that development on this site be scrutinised for potential water pollution impacts and a suitable drainage scheme designed to avoid any possibility of harm to the SAC. • Policy CP 12 of the Wigan Core Strategy requires individual assessments of potential air pollution impacts such that any impacts can be avoided. • The site is too distant from the SAC for impacts from dust to occur	**Screened In for future Appraisal**
0017	**Land to the rear of 234-258 Chaddock Lane, Astley**	Water Pollution Air Pollution Dust	• Policy CP 12 of the Wigan Core Strategy requires individual assessments of potential air pollution impacts such that any impacts can be avoided. • The site is too distant from the SAC for impacts from dust to occur • No hydrological pathways exist	**Screened Out**
0021	**Hooten Gardens, Leigh**	Water Pollution Air Pollution Dust	• Potential hydrological connectivity with the SAC exists. It is recommended that development on this site be scrutinised for potential water pollution impacts and a suitable drainage scheme designed to avoid any possibility of harm to the SAC. • Policy CP 12 of the Wigan Core Strategy requires individual assessments of potential air pollution impacts such that any impacts can be avoided. The site is too distant from the SAC for impacts from dust to occur	**Screened In for future Appraisal**
0242	**Land at Hooten Lane, Leigh**	Water Pollution Air Pollution Dust	• Potential hydrological connectivity with the SAC (Bedford Brook) exists. It is *recommended* that any development that comes forward for this site is subject to scrutiny of drainage plans to ensure that any possible pollution risk is avoided. • Policy CP 12 of the Wigan Core Strategy requires individual assessments of potential air pollution impacts such that any impacts can be avoided. • The site is too distant from the SAC for impacts from dust to occur	**Screened In for future Appraisal**
0160	**Land at Chaddock Hall, Astley**	Water Pollution Air Pollution Dust	• Policy CP 12 of the Wigan Core Strategy requires individual assessments of potential air pollution impacts such that any impacts can be avoided. • The site is too distant from the SAC for impacts from dust to occur	**Screened Out**

			• No hydrological pathways exist	
0226	**Ross Arms, 130 Higher Green Lane, Astley**	Water Pollution Air Pollution Dust	• Small site with no connectivity (no pathways) to SAC, and from which no impacts will occur	**Screened Out**
0133, 0282, 0283, 0284	**Land at Coldalhurst Lane, Astley**	Water Pollution Air Pollution Dust	• Policy CP 12 of the Wigan Core Strategy requires individual assessments of potential air pollution impacts such that any impacts can be avoided. • The site is too distant from the SAC for impacts from dust to occur • Potential hydrological connectivity with the SAC (Astley Brook**)**. It is recommended that development on this site be scrutinised for potential water pollution impacts and a suitable drainage scheme designed to avoid any possibility of harm to the SAC.	**Screened In for future Appraisal**
0077	**Land at Alma Street/Elliot Street, Tyldesley**	Water Pollution Air Pollution Dust	• Policy CP 12 of the Wigan Core Strategy requires individual assessments of potential air pollution impacts such that any impacts can be avoided. • The site is too distant from the SAC for impacts from dust to occur • No hydrological pathways exist	**Screened Out**
0013	**Land opp 150-164 Kirkhall Lane, Leigh**	Water Pollution Air Pollution Dust	• Site too distant from SAC (no pathways exist)	**Screened Out**
0130	**Walmsley Farm Higher Folds, Leigh**	Water Pollution Air Pollution Dust	• Policy CP 12 of the Wigan Core Strategy requires individual assessments of potential air pollution impacts such that any impacts can be avoided. • The site is too distant from the SAC for impacts from dust to occur • No hydrological pathways exist	**Screened Out**
0215	**Land to the rear of 30-40 Kenwood Avenue, Leigh**	Water Pollution Air Pollution Dust	• Policy CP 12 of the Wigan Core Strategy requires individual assessments of potential air pollution impacts such that any impacts can be avoided. • The site is too distant from the SAC for impacts from dust to occur • No hydrological pathways exist	**Screened Out**
0072	**Hall House Lane, Leigh**	Water Pollution Air Pollution Dust	• Policy CP 12 of the Wigan Core Strategy requires individual assessments of potential air pollution impacts such that any impacts can be avoided. • The site is too distant from the SAC for impacts from dust to occur • No hydrological pathways exist	**Screened Out**
0219	**Open Land south of 23 Surrey Avenue, Leigh**	Water Pollution Air Pollution Dust	• Policy CP 12 of the Wigan Core Strategy requires individual assessments of potential air pollution impacts such that any impacts can be avoided. • The site is too distant from the SAC for impacts from dust to occur	**Screened In for future Appraisal**

			• Potential hydrological connectivity with the SAC exists. It is recommended that development on this site be scrutinised for potential water pollution impacts and a suitable drainage scheme designed to avoid any possibility of harm to the SAC.	
0022	**South of Atherton**	Water Pollution Air Pollution Dust	• Policy CP 12 of the Wigan Core Strategy requires individual assessments of potential air pollution impacts such that any impacts can be avoided. • The site is too distant from the SAC for impacts from dust to occur • No hydrological pathways exist	**Screened Out**
0200	**Bridgewater Business Park, Leigh**	Water Pollution Air Pollution Dust	• Policy CP 12 of the Wigan Core Strategy requires individual assessments of potential air pollution impacts such that any impacts can be avoided. • The site is too distant from the SAC for impacts from dust to occur • No hydrological pathways exist	**Screened Out**
0197	**Former Bedford Hall Methodist School, Leigh**	Water Pollution Air Pollution Dust	• A small site from which no impacts will occur	**Screened Out**
0258	**44 Bond Street, Leigh**	Water Pollution Air Pollution Dust	• A small site from which no impacts will occur	**Screened Out**
0211	**Windermere Grove, Leigh**	Water Pollution Air Pollution Dust	• Policy CP 12 of the Wigan Core Strategy requires individual assessments of potential air pollution impacts such that any impacts can be avoided. • The site is too distant from the SAC for impacts from dust to occur • No hydrological pathways	**Screened Out**
0147	**Wigan and Leigh College, Railway Road, Leigh**	Water Pollution Air Pollution Dust	• Policy CP 12 of the Wigan Core Strategy requires individual assessments of potential air pollution impacts such that any impacts can be avoided. • The site is too distant from the SAC for impacts from dust to occur • No hydrological connections exist	**Screened Out**
0199	**Wigan and Leigh College, Boughey Street, Leigh**	Water Pollution Air Pollution Dust	• Policy CP 12 of the Wigan Core Strategy requires individual assessments of potential air pollution impacts such that any impacts can be avoided. • The site is too distant from the SAC for impacts from dust to occur • No hydrological connections exist	**Screened Out**
0171	**Former Hilton Park site, Atherleigh Way, Leigh**	Water Pollution Air Pollution Dust	• Policy CP 12 of the Wigan Core Strategy requires individual assessments of potential air pollution impacts such that any impacts can be avoided. • The site is too distant from the SAC for impacts from dust to occur	**Screened Out**

			• No hydrological connections exist	
0013	**Land opp 150-164 Kirkhall Lane, Leigh**	Water Pollution Air Pollution Dust	• Policy CP 12 of the Wigan Core Strategy requires individual assessments of potential air pollution impacts such that any impacts can be avoided. • The site is too distant from the SAC for impacts from dust to occur • No hydrological connections exist	**Screened Out**
0124	**Heather Grove, Leigh**	Water Pollution Air Pollution Dust	• Policy CP 12 of the Wigan Core Strategy requires individual assessments of potential air pollution impacts such that any impacts can be avoided. • The site is too distant from the SAC for impacts from dust to occur • No hydrological connections exist	**Screened Out**
0239	**Land at Parsonage Farm and Garage, Westleigh Lane, Leigh**	Water Pollution Air Pollution Dust	• Policy CP 12 of the Wigan Core Strategy requires individual assessments of potential air pollution impacts such that any impacts can be avoided. • The site is too distant from the SAC for impacts from dust to occur • No hydrological connections exist	**Screened Out**
0045	**Firs Lane / Plank Lane Canalside, Leigh**	Water Pollution Air Pollution Dust	• Policy CP 12 of the Wigan Core Strategy requires individual assessments of potential air pollution impacts such that any impacts can be avoided. • The site is too distant from the SAC for impacts from dust to occur • No hydrological connections exist	**Screened Out**
0008	**Land North of Pocket Nook Lane, Lowton**	Water Pollution Air Pollution Dust	• Policy CP 12 of the Wigan Core Strategy requires individual assessments of potential air pollution impacts such that any impacts can be avoided. • The site is too distant from the SAC for impacts from dust to occur • No hydrological connections exist	**Screened Out**
0267	**Land south of Lower Pocket Nook Farm, Lowton**	Water Pollution Air Pollution Dust	• Policy CP 12 of the Wigan Core Strategy requires individual assessments of potential air pollution impacts such that any impacts can be avoided. • The site is too distant from the SAC for impacts from dust to occur • No hydrological connections exist	**Screened Out**
0268	**Land south of Carr Farm, Pocket Nook, Lowton**	Water Pollution Air Pollution Dust	• Policy CP 12 of the Wigan Core Strategy requires individual assessments of potential air pollution impacts such that any impacts can be avoided. • The site is too distant from the SAC for impacts from dust to occur • No hydrological connections exist	**Screened Out**
0204	**The Bungalow, Pocket Nook Lane, Lowton**	Water Pollution Air Pollution Dust	• Policy CP 12 of the Wigan Core Strategy requires individual assessments of potential air pollution impacts such that any impacts can be avoided.	**Screened Out**

			• The site is too distant from the SAC for impacts from dust to occur • No hydrological connections exist	
0071	**Land south of Parsonage Farm, Westleigh Lane, Leigh**	Water Pollution Air Pollution Dust	• No apparent pathways to SAC exist	**Screened Out**
0031	**Land adjacent Holy Family Church, Astley**	Water Pollution Air Pollution Dust	• No apparent pathways to SAC exist	**Screened Out**
0036	**Coronation Drive/Royal Drive, Higher Folds, Leigh**	Water Pollution Air Pollution Dust	• No apparent pathways to SAC exist	**Screened Out**
0046	**Lancaster Avenue, Tyldesley**	Water Pollution Air Pollution Dust	• No apparent pathways to SAC exist	**Screened Out**
0055	**Mather House, Mather Lane, Leigh**	Water Pollution Air Pollution Dust	• No apparent pathways to SAC exist	**Screened Out**
0083	**Land at Cherry Tree Grove, Leigh**	Water Pollution Air Pollution Dust	• No apparent pathways to SAC exist	**Screened Out**
0084	**Land rear of Eden Grove/Lune Grove, Leigh**	Water Pollution Air Pollution Dust	• No apparent pathways to SAC exist	**Screened Out**
0105	**Land at Lower Green Lane, Astley**	Water Pollution Air Pollution Dust	• No apparent pathways to SAC exist	**Screened Out**
0205	**Parsonage, Leigh**	Water Pollution Air Pollution Dust	• No apparent pathways to SAC exist	**Screened Out**
0213	**Land at Bee Fold Lane, Atherton**	Water Pollution Air Pollution Dust	• No apparent pathways to SAC exist	**Screened Out**
0266	**Land east of Pocket Nook Farm, Pocket Nook Lane, Lowton**	Water Pollution Air Pollution Dust	• No apparent pathways to SAC exist	**Screened Out**

0285	**Land at Thames Avenue, Leigh (south)**	Water Pollution Air Pollution Dust	• No apparent pathways to SAC exist	**Screened Out**
0288	**Land north east of 73 Samuel Street, Atherton**	Water Pollution Air Pollution Dust	• No apparent pathways to SAC exist	**Screened Out**
0291	**College Street Health Centre, College Street, Leigh**	Water Pollution Air Pollution Dust	• No apparent pathways to SAC exist	**Screened Out**
0292	**Airflow, 100 Lord Street, Leigh**	Water Pollution Air Pollution Dust	• No apparent pathways to SAC exist	**Screened Out**
0300	**79-87 Twist Lane, Leigh**	Water Pollution Air Pollution Dust	• No apparent pathways to SAC exist	**Screened Out**
0305	**Land at Marklands Farm, Manchester Road, Astley**	Water Pollution Air Pollution Dust	• No apparent pathways to SAC exist	**Screened Out**

Table 6.2 Screening Summary Table of the impact of Potential Employment Sites within Wigan Borough on the special nature conservation interest of the Manchester Mosses SAC (sites within 10km of the SAC)

Site name	Potential Impacts on SAC	Comments / Mitigation	Screening Conclusion
Hope Carr / Leigh Commerce Park, Leigh	Water Pollution Air Pollution Dust	• Potential hydrological connectivity exists (Pennington Brook). It is recommended that development on this site be scrutinised for potential water pollution impacts and a suitable drainage scheme designed to avoid any possibility of harm to the SAC. • Policy CP 12 of the Wigan Core Strategy requires individual assessments of potential air pollution impacts such that any impacts can be avoided. • The site is too distant from the SAC for impacts from dust to occur	**Screened In for future Appraisal**
Land East of Atherton	Water Pollution Air Pollution Dust	• There are no possible hydrological pathways between the Land east of Atherton site and the Manchester Mosses SAC. • Policy CP 12 of the Wigan Core Strategy requires individual assessments of potential air pollution impacts such that any impacts can be avoided. • The site is too distant from the SAC for impacts from dust to occur	**Screened Out**
Gibfield, Atherton	Water Pollution Air Pollution Dust	• There are no possible hydrological pathways between the Gibfield site and the Manchester Mosses SAC. • Policy CP 12 of the Wigan Core Strategy requires individual assessments of potential air pollution impacts such that any impacts can be avoided. • The site is too distant from the SAC for impacts from dust to occur	**Screened Out**
Chaddock Lane, Astley	Water Pollution Air Pollution Dust	• There is a potential hydrological link between the Chaddock Lane site and the Manchester Mosses SAC.). It is recommended that development on this site be scrutinised for potential water pollution impacts and a suitable drainage scheme designed to avoid any possibility of harm to the SAC • Policy CP 12 of the Wigan Core Strategy requires individual assessments of potential air pollution impacts such that any impacts can be avoided. • The site is too distant from the SAC for impacts from dust to occur	**Screened In for future Appraisal**
Northleigh	Water Pollution Air Pollution Dust	• There are no possible hydrological pathways between the Northleigh site and the Manchester Mosses SAC. • Policy CP 12 of the Wigan Core Strategy requires individual assessments of potential air pollution impacts such that any impacts can be avoided. • The site is too distant from the SAC for impacts from dust to occur	**Screened out**

South of Hindley	Water Pollution Air Pollution Dust	• There are no possible hydrological pathways between the land South of Hindley site and the Manchester Mosses SAC. • Policy CP 12 of the Wigan Core Strategy requires individual assessments of potential air pollution impacts such that any impacts can be avoided. • The site is too distant from the SAC for impacts from dust to occur	**Screened out**
West of Leigh Road, Hindley Green	Water Pollution Air Pollution Dust	• There are no possible hydrological pathways between the land West of Leigh Road site and the Manchester Mosses SAC. • Policy CP 12 of the Wigan Core Strategy requires individual assessments of potential air pollution impacts such that any impacts can be avoided. • The site is too distant from the SAC for impacts from dust to occur	**Screened out**
Swan Lane, Hindley Green	Water Pollution Air Pollution Dust	• There are no possible hydrological pathways between the Swan Lane site and the Manchester Mosses SAC. • Policy CP 12 of the Wigan Core Strategy requires individual assessments of potential air pollution impacts such that any impacts can be avoided. • The site is too distant from the SAC for impacts from dust to occur	**Screened out**
Pocket Nook, Lowton	Water Pollution Air Pollution Dust	• There are no apparent hydrological pathways between the Pocket Nook Lane site and the Manchester Mosses SAC. • Policy CP 12 of the Wigan Core Strategy requires individual assessments of potential air pollution impacts such that any impacts can be avoided. • The site is too distant from the SAC for impacts from dust to occur	**Screened out**
South Lancashire Industrial Estate, Ashton	Water Pollution Air Pollution Dust	• There are no possible hydrological pathways between the Site and the Manchester Mosses SAC. • Policy CP 12 of the Wigan Core Strategy requires individual assessments of potential air pollution impacts such that any impacts can be avoided. • The site is too distant from the SAC for impacts from dust to occur	**Screened out**

7 SUMMARY OF THE SCREENING OPINION

7.1 Impacts on the Manchester Mosses SAC

The Screening Opinion of the HRA has concluded that *providing the recommendations below are adopted* development within the allocated sites will not have any harmful impact on the special nature conservation interests of the Manchester Mosses SAC.

No other European Designated Sites will be affected by development within designated sites because they are too distant and because no pathways exist between allocated sites and European designated sites.

The above conclusion is dependent on the proper implementation of **Policy CP 12** of the Wigan Local Plan Core Strategy and, for a few sites, sensitive design and implementation of drainage schemes.

7.2 Recommendations

7.2.1 It is recommended that the following allocated housing sites be subject at pre-application or application stage to detailed scrutiny regarding **drainage**. Drainage proposals must ensure that any possibility of water pollution reaching the SAC is avoided.

Table 7.1

Site ref.	Site Name
SHLAA 0004	Garrett Hall Tyldesley
SHLAA 0021	Hooten Gardens Leigh
SHLAA 0242	Land at Hooten Lane
SHLAA 0133, 0282, 0283, 0284	Land at Coldalhurst Lane Astley
SHLAA 0219	Open Land South of 23 Surrey Avenue Leigh

7.2.2 It is recommended that the following allocated employment and commercial sites be subject at pre-application or application stage to scrutiny regarding **drainage**. Drainage proposals must ensure that any possibility of water pollution reaching the SAC is avoided.

Table 7.2

Site Name
Hope Carr / Leigh Commerce Park
Chaddock Lane

8 CONSIDERATION OF 'IN COMBINATION' EFFECTS WITH OTHER PLANS AND PROPOSALS

8.1 The Habitats Regulation Assessment must consider the likely significant impact of the Plan in relation to other proposals and plans current or planned within the relevant administrative area, other administrative authorities and prepared by other statutory organisations (e.g. Environment Agency, United Utilities) and in combination with the identified impacts of those Plans.

8.2 It can be considered that this will fall into two categories: those impacts associated with regional strategic plans and proposals and those related to more localised 'in-combination' effects, either with adjacent Authorities or geographically localised plans from other statutory agencies.

8.3 The North West Regional Spatial Strategy 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. Even though the RSS is has now been replaced by the National Planning Policy Framework, the evidence base remains relevant to this Assessment.

8.4 As regards the emerging Core Strategies and other Development Plan Documents of neighbouring Greater Manchester authorities, those ready for initial Assessment have been screened by GMEU. These are listed in Appendix 1. Two, Manchester and Oldham, has been assessed as potentially having an impact on a European site. However, the European Site in question is the Rochdale Canal, which has been screened out of this Assessment.

8.5 The HRA of Trafford Council's LDF has identified a potential site allocation that could have a potential 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.

8.6 An initial Assessment of Salford City Council's LDF Core Strategy concluded that this Plan had some potential to have an impact on the Manchester Mosses SAC. However this Plan was subsequently withdrawn.

8.7 Given the nature of the Manchester Mosses SAC, plans and proposals in Warrington MBC area also need to be considered. The Core Strategy of the Warrington Local Plan has been Assessed under the terms of the Habitats Regulations and found to be sound; that is, no impacts will arise on the SAC from the implementation of the Plan

8.8 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 Warrington and Salford.

Figure 1 – Map Showing Location of European Sites within Greater Manchester and in Close Proximity to Wigan

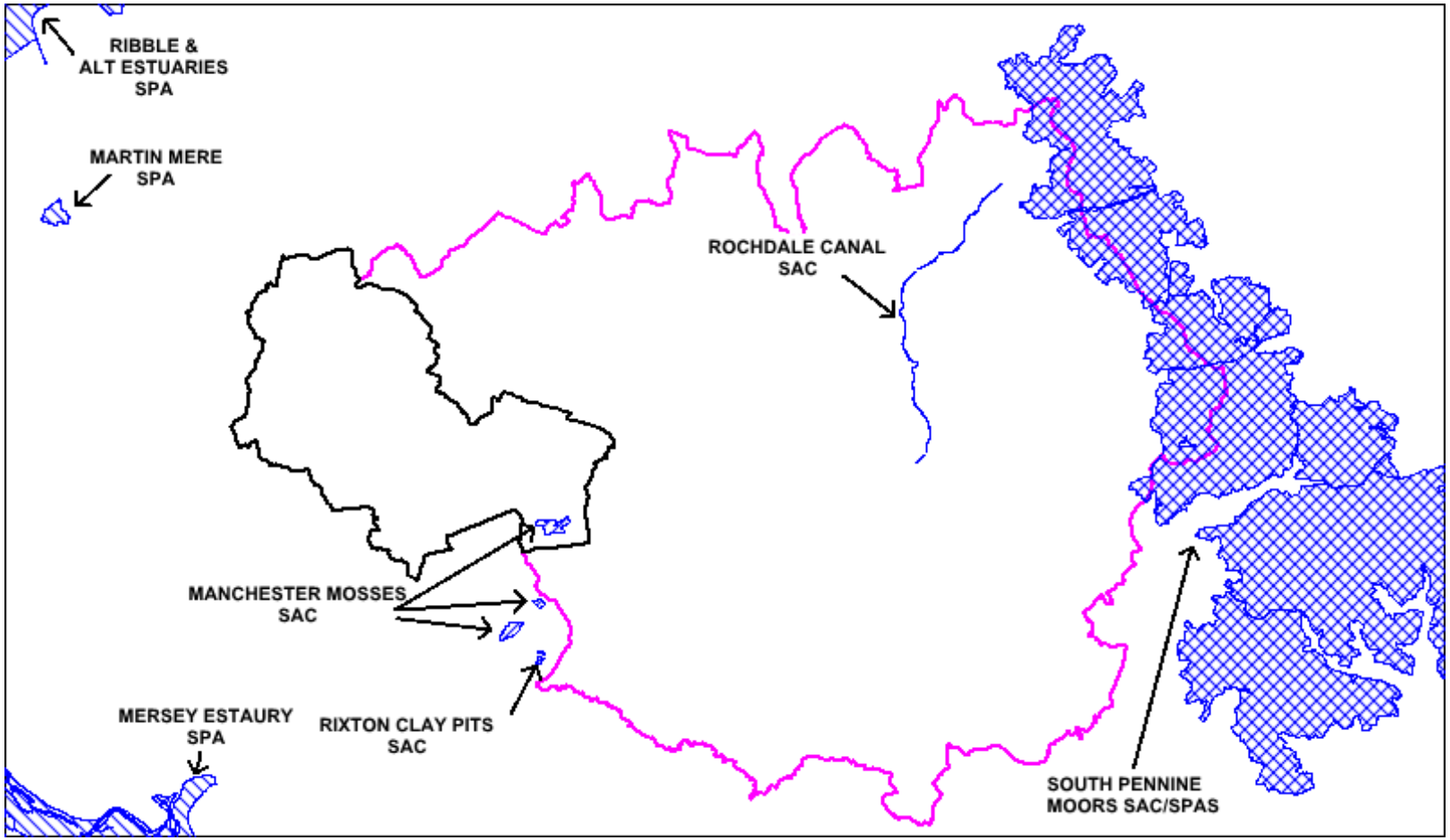


Figure 2 - Location of Manchester Mosses SAC in relation to allocated housing sites

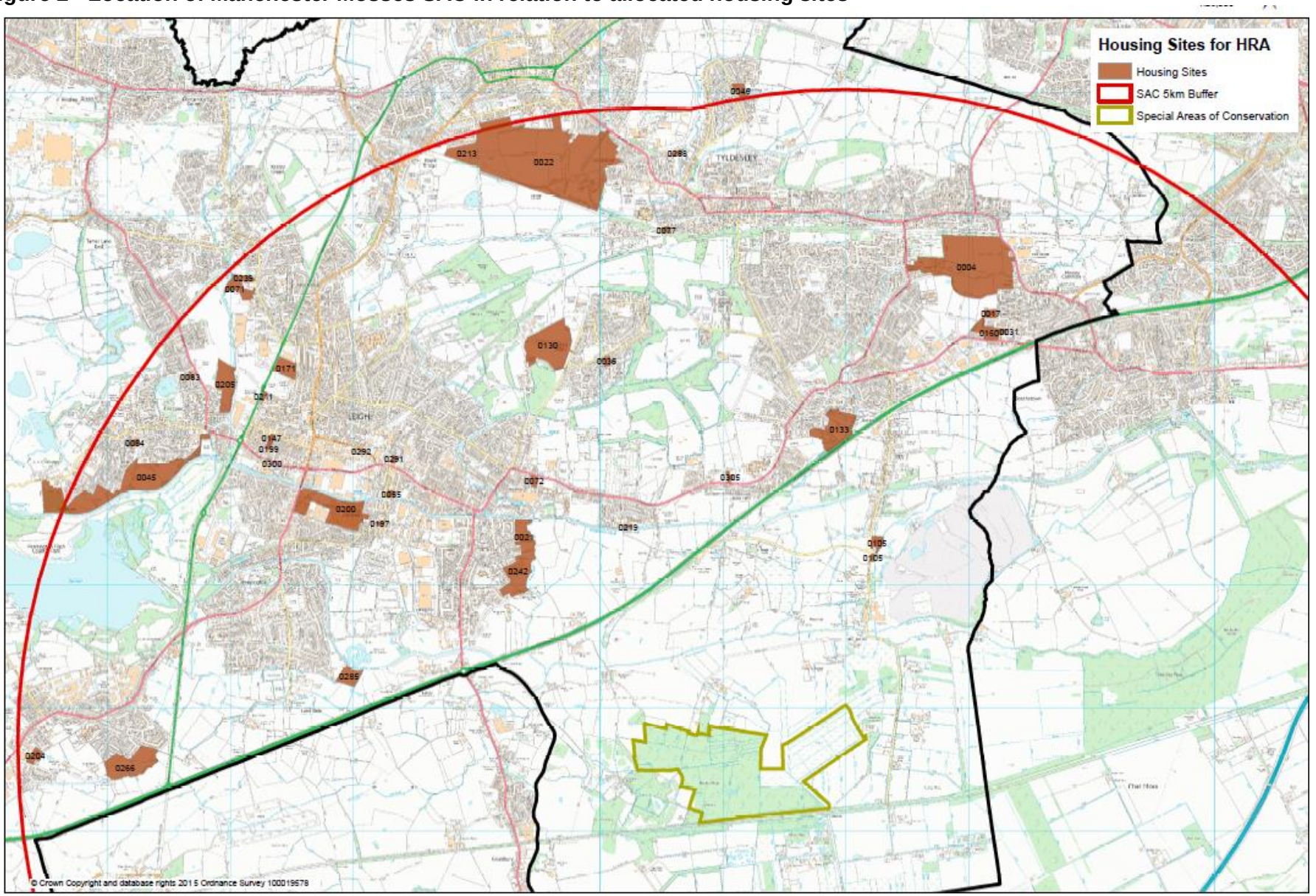
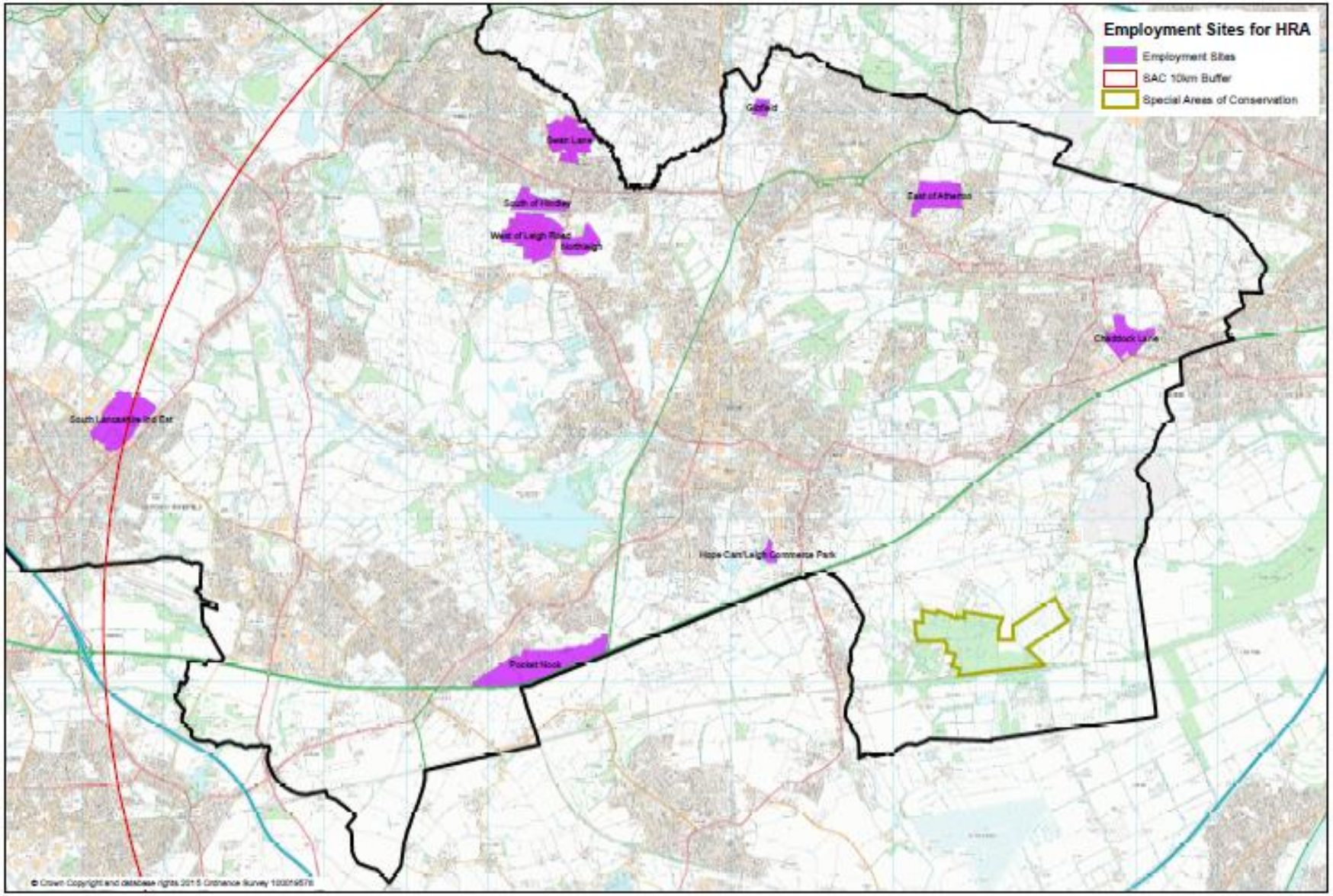


Figure 3 - Location of Manchester Mosses SAC in relation to allocated employment sites



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APPENDIX 1 – LIST OF OTHER PLANS AND PROJECTS CONSIDERED WITHIN THE ASSESSMENT

Plans Assessed under the Terms of the Habitats Regulations by GMEU

District	Plan	Outcome of Assessment
Rochdale MBC	SPD 'Energy and New Development'	No effect on European Sites
Rochdale MBC	SPD provision of Recreational Open Space in New Housing Developments	No effect on European Sites
Rochdale MBC	SPD Development of East Central Rochdale	No effect on European Sites
Rochdale MBC	SPD Biodiversity and Development	No effect on European Sites
Rochdale MBC	SPD Affordable Housing	No effect on European Sites
Rochdale MBC	LDF Core Strategy (Publication)	Potential effect on Rochdale Canal SAC
Manchester CC	SPD Providing for Housing Choice	No effect on European Sites
Manchester CC	LDF Core Strategy (Proposed Options)	Potential Effect on Rochdale Canal SAC
Bolton MBC	LDF Core Strategy Issues and Options	No effect on European Sites
Bolton MBC	LDF Core Strategy (Publication)	No effect on European Sites
Trafford MBC	LDF Core Strategy (Publication)	Potential Effect on Manchester Mosses SAC
Bury MBC	LDF Core Strategy (Draft Publication)	No effect on European Sites
Oldham MBC	LDF Core Strategy (Publication)	Potential Effects on Rochdale Canal SAC
Salford CC	LDF Draft Core Strategy	No identified effect on European Sites at this stage – further assessment may be needed at a later stage
Greater Manchester	Joint Minerals Plan – Preferred Approach	No identifiable in-combination effects with Wigan's Core Strategy.

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

District	Plan	Outcome of Assessment
Warrington MBC	SPD – Managing the Housing Supply	No effect on European Sites
Warrington MBC	SPD – Affordable Housing	No effect on European Sites
Warrington MBC	SPD – Travel Plans	No effect on European Sites
Warrington MBC	SPD – Planning Obligations	No effect on European Sites
Warrington MBC	SPD – Landscape Design Guide for new development	No effect on European Sites
Warrington MBC	SPD – Open Space & Recreation Provision	No effect on European Sites
Warrington MBC	SPD – Bridge Street Area	No effect on European Sites
Warrington MBC	Core Strategy and Third Local Transport Plan (LTP3)	No significant adverse effects on the nature conservation interests of Manchester Mosses SAC are anticipated.
St Helens MBC	LDF – Core Strategy Preferred Options DPD	Concludes that the Core Strategy Preferred Options is unlikely to lead to significant adverse effects on Manchester Mosses SAC and no in-combination impacts identified.
Greater Manchester	Joint Waste DPD	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”.