

HABITAT REGULATIONS ASSESSMENT (SCREENING) OF THE WIGAN LOCAL FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT STRATEGY



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Fig 1 Map showing the location of European designated sites within Greater Manchester and in close proximity to Wigan

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1 Introduction

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

1.1 *‘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 Wigan Council is a Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) and as such is required to develop, maintain, apply and monitor a strategy for local flood risk management. The Draft Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (hereafter referred to as ‘The Plan’) has been prepared in response to this duty.

The Local Flood Risk Management Strategy of Wigan Council 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 under the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF paragraph 118 March 2012) that potential SPAs (pSPA), candidate SACs (cSAC) and potential Ramsar (pRamsar) sites are also included in HRAs.

1.4 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

1.5 This report comprises Stage 1 of the Habitats Regulation Assessment process and contributes to the fulfilment of the Council’s statutory duty as regards Article 6(3). That is, it is an Opinion on, and an Assessment of, whether or not the implementation of the Wigan Local Flood Risk Management Strategy 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 strategic sites need to be deselected or whether the wording of the Strategy needs to be amended.

1.6 It is noted that the Strategy being assessed may require further assessments following any changes to the Strategy following further consultation/examination. There is no statutory guidance on what stage of Strategy 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 Strategy production.

- 1.7 The Greater Manchester Ecology Unit (GMEU), as the specialist ecological adviser to Wigan Council, has prepared this Screening Opinion. Natural England and the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (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 available ecological information for the sites. The key vulnerabilities and sensitivities of the European sites concerned are well understood by GMEU as are the impact pathways which may affect a European site, allowing for an informed assessment of the possible effects of the Strategy, and any specific aims, objectives and policies contained in The Strategy.

2 Brief description of The Plan

2.0 The Plan being assessed is Wigan's Local Flood Risk Management Strategy ('the Strategy').

2.1 The Plan describes the causes and risks of flooding in Wigan, sets out the legislative framework for managing flood risk, describes the roles and responsibilities of organisations and individuals involved in managing flood risk, sets out a method for auditing flood events and flood risk assets and sets out an Action Plan for Flood Risk Management.

The Key Objectives of the Strategy are –

- To provide a clear explanation of all stakeholder responsibilities in flooding issues.
- To develop a clearer understanding of flood risk and to consider how best to communicate and share information as it becomes available.
- To define and explain the criteria by which areas at risk of flooding from surface run-off, groundwater and ordinary watercourses are assessed and resources are prioritised.
- To state how risk management authorities will share information and resources.
- To set out clear and consistent plans for risk management so that communities and businesses can make informed decisions about the management of the residual risk.
- To ensure that planning decisions are properly informed by flooding issues and the impact that future planning may have.
- To encourage innovative management of flood and coastal erosion risks taking account of the needs of communities and the environment.
- To ensure that emergency plans and responses to flood incidents are effective and that communities are able to respond properly to flood warnings.
- To highlight where information regarding other forms of flooding can be found.

2.2 Most of the actions and objectives of the Strategy will not in themselves involve any direct development works or land-take. However they will lead to the prioritisation of development measures to alleviate flood risk and they will serve to identify any potential risk of flooding impacts on protected nature conservation sites, including European Protected Sites. This will make possible the proper consideration of European sites in the development of any detailed plans and the implementation of measures to better protect European Sites from flooding impacts. The majority of actions in the Strategy could therefore have a potentially beneficial interest on the special qualifying features of any relevant European Sites. It is notable that the overall effect of the Strategy is to make the protection of the environment a key consideration in the development of any potential flood risk management schemes.

2.3 Of the identified potential schemes, investigations and improvements that are included in the Strategy (Appendix F) that may involve actual development works and land-take these are all local in scale and type. None of the proposed Capital Drainage schemes is within 5km of a European protected site. No flood risk alleviation schemes are currently proposed within 5km of any European designated sites.

3 Identification of relevant European Designated Sites

3.0 This Assessment has first screened European protected sites in the North West of England to decide which of these sites are likely to be affected by development activity in Wigan associated with flood risk mitigation and flood defence measures. When assessing the impact of the Strategy on European protected sites it is important to consider the impact on sites not only within the administrative area covered by the Strategy but also those which fall outside the Strategy boundary, as these could still potentially be affected by the implementation of the Strategy.

3.1 As a useful starting point, the Assessment has considered the suite of European sites assessed within the Northwest Regional Spatial Strategy's (RSS) Habitat Regulations Assessment. Although the RSS has now been revoked the evidence base used to prepare the RSS in relation to European designated sites remains relevant. These sites are listed in Appendix 1. This ensures that *all* European sites considered to have the potential to be affected by development within the northwest region can be initially considered for assessment (an overarching screening assessment).

The Screening Criteria

3.2 In carrying out this screening process the Assessment has considered the main possible **sources** of effects on the European sites arising from the implementation of the Strategy, 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.

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

3.3.1 Water (water pollution, sediment and hydrology)

3.3.2 Air (air pollution)

3.3.3 Direct land-take

3.3.4 Habitat/Species Disturbance

3.3.5 Increased recreational pressure

3.3.6 Spread of invasive plants and animals

3.4 Guidance from the Environment Agency (EA) concerning distances at which significant effects on European sites are caused by water or air pollution have been taken into account during the screening of European sites. The EA has set recommended buffer zones for certain types of operation (in particular, waste treatment operations) that are in part applicable to other types of operation. Outside of these buffer zones significant effects on European sites arising from water and air pollution are considered unlikely to arise. The largest (most cautious) buffer zone considered by the EA is 5km; that is, most operations with the potential of causing 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.

3.5 Although this guidance has been taken into account when screening European protected sites, in the case of a Strategy potentially affecting development within 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 large-scale developments or secondary impacts. In particular, applying the 5km buffer may not be appropriate where the likely effect on a European site is caused by **diffuse air or**

water pollution that may arise from large scale development, or where there are secondary **recreational** pressures on more distant protected sites arising from increased regional and sub-regional populations.

Diffuse Air Pollution

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

- 3.6.1 Oxides of Nitrogen (NO_x)
- 3.6.2 Ammonia (NH₃)
- 3.6.3 Dust
- 3.6.4 Sulphur Dioxide (SO₂)
- 3.6.5 Low level Ozone (O₃)

(Scott Wilson Ltd 2007)

3.7 Of these NO_x and SO₃ are the most likely to arise as a result of development recommended by the Strategy. The greatest damage caused by these pollutants occurs close to where they are emitted (within 250m) 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 Wigan 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, have been will be screened out.

Diffuse Water Pollution

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

Recreational Pressure

3.9 The effects of increased regional and sub-regional populations on recreational pressures on the north west's European protected sites has been considered in the HRA of the North West RSS and is therefore not considered in detail in this report.

3.10 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, of future development in Wigan on these European Sites. Appendix 2 summarises the results of this screening process. The outcomes of the site screening process are given below.

Summary Results of Screening of Sites

3.11 From the screening process detailed in **Appendix 1 and 2** the following European designated sites have been identified as having the potential to be affected by the implementation of the Strategy –

Manchester Mosses Special Area of Conservation (SAC)

The Manchester Mosses SAC lies partly within the boundary of the Borough of Wigan (Astley and Bedford Moss, Fig 1).

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 fragmented 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 reestablishing 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 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 NO_xs
13. Recreational activities

(Adapted from information available from Natural England)

5 Screening Opinion – Impact of the Wigan Local Flood Risk Management Strategy on the special interest of the Manchester Mosses SAC

- 5.1 Of the operations listed in section 4.3 some can potentially be considered as likely to arise as a result of the implementation of local flood mitigation measures in Wigan. Specifically pollution (air, water and sediments) and draining *out of or in to* the SAC may occur from implementation of measures arising from the implementation of the Plan.
- 5.2 Although the main population centres in Wigan are some distance from the SAC strategic transport links run adjacent to the SAC (railway line) and within 1km of the SAC (A580 major road link and A574 north-south link road) and it is theoretically possible that measures to protect these strategic transport links from flooding may directly affect the SAC. The most likely impact on the SAC is considered likely to arise from the diversion of surface water away from the transport links and potentially into the wetland SAC. However no specific measures concerned with this potential impact are proposed in the Strategy and none are capable of assessment at this stage
- 5.3 There is a significant water course within 1km of the SAC (Pennington Brook) and it is theoretically possible that flood alleviation measures may be closely associated with this water course because it runs close to population centres and/or strategic infrastructure and these measures could have the potential to affect the SAC. However no specific measures concerned with this potential impact are proposed in the Strategy and none are capable of assessment at this stage.
- 5.4 Although re-wetting of (that is, drainage into) the SAC may be beneficial to nature conservation interests it is important that any water flows into the SAC are properly controlled and that any possibility of surface water pollution reaching the SAC is avoided.
- 5.5 Air pollution and air borne sediments/dust could potentially be deposited within the SAC. However, it has been identified that the greatest damage from these sources occurs within 250m and that at distances greater than this air pollutants become dispersed. It is considered that by the nature of their likely scale, location and the statutory environmental control measures already in place to control air pollution likely significant effects arising on the SAC from increased air pollution are unlikely to arise from the operation of a flood risk management strategy.

Mitigation for identified potential impacts

- 5.6 The Strategy at this stage is concerned primarily with identifying flood risks and properly planning and coordinating responses to these risks. The implementation of the main themes and objectives of the Strategy concerned with communication, cooperation and dissemination therefore provide every opportunity to properly take into account the possible impact of capital schemes on the special interest of the Manchester Mosses. Indeed one of the major themes of the Strategy is the need for environmental protection to be taken into account when planning and coordinating flood risk responses. As stated earlier the preparation and implementation of the Strategy itself therefore provides opportunities to take the above identified potential impacts into account and to provide sufficient and satisfactory safeguards to protect the special interest of the SAC.
- 5.7 Policy SP5 of the Strategy is specifically concerned with the need to protect and enhance biodiversity resources.

- 5.8 Section 5 of the Strategy specifically identifies the need to fully take into account the special interest of European protected sites in the planning of any projects concerned with flood risk mitigation.

The Strategy states –

“Requirements of the EU Habitats Directive

The requirements of the EU Habitats Directive must be given appropriate consideration where works could affect a ‘Natura 2000’ site. These sites include Special Areas of Conservation (SAC). Such sites can be sensitive to impacts such as the effect of changes to drainage patterns. As such it is important to ensure that proposals which could impact on such sites are identified and appropriately assessed where necessary, to ensure they can be carried out without causing significant damage to species and habitats of importance and that they can receive approval to proceed, if required, for example through the planning process.

Wigan Borough includes part of the Manchester Mosses SAC. As the Lead Local Flood Authority, Wigan Council will ensure that any relevant proposals for flood risk management, including increased water storage and flood defences, are subject to robust scoping and that Natural England, the body with responsibility for ensuring the protection and good management of Natura 2000 sites, is properly consulted wherever necessary to determine further Habitat Regulations Assessment and approvals that may be required.”

- 5.9 Given the above it is our Opinion that the Strategy contains sufficient safeguards in terms of Policies and undertakings to ensure that no harm will be caused to the special interest of any European Sites as a result of the implementation of the Strategy.

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

- 6.1 The Habitats Regulation Assessment must consider the likely significant effect of The Plan in relation to other proposals and plans - current or planned - within the relevant administrative area, other administrative authorities and prepared by other statutory organisations (e.g. Environment Agency, United Utilities) and in combination with the identified effects of those Plans.
- 6.2 It can be considered that this will fall into two categories: those effects associated with regional strategic plans and proposals and those related to more localised 'in combination' effects, either with adjacent Authorities or geographically localised plans from other statutory agencies.
- 6.3 The former 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.
- 6.4 As regards the emerging and adopted 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.
- 6.5 The Core Strategies for Wigan, Trafford and Salford have been assessed as potentially having an effect on the Manchester Mosses European site. These plans will require further Assessment as the Core Strategies develop and the findings will need to be taken into account in screening of further iterations of the Strategy being assessed here.
- 6.6 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 at a later stage.

7 Conclusions

7.1 Screening of European sites (Section 2) has established that the following site has the potential to be affected by the implementation of the Wigan Local Flood Risk Management Strategy -

- **Manchester Mosses SAC**

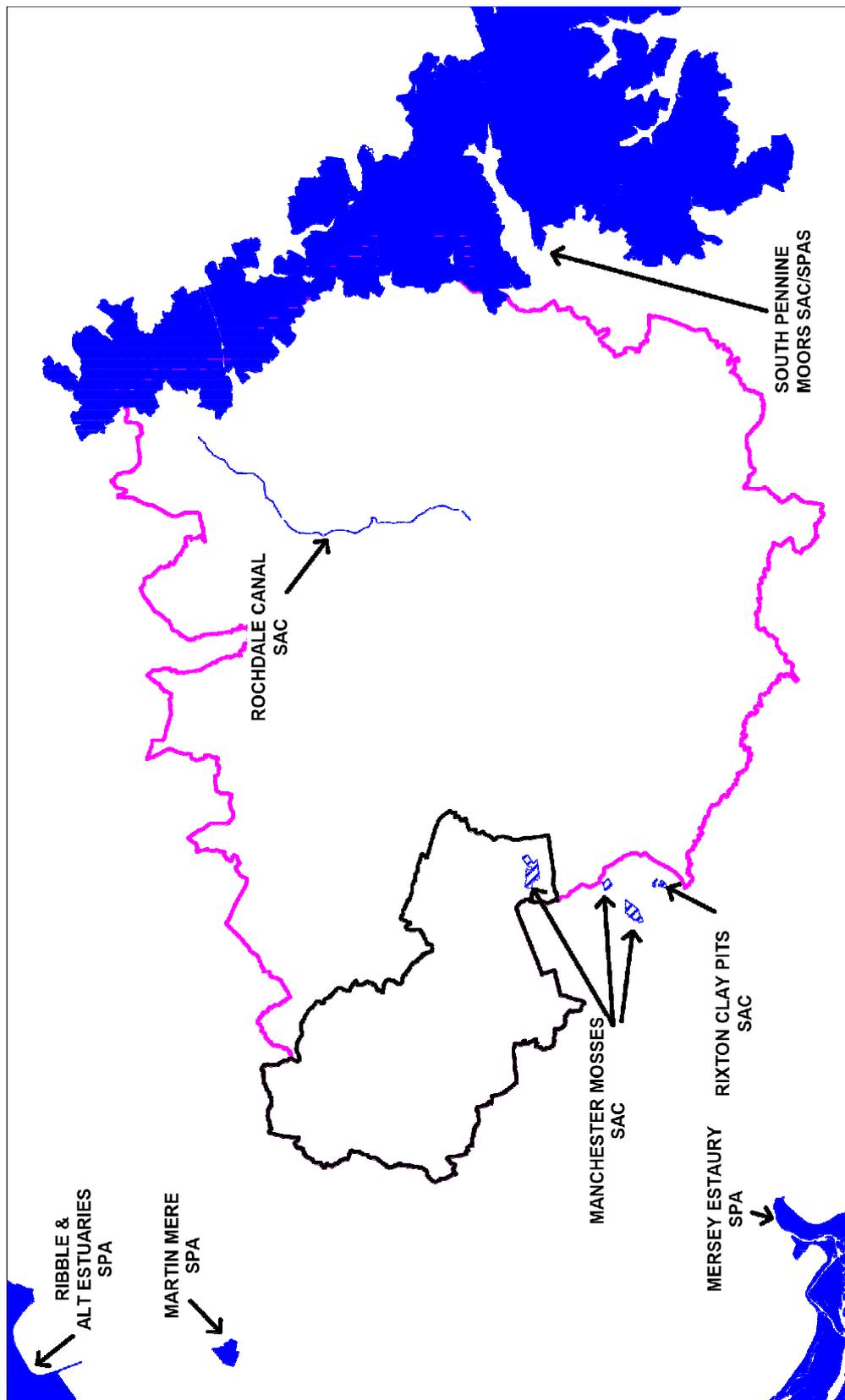
No other European protected Sites are considered to be at risk of harm from the operation of the Wigan Local Flood Risk Management Strategy.

7.2 The Strategy includes specific Policies and Undertakings, together with an overarching ethos for environmental protection, to ensure that **no significant effects** on the special interest of European sites will result from the implementation of the Strategy. Appropriate safeguards are included in the Strategy to ensure that the implementation of flood risk alleviation measures are properly planned, coordinated and informed so as to ensure that the special nature conservation interests of the Manchester Mosses SAC can be protected from potential impacts identified.

7.3 No 'in combination' effects are considered likely to occur, although this should be kept under review.

7.4 The conclusions above should not be taken to rule out the possibility that future iterations of the Strategy may need to be subject to HRA, at least to Screening stage.

Figure 1 – Map showing Location of European Sites within Greater Manchester and In Close Proximity to the County (edged pink) and Wigan (edged black)



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APPENDIX 1: European designated sites within the North West Region and possible effects from development within Wigan. 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 Wigan
		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 Wigan
		Increased recreational Pressure	None – site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Wigan
Border Mires, Kielder – Butterburn	SAC	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - No hydrological pathways between SAC and land within Wigan
		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 Wigan
Borrowdale Woodland Complex	SAC	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - No hydrological pathways between SAC and land within Wigan
		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 Wigan
Bowland Fells	SPA	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - No hydrological pathways between SPA and land within Wigan
		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 Wigan
		Increased recreational Pressure	None – site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Wigan

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 Wigan
		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 Wigan
Clints Quarry	SAC	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - No hydrological pathways between SAC and land within Wigan
		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 Wigan and species dispersion known to be less than 2km.
		Increased recreational Pressure	None – site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Wigan
Cumbrian Marsh Fritillary Site	SAC	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - No hydrological pathways between SAC and land within Wigan
		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 Wigan
		Increased recreational Pressure	None – site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Wigan
Dee Estuary	SPA/Ramsar	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - No hydrological pathways between SPA and land within Wigan
		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 Wigan
		Increased recreational Pressure	None – site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Wigan

Site Name	Designation	Type of Effect	Likely Effects
Drigg Coast	SAC	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - No hydrological pathways between SAC and land within Wigan. Wigan 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 Wigan
		Increased recreational Pressure	None – site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Wigan
Duddon Estuary	SPA/Ramsar	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - No hydrological pathways between SAC and land within Wigan
		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 Wigan
		Increased recreational Pressure	None – site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Wigan
Duddon Mosses	SAC	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - No hydrological pathways between SAC and land within Wigan
		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 Wigan
Esthwaite Water	Ramsar	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - No hydrological pathways between Ramsar site and land within Wigan
		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 Wigan
		Increased recreational Pressure	None – site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Wigan

Site Name	Designation	Type of Effect	Likely Effects
Irthinghead Mires	Ramsar	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - No hydrological pathways between Ramsar site and land within Wigan
		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 Wigan
		Increased recreational Pressure	None – site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Wigan
Lake District High Fells	SAC	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - No hydrological pathways between SAC and land within Wigan
		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 Wigan
Leighton Moss	SPA/Ramsar	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - No hydrological pathways between SPA/Ramsar Site and land within Wigan
		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 Wigan
		Increased recreational Pressure	None – site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Wigan
Liverpool Bay	pSPA	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - No hydrological pathways between SPA and land within Wigan
		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 Wigan (based on knowledge of Greater Wigan bird populations)
		Increased recreational Pressure	None – site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Wigan

Site Name	Designation	Type of Effect	Likely Effects
Manchester Mosses	SAC	Water Quality/Hydrology	Potential drainage effects
		Air Pollution	Potential effects from airborne pollutants
		Direct land take	None
		Habitat/Species Disturbance	Potential for habitats to be effected by hydrological impacts and pollution
		Increased recreational Pressure	No impacts resulting from Strategy
Martin Mere	SPA/Ramsar	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - No hydrological pathways between SPA/Ramsar Site and land within Wigan
		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 affected by any habitat changes in Wigan
		Increased recreational Pressure	None – site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Wigan
Mersey Estuary	SPA/Ramsar	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - Strategic impacts of increased development in Wigan on the water quality in the SPA/Ramsar Site 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 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 Wigan
		Increased recreational Pressure	None – site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Wigan

Site Name	Designation	Type of Effect	Likely Effects
Mersey Narrows & Wirral Foreshore	pSPA	Water Quality/Hydrology	Site classification details unavailable but there are unlikely to be any hydrological pathways between SPA and land within Wigan
		Air Pollution	Site classification details unavailable but there are unlikely to be any atmospheric pathways between SPA and land within Wigan
		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 Wigan (based on knowledge of Greater Wigan bird populations).
		Increased recreational Pressure	None – site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Wigan
Midland Meres & Mosses – Phase 1 & Phase 2	2 x Ramsar	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - No hydrological pathways between Ramsar site and land within Wigan
		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 Wigan
		Increased recreational Pressure	None – site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Wigan
Moor House – Upper Teasdale	SAC	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - No hydrological pathways between SAC and land within Wigan
		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 Wigan

Site Name	Designation	Type of Effect	Likely Effects
Morecombe Bay	SAC/Ramsar/SPA	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - No hydrological pathways between SAC/SPA/Ramsar Site and land within Wigan. Wigan 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 Wigan. Dispersion of Great Crested Newts is known to be less than 2km. Bird species unlikely to be effected by habitat changes within Wigan.
		Increased recreational Pressure	None – site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Wigan
Morecombe Bay Pavements	SAC	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - No hydrological pathways between SAC and land within Wigan
		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 Wigan
		Increased recreational Pressure	None – site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Wigan
Naddle Forest	SAC	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - No hydrological pathways between SAC and land within Wigan
		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 Wigan

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 Wigan
		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 Wigan
		Increased recreational Pressure	None – site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Wigan
North Pennine Moors	SAC/SPA	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - No hydrological pathways between SAC/SPA and land within Wigan
		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 Wigan.
		Increased recreational Pressure	None – site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Wigan
Oak Mere	SAC	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - No hydrological pathways between SAC and land within Wigan
		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 Wigan
Peak District Moors (South Pennine Moors Phase 1)	SPA	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - No hydrological pathways between SPA and land within Wigan
		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 Wigan
		Increased recreational Pressure	None – site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Wigan

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 Wigan
		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 Wigan
		Increased recreational Pressure	None – site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Wigan
River Dee & Bala Lake	SAC	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - No hydrological pathways between SAC and land within Wigan
		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 Wigan
River Derwent & Bassenthwaite Lake	SAC	Water Quality/Hydrology	None – no water borne pollution pathways to SAC from Greater Wigan. Strategic impacts of increased development in Wigan 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 Wigan

Site Name	Designation	Type of Effect	Likely Effects
River Eden	SAC	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - No hydrological pathways between SAC and land within Wigan
		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 Wigan
River Ehen	SAC	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - No hydrological pathways between SAC and land within Wigan
		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 Wigan
		Increased recreational Pressure	None – site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Wigan
River Kent	SAC	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - No hydrological pathways between SAC and land within Wigan
		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 Wigan
Rixton Clay Pits	SAC	Water Quality/Hydrology	None – site is too distant from Wigan
		Air Pollution	None – site is too distant from Wigan
		Direct land take	None – site is too distant from Wigan
		Habitat/Species Disturbance	None – site is too distant from Wigan
		Increased recreational Pressure	None – site is too distant from Wigan

Site Name	Designation	Type of Effect	Likely Effects
Rochdale Canal	SAC	Water Quality/Hydrology	None- sites is too distant
		Air Pollution	None – site is too distant
		Direct land take	None –site is too distant
		Habitat/Species Disturbance	None- site is too distant
		Increased recreational Pressure	None –site is too distant
Rostherne Mere	Ramsar	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - No hydrological pathways between Ramsar site and land within Wigan
		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 Wigan
		Increased recreational Pressure	None – site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Wigan
Roudsea Wood & Mosses	SAC	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - No hydrological pathways between SAC and land within Wigan
		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 Wigan

Site Name	Designation	Type of Effect	Likely Effects
Sefton Coast	SAC	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - No hydrological pathways between SAC and land within Wigan
		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 Wigan
		Increased recreational Pressure	None – site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Wigan
Solway Firth	SAC	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - No hydrological pathways between SAC and land within Wigan
		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 Wigan
South Pennine Moors	SAC	Water Quality/Hydrology	None – site is too distant
		Air Pollution	None – site is too distant
		Direct land take	None – site is too distant
		Habitat/Species Disturbance	None – site is too distant
		Increased recreational Pressure	None – site is too distant
South Pennine Moors Phase 2	SPA	Water Quality/Hydrology	None – site is too distant
		Air Pollution	None – site is too distant
		Direct land take	None – site is too distant
		Habitat/Species Disturbance	None – site is too distant
		Increased recreational Pressure	None – site is too distant

Site Name	Designation	Type of Effect	Likely Effects
South Solway Mosses	SAC	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - No hydrological pathways between SAC and land within Wigan
		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 Wigan
Subberthwaite, Blawith & Torver Low Commons	SAC	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - No hydrological pathways between SAC and land within Wigan
		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 Wigan
Tarn Moss	SAC	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - No hydrological pathways between SAC and land within Wigan
		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 Wigan
Tyne & Nent	SAC	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - No hydrological pathways between SAC and land within Wigan
		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 Wigan
		Increased recreational Pressure	None – site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Wigan

Site Name	Designation	Type of Effect	Likely Effects
Ullswater Oakwoods	SAC	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - No hydrological pathways between SAC and land within Wigan
		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 Wigan
Upper Solway Flats & Marshes	SPA/Ramsar	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - No hydrological pathways between SPA/Ramsar Site and land within Wigan
		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 Wigan
		Increased recreational Pressure	None – site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Wigan
Walton Moss	SAC	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - No hydrological pathways between SAC and land within Wigan
		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 Wigan
Wast Water	SAC	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - No hydrological pathways between SAC and land within Wigan
		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 Wigan
		Increased recreational Pressure	None – site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Wigan

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

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

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

Site Name	Designation	Screened in/out	Justification
Liverpool Bay	pSPA	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and strategic impacts considered by RSS HRA
Manchester Mosses	SAC	In	Site within 5km of Wigan boundary
Martin Mere	SPA/Ramsar	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and strategic impacts considered by RSS HRA
Mersey Estuary	SPA/Ramsar	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and strategic impacts considered by RSS HRA
Mersey Narrows & Wirral Foreshore	pSPA	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and strategic impacts considered by RSS HRA
Midland Meres & Mosses – Phase 1 & Phase 2	2 x Ramsar	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and strategic impacts considered by RSS HRA
Moor House – Upper Teasdale	SAC	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and no strategic impacts or pathways identified in RSS HRA
Morcambe Bay	SAC/Ramsar/SAC	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and no strategic impacts or pathways identified in RSS HRA
Morcambe 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 Wigan the site is considered too distant for significant effects to arise and no known pathways exist between SPA and Wigan.
Ribble & Alt Estuaries	SPA/Ramsar	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and strategic impacts considered by RSS HRA
River Dee & Bala Lake	SAC	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and no strategic impacts or pathways identified in RSS HRA

Site Name	Designation	Screened in/out	Justification
River Derwent & Bassenthwaite Lake	SAC	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and strategic impacts considered by RSS HRA
River Eden	SAC	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and no strategic impacts or pathways identified in RSS HRA
River Ehen	SAC	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and no strategic impacts or pathways identified in RSS HRA
River Kent	SAC	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and no strategic impacts or pathways identified in RSS HRA
Rixton Clay Pits	SAC	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise
Rochdale Canal	SAC	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and no strategic impacts or pathways identified in RSS HRA
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	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and no strategic impacts or pathways identified in RSS HRA
South Pennine Moors Phase 2	SPA	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and no strategic impacts or pathways identified in RSS HRA
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	
Wigan 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
Rochdale MBC	Local Flood Risk Management Strategy	Potential Effects on Rochdale Canal SAC
Bury MBC	Local Flood Risk Management Strategy	No effects on European sites identified

Wigan MBC	Local Flood Risk Management Strategy	Potential Effect on Manchester Mosses SAC
Manchester City Council	Local Flood Risk Management Strategy	Potential Effects on Rochdale Canal SAC

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 Wigan 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 Wigan Mosses SAC".