

Habitats Regulations Assessment of the Trafford Local Plan: Strategy, Vision and Objectives and Thematic policies

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For

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Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) of the Impact of Trafford Local Plan on the National Sites Network (European Sites)

1. Introduction

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1.1 Stage 1 – Screening

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

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

Case law has established in relation to screening that:

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

1.2 Stage 2 – Appropriate Assessment

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

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

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

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

Current Government guidance says:

"The scope and content of an appropriate assessment will depend on the nature, location, duration and scale of the proposed plan or project and the interest features of the relevant site. 'Appropriate' is not a technical term. It indicates that an assessment needs to be proportionate and sufficient to support the task of the competent authority in determining whether the plan or project will adversely affect the integrity of the site."

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

A precautionary approach should always be taken.

1.3 In Combination Assessment

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

1.4 Scope of the Assessment

This report examines the Trafford Local Plan 2025 and:

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

2 Brief Description of the Plan

The Plan being assessed is the first part of the Trafford Local Plan: Strategy, Vision and Objectives and Thematic policies, produced by Trafford Council in March 2025 (Part One). The Plan is currently at a draft stage and will be subject to public consultation and likely amendment. The HRA will therefore also be likely to be amended to reflect changes in the Plan.

It covers the period 2025 - 2042, although its contents may also be relevant after that date.

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

- Greater Manchester Joint Minerals DPD (2013)
- Greater Manchester Joint Waste DPD (2012)
- Places for Everyone Joint Strategic Development Plan for Greater Manchester (2023)
- Civic Quarter Area Action Plan (2023); and
- Any adopted Neighbourhood Plans

Part One of the Plan does not allocate any sites for development. The Local Plan cannot override sites which have already been allocated for development in higher tier Plans such as the Places for Everyone Strategic Plan for Greater Manchester. Rather, the Local Plan includes policies to manage future development in the Borough.

Trafford is located in the southwest of the Greater Manchester City Region within Northwest England, with a population of around. 237,00.

The Vision for the Plan states:

Trafford's Local Plan will ensure that by 2042 all our residents, businesses and communities are thriving, by addressing the climate crisis locally, with ambitious net zero carbon targets for new development by 2028 delivering resilient and well-adapted sustainable communities that are attractive and well-designed; and achieving carbon neutrality across the borough by 2038.

Trafford's biodiversity will be enhanced and its natural assets protected for future generations, ensuring that green and blue spaces offer social and active opportunities for all.

Trafford will have a sustainable transport network with car free travel being the priority for how people get around. Reducing the need to travel overall as locally accessible services, job and facilities are in the right locations.

Trafford will have met its housing requirement; it will have addressed its acute need for affordable housing to ensure that people have the types of homes that they both want and need.

Trafford's town centres and neighbourhoods will be successful and distinct and our communities will feel proud of them. Trafford will continue to be a destination for investment, competitive international businesses will be retained and new ones will be attracted to move in. There will be new opportunities for sustainable businesses that create a range of jobs. Trafford local workforce will be skilled and it will support the high performing local economy.

High quality design and place-making will be a part of all developments. Places promote people's well bring and health lives by reducing physical and mental health inequalities. Trafford will have maximised its existing assets by recognising the role that its historic and built environment play in our lives. Trafford's international sporting and cultural attractions will continue to be successful popular visitor destinations.

Trafford will have indoor and outdoor successful education, recreation and leisure facilities that sit alongside its social infrastructure and provide young people with the opportunities they need to grow and prosper.

3.0 Identification of European designated sites concerned

This Assessment has first screened all Natura 2000 network sites in the North West of England and where appropriate Wales, to generate a long list and decide which of these sites are likely to be affected by future development in Trafford. When assessing the impact of a Plan on European protected sites it is important to consider the impact on sites not only within the administrative area covered by the Plan but also those which fall outside the Plan boundary, as these could still potentially be affected by the Plan.

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

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

There are no European designated sites within the administrative boundary of Trafford Council. The nearest site is the Rixton Clay Pits SAC, which at its closest point is some 830m from the Trafford.

The Screening Criteria

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

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

- Water pollution and impacts on hydrology (habitat damage and species loss)
- Air pollution including transport of dust, pollutants and odour (habitat damage)
- Direct land-take and change of use (habitat loss)
- Noise (Species Disturbance)
- Light Spillage and shading (species and habitat disturbance).
- Increased recreational pressure (species and habitat disturbance).
- Risk of invasive non-native species introduction (habitat and species impacts).
- Increased shipping (potential impacts on Mersey Estuary SPA).

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

Outside of these buffer zones, significant effects on European sites arising from water and air pollution are considered unlikely to arise. The largest (most cautious) buffer zone considered is 15km; that is, most operations with the potential of causing direct water and/or air pollution impacts located further than 15km from the boundary of a European site are considered very unlikely to have a significant effect on the special interest of that site.

Natural England also publish SSSI 'Impact Risk Zones' (IRZs) providing guidance on the types of development which should be considered for their possible impacts on SSSIs, and which impacts should be considered. All European designated sites are also designated as SSSIs. IRZs have also been taken into account when screening European sites that could be affected by the Plan. Whilst IRZs

are tools to aid the consideration of *single* applications and their likely risks of impacts and consequently the need to consult Natural England, they act as useful guides in considering screening as part of plan assessments. However, it is not used exclusively in this HRA as the current process considers the policy framework rather than individual allocations or applications for development.

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

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

Summary Results of Screening of Sites

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

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

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

- Manchester Mosses SAC
- Mersey Estuary SPA
- Rixton Clay Pits SAC
- Rochdale Canal SAC

Other European sites were considered too distant, not hydrologically connected or unlikely to be a destination site for visitors from Trafford.

4 The Nature Conservation Interest of the Screened In European Sites

4.1 Manchester Mosses SAC

Extensive mosslands dominated by highly characteristic, but fragile, *Sphagnum* communities formerly extended between the towns of Leigh and Warrington and across the River Mersey floodplain. Although the vast majority has since been lost to agriculture and development, isolated examples remain, three of which have been notified as separate SSSI: Astley and Bedford Mosses (1989), Risley Moss (1986) and Holcroft Moss (1991). However, prior to notification, these and other surviving fragments were subject to inappropriate management, such as burning, drainage and peat cutting. Reflecting historical land ownership, Holcroft Moss is almost unique in that peat cutting has not been known to have ever taken place, allowing the original peat surface to persist, though today it remains far from natural. All sites, however, have been significantly and negatively influenced by nearby development and intensive agricultural practices on surrounding land. All, bar Risley Moss, still occupy relatively rural locations, surrounded by pasture and arable farmland, with the following notable infrastructure features:

- the M62 lies immediately adjacent to and forms the northern boundary of Holcroft Moss, which has been impacted by construction in the late 1960s and ongoing drainage.
- the alignment of the dismantled Wigan to Glazebrook railway line, constructed in the 1880s and abandoned in 1968 forms the western boundary of Holcroft Moss.
- the Manchester to Liverpool Railway defines the southern border of Astley and Bedford Mosses, which have been impacted by construction in the 1820s and by ongoing drainage; and
- Warrington New Town, which was constructed in the 1970s, now lies on the edge of Risley Moss, which once formed part of a Royal Ordnance factory during WWII, during which the moss was used, in part, for the disposal of munitions

Consequently, these three examples remain as heavily modified, isolated fragments, their characteristic peat-forming flora largely replaced with purple moor-grass (*Molinia caerulea*) grasslands, birch (*Betula* spp) woodland and bracken, the peat bodies elevated above the surrounding landscape as land levels have sunk as a consequence of farming practices.

Over the last 40 years, restoration management on increasing areas of land across all three SSSIs, carried out by Natural England, Warrington Borough Council, and both Lancashire and Cheshire Wildlife Trusts, has provided suitable physical conditions at the surface to allow the expansion of peat-forming vegetation. However, this fragile and easily disturbed habitat remains vulnerable to external influences. As a consequence of these competing factors, the degraded, raised bog features of all three SSSIs are considered to be in favourable, or unfavourable recovering, condition (November 2018, Holcroft Moss; February 2020, Astley and Bedford Mosses; October 2020, Risley Moss).

Reflecting these circumstances, the three SSSI, together extending over 170ha, were designated as the Manchester Mosses SAC in 2005 as examples of the Annex I habitat, 'degraded raised bogs capable of natural regeneration'. Although this designation as a 'degraded bog' assumed no active peat formation, it did recognise that it was capable of natural restoration where the hydrology can be repaired and where, with appropriate rehabilitation management there is a reasonable expectation of re-establishing vegetation with peat-forming capability within 30 years.

The conservation objectives for the Manchester Mosses SAC, state:

'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.'

Raised bogs are dependent on the maintenance of, but vulnerable to adverse changes in, a favourable hydrological regime, both within and beyond the designated site boundaries. Classic raised bogs are ombrotrophic (i.e. reliant on rainfall for water and nutrients) and separated hydrologically from groundwater influences. The fragile habitat is highly susceptible to nitrogen deposition from the emissions of vehicles and the peat-forming communities are vulnerable to direct physical disturbance and pollution.

4.2 Mersey Estuary SPA/Ramsar

The Mersey Estuary is located on the Irish Sea coast of north-west England. It is a large, sheltered estuary which comprises large areas of saltmarsh and extensive intertidal sand- and mud-flats, with limited areas of brackish marsh, rocky shoreline and boulder clay cliffs, within a rural and industrial environment. The intertidal flats and saltmarshes provide feeding and roosting sites for large populations of waterbirds. During the winter, the site is of major importance for ducks and waders. The site is also important during the spring and autumn migration periods, particularly for wader populations moving along the west coast of Britain.

Primary Reason for Designation of Mersey Estuary SPA/Ramsar

Qualifying species

This site qualifies under **Article 4.1** of the Habitats Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following species listed on Annex I of the Directive:

Over winter:

Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria*, 3,070 individuals representing at least 1.2% of the wintering population in Great Britain (5 year peak mean 1991/2 - 1995/6)

This site also qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following migratory species:

On passage:

Redshank *Tringa totanus*, 3,516 individuals representing at least 2.0% of the Eastern Atlantic - wintering population (5 year peak mean, 1987-1991)

Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*, 1,453 individuals representing at least 2.9% of the Europe/Northern Africa - wintering population (Count, as at 1989)

Over winter:

Dunlin *Calidris alpina alpina*, 44,300 individuals representing at least 3.2% of the wintering Northern Siberia/Europe/Western Africa population (5 year peak mean 1991/2 - 1995/6)

Pintail *Anas acuta*, 2,744 individuals representing at least 4.6% of the wintering Northwestern Europe population (5 year peak mean 1991/2 - 1995/6)

Redshank *Tringa totanus*, 4,689 individuals representing at least 3.1% of the wintering Eastern Atlantic - wintering population (5 year peak mean 1991/2 - 1995/6)

Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*, 5,039 individuals representing at least 1.7% of the wintering Northwestern Europe population (5 year peak mean 1991/2 - 1995/6)

Teal *Anas crecca*, 11,667 individuals representing at least 2.9% of the wintering Northwestern Europe population (5 year peak mean 1991/2 - 1995/6)

Assemblage qualification: A wetland of international importance.

The area qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by regularly supporting at least 20,000 waterfowl.

Over winter, the area regularly supports 99,467 individual waterfowl (5 year peak mean 1991/2 - 1995/6) including: Curlew *Numenius arquata*, Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa islandica*, Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*, Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*, Wigeon *Anas penelope*, Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus*, Redshank *Tringa totanus*, Dunlin *Calidris alpina alpina*, Pintail *Anas acuta*, Teal *Anas crecca*, Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*, Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria*.

Conservation Objectives for Mersey Estuary SPA/Ramsar

To 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:

- The extent and distribution of the habitats of the qualifying features
- The structure and function of the habitats of the qualifying features
- The supporting processes on which the habitats of the qualifying features rely
- The population of each of the qualifying features, *and*
- The distribution of the qualifying features within the site.

4.3 Rixton Clay Pits SAC

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

Primary Reason for Designation of Rixton Clay Pits

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

Conservation Objective for Rixton Clay Pits

The conservation objectives (Natural England 2018) for this site 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 the habitats of qualifying species
- The structure and function of the habitats of qualifying species
- The supporting processes on which the habitats of qualifying species rely
- The populations of qualifying species, and,
- The distribution of qualifying species within the site.

Additionally, Natural England also states that the site is sensitive to air quality.

4.4 Rochdale Canal SAC

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

Primary Reason for Designation of Rochdale Canal

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

Floating water-plantain; description and ecological characteristics

Luronium natans is a species of aquatic plant commonly known as floating water plantain. It is native to western and central Europe, from Spain to the UK to Norway, and east as far as Ukraine. *Luronium natans* occurs as two forms: in shallow water with floating oval leaves, and in deep water with submerged rosettes of narrow leaves. The plant thrives best in open situations with a moderate degree of disturbance, where the growth of other aquatic and emergent vegetation is held in check. Populations fluctuate greatly in size, often increasing when water levels drop to expose the bottom of the water body; this could be because falls in water levels affect competing species more than the *Luronium natans*.

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

- Application of pesticides
- Dredging
- Drainage, both within and outside the boundaries of the site
- Construction or removal of roads, tracks, walls, fences, hardstands, banks, ditches or other earthworks or the laying or removal of pipelines and cables
- Erection of permanent structures next to the Canal (shading)
- Diffuse air pollution
- Diffuse water pollution Increased boat movements (recreation)
- Climate change

5 Screening Opinion

5.1 The Screening Criteria

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

The essential question to ask is –

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The timescales over which effects (both stand-alone and in-combination) have been considered are the lifetime of the Plan and the lifetime of any proposals (including operational and restoration timescales) that may come forward during the Plan.

Table 5.1 Initial Screening Summary of impacts of Trafford Local Plan on the National Sites Network.

Policies 'Screened In' to this Assessment are identified in red text.

POLICY	POLICY DESCRIPTION	POSSIBLE IMPACTS ON EUROPEAN SITE	SCREENING OUTCOME
The Strategy for Trafford			
ST1	Core Growth Area (Trafford) Defines the Core Growth Area and type of developments supported	No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this Policy General Statement Policy	Screened Out
ST2	Inner Areas (Trafford) Defines the Inner Areas of Trafford and type of developments supported within them	No likely Significant Effects on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this policy. General Statement Policy	Screened Out
ST3	Southern Areas (Trafford) Defines the Inner Areas of Trafford and type of developments supported within them	No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated. General Statement Policy	Screened Out
ST4	Sustainable Development Promoting sustainable development in Trafford	No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated. Negative impacts on a European designated site would not be regarded as sustainable development	Screened Out
ST5	Climate Change Developments contributing to Council's net zero ambition will be supported Development should demonstrate how Climate Change has been considered	Potential positive effect on air quality through reduced use of fossil fuels	Screened Out
Renewable Technologies & Methods			
RT1 RT1NRT1S RT1C RT1W	Carbon and Energy New development must support Trafford Council's commitment for the borough to be carbon neutral by 2038 and reduce carbon emissions	Potential positive effect on air quality through reduced use of fossil fuels	Screened Out

POLICY	POLICY DESCRIPTION	POSSIBLE IMPACTS ON EUROPEAN SITE	SCREENING OUTCOME
RT2 RT2N RT2S RT2C RT2W	Decentralised Energy Generation All major developments within Heat and Energy Network Opportunity Areas must assess the feasibility of connecting to an existing decentralised energy network.	Potential positive effect on air quality through reduced use of fossil fuels. Policy JP-S3 of PfE was screened out in HRA	Screened Out
RT3	Overheating and the Urban Heat Island <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All new developments must be designed to minimise overheating risks and reduce reliance on active cooling systems. Lays out circumstances where active cooling will be permitted Proposals for retrofitting existing buildings should incorporate effective cooling methods Developments should include green roofs, vertical gardens, and strategic tree planting to provide cooling 	No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this Policy. General policy for testing acceptability of proposals .	Screened Out
RT4	Sustainable Retrofitting Council will support the retrofitting of existing buildings, which achieve energy efficiency improvements, and does not harm special historic or architectural character of buildings Significant demolition and reconstruction must be fully justified and in unavoidable situations must divert at least 85% of waste from landfill	No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this Policy. General policy for testing acceptability of proposals	Screened Out
RT5	Circular Economy All developments should use resources efficiently, follow circular economy principles and aim to achieve net zero waste	No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this Policy. General policy for testing acceptability of proposals	Screened Out
Residential Development			
R1	Housing Delivery <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Council will ensure that a suitable range of sites are allocated and made available across Trafford, to meet the borough's housing requirement. Criteria outlined for scale and phasing of new housing development. The targets for new additional dwellings extend beyond the timeframe of PfE to 2042 	While the housing targets covered by PfE have been considered through the HRA for this plan, the targets beyond the lifetime of PfE need to be considered.	Screened In

POLICY	POLICY DESCRIPTION	POSSIBLE IMPACTS ON EUROPEAN SITE	SCREENING OUTCOME
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Criteria for distribution of new housing 	These additional dwellings may have a potential significant effect from negative impacts on air quality and recreational pressures	
R2	Protecting Existing Homes Proposals which result in the net loss of housing will not be supported.	No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this Policy.	Screened Out
R3 R3N R3S R3C R3W	Affordable and Social Housing Sets out level and type of affording housing required from major developments	No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this Policy. General policy for testing acceptability of proposals.	Screened Out
R4 R4N	Size and Type of New Homes All new residential development proposals must deliver a range and mix of dwelling sizes and types in accordance with the relevant Locality policy.	No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this Policy. General policy for testing acceptability of proposals.	Screened Out
R5	Housing Density Defines Designated Town Centres and Other Designated Centres in relation to PfE Policy JP-H4	No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this Policy. General statement of policy	Screened Out
R6	Older Persons Accommodation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To meet the needs arising from Trafford's ageing population, the Council will require developers to demonstrate how their proposal will be capable of meeting, and adapting to, the long term needs of older people. Sets out proportion of the overall new dwelling targets that will meet the needs of older people. 	No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this Policy. General policy for testing acceptability of proposals.	Screened Out
R7	Adaptable and Accessible Housing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All new dwellings must be built to the 'accessible and adaptable' standard. Proposals of 50 or more homes will be required to provide at least 4% of new homes to be built to Part M4(3) wheelchair accessible and adaptable standard. 	No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this Policy. General policy for testing acceptability of proposals	Screened Out

POLICY	POLICY DESCRIPTION	POSSIBLE IMPACTS ON EUROPEAN SITE	SCREENING OUTCOME
R8	Homes for Children and Care Experienced Young People <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Residential development for looked after children and care leavers will be supported. Sets out criteria for location and concentration 	<p>No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this Policy.</p> <p>General policy for testing acceptability of proposals</p>	Screened Out
R9	Other Types of Homes Sets out criteria for Co-living developments and Student accommodation	<p>No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this Policy.</p> <p>General policy for testing acceptability of proposals</p>	Screened Out
R10	Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople Accommodation Sets out the criteria for such sites	<p>No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this Policy.</p> <p>General policy for testing acceptability of proposals</p>	Screened Out
R11	Self-Build and Custom Housing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sets out level of custom build plots required for sites of more than 100 houses and PfE allocations. Sets out criteria to locality of plots, marketing of plots and affordable plots 	<p>No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this Policy.</p> <p>General policy for testing acceptability of proposals</p>	Screened Out
Economy & Jobs			
EJ1	Employment Land Requirements <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Council will seek to ensure that a suitable range of sites are made available to help maintain the economic success of Trafford whilst providing new opportunities for growth and modernisation. Sets out criteria for release of new land and protection of existing sites together with requirements for efficient use of land. States scale of employment land required in Trafford to meet contribute to PfE requirements 	<p>No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this Policy.</p> <p>Scale of employment land required considered through HRA of PfE.</p> <p>General policy for testing acceptability of proposals</p>	Screened Out

POLICY	POLICY DESCRIPTION	POSSIBLE IMPACTS ON EUROPEAN SITE	SCREENING OUTCOME
EJ2	Trafford Park <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Council will protect the primary employment function of Trafford Park for modern industrial, storage and distribution facilities and ancillary office development, while supporting the modernisation of existing uses. • Within the Trafford Park boundary the Council will permit sustainable development for business, industry, storage and distribution while resisting loss of employment space • Developer contribution will be secured to provide improvements to public transport and non-motorised transport • Sets out criteria for development in Trafford Park Village Neighbourhood Centre • Developments should support improvements to public realm and appearance of Parkway Circle area 	<p>No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this Policy.</p> <p>Negative impacts on a European designated site would not be regarded as sustainable development.</p> <p>General policy for testing acceptability of proposals</p>	Screened Out
EJ2	Low Carbon, Green Trafford Park <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Council will support proposals for green, low carbon industry at Trafford Park • Opportunities for a Trafford Park Heat Network should be considered as part of development proposals within Trafford Park • The Council will support the provision of urban greening and Sustainable Drainage Systems 	<p>Potential positive effect on air quality through reduced use of fossil fuels but dependent on how heat is generated.</p>	Screened In
EJ3	Industry and Warehousing Identifies key employment areas where general industry, research and development and industrial processes and storage or distribution and similar employment uses will be supported	<p>No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this Policy</p> <p>General statement of policy</p>	Screened Out
EJ3N, EJ3S, EJ3C	Other Industry and Warehousing Identifies others small sites where industry and warehousing will be supported	<p>No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this Policy.</p> <p>Sites are all existing employment or industrial sites</p> <p>General statement of policy</p>	Screened Out

POLICY	POLICY DESCRIPTION	POSSIBLE IMPACTS ON EUROPEAN SITE	SCREENING OUTCOME
EJ4	Offices <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identifies key employment areas where sustainable development of offices will be supported • Identifies accessibility criteria for office development outside key employment areas • Encourages mixed use development • New office developments should be flexible and adaptable to market conditions • Office buildings should provide pedestrian-friendly designs, with direct access to public transport hub and should be integrated to support active travel. 	<p>No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this Policy.</p> <p>Potential positive impacts on air quality by reducing need to travel by car.</p> <p>General statement of policy and policy for testing acceptability of proposals</p>	Screened Out
EJ4N EJ4S, EJ4C	Other Offices within Trafford Identifies other smaller areas where office developments will be supported	<p>No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this Policy.</p> <p>General statement of policy</p>	Screened Out
EJ5	Safeguarding Trafford's Employment Land <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Council will protect, maintain and enhance the Key and Other employment areas • Non-employment development will be resisted within these areas unless the stated criteria apply 	<p>No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this Policy.</p> <p>General statement of policy and policy for testing acceptability of proposals</p>	Screened Out
EJ6	Data and Energy Storage Sets out criteria for new data or energy storage facilities	<p>No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this Policy.</p> <p>General policy for testing acceptability of proposals</p>	Screened Out
EJ7	Rural Economy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Council will support appropriate rural development to ensure the long-term economic viability of Trafford's agriculture and the vitality of its rural communities. • The Council will support enhancing the rural economy through tourism and visitor opportunities. • Sets out criteria for the support of farm buildings and farm diversification • Access to public transport in rural areas should be improved 	<p>No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this Policy.</p> <p>General statement of policy and policy for testing acceptability of proposals</p>	Screened Out

POLICY	POLICY DESCRIPTION	POSSIBLE IMPACTS ON EUROPEAN SITE	SCREENING OUTCOME
Transport Movement & Connectivity			
TM1	Walking, Wheeling and Cycling <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Council will support proposals which help deliver a modal shift away from the private car, through improvements to infrastructure which encourages greater walking, wheeling and cycling. • A priority will be to improve safe pedestrian crossings at key junctions • Sets out the criteria for major developments for Walking, Wheeling and Cycling 	<p>No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this Policy.</p> <p>Potential positive impacts on air quality by reducing need to travel by car</p> <p>General statement of policy and policy for testing acceptability of proposals</p>	Screened Out
TM1N, TM1S TM1C TM12	Walking, Wheeling and Cycling Sets out locations where new routes and interventions will be supported.	<p>No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this Policy.</p> <p>Potential positive impacts on air quality by reducing need to travel by car</p> <p>General statement of policy</p>	Screened Out
TM2	Public Transport <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Council will work with TfGM and partners to deliver a high-quality public transport network across the borough • All major development proposals will be expected to provide or contribute towards improvements to public transport services • The Council will promote the improvement of the bus network, Metrolink & rail network • The Council will encourage and support proposals which improve the quality, capacity and extent of the Metrolink network within Trafford. 	<p>No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this Policy.</p> <p>Potential positive impacts on air quality by reducing need to travel by car</p> <p>General statement of policy</p>	Screened Out
TM3	Car Clubs The Council will continue to work with TfGM and partners to expand the network of car club vehicle provision across the borough.	<p>No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this Policy</p> <p>Potential positive impacts on air quality</p> <p>General statement of policy</p>	Screened Out

POLICY	POLICY DESCRIPTION	POSSIBLE IMPACTS ON EUROPEAN SITE	SCREENING OUTCOME
TM4	Mobility Hubs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Council will support and work with TfGM and partners to establish a network of Mobility Hubs within suitable locations across the borough. • Sets out the criteria for priority locations of any hubs 	<p>No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this Policy</p> <p>Potential positive impacts on air quality</p> <p>General statement of policy and policy for testing acceptability of proposals</p>	Screened Out
TM5	Local Highway Network <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Council will support the maintenance and improvement of the highway network to ensure it operates in a safe, efficient and environmentally sustainable manner. • Identities strategic highway routes to be safeguarded • Sets out the criteria where new development proposal will require a Transport Assessment • Proposals which help overcome barriers to the Local Highway Network for non-vehicular users will be supported. 	<p>No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this Policy</p> <p>General statement of policy and policy for testing acceptability of proposals</p>	Screened Out
TM6	The A56 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Council will support proposals which help deliver a modal shift away from the private car on the A56 corridor, to allow it to sustainably accommodate additional demands from planned growth as well as improving east-west connections across the corridor. • Sets out the criteria whereby new developments that promote and/or improve active travel and public transport options along and across the A56 will be supported 	<p>No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this Policy</p> <p>General statement of policy and policy for testing acceptability of proposals</p>	Screened Out
TM6N, TM6C, TM6S	The A56 Identifies local interventions that will be supported in the A56 corridor	<p>No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this Policy</p> <p>Potential positive impacts on air quality</p> <p>General statement of policy and policy for testing acceptability of proposals</p>	Screened Out

POLICY	POLICY DESCRIPTION	POSSIBLE IMPACTS ON EUROPEAN SITE	SCREENING OUTCOME
TM7	Freight <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Council will support development that encourages the movement of freight by rail and/or water, which contributes towards the improvement and enhancement of a sustainable distribution system and reduces the reliance on goods being transported by road. The Council will seek to manage the movement of lorries to minimise the damaging effect they have on the quality of life of the local community and the environment by way of excessive noise, vibration and air pollution. 	<p>No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this Policy</p> <p>Negative impacts on a European designated site would not be regarded as a sustainable distribution system</p> <p>General statement of policy</p>	Screened Out
TM8	Manchester Ship Canal <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Council will support the increased use of the Manchester Ship Canal as an efficient and sustainable transport route for the movement of goods and people Proposals for new, and improvements to existing, crossings across the canal where they include a focus on improving active travel links and do not hinder its primary purpose as a sustainable transport route for the movement of freight will be supported. 	<p>No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this Policy</p> <p>Negative impacts on a European designated site would not be regarded as a sustainable transport system</p> <p>General statement of policy</p>	Screened Out
TM9	Potential Future Rail Route The Council will support the provision of a rail route which runs to the west of the M56, connecting the Manchester Airport area to the City Centre	<p>No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this Policy</p> <p>General statement of policy and any new rail route would require its own HRA</p>	Screened Out
TM10	Parking Standards Outlines parking standards for new developments and provision of electric vehicle charging infrastructure, cycle parking, coach parking and off-airport car parking.	<p>No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this Policy</p> <p>Policy for testing acceptability of proposals</p>	Screened Out
TM11	Lorry Management Outlines criteria for new lorry parking and lorry management schemes	<p>No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this Policy</p> <p>Policy for testing acceptability of proposals</p>	Screened Out

POLICY	POLICY DESCRIPTION	POSSIBLE IMPACTS ON EUROPEAN SITE	SCREENING OUTCOME
TM12	Park and Ride Outlines the criteria whereby improvements to existing park and ride schemes and provision of new facilities will be supported	No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this Policy Policy for testing acceptability of proposals	Screened Out
TM13	Crowd Movement & Routes Safeguarding or altering of existing crowd movement routes	No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this Policy General statement of policy	Screened Out
Town Centre & Retail			
TC1	Hierarchy of Centres <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outlines Trafford's retail hierarchy • Loss of retail units for non-commercial, business and service uses will only be supported in exceptional circumstances 	No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this Policy General statement of policy	Screened Out
TC2	Role and Function of Centres <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identifies Designated Town Centres and outlines criteria whereby residential developments proposals within the centres will be supported • Identifies Other Designated Centres and Local Centres 	No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this Policy General statement of policy and policy for testing acceptability of proposals	Screened Out
TC3	Out of Centre Retail and Leisure Outside of the centres identified the Council will not support development of retail, leisure and other town centre uses, except where it can be demonstrated that the proposal satisfies the requirements of the sequential test. Outlines criteria where an Impact Assessment will be required	No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this Policy General statement of policy and policy for testing acceptability of proposals	Screened Out

POLICY	POLICY DESCRIPTION	POSSIBLE IMPACTS ON EUROPEAN SITE	SCREENING OUTCOME
Green Infrastructure & Natural Environment			
GI1	Landscape Character Areas <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development proposals which protect or enhance the landscape character, biodiversity, geodiversity and conservation value of its natural and landscape assets will be supported • Development will not be permitted where it would have a significant adverse impact on the special quality and sensitivity of a landscape character type. • Requirement for Landscape and Visual Impact Appraisal 	<p>No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this Policy</p> <p>General statement of policy</p>	Screened Out
GI2	Green Infrastructure Network <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Council will seek to protect, enhance, and manage Trafford's Green infrastructure (GI) as an accessible network of connected, varied, multi-functional green and blue spaces, which respond to local character. • Outlines the services and benefits of GI that should not be adversely impacted on by new developments 	<p>No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this Policy</p> <p>General statement of policy and policy for testing acceptability of proposals</p>	Screened Out
GI3	Great Manchester Wetlands Nature Improvement Area (NIA) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development proposals within NIA must have regard to the objectives and priorities of the area to deliver enhanced ecosystem services. • Proposals for wetland improvement and restoration will be supported. 	<p>No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this Policy</p> <p>General statement of policy</p>	Screened Out
GI4	Mersey Valley Outlines criteria for proposals the council will support in the Mersey Valley	<p>No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this Policy</p> <p>General statement of policy and policy for testing acceptability of proposals</p>	Screened Out
GI4N GI4C GI4W	Mersey Valley Identifies areas where opportunities to improve access to nature and the recreation offers will be supported and encouraged	<p>No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this Policy</p> <p>General statement of policy</p>	Screened Out

POLICY	POLICY DESCRIPTION	POSSIBLE IMPACTS ON EUROPEAN SITE	SCREENING OUTCOME
GI5	Green Infrastructure Opportunity Areas <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Green Infrastructure Opportunity Areas have been identified across the borough. Identifies measures development proposals in these areas will need to achieve Proposals which strengthen green infrastructure links between the identified Green Infrastructure Opportunity Areas. 	<p>No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated.</p> <p>General statement of policy and policy for testing acceptability of proposals</p>	Screened Out
GI5N GI5S GI5C GI5W	Green Infrastructure Opportunity Areas Identifies GI Opportunity Areas in each locality	<p>No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated.</p> <p>General statement of policy</p>	Screened Out
GI6	Green Infrastructure in New Developments <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All development proposals must demonstrate how they will contribute to the protection, enhancement and expansion of the Green Infrastructure network Criteria for the design of Green Infrastructure and landscaping All major development must be supported by a dedicated green infrastructure plan. Outlines the measures required in the plan with regard to Urban Greening Factor, landscape, nature recovery and long term management. Outlines the requirements for mitigation measures Outlines the requirement for on-site GI mitigation and enhancements 	<p>No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this Policy.</p> <p>General statement of policy and policy for testing acceptability of proposals</p>	Screened Out
G17	Trees, Woodland and Hedgerows <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trees, woodlands and hedgerows will be protected and enhanced Requirement of major developments to include a Tree Canopy Cover Assessment Outlines criteria whereby development will be supported in relation to trees and hedgerows Outlines criteria where the Council will proposals Protection during construction 	<p>No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this Policy.</p> <p>General statement of policy and policy for testing acceptability of proposals</p>	Screened Out

POLICY	POLICY DESCRIPTION	POSSIBLE IMPACTS ON EUROPEAN SITE	SCREENING OUTCOME
GI8	Protection of Locally Designated Sites and Natural Environment Assets <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protection and enhancement of locally designated sites and natural environment assets • Requirement for ecological assessments and protection of features during construction • Development proposals must contribute positively to habitat connectivity and nature recovery networks • Development proposals will be required to demonstrate how they integrate with, and strengthen, the surrounding ecological networks. 	<p>No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this Policy.</p> <p>General statement of policy and policy for testing acceptability of proposals</p>	Screened Out
GI9	Biodiversity Opportunity Areas The Council will support biodiversity and habitat improvements within the areas identified and will not support proposals that would undermine or comprise these Areas	<p>No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this Policy.</p> <p>General statement of policy</p>	Screened Out
GI9N GI9S GI9C GI9W	Biodiversity Opportunity Areas Identifies priority sites for biodiversity enhancement	<p>No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this Policy.</p> <p>General statement of policy</p>	Screened Out
GI10	Building Biodiversity into New Developments <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All development proposals should seek to enhance biodiversity beyond the minimum mitigation requirements, where appropriate and practical • All new development will be expected to incorporate measures to support biodiversity and outlines the type of measures required 	<p>No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this Policy.</p> <p>General statement of policy</p>	Screened Out

POLICY	POLICY DESCRIPTION	POSSIBLE IMPACTS ON EUROPEAN SITE	SCREENING OUTCOME
Open Space, Sport & Recreation			
OS1	Open Space <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Council will provide and connect a high-quality, multi-functional network of open spaces across Trafford; Protect, enhance and make the most of existing parks, gardens and open spaces; and require new high-quality outdoor spaces to be provided. Outlines the type of open spaces that will be protected Outlines accessibility standards for high quality open space Outlines requirements for open space within new developments of 50 homes or more 	<p>No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this Policy.</p> <p>Potential positive impacts by reducing recreational pressure on European sites</p> <p>General statement of policy and policy for testing acceptability of proposals</p>	Screened Out
OS1N OS1S OS1C OS1W	Open Space Outlines the location and type of new open space provision and/improvements that be prioritized	<p>No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this Policy.</p> <p>Potential positive impacts by reducing recreational pressure on European sites</p> <p>General statement of policy</p>	Screened Out
OS2	Outdoor Sports and Recreation Facilities and Provision <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Council will: provide and connect a high-quality network of outdoor playing pitches, sport and recreation facilities; protect, enhance and make the most use of existing sport and recreation facilities; and require and support new and/or expanded high-quality outdoor sport and recreation facilities to be provided. Outline type of pitches and facilities that will be protected and criteria for the support of new facilities Outlines accessibility criteria for new residential developments and measures for provision of financial contribution New facilities shall be designed to simultaneously serve other green and blue infrastructure functions 	<p>No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this Policy.</p> <p>General statement of policy and policy for testing acceptability of proposals</p>	Screened Out

POLICY	POLICY DESCRIPTION	POSSIBLE IMPACTS ON EUROPEAN SITE	SCREENING OUTCOME
OS3	Indoor Sports and Recreation Provision <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Council will: Protect, enhance and make the most of existing indoor sports and recreation facilities; support proposals to expand and enhance the range of indoor sports and recreation facilities; require new high-quality indoor sports and recreation facilities to be provided to meet identified needs. • Outline type of indoor sports and recreation facilities that will be protected • Outlines accessibility criteria for new residential developments and measures for provision of financial contribution • The Council will support proposals that enable community use of school facilities • The Council will support innovative proposals within existing and new indoor sports facilities 	<p>No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this Policy.</p> <p>Potential positive impacts by reducing recreational pressure on European sites</p> <p>General statement of policy</p>	Screened Out
OS4	Loss of Sport and Recreation Land or Facilities Outlines criteria for the loss of existing sport or recreation land or facilities	<p>No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this Policy.</p> <p>Policy for testing acceptability of proposals</p>	Screened Out
OS5	Allotments and Growing Space <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Council will maintain and protect an adequate supply of allotment provision. • Outlines criteria for the loss community food growing gardens • Opportunities for the establishment of new allotments and food growing areas, along with appropriate expansions of existing allotment sites, will be supported. • Major residential development over 50 homes must provide opportunities to incorporate food growing areas 	<p>No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this Policy.</p> <p>General statement of policy</p>	Screened Out
OS6	Cemeteries and Burial Grounds Outlines criteria for cemeteries and burial grounds	<p>No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this Policy.</p> <p>General statement of policy</p>	Screened Out

POLICY	POLICY DESCRIPTION	POSSIBLE IMPACTS ON EUROPEAN SITE	SCREENING OUTCOME
Water, Flooding & Drainage			
WA1	<p>Managing Flood Risk</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Council will manage development in areas at risk of flooding, having regard to the vulnerability of the proposed use and the levels of risk from all sources. • No development shall take place in Flood Zone 3b except in limited exceptional circumstances • Outlines criteria where a Flood Risk Assessment will be required • Development must incorporate flood mitigation and management measures • Development adjacent to waterways will only be permitted where it can be demonstrated that it would not adversely impact upon the structural integrity of the waterway or its related infrastructure. <p>Applicants will be required to use alternatives to culverting and re-open existing culverts in the design and delivery of new development</p>	<p>No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this Policy.</p> <p>General statement of policy and policy for testing acceptability of proposals</p>	Screened Out
WA2	<p>Sustainable Drainage – Surface and Foul Water</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All major developments must be supported by a site-specific drainage strategy or statement. Outlines criteria for surface water hierarchy. Proposals must be designed to maximise the retention of surface water on-site and minimise the volume, and rate of, surface water discharge off-site. • Developments on greenfield sites will be required to achieve greenfield run off rates. Developments on brownfield sites must achieve greenfield run off rates wherever possible. • Outlines features that must be considered in design of any drainage scheme. Outlines how phased development should have a holistic site-wide drainage strategy. 	<p>No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this Policy.</p> <p>General statement of policy and policy for testing acceptability of proposals</p>	Screened Out

POLICY	POLICY DESCRIPTION	POSSIBLE IMPACTS ON EUROPEAN SITE	SCREENING OUTCOME
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Impermeable surfaces in gardens or landscaped areas will not be allowed. Engagement with United Utilities. Proposals which are likely to result in contaminants entering formal surface or foul water drainage systems will not be permitted. 		
WA3	Flood Storage Areas <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Safeguarding and identification of following strategic areas for flood management Outlines criteria where sustainable development within or adjacent to these areas will be supported 	<p>No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this Policy.</p> <p>General statement of policy and policy for testing acceptability of proposals</p>	Screened Out
WA4	Water Efficiency Outlines water efficiency standard required for new residential developments and major non-residential developments	<p>No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this Policy</p> <p>General statement of policy and policy for testing acceptability of proposals</p>	Screened Out
Community & Social Infrastructure			
CT1	Protecting Existing Community and Social Facilities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Council will ensure that social and community uses are protected or enhanced throughout the borough. Outlines sequential approach to change of use or development on areas with social and community uses. 	<p>No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this Policy.</p> <p>General statement of policy and policy for testing acceptability of proposals</p>	Screened Out
CT2	Loss of Community Facilities Outlines evidence required for the loss of any existing community facilities or local services.	<p>No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this Policy.</p> <p>General statement of policy and policy for testing acceptability of proposals</p>	Screened Out

POLICY	POLICY DESCRIPTION	POSSIBLE IMPACTS ON EUROPEAN SITE	SCREENING OUTCOME
CT3	New Community and Social Facilities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Council will support the provision of new and the expansion of existing, social and community uses. Outlines criteria for such support. All major largescale residential developments will be required to provide on-site community and/or social facilities. 	<p>No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this Policy.</p> <p>General statement of policy and policy for testing acceptability of proposals</p>	Screened Out
CT4	Fast Food Outlines areas where fast food outlets will not be supported	<p>No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this Policy.</p> <p>General statement of policy</p>	Screened Out
CT5	Social Value in New Developments Outlines requirements for local labour and training agreements	<p>No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this Policy.</p> <p>General statement of policy</p>	Screened Out
Built Environment			
BE1	Design <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development must be of a high standard of design and construction and make a positive contribution to the character and distinctiveness of the borough. Outlines criteria for demonstrating how proposals should be compatible with the surrounding area, demonstrate sustainability, incorporate multi-functional green spaces and are safe and inclusive 	<p>No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this Policy.</p> <p>General statement of policy and policy for testing acceptability of proposals</p>	Screened Out
BE2	Tall Buidlings Outline definition of a tall building, broad locations suitable for such buildings and criteria for acceptability	<p>No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this Policy.</p> <p>General statement of policy and policy for testing acceptability of proposals</p>	Screened Out

POLICY	POLICY DESCRIPTION	POSSIBLE IMPACTS ON EUROPEAN SITE	SCREENING OUTCOME
BE3	Elevated Green Spaces Development will be supported with elevated green spaces Sets out examples of what they could include	No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this Policy. General statement of policy	Screened Out
BE4	Advertisements and Signage Outlines criteria for appropriate advertisements and signage	No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this Policy. General statement of policy and policy for testing acceptability of proposals	Screened Out
BE5	Heritage Assets Outlines criteria required for development affecting designated heritage assets or its settings, or non-designated heritage assets	No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this Policy. General statement of policy and policy for testing acceptability of proposals	Screened Out
BE6	Designated Heritage Assets Outlines protection afforded designated heritage assets and how development affecting such assets will be assessed	No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this Policy. General statement of policy	Screened Out
BE7	Non-designated Heritage Assets Outlines how development affecting such assets will be assessed	No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this Policy. General statement of policy	Screened Out
BE8	Noise and Vibration Outlines circumstance and requirements for Noise and Vibration Impact Assessments	No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this Policy. General statement of policy	Screened Out
BE9	Land Contamination and Remediation <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Outlines circumstance and requirements for Contaminated Land Assessments.• Development which would have the potential to result in unacceptable impacts on the groundwater environment, human health, buildings and / or the wider environment will be resisted.	No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this Policy. General statement of policy and policy for testing acceptability of proposals	Screened Out
BE10	Digital Connectivity Outlines support for expansion of digital infrastructure and requirements for new developments. Requirements for masts or telecommunications development	No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this Policy. General statement of policy and policy for testing acceptability of proposals	Screened Out

POLICY	POLICY DESCRIPTION	POSSIBLE IMPACTS ON EUROPEAN SITE	SCREENING OUTCOME
Culture, Tourism & Leisure			
CL1	Protecting and Supporting Existing Cultural, Leisure and Tourism Assets The Council supports Trafford's role in both local and world-class sports, arts, leisure and culture. Outlines the locations and assets covered by this policy	No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated. General statement of policy and policy for testing acceptability of proposals	Screened Out
CL1N	Manchester United Football Stadium and Wharfside <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improvements to and/or redevelopment of the existing football stadium to increase match day capacity with improved public realm and green spaces across and throughout the wider stadium site will be supported. Outlines improvements to access, transport and facilities that will be sought or supported 	No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this Policy. General statement of policy and policy for testing acceptability of proposals	Screened Out
CL2	New Culture, Leisure and Tourism Developments Outside of the locations identified under policy CL1, the Council will support enhancements to, and the expansion of, the culture, leisure and tourism offer of an appropriate scale and nature to the location.	No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this Policy. General statement of policy	Screened Out
CL2N	Trafford Centre Rectangle Outlines measures that will need to be included with any new proposals in the Trafford Centre Rectangle including air quality and pollution assessments and improvements to transport network	No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated. General statement of policy and policy for testing acceptability of proposals	Screened Out

POLICY	POLICY DESCRIPTION	POSSIBLE IMPACTS ON EUROPEAN SITE	SCREENING OUTCOME
Infrastructure & Planning Obligations			
IP1 IP1N	Infrastructure Delivery and Planning Obligations The Council will ensure that sufficient supporting infrastructure, is delivered to support the levels and types of growth identified in the Local Plan. Outlines when and how planning obligations will be used.	No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated. General statement of policy and policy for testing acceptability of proposals	Screened Out
IP2	Managing and Monitoring Planning Obligations Outline fees for planning obligations and monitoring fees	No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated. Policy that cannot lead to development	Screened Out

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

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

POLICY NUMBER	POLICY NAME	SUMMARY SCREENING OPINION – LIKELY SIGNIFICANT EFFECTS (LSE)			
		Manchester Mosses SAC	Mersey Estuary SPA/Ramsar	Rixton Clay Pits SAC	Rochdale Canal SAC
R1	Housing Delivery	Potential LSE through increased air pollution	No likely significant effects	Potential LSE through increased recreational disturbance and air pollution	No likely significant effects
EJ2	Trafford Park - Low Carbon, Green Trafford Park	Potential LSE through increased air pollution	No likely significant effects	Potential LSE through increased air pollution	No likely significant effects

Following the analysis of the Policies, impacts on the Mersey Estuary SPA/Ramsar and Rochdale Canal SAC can be Screened Out and are not considered further.

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

- Increased recreational pressure on the Rixton Clay Pits resulting from population increases
- Diffuse air pollution impacts on the Manchester Mosses SAC (and particularly Holcroft Moss) resulting from increased traffic flows on the M62 motorway
- Diffuse air pollution impacts on the Manchester Mosses SAC from Heat Networks

7.0 Appropriate Assessment (consideration of available mitigation)

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

- Recreation pressure
- Diffuse air pollution

As part of the Assessment, mitigation measures for potential LSE need to be considered. In addition, the nature and scale of the Plan being assessed needs to be taken into consideration. Part One of the Trafford Local Plan does not allocate any sites for development, rather it sets out Policies to plan for and manage development to achieve the best outcomes for the Borough.

Mitigation through Policy Operation

PfE Policy JP-G8: A Net Enhancement of Biodiversity and Geodiversity includes the following wording:

Through local planning and associated activities a net enhancement of biodiversity resources will be sought, including, where relevant, by:

4. Protecting sites designated for their nature conservation and/or geological importance, with the highest level of protection given to international and the national designations;

Development will be expected to:

e. Where appropriate, development should: mitigate air pollution impacts on Manchester Mosses SAC;

There is no specific Policy in the Trafford Local Plan relating to internally designated sites or air quality, although criteria are defined a several policies where air quality assessments will be required.

Diffuse Air Pollution Effects

During the preparation of the Places for Everyone (PfE) Strategic Plan for Greater Manchester, which included site allocations in Trafford, a potential LSE on a part of the Manchester Mosses SAC was identified from increases in air pollution caused by increased traffic flows along the M62 motorway. It is potentially possible that housing and business development in Trafford will make a contribution to this LSE.

Mitigation measures for this LSE, accepted by Natural England, were prepared and have been included in a Supplementary Planning Document, the

- *Holcroft Moss Planning Obligations Joint SPD, November 2024*

The quantum of development planned for within the Trafford Local Plan is not substantively different from that Assessed in the HRA of the PfE.

It is concluded that the available mitigation measures for air pollution effects, including –

- Policy JP-S5: Clean Air of PfE
and
- The Holcroft Moss Planning Obligations DPD

are sufficient to protect the integrity of the Manchester Mosses SAC.

Heat Network

The level of diffuse air pollution caused by heat networks will depend on how the heat is generated i.e. fossil fuel or renewable energy. It is recommended that this policy be amended to clarify the heat sources that will be supported.

Recreational Disturbance – Rixton Clay Pits & Manchester Mosses

The HRA for PfE found that PfE would not have a detrimental impact on these two sites from increased visitor pressure.

It is considered that this conclusion would apply equally to new housing developments in Trafford, given the relatively small number of additional number of dwellings that are included beyond the lifetime of PfE

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

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

Given

- the nature of the Plan, as a Policy-led Plan (Part One) which does not allocate new sites and areas for development

and

- that cumulative effects of development in Trafford have already been assessed in the HRA of Places for Everyone

and

- that identified LSE arising from cumulative are able to be successfully mitigated, and this mitigation will apply to development in Trafford

it is **concluded** the Local Plan (Part One) will not cause any harm to the integrity of the designated sites network in combination with other plans or projects.

9.0 Summary and Recommendations

Screening of European sites has established that the following European sites have the potential to be affected by development in Trafford proposed by the Trafford Plan: First Draft Consultation:

- Manchester Mosses SAC
- Rixton Clay Pits SAC
- Mersey Estuary SPA/Ramsar
- Rochdale Canal SAC

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

A number of Policies within the Plan were initially Screened In as potentially having a damaging effect on European Sites due to increased recreational use and air pollution effects. Following further Assessment, including consideration of available mitigation measures, it is concluded that, providing that the available mitigation is implemented appropriately, the majority will have no effects on the integrity of European designated sites arising from the operation of the Trafford Local Plan either alone or in combination. **However, clarification on the source of the heat generation in heat networks should be clarified.**

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

References

DCLG (2006) Department for Communities and Local Government. *Planning for the protection of European Sites: Appropriate Assessment*. Available on-line from DCLG

EC (1992) European Council. Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild flora and fauna Available on-line from EU

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/air-emissions-risk-assessment-for-your-environmentalpermit/screening-for-protected-conservation-areas>

Natural England (April 2016) European Conservation Objectives: Supplementary Advice on Conserving & Restoring Site Features – Manchester Mosses SAC

Natural England (November 2018) Conservation Objectives for Manchester Mosses SAC

Natural England Conservation Objectives for the Rochdale Canal SAC

Natural England Conservation Objectives for the South Pennine Moors SAC/SPA

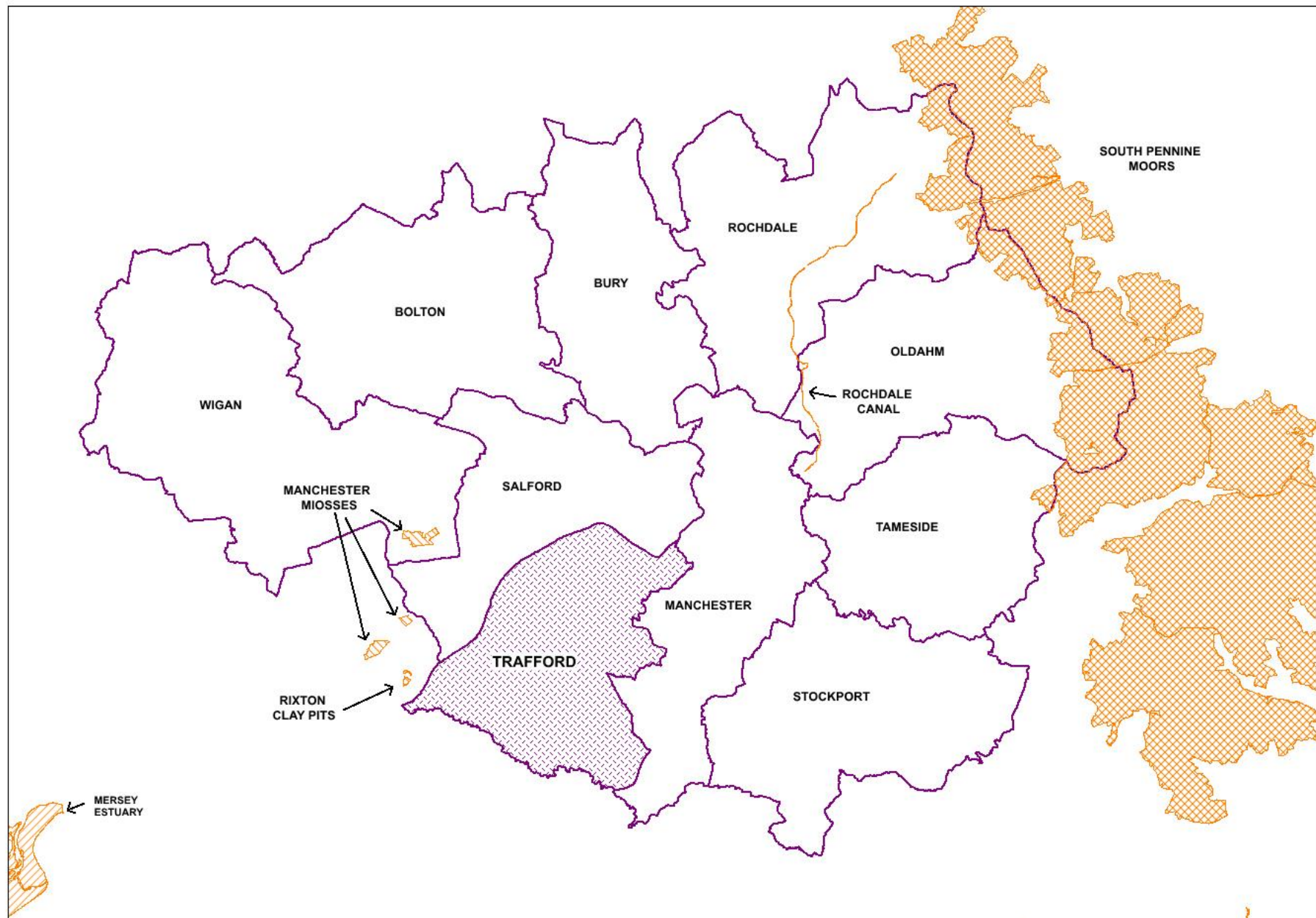
Scott Wilson 2008, HRA Screening Assessment of the Greater Manchester Joint Waste Development Plan Document (draft report)

Tyldesley D., and Chapman C., (2013) *The Habitats Regulations Assessment Handbook*, (November 2019) edition UK: DTA Publications Limited

The Conservation of Habitats and Species and Planning (Various Amendments) (England and Wales) Regulations 2017

Habitats Regulation Assessment of the Places for Everyone Strategic Plan for Greater Manchester

Map 1 Showing Natura 2000 Network European sites within 15km distance from Trafford



APPENDIX 1: European designated sites within the Northern England and possible effects from development within Trafford .

Those highlighted in red have been 'screened in' to this Assessment

Site Name	Designation	Type of Effect	Likely Effects
Asby Complex	SAC	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - No hydrological pathways between SAC and land within Trafford
		Air Pollution	None – No atmospheric pathways and any pollutants are likely to have dispersed prior to reaching SAC.
		Direct land take	None
		Habitat/Species Disturbance	None – Habitats and species in SAC are generally restricted to habitat types that do not occur in Greater Manchester
		Increased recreational Pressure	None – site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Trafford
Bolton Fell Moss	SAC	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - No hydrological pathways between SAC and land within Trafford
		Air Pollution	None – No atmospheric pathways and any pollutants are likely to have dispersed prior to reaching SAC.
		Direct land take	None
		Habitat/Species Disturbance	None – Site too distant for any direction disturbance to habitats.
		Increased recreational Pressure	None – site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Trafford
Border Mires, Kielder – Butterburn	SAC	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - No hydrological pathways between SAC and land within Trafford
		Air Pollution	None – No atmospheric pathways and any pollutants are likely to have dispersed prior to reaching SAC.
		Direct land take	None
		Habitat/Species Disturbance	None – Site too distant for any direction disturbance to habitats.
		Increased recreational Pressure	None – site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Trafford

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

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

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

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

Site Name	Designation	Type of Effect	Likely Effects
Liverpool Bay	SPA	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - No hydrological pathways between SPA and land within Trafford
		Air Pollution	None – No atmospheric pathways and any pollutants are likely to have dispersed prior to reaching SPA.
		Direct land take	None
		Habitat/Species Disturbance	None – Habitats and species identified highly unlikely to be affected by any habitat changes in Trafford
		Increased recreational Pressure	None – site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Trafford
Manchester Mosses	SAC	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - No hydrological pathways between SAC and land within Trafford
		Air Pollution	Potential impacts from diffuse air pollution arising from increased traffic flows
		Direct land take	None
		Habitat/Species Disturbance	Potential for habitats to be affected by pollution
		Increased recreational Pressure	Possible due to proximity
Martin Mere	SPA/Ramsar	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - No hydrological pathways between SPA/Ramsar Site and land within Trafford
		Air Pollution	None – No atmospheric pathways and any pollutants are likely to have dispersed prior to reaching SPA/Ramsar Site.
		Direct land take	None
		Habitat/Species Disturbance	None – Habitats and species identified highly unlikely to be affected by any habitat changes in Trafford
		Increased recreational Pressure	None – site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Trafford

Site Name	Designation	Type of Effect	Likely Effects
Mersey Estuary	SPA/Ramsar	Water Quality/Hydrology	Possible – direct hydrological linkage with the estuary via Manchester Ship Canal and the River Mersey
		Air Pollution	None – No atmospheric pathways and any pollutants are likely to have dispersed prior to reaching SPA/Ramsar Site.
		Direct land take	None
		Habitat/Species Disturbance	None – Habitats and species identified highly unlikely to be significantly affected by any habitat changes in Trafford
		Increased recreational Pressure	None – site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Trafford
Mersey Narrows & Wirral Foreshore	SPA	Water Quality/Hydrology	Site classification details unavailable but there are unlikely to be any hydrological pathways between SPA and land within Trafford
		Air Pollution	Site classification details unavailable but there are unlikely to be any atmospheric pathways between SPA and land within Trafford
		Direct land take	None
		Habitat/Species Disturbance	None – no information available as to species site selected for but type of species present highly unlikely to be affected by any habitat changes in Trafford (based on knowledge of Greater Manchester bird populations).
		Increased recreational Pressure	None – site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Trafford
Midland Meres & Mosses Phase 1 & 2	2 x Ramsar	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - No hydrological pathways between Ramsar site and land within Trafford
		Air Pollution	None – No atmospheric pathways and any pollutants are likely to have dispersed prior to reaching Ramsar site.
		Direct land take	None
		Habitat/Species Disturbance	None – habitats and species identified highly unlikely to be affected by any habitat changes in Trafford
		Increased recreational Pressure	None – site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Trafford

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

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

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

Site Name	Designation	Type of Effect	Likely Effects
River Dee & Bala Lake	SAC	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - No hydrological pathways between SAC and land within Trafford
		Air Pollution	None – No atmospheric pathways and any pollutants are likely to have dispersed prior to reaching SAC.
		Direct land take	None
		Habitat/Species Disturbance	None – Site too distant for any direct or indirect disturbance to habitats and species.
		Increased recreational Pressure	None – site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Trafford
River Derwent & Bassenthwaite Lake	SAC	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - Hydrological connectivity with Thirlmere considered as part of United Utilities strategic HRA of WRMP (2013). No pathway for water borne pollution to SAC.
		Air Pollution	None – No atmospheric pathways and any pollutants are likely to have dispersed prior to reaching SAC.
		Direct land take	None
		Habitat/Species Disturbance	None – Site too distant for any direct or indirect disturbance to habitats and species.
		Increased recreational Pressure	None – site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Trafford
River Eden	SAC	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - No hydrological pathways between SAC and land within Trafford
		Air Pollution	None – No atmospheric pathways and any pollutants are likely to have dispersed prior to reaching SAC.
		Direct land take	None
		Habitat/Species Disturbance	None – Site too distant for any direct or indirect disturbance to habitats and species.
		Increased recreational Pressure	None – site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Trafford

Site Name	Designation	Type of Effect	Likely Effects
River Ehen	SAC	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - No hydrological pathways between SAC and land within Trafford
		Air Pollution	None – No atmospheric pathways and any pollutants are likely to have dispersed prior to reaching SAC.
		Direct land take	None
		Habitat/Species Disturbance	None - No hydrological connections and main species (fresh water pearl mussel) does not occur in Greater Manchester
		Increased recreational Pressure	None – site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Trafford
River Kent	SAC	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - No hydrological pathways between SAC and land within Trafford
		Air Pollution	None – No atmospheric pathways and any pollutants are likely to have dispersed prior to reaching SAC.
		Direct land take	None
		Habitat/Species Disturbance	None – Site too distant for any direct or indirect disturbance to habitats and species.
		Increased recreational Pressure	None – site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Trafford
Rixton Clay Pits	SAC	Water Quality/Hydrology	None – no hydrological connectivity between the site and Trafford. Water bodies on site are fed by rain water and separated by Manchester Ship Canal
		Air Pollution	None – No atmospheric pathways and any pollutants are likely to have dispersed prior to reaching SAC.
		Direct land take	None
		Habitat/Species Disturbance	Possible - site lies within 15km of Trafford
		Increased recreational Pressure	Possible - site lies within 15km of Trafford

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

Site Name	Designation	Type of Effect	Likely Effects
Sefton Coast	SAC	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - No hydrological pathways between SAC and land within Trafford
		Air Pollution	None – No atmospheric pathways and any pollutants are likely to have dispersed prior to reaching SAC.
		Direct land take	None
		Habitat/Species Disturbance	None – Site too distant for any direct or indirect disturbance to habitats and species. Habitat types do not occur in Greater Manchester
		Increased recreational Pressure	None – site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Trafford
Shell Flat & Lune Deep	SAC	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - No hydrological pathways between SAC and land within Trafford
		Air Pollution	None – No atmospheric pathways and any pollutants are likely to have dispersed prior to reaching SAC.
		Direct land take	None
		Habitat/Species Disturbance	None – Site too distant for any direct or indirect disturbance to habitats and species. Habitat types do not occur in Greater Manchester
		Increased recreational Pressure	None – site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Trafford
Solway Firth	SAC	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - No hydrological pathways between SAC and land within Trafford
		Air Pollution	None – No atmospheric pathways and any pollutants are likely to have dispersed prior to reaching SAC.
		Direct land take	None
		Habitat/Species Disturbance	None – Site too distant for any direct or indirect disturbance to habitats and species.
		Increased recreational Pressure	None – site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Trafford

Site Name	Designation	Type of Effect	Likely Effects
South Pennine Moors	SAC	Water Quality/Hydrology	None, site too distant
		Air Pollution	None, site too distant
		Direct land take	None, site too distant
		Habitat/Species Disturbance	None, site too distant
		Increased recreational Pressure	None – site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Trafford
South Pennine Moors Phase 2	SPA	Water Quality/Hydrology	None, site too distant
		Air Pollution	None, site too distant
		Direct land take	None, site too distant
		Habitat/Species Disturbance	None, site too distant
		Increased recreational Pressure	None – site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Trafford
South Solway Mosses	SAC	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - No hydrological pathways between SAC and land within Trafford
		Air Pollution	None – No atmospheric pathways and any pollutants are likely to have dispersed prior to reaching SAC.
		Direct land take	None
		Habitat/Species Disturbance	None – Site too distant for any direct or indirect disturbance to habitats and species.
		Increased recreational Pressure	None – site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Trafford

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

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

Site Name	Designation	Type of Effect	Likely Effects
Wast Water	SAC	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - No hydrological pathways between SAC and land within Trafford
		Air Pollution	None – No atmospheric pathways and any pollutants are likely to have dispersed prior to reaching SAC.
		Direct land take	None
		Habitat/Species Disturbance	None – Site too distant for any direct or indirect disturbance to habitat. Habitat does not occur in Greater Manchester
		Increased recreational Pressure	None – site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Trafford
West Midlands Mosses	SAC	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - No hydrological pathways between SAC and land within Trafford
		Air Pollution	None – No atmospheric pathways and any pollutants are likely to have dispersed prior to reaching SAC.
		Direct land take	None
		Habitat/Species Disturbance	None – Site too distant for any direct or indirect disturbance to habitats and species.
		Increased recreational Pressure	None – site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Trafford
Witherslack Mosses	SAC	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - No hydrological pathways between SAC and land within Trafford
		Air Pollution	None – No atmospheric pathways and any pollutants are likely to have dispersed prior to reaching SAC.
		Direct land take	None
		Habitat/Species Disturbance	None – Site too distant for any direct or indirect disturbance to habitats and species.
		Increased recreational Pressure	None – site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Trafford

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

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

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

Site Name	Designation	Screened in/out	Justification
Manchester Mosses	SAC	In	Possible diffuse air pollution effects, disturbance to species and habitats and increased recreational pressure
Martin Mere	SPA/Ramsar	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and strategic impacts considered by Trafford's HRA
Mersey Estuary	SPA/Ramsar	In	Possible water quality & hydrological impacts
Mersey Narrows & Wirral Foreshore	SPA	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and strategic impacts considered by Trafford's HRA
Midland Meres & Mosses – Phase 1 & Phase 2	2 x Ramsar	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and strategic impacts considered by Trafford's HRA
Moor House – Upper Teasdale	SAC	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and no strategic impacts or pathways identified in Trafford's HRA
Morecambe Bay and Duddon Estuary	SAC/Ramsar/ SAC	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and no strategic impacts or pathways identified in Trafford's HRA
Morecambe Bay Pavements	SAC	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and no strategic impacts or pathways identified in Trafford's HRA
Naddle Forest	SAC	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and no strategic impacts or pathways identified in Trafford's HRA
North Pennine Dales Meadows	SAC	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and no strategic impacts or pathways identified in Trafford's HRA
North Pennine Moors	SAC/SPA	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and strategic impacts considered by Trafford's HRA
Oak Mere	SAC	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and no strategic impacts or pathways identified in Trafford's HRA
Peak District Moors (South Pennine Moors Phase 1)	SPA	Out	Although within Greater Manchester the site is considered too distant for significant effects to arise and no known pathways exist between SPA and Trafford.
Ribble & Alt Estuaries	SPA/Ramsar	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and strategic impacts considered by Trafford's HRA
River Dee & Bala Lake	SAC	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and no strategic impacts or pathways identified in Trafford's HRA
River Derwent & Bassenthwaite Lake	SAC	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and strategic impacts considered by United Utilities WRMP (2013)
River Eden	SAC	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and no strategic impacts or pathways identified in Trafford's HRA
River Ehen	SAC	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and no strategic impacts or pathways identified in Trafford's HRA

Site Name	Designation	Screened in/out	Justification
River Kent	SAC	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and no strategic impacts or pathways identified in Trafford's HRA
Rixton Clay Pits	SAC	In	Possible disturbance to species and habitats and increased recreational pressure
Rochdale Canal	SAC	In	Possible impacts from canal boat traffic
Rostherne Mere	Ramsar	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and no strategic impacts or pathways identified in Trafford's HRA
Roudsea Wood & Mosses	SAC	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and no strategic impacts or pathways identified in Trafford's HRA
Sefton Coast	SAC	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and no strategic impacts or pathways identified in Trafford's HRA
Shell Flats & Lune Deep	SAC	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and no strategic impacts or pathways identified in Trafford's HRA
Solway Firth	SAC	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and no strategic impacts or pathways identified in Trafford's HRA
South Pennine Moors	SAC	Out	Although within Greater Manchester the site is considered too distant for significant effects to arise and no known pathways exist between SPA and Trafford.
South Pennine Moors Phase 2	SPA	Out	Although within Greater Manchester the site is considered too distant for significant effects to arise and no known pathways exist between SPA and Trafford.
South Solway Mosses	SAC	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise
Subberthwaite, Blawith & Torver Low Commons	SAC	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and no strategic impacts or pathways identified in Trafford's HRA
Tarn Moss	SAC	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and no strategic impacts or pathways identified in Trafford's HRA
Tyne & Nent	SAC	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and no strategic impacts or pathways identified in Trafford's HRA
Ullswater Oakwoods	SAC	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and no strategic impacts or pathways identified in Trafford's HRA
Upper Solway Flats & Marshes	SPA/Ramsar	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and no strategic impacts or pathways identified in Trafford's HRA
Walton Moss	SAC	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and no strategic impacts or pathways identified in Trafford's HRA

Site Name	Designation	Screened in/out	Justification
Wast Water	SAC	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and no strategic impacts or pathways identified in Trafford's HRA
West Midlands Mosses	SAC	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and no strategic impacts or pathways identified in Trafford's HRA
Witherslack Mosses	SAC	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and no strategic impacts or pathways identified in Trafford's HRA
Yewbarrow Woods	SAC	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and no strategic impacts or pathways identified in Trafford's HRA

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

Plans Assessed under the Terms of the Habitats Regulations

District	Plan	Outcome of Assessment
All GM Districts	Combined Minerals Plan 2013	No effect on the integrity of European sites
All GM Districts	Combined Waste Plan 2012	No effect on the integrity of European sites
Greater Manchester	Places for Everyone Strategic Plan 2023	No effect on the integrity of European sites, providing that recommended mitigation is implemented

Consultation Question HRA1

Do you have any comments on the Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) of Draft Local Plan?