



# Cheshire East Local Plan Part 2 (Site Allocations and Development Policies Document) Habitats Regulations Assessment

First Draft Site Allocations and  
Development Policies Screening Report

August 2018

Cheshire East Council



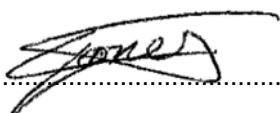
## JBA Project Manager

Rachel Brisley  
Bank Quay House  
Sankey Street  
Warrington  
Cheshire

## Contract

This report describes work commissioned by Allan Clarke, on behalf of Cheshire East Council. Catherine Jones, Rachael Brady and Laura Thomas of JBA Consulting carried out this work.

Prepared by .....



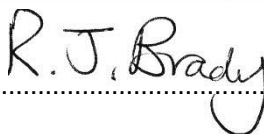
Catherine Jones BSc MRes Grad CIEEM  
Ecologist

Reviewed by .....



Rachel Brisley BA (Hons) Dip TRP MCD MBA AMBA  
Technical Director

Reviewed by .....



Rachael Brady BSc MSc PGCert CEcol MCIEEM  
Chartered Senior Ecologist

## Purpose

This document has been prepared as a Final Report, for Cheshire East Council. JBA Consulting accepts no responsibility or liability for any use that is made of this document other than by the Client for the purposes for which it was originally commissioned and prepared.

JBA Consulting has no liability regarding the use of this report except to Cheshire East Council.

OFFICIAL

## Copyright

© Jeremy Benn Associates Limited 2018

## Carbon Footprint

A printed copy of the main text in this document will result in a carbon footprint of 462g if 100% post-consumer recycled paper is used and 588g if primary-source paper is used. These figures assume the report is printed in black and white on A4 paper and in duplex.

JBA is aiming to reduce its per capita carbon emissions.

## Non-technical Summary

This report contributes to Cheshire East Council's legal obligation under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 to carry out a Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) on its plans for effects on European sites.

Before a plan can be adopted, the 'competent authority' (Cheshire East Council) needs to prove that the plan would have no significant effects on European sites' integrity to the satisfaction of Natural England and/or Natural Resources Wales. An uncertain result is not acceptable and is treated as adverse until proven otherwise.

HRA has been undertaken throughout the development of the Cheshire East Local Plan and has informed key stages and assessment work. The Local Plan Strategy (Part 1) HRA is complete and the Local Plan Part 2 Site Allocations and Development Policies (SADPD) now requires assessment. The SADPD allocates sites for development (generally non-strategic sites of less than 150 homes or 5 hectares in size) and also sets more detailed policies to guide planning application decisions in the Borough.

This report details the HRA for the Cheshire East Local Plan SADPD and includes an assessment for the development policies and site allocations.

This report consists of the first step of the HRA process, which is to screen the SADPD to determine whether it could lead to a significant effect on European sites, either directly, or indirectly, alone, or in-combination with other plans.

European sites consist of Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) designated for habitats and animal species, and Special Protection Areas (SPA) designated for bird species. Ramsar sites designated under the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands 1971 are also included following Government policy.

The most likely effects of the Local Plan SADPD on European sites are related to pressures from new development including water abstraction, changes to surface and ground water levels/quality (surface run-off, pollution events), air pollution and increased recreational pressures arising from new housing developments and increased tourism.

The Screening Assessment determined that the Local Plan SADPD could potentially have significant adverse effects as a result of changes in water levels and/or quality, through discharges, and surface and/or groundwater contamination, recreational pressures, and/or air pollution, both alone and in-combination with other plans, on the following sites:

- West Midlands Mosses SAC
- River Dee and Bala Lake SAC
- Midland Meres and Mosses Phase 1 Ramsar

An Appropriate Assessment was then undertaken to assess whether Cheshire East Council's SADPD has the potential to result in significant adverse effects on the integrity of identified European sites, either alone or in combination with a number of other plans.

The Assessment identified that the existing policies and provisions in the Cheshire East Council LPS, SADPD and other plans along with the Site Specific Principles of Development identified for strategic sites, in relation to sustainable water management, provision of appropriate infrastructure, sustainable travel and transport, provision and protection of open space, sport, leisure and recreation facilities and pollution control, will ensure that the SADPD will have no adverse effects on these European Sites.

# Contents

Non-technical Summary .....	iii
1 Introduction .....	1
1.1 The Cheshire East Local Plan.....	1
1.2 Habitats Regulations Assessment.....	1
1.3 HRA of the Local Plan Part 2: First Draft Site Allocations and Development Policies Document.....	2
2 HRA Methodology.....	4
2.1 Introduction .....	4
2.2 HRA Process.....	4
2.3 HRA Stage 1: Screening Methodology.....	5
2.4 HRA Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment methodology.....	5
3 European Sites .....	7
3.1 Introduction .....	7
3.2 European Sites In and Around Cheshire East.....	7
3.3 Potential Hazards to European Sites .....	8
3.4 Potential Impact Pathways.....	11
4 Relevant Plans.....	14
4.1 Cheshire East Local Plan.....	14
4.2 Other Relevant Plans and Projects that might act In-combination .....	23
5 Screening Assessment .....	25
5.1 Introduction .....	25
5.2 Development policies .....	25
5.3 Site allocations.....	37
5.4 Screening Statement and Conclusions .....	55
6 Appropriate Assessment.....	56
6.1 Introduction .....	56
6.2 Screening Conclusion .....	56
6.3 Assessment of Effects on Site Integrity.....	56
7 Conclusions .....	72
Appendices .....	74
A Location of European Sites within and adjacent to Cheshire East.....	75
B Details of European Sites within and adjacent to Cheshire East .....	76
C Other Relevant Plans.....	96
D Other Relevant Projects.....	101
References.....	I

## List of Tables

Table 1-1: Summary of HRA undertaken for the Local Plan Strategy .....	3
Table 2-1: HRA Process .....	4
Table 3-1: European Sites Within and Adjacent to Cheshire East .....	7
Table 3-2: Potential Hazards to European Sites .....	9
Table 3-3: Sensitivity of Qualifying Features to Potential Hazards .....	10
Table 4-1: Summary of site options and GTTS sites being considered in the development of the Cheshire East Local Plan SADPD. ....	16
Table 4-2: Relevant Plans and Projects .....	23
Table 5-1: Screening categories for the development policies (adapted from DTA, 2018) .....	25
Table 5-2: Screening table for Cheshire East development policies .....	26
Table 5-3: Assessment of Likely Significant Effects on European Sites .....	38
Table 6-1 Test of adverse effects of integrity on West Midlands Mosses SAC.....	58
Table 6-2 Test of adverse effects of integrity on River Dee and Bala Lake SAC.....	63
Table 6-3: Test of adverse effects of integrity on the Midlands Meres and Mosses Phase 1 Ramsar .....	69

## Abbreviations

CAMS.....	Catchment Abstraction Management Strategy
CFS.....	Prefix for potential site allocations
DCLG .....	Department for Communities and Local Government
DMRB .....	Design Manual for Roads and Bridges
EA .....	Environment Agency
GTTS .....	Gypsy Traveller and Travelling Showperson Site
HRA .....	Habitats Regulations Assessment
HS2 .....	High Speed Two
JNCC .....	Joint Nature Conservation Committee
LPS .....	Local Plan Strategy
NPPF .....	National Planning Policy Framework
NPPG.....	National Planning Policy Guidance
NRW .....	Natural Resources Wales
pSAC.....	Possible Special Area of Conservation
pSPA.....	Potential Special Protection Area
SAC.....	Special Area of Conservation
SADPD.....	Site Allocations and Development Policies Document
SPA.....	Special Protection Area
SSSI.....	Site of Special Scientific Interest
SSM .....	Site Selection Methodology

OFFICIAL



# 1 Introduction

## 1.1 The Cheshire East Local Plan

Cheshire East Council is in the process of developing its Local Plan, which comprises three key documents:

1. The Local Plan Strategy (LPS) (Part 1) sets out the vision and overall planning strategy for the Borough and contains planning policies intended to ensure that new development addresses the economic, environmental and social needs of the area. It also identifies the strategic sites and strategic locations that should accommodate most of the new development needed (Cheshire East Council, 2017<sup>a</sup>). JBA has undertaken the Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) for the LPS, which was adopted by the Council in July 2017.
2. The Site Allocations and Development Policies Document (SADPD) (Part 2) is the second part of the Local Plan that allocates sites for development (generally non-strategic sites of less than 150 homes or 5 hectares in size). It also sets more detailed policies to guide planning application decisions in the Borough.
3. The Minerals and Waste Development Plan Document (Part 3) will set out planning policies for minerals and waste, including the identification for specific sites for these uses.

This HRA focuses on the Part 2 Plan, the SADPD. A separate assessment will be undertaken alongside the development of the Part 3 (Minerals and Waste) Plan and will be reported separately.

A 'call for sites' exercise was conducted for the Part 2 Plan at the end of February 2017 and held until July 2017.

The Council has reviewed the call for sites submissions, in line with its stated site selection methodology (published separately) and those sites identified through that process are the sites that this HRA Screening Report relates to.

This report is produced in conjunction with the Cheshire East Local Plan First Draft SADPD.

## 1.2 Habitats Regulations Assessment

European Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and Wild Flora and Fauna (Habitats Directive) provides legal protection to habitats and species of European importance. The principal aim of this directive is to maintain at, and where necessary restore to, favourable conservation status of flora, fauna and habitats found at these designated sites.

The Directive is transposed into English legislation through the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (a consolidation of the amended Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations, 2010) published in November 2017.

It is a requirement of Regulation 105 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 that *"the plan-making authority for that plan must, before the plan is given effect, make an appropriate assessment of the implications for the site in view of that site's conservation objectives"*, where the plan is likely to have a significant effect on a European site or a European offshore marine site (either alone or in-combination with other plans or projects), and where it is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site. Regulation 105 also requires that *"in the light of the conclusions of the assessment, and subject to regulation 107 (considerations of overriding public interest), the plan-making authority or, in the case of a regional strategy, the Secretary of State must give effect to the land use plan only after having ascertained that it will not adversely affect the integrity of the European site or the European offshore marine site (as the case may be)"*.

The HRA process is underpinned by the precautionary principle, especially in the assessment of potential impacts and their resolution. If it is not possible to rule out likely significant effects on the evidence available then it is assumed that a risk may exist and it needs to be addressed in the assessment process, preferably through changes to the proposed measure or through options such as avoidance or control measures. Only once this assessment has been completed can it be concluded that there is no adverse risk to a European site resulting from the plan.



Spatial planning documents are required to undergo Habitats Regulations Screening if they are not directly connected with or necessary to the management of a European site. As the SADPD is not connected with, or necessary to, the management of European sites, it is necessary to undertake a HRA of this strategy.

### 1.3 HRA of the Local Plan Part 2: First Draft Site Allocations and Development Policies Document

This report details the HRA screening for the Cheshire East Local Plan Part 2, hereafter referred to as the Site Allocations and Development Policies Document ("SADPD") within this report. It is the pre-publication draft of this HRA.

#### 1.3.1 Previous Assessment and Reporting

Table 1-1 provides a timeline of the HRA previously conducted for the LPS and an explanation of the purpose and content of the reports produced. The reports can be accessed at <http://cheshireeast-consult.limehouse.co.uk/portal/>.

The conclusions of the HRA for the LPS remain valid and are not considered further in this assessment, unless directly relevant to the considerations of the SADPD.

Table 1-1: Summary of HRA undertaken for the Local Plan Strategy

HRA Document	Date	Purpose and Content
Cheshire East Local Plan Strategy Habitats Regulations Assessment Final Report and Summary Report (examination documents SD 004 and SD 005)	February 2014 (submitted in May 2014 as part of supporting documentation for LPS)	The report detailed the HRA of the submission version of the LPS produced by Cheshire East Council, as part of the development of the Local Plan. Following further correspondence with Natural England, the Council and JBA agreed to changes to the LPS (examination documents PS B015 a and PS B015 b) with additional specific text proposed for policies / sites to address Natural England's concerns.
Cheshire East Local Plan Strategy Habitats Regulations Assessment Appraisal of Suggested Revisions Final Report (examination document PS E043 and RE B007)	September 2015	The LPS was submitted to the Secretary of State in May 2014 and the initial stages of the Public Examination of the Plan was undertaken in September/October 2014. The Inspector issued his interim views on the Legal Compliance and Soundness of the submitted LPS and indicated that further work was required by the Council on a number of matters. In light of initial examination hearings / further Interim Views expressed by the Inspector, the Council completed a suite of additional work, which was submitted to the Inspector in July 2015 alongside a list of suggested revisions to the LPS (Chapters 1 - 8). The addendum HRA report concerned the interim outcomes of the draft suggested revisions to the LPS Planning for Growth Chapter / Policies and also the draft suggested revisions to other LPS policies (covering chapters 9-14 of the LPS) undertaken following the submission of the additional evidence to the Inspector. The addendum HRA was not a full HRA but an appraisal/screening exercise to identify the likely impacts of the suggested revisions upon European designated sites and whether any of the suggested revisions would be inherently undeliverable due to potential significant adverse impacts. The report was written to be read alongside the previous HRA work [SD 004].
Cheshire East Local Plan Strategy Habitats Regulations Assessment Appraisal of Sites Final Report (examination document RE F005)	February 2016	Following the submission of the additional evidence to the Inspector, the Council produced a set of suggested revisions to sites to show how any uplift in housing and employment provision could be accommodated in terms of new or amended strategic sites. The addendum HRA report included a screening assessment of any new and amended strategic sites in the light of the revised evidence submitted to the Inspector in July 2015. Chapter 2 of the report represents the outcomes of Stage 4 of the Council's Site Selection Methodology, alongside a suite of suggested revisions to the LPS relating to sites. Chapter 3 of the report considers the HRA implications of the preferred sites proposed to be allocated in the LPS, which were consulted on in early 2016. The report was written to be read alongside the previous HRA work [SD 004].
Cheshire East Local Plan Strategy Proposed Changes Habitats Regulations Assessment Implications (examination document PC B031)	July 2016	This report detailed additional work undertaken as part of the HRA process in relation to the Cheshire East LPS Proposed Changes. This work was undertaken to assist the Council when considering and responding to the key issues raised during the consultation on the LPS Proposed Changes and determining its final proposed changes for submission to the Inspector. This additional work took into account the findings of the HRA undertaken in 2014 and assessments of changes to the LPS undertaken in September 2015 and February 2016.
Cheshire East Local Plan Strategy Main Modifications HRA	January 2017	This report detailed the HRA at the 'Main Modifications' stage of the examination of the Cheshire East LPS, informed by the outcomes of the hearing sessions and Inspector's views on Further Modifications Needed to the LPS (Proposed Changes). This HRA supersedes the HRA undertaken in 2014 and consolidates all work undertaken since the submission of the LPS.
Cheshire East Local Strategy Habitats Regulations Appraisal Final Report (examination document SD 004)	February 2017	This report was the final HRA report produced for the Cheshire East LPS consolidating the all previous work for undertaken since the submission of the LPS.

OFFICIAL

## 2 HRA Methodology

### 2.1 Introduction

It is accepted best-practice for the HRA of strategic planning documents to be run as an iterative process alongside the plan development, with the emerging policies, sites or options continually assessed for their possible effects on European sites and modified or abandoned (as necessary) to ensure that the subsequently adopted plan is not likely to result in significant effects on any European sites, either alone or 'in-combination' with other plans. This is undertaken in consultation with Natural England and/or Natural Resources Wales (NRW) and other appropriate consultees.

### 2.2 HRA Process

The HRA will follow a three-stage process as outlined in the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) guidance "Planning for the Protection of European sites: Appropriate Assessment". These stages are described in Table 2-1.

Table 2-1: HRA Process

Stage/Task	Description
<b>HRA Task 1 Screening</b>	This process identifies the likely impacts upon a European site of a project or plan, either alone or in-combination with other projects or plans, and determines whether these impacts are likely to be significant.
<b>HRA Task 2 Appropriate Assessment</b>	<p>This assessment determines whether a project or plan would have an adverse impact on the integrity of a European site, either alone or in-combination with other projects or plans.</p> <p>This assessment is confined to the effects on the internationally important habitats and species for which the site is designated.</p> <p>If no adverse impact is determined, the project or plan can proceed.</p> <p>If an adverse impact is identified, Task 3 is commenced.</p>
<b>HRA Task 3 Mitigation and Alternatives</b>	<p>Where a plan or project has been found to have adverse impacts on the integrity of a European site, potential mitigation measures or alternative options should be identified.</p> <p>If suitable mitigation or alternative options are identified, that result in there being no adverse impacts from the project or plan on European sites, the project or plan can proceed.</p> <p>If no suitable mitigation or alternative options are identified, as a rule the project or plan should not proceed. However, in exceptional circumstances, if there is an 'imperative reason of overriding public interest' for the implementation of the project or plan, consideration can be given to proceeding in the absence of alternative solutions. In this case, compensatory measures must be put in place to offset negative impacts.</p>

Other guidance documents have been used to help inform the methodology of this assessment including:

- Assessment of Plans and Projects Significantly Affecting Natura 2000 Sites: Methodological Guidance on the Provisions of Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC (European Commission 2002)
- The Habitats Regulations Assessment Handbook. DTA Publications
- Managing Natura 2000 sites: The provisions of Article 6 of the 'Habitats' Directive 92/43/EEC (European Communities, 2000)
- Guidance document on Article 6(4) of the 'Habitats Directive' 92/43/EEC (European Communities, 2007)

OFFICIAL

- The National Planning Policy Framework (2012) (NPPF) and National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG)
- The Planning Inspectorate PINS Note 05/ 2018: Consideration of avoidance and reduction measures in Habitats Regulations Assessment: People over Wind, Peter Sweetman, v Coillte Teoranta (The Planning Inspectorate, 2018).

## 2.3 HRA Stage 1: Screening Methodology

The principles of 'screening' are applied to a plan or its components (i.e. policies and site allocations) to allow the assessment stage to focus on those aspects that are most likely to have potentially significant or adverse effects on European sites, as well as shape the emerging strategy. Screening aims to determine whether the plan will have any 'likely significant effects' on any European site as a result of its implementation. It is intended to be a coarse filter for identifying effects (positive and negative) that may occur, to allow the assessment stage to focus on the most important aspects. A plan should be considered 'likely' to have an effect if it is not possible (on the basis of objective information) to exclude the likelihood that the plan could have significant effects on any European site, either alone or in-combination with other plans or projects; an effect will be 'significant' if it could undermine the site's conservation objectives.

Screening can be used to 'screen-out' European sites and plan components from further assessment, if it is possible to determine that significant effects are unlikely (e.g. if sites or interest features are clearly not vulnerable (exposed and / or sensitive) to the outcomes of a plan due to the absence of any reasonable impact pathways).

In order to undertake screening of the Local Plan SADPD, it is necessary to:

- Identify the European sites within and outside the plan area likely to be affected, reasons for their designation and their conservation objectives
- Describe the plan/strategy and their aims and objectives and also those of other plans or projects that in-combination have the potential to impact upon the European sites
- Identify the potential effects on the European sites
- Assess the significance of these potential effects on the European sites.

### 2.3.1 The Precautionary Principle

If there is uncertainty, and it is not possible, based on the information available, to confidently determine no significant effects on a site then the precautionary principle will be applied, and the plan will be subject to an appropriate assessment (HRA Task 2).

### 2.3.2 Mitigation, avoidance and protective measures

Following the recent *People over Wind & Sweetman v Coillte Teoranta* Case C-323/17, the screening does not consider protective, avoidance or mitigation measures for stage 1 Screening. These measures are carried forward and considered as part of the stage 2 Appropriate Assessment.

### 2.3.3 Consultation

The Cheshire East Local Plan SADPD and its HRA will be subject to consultation with Natural England and Natural Resources Wales in relation to any potential effects on European sites that are screened into this assessment, alongside the draft SADPD

## 2.4 HRA Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment methodology

### 2.4.1 Appropriate Assessment and Mitigation - HRA Tasks 2 and 3

For those European sites screened in to the HRA, it is necessary to undertake an Appropriate Assessment to explore the potential adverse effects on their integrity and develop measures to avoid these effects entirely, or if not possible, to mitigate the impacts sufficiently that effects on the European sites are rendered effectively insignificant.

The stages involved in the Appropriate Assessment are to:

- Explore the reasons for the European designation of the "screened in" European sites

OFFICIAL

- Explore the environmental conditions required to maintain the integrity of the "scoped in" European sites and become familiar with the current trends in these environmental processes
- Gain a full understanding of the SADPD and consider each within the context of the environmental processes – would the policies lead to an impact on any identified process?
- Decide whether the identified impact will lead to an adverse effect on the integrity of the European site
- Identify other plans that might affect these European sites in combination with the SADPD and decide whether there are any adverse effects that might not result from the strategy in isolation will do so in-combination.
- Develop measures to avoid the effect entirely, or if not possible, to mitigate the impact sufficiently such that its effect on the European site is rendered effectively insignificant.

In evaluating significance, JBA Consulting has relied on its professional judgement, which will be further reinforced through consultation with Natural England, through the development of the SADPD and its associated appraisal processes.

## 3 European Sites

### 3.1 Introduction

European sites are often collectively known as Natura 2000 sites. Natura 2000 is an EU-wide network of nature protection areas established under the Habitats Directive. The aim of the network is to assure the long-term survival of Europe's most valuable and threatened habitats and species.

Natura 2000 consists of:

- *Special Areas of Conservation (SACs)* - these are designated under the Habitats Directive to protect those habitat types listed on Annex I and species listed on Annex II that are considered to be most in need of conservation at a European level (excluding birds).
- *Special Protection Areas (SPAs)* - these are designated under the Birds Directive to protect rare and vulnerable birds, and also regularly occurring migratory species
- *Ramsar sites* - these are wetlands of international importance designated under the Ramsar Convention.

*Possible SACs (pSACs)* and *potential SPAs (pSPAs)* are given the same protection under the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF, 2012), following a precautionary approach.

All SPAs and terrestrial SACs in England and Wales are also designated as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) under the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981, as amended).

Although not included in the European legislation, as a matter of Government policy, Ramsar sites in England and Wales are protected as European sites. The clear majority are also classified as SPAs and SSSIs.

### 3.2 European Sites In and Around Cheshire East

Best practice guidance suggests that sites occurring within a wider area of approximately 10km to 15km from the boundary of the area directly affected by a plan should be identified and assessed, in addition to those sites located within the plan area (Therivel (2009). However, it is important to consider the possibility of impacts for any European site that might be affected, whatever its location, given the activities included in the plan and their range of influence. This may extend some distance from the area within the immediate influence of a plan.

There are two SACs, one SPA and three Ramsar sites located within Cheshire East. A further eight SACs, three SPAs and three Ramsar sites located adjacent to Cheshire East have been deemed to be within the influence of the Cheshire East Local Plan SADPD. These sites are listed in Table 3-1 and shown at Appendix A.

It should be noted that a number of individual sites (designated as SSSIs) make up the West Midland Mosses SAC, Midland Meres and Mosses Phase 1 Ramsar and Midland Meres and Mosses Phase 2 Ramsar sites (as listed in the table at Appendix B). The map at Appendix A shows those component sites that have been deemed to be within the influence of the SADPD.

Table 3-1: European Sites Within and Adjacent to Cheshire East

Designation	Within Cheshire East	Adjacent to Cheshire East and deemed to be within the influence of the Local Plan SADPD
SAC	West Midlands Mosses South Pennine Moors	West Midlands Mosses South Pennine Moors Rixton Clay Pits Brown Moss Manchester Mosses Oak Mere Fenn's, Whixall, Bettisfield, Wem and Cadney Mosses Peak District Dales

Designation	Within Cheshire East	Adjacent to Cheshire East and deemed to be within the influence of the Local Plan SADPD
		River Dee and Bala Lake Dee Estuary
SPA	Peak District Moors (South Pennine Moors Phase 1)	Peak District Moors (South Pennine Moors Phase 1) Mersey Estuary Dee Estuary Mersey Narrows and North Wirral Foreshore
Ramsar	Midland Meres and Mosses Phase 1 Midland Meres and Mosses Phase 2 Rostherne Mere	Midland Meres and Mosses Phase 1 Midland Meres and Mosses Phase 2 Mersey Estuary Dee Estuary Mersey Narrows and North Wirral Foreshore

Data on the European site interest features, their distribution, and their sensitivity to potential effects associated with the plan were obtained from various sources and reports, including the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) and Natural England websites (citations, boundaries, management plans, site improvement plans etc).

Detailed information on these sites, including their qualifying features and conservation objectives are provided in Appendix B.

### 3.3 Potential Hazards to European Sites

#### 3.3.1 Introduction

Development for housing, business and associated infrastructure can potentially have adverse impacts on the habitats and species for which European sites are designated. These impacts can be direct, such as habitat loss, fragmentation or degradation, or indirect such as disturbance or pollution from construction, transportation etc.

This section identifies the potential hazards to European sites within and adjacent to Cheshire East and then goes on to identify the types of hazards to which the qualifying features that are present within the sites are particularly sensitive.

#### 3.3.2 Hazards to Sites

The European sites within and adjacent to Cheshire East are mostly comprised of river, estuary and other wetland sites (i.e. meres and mosses) and therefore the hazards identified in Table 3-2 are based on those identified in the Environment Agency's EU Habitats Directive Handbook, however local conditions have also been considered during the hazard identification process.

Table 3-2: Potential Hazards to European Sites

Potential Hazard	Description
<b>Habitat loss</b>	This is a loss of habitat within the designated boundaries of a European site – it is expected that there would be no direct loss to development as a result of implementation of the SADPD.
<b>Habitat fragmentation</b>	This is where activities result in the separation of available habitats or split extensive areas of suitable habitat. Most likely to affect species.
<b>Changes in physical regime</b>	These are changes to physical process that will alter the present characteristics of the European site e.g. fluvial and geomorphological processes, erosion processes, deposition.
<b>Physical damage</b>	This includes recreational pressures such as trampling and erosion, and where sites are close to urban areas, other damaging activities may occur such as rubbish tipping, vandalism, arson, and predation, particularly by cats.
<b>Habitat/community simplification</b>	Changes to environmental conditions, due to human activities, which result in a reduction and fragmentation of habitats that will reduce biodiversity.
<b>Disturbance (noise, visual)</b>	Activities which result in disturbance, causing sensitive birds and mammals to deviate from their normal, preferred behaviour, such as construction, recreational, traffic.
<b>Competition from invasive non-native species</b>	Activities may cause the introduction or spread of invasive non-native animals and plants, which could result in changes to community composition and even to the complete loss of native communities.
<b>Change in water levels or table</b>	Activities that may affect surface and groundwater levels, such as land drainage and abstraction, may have adverse impacts on water dependant habitats and species.
<b>Changes in water quality</b>	Activities that may impact upon water quality, such as accidental pollution spills, run-off from urban areas, nutrient enrichment from agriculture, and discharge from sewage works, may adversely affect wetland habitats and species.
<b>Changes to surface water flooding</b>	Activities that may result in a reduction or increase in the frequency and extent of surface water flooding, which may affect riverine and floodplain habitats.
<b>Turbidity and siltation</b>	Increases in turbidity within water environments can impact upon aquatic plants, fish and wildfowl due to sedimentation and reduction in penetrable light.
<b>Pollution</b>	Activities that may lead to the release of pollutants to the air such as oxides of nitrogen, oxides of sulphur or ammonia, or pollutants deposited on the ground through acidification or terrestrial eutrophication via soil (deposition of nitrogen).

### 3.3.3 Qualifying Features and Sensitivity to Hazards

The table below shows the qualifying features of the European sites within and adjacent to Cheshire East and identifies the hazards to which they are most sensitive. Their qualifying features have been grouped based on guidance from the Environment Agency (2013) to facilitate the sensitivity assessment.

It must be noted that during the assessment of the potential impacts of the SADPD on a European site, all of the potential hazards will be considered.



Table 3-3: Sensitivity of Qualifying Features to Potential Hazards

Potential Hazards	Habitat Loss	Habitat Fragmentation	Changes in physical regime	Physical Damage	Habitat/ community simplification	Disturbance (noise, visual)	Competition from invasive non-native species	Change in water levels or table	Changes in water quality	Changes to surface water flooding	Turbidity and siltation	Pollution
<b>Sac/Ramsar habitat groups</b>												
Fens and wet habitats	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Bogs and wet habitats	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Riverine habitats and running waters	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Standing waters (sensitive to acidification)	✓			✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Dry woodlands and scrub	✓			✓	✓		✓			✓		✓
Dry grassland	✓			✓	✓		✓			✓		✓
Dry heathland habitats	✓			✓	✓		✓			✓		✓
Upland	✓			✓	✓		✓	✓		✓		✓
Coastal habitats	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
Coastal habitats (sensitive to abstraction)	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
Estuarine and intertidal habitats	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
<b>SAC/Ramsar species groups</b>												
Vascular plants of aquatic habitats	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Vascular plants, lower plants and invertebrates of wet habitats	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Mosses and Liverworts	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Anadromous fish	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Non-migratory fish and invertebrates of rivers	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Mammals of riverine habitats	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Amphibia	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<b>SPA/Ramsar bird species groups</b>												
Birds of uplands	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓		✓
Birds of lowland wet grasslands	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Birds of lowland freshwaters and their margins	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Birds of farmland	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓		✓
Birds of coastal habitats	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Birds of estuarine habitats	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

OFFICIAL

Potential Hazards	Habitat Loss	Habitat Fragmentation	Changes in physical regime	Physical Damage	Habitat/ community simplification	Disturbance (noise, visual)	Competition from invasive non-native species	Change in water levels or table	Changes in water quality	Changes to surface water flooding	Turbidity and siltation	Pollution
Birds of open sea and offshore rocks	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓		✓	✓

### 3.4 Potential Impact Pathways

#### 3.4.1 Introduction

The SADPD and other identified plans have the potential to cause a number of direct and indirect effects on European sites via one or more pathways. Such potential effects include long-term effects associated with the operational phase of proposed developments or general population growth, and short-term effects arising from the development construction phases. The main potential effects are described below.

#### 3.4.2 Recreational Impacts

Increased recreational pressures from urban populations, including dog walking, jogging, cycling, horse riding, motorbike scrambling, boating and other water-based recreational activities are likely to result from new housing developments and population increases.

The population of Cheshire East is expected to grow by around 58,100 people between 2010 and 2030. This is approximately a 15.7% increase in population. During this period, it has been estimated that there will be a significant increase in the proportion of the population above the retirement age (the number of people aged 65 and over will increase by around 65%) (Cheshire East Council, 2017<sup>b</sup>). This is the section of the population with the greatest amount of leisure time.

Improved access to the countryside and increased tourism will also attract more visitors to the area as well as residents. This can lead to significant pressures on sensitive habitats resulting in damage and disturbance to the species they support. Typical impacts of tourism and recreation include:

- Physical damage, for example from trampling and erosion
- Disturbance to species, such as ground-nesting birds and wintering wildfowl, from walking, cycling and water sports, resulting in increased mortality and nesting success, and displacement
- Air pollution (dealt with under air quality effects below) and disturbance from traffic
- Disturbance from dogs and damage from dog excrement.

In addition, where sites are close to urban areas and new developments, recreational pressures can be exacerbated by other damaging activities such as rubbish tipping, vandalism, arson, and predation, particularly by cats.

Many European sites will be vulnerable to some degree of impact as a result of recreational pressure, although the effects of recreational impacts are complex and very much dependent on the specific conditions and interest features at each site. For example, some bird species are more sensitive to disturbance associated with walkers or dogs than others; some habitats will be more sensitive to trampling than others; and some sites will be more accessible than others.

Most recreational activities with the potential to affect European sites are 'casual' and pursued opportunistically (e.g. walking, walking dogs, riding) which makes it difficult to quantify or predict the impacts of these activities on European sites and harder to control or manage. It also means it is difficult to explore in detail all potential impacts of recreational pressures at the strategic level. However, it is possible for plans and strategies to influence recreational use of European sites

OFFICIAL

through the planning process, for example by increasing the amount of green/open space and leisure/recreational facilities required within or near developments if potentially vulnerable European sites are located nearby.

The screening assessment will consider the potential for recreational pressures on a European site by taking into consideration the vulnerability of their interest features to such pressures, the accessibility of the site to the public, the likely attractiveness of the site and its habitats/species to visitors, and the proximity of the site to sites allocated for development.

### 3.4.3 Hydrological Impacts

New development and population increase can result in hydrological effects to existing watercourses and groundwater resources. Such effects can include changes to surface and ground water flows, quality and levels; this can have subsequent effects on habitats and supported species. The main types of potential hydrological effects are as follows:

- *Water abstraction* – new developments would increase the demand for water resulting in increased levels of water abstraction and subsequently affect surface and/or ground water flow, quality and levels. Any such effects would be more extreme during the summer as water demand will peak at this time. The assessment of potential effects of increased water demand will consider how the public water supply system operates and how it is regulated with other water-resource consents.
- *Water discharges* – new developments could result in an increase in discharges to water via foul and surface water/storm water drainage (flood risk). This could also occur during construction phases (e.g. oil spillage or other pollution incidents from construction plant and machinery) but would be short-term and of reduced significance. Discharges can also occur during the operational phase of works through the increased use of waterways by motor powered boats and oil from a higher number of cars using roads close to the watercourse network. Such discharges can impact on surface water and ground water quality, quantity and flows. The water quality effects of the plan are likely to be either controlled by existing consent regimes (which must undergo HRA) or have diffuse ‘in-combination’ effects that are difficult to quantify and therefore any assessment must focus on the development of suitable mitigating policy that will minimise the impacts of development on water quality.

The screening assessment will consider the potential for impacts on a European site due to changes in water levels and/or quality by taking into consideration the vulnerability of their interest features to such impacts, and the pathways i.e. the hydrological connectivity between the site and the areas proposed for development.

In line with Section 2.3.2 and the recent *People over Wind & Sweetman v Coillte Teoranta* Case C-323/1, policy or proposal-level protective and mitigation measures relating to water abstraction and/or water discharges will only be considered at the appropriate assessment stage of this HRA.

### 3.4.4 Air Quality Effects

New developments and an increase in population have the potential to result in an increased use of the road network by vehicles which could have adverse effects on air quality. This could have subsequent effects on habitats sensitive to air quality changes and higher deposits of nitrogen dioxide, particulates and sulphur dioxide (diesel trains) such as the West Midlands Mosses SAC, and Midland Meres and Mosses Phase 1 and Phase 2 Ramsar sites. For example, there is the potential for effects on the health of Sphagnum (which is critical to the ability of the degraded raised bog to re-establish actively growing peat within the site).

It should be noted that the likelihood of this effect is greatly reduced as the distance increases between the deposit area (typically the road network) and the European site. Pollutant levels can be expected to fall substantially at a distance less than 50m from the source and can be expected to fall to background levels at a distance of more than 200m (Design Manual for Roads and Bridges (DMRB) Volume 11).

In addition, the clear majority of new vehicles on the road generally emit fewer emissions than older vehicles. This has become more apparent over the last 5 years as the car industry has responded to increasing climate change (carbon reduction) pressures (SMTT, 2017). Road tax bands were also amended by the Government in 2009 to ensure that the most polluting cars are

penalised more heavily than previously. These measures have helped to increase the demand for cleaner more fuel-efficient vehicles; this trend will only increase further in the future as cars continue to become even greener.

This screening assessment will consider how the potential impact of new development/housing and the associated increase in traffic has the potential to generate increases in atmospheric pollution. This will be considered in relation to the European sites identified, taking into account the vulnerability of their interest features, proximity to proposed development sites and likely associated traffic increases.

## 4 Relevant Plans

This section gives a brief description of the Cheshire East Local Plan development policies and site allocations within the SADPD and outlines how these may impact upon the European sites identified in Table 3-1.

The Habitat Regulations also require that the potential effects of the plan on European sites must be considered 'in-combination with other plans or projects'. The 'in-combination' assessment must also consider within-plan effects (i.e. between policies or strategic sites). Consideration of 'in-combination' effects is not a separate assessment, but is integral to the screening and appropriate assessment stages and development of avoidance/mitigation measures. There is limited guidance available on the scope of the 'in-combination' element, particularly which plans should be considered. However, the assessment should not necessarily be limited to plans at the same level in the planning hierarchy and there is consequently a wide range of plans that could have potential 'in-combination' effects with the Local Plan SADPD due to its regional scale. This section, therefore also identifies the other plans that it is considered could potentially act 'in-combination' with the Local Plan SADPD to have 'significant effects' on European sites.

### 4.1 Cheshire East Local Plan

#### 4.1.1 Introduction

The Local Plan is the Statutory Development Plan for Cheshire East and is the basis for determining planning applications. The SADPD is the second part of the Local Plan, and allocates sites for development (generally non-strategic sites of less than 150 homes or 5 hectares in size). It also sets more detailed policies to guide planning application decisions in the Borough. The vision for the future of Cheshire East is to deliver sustainable, jobs-led growth and sustainable, vibrant communities.

The first part of the Local Plan was the LPS, which sets out the overall vision and planning strategy for development in the Borough, and contains planning policies to ensure that new development addresses the economic, environmental and social needs of the area. It also identifies strategic sites and strategic locations that will accommodate most of the new development needed.

The third aspect of the Local Plan will be the minerals and waste Development Plan Document; however, this is still in development and is not yet available for assessment.

#### 4.1.2 Development Policies

The SADPD sets out more detailed policies to inform planning application decisions in the Borough including established or reviewed boundaries around settlements to guide the location of new development.

#### 4.1.3 Site Allocations

Local residents, land owners, developers and other parties were invited to put forward sites to the Council for consideration as suitable sites for future development in the Borough. Sites are intended to be allocated in the SADPD for housing, and employment development to meet residual development requirements not met by the LPS. Potential Gypsy and Traveller and Travelling Showperson sites are also considered in the SADPD.

There are a number of stages and evidence based documents utilised to identify the list of sites proposed to be allocated in the Draft SADPD [FD 01]. A site selection methodology ("SSM") [FD 07] has been prepared that sets out the various stages used to select sites, informed by the outcomes of the HRA. Individual settlement reports [FD 21 - FD 46] have been prepared to set out the approach to development and the consideration of sites. An interim Sustainability Appraisal [FD 03] has also been prepared and includes a summary of the reasons for selection or rejection of each parcel of land from the stage 4 list of sites considered available for development. Although not the sole basis for progression or non-progression of site allocations, the Sustainability Appraisal has formed part of the evidence base used for the options appraisal (Cheshire East Council, 2018<sup>a</sup>).

Table 4-1 summarises the sites being considered through stage 4 onwards of the Council's SSM and provides a preliminary outline of the potential for each site being considered to impact upon European sites, taking into account the location of the potential site allocation in relation to each of the European sites. This table includes both potential site allocations (prefixed with CFS) as well as potential Gypsy and Traveller and Travelling Showperson sites (prefixed with GTTS). Employment allocations, as outlined in First Draft SADPD Policy EMP 2 are also considered. This high-level screening assessment is then developed further in Section 5 to consider each European site specifically. For ease of reference, the site allocations being considered for allocation in the SADPD have been grouped in to geographical areas.

Table 4-1: Summary of site options and GTTS sites being considered in the development of the Cheshire East Local Plan SADPD.

Allocated Site	Description	Use				Potential Impact on European Sites
		Residential	Employment	Retail	Other	
Alderley Edge Settlement						
CFS 130b	Land north of Beech Road	✓				No. All sites considered through the site selection process for future allocation are more than 8km from the nearest European Site with no potential impact pathways relating to the European sites identified.
CFS 132	Land at Horseshoe Lane		✓			
CFS 301	Land adjacent to Jenny Heyes	✓				
CFS 359	Land to the rear of Congleton Road and south of Lydiat Lane	✓	✓			
CFS 370	Land east of Heyes Lane	✓				
CFS 394	Land south of Netherfields	✓				
CFS 404a	Ryleys Farm (plot 1)	✓				
CFS 404c	Ryleys Farm (plot 3)	✓				
CFS 620	Land to the rear of 40 Congleton Road	✓				
Audlem Settlement						
CFS 54	Land south of Birds Nest	✓				No. The closest site being considered for allocation to West Midlands Mosses SAC (CFS 54) is 6.5km south-west of this European site and has no downstream hydrological connectivity to this site. All of the remaining sites considered to be allocated through the site selection process are more than 8.5km from Midland Meres and Mosses Phase 2 Ramsar. No potential impact pathways were identified.
CFS 403	Corner of Green Lane and Whitchurch Road	✓				
CFS 570	East View	✓				
CFS 585	Land at Moorsfield Avenue	✓				
CFS 586	Land off Moss Hall and Cheshire street	✓				

OFFICIAL

Allocated Site	Description	Use				Potential Impact on European Sites
		Residential	Employment	Retail	Other	
Bollington Settlement						
CFS 79	Land to east of 41a Shrigley Road	✓				No. All sites being considered for allocation through the site selection process are more than 5km from the closest European Site (South Pennine Moors SAC & Peak District Moors (South Pennine Moors Phase 1) SPA. No potential impact pathways were identified regarding any European site.
CFS 352a	Land at Greg Avenue/Ashbrook Road					
CFS 352	Land at Hall Hill	✓				
CFS 561	Land at Henshall Road	✓				
CFS 567	Land at Oak Lane/Greenfield Road	✓				
Chelford Settlement						
CFS 2/48	Land off Knutsford Road	✓				No. All sites being considered for allocation are more than 6km away from the nearest European Site (Midland Meres and Mosses Phase 1 Ramsar). No potential impact pathways were identified regarding any European site.
CFS 427b	Land at Chelford Village - parcel B	✓	✓	✓	Community use	
CFS 427c	Land at Chelford Village - parcel C	✓	✓	✓	Community use	
CFS 427ci & ii	Land at Chelford Village - parcel c - smaller site (land east of Chelford Railway Station)	✓	✓	✓	Community use	
Congleton Settlement						
CFS 220	Land north of Congleton Business Park	✓				Yes. CFS 220 is located within 5km of Midland Meres and Mosses Phase 1 Ramsar (Bagmere SSSI). Potential impacts may occur through increased recreational pressure. All other sites being considered for allocation through the site selection process are located more than 5km from any
CFS 448	Land adjacent to Barn Road/Viking Way		✓			
CFS 449	HWRC Site, Barn Road		✓	✓		
Cong E2	Land off Alexandria Way		✓			

OFFICIAL



Allocated Site	Description	Use				Potential Impact on European Sites
		Residential	Employment	Retail	Other	
						European Sites.
Crewe Settlement						
CFS 594	Land off Gresty Road		✓			Yes. CFS 594 is located within 3.2km of West Midlands Mosses SAC and Midland Meres and Mosses Phase 1 Ramsar (Wybunbury Moss SSSI). Potential impact pathways may include recreational pressure or hydrological impacts on groundwater levels and/or groundwater contamination. No impact pathways identified for CFS 634 or Site GTTS 31.
CFS 634	Land at Bentley Motors, Crewe		✓			
Site GTTS 31	Land at Coppenhall Moss, Crewe	✓			Potential GTTS site	
Disley Settlement						
CFS 29	Cloughside Farm, Lower Greenshall Lane	✓				No. All sites being considered for allocation are more than 6km from the nearest European Site (South Pennine Moors SAC and Peak District Moors (South Pennine Moors Phase 1) SPA)) with no downstream hydrological connectivity.
CFS 196	Land at Hag Bank Lane	✓				
CFS 199	Greystones Allotment Site, Buxton Road	✓				
CFS 275	Land off Lymewood Drive	✓				
Holmes Chapel Settlement						
CFS 423a	Land East of London Road		✓			No. Midland Meres and Mosses Phase 1 Ramsar (Bagmere SSSI) is located more than 4.6km of the closest potential site allocation (CFS 423a). No increased recreational pressure is foreseen as

OFFICIAL

Allocated Site	Description	Use				Potential Impact on European Sites
		Residential	Employment	Retail	Other	
						a result of the new employment sites and there is no downstream hydrological connectivity to the Ramsar.
<b>Knutsford Settlement</b>						
Site GTTS 66	Lorry Park, off Mobberley Road, Knutsford	✓			Potential GTTS site	<b>Yes.</b> GTTS 66 is within close proximity (within 850m) of Midland Meres and Mosses Phase 1 Ramsar (Tatton Mere SSSI). Potential impact pathways may therefore be hydrological, Recreational pressures and/or air quality impacts.
<b>Middlewich Settlement</b>						
CFS 164	Cledford Lagoon	✓				<b>No.</b> All sites being considered for future allocation through the site selection methodology are at least 7km from the nearest European Site (Midland Meres and Mosses Phase 1 Ramsar (Bagmere SSSI)) and no potential impact pathways were identified regarding any European site.
CFS 322a	Land off St. Ann's Road	✓		✓	Dance / contemporary arts school / studio/college	
CFS 387	Land at Tetton Lane	✓				
CFS 600	East and West of Croxton Lane	✓				
CFS 635	Land off Centurion Way	✓			Potential for Church to be located on site	
Site GTTS 16	Thimswarra Farm, Dragons Lane, Moston	✓			Potential GTTS site	
Site GTTS 18	Meadowview, South of Dragons Lane, Moston	✓			Potential GTTS site	

OFFICIAL

Allocated Site	Description	Use				Potential Impact on European Sites
		Residential	Employment	Retail	Other	
Poynton Settlement						
CFS 109	Poynton Sports Club	✓				No. All sites being considered for allocation through the site selection methodology are more than 9km from the nearest European Site (South Pennine Moors SAC and Peak District Moors (South Pennine Moors Phase 1) SPA)). No potential impact pathways were identified regarding any European site.
CFS 110	Land north of Glastonbury Drive				10ha of sports and leisure	
CFS 205	Hope Green Cottage	✓				
CFS 412	Land off London Road South	✓				
CFS 636	Land at Poynton High School	✓				
CFS 637	Former Vernon Infants School	✓				
Prestbury Settlement						
CFS 58	Land at Shirleys Drive	✓				No. All sites being considered for allocation through the site selection methodology are at least 8km from the nearest European Site (South Pennine Moors SAC and Peak District Moors (South Pennine Moors Phase 1) SPA)). No potential impact pathways were identified regarding any European site.
CFS 154	Land at Bridge Green (area A)	✓			Open space	
CFS 197	Land north of Chelford Road and west of Collar House Drive	✓				
CFS 391	Plot 1, land at White Gables Farm, south of Cricket Ground	✓	✓		Sports facilities	
CFS 574	Land south of Prestbury Lane	✓				
Additional GTTS sites (not within above settlements)						
Site GTTS 12	Land east of Railway Bridge Cottages, Nantwich	✓			Potential GTTS site	Yes. This site is within 4.5km of the nearest European site Midland Meres and Mosses Phase 1 Ramsar (Wynbunbury Moss SSSI).

OFFICIAL

Allocated Site	Description	Use				Potential Impact on European Sites
		Residential	Employment	Retail	Other	
Site GTTS 13	Wybunbury Lane, Stapeley	✓			Potential GTTS site	<b>Yes.</b> This site is within 1.5km of the nearest European site (Midland Meres and Mosses Phase 1 Ramsar (Wynbunbury Moss SSSI)).
Site GTTS 17	New Start Park, Wettenhall Road, Reaseheath	✓			Potential GTTS site	<b>No.</b> This site is more than 7km from the nearest European site (Midland Meres and Mosses Phase 1 Ramsar (Wynbunbury Moss SSSI)).
Site GTTS 22	Former RAF Camp, Hack Green	✓			Potential GTTS site	<b>Yes.</b> This site is within 3.7 km of (Midland Meres and Mosses Phase 1 Ramsar (Wynbunbury Moss SSSI)).
Site GTTS 30	Land at London road, Bridgemere	✓			Potential GTTS site	<b>Yes.</b> This site is within 3.5km of Midland Meres and Mosses Phase 1 Ramsar (Betley Mere)
Site GTTS 47	Land off Sound Lane, Sound	✓			Potential GTTS site	<b>No.</b> This small site is more than 6.4km from the nearest European site, Midland Meres and Mosses Phase 2 Ramsar (Oss Mere).
Site GTTS 48	Land off Wrexham Road, Brindley	✓			Potential GTTS site	<b>No.</b> This small site is more than 5km from the nearest European site, Midland Meres and Mosses Phase 2 Ramsar (Chapel Mere), with no potential impact mechanisms identified.
Site GTTS 64	Arclid Depot, Arclid	✓			Potential GTTS site	<b>Yes.</b> The site is within 1.1km of Midland Meres and Mosses (Bagmere) Phase 1 Ramsar.

OFFICIAL

Allocated Site	Description	Use				Potential Impact on European Sites
		Residential	Employment	Retail	Other	
Policy EMP 2 Employment Allocations						
EMP 2.1	Weston Interchange, Crewe		✓ 0.60 ha for B1 / B2 / B8 uses			<b>No.</b> All potential employment sites are located of sufficient distance from their respective nearest European sites that no hydrological or air quality impacts are anticipated as a result of these potential developments. Furthermore, no recreational pressures are anticipated as a result of the increased employment provision.
EMP 2.2	Meadow Bridge, Crewe		✓ (0.44 ha for B1 uses);			
EMP 2.3	Land east of University Way, Crewe		✓ (7.85 ha for B1 / B2 / B8 uses			
EMP 2.4	Hurdsfield Road, Macclesfield		✓ (1.00 ha for B1 / B2 uses)			
EMP 2.5	61MU, Handforth		✓ (4.74 ha for B1 / B2 / B8 uses)			
EMP 2.6	Land rear of Handforth Dean Retail Park, Handforth		✓ (3.20 ha for B1 / B2 / B8 uses)			
EMP 2.7	New Farm, Middlewich		✓ (7.50 ha for B2 / B8 uses)			
EMP 2.8	Land West of Manor Lane, Holmes Chapel		✓ (2.30 ha for B1 / B8 uses).			

OFFICIAL

## 4.2 Other Relevant Plans and Projects that might act In-combination

A series of individually modest effects may in-combination produce effects that are likely to adversely affect the integrity of one or more European sites. Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive tries to address this by taking into account the combination of effects from other plans or projects. The Directive does not explicitly define which other plans and projects are within the scope of the combination provision. Guidance in section 4.4.3 of 'Managing Natura 2000 Sites: The provisions of Article 6 of the 'Habitats' Directive 92/43/EEC', published by the European Commission, states:

*'When determining likely significant effects, the combination of other plans or projects should also be considered to take account of cumulative impacts. It would seem appropriate to restrict the combination provision to other plans or projects which have been actually proposed.'*

There is limited guidance available on the scope of the 'in-combination' element, particularly which plans or projects should be considered. The plans identified by the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report, which was last updated in June 2017 (Cheshire East Council, 2017<sup>b</sup>), provided the basis for the assessment of 'in-combination' effects for plans. These plans were reviewed to identify any potential effects and these were then considered (as necessary) within this screening report. Attention was focused on those aimed at delivering planned spatial growth with the most significant being those that seek to provide housing, employment and infrastructure. The assessment did not include national plans/strategies, policy or legislation since the Local Plan must be compliant with these. It is considered that in-combination effects are most likely in respect of other regional and sub-regional development plans and strategies. The review considered the most relevant plans of this nature of Cheshire East and neighbouring authorities, along with relevant Water Resource Management Plans and Catchment Abstraction Management Plans.

For this screening assessment, it was not considered necessary to undertake an exhaustive search of all projects within and around Cheshire East. Instead, in accordance with DTA (2017), the assessment focused on the largest and most relevant projects with the potential to act in-combination with the SADPD. These include the major infrastructure projects being undertaken in Cheshire East (Cheshire East Council, 2017<sup>c</sup>), as well as HS2 (Gov.UK, 2017). Where relevant, other smaller-scale projects will also be assessed at later stages of the plans development.

Table 4-2 lists the relevant plans and projects that have been identified as having the potential to result in adverse effects on European sites in-combination with the Local Plan SADPD, further detail is provided at Appendix C and Appendix D. It should be noted that the Cheshire East LPS has been through the HRA process. Based on the mitigation measures in place for the LPS, none of the Local Plan Policies or Strategic Sites and locations will have a significant impact upon any European Site. Parts 1 and 2 of the Local plan are designed to complement each other, and no in-combination likely significant effects will result from the two separate parts of the Local Plan.

Table 4-2: Relevant Plans and Projects

Other Relevant Plans and projects
Cheshire and Warrington Matters
Cheshire Sub-Regional Housing Strategy
Corporate Plan 2016 to 2020 – Cheshire East Council
Cheshire East Local Transport Plans and Implementation Plans
Cheshire East Rights of Way Improvement Plan 2011-2026 and Implementation Plan 2015-2019
Cheshire East Housing Strategy: Moving Forward 2011 to 2016
Local Air Quality Strategy for Cheshire East Council and Action Plan
Cheshire East Visitor Economy Strategy 2016-2020
Cheshire Replacement Minerals Local Plan 1999
Cheshire Replacement Waste Local Plan 2007
Saved Policies from the Congleton Borough Local Plan, Borough of Crewe and Nantwich Local Plan and Macclesfield Local Plan
The United Utilities Final Water Resources Management Plan 2015

Other Relevant Plans and projects
The Weaver and Dane Catchment Abstraction Management Strategy (CAMS)
The Dee Catchment Abstraction Management Strategy (CAMS)
The Greater Manchester Spatial Framework
Local Plans and Core Strategies of adjacent Authorities (Cheshire West and Chester; Peak District National Park; High Peak; Manchester; Newcastle-under-Lyme; Stockport; Shropshire; Peak District; Staffordshire Moorlands; Stoke-on-Trent; Trafford and Warrington Councils)
High Speed Two (HS2)
Sydney Road Bridge Improvement Crewe
Congleton Link Road
Crewe Green Roundabout
A500 Dualling

## 5 Screening Assessment

### 5.1 Introduction

This section considers the development policies and site allocations listed in the SADPD and identifies whether or not they are likely to have significant effects on European sites, either alone or in-combination with other plans.

### 5.2 Development policies

The development policies have been initially been screened following the methodology set out in DTA Publications Habitats Regulations Assessment Handbook (DTA, 2018). Each policy is allocated one or more screening category, shown in Table 5-1 below. The results of the initial screening are shown in Table 5-2. Where a number of categories to screen out a policy are applicable, the most relevant categories are listed in the table. Any further in-combination effects are discussed in Table 5-3, where appropriate.

Table 5-1: Screening categories for the development policies (adapted from DTA, 2018)

Screening category	Description	Screening outcome
A	General statement of policy/ general aspiration.	Out
B	Policy listing general criteria for testing the acceptability / sustainability of proposals.	Out
C	Proposal referred to but not proposed by the plan.	Out
D	Environmental Protection / site safeguarding policy.	Out
E	Policies or proposals that steer change in such a way as to protect European sites from adverse effects.	Out
F	Policy that cannot lead to development or other change.	Out
G	Policy or proposal that could not have any conceivable effect on a European site.	Out
H	Policy or proposal, the actual or theoretical effects of which cannot undermine the conservation objectives (either alone or in combination with other aspects of this or other plans or projects).	Out
I	Policy or proposal with a likely significant effect on a site alone.	In
J	Policy or proposal with an effect on a site but not likely to be significant alone, so need to check for likely significant effects in combination.	Dependant on in-combination test
K	Policy or proposal not likely to have a significant effect either alone or in combination.	Screened out after in-combination test
L	Policy or proposal likely to have a significant effect in combination.	Screened in after in-combination test.



Table 5-2: Screening table for Cheshire East development policies

Policy no.	Policy title	Screening category / other notes	Screening outcome
<b>Chapter 2: Planning for Growth</b>			
PG 8	Spatial distribution of development: local service centres	<p><b>G</b> Policy or proposal that could not have any conceivable effect on a European site. Please refer to Table 4-1 for analysis of sites considered through the SADPD (in local service centres) which are considered in the initial site screening. All relevant settlements are considered to have no potential impacts upon any European sites.</p> <p>All other local service centres included in this policy (i.e. Bunbury, Goostrey, Haslington, Mobberley and Wrenbury) do not require allocations to be made in the First Draft SADPD for the reasons set out in individual settlement reports [reference FD 21 - FD 46].</p> <p>N.B Seven options for the disaggregation of the spatial distribution of the local service centres were considered as part of the SADPD process (Cheshire East Council, LSC Disaggregation Report [FD 05] 2018). Option 7 of this report, a hybrid option was selected, which incorporates all of the factors relevant in identifying an appropriate and justified spatial distribution. Option 7 (Hybrid) was considered to be best placed to achieve sustainable development and this option is screened as part of the assessment of draft policy PG8 (Cheshire East Council, 2018<sup>b</sup>).</p>	Out
PG 9	Settlement boundaries	<p><b>B</b> Policy listing general criteria for testing the acceptability / sustainability of proposals.</p> <p><b>H</b> Policy or proposal, the actual or theoretical effects of which cannot undermine the conservation objectives (either alone or in combination with other aspects of this or other plans or projects.</p> <p>This policy specifically refers to not allowing for conflict with any other relevant policy within the local plan. All development will therefore be required to follow the mitigation hierarchy for biodiversity (ENV 2), which is in keeping with the principles of the HRA process.</p>	Out
PG 10	Infill villages in the open countryside	<b>B</b> Policy listing general criteria for testing the acceptability / sustainability of proposals.	Out

OFFICIAL

Policy no.	Policy title	Screening category / other notes	Screening outcome
		Policy wording looks to limit unacceptable impacts on any potential developments within infill villages.	
PG 11	Green belt boundaries	<b>G</b> Policy or proposal that could not have any conceivable effect on a European site. Policy would not give rise to development close enough to European sites for any foreseeable impacts upon these sites.	Out
PG 12	Safeguarded land boundaries	<b>G</b> Policy or proposal that could not have any conceivable effect on a European site. Policy would not give rise to development close enough to European sites for any foreseeable impacts upon these sites.	Out
PG 13	Strategic green gaps boundaries	<b>D</b> Environmental protection policy. <b>F</b> Policy that cannot lead to development or other change.	Out
PG 14	Local green gaps	<b>D</b> Environmental Protection policy. <b>F</b> Policy that cannot lead to development or other change.	Out
<b>Chapter 3: General requirements</b>			
GEN 1	Design principles	<b>A</b> General statement of policy. <b>F</b> Policy that cannot lead to development or other change.	Out
GEN 2	Security at crowded places	<b>G</b> Policy or proposal that could not have any conceivable effect on a European site. <b>F</b> Policy that cannot lead to development or other change.	Out
GEN 3	Advertisements	<b>E</b> Policies or proposals that steer change in such a way as to protect European sites from adverse effects. No reference to specific developments and locations.	Out
GEN 4	The recovery of infrastructure costs and deferred planning obligations	<b>A</b> General statement of policy/ general aspiration. No reference to specific developments and locations.	Out
GEN 5	Adopted policies map	<b>F</b> Policy that cannot lead to development or other change. Policy itself cannot lead to further developments beyond those already screened. Policy highlights that the adopted policy map shows the spatial extent of policies in the LPS and SADPD.	Out

OFFICIAL

Policy no.	Policy title	Screening category / other notes	Screening outcome
<b>Chapter 4: Natural environment, climate change and resources</b>			
ENV 1	Ecological network	<b>B</b> Policy listing general criteria for testing the acceptability / sustainability of proposals. <b>D</b> Environmental Protection / site safeguarding policy.	Out
ENV 2	Ecological implementation	<b>B</b> Policy listing general criteria for testing the acceptability / sustainability of proposals. <b>D</b> Environmental Protection policy. <b>E</b> Policies or proposals that steer change in such a way as to protect European sites from adverse effects.	Out
ENV 3	Landscape character	<b>B</b> Policy listing general criteria for testing the acceptability / sustainability of proposals. <b>F</b> Policy that cannot lead to development or other change.	Out
ENV 4	River corridors	<b>B</b> Policy listing general criteria for testing the acceptability / sustainability of proposals. <b>D</b> Environmental Protection / site safeguarding policy.	Out
ENV 5	Landscaping	<b>B</b> Policy listing general criteria for testing the acceptability / sustainability of proposals.	Out
ENV 6	Trees, hedgerows and woodland implementation	<b>B</b> Policy listing general criteria for testing the acceptability / sustainability of proposals. <b>D</b> Environmental Protection policy.	Out
ENV 7	Climate change mitigation and adaptation	<b>B</b> Policy listing general criteria for testing the acceptability / sustainability of proposals. <b>G</b> Policy or proposal that could not have any conceivable effect on a European site.	Out
ENV 8	District heating network priority areas	<b>B</b> Policy listing general criteria for testing the acceptability / sustainability of proposals <b>G</b> Policy or proposal that could not have any conceivable effect on a European site. Policy relates to Crewe and Macclesfield.	Out
ENV 9	Wind energy	<b>B</b> Policy listing general criteria for testing the acceptability / sustainability of proposals. <b>E</b> Policies or proposals which steer change in such a way as to protect European sites from adverse effects.	Out
ENV 10	Solar energy	<b>B</b> Policy listing general criteria for testing the acceptability / sustainability of proposals. <b>E</b> Policies or proposals that steer change in such a way as to protect European sites from adverse effects.	Out
ENV 11	Proposals for battery energy storage systems	<b>B</b> Policy listing general criteria for testing the acceptability / sustainability of proposals. <b>E</b> Policies or proposals that steer change in such a way as to protect European sites	Out

OFFICIAL

Policy no.	Policy title	Screening category / other notes	Screening outcome
		from adverse effects.	
ENV 12	Air quality	<b>D</b> Environmental Protection policy. <b>E</b> Policies or proposals that steer change in such a way as to protect European sites from adverse effects.	Out
ENV 13	Aircraft noise	<b>F</b> Policy that cannot lead to development or other change. <b>E</b> Policies or proposals that steer change in such a way as to protect European sites from adverse effects.	Out
ENV 14	Light pollution	<b>D</b> Environmental Protection policy.	Out
ENV 15	Surface water management and flood risk	<b>D</b> Environmental Protection policy. <b>E</b> Policies or proposals that steer change in such a way as to protect European sites from adverse effects.	Out
ENV 16	Protecting water resources	<b>D</b> Environmental Protection policy. <b>E</b> Policies or proposals that steer change in such a way as to protect European sites from adverse effects.	Out
<b>Chapter 5: The historic environment</b>			
HER 1	Heritage Assets	<b>G</b> Policy or proposal that could not have any conceivable effect on a European site.	Out
HER 2	Designated heritage assets	<b>B</b> Policy listing general criteria for testing the acceptability / sustainability of proposals.	Out
HER 3	Non-designated assets	<b>B</b> Policy listing general criteria for testing the acceptability / sustainability of proposals.	Out
HER 4	Conservation areas	<b>G</b> Policy or proposal that could not have any conceivable effect on a European site.	Out
HER 5	Listed buildings	<b>G</b> Policy or proposal that could not have any conceivable effect on a European site.	Out
HER 6	Historic parks and gardens	<b>D</b> Environmental Protection policy.	Out
HER 7	World heritage site	<b>D</b> Environmental Protection policy.	Out
HER 8	Archaeology	<b>D</b> Environmental Protection policy.	Out
HER 9	Enabling development	<b>A</b> General statement of policy/ general aspiration.	Out

OFFICIAL

Policy no.	Policy title	Screening category / other notes	Screening outcome
		<b>B</b> Policy listing general criteria for testing the acceptability / sustainability of proposals.	
<b>Chapter 6: Rural issues</b>			
RUR 1	New buildings for agriculture and forestry	<b>B</b> Policy listing general criteria for testing the acceptability / sustainability of proposals. Development can only go ahead if other environmental policies within the SADPD are adhered to.	Out
RUR 2	Farm diversification	<b>B</b> Policy listing general criteria for testing the acceptability / sustainability of proposals. Development can only go ahead if other environmental policies within the SADPD are adhered to.	Out
RUR 3	Agricultural and forestry workers dwellings	<b>B</b> Policy listing general criteria for testing the acceptability / sustainability of proposals. Development can only go ahead if other environmental policies within the SADPD are adhered to.	Out
RUR 4	Essential rural worker occupancy conditions	<b>A</b> General statement of policy. General policy regarding change of use conditions to dwellings.	Out
RUR 5	Best and most versatile agricultural land	<b>B</b> Policy listing general criteria for testing the acceptability / sustainability of proposals. Any further development on agricultural land will be in consultation with Natural England.	Out
RUR 6	Outdoor sport, leisure and recreation in the open countryside and Green Belt	<b>B</b> Policy listing general criteria for testing the acceptability / sustainability of proposals. Development can only go ahead if other environmental policies within the SADPD are adhered to.	Out
RUR 7	Equestrian development	<b>B</b> Policy listing general criteria for testing the acceptability / sustainability of proposals. Development can only go ahead if other environmental policies within the SADPD are adhered to.	Out
RUR 8	Visitor accommodation	<b>B</b> Policy listing general criteria for testing the acceptability / sustainability of proposals. Development can only go ahead if other environmental policies within the SADPD are adhered to.	Out
RUR 8	Caravan and camping sites	<b>B</b> Policy listing general criteria for testing the acceptability / sustainability of proposals. Development can only go ahead if other environmental policies within the SADPD are	Out

OFFICIAL

Policy no.	Policy title	Screening category / other notes	Screening outcome
		adhered to.	
RUR 10	Employment development in the open countryside	<b>B</b> Policy listing general criteria for testing the acceptability / sustainability of proposals. Development can only go ahead if other environmental policies within the SADPD are adhered to.	Out
RUR 11	Extensions and alterations to buildings in the open countryside and Green Belt	<b>A</b> General statement of policy/ general aspiration. <b>B</b> Policy listing general criteria for testing the acceptability / sustainability of proposals.  General policy with no reference to when or where developments would take place and gives no geographical reference to infer potential impacts to any European Sites.	Out
RUR 12	Residential curtilages in the open countryside and Green Belt	<b>A</b> General statement of policy. General policy with no reference to when or where developments would take place and gives no geographical reference to infer potential impacts to any European Sites.	Out
RUR 13	Replacement buildings in the open countryside and Green Belt	<b>A</b> General statement of policy. General policy with no reference to when or where developments would take place and gives no geographical reference to infer potential impacts to any European Sites.	Out
RUR 14	Re-use of rural buildings for residential use	<b>A</b> General statement of policy. General policy with no reference to when or where developments would take place and gives no geographical reference to infer potential impacts to any European Sites.	Out
<b>Chapter 7: Employment and economy</b>			
EMP 1	Strategic employment areas	<b>C</b> Proposal referred to but not proposed by the plan. Locations of strategic sites already outlined in LPS.	Out
EMP 2	Employment allocations	<b>G</b> Policy or proposal that could not have any conceivable effect on a site. <b>K</b> Policy or proposal not likely to have a significant effect either alone or in combination.  All potential employment sites are located of sufficient distance from their respective nearest European sites that no hydrological or air quality impacts are anticipated as a result of these potential developments. Furthermore, no recreational pressures are anticipated as a result of the increased employment provision. Please also refer to Table 4.1 for site analysis.	Out

OFFICIAL

Policy no.	Policy title	Screening category / other notes	Screening outcome
<b>Chapter 8: Housing</b>			
HOU 1	Housing mix	<b>A</b> General statement of policy. General policy about housing types with no spatial reference.	Out
HOU 2	Specialist housing provision	<b>A</b> General statement of policy. General policy about housing types with no spatial reference.	Out
HOU 3	Self and custom built dwellings	<b>A</b> General statement of policy. General policy about housing allocation and self-build feasibility with no spatial reference.	Out
HOU 4	Houses in multiple occupation	<b>A</b> General statement of policy/ general aspiration. General policy about housing types with no spatial reference.	Out
HOU 5	Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpersons provision	<b>B</b> Policy listing general criteria for testing the acceptability / sustainability of proposals.  Sites considered for allocation in the SADPD are considered further in Table 4-1 and Table 5-3.	Out
HOU 6	Optional technical standards	<b>A</b> General statement of policy.	Out
HOU 7	Subdivision of dwellings	<b>A</b> General statement of policy.	Out
HOU 8	Backland development	<b>A</b> General statement of policy. <b>B</b> Policy listing general criteria for testing the acceptability / sustainability of proposals.	Out
HOU 9	Extensions and alterations	<b>A</b> General statement of policy. <b>B</b> Policy listing general criteria for testing the acceptability / sustainability of proposals	Out
HOU 10	Amenity	<b>A</b> General statement of policy. <b>B</b> Policy listing general criteria for testing the acceptability / sustainability of proposals. <b>D</b> Environmental Protection policy.	Out
HOU 11	Residential standards	<b>A</b> General statement of policy/ general aspiration.	Out
HOU 12	Housing density	<b>A</b> General statement of policy/ general aspiration. <b>B</b> Policy listing general criteria for testing the acceptability / sustainability of proposals.	Out

OFFICIAL

Policy no.	Policy title	Screening category / other notes	Screening outcome
		<b>E</b> Policies or proposals that steer change in such a way as to protect European sites from adverse effects.	
HOU 13	Housing delivery	<b>A</b> General statement of policy. <b>D</b> Environmental Protection policy. Any masterplans will be written in line with the SADPD and LPS.	Out
HOU 14	Small sites	<b>A</b> General statement of policy. General policy for site allocation type with no spatial reference.	Out
<b>Chapter 9: Town centres and retail</b>			
RET 1	Retail hierarchy	<b>K</b> Policy or proposal not likely to have a significant effect either alone or in combination. LPS policies which have been subject to HRA.	Out
RET 2	Planning for retail needs	<b>K</b> Policy or proposal not likely to have a significant effect either alone or in combination. <b>G</b> Policy or proposal not likely to have a significant effect either alone or in combination. LPS policies which have been subject to HRA; additional retail provisions in the centre of Crewe would be more than 5km from the nearest European site (West Midlands Mosses SAC and Midland Meres and Mosses Phase 1 Ramsar (Wybunbury Moss SSSI) with no potential impact pathways identified. Any further retail provision in Macclesfield would be more than 7km from the nearest European Site (Peak District Moors Phase 1 SPA and South Pennine Moors SAC, with no identifiable impact pathways.	Out
RET 3	Sequential and impact tests	<b>B</b> Policy listing general criteria for testing the acceptability / sustainability of proposals.	Out
RET 4	Shop fronts and security	<b>A</b> General statement of policy/ general aspiration. <b>F</b> Policy that cannot lead to development or other change. Design aspects which cannot lead to further development.	Out
RET 5	Restaurants, cafes, pubs and hot food takeaways	<b>E</b> Policies or proposals which steer change in such a way as to protect European sites from adverse effects.	Out

OFFICIAL



Policy no.	Policy title	Screening category / other notes	Screening outcome
		Development must adhere to other policies in SADPD and LPS.	
RET 6	Neighbourhood parades of shops	<b>A</b> General statement of policy/ general aspiration. General policy with no spatial reference in relation to European sites.	Out
RET 7	Ensuring the vitality of town and retail centres	<b>A</b> General statement of policy. General policy, no spatial reference.	Out
RET 8	Residential accommodation in the town centre	<b>G</b> Policy or proposal that could not have any conceivable effect on a European site.	Out
RET 9	Environmental improvements, public realm and design in town centres	<b>B</b> Policy listing general criteria for testing the acceptability / sustainability of proposals. <b>D</b> Environmental Protection policy.	Out
RET 10	Crewe town centre	<b>G</b> Policy or proposal not likely to have a significant effect either alone or in combination. More than 5km from the nearest European site West Midlands Mosses SAC and Midland Meres and Mosses Phase 1 Ramsar (Wybunbury Moss SSSI).	Out
RET 11	Macclesfield Town Centre	<b>G</b> Policy or proposal not likely to have a significant effect either alone or in combination. Further retail provision in Macclesfield would be more than 7km from the nearest European Site (Peak District Moors Phase 1 SPA and South Pennine Moors SAC, with no identifiable impact pathways).	Out
<b>Chapter 10: Transport and infrastructure</b>			
INF 1	Cycleways, bridleways and footpaths	<b>A</b> General statement of policy/ general aspiration. General policy to increase sustainable transport with no spatial reference to European sites.	Out
INF 2	Public car parks	<b>A</b> General statement of policy/ general aspiration. General policy with no spatial reference to European sites.	Out
INF 3	Highway safety and	<b>A</b> General statement of policy/ general aspiration.	Out

OFFICIAL

Policy no.	Policy title	Screening category / other notes	Screening outcome
	access	<b>F</b> Policy that cannot lead to development or other change. Policy itself only relates to design of development proposals and does not lead to further development through the policy itself.	
INF 4	Manchester Airport	<b>C</b> Proposal referred to but not proposed by the plan. The planning permission in place for the airport extension is not part of the SADPD. <b>G</b> Policy or proposal that could not have any conceivable effect on a European site. The land to be safeguarded within the SADPD that forms part of the proposed airport development is sufficient distance from any European site that there are no identified impact pathways.	Out
INF 5	Aerodrome safeguarding	<b>F</b> Policy that cannot lead to development or other change.	Out
INF 6	Airport public safety zone	<b>F</b> Policy that cannot lead to development or other change.	Out
INF 7	Airport car parking	<b>D</b> Environmental Protection policy. Any new car parks must adhere to other environmental policies in the SADPD.	Out
INF 8	Protection of land and routes for proposed infrastructure	<b>A</b> General statement of policy/ general aspiration. <b>C</b> Proposal referred to but not proposed by the plan. Development only possible when not inhibiting policies for infrastructure (policies not directly part of SADPD).	Out
INF 9	Hazardous installations	<b>B</b> Policy listing general criteria for testing the acceptability / sustainability of proposals.	Out
INF 10	Telecommunications infrastructure	<b>A</b> General statement of policy/ general aspiration.	Out
INF 11	Utilities	<b>B</b> Policy listing general criteria for testing the acceptability / sustainability of proposals.	Out
INF 12	Canals and mooring facilities	<b>B</b> Policy listing general criteria for testing the acceptability / sustainability of proposals. <b>D</b> Environmental Protection policy.	Out
<b>Chapter 11: Recreation and community facilities</b>			
REC 1	Green/open space protection	<b>B</b> Policy listing general criteria for testing the acceptability / sustainability of proposals.	Out
REC 2	Indoor sport and recreation implementation	<b>A</b> General statement of policy/ general aspiration.	Out

OFFICIAL

Policy no.	Policy title	Screening category / other notes	Screening outcome
		General policy with no spatial context to European sites.	
REC 3	Green space implementation	<b>A</b> General statement of policy/ general aspiration. <b>E</b> Policies or proposals that steer change in such as way as to protect European sites from adverse effects. General policy with no spatial reference but potential for greenspace provision to direct recreational pressures away from European sites.	Out
REC 4	Day nurseries	<b>A</b> General statement of policy/ general aspiration. <b>B</b> Policy listing general criteria for testing the acceptability / sustainability of proposals.	Out
REC 5	Community facilities	<b>F</b> Policy that cannot lead to development or other change. Reference to the retention of existing facilities rather than any new developments.	Out

OFFICIAL

### 5.3 Site allocations

Taking into account the location of the European sites in relation to the sites being considered for allocation, the identified potential hazards and impact pathways associated with the developments, an assessment has been made as to whether the Local Plan SADPD, either alone or in-combination with other plans, will have likely significant effects on any European sites. This assessment is detailed in Table 5-3 and builds upon the outline assessment detailed in Table 4-1 and Table 5-1, where necessary. It should be noted that potential impacts from other plans are only considered where there is no likely significant effect on a designated site from the Cheshire East Local Plan SADPD alone.

Table 5-3: Assessment of Likely Significant Effects on European Sites

Designated Site	Potential Hazards	Potential hazard impact pathways			Potential in-combination effects with other plans or projects (if applicable)*	Screening assessment
		Recreational	Hydrological	Air quality		
<b>West Midlands Mosses SAC</b>  <i>Qualifying features:</i> Standing waters (sensitive to acidification) Bogs and wet habitats	Changes in water quality Changes in water levels or table Pollution (air) Physical damage (due to recreational pressures)	There are three potential Gypsy Traveller and Travelling Showpersons sites being considered for potential allocation in the SADPD within 5km of this European site (component site Wynbury Moss SSSI)- GTTS 12, GTTS 13 and GTTS 22. These three sites may cause a significant increase in recreational pressure on this site, which is surrounded by public footpaths.  <b>Likely significant effect</b>	The potential for adverse effects due to changes in water levels and/or quality is highly unlikely due to the distance (more than 3.1km) of the SAC from the closest site being considered for allocation, and the lack of hydrological connectivity with any watercourses that could be affected by development.  <b>No likely significant effect</b>	The potential for adverse effects due to air quality changes from increased traffic associated with new development at the potential allocated sites is highly unlikely due to the distance of the SAC (more than 3.1km) from any sites being considered for allocation within the Cheshire East Local Plan SADPD.  <b>No likely significant effect</b>	N/A.  In-combination assessment undertaken at stage 2 Appropriate Assessment.	<b>Potential for likely significant effects.</b> <i>Screened in.</i>
<b>South Pennine Moors SAC</b>  <i>Qualifying features:</i> Bogs and wet habitats Fens and wet habitats	Changes in water quality Changes in water levels or table Pollution (air) Physical damage (due to recreational)	It is unlikely that any sites being considered for allocation in the SADPD will result in recreational/ disturbance impacts that extend as far as the South Pennine Moors SAC; all potential allocated sites are more	The potential for adverse effects due to changes in water levels and/or quality is highly unlikely due to the distance (more than 5km) of the SAC from any potential allocated site within Cheshire East, and the lack of hydrological connectivity with any watercourses that could be affected by development.	The potential for adverse effects on the South Pennine Moors SAC due to air pollution from increased vehicles associated with the potential site allocations using the local road and motorway network is unlikely. This is due to	The Local Plan SADPD is unlikely to have significant adverse effects on the South Pennine Moors SAC in-combination with any other relevant plans.  <b>No likely significant effect</b>	<b>No likely significant effects.</b> <i>Screened out.</i>

Designated Site	Potential Hazards	Potential hazard impact pathways			Potential in-combination effects with other plans or projects (if applicable)*	Screening assessment
		Recreational	Hydrological	Air quality		
Dry heathland habitats Dry woodlands and scrub	pressures)	than 5km from this SAC. <b>No likely significant effect</b>	<b>No likely significant effect</b>	the distance of the SAC from the main road network, as pollutant levels can be expected to fall substantially at a distance less than 50m from the source and can be expected to fall to background levels at a distance of more than 200m (DMRB Volume 11). <b>No likely significant effect</b>		
<b>Rixton Clay Pits SAC</b>  Qualifying features: Amphibia (Great Crested Newt <i>Triturus cristatus</i> )	Changes in water quality Changes in water levels or table Physical damage (due to recreational pressures)	It is unlikely that the development of any of sites being considered for allocation in the SADPD will result in recreational/ disturbance impacts that extend as far as Rixton Clay Pits SAC; the closest site being considered for allocation is more than 13km from the SAC. <b>No likely significant effect</b>	The potential for adverse effects due to changes in water levels and/or quality is highly unlikely due to the distance (more than 13km) of the SAC from any potential allocated site within Cheshire East, and the lack of hydrological connectivity with any watercourses that could be affected by development. <b>No likely significant effect</b>	The potential for adverse effects due to air quality changes from increased traffic associated with new development at the potential site allocations is highly unlikely due to the distance of the SAC (more than 13km) from any site being considered for allocation within Cheshire East. <b>No likely significant effect</b>	The Local Plan SADPD is unlikely to have significant adverse effects on Rixton Clay Pits SAC in-combination with any other relevant plans. <b>No likely significant effect</b>	<b>No likely significant effects.</b> Screened out.
<b>Brown Moss SAC</b>  Qualifying features:	Changes in water quality Changes in water levels or table Physical	It is unlikely that development of any of sites being considered for allocation in the SADPD will result in recreational/	The potential for adverse effects due to changes in water levels and/or quality is highly unlikely due to the distance (more than 8km) of the SAC from any potential site allocation within Cheshire East,	The potential for adverse effects due to air quality changes from increased traffic associated with new development is highly	The Local Plan SADPD is unlikely to have significant adverse effects on Brown Moss SAC in-combination with any other relevant plans. <b>No likely significant effect</b>	<b>No likely significant effects.</b> Screened out.

OFFICIAL

Designated Site	Potential Hazards	Potential hazard impact pathways			Potential in-combination effects with other plans or projects (if applicable)*	Screening assessment
		Recreational	Hydrological	Air quality		
Vascular plants of aquatic habitats (Floating Water Plantain <i>Luronium natans</i> )	damage (due to recreational pressures)	disturbance impacts that extend as far as Brown Moss SAC; the closest site being considered for allocation is more than 8km from the SAC. <b>No likely significant effect</b>	and the lack of hydrological connectivity with any watercourses that could be affected by development. <b>No likely significant effect</b>	unlikely due to the distance of the SAC (more than 8km) from any sites being considered for allocation within Cheshire East. <b>No likely significant effect</b>		
<b>Manchester Mosses SAC</b>  <i>Qualifying features:</i> Bogs and wet habitats	Changes in water quality Changes in water levels or table Pollution (air) Physical damage (due to recreational pressures)	It is unlikely that the development of any of sites being considered for allocation in the SADPD will result in recreational/ disturbance impacts that extend as far as Manchester Mosses SAC; the closest site being considered for allocation is more than 15.5km from the SAC. <b>No likely significant effect</b>	The potential for adverse effects due to changes in water levels and/or quality is highly unlikely due to the distance (more than 15.5km) of the SAC from any potential allocated site within Cheshire East, and the lack of hydrological connectivity with any watercourses that could be affected by development. <b>No likely significant effect</b>	The potential for adverse effects on Manchester Mosses SAC due to air pollution from increased vehicles associated with the potential site allocations using the local road and motorway network is unlikely. This is due to the distance of the SAC from the main road network, as pollutant levels can be expected to fall substantially at a distance less than 50m from the source and can be expected to fall to background levels at a distance of more than 200m (DMRB Volume 11). <b>No likely significant effect</b>	Manchester Mosses SAC is considered in the HRA screening report for HS2 (cited in Temple-ERM, 2013). Although the HRA will require future updates, the initial report screens out any likely significant effects upon this SAC. The potential impact mechanisms discussed in the sustainability report are considered to be hydrological. Any residual (non-significant) impacts resulting from this scheme would therefore be highly unlikely to impact on the SAC through any similar mechanisms to those impacts associated with the SADPD. The Local Plan SADPD is unlikely to have significant adverse effects on Manchester Mosses SAC in-combination with any other relevant plans. <b>No likely significant effect</b>	<b>No likely significant effects.</b> <i>Screened out.</i>
<b>Oak Mere SAC</b>  <i>Qualifying</i>	Changes in water quality Changes in	It is unlikely that the development of any of the sites being	The potential for adverse effects due to changes in water levels and/or quality is highly unlikely due	The potential for adverse effects on Oak Mere SAC due to air	The Local Plan SADPD is unlikely to have significant adverse effects on Oak Mere SAC in-combination	<b>No likely significant effects.</b>

Designated Site	Potential Hazards	Potential hazard impact pathways			Potential in-combination effects with other plans or projects (if applicable)*	Screening assessment
		Recreational	Hydrological	Air quality		
<i>features:</i> Standing waters (sensitive to acidification) Bogs and wet habitats	water levels or table Pollution (air) Physical damage (due to recreational pressures)	considered for allocation in the SADPD will result in recreational/ disturbance impacts that extend as far as Oak Mere SAC; the closest site being considered for allocation is more than 9km from the SAC. <b>No likely significant effect</b>	to the distance (more than 9km) of the SAC from any potential site allocation within Cheshire East, and the lack of hydrological connectivity with any watercourses that could be affected by development. <b>No likely significant effect</b>	pollution from increased vehicles associated with the potential site allocations using the local road and motorway network is unlikely. This is due to the distance of the SAC from the main road network, as pollutant levels can be expected to fall substantially at a distance less than 50m from the source and can be expected to fall to background levels at a distance of more than 200m (DMRB Volume 11). <b>No likely significant effect</b>	with any other relevant plans. <b>No likely significant effect</b>	<b>Screened out.</b>
<b>Fenn's, Whixall, Bettisfield, Wem and Cadney Mosses SAC</b>  <i>Qualifying features:</i> Bogs and wet habitats	Changes in water quality Changes in water levels or table Pollution (air) Physical damage (due to recreational pressures)	It is unlikely that the development of any of the sites being considered for allocation in the SADPD will result in recreational/ disturbance impacts that extend as far as Fenn's, Whixall, Bettisfield, Wem and Cadney Mosses SAC; the closest site being considered for allocation is more than 12.2km from the SAC.	The potential for adverse effects due to changes in water levels and/or quality is highly unlikely due to the distance (more than 12.2km) of the SAC from any site being considered for allocation within Cheshire East, and the lack of hydrological connectivity with any watercourses that could be affected by development. <b>No likely significant effect</b>	The potential for adverse effects on Fenn's, Whixall, Bettisfield, Wem and Cadney Mosses SAC due to air pollution from increased vehicles associated with the potential site allocations using the local road and motorway network is unlikely. This is due to the distance of the SAC from the main road network, as pollutant levels can be expected	The Local Plan SADPD is unlikely to have significant adverse effects on Fenn's, Whixall, Bettisfield, Wem and Cadney Mosses SAC in-combination with any other relevant plans. <b>No likely significant effect</b>	<b>No Likely significant effects. Screened out.</b>



Designated Site	Potential Hazards	Potential hazard impact pathways			Potential in-combination effects with other plans or projects (if applicable)*	Screening assessment
		Recreational	Hydrological	Air quality		
		<b>No likely significant effect</b>		to fall substantially at a distance less than 50m from the source and can be expected to fall to background levels at a distance of more than 200m (DMRB Volume 11). <b>No likely significant effect</b>		
<b>Peak District Dales SAC</b>  <i>Qualifying features:</i> Fens and wet habitats Dry woodlands and scrub Dry grassland Dry heathland habitats Upland Non-migratory fish and invertebrates of rivers	Changes in water quality Changes in water levels or table Physical damage (due to recreational pressures) Disturbance	It is unlikely that the development of any of the sites being considered for allocation in the SADPD will result in recreational/ disturbance impacts that extend as far as the Peak District Dales SAC; the closest site being considered for allocation is more than 14km from the SAC, <b>No likely significant effect</b>	The potential for adverse effects due to changes in water levels and/or quality is highly unlikely due to the distance (more than 14km) of the SAC from the nearest site being considered for allocation within Cheshire East, and the lack of hydrological connectivity with any watercourses that could be affected by development. <b>No likely significant effect</b>	The potential for adverse effects due to air quality changes from increased traffic associated with new development at the potential site allocations is highly unlikely due to the distance of the SAC (more than 14km) from any site being considered for allocation within Cheshire East. <b>No likely significant effect</b>	The Local Plan SADPD is unlikely to have significant adverse effects on the Peak District Dales SAC in-combination with any other relevant plans. <b>No likely significant effect</b>	<b>No likely significant effects.</b> <i>Screened out.</i>
<b>River Dee and Bala Lake SAC</b>  <i>Qualifying features:</i> Riverine habitats and running	Changes in water quality Changes in water levels or table Physical damage (due	It is unlikely that the development of any of the sites being considered for allocation in the SADPD will result in recreational/ disturbance impacts	There potential for direct adverse effects on the River Dee and Bala Lake SAC due to changes in water levels and/or quality is highly unlikely due to the distance (more than 14.7km) of the SAC from the nearest allocated site within Cheshire East, and the lack of	The potential for adverse effects due to air quality changes from increased traffic associated with new development at the potential site allocations is highly unlikely due to	N/A.  In-combination assessment undertaken at stage 2 Appropriate Assessment.	<b>Potential for likely significant effects.</b> <i>Screened in.</i>

Designated Site	Potential Hazards	Potential hazard impact pathways			Potential in-combination effects with other plans or projects (if applicable)*	Screening assessment
		Recreational	Hydrological	Air quality		
<p>waters</p> <p>Vascular plants of aquatic habitats</p> <p>Anadromous fish</p> <p>Non-migratory fish and invertebrates of rivers</p> <p>Mammals of riverine habitats</p>	<p>to recreational pressures)</p> <p>Disturbance</p>	<p>that extend as far as the River Dee and Bala Lake SAC; the closest site being considered for allocation is more than 14km from the SAC.</p> <p><b>No likely significant effect</b></p>	<p>hydrological connectivity with any watercourses that could be affected by development.</p> <p><b>No likely significant effect</b></p> <p>Development of new housing and employment land within Cheshire East could lead to increased demand for water. Increased levels of abstraction could significantly affect the levels of flow in the River Dee and hence result in significant effects on qualifying features.</p> <p><b>Likely significant effect</b></p>	<p>the distance (more than 14km) of the SAC from any site considered to be allocated through the SADPD within Cheshire East.</p> <p><b>No likely significant effect</b></p>		
<p><b>Dee Estuary SAC</b></p> <p><i>Qualifying features:</i></p> <p>Coastal habitats</p> <p>Coastal habitats (sensitive to abstraction)</p> <p>Estuarine and intertidal habitats</p> <p>Mosses and liverworts</p> <p>Anadromous fish</p>	<p>Changes in water quality</p> <p>Changes in water levels or table</p> <p>Physical loss</p> <p>Physical damage</p> <p>Pollution (air)</p> <p>Disturbance</p>	<p>It is unlikely that the development of any of the sites being considered for allocation in the SADPD will result in recreational/ disturbance impacts that extend as far as the Dee Estuary SAC; the closest site being considered for allocation in the SADPD is more than 30km from the SAC.</p> <p><b>No likely significant effect</b></p>	<p>The potential for adverse effects due to changes in water levels and/or quality is highly unlikely due to the distance (more than 30km) of the SAC from the closest potential allocated site within Cheshire East. Any impacts on local watercourses due to development at the site being considered for allocation are unlikely to cause significant effects on water levels/quality of the estuary, that far downstream</p> <p><b>No likely significant effect</b></p>	<p>The potential for adverse effects due to air quality changes from increased traffic associated with new development at the potential site allocations is highly unlikely due to the distance (more than 30km) of the SAC from any site being considered for allocation in the SADPD within Cheshire East.</p> <p><b>No likely significant effect</b></p>	<p>The Local Plan SADPD is unlikely to have significant adverse effects the Dee Estuary SAC in-combination with any other relevant plans.</p> <p><b>No likely significant effect</b></p>	<p><b>No likely significant effects.</b></p> <p><i>Screened out.</i></p>
<b>Peak District</b>	Changes in	It is unlikely that the	The potential for adverse effects	The potential for	The Local Plan SADPD is unlikely	<b>No likely</b>

Designated Site	Potential Hazards	Potential hazard impact pathways			Potential in-combination effects with other plans or projects (if applicable)*	Screening assessment
		Recreational	Hydrological	Air quality		
<b>Moors (South Pennine Moors Phase 1) SPA</b>  <i>Qualifying features:</i> Birds of uplands Birds of lowland wet grasslands Birds of farmland Birds of coastal habitats Birds of estuarine habitats	water quality Changes in water levels or table Pollution (air) Physical damage (due to recreational pressures) Disturbance	development of any of the sites being considered for allocation in the SADPD will result in recreational/ disturbance impacts that extend as far as the that Peak District Moors SPA; all sites being considered for allocation in the SADPD are more than 5km from this SPA.  <b>No likely significant effect</b>	due to changes in water levels and/or quality is highly unlikely due to the distance (more than 5km) of the SPA from any site being considered for allocation within Cheshire East, and the lack of hydrological connectivity with any watercourses that could be affected by development.  <b>No likely significant effect</b>	adverse effects on the Peak District Moors SPA due to air pollution from increased vehicles associated with the potential site allocations using the local road and motorway network is unlikely. This is due to the distance of the SPA from the main road network as pollutant levels can be expected to fall substantially at a distance less than 50m from the source and can be expected to fall to background levels at a distance of more than 200m (DMRB Volume 11).  <b>No likely significant effect</b>	to have significant adverse effects the Peak District Moors SPA in-combination with any other relevant plans.  <b>No likely significant effect</b>	<b>significant effects.</b> Screened out.
<b>Mersey Estuary SPA</b>  <i>Qualifying features:</i> Birds of uplands Birds of lowland wet grasslands Birds of lowland freshwaters and their margins Birds of farmland	Changes in water quality Changes in water levels or table Physical damage (due to recreational pressures) Disturbance	It is unlikely that the development of any of the sites being considered for allocation in the SADPD will result in recreational/ disturbance impacts that extend as far as the Mersey Estuary SPA, which is more than 23km from the closest site being considered for allocation.	The potential for adverse effects due to changes in water levels and/or quality is highly unlikely due to the distance (more than 23km) of the SPA from any potential site allocation within Cheshire East. Any impacts on local watercourses due to development at the potential allocated sites are unlikely to cause significant effects on water levels/quality of the estuary, that far downstream  <b>No likely significant effect</b>	The potential for adverse effects due to air quality changes from increased traffic associated with new development at site being considered for allocation is highly unlikely due to the distance (more than 23km) of the SPA from any site being considered for allocation within Cheshire East.	The Local Plan SADPD is unlikely to have significant adverse effects on the Mersey Estuary SPA in-combination with any other relevant plans.  <b>No likely significant effect</b>	<b>No likely significant effects.</b> Screened out.

Designated Site	Potential Hazards	Potential hazard impact pathways			Potential in-combination effects with other plans or projects (if applicable)*	Screening assessment
		Recreational	Hydrological	Air quality		
Birds of coastal habitats Birds of estuarine habitats		<b>No likely significant effect</b>		<b>No likely significant effect</b>		
<b>Dee Estuary SPA</b>  <i>Qualifying features:</i> Birds of lowland wet grassland Birds of lowland freshwaters and their margins Birds of farmland Birds of coastal habitats Birds of estuarine habitats Birds of open sea and offshore rocks	Changes in water quality Changes in water levels or table Physical damage (due to recreational pressures) Disturbance	It is unlikely that the development of any of the sites being considered for allocation in the SADPD will result in recreational/ disturbance impacts that extend as far as the Dee Estuary SPA, which is more than 30km from the closest allocated site. <b>No likely significant effect</b>	The potential for adverse effects due to changes in water levels is highly unlikely due to the distance (more than 30km) of the SPA from any proposed site allocated within Cheshire East. Any impacts on local watercourses due to development at the allocated sites are unlikely to cause significant effects on water levels/quality of the estuary, that far downstream <b>No likely significant effect</b>	The potential for adverse effects due to air quality changes from increased traffic associated with new development at the site allocations is highly unlikely due to the distance (more than 30km) of the SPA from any site being considered for allocation in the SADPD within Cheshire East. <b>No likely significant effect</b>	The Local Plan SADPD is unlikely to have significant adverse effects on the Dee Estuary SPA in-combination with any other relevant plans. <b>No likely significant effect</b>	<b>No likely significant effects. Screened out.</b>
<b>Mersey Narrows and North Wirral Foreshore SPA</b>  <i>Qualifying features:</i> Birds of lowland wet grasslands Birds of lowland	Changes in water quality Changes in water levels or table Physical damage (due to recreational pressures) Disturbance	It is unlikely that the development of any of the sites being considered for allocation in the SADPD will result in recreational/ disturbance impacts that extend as far as the Mersey Narrows and North Wirral Foreshore	The potential for adverse effects due to changes in water levels and/or quality is highly unlikely due to the distance (44km) of the SPA from any potential allocated site within Cheshire East. Any impacts on local watercourses due to development at the potential allocated sites are unlikely to cause significant effects on water levels/quality, that far downstream.	The potential for adverse effects due to air quality changes as a result of increased traffic associated with new development at the potential site allocations is highly unlikely due to the distance (more than 44km) of the SPA from any site being	The Local Plan SADPD is unlikely to have significant adverse effects on the Mersey Narrows and North Wirral Foreshore SPA in-combination with any other relevant plans. <b>No likely significant effect</b>	<b>No Likely significant effects. Screened out.</b>

Designated Site	Potential Hazards	Potential hazard impact pathways			Potential in-combination effects with other plans or projects (if applicable)*	Screening assessment
		Recreational	Hydrological	Air quality		
<p>freshwaters and their margins</p> <p>Birds of farmland</p> <p>Birds of coastal habitats</p> <p>Birds of estuarine habitats</p> <p>Birds of open sea and offshore rocks</p>		<p>SPA due to the relative distance of this SPA from the closest potential allocated site, being more than 44km away.</p> <p><b>No likely significant effect</b></p>	<p><b>No likely significant effect</b></p>	<p>considered for allocation in the SADPD within Cheshire East.</p> <p><b>No likely significant effect</b></p>		
<p><b>Midland Meres and Mosses Phase 1 Ramsar</b></p> <p><i>Qualifying features:</i></p> <p>Criteria 1 - The site comprises a diverse range of habitats from open water to raised bog.</p> <p>Criteria 2 - Supports a number of rare species of plants associated with wetlands including five nationally scarce species together</p>	<p>Changes in water quality</p> <p>Changes in water levels or table</p> <p>Pollution (air)</p> <p>Physical damage (due to recreational pressures)</p>	<p>Site GTTS 66 is a small site (0.3ha). The potential for significant effects as a result of a residential development of this nature is not considered likely to cause any significant effects on the Midland Meres and Mosses Phase 1 Ramsar (component sites Tatton Mere SSSI and The Mere, Mere SSSI).</p> <p><b>No likely significant effect</b></p> <p>There are three potential Gypsy Traveller and Travelling Showpersons sites being considered for allocation within the</p>	<p>Site GTSS 66 has no downstream hydrological connectivity to Midland Meres and Mosses Phase 1 Ramsar (Tatton Mere) and no change in the water table is anticipated from this small-scale development.</p> <p><b>No likely significant effect</b></p> <p>The potential development of CFS 594 and Site GTTS 13 are unlikely to result in adverse impacts on Wybunbury Moss SSSI, a component site of the Midland Meres and Mosses Phase 1 Ramsar, due to their relative distance of this development from the Ramsar (3.1km and 1.5km, respectively) and the lack of hydrological connectivity to these sites.</p> <p><b>No likely significant effect</b></p> <p>No sites being considered for allocation in the SADPD are likely</p>	<p>The potential for adverse effects on all other component sites within Midland Meres and Mosses Phase 1 Ramsar due to air pollution from increased vehicles associated with the potential site allocations using the local road and motorway network is unlikely. This is due to the distance of the Ramsar components from the main road network, as pollutant levels can be expected to fall substantially at a distance less than 50m from the source and can be expected to fall to background levels at a distance of more than 200m (DMRB Volume</p>	<p>N/A.</p> <p>In-combination assessment undertaken at stage 2 Appropriate Assessment.</p>	<p><b>Potential for likely significant effects.</b></p> <p><i>Screened in</i></p>

Designated Site	Potential Hazards	Potential hazard impact pathways			Potential in-combination effects with other plans or projects (if applicable)*	Screening assessment
		Recreational	Hydrological	Air quality		
with an assemblage of rare wetland invertebrates (three endangered insects and five other British Red Data Book species of invertebrates).		<p>First Draft SADPD within 5km of Midland Meres and Mosses Phase 1 Ramsar (component site Wynbury Moss SSSI). In-combination, these three sites may cause a significant increase in recreational pressure on this site, which is surrounded by public footpaths.</p> <p><b>Likely significant effect</b></p> <p>A site being considered for allocation CFS 220 is 4.6km of the Meres and Mosses Phase 1 Ramsar (component site Bagmere Mere SSSI). The proposed development is for employment purposes and therefore no increase in recreational pressure is foreseen. Additionally, no significant effects in terms of increased recreational pressure are foreseen from the potential development of a single small Gypsy Traveller and Travelling</p>	<p>to impact upon the water levels and/or quality of Quoisley Meres SSSI, a component site of the Midland Meres and Mosses Phase 1 Ramsar, due to the relative distance of all potential allocated sites from the Ramsar (more than 3.1km) and the lack of hydrological connectivity to the site.</p> <p><b>No likely significant effect</b></p> <p>No sites considered for allocation in the SADPD are likely to impact upon the water levels and/or quality of Bagmere Moss SSSI, a component site of the Midland Meres and Mosses Phase 1 Ramsar, due to the relative distance of all potential allocated sites from the Ramsar (at least 1.1km) and the lack of hydrological connectivity between any potential allocations to the site.</p> <p><b>No likely significant effect</b></p>	<p>11).</p> <p><b>No likely significant effect</b></p>		

OFFICIAL

Designated Site	Potential Hazards	Potential hazard impact pathways			Potential in-combination effects with other plans or projects (if applicable)*	Screening assessment
		Recreational	Hydrological	Air quality		
		Showperson site.  <b>No likely significant effect</b>				
<b>Midland Meres and Mosses Phase 2 Ramsar</b>  <i>Qualifying features:</i> Criteria 1 - The site comprises a diverse range of habitats from open water to raised bog.  Criteria 2 - Supports a number of rare species of plants associated with wetlands, including the nationally scarce Cowbane and Elongated Sedge. Also present are the nationally scarce bryophytes <i>Dicranum affine</i> and <i>Sphagnum pulchrum</i> .	Changes in water quality Changes in water levels or table Pollution (air) Physical damage (due to recreational pressures)	The potential increase in recreational pressure on Midland Meres and Mosses Phase 2 Ramsar (Oss Mere SSSI) as a result of the potential Site GTTS 47, being considered for allocation, which is over 6.4km from this European site is considered to be negligible. <b>No likely significant effect</b> The potential increase in recreational pressure on Midland Meres and Mosses Phase 2 Ramsar (Chapel Mere SSSI) as a result of the potential Site GTTS 47 being considered for allocation, over 5km from this European site is considered to be negligible. <b>No likely significant effect</b>	No sites considered to be allocated in the SADPD are likely to impact upon the water levels and/or quality of Chapel Mere SSSI or Oss Mere SSSI, component sites of the Midland Meres and Mosses Phase 2 Ramsar, due to the relative distance of the closest potential allocated sites from these component Ramsar sites (6.4km and 5km respectively) and the lack of hydrological connectivity to the sites. <b>No likely significant effect</b>	The potential for adverse effects on component sites within Midland Meres and Mosses Phase 2 Ramsar due to air pollution from increased vehicles associated with the potential site allocations using the local road and motorway network is unlikely. This is due to the distance of the Ramsar components from the main road network, as pollutant levels can be expected to fall substantially at a distance less than 50m from the source and can be expected to fall to background levels at a distance of more than 200m (DMRB Volume 11). <b>No likely significant effect</b>	The Local Plan SADPD is unlikely to have significant adverse effects on Midland Meres and Mosses Phase 2 Ramsar in-combination with any other relevant plans. <b>No likely significant effect</b>	<b>No potential for likely significant effects.</b> <i>Screened out.</i>



Designated Site	Potential Hazards	Potential hazard impact pathways			Potential in-combination effects with other plans or projects (if applicable)*	Screening assessment
		Recreational	Hydrological	Air quality		
Also supports an assemblage of invertebrates including several rare species. There are 16 species of British Red Data Book insect listed for this site including the following endangered species: the moth <i>Glyphipteryx lathamella</i> , the caddisfly <i>Hagenella clathrata</i> and the sawfly <i>Trichiosoma vitellinae</i> .						
<b>Rostherne Mere Ramsar</b>  <i>Qualifying features:</i> Criteria 1 - Rostherne Mere is one of the deepest and largest of the meres of the Shropshire-Cheshire Plain. Its shoreline is	Changes in water quality Changes in water levels or table Physical damage (due to recreational pressures) Disturbance	There is one GTTS site considered for allocation (site GTTS 66), approximately 850m east of Rostherne Mere. The potential impact from increased recreation at Rostherne Mere resulting from a single potential site for residential use is considered to be negligible, given the small size and capacity of this potential	No proposed allocated sites are located upstream of Rostherne Mere Ramsar and all are sites are greater than 3.7km from the Ramsar. No hydrological impacts due to changes in water levels and/or quality as a result of the development of the potential allocated sites are anticipated. <b>No Likely significant effect</b>	Some sections of road within the vicinity of Rostherne Mere fall within 200m of the Ramsar site and therefore may impact on air quality at the Ramsar should vehicle usage increase associated with the potential allocated sites (DMRB Volume 11) However, any potential increase in traffic on the A556 or other roads within 200m of	Rostherne Mere Ramsar is considered in the HRA screening report for HS2 (cited in Temple-ERM, 2013). Although the HRA will require future updates, the initial report screens out any likely significant effects upon this SAC. The potential impact mechanisms discussed in the sustainability report are considered to be hydrological (ground water regime impacts). Any residual (non-significant) impacts resulting from this scheme would therefore be highly unlikely to impact on the SAC	<b>No likely significant effects.</b> <i>Screened out.</i>



Designated Site	Potential Hazards	Potential hazard impact pathways			Potential in-combination effects with other plans or projects (if applicable)*	Screening assessment
		Recreational	Hydrological	Air quality		
<p>fringed with common reed.</p> <p>Noteworthy Birds:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Great Cormorant</li> <li>- Great Bittern</li> <li>- Water Rail</li> </ul>		<p>development (0.3ha).</p> <p><b>No Likely significant effect</b></p>		<p>Rostherne Mere as a direct result of the potential site allocations for development in Knutsford is considered to be negligible.</p> <p><b>No likely significant effect</b></p>	<p>through any similar mechanisms to those impacts associated with the SADPD.</p> <p>The Local Plan SADPD is unlikely to have significant adverse effects on the Rostherne Mere Ramsar in-combination with any other relevant plans or projects.</p> <p><b>No likely significant effect</b></p>	
<p><b>Mersey Estuary Ramsar</b></p> <p><i>Qualifying features:</i></p> <p>Criteria 5 - Assemblages of international importance:</p> <p>Species with peak counts in winter: 89576 waterfowl (5 year peak mean 1998/99-2002/2003)</p> <p>Criteria 6 - species/populations occurring at levels of international importance.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Common Shelduck</li> </ul>	<p>Changes in water quality</p> <p>Changes in water levels or table</p> <p>Physical damage (due to recreational pressures)</p> <p>Disturbance</p>	<p>It is unlikely that the development of any sites being considered for allocation in the SADPD will result in recreational/ disturbance impacts that extend as far as the Mersey Estuary Ramsar, which is more than 23km from the closest potential allocated site.</p> <p><b>No likely significant effect</b></p>	<p>The potential for adverse effects due to changes in water levels and/or quality is highly unlikely due to the distance (more than 23km) of the Ramsar from any potential site allocation within Cheshire East. Any impacts on local watercourses due to development at the potential allocated sites are unlikely to cause significant effects on water levels/quality of the estuary that far downstream.</p> <p><b>No likely significant effect</b></p>	<p>The potential for adverse effects due to air quality changes from increased traffic associated with new development is highly unlikely due to the distance (more than 23km) of the Ramsar from any potential allocated site within Cheshire East.</p> <p><b>No likely significant effect</b></p>	<p>The Local Plan SADPD is unlikely to have significant adverse effects on the Mersey Estuary Ramsar in-combination with any other relevant plans.</p> <p><b>No likely significant effect</b></p>	<p><b>No likely significant effects. Screened out.</b></p>

Designated Site	Potential Hazards	Potential hazard impact pathways			Potential in-combination effects with other plans or projects (if applicable)*	Screening assessment
		Recreational	Hydrological	Air quality		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Black-tailed Godwit</li> <li>- Common Redshank</li> <li>- Eurasian Teal</li> <li>- Northern Pintail</li> <li>- Dunlin</li> </ul>						
<b>Dee Estuary Ramsar</b>  <i>Qualifying features:</i> Criterion 1 - Extensive intertidal mud and sand flats (20 km by 9 km) with large expanses of saltmarsh towards the head of the estuary.  Criterion 2 - it supports breeding colonies of the vulnerable Natterjack Toad, <i>Epidalea calamita</i>  Criterion 5 -	Changes in water quality Changes in water levels or table Physical damage (due to recreational pressures) Disturbance	It is unlikely that development at any of the sites being considered for allocation in the SADPD will result in recreational/ disturbance impacts that extend as far as the Dee Estuary Ramsar, which is more than 30km from the closest potential allocated site. <b>No likely significant effect</b>	The potential for adverse effects due to changes in water levels is highly unlikely due to the distance (more than 30km) of the Ramsar from any proposed development within Cheshire East. Any impacts on local watercourses due to development at the sites being considered for allocation are unlikely to cause significant effects on water levels/quality of the estuary, that far downstream. <b>No likely significant effect</b>	The potential for adverse effects due to air quality changes from increased traffic associated with new development at sites being considered for allocation in the SADPD is highly unlikely due to the distance (more than 30km) of the Ramsar from any potential allocated site within Cheshire East. <b>No likely significant effect</b>	The Local Plan SADPD is unlikely to have significant adverse effects on the Dee Estuary Ramsar in-combination with any other relevant plans. <b>No likely significant effect</b>	<b>No likely significant effects. Screened out.</b>

OFFICIAL

Designated Site	Potential Hazards	Potential hazard impact pathways			Potential in-combination effects with other plans or projects (if applicable)*	Screening assessment
		Recreational	Hydrological	Air quality		
<p>Assemblages of international importance:</p> <p>Species with peak counts in winter:</p> <p>Non-breeding season regularly supports 120,726 individual waterbirds (5 year peak mean 1994/5 - 1998/9).</p> <p>Criterion 6 - species/populations occurring at levels of international importance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Redshank</li> <li>- Teal</li> <li>- Shelduck</li> <li>- Oystercatcher</li> <li>- Curlew</li> <li>- Pintail</li> <li>- Grey plover</li> <li>- Dunlin</li> <li>- Black-tailed godwit</li> <li>- Bar-tailed godwit</li> </ul>						

OFFICIAL

Designated Site	Potential Hazards	Potential hazard impact pathways			Potential in-combination effects with other plans or projects (if applicable)*	Screening assessment
		Recreational	Hydrological	Air quality		
<b>Mersey Narrows and North Wirral Foreshore Ramsar</b>  <i>Qualifying features:</i> Criterion 4 - the site regularly supports plant and/or animal species at a critical stage in their life cycles, or provides refuge during adverse conditions: - supports important numbers of non-breeding little gulls and common terns.  Criterion 5 - the site regularly supports 20,000 or more waterbirds.  Criterion 6 - species /populations occurring at	Changes in water quality Changes in water levels or table Physical damage (due to recreational pressures) Disturbance	It is unlikely that the development of any of the sites being considered for allocation in the SADPD will result in recreational/ disturbance impacts that extend as far as the Mersey Narrows and North Wirral Foreshore Ramsar due to the relative distance of this Ramsar from the closest potential allocated site being more than 44km away. <b>No likely significant effect</b>	The potential for adverse effects due to changes in water levels and/or quality is highly unlikely due to the distance (44km) of the Ramsar from any potential allocated site within Cheshire East. Any impacts on local watercourses due to development at the potential allocated sites are unlikely to cause significant effects on water levels/quality that far downstream. <b>No likely significant effect</b>	The potential for adverse effects due to air quality changes as a result of increased traffic associated with new development at the potential allocated sites is highly unlikely due to the distance (more than 44km) of the Ramsar from any potential allocated site within Cheshire East. <b>No likely significant effect</b>	The Local Plan SADPD is unlikely to have significant adverse effects on the Mersey Narrows and North Wirral Foreshore Ramsar in-combination with any other relevant plans. <b>No likely significant effect</b>	<b>No likely significant effects.</b> <i>Screened out.</i>

Designated Site	Potential Hazards	Potential hazard impact pathways			Potential in-combination effects with other plans or projects (if applicable)*	Screening assessment
		Recreational	Hydrological	Air quality		
levels of international importance: - Knot - Bar-tailed Godwit - Little Gull - Common Tern						

OFFICIAL

## 5.4 Screening Statement and Conclusions

The most likely effects of the potential site allocations within the SADPD on European sites are related to pressures from new development including water abstraction, changes to water levels/quality (surface run-off, pollution events) and increased recreational pressures arising from new housing developments and tourism/leisure developments.

This Screening Assessment has determined that the SADPD is not likely to have significant effects, either alone or in-combination with other plans, on the following European sites:

- South Pennine Moors SAC
- Rixton Clay Pits SAC
- Brown Moss SAC
- Manchester Mosses SAC
- Oak Mere SAC
- Fenn's, Whixall, Bettisfield, Wem and Cadney Mosses SAC
- Peak District Dales SAC
- Peak District Moors (South Pennine Moors Phase 1) SPA
- Mersey Estuary SPA and Ramsar
- Dee Estuary SAC, SPA and Ramsar
- Mersey Narrows and North Wirral Foreshore SPA and Ramsar
- Midland Meres and Mosses Phase 2 Ramsar
- Rostherne Mere Ramsar

The SADPD could potentially have significant adverse effects, either alone and in-combination with other plans, on the following sites:

- West Midlands Mosses SAC
- River Dee and Bala Lake SAC
- Midland Meres and Mosses Phase 1 Ramsar

Therefore, an Appropriate Assessment is required to assess in more detail the likely nature of the effects on the integrity of these European sites.

## 6 Appropriate Assessment

### 6.1 Introduction

This section describes Tasks 2 and 3 of the HRA of the Cheshire East SADPD, as outlined in Section 2.2.

Where the potential for significant effects has been identified, the nature and likely scale of effects on the integrity of the individual European sites are reported, excluding those aspects that have been screened out. Additional information and interpretation is provided to allow for a reasonable assessment of the effects, and to identify appropriate mitigation that can be included within the plan to ensure that adverse effects do not occur.

### 6.2 Screening Conclusion

The HRA Task 1 screening assessment identified that the SADPD could potentially have significant adverse effects on the following sites:

- West Midlands Mosses SAC
- River Dee and Bala Lake SAC
- Midland Meres and Mosses Phase 1 Ramsar

### 6.3 Assessment of Effects on Site Integrity

This section details the Appropriate Assessment of the potential effects of the SADPD document on the integrity of the identified European sites.

#### 6.3.1 West Midlands Mosses SAC

##### *Qualifying Features*

The West Midlands Mosses qualify as a SAC for the following features:

- Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds - West Midlands Mosses contains three pools, one at Clarepool Moss and two at Abbots Moss, that are examples of dystrophic lakes and ponds in the lowlands of England and Wales, where this habitat type is rare.
- Transition mires and quaking bogs - West Midlands Mosses represents Schwingmoor vegetation. Floating rafts of Sphagnum-dominated vegetation have developed over semi-liquid substrates within basins. In the UK this type of Sphagnum-dominated vegetation is confined to this part of England and mid-Wales. Wybunbury Moss is one of the finest examples in the country of a Schwingmoor.

##### *Conservation Objectives*

Natural England's conservation objectives for the West Midlands Mosses SAC are:

With regard to the SAC and the natural habitats and/or species for which the site has been designated (the 'Qualifying Features' listed above), and subject to natural change;

Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring;

- The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats
- The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats, and
- The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats rely.

### *Environmental Conditions Sustaining Integrity of Site*

The West Midlands Mosses comprises four sites: Clarepool Moss, Abbots Moss, Chartley Moss and Wybunbury Moss. The screening assessment identified the potential for significant effects on Wybunbury Moss due to its proximity to three potential GTTS sites being considered for allocation (references GTTS 12, GTTS 13 and GTTS 22 respectively) through damage caused by increased recreational pressure on this component site.

Wybunbury Moss has been historically impacted by, and remains vulnerable to, changes in water quality and nutrient enrichment from its surrounding catchment. The site is also vulnerable to hydrological changes. As well as surface water, ground water is also an important water supply mechanism to the moss. Hence the site is vulnerable to groundwater abstractions and artificial flooding as well as catchment drainage.

The transition mire habitat experiences continual re-colonisation by scrub, typically birch and pine, as a consequence of past hydrological change e.g. historical drainage and cumulative nutrient enrichment together with readily available seed sources. The presence of excessive amounts of scrub and trees affects the mire habitat by increasing the rate of drying out and by the addition of nutrients.

The site is also vulnerable to air pollution, as deposits of nitrogen dioxide, particulates and sulphur dioxide (diesel trains) adversely impact upon the health of Sphagnum (which is critical to the ability of the degraded raised bog to re-establish actively growing peat within the site).

#### **6.3.2** *Assessment of impacts upon site integrity*

Details for the Appropriate Assessment of the Local Plan SADPD, either alone or in-combination with other plans, on the integrity of the West Midlands Mosses SAC are described in Table 6-1.



Table 6-1 Test of adverse effects of integrity on West Midlands Mosses SAC

Qualifying Feature	Identified Hazards	Adverse Effect of SADPD alone and in-combination	Avoidance/Mitigation Measures	Adverse Effect on Site Integrity?
Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds Transition mires and quaking bogs	Physical damage (due to recreational impacts)  <i>N.B. air pollution and changes in water quality were screened out during stage 1.</i>	<p>There are three potential GTTS sites being considered for allocation within 5km of this European site (component site Wynbunbury Moss SSSI) - GTTS 12, GTTS 13 and GTTS 22. These sites may cause an increase in recreational pressure on the European site, which is surrounded by public footpaths.</p> <p>Further in combination effects include the adopted strategic sites allocations in the Cheshire East LPS, the development of strategic sites on the edge of Crewe (CS 2: Basford West, CS 6: The Shavington/Wybunbury Triangle and CS 7: East Shavington from increased recreational pressure.</p> <p>There are no conceivable hydrological impact pathways from the SADPD, so potential in-combination hydrological effects of the potential strategic site allocations are not considered further in this assessment.</p>	<p>Policies SC1, SC2 and SE 6 of the LPS aim to strengthen the contribution that open space, sport, leisure and recreation facilities make to Cheshire East's Green Infrastructure network by protecting and enhancing existing, and providing new, open spaces and recreational facilities. This will reduce the potential for increased recreational pressure on the West Midlands Mosses SAC (Wynbunbury Moss SSSI).</p> <p>Policy SD 2 of the LPS and REC 3 of the SADPD outline principles for development which include the expectation that all residential development will provide open space, of an extent, quality, design and location appropriate to the development and the local community. Green space will be provided on site or off-site (in limited instances) and all applicants will need to demonstrate that these spaces will be provided for in perpetuity, in accordance with REC 3 of the SADPD. Outdoor sports facilities will also be required at a ratio of 1.6 ha per 1,000 population or 40 sq. m per family home.</p> <p>In addition, it is outlined that the development of strategic sites CS 2: Basford West, CS 6: The Shavington / Wybunbury Triangle and CS 7: East</p>	<b>No adverse effect on site integrity</b>

Qualifying Feature	Identified Hazards	Adverse Effect of SADPD alone and in-combination	Avoidance/Mitigation Measures	Adverse Effect on Site Integrity?
			<p>Shavington will provide green infrastructure and open space including children's play areas, allotments, a village green, community woodland, games areas and outdoor gyms. This provision of additional open space and recreational facilities will reduce the potential for increased recreational pressure on the West Midlands Mosses SAC.</p> <p>Site Specific Principles of Development for strategic sites CS 2, CS 6 and CS 7 state that these sites will only be developed where it can be demonstrated that there is no adverse impact on West Midland Mosses SAC (Wybunbury Moss SSSI). A Habitats Regulations Assessment of the direct and indirect impacts of the development of each of the sites on the features of special interest will be required and will be expected to consider changes in recreational pressures and impacts of increased foot traffic on sensitive habitats and species. Where impacts cannot be avoided, appropriate mitigation measures will be required to ensure no adverse effects on the integrity of the site.</p> <p><b>General:</b> Policy ENV 2 of the SADPD will ensure a net gain in biodiversity and will ensure that all planning applications are supported by industry-standard ecological assessments.</p>	

Qualifying Feature	Identified Hazards	Adverse Effect of SADPD alone and in-combination	Avoidance/Mitigation Measures	Adverse Effect on Site Integrity?
			<p>The mitigation hierarchy outlined in the policy is in line with the overarching principles of HRA: avoid; mitigate, compensate.</p> <p>Policy SE 3 of the LPS aims to protect and enhance areas of high biodiversity value. Development proposals which are likely to have a significance adverse impact on a SAC will not be permitted.</p>	

### 6.3.3 River Dee and Bala Lake SAC

#### *Qualifying Features*

The River Dee and Bala Lake SAC qualifies as an SAC for the following features:

- Water courses of plain to montane levels with the *Ranunculon fluitantis* and *Callitricho-Batrachion* vegetation
- Floating Water Plantain *Luronium natans*
- Atlantic Salmon *Salmo salar*
- Sea Lamprey *Petromyzon marinus*
- River Lamprey *Lampetra fluviatilis*
- Bullhead *Cottus gobio*
- Brook Lamprey *Lampetra planeri*
- Otter *Lutra lutra*

#### *Conservation Objectives*

Natural England's conservation objectives for the River Dee and Bala Lake SAC are:

Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring;

- The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species
- The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats
- The structure and function of the habitats of qualifying species
- The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats and the habitats of qualifying species rely
- The populations of qualifying species, and,
- The distribution of qualifying species within the site.

#### *Environmental Conditions Sustaining Integrity of Site*

The River Dee and Bala Lake SAC extends from the upland source of the Dee at Bala Lake in Snowdonia, Wales through lowland Shropshire and Cheshire in England, to its outflow into the Dee Estuary, and includes some of the tributaries such as the Ceiriog. The screening assessment identified the potential effects on this SAC due to the increased demand for water.

The Dee is one of the most regulated rivers in the Europe, with flows controlled from the headwater reservoirs Llyn Celyn and Llyn Brenig, as well as Llyn Tegid (a natural lake). Together these secure a yield of around 13.5 cumecs of which 9.3 cumecs is allocated for licenced abstraction close to Chester - most of which is used for potable supply. The remaining 4.2 cumecs forms a statutory minimum flow over Chester Weir which is maintained in all but the most severe drought conditions. In addition, a further 119 cumec days of storage is available in most years for special release and is utilised for fishery, recreation and water quality purposes (NRW, 2018).

The River Dee and Bala Lake SAC is vulnerable to the following pressures:

- Reduction in water quality
- Changes to quantity and patterns of water flow
- Excessive water abstraction
- Over fishing
- Introduction of non-native species

The screening assessment identifies that the SADPD could lead to increased levels of abstraction could significantly affect the levels of flow in the River Dee and hence result in significant effects on qualifying features.

### *Assessment of impacts upon site integrity*

Details for the Appropriate Assessment of the Local Plan SADPD, either alone or in-combination with other plans, on the integrity of the River Dee and Bala Lake SAC in relation to the impacts identified in the screening assessment are described in Table 6-2.

Table 6-2 Test of adverse effects of integrity on River Dee and Bala Lake SAC

Qualifying Feature	Identified Hazards	Adverse Effect of SADPD alone and in-combination	Avoidance/Mitigation Measures	Adverse Effect on Site Integrity?
<p>Riverine habitats and running waters</p> <p>Vascular plants of aquatic habitats</p> <p>Anadromous fish</p> <p>Non-migratory fish and invertebrates of rivers</p> <p>Mammals of riverine habitats</p>	<p>Changes in water levels or table</p> <p><i>N.B. Changes in water quality, physical damage due to recreation pressure and disturbance were screened out during stage 1 of the HRA.</i></p>	<p>Development of new housing and employment land within Cheshire East could lead to increased demand for water. Increased levels of abstraction could significantly affect the levels of flow in the River Dee and hence result in significant effects on qualifying features.</p>	<p>The River Dee Catchment Abstraction Management Strategy (CAMS) 2014 identifies the River Dee as an important resource for public water supply as it is used to supply the homes of more than two million people. Because of the over-riding need to protect this supply, more water is not available for abstraction from the River Dee (or its tributaries) upstream of Chester Weir, when the river is being regulated. Some additional water may be available during wetter periods, but abstractors would be required to stop taking water as soon as the river flow dropped again. Natural Resources Wales may also have to place special conditions on any new licences granted to safeguard the wildlife and conservation interest of the River Dee.</p> <p>The secure provision of a water supply is not the statutory responsibility of Cheshire East Council or any other Local Authority; the responsibility lies with the water companies as statutory undertakers for the provision of water. The abstraction of water to provide a water supply is also heavily regulated by the Environment Agency (EA) and Natural Resources Wales (NRW).</p> <p>United Utilities is the principal water provider for Cheshire East and such provision is covered by the Integrated</p>	<p><b>No adverse effect on site integrity</b></p>

Qualifying Feature	Identified Hazards	Adverse Effect of SADPD alone and in-combination	Avoidance/Mitigation Measures	Adverse Effect on Site Integrity?
			<p>Resource Zone which serves 6.7 million people in South Cumbria, Lancashire, Greater Manchester, Merseyside and most of Cheshire.</p> <p>The United Utilities Final Water Resources Management Plan 2015 provides a comprehensive statement of their water supply and water demand forecasts over the period to 2040. It also describes the resulting supply-demand balances and the actions they propose to take as part of their preferred strategy to achieve water supply reliability standards for their customers. The Plan states that the water available for use in the Integrated Resource Zone is expected to reduce by about 22 Ml/d between 2015/16 and 2019/20. However, no supply deficit is forecast for the Integrated Resource Zone, a surplus of over 90 Ml/d is maintained throughout the planning period.</p> <p>United Utilities abstract water from the River Dee at various locations to supply both potable and non-potable customers, including a supply of raw water from the River Dee to Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water and a non-potable supply of raw water from the River Dee to industrial customers in the Wirral (80. Ml/d on average).</p> <p>The River Dee is managed by Natural Resources Wales through a regulation scheme. United Utilities abstractions are governed by the River Dee General Directions (EA, 2009) which set out rules</p>	

OFFICIAL

Qualifying Feature	Identified Hazards	Adverse Effect of SADPD alone and in-combination	Avoidance/Mitigation Measures	Adverse Effect on Site Integrity?
			<p>for abstraction during drought conditions and are approved by the statutory Dee Consultative Committee.</p> <p>Therefore, it is unlikely that the SADPD will result in the need for further abstraction from the River Dee.</p>	

OFFICIAL



OFFICIAL

#### 6.3.4 Midland Meres and Mosses Phase 1 Ramsar

##### *Qualifying Features*

The Midland Mere and Mosses Phase 1 Ramsar is designated under the following criteria:

- Criterion 1 - The site comprises a diverse range of habitats from open water to raised bog.
- Criterion 2 - The site supports a number of rare species of plants associated with wetlands including five nationally scarce species together with an assemblage of rare wetland invertebrates (three endangered insects and five other British Red Data Book species of invertebrates).
- Noteworthy flora:
  - Six-stamened Waterwort *Elatine hexandra*
  - Needle Spike-rush *Eleocharis acicularis*
  - Cowbane *Cicuta virosa*
  - Marsh Fern *Thelypteris palustris*
  - Elongated Sedge *Carex elongata*
- Noteworthy fauna:
  - Caddisfly *Hagenella clathrata*
  - Cranefly *Limnophila fasciata*
  - Spider *Carorita limnaea*
  - Rove Beetle *Lathrobium rufipenne*
  - Reed Beetle *Donacia aquatica*
  - Cranefly *Prionocera pubescens*
  - Cranefly *Gonomyia abbreviata*
  - Spider *Sitticus floricola*

##### *Conservation Objectives*

Natural England does not have specific conservation objectives for Ramsar sites; however, the same objectives as those for SACs and SPAs can also be applied to Ramsar sites.

Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring;

- The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species
- The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats
- The structure and function of the habitats of qualifying species
- The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats and the habitats of qualifying species rely
- The populations of qualifying species, and,
- The distribution of qualifying species within the site.

##### *Environmental Conditions Sustaining Integrity of Site*

The Midland Meres and Mosses Phase 1 Ramsar comprises 16 component sites in the north-west midlands of England. The sites include open water bodies (meres), the majority of which are nutrient-rich with associated fringing habitats; reed swamps, fen, carr and damp pasture. Peat accumulation has resulted in nutrient poor peat bogs (mosses) forming in some sites in the fringes of meres or completely infilling basins. In a few cases the result is a floating quaking bog or schwingmoor. The wide range of resulting habitats support nationally important flora and fauna.

The screening assessment identified the potential for significant effects on Wybunbury Moss due to its proximity to three GTTS sites being considered for potential allocation in the SADPD

(GTTS 12, GTTS 13 and GTTS 22) through damage caused by increased recreational pressure on this component site.

Wybunbury Moss has been historically impacted by, and remains vulnerable to, changes in water quality and nutrient enrichment from its surrounding catchment. The site is also vulnerable to hydrological changes. As well as surface water, ground water is also an important water supply mechanism to the moss. Hence the site is vulnerable to groundwater abstractions and artificial flooding as well as catchment drainage.

The transition mire habitat experiences continual re-colonisation by scrub, typically birch and pine, as a consequence of past hydrological change e.g. historical drainage and cumulative nutrient enrichment together with readily available seed sources. The presence of excessive amounts of scrub and trees affects the mire habitat by increasing the rate of drying out and by the addition of nutrients.

The site is also vulnerable to air pollution, as deposits of nitrogen dioxide, particulates and sulphur dioxide (diesel trains) adversely impact upon the health of Sphagnum (which is critical to the ability of the degraded raised bog to re-establish actively growing peat within the site).

#### *Assessment of impacts upon site integrity*

The likely significant effects of the proposals in the Local Plan SADPD, both alone and in combination with other plans, on the integrity of the Midland Meres and Mosses Phase 1 Ramsar are described in Table 6-3.

Table 6-3: Test of adverse effects of integrity on the Midlands Meres and Mosses Phase 1 Ramsar

Qualifying Feature	Identified Hazards	Adverse Effect of Local Plan Strategy alone and in-combination	Avoidance/Mitigation Measures	Significant Adverse Effect on Site Integrity?
<p>Criteria 1 - The site comprises a diverse range of habitats from open water to raised bog.</p> <p>Criteria 2 - Supports a number of rare species of plants associated with wetlands including five nationally scarce species together with an assemblage of rare wetland invertebrates (three endangered insects and five other British Red Data Book species of invertebrates).</p> <p>Noteworthy flora:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Six-stamened Waterwort <i>Elatine hexandra</i></li> <li>- Needle Spike-rush <i>Eleocharis acicularis</i></li> <li>- Cowbane <i>Cicuta</i></li> </ul>	<p>Physical damage (due to recreational pressures)</p> <p><i>N.B. Air pollution and hydrological impacts as hazards were screened out during the initial assessment</i></p>	<p>There are three potential GTTS sites being considered for allocation within 5km of this European site (component site Wynbunbury Moss SSSI)- GTTS 12, GTTS 13 and GTTS 22. These sites may cause a significant increase in recreational pressure on the European site, which is surrounded by public footpaths.</p> <p>Further in combination effects include the adopted strategic sites allocations in the Cheshire East LPS, The development of strategic sites on the edge of Crewe (CS 2: Basford West, CS 6: The Shavington/Wybunbury Triangle and CS 7: East Shavington from increased recreational pressure. There are no conceivable hydrological impact pathways from the SADPD, so potential in-combination hydrological effects of the strategic site allocations are not considered further in this assessment.</p>	<p>Policies SC1, SC2 and SE 6 of the LPS aim to strengthen the contribution that open space, sport, leisure and recreation facilities make to Cheshire East's Green Infrastructure network by protecting and enhancing existing, and providing new, open spaces and recreational facilities. This will reduce the potential for increased recreational pressure on the Midland Meres and Mosses Phase 1 Ramsar (Wynbunbury Moss SSSI).</p> <p>Policy SD 2 of the LPS and REC 3 of the SADPD outline principles for development which include the expectation that all residential development will provide open space, of an extent, quality, design and location appropriate to the development and the local community. Green space will be provided on site or off-site (in limited instances) and all applicants will need to demonstrate that these spaces will be provided for in perpetuity, in accordance with REC 3 of the SADPD. Outdoor sports facilities will also be required at a ratio of 1.6 ha per 1,000 population or 40 sq. m per family home.</p>	<p><b>No adverse effect on site integrity</b></p>

Qualifying Feature	Identified Hazards	Adverse Effect of Local Plan Strategy alone and in-combination	Avoidance/Mitigation Measures	Significant Adverse Effect on Site Integrity?
<i>virosa</i> - Marsh Fern <i>Thelypteris palustris</i> - Elongated Sedge <i>Carex elongata</i>  Noteworthy fauna: - Caddisfly <i>Hagenella clathrata</i> - Crane fly <i>Limnophila fasciata</i> - Spider <i>Carorita limnaea</i> - Rove Beetle <i>Lathrobium rufipenne</i> - Reed Beetle <i>Donacia aquatica</i> - Crane fly <i>Prionocera pubescens</i> - Crane fly <i>Gonomyia abbreviata</i> - Spider <i>Sitticus floricola</i>			<p>In addition, it is outlined that the development of strategic sites CS 2: Basford West, CS 6: The Shavington / Wybunbury Triangle and CS 7: East Shavington will provide green infrastructure and open space including children's play areas, allotments, a village green, community woodland, games areas and outdoor gyms. This provision of additional open space and recreational facilities will reduce the potential for increased recreational pressure on the Midland Meres and Mosses Phase 1 Ramsar (Wybunbury Moss SSSI).</p> <p>Site Specific Principles of Development for strategic sites CS 2, CS 6 and CS 7 state that these sites will only be developed where it can be demonstrated that there is no adverse impact on Midland Meres and Mosses Phase 1 Ramsar (Wybunbury Moss SSSI).</p> <p>A Habitats Regulations Assessment of the direct and indirect impacts of the development of each of the sites on the features of special interest will be required and will be expected to</p>	

Qualifying Feature	Identified Hazards	Adverse Effect of Local Plan Strategy alone and in-combination	Avoidance/Mitigation Measures	Significant Adverse Effect on Site Integrity?
			<p>consider changes in recreational pressures and impacts of increased foot traffic on sensitive habitats and species. Where impacts cannot be avoided, appropriate mitigation measures will be required to ensure no adverse effects on the integrity of the site.</p> <p><b>General:</b></p> <p>Policy ENV 2 of the SADPD will ensure a net gain in biodiversity and will ensure that all planning applications are supported by industry-standard ecological assessments. The mitigation hierarchy outlined in the policy is in line with the overarching principles of HRA: avoid; mitigate, compensate.</p> <p>Policy SE 3 of the LPS aims to protect and enhance areas of high biodiversity value. Development proposals which are likely to have a significance adverse impact on a SAC will not be permitted.</p>	

## 7 Conclusions

Regulation 105 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (the 'Habitats Regulations') states that if a land-use plan is "(a) is likely to have a significant effect on a European site or a European offshore marine site (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects); and (b) is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site" then the plan-making authority must "...make an appropriate assessment of the implications for the site in view of that site's conservation objectives" before the plan is given effect. The process by which Regulation 105 is met is known as Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA).

It is accepted best-practice for the HRA of strategic planning documents to be run as an iterative process alongside the plan development, with the emerging policies and sites proposed for development continually assessed for their possible effects on European sites and modified or abandoned (as necessary) to ensure that the subsequently adopted plan is not likely to result in significant effects on any European sites, either alone or 'in combination' with other plans.

HRA has been undertaken throughout the development of the Cheshire East Local Plan and has informed key stages and assessment work, including the selection of sites proposed for development. This report details the HRA for the draft Cheshire East Local Plan SADPD.

The most likely effects of the SADPD on European Sites are related to pressures from new development including water abstraction, changes to surface and ground water levels/quality (surface run-off, pollution events), air pollution and increased recreational pressures arising from new housing developments and increased tourism.

The Screening Assessment determined that the SADPD is not likely to have significant effects, either alone or in-combination with other plans on the following European Sites:

- South Pennine Moors SAC
- Rixton Clay Pits SAC
- Brown Moss SAC
- Manchester Mosses SAC
- Oak Mere SAC
- Fenn's, Whixall, Bettisfield, Wem and Cadney Mosses SAC
- Peak District Dales SAC
- Peak District Moors (South Pennine Moors Phase 1) SPA
- Mersey Estuary SPA and Ramsar
- Dee Estuary SAC, SPA and Ramsar
- Mersey Narrows and North Wirral Foreshore SPA and Ramsar
- Midland Meres and Mosses Phase 2 Ramsar.

Potential significant effects as a result of changes in water levels and/or quality, through discharges, and surface and/or groundwater contamination, and recreational pressures were identified for the following sites:

- River Dee and Bala Lake SAC
- West Midlands Mosses SAC
- Midland Meres and Mosses Phase 1 Ramsar

The Assessment identified that the existing policies and provisions in the Cheshire East Council LPS, SADPD and other plans, along with the Site Specific Principles of Development identified for strategic sites, in relation to sustainable water management, provision of appropriate infrastructure, sustainable travel and transport, provision and protection of open space, sport, leisure and recreation facilities and pollution control, will ensure that the Local Plan will have no adverse effects on these European Sites.

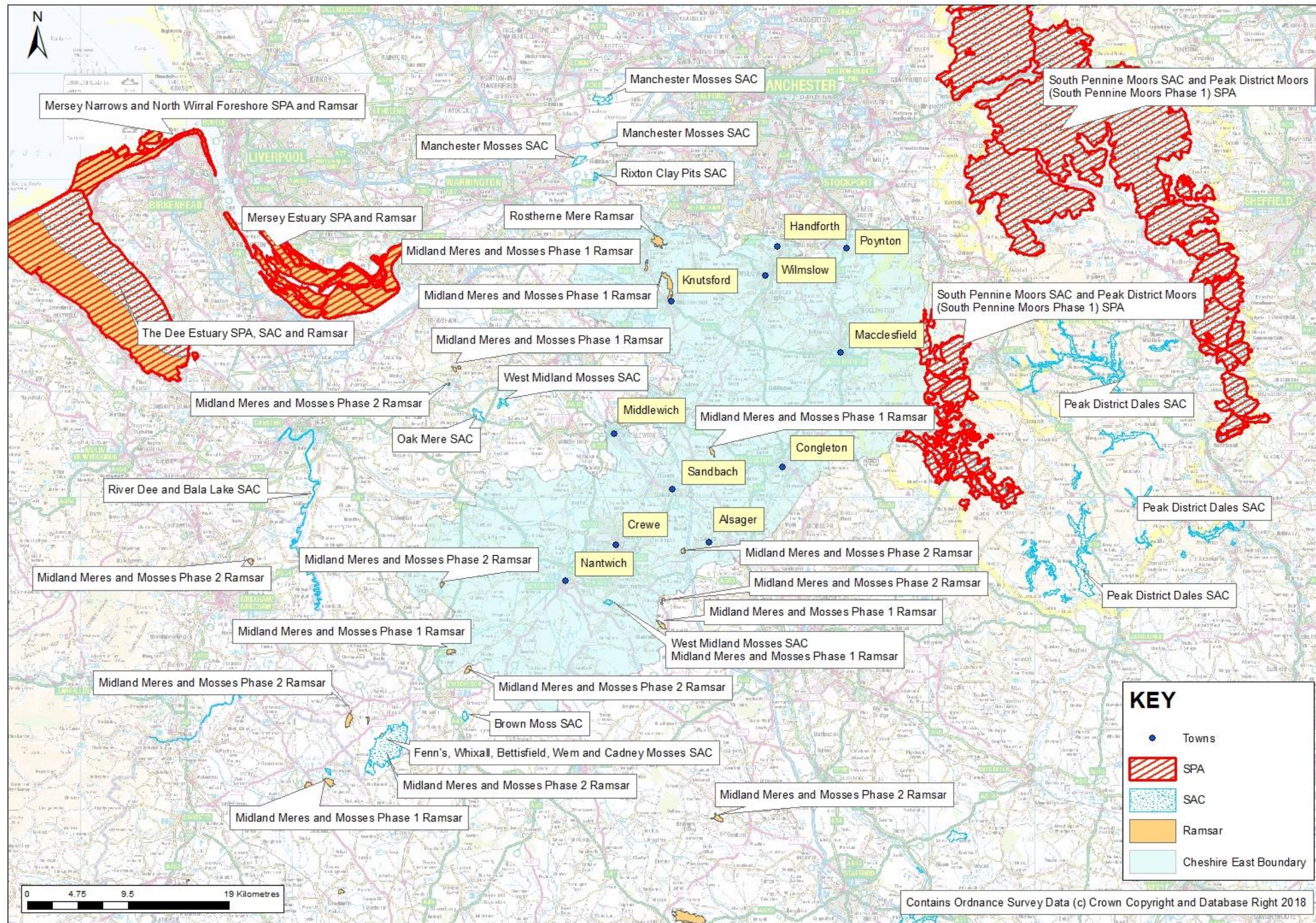




## Appendices



## A Location of European Sites within and adjacent to Cheshire East





## B Details of European Sites within and adjacent to Cheshire East

European Site	Qualifying Feature (Broad Habitat/Species Groupings)	Qualifying Feature	Conservation Objectives	Threats and Pressures
<b>West Midlands Mosses SAC</b> <i>Site Area 184.18ha</i>  Component SSSI: Abbots Moss SSSI, Chartley Moss SSSI, Clarepool Moss SSSI, Wybunbury Moss SSSI	Standing waters (sensitive to acidification)  Bogs and wet habitats	Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds; Acid peat-stained lakes and ponds  Transition mires and quaking bogs; Very wet mires often identified by an unstable 'quaking' surface	Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats</li> <li>- The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats, and</li> <li>- The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats rely.</li> </ul>	Identified threats and pressures are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Water pollution</li> <li>- Hydrological changes</li> <li>- Air pollution</li> <li>- Inappropriate scrub control</li> <li>- Game management: pheasant rearing</li> <li>- Forestry and woodland management</li> </ul>
<b>South Pennine Moors SAC</b> <i>Site Area 64983.13ha</i>	Bogs and wet habitats  Fens and wet habitats  Dry heathland habitats  Dry woodlands and scrub	Blanket bogs Transition mires and quaking bogs Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i>  European dry heaths  Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles	Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats</li> <li>- The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats, and</li> <li>- The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats rely.</li> </ul>	Identified threats and pressures are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Hydrological changes</li> <li>- Managed rotational burning</li> <li>- Low breeding success/poor recruitment</li> <li>- Inappropriate management practices</li> <li>- Public Access/Disturbance</li> <li>- Air Pollution</li> <li>- Wildfire/ arson</li> <li>- Vehicles</li> <li>- Overgrazing</li> <li>- Forestry and woodland management</li> <li>- Changes in species distribution</li> <li>- Disease</li> <li>- Undergrazing</li> </ul>

European Site	Qualifying Feature (Broad Habitat/ Species Groupings)	Qualifying Feature	Conservation Objectives	Threats and Pressures
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Invasive species</li> <li>- Planning permission</li> </ul>
<b>Rixton Clay Pits SAC</b> <i>Site Area 13.99ha</i>	Amphibia	Great Crested Newt <i>Triturus cristatus</i>	<p>Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The extent and distribution of the habitats of qualifying species</li> <li>- The structure and function of the habitats of qualifying species</li> <li>- The supporting processes on which the habitats of qualifying species rely</li> <li>- The populations of qualifying species, and,</li> <li>- The distribution of qualifying species within the site.</li> </ul>	<p>Identified threats and pressures are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Direct impact from 3rd party</li> </ul>
<b>Brown Moss SAC</b> <i>Site Area 32.03ha</i>	Vascular plants of aquatic habitats	Floating Water Plantain <i>Luronium natans</i>	<p>Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The extent and distribution of the habitats of qualifying species</li> <li>- The structure and function of the habitats of qualifying species</li> <li>- The supporting processes on which the habitats of qualifying species rely</li> <li>- The populations of qualifying species, and,</li> <li>- The distribution of qualifying species within the site.</li> </ul>	<p>Identified threats and pressures are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Hydrological changes</li> <li>- Water pollution</li> <li>- Invasive species</li> <li>- Siltation</li> <li>- Air pollution</li> </ul>
<b>Manchester Mosses SAC</b>	Bogs and wet habitats	Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration.	Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site	Identified threats and pressures are:

European Site	Qualifying Feature (Broad Habitat/ Species Groupings)	Qualifying Feature	Conservation Objectives	Threats and Pressures
<b>Site Area 172.81ha</b>  Component SSSI: Astley and Bedford Mosses SSSI, Holcroft Moss SSSI, Risley Moss SSSI			contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats</li> <li>- The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats, and</li> <li>- The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats rely.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Hydrological changes</li> <li>- Air pollution</li> </ul>
<b>Oak Mere SAC</b> <b>Site Area 68.82ha</b>	Standing waters (sensitive to acidification)  Bogs and wet habitats	Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains ( <i>Littorelletalia uniflorae</i> ).  Transition mires and quaking bogs.	Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats</li> <li>- The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats, and</li> <li>- The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats rely.</li> </ul>	Identified threats and pressures are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Water pollution</li> <li>- Invasive species</li> <li>- Hydrological changes</li> <li>- Air pollution</li> </ul>
<b>Fenn's, Whixall, Bettisfield, Wem and Cadney Mosses SAC</b> <b>Site Area 949.2ha</b>	Bogs and wet habitats	Active raised bogs Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration.	Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats</li> <li>- The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats, and</li> <li>- The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats rely.</li> </ul>	Identified threats and pressures are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Inappropriate water levels</li> <li>- Water pollution</li> <li>- Air pollution</li> <li>- Inappropriate scrub control</li> <li>- Overgrazing</li> <li>- Planning permission</li> <li>- Peat extraction</li> <li>- Invasive species</li> </ul>
<b>Peak District Dales</b>	Fens and wet	Alkaline fens	Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or	Identified threats and pressures

European Site	Qualifying Feature (Broad Habitat/ Species Groupings)	Qualifying Feature	Conservation Objectives	Threats and Pressures
<b>SAC</b> Site Area 2326.33ha	habitats			
	Dry woodlands and scrub	Tilio-Acerion forests of slopes, screes and ravines	restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring;	are:
	Dry grassland	Calaminarian grasslands of the <i>Violetalia calaminariae</i> Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies: on calcareous substrates ( <i>Festuco-Brometalia</i> ) (*important orchid sites)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The extent and distribution of the habitats of qualifying species</li> <li>- The structure and function of the habitats of qualifying species</li> <li>- The supporting processes on which the habitats of qualifying species rely</li> <li>- The populations of qualifying species, and,</li> <li>- The distribution of qualifying species within the site.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Inappropriate scrub control</li> <li>- Fertiliser use</li> <li>- Water pollution</li> <li>- Inappropriate weirs, dams and other structures</li> <li>- Overgrazing/undergrazing</li> <li>- Inappropriate water levels</li> <li>- Disease</li> <li>- Invasive species</li> <li>- Climate change</li> <li>- Air pollution</li> <li>- Vehicles</li> <li>- Forestry and woodland management</li> <li>- Direct impact from 3rd party</li> <li>- Public access/disturbance</li> </ul>
	Dry heathland habitats	European dry heaths		
	Upland	Calcareous and calcshist screes of the montane to alpine levels ( <i>Thlaspietia rotundifolia</i> ) Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation		
<b>River Dee and Bala Lake SAC</b>	Non-migratory fish and invertebrates of rivers	White-clawed (or Atlantic stream) crayfish <i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i>  Brook Lamprey <i>Lampetra planeri</i> Bullhead <i>Cottus gobio</i>		
	Riverine habitats and	Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculus fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitriche-Batrachion</i>	Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site	Identified threats and pressures are:

European Site	Qualifying Feature (Broad Habitat/ Species Groupings)	Qualifying Feature	Conservation Objectives	Threats and Pressures
Site Area 1308.93ha	running waters	vegetation	<p>contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species</li> <li>- The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats</li> <li>- The structure and function of the habitats of qualifying species</li> <li>- The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats and the habitats of qualifying species rely</li> <li>- The populations of qualifying species, and,</li> <li>- The distribution of qualifying species within the site.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Reduction in water quality</li> <li>- Changes to quantity and patterns of water flow</li> <li>- Excessive water abstraction</li> <li>- Over fishing</li> <li>- Introduction of non-native species</li> </ul>
	Vascular plants of aquatic habitats	Floating Water Plantain <i>Luronium natans</i>		
	Anadromous fish	Atlantic Salmon <i>Salmo salar</i> Sea Lamprey <i>Petromyzon marinus</i> River Lamprey <i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i>		
	Non-migratory fish and invertebrates of rivers	Bullhead <i>Cottus gobio</i> Brook Lamprey <i>Lampetra planeri</i>		
	Mammals of riverine habitats	Otter <i>Lutra lutra</i>		
Dee Estuary SAC Site Area 15805.89 ha	Coastal habitats	<p>Embryonic shifting dunes</p> <p>Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes)* Priority natural habitat</p> <p>Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila</i></p>	<p>Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The extent and distribution of qualifying natural</li> </ul>	<p>Identified threats and pressures are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Public access/ disturbance</li> <li>- Changes in species distribution</li> <li>- Invasive species</li> </ul>

European Site	Qualifying Feature (Broad Habitat/Species Groupings)	Qualifying Feature	Conservation Objectives	Threats and Pressures
		<i>arenaria</i> (white dunes)	habitats and habitats of qualifying species	- Climate change
		Annual vegetation of drift lines	- The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats	- Coastal squeeze
		Humid dune slacks	- The structure and function of the habitats of qualifying species	- Inappropriate scrub control
			- The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats and the habitats of qualifying species rely	- Water pollution
	Coastal habitats (sensitive to abstraction)	Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts	- The populations of qualifying species, and,	- Fisheries
			- The distribution of qualifying species within the site.	- Inappropriate coastal management
	Estuarine and intertidal habitats	Estuaries		- Overgrazing
		Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide		- Direct impact from 3rd party
		Atlantic salt meadows ( <i>Glaucopuccinellietalia maritimae</i> )		- Marine litter
		<i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals colonising mud and sand		- Predation
	Mosses and liverworts	Petal wort <i>Petalophyllum ralfsii</i>		- Marine consents and permits
	Anadromous fish	Sea Lamprey <i>Petromyzon marinus</i>		- Wildfire/arson
		River Lamprey <i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i>		- Air pollution
				- Transportation and service corridors
				- Physical modification



European Site	Qualifying Feature (Broad Habitat/ Species Groupings)	Qualifying Feature	Conservation Objectives	Threats and Pressures
<b>Peak District Moors (South Pennine Moors Phase 1) SPA</b> Site Area 45270.52ha	Birds of uplands Birds of lowland wet grasslands Birds of farmland Birds of coastal habitats Birds of estuarine habitats	<p>Merlin <i>Falco columbarius</i>  <i>Breeding: 2.3% of the breeding population in Great Britain (Count as at 1990 and 1998)</i></p> <p>European Golden Plover <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>  <i>Breeding: 1.9% of the breeding population in Great Britain (Count, as at 1990 and 1998)</i></p> <p>Short-eared Owl <i>Asio flammeus</i>  <i>Breeding: 2.2% of the breeding population in Great Britain (Count, as at 1990 and 1998)</i></p> <p>Peregrine Falcon <i>Falco peregrinus</i>  <i>Not formally listed at the time of designation, but subsequently identified as a qualifying feature</i></p> <p>Dunlin <i>Calidris alpina</i>  <i>Not formally listed at the time of designation, but subsequently identified as a qualifying feature</i></p>	<p>Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the aims of the Wild Birds Directive, by maintaining or restoring;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The extent and distribution of the habitats of the qualifying features</li> <li>- The structure and function of the habitats of the qualifying features</li> <li>- The supporting processes on which the habitats of the qualifying features rely</li> <li>- The population of each of the qualifying features, and,</li> <li>- The distribution of the qualifying features within the site.</li> </ul>	<p>Identified threats and pressures are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Hydrological changes</li> <li>- Managed rotational burning</li> <li>- Low breeding success/poor recruitment</li> <li>- Inappropriate management practices</li> <li>- Public Access/Disturbance</li> <li>- Air Pollution</li> <li>- Wildfire/ arson</li> <li>- Vehicles</li> <li>- Overgrazing</li> <li>- Forestry and woodland management</li> <li>- Changes in species distribution</li> <li>- Disease</li> <li>- Undergrazing</li> <li>- Invasive species</li> <li>- Planning Permission</li> </ul>
<b>Mersey Estuary SPA</b> Site Area 5023.25ha	Birds of uplands Birds of lowland wet grasslands Birds of lowland freshwaters and their margins Birds of	<p>European Golden Plover <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>  <i>Over winter: 1.2% of the wintering population in Great Britain (5 year peak mean 1991/2 - 1995/6)</i></p> <p>Common Redshank <i>Tringa totanus</i>  <i>On passage: 2.0% of the Eastern Atlantic - wintering population (5 year peak mean, 1987-1991)</i>  <i>Over winter: 3.1% of the wintering Eastern Atlantic - wintering population (5 year peak mean 1991/2 - 1995/6)</i></p>	<p>Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the aims of the Wild Birds Directive, by maintaining or restoring;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The extent and distribution of the habitats of the qualifying features</li> <li>- The structure and function of the habitats of the qualifying features</li> <li>- The supporting processes on which the habitats of the qualifying features rely</li> <li>- The population of each of the qualifying features,</li> </ul>	<p>Identified threats and pressures are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Changes in species distribution</li> <li>- Invasive species</li> <li>- Public access/ disturbance</li> </ul>

European Site	Qualifying Feature (Broad Habitat/ Species Groupings)	Qualifying Feature	Conservation Objectives	Threats and Pressures
	farmland Birds of coastal habitats Birds of estuarine habitats	<p>Ringed Plover <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i> On passage: 2.9% of the Europe/Northern Africa - wintering population (Count, as at 1989)</p> <p>Dunlin <i>Calidris alpina</i> Over winter: 3.2% of the wintering Northern Siberia/Europe/Western Africa population (5 year peak mean 1991/2 - 1995/6)</p> <p>Northern Pintail <i>Anas acuta</i> Over winter: 4.6% of the wintering Northwestern Europe population (5 year peak mean 1991/2 - 1995/6)</p> <p>Common Shelduck <i>Tadorna tadorna</i> Over winter: 1.7% of the wintering Northwestern Europe population (5 year peak mean 1991/2 - 1995/6)</p> <p>Eurasian Teal <i>Anas crecca</i> Over winter: 2.9% of the wintering Northwestern Europe population (5 year peak mean 1991/2 - 1995/6)</p> <p>The area qualifies under Article 4.2 of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by regularly supporting at least 20,000 waterfowl.</p>	<p>and,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The distribution of the qualifying features within the site.</li> </ul>	

European Site	Qualifying Feature (Broad Habitat/ Species Groupings)	Qualifying Feature	Conservation Objectives	Threats and Pressures
<b>Dee Estuary SPA</b> Site Area 14291.56ha	Birds of lowland wet grassland Birds of lowland freshwaters and their margins Birds of farmland Birds of coastal habitats Birds of estuarine habitats Birds of open sea and offshore rocks	<p>Little Tern <i>Sterna albifrons</i>  <i>Breeding: 2.9% of the GB breeding population (5 year peak mean 1995-1999)</i></p> <p>Common Tern <i>Sterna hirundo</i>  <i>Breeding: 3.2% of the population in Great Britain (5 year peak mean 1995-1999)</i></p> <p>Bar-tailed Godwit <i>Limosa lapponica</i>  <i>Wintering: 2.2% of the GB population (5 year peak mean 1994/95-1998/99)</i></p> <p>Sandwich Tern <i>Sterna sandvicensis</i>  <i>On passage: 2.3% of the population in Great Britain (5 year peak mean 1995-1999)</i></p> <p>Pintail <i>Anas acuta</i>  <i>Over winter: 9.0% of the population (5 year peak mean 1994/95-1998/99)</i></p> <p>Teal <i>Anas crecca</i>  <i>Over winter: 1.3% of the population (5 year peak mean 1994/95-1998/99)</i></p> <p>Dunlin <i>Calidris alpina alpina</i>  <i>Over winter: 2% of the population (5 year peak mean 1994/95-1998/99)</i></p> <p>Knot <i>Calidris canutus</i>  <i>Over winter: 3.5% of the population (5 year peak mean 1994/95-1998/99)</i></p>	<p>Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the aims of the Wild Birds Directive, by maintaining or restoring;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The extent and distribution of the habitats of the qualifying features</li> <li>- The structure and function of the habitats of the qualifying features</li> <li>- The supporting processes on which the habitats of the qualifying features rely</li> <li>- The population of each of the qualifying features, and,</li> <li>- The distribution of the qualifying features within the site.</li> </ul>	<p>Identified threats and pressures are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Public access/ disturbance</li> <li>- Changes in species distribution</li> <li>- Invasive species</li> <li>- Climate change</li> <li>- Coastal squeeze</li> <li>- Inappropriate scrub control</li> <li>- Water pollution</li> <li>- Fisheries</li> <li>- Inappropriate coastal management</li> <li>- Overgrazing</li> <li>- Direct impact from 3rd party</li> <li>- Marine litter</li> <li>- Predation</li> <li>- Marine consents and permits</li> <li>- Wildfire/arson</li> <li>- Air pollution</li> <li>- Transportation and service corridors</li> <li>- Physical modification</li> </ul>

European Site	Qualifying Feature (Broad Habitat/ Species Groupings)	Qualifying Feature	Conservation Objectives	Threats and Pressures
		<p>Oystercatcher <i>Haematopus ostralegus</i> Over winter: 2.5% of the population (5 year peak mean 1994/95-1998/99)</p> <p>Black-tailed Godwit <i>Limosa limosa</i> Over winter: 2.5% of the population (5 year peak mean 1994/95-1998/99)</p> <p>Curlew <i>Numenius arquata</i> Over winter: 1.1% of the population (5 year peak mean 1994/95-1998/99)</p> <p>Grey Plover <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i> Over winter: 1.1% of the population (5 year peak mean 1994/95-1998/99)</p> <p>Shelduck <i>Tadorna tadorna</i> Over winter: 2.6% of the population (5 year peak mean 1994/95-1998/99)</p> <p>Redshank <i>Tringa totanus</i> Over winter: 3.5% of the population (5 year peak mean 1994/95-1998/99) On passage: 5.9% of the population (5 year peak mean 1994/95-1998/99)</p> <p>In the non-breeding season the area regularly supports: 120726 waterfowl (5year peak mean 1994/95-1998/99)</p>		
<b>Mersey Narrows and</b>	Birds of	Bar-tailed Godwit <i>Limosa lapponica</i>	Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or	Identified threats and pressures

European Site	Qualifying Feature (Broad Habitat/ Species Groupings)	Qualifying Feature	Conservation Objectives	Threats and Pressures
<b>North Wirral Foreshore SPA</b> <i>Site Area 2078.41ha</i>	lowland wet grasslands Birds of lowland freshwaters and their margins Birds of farmland Birds of coastal habitats Birds of estuarine habitats Birds of open sea and offshore rocks	<p><i>Over winter: 5.5% of the GB population (5-year peak mean 2004/05 - 2008/09)</i></p> <p>Little Gull <i>Hydrocoloeus minutus</i>  <i>On passage: 213 individuals (no national population estimate)</i></p> <p>Common Tern <i>Sterna hirundo</i>  <i>Breeding: 1.8% of the GB population (2005-2009)</i>  <i>On passage: 1,475 individuals (no national population estimate)</i></p> <p>Knot <i>Calidris canutus</i>  <i>Over winter: 2.4% W Europe /Waddensea/Britain/Ireland population (5 year peak mean (2004/05 - 2008/09)</i></p> <p>An internationally important assemblage of birds: in the non-breeding season the area regularly supports: 32,366 individual waterbirds (five year peak mean 2004/05 - 2008/09)</p>	restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the aims of the Wild Birds Directive, by maintaining or restoring; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The extent and distribution of the habitats of the qualifying features</li> <li>- The structure and function of the habitats of the qualifying features</li> <li>- The supporting processes on which the habitats of the qualifying features rely</li> <li>- The population of each of the qualifying features, and,</li> <li>- The distribution of the qualifying features within the site.</li> </ul>	are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Public access/ disturbance</li> <li>- Changes in species distribution</li> <li>- Invasive species</li> <li>- Climate change</li> <li>- Coastal squeeze</li> <li>- Inappropriate scrub control</li> <li>- Water pollution</li> <li>- Fisheries</li> <li>- Inappropriate coastal management</li> <li>- Overgrazing</li> <li>- Direct impact from 3rd party</li> <li>- Marine litter</li> <li>- Predation</li> <li>- Marine consents and permits</li> <li>- Wildfire/arson</li> <li>- Air pollution</li> <li>- Transportation and service corridors</li> <li>- Physical modification</li> </ul>
<b>Midland Meres and Mosses Phase 1 Ramsar</b> <i>Site Area 510.88ha</i>	n/a	Ramsar Convention Criteria:  Criteria 1 - The site comprises a diverse range of habitats from open water to raised bog.  Criteria 2 - Supports a number of rare species of plants associated with wetlands including five nationally scarce species together with an assemblage of rare wetland invertebrates (three endangered insects and five other British Red	Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species</li> <li>- The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats</li> <li>- The structure and function of the habitats of</li> </ul>	The site is vulnerable to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Eutrophication</li> <li>- Introduction of non-native plant species</li> </ul>

European Site	Qualifying Feature (Broad Habitat/ Species Groupings)	Qualifying Feature	Conservation Objectives	Threats and Pressures
Bomere, Shomere and Betton Pools SSSI, Brown Moss SSSI, Chartley Moss SSSI, Clarepool Moss SSSI, Fenemere SSSI, Flaxmere Moss SSSI, Hatch Mere SSSI, Marton Pool, Chirbury SSSI, Quoisley Meres SSSI, Tatton Meres SSSI, The Mere, Mere SSSI, White Mere SSSI, Wybunbury Moss SSSI		<p>Data Book species of invertebrates).</p> <p>Noteworthy flora:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Six-stamened Waterwort <i>Elatine hexandra</i></li> <li>- Needle Spike-rush <i>Eleocharis acicularis</i></li> <li>- Cowbane <i>Cicuta virosa</i></li> <li>- Marsh Fern <i>Thelypteris palustris</i></li> <li>- Elongated Sedge <i>Carex elongata</i></li> </ul> <p>Noteworthy fauna:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Caddisfly <i>Hagenella clathrata</i></li> <li>- Crane fly <i>Limnophila fasciata</i></li> <li>- Spider <i>Carorita limnaea</i></li> <li>- Rove Beetle <i>Lathrobium rufipenne</i></li> <li>- Reed Beetle <i>Donacia aquatica</i></li> <li>- Crane fly <i>Prionocera pubescens</i></li> <li>- Crane fly <i>Gonomyia abbreviata</i></li> <li>- Spider <i>Sitticus floricola</i></li> </ul>	<p>qualifying species</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats and the habitats of qualifying species rely</li> <li>- The populations of qualifying species, and,</li> <li>- The distribution of qualifying species within the site.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Midland Meres and Mosses Phase 2 Ramsar</b></p> <p><i>Site Area 1588.24ha</i></p> <p>Component SSSI: Abbots Moss SSSI, Aqualate Mere SSSI, Black Firs &amp; Cranberry Bog SSSI, Brownheath Moss SSSI, Chapel Mere SSSI, Cole Mere SSSI, Cop Mere SSSI,</p>	n/a	<p>Ramsar Convention Criteria:</p> <p>Criteria 1 - The site comprises a diverse range of habitats from open water to raised bog.</p> <p>Criteria 2 - Supports a number of rare species of plants associated with wetlands, including the nationally scarce Cowbane <i>Cicuta virosa</i> and, Elongated Sedge <i>Carex elongata</i>. Also present are the nationally scarce bryophytes <i>Dicranum affine</i> and <i>Sphagnum pulchrum</i>.</p> <p>Also supports an assemblage of invertebrates including several rare species. There are 16</p>	<p>Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species</li> <li>- The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats</li> <li>- The structure and function of the habitats of qualifying species</li> <li>- The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats and the habitats of qualifying</li> </ul>	<p>The site is vulnerable to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Eutrophication</li> <li>- Introduction of non-native plant species</li> <li>- Pollution from pesticides, agricultural run-off</li> </ul>

European Site	Qualifying Feature (Broad Habitat/ Species Groupings)	Qualifying Feature	Conservation Objectives	Threats and Pressures
Fenn's, Whixall, Bettisfield, Wem & Cadney Mosses SSSI, Hencott Pool SSSI, Linmer Moss SSSI, Morton Pool and Pasture SSSI, Oak Mere SSSI, Oakhanger Moss SSSI, Oss Mere SSSI, Sweat Mere and Crose Mere SSSI		<p>species of British Red Data Book insect listed for this site including the following endangered species: the moth <i>Glyphipteryx lathamella</i>, the caddisfly <i>Hagenella clathrata</i> and the sawfly <i>Trichiosoma vitellinae</i>.</p> <p>Noteworthy flora:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Narrow Small-reed <i>Calamagrostis stricta</i></li> <li>- Elongated Sedge <i>Carex elongata</i></li> <li>- Cowbane <i>Cicuta virosa</i></li> <li>- Marsh Fern <i>Thelypteris palustris</i></li> <li>- Golden Bog-moss <i>Sphagnum pulchrum</i></li> <li>- Undulate Dicranum Moss <i>Dicranum undulatum</i></li> </ul> <p>Noteworthy Birds:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Northern Shoveler <i>Anas clypeata</i></li> <li>- Great Cormorant <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i></li> <li>- Great Bittern <i>Botaurus stellaris stellaris</i></li> <li>- Water Rail <i>Rallus aquaticus</i></li> </ul> <p>Noteworthy invertebrates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- True fly <i>Limnophila heterogyna</i></li> <li>- True fly <i>Atylotus plebeius</i></li> <li>- Caddisfly <i>Hagenella clathrata</i></li> <li>- Crane fly <i>Limnophila fasciata</i></li> <li>- Spider <i>Carorita limnaea</i></li> <li>- Micro-moth <i>Glyphipteryx lathamella</i></li> <li>- Sawfly <i>Trichiosoma vitellinae</i></li> <li>- Moth <i>Eilema sericea</i></li> <li>- Sawfly <i>Brachythops wuesteneii</i></li> </ul>	<p>species rely</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The populations of qualifying species, and,</li> <li>- The distribution of qualifying species within the site.</li> </ul>	

European Site	Qualifying Feature (Broad Habitat/ Species Groupings)	Qualifying Feature	Conservation Objectives	Threats and Pressures
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Pachinematus xanthocarpus</i></li> <li>- Spider <i>Sittcus floricola</i></li> <li>- Moth <i>Lampronia fuscata</i></li> <li>- Horse fly <i>Hybomitra lurida</i></li> </ul>		
<b>Rostherne Mere Ramsar</b> <i>Site Area 79.76ha</i>	n/a	<p>Ramsar Convention Criteria:</p> <p>Criteria 1 - Rostherne Mere is one of the deepest and largest of the meres of the Shropshire-Cheshire Plain. Its shoreline is fringed with common reed <i>Phragmites australis</i>.</p> <p>Noteworthy Birds:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Great Cormorant <i>Phalacrocorax carbo carbo</i></li> <li>- Great Bittern <i>Botaurus stellaris stellaris</i></li> <li>- Water Rail <i>Rallus aquaticus</i></li> </ul>	<p>Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species</li> <li>- The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats</li> <li>- The structure and function of the habitats of qualifying species</li> <li>- The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats and the habitats of qualifying species rely</li> <li>- The populations of qualifying species, and,</li> <li>- The distribution of qualifying species within the site.</li> </ul>	<p>Identified threats and pressures are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Eutrophication</li> <li>- Introduction of non-native plant species</li> </ul>
<b>Mersey Estuary Ramsar</b> <i>Site Area 5023.35ha</i>	n/a	<p>Ramsar Convention Criteria:</p> <p>Criteria 5 - Assemblages of international importance:</p> <p>Species with peak counts in winter: 89576 waterfowl (5 year peak mean 1998/99-2002/2003)</p> <p>Criteria 6 - species/populations occurring at levels of international importance.</p> <p>Qualifying Species/populations (as identified at</p>	<p>Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species</li> <li>- The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats</li> <li>- The structure and function of the habitats of qualifying species</li> </ul>	<p>Identified threats and pressures are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Changes in species distribution</li> <li>- Invasive species</li> <li>- Public access/ disturbance</li> </ul>



European Site	Qualifying Feature (Broad Habitat/ Species Groupings)	Qualifying Feature	Conservation Objectives	Threats and Pressures
		<p>designation):</p> <p>Species with peak counts in spring/autumn:</p> <p>Common Shelduck - 12676 <i>individuals</i>, representing an average of 4.2% of the population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3).</p> <p>Black-tailed Godwit - 2011 <i>individuals</i>, representing an average of 5.7% of the population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3).</p> <p>Common Redshank - 6651 <i>individuals</i>, representing an average of 2.6% of the population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3).</p> <p>Species with peak counts in winter:</p> <p>Eurasian Teal - 10613 <i>individuals</i>, representing an average of 2.6% of the population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3).</p> <p>Northern Pintail - 565 <i>individuals</i>, representing an average of 2% of the GB population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3).</p> <p>Dunlin - 48364 <i>individuals</i>, representing an average of 3.6% of the population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3).</p> <p>Noteworthy birds:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ringed Plover <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i></li> <li>- Eurasian Curlew <i>Numenius arquata arquata</i></li> <li>- Spotted Redshank <i>Tringa erythropus</i></li> <li>- Common Greenshank <i>Tringa nebularia</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats and the habitats of qualifying species rely</li> <li>- The populations of qualifying species, and,</li> <li>- The distribution of qualifying species within the site.</li> </ul>	

European Site	Qualifying Feature (Broad Habitat/ Species Groupings)	Qualifying Feature	Conservation Objectives	Threats and Pressures
		- Eurasian Wigeon <i>Anas penelope</i>		
<b>Dee Estuary Ramsar</b> Site Area 14302.02ha	n/a	<p>Ramsar Convention Criteria:</p> <p>Criterion 1 - Extensive intertidal mud and sand flats (20 km by 9 km) with large expanses of saltmarsh towards the head of the estuary. Habitats Directive Annex I features present on the SAC include:</p> <p>H1130 Estuaries</p> <p>H1140 Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide</p> <p>H1210 Annual vegetation of drift lines</p> <p>H1230 Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts</p> <p>H1310 Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand</p> <p>H1330 Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i>)</p> <p>H2110 Embryonic shifting dunes</p> <p>H2120 Shifting dunes along the shoreline with ("white dunes") <i>Ammophila arenaria</i></p> <p>H2130 Fixed dunes with herbaceous vegetation ("grey dunes")</p> <p>H2190 Humid dune slacks</p> <p>Criterion 2 - it supports breeding colonies of the vulnerable Natterjack Toad <i>Epidalea calamita</i></p> <p>Criterion 5 - Assemblages of international importance:</p> <p>Species with peak counts in winter:</p> <p>Non-breeding season regularly supports 120,726</p>	<p>Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species</li> <li>- The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats</li> <li>- The structure and function of the habitats of qualifying species</li> <li>- The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats and the habitats of qualifying species rely</li> <li>- The populations of qualifying species, and,</li> <li>- The distribution of qualifying species within the site.</li> </ul>	<p>Identified threats and pressures are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Public access/ disturbance</li> <li>- Changes in species distribution</li> <li>- Invasive species</li> <li>- Climate change</li> <li>- Coastal squeeze</li> <li>- Inappropriate scrub control</li> <li>- Water pollution</li> <li>- Fisheries</li> <li>- Inappropriate coastal management</li> <li>- Overgrazing</li> <li>- Direct impact from 3rd party</li> <li>- Marine litter</li> <li>- Predation</li> <li>- Marine consents and permits</li> <li>- Wildfire/arson</li> <li>- Air pollution</li> <li>- Transportation and service corridors</li> <li>- Physical modification</li> </ul>

European Site	Qualifying Feature (Broad Habitat/Species Groupings)	Qualifying Feature	Conservation Objectives	Threats and Pressures
		<p>individual waterbirds (5 year peak mean 1994/5 - 1998/9).</p> <p>Criterion 6 - species/populations occurring at levels of international importance:</p> <p>Qualifying Species/populations (as identified at designation):</p> <p>Species with peak counts in spring/autumn:</p> <p>Redshank <i>Tringa totanus</i>  <i>8,795 individuals, representing an average of 5.9% of the Eastern Atlantic population (5 year peak mean 1994/95 - 1998/99)</i></p> <p>Species with peak counts in winter:</p> <p>Teal <i>Anas crecca</i> NW Europe <i>5,251 individuals, representing an average of 1.3% of the population (5 year peak mean 1994/95 - 1998/99)</i></p> <p>Shelduck <i>Tadorna tadorna</i> NW Europe <i>7,725 individuals, representing an average of 2.6% of the population (5 year peak mean 1994/95 - 1998/99)</i></p> <p>Oystercatcher <i>Haematopus ostralegus</i> Europe &amp; W Africa <i>22,677 individuals, representing an average of 2.5% of the population (5 year peak mean 1994/95 - 1998/99)</i></p> <p>Curlew <i>Numenius arquata</i> Europe/NW Africa <i>3,899 individuals, representing an average of 1.1% of the Europe population (5 year peak mean 1994/95 - 1998/99)</i></p> <p>Pintail <i>Anas acuta</i> NW Europe <i>5,407 individuals,</i></p>		

European Site	Qualifying Feature (Broad Habitat/ Species Groupings)	Qualifying Feature	Conservation Objectives	Threats and Pressures
		<p>representing an average of 9.0% of the population (5 year peak mean 1994/95 - 1998/99)</p> <p>Grey plover <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i> E Atlantic 1,643 individuals, representing an average of 1.1% of the GB population (5 year peak mean 1994/95 - 1998/99)</p> <p>Dunlin <i>Calidris alpina alpina</i> Europe (breeding) 27,769 individuals, representing an average of 2.0% of the population (5 year peak mean 1994/95 - 1998/99)</p> <p>Black-tailed godwit <i>Limosa limosa islandica</i> Iceland (breeding) 1,747 individuals, representing an average of 2.5% of the population (5 year peak mean 1994/95 - 1998/99)</p> <p>Bar-tailed godwit <i>Limosa lapponica</i> W European (wintering) 1,150 individuals, representing an average of 1.2% of the Europe population (5 year peak mean 1994/95 - 1998/99)</p> <p>Redshank <i>Tringa totanus</i> Eastern Atlantic 5,293 individuals representing an average of 3.5% Eastern Atlantic population (5 year peak mean 1994/95 - 1998/99)</p>		
<b>Mersey Narrows and North Wirral Foreshore Ramsar</b> Site Area 2708.41ha	n/a	<p>Ramsar Convention Criteria:</p> <p>Criterion 4 - the site regularly supports plant and/or animal species at a critical stage in their life cycles, or provides refuge during adverse</p>	<p>Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring;</p> <p>- The extent and distribution of qualifying natural</p>	<p>Identified threats and pressures are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Public access/ disturbance</li> <li>- Changes in species distribution</li> <li>- Invasive species</li> </ul>

European Site	Qualifying Feature (Broad Habitat/Species Groupings)	Qualifying Feature	Conservation Objectives	Threats and Pressures
		<p>conditions: During 2004/05 - 2008/09 the Mersey Narrows and North Wirral Foreshore Ramsar site supported important numbers of non-breeding little gulls and common terns.</p> <p>Criterion 5 - the site regularly supports 20,000 or more waterbirds: During the winters 2004/05 - 2008/09, the Mersey Narrows and North Wirral Foreshore Ramsar site supported an average peak of 32,402 individual waterbirds.</p> <p>Criterion 6 - species /populations occurring at levels of international importance: Qualifying Species/populations (as identified at designation): Species with peak counts in winter:</p> <p>Knot <i>Calidris canutus</i> W Europe/Waddensea /Britain/Ireland (non-breeding) 10,655 individuals representing 2.4% of the population (5 year peak mean (2004/05 – 2008/09)</p> <p>Bar-tailed Godwit <i>Limosa lapponica</i> W Europe/NW Africa (non-breeding) 3,344 individuals representing 2.8% of the population (5 year peak mean (2004/05 – 2008/09)</p> <p>Little Gull <i>Hydrocoloeus minutus</i> (non-breeding) 213 individuals No national population estimate (5 year peak</p>	<p>habitats and habitats of qualifying species</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats</li> <li>- The structure and function of the habitats of qualifying species</li> <li>- The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats and the habitats of qualifying species rely</li> <li>- The populations of qualifying species, and,</li> <li>- The distribution of qualifying species within the site.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Climate change</li> <li>- Coastal squeeze</li> <li>- Inappropriate scrub control</li> <li>- Water pollution</li> <li>- Fisheries</li> <li>- Inappropriate coastal management</li> <li>- Overgrazing</li> <li>- Direct impact from 3rd party</li> <li>- Marine litter</li> <li>- Predation</li> <li>- Marine consents and permits</li> <li>- Wildfire/arson</li> <li>- Air pollution</li> <li>- Transportation and service corridors</li> <li>- Physical modification</li> </ul>

European Site	Qualifying Feature (Broad Habitat/ Species Groupings)	Qualifying Feature	Conservation Objectives	Threats and Pressures
		<i>mean 2004/05 – 2008/09)</i>  Common Tern <i>Sterna hirundo</i> (non-breeding) 1,475 individuals. No national population estimate (5 year peak mean 2004 – 2008)		

## C Other Relevant Plans

Document	Summary of content, objectives and targets (taken from Cheshire East Local Plan Sustainability Appraisal: Scoping Report, 2017)	Potential in-combination effects on European sites
Cheshire and Warrington Matters	This is a ten year strategic economic plan to support growth and economic development. It sets out intervention priorities and investment proposals. In Cheshire East, an outcome is to improve the connectivity between Crewe, the M6 and mid-Cheshire towns for the development of Crewe High Growth City.	This strategy could potentially have adverse in-combination effects if it proposes developments in close proximity to European sites.
Cheshire Sub-Regional Housing Strategy	This document sets out a Sub-Regional Housing Strategy for Cheshire. It describes how the strategy has been developed and is intended to: Provide a framework for the future of housing in Cheshire and identify sub-regional priorities. Show the crucial roles played by partnerships in delivering and improving housing and housing services in the sub-region. Illustrate the links between this strategy and other key national and regional policies and strategies.	This strategy could potentially have adverse in-combination effects if it proposes residential developments in close proximity to European sites. This could result in increased disturbance (i.e. noise, visual) or physical damage (i.e. vandalism, trampling).
Corporate Plan 2016 to 2020 - Cheshire East Council	The Corporate Plan consists of six outcomes that demonstrate how Cheshire East Council will put the residents of Cheshire East first in the way that services are provided. Outcome numbers 1-5 focus on activities directly affecting residents and local businesses. Outcome number 6 focuses on maximising value for money in the way the Council operates.	The outcomes of the Corporate Plan are compatible with those of the Local Plan and are unlikely to result in in-combination effects.
Cheshire East Local Transport Plan and Implementation Plans	This Local Transport Plan is a strategic plan for the development of transport within Cheshire East over the period 2011 to 2026, outlining how transport will contribute to and support the longer-term aspirations of the Borough. The plan for implementation of the Transport Plan is set out in the Cheshire East Local Transport: Implementation Plan	The Local Plan supports schemes outlined within the Transport Plan and is therefore unlikely to result in in-combination effects.
Cheshire East Rights of Way Improvement Plan 2011-2026 and Implementation Plan 2015 - 2019	The Cheshire East Rights of Way Improvement Plan was developed to assess: the extent to which the local rights of way network meets the present and future needs of the public; the opportunities provided by the local rights of way network for exercise and other forms of open-air recreation and the enjoyment of the Local Authority's area; and the accessibility of local rights of way for blind or partially sighted persons and others with mobility problems. The plan also contains a statement of the actions that the authority proposes to take for the management of local rights of way, and for securing an improved network of local rights of way.	The aim of this plan is to maintain and improve the provision of green infrastructure within the county, the connectivity of the network, the provision for cyclists and horse riders and the network's accessibility for all users, including those with a disability. Improvements to, and expansion of, the Rights of Way network, if located in close proximity to European sites, could result in in-combination effects through increased visitor numbers which may result in adverse impacts such as disturbance (i.e. noise, visual) or physical damage (i.e. vandalism, trampling). However, these initiatives are Borough-wide and therefore would also increase accessibility to other areas and routes away from

Document	Summary of content, objectives and targets (taken from Cheshire East Local Plan Sustainability Appraisal: Scoping Report, 2017)	Potential in-combination effects on European sites
		European sites.
Cheshire East Housing Strategy: 2018 to 2023	<p>This Housing Strategy sets out Cheshire East's long term housing vision for the Borough.</p> <p>The housing vision of the document is that housing supports the creation of balanced and sustainable communities, where all residents can achieve independent living in good quality, affordable homes that are appropriate to their needs.</p>	The objectives of the Housing Strategy are compatible with those of the Local Plan and are unlikely to result in in-combination effects.
Local Air Quality Strategy for Cheshire East Council and Action Plan	<p>This strategy outlines high level, broad commitments across the Council aimed at improving air quality.</p> <p>The Action Plan outlines measures to make sure that air quality work undertaken within the Borough is coordinated at a strategic level. The current action plan addresses poor air quality in the following areas: M6 Cranage; West Road, Congleton; A34 to A54, Rood Lane, Congleton; A534 Hospital Street, Nantwich; A34 Lower Heath, Congleton; A5022/A534, Sandbach; and A556 Chester Road, Mere. The Action Plan focuses on these areas and the impact of nitrogen dioxide from transportation sources.</p>	This Strategy and Action Plan aims to improve air quality across the County and identifies specific areas where poor air quality is to be addressed. In general, the Local Plan is compatible with this Strategy and Action Plan as it aims to reduce travel by improving connectivity, public transport and green infrastructure, which should reduce traffic emissions. This strategy may therefore reduce the impact of atmospheric deposition on European sites.
Cheshire East Visitor Economy Strategy 2016-2020	A visitor economy strategy for Cheshire East was first adopted in February 2011 to cover a five year period. This has now been updated for the period 2016-20, providing an approach to maintaining growth. It sets out the Council's aspirations to continue to enhance and grow Cheshire East's visitor economy for the benefit of the current residents, its future residents and its visitors.	<p>The ambition of the Strategy is focussed around maximising growth of the visitor economy whilst ensuring greater prosperity across the widest number of communities and encouraging participation that will lead to greater wellbeing for both residents and visitors. This includes developing a distinctive rural tourism offering.</p> <p>Promotion of the countryside as part of the visitor economy by this strategy and the Local Plan SADPD could therefore result in adverse in-combination effects on nearby European sites as a result of increased visitor pressure. For example, the Tatton/Knutsford/ Jodrell area is identified as a key hub for developing the visitor economy and being located in close proximity to Rostherne Mere Ramsar and Tatton Meres SSSI (part of the Midland Meres and Mosses Phase 1 Ramsar) may suffer from increased visitor pressure.</p> <p>This strategic framework however, does recognise that the protection and enhancement of the County's natural assets, such as the Meres and Mosses is a fundamental requirement in defining the quality of experience that visitors seek.</p>
Cheshire Replacement Minerals Local Plan 1999	This Plan provides planning advice on where mineral development can take place. It covers both Cheshire East and Cheshire West & Chester Boroughs. Together, these Boroughs contain a variety of minerals including	Both the Local Plan Strategy and the Minerals Plan identify the need for Cheshire East to provide an adequate and steady supply of minerals in support of sustainable economic growth.



Document	Summary of content, objectives and targets (taken from Cheshire East Local Plan Sustainability Appraisal: Scoping Report, 2017)	Potential in-combination effects on European sites
	<p>salt, construction sand and silica sand which are important to the regional and national economy.</p> <p>A philosophy of sustainable development underpins the Cheshire Replacement Minerals Local Plan. This philosophy looks at conserving the County's environment and natural resources for the benefit of future generations.</p> <p>The Plan proposes that future working of salt, silica sand and sand and gravel should come from limited areas of the County and that detailed policies will minimise the impact of all mineral working by enabling rigorous monitoring of site operations and ensuring a positive restoration of sites on set timescales for both phasing and completion.</p>	<p>The Local Plan has recognised that, for all mineral extraction, it is essential that workings do not give rise to any unacceptable adverse impacts on the natural environment and therefore detailed policies will be brought forward through the SADPD and The Minerals and Waste Plan, setting out criteria against which all mineral related planning proposals will be assessed, consistent with national policy and guidance.</p>
Cheshire Replacement Waste Local Plan 2007	<p>This Replacement Waste Local Plan attempts to achieve a more sustainable approach to waste management within Cheshire. The Plan aims to fulfil this purpose in two ways:</p> <p>a) by establishing policies against which planning applications for the development of waste management facilities will be assessed.</p> <p>b) by identifying sites which are considered suitable 'in principle' for a waste management use in order to enable the development of an adequate network of waste management facilities.</p>	<p>The Cheshire East LPS states that to achieve the sustainable management of waste in Cheshire East, the Council will prepare a Waste Development Plan Document (DPD) consistent with national waste planning policy. Policy will be set by the Waste DPD to ensure that the environment is protected through the prevention or reduction of the adverse impacts of the generation and management of waste.</p>
Saved Policies from the Congleton Borough Local Plan, Borough of Crewe and Nantwich Local Plan and Macclesfield Local Plan	<p>Saved policies are planning policies from local plans that remain part of the statutory development plan for Cheshire East and can still be used in determining planning applications.</p> <p>Currently, these Local Plans have saved policies that apply within part of the Cheshire East area.</p> <p>Saved policies in these documents will continue to be used until they are replaced by new policies in the Cheshire East Local Plan.</p>	<p>The saved policies of these Local Plans are compatible with those of the Local Plan Strategy and SADPD and are unlikely to result in in-combination effects.</p>
The United Utilities Final Water Resources Management Plan 2015	<p>This plan describes in detail United Utilities' assessment of the available water supplies and the demand for water by their customers over the 2015-2040 period. The plan also sets out their proposed strategy for water resources and demand management to ensure they have adequate water supplies to serve their customers.</p>	<p>United Utilities is the principal water provider for Cheshire East and such provision is covered by the Integrated Resource Zone which serves 6.7 million people in South Cumbria, Lancashire, Greater Manchester, Merseyside and most of Cheshire.</p> <p>Development of new housing and employment land within Cheshire East, as outlined in the LPS and SADPD, could lead to increased demand for water. Increased levels of abstraction could significantly affect the levels of flow in the River Dee and hence result in significant effects on qualifying features.</p> <p>The United Utilities Final Water Resources Management Plan 2015 provides a comprehensive statement of their water supply and water</p>

Document	Summary of content, objectives and targets (taken from Cheshire East Local Plan Sustainability Appraisal: Scoping Report, 2017)	Potential in-combination effects on European sites
		demand forecasts over the period to 2040. It also describes the resulting supply-demand balances and the actions they propose to take as part of their preferred strategy to achieve water supply reliability standards for their customers. The Plan states that the water available for use in the Integrated Resource Zone is expected to reduce by about 22 Ml/d between 2015/16 and 2019/20. However, no supply deficit is forecast for the Integrated Resource Zone, a surplus of over 90 Ml/d is maintained throughout the planning period.
The Weaver and Dane Catchment Abstraction Management Strategy (CAMS)	This Strategy sets out how water resources are managed by the Environment Agency in the Weaver and Dane area. It provides information about where water is available for further abstraction and an indication of how reliable a new abstraction licence may be.	Development of new housing and employment land within Cheshire East, as outlined in the Local Plan SADPD, could lead to increased demand for water abstractions. However, as stated in the CAM, the Environment Agency has assessed the effects of existing abstraction licences and will assess all new applications to make sure they are not impacting on internationally important nature conservation sites.
The Dee Catchment Abstraction Management Strategy (CAMS)	This Strategy sets out how water resources are managed by the Environment Agency in the Dee catchment. It provides information about how much and where water is available for further abstraction.	Development of new housing and employment land within Cheshire East, as outlined in the Local Plan SADPD, could lead to increased demand for water abstractions.  The River Dee is an important resource for public water supply and used to supply the homes of more than two million people. Because of the over-riding need to protect this supply, more water is not available for abstraction from the River Dee (or its tributaries) upstream of Chester Weir, when the river is being regulated. Some additional water may be available during wetter periods, but abstractors would be required to stop taking water as soon as the river flow dropped again. The Environment Agency may also have to place special conditions on any new licences granted to safeguard the wildlife and conservation interest of the River Dee.
Draft Greater Manchester Spatial Framework	A joint plan to manage the supply of land for jobs and new homes across Greater Manchester up to 2035, along with identifying new infrastructure. The key themes are: Garden City Suburbs; Greener Growth; Opportunity for all; homes you can afford and local benefits.	Site allocations for this strategy are located around Greater Manchester. The allocations for the Stockport area are within the vicinity of the site allocations at the Poynton Settlement. This allocation is, however, more than 10km from the nearest European Site, as are the other allocations to the East of Manchester Airport. No in-combination effects are therefore anticipated.
Local Plans and Core Strategies of adjacent	These documents contain the development plan for the relevant adjacent area. They will specify a vision, objectives and policies for each area.	There is the potential for adverse in-combination effects, particularly in boundary areas. If projects (i.e. developments, infrastructure

Document	Summary of content, objectives and targets (taken from Cheshire East Local Plan Sustainability Appraisal: Scoping Report, 2017)	Potential in-combination effects on European sites
Authorities (Cheshire West and Chester; Peak District National Park, High Peak; Manchester; Newcastle-under-Lyme; Stockport; Shropshire; Staffordshire Moorlands; Stoke-on-Trent; Trafford; and Warrington Council's)		construction) proposed in the Local Plan Strategy are located in relatively to close proximity to those proposed by the Local Plans and Core Strategies of neighbouring authorities, adverse effects may arise if there are cross-boundary or nearby European sites.

## D Other Relevant Projects

Project Name	Summary of project	Potential in-combination effects on European Sites
Sydney Road Bridge Improvement Crewe	An increase in the capacity of a road bridge in Crewe which crosses West Coast Mainline railway line.	This project is more than 5km from the closest European Site. No impact pathways have been identified which could impact upon this European site.
Crewe Green Roundabout	Works to increase the functionality of Crewe Green Roundabout	This project is more than 5km from the closest European site. No impact pathways have been identified which could impact upon this European Site.
Congleton Link Road	A new 5.5km ring-road is proposed for Congleton.	This proposed road is within 3km of Midland Meres and Mosses Ramsar (Bagmere SSSI). No aspect of the Cheshire East SADPD will impact upon this constituent site of the Ramsar.
HS2	A new high-speed railway line connecting London, Birmingham, the East Midlands, Leeds and Manchester. HS2b will pass through Cheshire East, from Crewe to Manchester	The proposed new railway route will pass within the vicinity of European sites including Midland and Mosses Phase 1 Ramsar (The Mere, Mere SSSI), Rostherne Mere Ramsar and Manchester Mosses SAC. The sustainability report (Temple ERM, 2013), makes reference to the HRA screening exercise, which is not publicly accessible at present. The HRA screening rules out likely significant effects of the scheme on the three European Sites.
A500 Dualling	Upgrade the section of the A500 between Meremoor Moss roundabout and M6 junction 16 to dual carriageway standard.	This proposed project is located within 2km of Midland Meres and Mosses Phase 2 Ramsar constituent sites Oakhanger Moss SSSI and Black Firs & Cranberry Bog SSSI. No aspect of the Cheshire East SADPD will impact upon these constituent sites of the Ramsar. No in-combination effect are therefore anticipated.

OFFICIAL

## References

- Cheshire East Council (2017<sup>a</sup>). *Local Plan Strategy 2010-2030*. [Online] Available at: [http://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/planning/spatial\\_planning/cheshire\\_east\\_local\\_plan/local-plan-strategy/local\\_plan\\_strategy.aspx](http://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/planning/spatial_planning/cheshire_east_local_plan/local-plan-strategy/local_plan_strategy.aspx). [Accessed: 13.12.17].
- Cheshire East Council (2017<sup>b</sup>). *Cheshire East Local Plan Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report June 2017*. [Online] Available at: [http://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/planning/spatial\\_planning/cheshire\\_east\\_local\\_plan/local\\_plan\\_consultations/sustainability\\_appraisal.aspx](http://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/planning/spatial_planning/cheshire_east_local_plan/local_plan_consultations/sustainability_appraisal.aspx). [Accessed: 13/12/17]
- Cheshire East Council (2017<sup>c</sup>). Major Projects (Roadworks). [Online] Available at: [http://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/highways\\_and\\_roads/roadworks/major-projects/major-projects.aspx](http://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/highways_and_roads/roadworks/major-projects/major-projects.aspx). [Accessed: 13.12.17].
- Cheshire East Council (2018<sup>a</sup>). Cheshire East Local Plan Interim Sustainability Appraisal: SADPD 2018.
- Cheshire East Council (2018<sup>b</sup>). Cheshire East Local Plan Site Allocations and Development Policies Document. Local Service Centres Spatial Distribution Disaggregation Report [FD 05].
- Department for Communities and Local Government (August 2006) *Planning for the Protection of European Sites: Appropriate Assessment, Guidance for Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Documents, Consultation Document*, DCLG Publications
- DTA Publications (2018). The Habitats Regulations Handbook. [Online] Available at: <https://www.dtapublications.co.uk/handbook/browse>. [Accessed: 03.07.18].
- Environment Agency (2013) *Habitats and Species Protected under the Habitats Regulations. Document number: 1399\_12*. Environment Agency, Bristol, UK.
- Environment Agency (2007) *EU Habitats and Birds Directives, Handbook for Agency permissions and activities*, Environment Agency, Bristol, UK.
- Great Britain Department for Transport, Highways Agency (2007) *Design Manual for Roads and Bridges (DMRB) Volume 11*, HMSO.
- Gov.UK (2017). HS2 Phase 2b: Crewe to Manchester, and the West Midlands to Leeds [Online] Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/hs2-phase-2b-crewe-to-manchester-and-the-west-midlands-to-leeds>. [Accessed: 13.12.17]
- NRW (2008). Core Management Plan River Dee and Bala Lake SAC [Online]. Available at: [https://www.naturalresources.wales/media/673374/River\\_Deer\\_Bala\\_Lake\\_32\\_Plan.pdf](https://www.naturalresources.wales/media/673374/River_Deer_Bala_Lake_32_Plan.pdf). [Accessed: 22.07.18].
- SMTT (2017). Emissions Facts and Figures. [Online] Available at: <https://www.smmmt.co.uk/industry-topics/emissions/facts-and-figures/>. [Accessed: 13.12.17].
- Temple-ERM (2013). High Speed Rail: Consultation on the route from the West Midlands to Manchester, Leeds and beyond. Sustainability Statement Appendix E4 - Biodiversity. [Online] Available at: [https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/400842/p2c12d\\_appendix\\_e4\\_biodiversity\\_050713.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/400842/p2c12d_appendix_e4_biodiversity_050713.pdf). [Accessed: 14.12.17].
- Therivel, R. (2009) Appropriate assessment of plans in England. *Environmental Impact Assessment Review*, 29(4), 261-272
- The Planning Inspectorate (2018). *PINS Note 05 / 2018 Consideration of avoidance and reduction measures in Habitats Regulations Assessment: People over Wind, Peter Sweetman v Coillte Teoranta*. [Online] Available at: <https://pinslibrary.org.uk/vufind/Record/22547> [Accessed: 01.06.18].
- United Utilities (2015). *Final Water Resources Management Plan March 2015*. [Online] Available at: [https://www.unitedutilities.com/globalassets/z\\_corporate-site/about-us-pdfs/water-resources/wrmpmainreport\\_acc17.pdf](https://www.unitedutilities.com/globalassets/z_corporate-site/about-us-pdfs/water-resources/wrmpmainreport_acc17.pdf). [Accessed: 13.12.17].

OFFICIAL

**Offices at**

Coleshill  
Doncaster  
Dublin  
Edinburgh  
Exeter  
Glasgow  
Haywards Heath  
Isle of Man  
Limerick  
Newcastle upon Tyne  
Newport  
Peterborough  
Saltaire  
Skipton  
Tadcaster  
Thirsk  
Wallingford  
Warrington

**Registered Office**

South Barn  
Broughton Hall  
SKIPTON  
North Yorkshire  
BD23 3AE  
United Kingdom

t:+44(0)1756 799919  
e:info@jbaconsulting.com

**Jeremy Benn Associates Ltd**  
Registered in England  
3246693



JBA Group Ltd is certified to:  
ISO 9001:2015  
ISO 14001:2015  
OHSAS 18001:2007

Visit our website  
[www.jbaconsulting.com](http://www.jbaconsulting.com)