

Habitats Regulations Assessment of the Trafford Local Plan: Regulation 19 Draft Local Plan

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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

Designated nature conservation sites within the National Sites Network are of exceptional importance for the conservation of important species and natural habitats. The purpose of Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA) of land use plans is to ensure that protection of the integrity of these protected sites is an integral part of the planning process at a regional and local level. The National Sites Network of 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. Sites protected as part of the National Sites Network are often referred to as 'European designated sites' or 'European sites' because of their importance for nature conservation in a European context.

The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) states that Article 6(3) of Council Directive 92/43/EEC transposed into UK law by the Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019 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 designated 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 designated 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 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: Regulation 19 Draft Local Plan 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 Trafford Local Plan: Regulation 19 Draft Local Plan, produced by Trafford Council. 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 plan period 2022 - 2039, although its contents may also be relevant after that date.

Once adopted, 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:

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

To meet future development needs, Trafford Council is required to identify and allocate sites for housing and other purposes over the plan period 2022 – 2039. 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. In addition to land for development, the Council has also identified and designated sites for open and green space and/or biodiversity and ecology, securing these important spaces for future generations.

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

3 Identification of European designated sites concerned

The HRA for Trafford's Local Plan first screened all European designated 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.

For the sake of completeness this screening is repeated in Appendix 1 and Appendix 2 of this document. 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.

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.

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

POLICY REF	POLICY NAME	SUMMARY	POSSIBLE IMPACTS ON EUROPEAN SITE	SCREENING OUTCOME
Strategic Objectives				
SO1	Delivering Sustainable Growth	Overall objective	No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this objective	Screened Out
SO2	Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation	Overall objective	Likely positive effect	Screened Out
SO3	Meeting Housing Needs	Overall objective	General aspirational objective - No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this objective	Screened Out
SO4	Infrastructure Funding and Delivery	Overall objective	General aspirational objective - No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this objective	Screened Out
SO5	Economic Growth and Competitiveness	Overall objective	General aspirational objective - No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this objective	Screened Out
SO6	Green Infrastructure and Natural Environment	Overall objective	Likely positive effect	Screened Out
SO7	Support Varied and Vibrant Centres	Overall objective	General aspirational objective - No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this objective	Screened Out
SO8	Sustainable Transport and Connectivity	Overall objective	General aspirational objective with potentially positive effect	Screened Out
SO9	High Quality Design and Place-Making	Overall objective	General aspirational objective - No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this objective	Screened Out

POLICY REF	POLICY NAME	SUMMARY	POSSIBLE IMPACTS ON EUROPEAN SITE	SCREENING OUTCOME
SO10	Health, Wellbeing and Communities	Overall objective	General aspirational objective - No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this objective	Screened Out
SO11	Historic Environment and Culture	Overall objective	General aspirational objective - No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this objective	Screened Out
SO12	Flood Risk and Water Management	Overall objective	General aspirational objective - No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this objective	Screened Out
SO13	Resource Efficiency and Environmental Quality	Overall objective	General aspirational objective - with potentially positive effect	Screened Out
The Spatial Strategy				
ST1	The Spatial Strategy	Description of strategic areas within the plan.	General Strategy Policy describing where growth will be directed too. No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this policy	Screened Out
ST2	Sustainable Development	Outlines Council's support sustainable development and climate change adaptation.	As development cannot be sustainable if harm to a European Site occurs, no Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this policy.	Screened Out
Climate Resilience				
CR1	Carbon and Energy	Development must be carbon neutral by 2038, reduce carbon emissions and achieve economic, social and environmental sustainability.	Potential positive effect	Screened Out

POLICY REF	POLICY NAME	SUMMARY	POSSIBLE IMPACTS ON EUROPEAN SITE	SCREENING OUTCOME
CR2	Decarbonising Existing Homes and Industry and Employment Premises	The retrofitting and decarbonisation of existing homes and industrial and employment premises will be supported, reducing energy costs, creating more comfortable living environments and increasing resilience to fluctuating energy prices.	No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this policy	Screened Out
CR3	Heat and Energy Networks	The development of heat and energy networks and associated infrastructure to capture waste heat and reduce carbon emissions will be supported.	No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this policy	Screened Out
CR4	Energy Generation and Storage Development	Outlines criteria/requirements whereby new renewable energy schemes and energy storage proposals will be supported.	No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this policy	Screened Out
CR5	Minimising Overheating Risks	Outlines criteria/requirements whereby schemes that strengthen resilience to increased heat in the built environment will be supported and where active cooling will be permitted.	No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this policy	Screened Out
CR6	Circular Economy	Transition to a circular economy, reducing raw material use and waste will be encouraged and supported.	No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this policy	Screened Out
CR7	Water Efficiency	Outlines criteria/requirements for water efficiency.	No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this policy	Screened Out
Residential Development				
R1	Meeting Trafford's Housing Requirement	The housing requirement, set by Places for Everyone, will be met through the creation of sustainable and mixed communities.	Policy reflects numbers set in PFE. No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this policy	Screened Out
R2	Meeting Affordable and Social Housing Needs	Outlines requirements for affordable & social housing across Trafford.	No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this policy	Screened Out

POLICY REF	POLICY NAME	SUMMARY	POSSIBLE IMPACTS ON EUROPEAN SITE	SCREENING OUTCOME
R3	Size and Type of New Homes	Outlines requirements for size and type of housing within new proposals, including student accommodation, HMOs and Self-build.	No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this policy	Screened Out
R4	Older Persons Accommodation	Outlines requirements for adaptable or supported housing, residential care bedspaces, extra care and/or specialist accommodation.	No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this policy	Screened Out
R5	Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation	Sets the minimum number of pitches required and requirements for proposed sites.	No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this policy	Screened Out
GT1	Land known as Philomenas Court, Eeasebrook, Urmston	5 Gypsy and Traveller Pitches with necessary drainage, landscaping, green infrastructure and financial contributions.	No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this policy	Screened Out
Economy and Jobs				
EJ1	Employment Land	Sets out protection measures for existing employment land and the minimum additional floor space requirements.	No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this policy	Screened Out
EJ2	Trafford Park	Outline primary function of Trafford Park and the type of development that will be permitted.	No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this policy	Screened Out
EJ3	Industry and Warehousing	Sets out amount of new industry and warehousing that will be delivered and the existing areas designated as employment land. Includes the designation of Dairyhouse Lane (AS4) as an Employment Area.	Allocation AS4 has been screened in as the site lies in the Impact Risk Zones for Sites of Special Scientific Interest for air pollution (See below). As this Policy is directly concerned with delivering the allocation, it is also screened in.	Screened In
EJ4	Office Development	Sets out amount are of new office floorspace that will be delivered and the existing areas designated as office space.	No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this policy	Screened Out

POLICY REF	POLICY NAME	SUMMARY	POSSIBLE IMPACTS ON EUROPEAN SITE	SCREENING OUTCOME
EJ5	The Rural Economy	Sets out conditions where agricultural uses and diversification would be encouraged.	No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this policy	Screened Out
Transport and Movement				
TM1, TM1N, TM1S, TM1C, TM1W	Walking, Wheeling and Cycling	Walking, wheeling and cycling will be the natural first choice for all local journeys within Trafford, reducing congestion and improving air quality and people's health and wellbeing. Sets out requirements and location where active transport improvements are required.	No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of these policies	Screened Out
TM2	Public Transport	Extending and improving the public transport network in Trafford is essential to ensure that new development supports sustainable travel patterns, reduces reliance on private car use, enables modal shift, and delivers inclusive, low-carbon and well-connected communities.	No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this policy	Screened Out
TM3	The Highway Network	The highway network will be managed, maintained and improved to ensure its safe and efficient operation, while prioritising sustainable transport modes.	No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this policy	Screened Out
TM4	Movement of Goods	The Council will support the movement of goods whilst the freight industry continues to transition to more environmentally sustainable methods.	No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this policy	Screened Out
TM5	Parking Standards	Outline parking standards for new development including vehicle charging infrastructure, car clubs and park & ride schemes.	No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this policy	Screened Out

POLICY REF	POLICY NAME	SUMMARY	POSSIBLE IMPACTS ON EUROPEAN SITE	SCREENING OUTCOME
TM6	Mitigating Transport Impacts	A vision-led approach should be taken to transport planning; providing the transport solutions to deliver well-designed, sustainable and popular places.	No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this policy	Screened Out
TM7	Safeguarded Routes	Identifies transport routes to be safeguarded from development.	No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this policy	Screened Out
Town Centres and Retail				
TC1	Centre Hierarchy	Defines hierarchy of Trafford's centres.	No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this policy	Screened Out
TC2, TC2S, TC2N, TC2C, TC2W, TC3H, TC3S, TC3T	Development within Designated Centres	Development of high-quality main town centre uses will be permitted where it builds upon each centre's unique characteristics, aids in the diversification of uses and maintains vibrancy and viability.	No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of these policies	Screened Out
TC4	Development Outside of Centres	Outlines requirements for developments outside of Centres.	No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this policy	Screened Out
The Natural Environment				
NE1	Local Nature Recovery Strategy	Sets out support for schemes that deliver the priorities and actions for nature recovery and outlines the requirements for all development with regard to nature recovery.	Potential positive effect	Screened Out
NE2	Green and Blue Infrastructure	Outlines protection measures for GBI and requirements for mitigation and enhancement.	Potential positive effect	Screened Out
NE3	Nature Conservation	Core Local Nature Sites and nature conservation assets will be protected, enhanced and/or restored, protecting	No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this policy	Screened Out

POLICY REF	POLICY NAME	SUMMARY	POSSIBLE IMPACTS ON EUROPEAN SITE	SCREENING OUTCOME
		habitats, species and delivering wider environmental benefits.		
NE4	Urban Greening Factor (UGF)	Outlines requirements for UGF.	No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this policy	Screened Out
NE5	Carbon Storage and Natural Habitats	Proposals which improve, restore or create habitats that provide a natural carbon storage function will be supported.	Potential positive effect	Screened Out
NE6	Mersey Valley	The Mersey Valley's strategic role within Trafford's natural environment will be protected and supported.	Potential positive effect	Screened Out
NE7	Trees, Woodland and Hedgerows	Outlines requirements for the protection and enhancement of Trees, Woodland and Hedgerows.	No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this policy	Screened Out
NE8	Landscape Character Areas	All new development within and adjoining the landscape character areas must respond to the special quality and sensitivity of the relevant landscape character area demonstrated through an appropriate Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment or a Landscape Appraisal.	No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this policy	Screened Out
Open Space, Play, Sport and Recreation				
OS1	Open Space, Play, Sport and Recreation	Trafford's existing open spaces and sporting and recreation facilities will be protected, enhanced and opportunities maximised to improve their quality, increase their accessibility and support new provision.	No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this policy	Screened Out
OS2	Requirements for Open, Play and Sport Spaces in New Development	Sets threshold levels for provision associated with new developments including financial contributions.	No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this policy	Screened Out

POLICY REF	POLICY NAME	SUMMARY	POSSIBLE IMPACTS ON EUROPEAN SITE	SCREENING OUTCOME
OS3	Cemeteries, Burial Grounds and Crematoria	Outlines protection for existing sites and criteria for new provisions	No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this policy	Screened Out
Water, Flooding and Drainage				
WA1	Managing Flood Risk	Outlines when a Flood Risk Assessment will be required and measures required for mitigation and management measures for new development in areas at risk of flooding.	No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this policy	Screened Out
WA2	Sustainable Drainage – Surface and Foul Water	Outlines when a site-specific drainage strategy or statement will be required as well as requirements for measures minimising/retaining surface water. Requirements for long term management of SUDs features, retrofitting SUDs and use of permeable surfaces.	No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this policy	Screened Out
WA3	Flood Storage Areas	Safeguarding of existing flood storage areas.	No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this policy	Screened Out
Culture, Leisure, Tourism and Community				
CL1	Cultural and Tourism Assets	Outlines criteria where for new and temporary attractions will be supported and gives protection to existing assets.	No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this policy	Screened Out
CL2	Trafford Centre Rectangle	The Trafford Centre Rectangle's role as a major regional retail and leisure destination will be supported, while ensuring development is managed, promotes sustainable transport, and minimises impacts on the highway network and surrounding areas.	No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this policy	Screened Out
CL3	Community and Social Facilities	Outlines requirement whereby new social and community facilities will be supported, gives protection to existing	No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this policy	Screened Out

POLICY REF	POLICY NAME	SUMMARY	POSSIBLE IMPACTS ON EUROPEAN SITE	SCREENING OUTCOME
		facilities and resists loss of such services.		
CL4	Stadia and High-Capacity Event Venues	Sets out criteria and requirements for new stadia or expansion of existing facilities.	No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this policy	Screened Out
Built and Historic Environment				
BE1	Well-Designed Places and Buildings	Outlines design requirements for new proposals including accessibility and protecting amenity.	No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this policy	Screened Out
BE2	Tall Buildings	Outlines criteria where tall buildings will be supported.	No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this policy	Screened Out
BE3	Historic Environment	Development proposals will be supported which sustain and enhance heritage assets and their settings.	No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this policy	Screened Out
BE4	Agent of Change	Development proposals must apply the agent of change principle.	No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this policy	Screened Out
BE5	Environmental Protection	Outlines requirements for protection from pollution, assessment of ground conditions and measures to mitigate any impacts.	No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this policy	Screened Out
BE6	Hazardous Installations	Outlines criteria whereby development near hazardous installations or where developments involving the use of hazardous substances will be assessed.	No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this policy	Screened Out
BE7	Hot Food Takeaways and Fast-Food Outlets	Outlines location requirements for new and/or extensions to existing takeaways/fast-food outlets.	No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this policy	Screened Out
Infrastructure, Planning Obligations and Conditions				

POLICY REF	POLICY NAME	SUMMARY	POSSIBLE IMPACTS ON EUROPEAN SITE	SCREENING OUTCOME
IP1	Infrastructure Delivery and Contributions	Outlines which documents/plans will be used to identify necessary in-kind and/or financial contributions to infrastructure projects.	No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this policy	Screened Out
FC1	Financial Contributions	Sets out the type of provisions to which financial contributions may be sought to mitigate direct impacts of developments.	No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this policy	Screened Out
FC2	Education Contributions	All major residential developments of 10 or more dwellings must make a financial contribution towards education provision.	No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this policy	Screened Out
FC3	Health Contributions	Outlines the contributions all residential developments over 50 homes will be required to make to primary care facilities.	No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this policy	Screened Out
FCN1	North Locality Contributions	Outlines the financial contributions all major developments within Trafford North will be required to make.	No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this policy	Screened Out
FCS1	Davenport Green Infrastructure Contributions	Outlines where contributions will be required to deliver necessary infrastructure for PfE policy JP Allocation 3.2.	No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this policy Screened Out	Screened Out
FCW1	New Carrington Infrastructure Contributions	Outlines where contributions will be required to deliver necessary infrastructure for PfE policy JP Allocation 30.	No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this policy Screened Out	Screened Out
FC4	Sustainable Transport and Highways	Outlines where financial and/or in-kind contribution will be required.	No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this policy	Screened Out

POLICY REF	POLICY NAME	SUMMARY	POSSIBLE IMPACTS ON EUROPEAN SITE	SCREENING OUTCOME
FC5	Managing and Monitoring Planning Obligations	To support the effective monitoring and administration of planning obligations, a monitoring contribution will be applied to all agreements secured under Section 106 of the TCPA 190.	No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this policy	Screened Out
OC1	Viability Reviews	Outlines when such reviews will be undertaken.	No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this policy	Screened Out
OC2	Safeguarding of Homes in Build to Rent Schemes	Require the long-term safeguarding of homes as rental properties to be secured via a planning obligation.	No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this policy	Screened Out
OC3	Provision of Publicly Accessible Open Space and Public Realm	Developments delivering publicly accessible open space will be required to secure public access for these spaces through planning obligations.	No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this policy	Screened Out
OC4	Local Labour Agreements	All major development involving construction and demolition will be required to enter into local labour and training agreements	No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this policy	Screened Out
OC5	Early Activation and Community Initiatives	To assist in the creation of new sustainable communities within largescale development areas, obligations which contribute to the early activation of new areas may be required.	No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this policy	Screened Out
OC6	Design Monitoring	Outlines required for major developments to either provide a Design Team or provide a design and monitoring contribution.	No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this policy	Screened Out

Table 5.2 Initial Screening Summary of impacts of Trafford Local Plan on the National Sites Network.

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

POLICY REF	SITE NAME	TYPE	POSSIBLE IMPACTS ON EUROPEAN SITE	SCREENING OUTCOME
North Allocations				
AN1	Wharfside	Mixed	Due to the location, directly adjacent to and including part of the Manchester Ship Canal, there are distant but direct hydrological linkages with Mersey Estuary SPA via Ship Canal and the River Mersey.	Screened In
AN2	Civic Quarter	Mixed	No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this Allocation. Proposed land use is not a type identified as a risk in the Impact Risk Zones for Sites of Special Scientific Interest.	Screened Out
AN3	Trafford Waters	Mixed	Due to the location, directly adjacent to and including part of the Manchester Ship Canal, there are distant but direct hydrological linkages with Mersey Estuary SPA via Ship Canal and the River Mersey.	Screened In
AN4	Pomona	Mixed	Due to the location directly adjacent to the Manchester Ship Canal, there are distant but direct hydrological linkages with Mersey Estuary SPA via Ship Canal and the River Mersey.	Screened In
AN5	Site of the former Stretford Mall, Chester Road, Stretford	Mixed	No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this Allocation. Proposed land use is not a type identified as a risk in the Impact Risk Zones for Sites of Special Scientific Interest.	Screened Out
AN6	Land west of Skerton Road, Old Trafford	Residential	No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this Allocation. Proposed land use is not a type identified as a risk in the Impact Risk Zones for Sites of Special Scientific Interest.	Screened Out
AN7	499 Chester Road, Old Trafford	Residential	No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this Allocation. Proposed land use is not a type identified as a risk in the Impact Risk Zones for Sites of Special Scientific Interest.	Screened Out

POLICY REF	SITE NAME	TYPE	POSSIBLE IMPACTS ON EUROPEAN SITE	SCREENING OUTCOME
AN8	88-118 Chorlton Road, Old Trafford	Residential	No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this Allocation. Proposed land use is not a type identified as a risk in the Impact Risk Zones for Sites of Special Scientific Interest.	Screened Out
AN9	Land On Brixham Road, Old Trafford	Residential	No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this Allocation. Proposed land use is not a type identified as a risk in the Impact Risk Zones for Sites of Special Scientific Interest.	Screened Out
AN10	Lacy Street, Stretford	Residential	No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this Allocation. Area is not in any Impact Risk Zones for Sites of Special Scientific Interest.	Screened Out
AN11	Empress Mill, Former Trafford Press, Veno Building and Adjacent Land	Residential	No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this Allocation. Proposed land use is not a type identified as a risk in the Impact Risk Zones for Sites of Special Scientific Interest.	Screened Out
AN12	Land at Thomas Street, Stretford	Residential	No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this Allocation. Proposed land use is not a type identified as a risk in the Impact Risk Zones for Sites of Special Scientific Interest.	Screened Out
AN13	Land to East and West of A5181 (Kelloggs Plant) Park Road, Trafford Park	Employment	No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this Allocation. Proposed land use is not a type identified as a risk in the Impact Risk Zones for Sites of Special Scientific Interest.	Screened Out
AN14	Site of SCA Hygiene Products, Trafford Park Road, Trafford Park	Employment	No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this Allocation. Proposed land use is not a type identified as a risk in the Impact Risk Zones for Sites of Special Scientific Interest.	Screened Out

POLICY REF	SITE NAME	TYPE	POSSIBLE IMPACTS ON EUROPEAN SITE	SCREENING OUTCOME
AN15	2 Brindley Road, Old Trafford	Industry and Warehousing	No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this Allocation. Proposed land use is not a type identified as a risk in the Impact Risk Zones for Sites of Special Scientific Interest.	Screened Out
South Allocations				
AS1	Land at Oakfield Road, Altrincham	Mixed	No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this Allocation. Proposed land use is not a type identified as a risk in the Impact Risk Zones for Sites of Special Scientific Interest.	Screened Out
AS2	Land at New Street, Altrincham	Residential	No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this Allocation. Proposed land use is not a type identified as a risk in the Impact Risk Zones for Sites of Special Scientific Interest.	Screened Out
AS3	Land at Moss Lane, Balmoral Road, Altrincham	Residential	No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this Allocation. Proposed land use is not a type identified as a risk in the Impact Risk Zones for Sites of Special Scientific Interest.	Screened Out
AS4	Land at Dairyhouse Lane, Broadheath	Industry and Warehousing	The allocation is described as “Industrial and warehousing floorspace,” including use Classes E(g)(ii) and (g)(iii). As the site lies in the Impact Risk Zones for Sites of Special Scientific Interest for air pollution, there may be a potential pathway to the Manchester Mosses SAC, although the risk zones do not identify the designated sites that the risk applies too.	Screened In
Central Allocation				
AC1	Land at Stanley Square, Sale	Residential	No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this Allocation. Proposed land use is not a type identified as a risk in the Impact Risk Zones for Sites of Special Scientific Interest.	Screened Out

POLICY REF	SITE NAME	TYPE	POSSIBLE IMPACTS ON EUROPEAN SITE	SCREENING OUTCOME
AC2	Land at Sale Lido / Oaklands Drive, Sale	Residential	No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this Allocation. Proposed land use is not a type identified as a risk in the Impact Risk Zones for Sites of Special Scientific Interest	Screened Out

6 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 and Proposed Allocations in the Trafford Local Plan could have a likely significant effect on the European Sites Identified below.

POLICY Ref	POLICY/SITE NAME	SUMMARY SCREENING OPINION – LIKELY SIGNIFICANT EFFECTS (LSE)			
		Manchester Mosses SAC	Mersey Estuary SPA/Ramsar	Rixton Clay Pits SAC	Rochdale Canal SAC
EJ3	Industry and Warehousing	Potential LSE through diffuse air pollution	No likely significant effects	No likely significant effects	No likely significant effects
AN1	Wharfside	No likely significant effects	Potential LSE through diffuse water pollution	No likely significant effects	No likely significant effects
AN3	Trafford Waters	No likely significant effects	Potential LSE through diffuse water pollution	No likely significant effects	No likely significant effects
AN4	Pomona	No likely significant effects	Potential LSE through diffuse water pollution	No likely significant effects	No likely significant effects
AS4	Land at Dairyhouse Lane, Broadheath	Potential LSE through diffuse air pollution	No likely significant effects	No likely significant effects	No likely significant effects

Following the analysis of the Proposed Allocations, impacts on Rixton Clay Pits SAC 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 considered to be:

- Diffuse water pollution impacts on the Mersey Estuary SPA/Ramsar resulting from development directly adjacent to the River Mersey and Manchester Ship Canal (AN1, AN3 and AN4).
- Diffuse air pollution impacts on the Manchester Mosses SAC resulting from the allocation of industry at AS4 and Policy EJ3.

7 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:

- Diffuse water pollution
- 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.

Diffuse water pollution

Negative effects on European sites can be due to a lowering of water quality i.e. pollution leading to higher mortality of qualifying species, food sources they are reliant on or through accumulation of pollutants; changes in nutrient status such as raised levels of nitrate or phosphate, leading to a change in the vegetation structure of the European site and potentially any qualifying species and; changes in water clarity through increase sediment load or increase levels of algae in the water.

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;*

PfE Policy JP-S4 Flood Risk and the Water Environment includes the following wording:

An integrated catchment-based approach will be taken to protect the quantity and quality of water bodies with reference to the North West River Basin Management Plan and managing flood risk, by:

- 4. Expecting developments to manage surface water run-off through sustainable drainage systems and as close to source as possible.*

- 5. Ensuring that sustainable drainage systems:*

- i. Are designed to provide multifunctional benefits wherever possible, including for water quality, nature conservation and recreation;*
- ii. Avoid adverse impacts on water quality and any possibility of discharging hazardous substances to ground;*
- iii. Are delivered in a holistic and integrated manner, including on larger sites split into different phases; and*
- iv. Are managed and maintained appropriately to ensure their proper functioning over the lifetime of the development.*

Policy JP-G3: River Valleys and Waterways includes the following wording:

In making planning decisions and carrying out other associated activities, we will seek to deliver the following priorities:

- 6. Improve water quality, including through land decontamination and the management of diffuse pollution from industry and agriculture;*

Within Trafford's Local Plan Policy **BE5: Environmental Protection** states the following: *"Development that would result in unacceptable pollution or land condition risks will not be permitted, unless such impacts can be effectively mitigated and the site made suitable for its proposed use."* It also states that *"Development that has the potential to cause adverse pollution (of air, light, water, ground), ...will be required to demonstrate that it can adequately demonstrate, where appropriate, the following requirements: Is appropriate to its location and does not result in unacceptable risks to ...the natural environment" and that "Where unacceptable risks cannot be satisfactorily mitigated, planning permission will not be granted".*

The Mersey Estuary SPA and Ramsar are around 18km downstream of the Borough boundary via the River Mersey, with the estuary subject to very large flows each day owing to the ebb and flow of the tide, (a dilution factor, estimated in the Warrington Local Plan HRA at 5 million cubic meters of water between Warrington and the SPA) It also received drainage from many of the other districts in Greater Manchester, Merseyside, Warrington and parts of Cheshire.

Currently the effect of water quality on the SPA is not recorded as a significant risk on the standard data form for the site or an issue raised by the most recent site improvement plan. The main issues being recreational pressures, invasive species and changes the recorded populations of qualifying species. The Mersey Estuary SPA/Ramsar/SSSI was also not listed in the open letter to LPA's dated 16th March 2022, regarding protected sites at risk from negative water quality effects resulting from nitrates and phosphates, where additional assessment would be required.

Given the above, it is concluded that there are no likely significant effect as a result of water borne pollutants arising from the Trafford's Local Plan in isolation on the conservation status of the Mersey Estuaries SPA/Ramsar. This is based on the fact that water quality not been regarded as a significant risk by Natural England, the relative proportion of potential pollution generated by the proposed allocations in Trafford compared to the entire catchment and the policies in place to safeguard the water environment.

Diffuse Air Pollution

Proposed allocation AS4 lies within the following SSSI Impact Risk Zone:

- **Air Pollution:** Any industrial/agricultural development that could cause AIR POLLUTION (including: industrial processes, livestock & poultry units with floorspace > 500m², slurry lagoons > 200m² & manure stores > 250tonnes).

The site is allocated for industrial and warehousing floorspace. No details have been provided on the type of industry that will be supported at this site.

Manchester Mosses SAC supports habitats that are considered sensitive to changes in air quality, especially acidity and nitrogen. Critical values are currently being exceeded at this SAC (APIS, 2016). Exceedance of these critical values for air pollutants may modify the chemical status of its substrate, accelerating or damaging plant growth, altering its vegetation structure and composition and causing the loss of sensitive typical species associated with it.

Mitigation through Policy Operation

In addition to PfE Policy JP-G8 listed above, PfE also includes the following policies:

Policy JP-S1: Sustainable Development

"To help tackle climate change, development should aim to maximise its economic, social and environmental benefits simultaneously, minimise its adverse impacts, utilise sustainable construction techniques and actively seek opportunities to secure net gains across each of the different objectives."

Policy JP-S5: Clean Air

Trafford's Local Plan Policy **BE5: Environmental Protection** is also relevant to diffuse air pollution (see above).

Given the above, it is concluded that there are no likely significant effect as a result of diffuse air pollutants arising from the Trafford's Local Plan in isolation on the conservation status of the Manchester Mosses SAC.

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.

Mersey Estuary SPA/Ramsar

A number of local authorities have the potential to have a significant effect on the Mersey Estuary SPA/Ramsar, as a result of pollutants and sediment entering the catchment that drains into the Mersey Estuary, including the majority of Merseyside authorities, parts of Cheshire West, parts of Cheshire East, all of Greater Manchester authorities and Warrington.

HRAs for the Local Plans for areas reach differing conclusions on in-combination impacts. Places for Everyone, for example, screened in in-combination effects because of the scale of the development proposed. Wigan's, St Helen's and Halton's Local Plans all conclude that in combination effect could occur but Warrington's Local Plan screened out the Mersey Estuary SPA/Ramsar out at stage 1 owing to the distance down river from Warrington.

On balance given the lack of agreement between local plans on the potential for an in-combination likely significant effect on water quality, and notwithstanding the policies to protect watercourses listed above, it is recommended that a precautionary approach is taken. In line with the recommendations of Places for Everyone, and the St Helens and Halton Local Plans through the addition of a commitment in the Trafford's Local Plan to working with the utility provider to ensure that capacity within the sewage network keeps ahead of development. Reassurances should be sought from the utilities provider that sewage treatment capacity will be sufficient to keep up with demand from new development in Trafford.

Manchester Mosses

While HRAs for PfE, Warrington's Local Plan and Salford's Local Plan screened in air quality for the Manchester Mosses SAC, this was in relation to pollution caused by increased traffic movement rather than air pollution caused by industrial development. Therefore, as long as the agreed measures in the Policies listed in section 7 are applied to development in Trafford, and especially AS4, no effects on site integrity will occur.

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: Regulation 19 Draft Local Plan:

- 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.

One Policy and a number of proposed allocations within the Plan were initially Screened In as potentially having a damaging effect on European Sites due to diffuse water and air pollution effects. Following further Assessment, including consideration of available mitigation measures, it is considered likely that no effects on the integrity of European designated sites arising from the operation of the Trafford Local Plan alone will occur.

As a precaution it is also recommended that to avoid any potential in-combination effects on the Mersey Estuary SPA/Ramsar reassurances should be sought from the utilities provider that sewage treatment capacity will be sufficient to keep up with demand from new development in Trafford.

References

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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)

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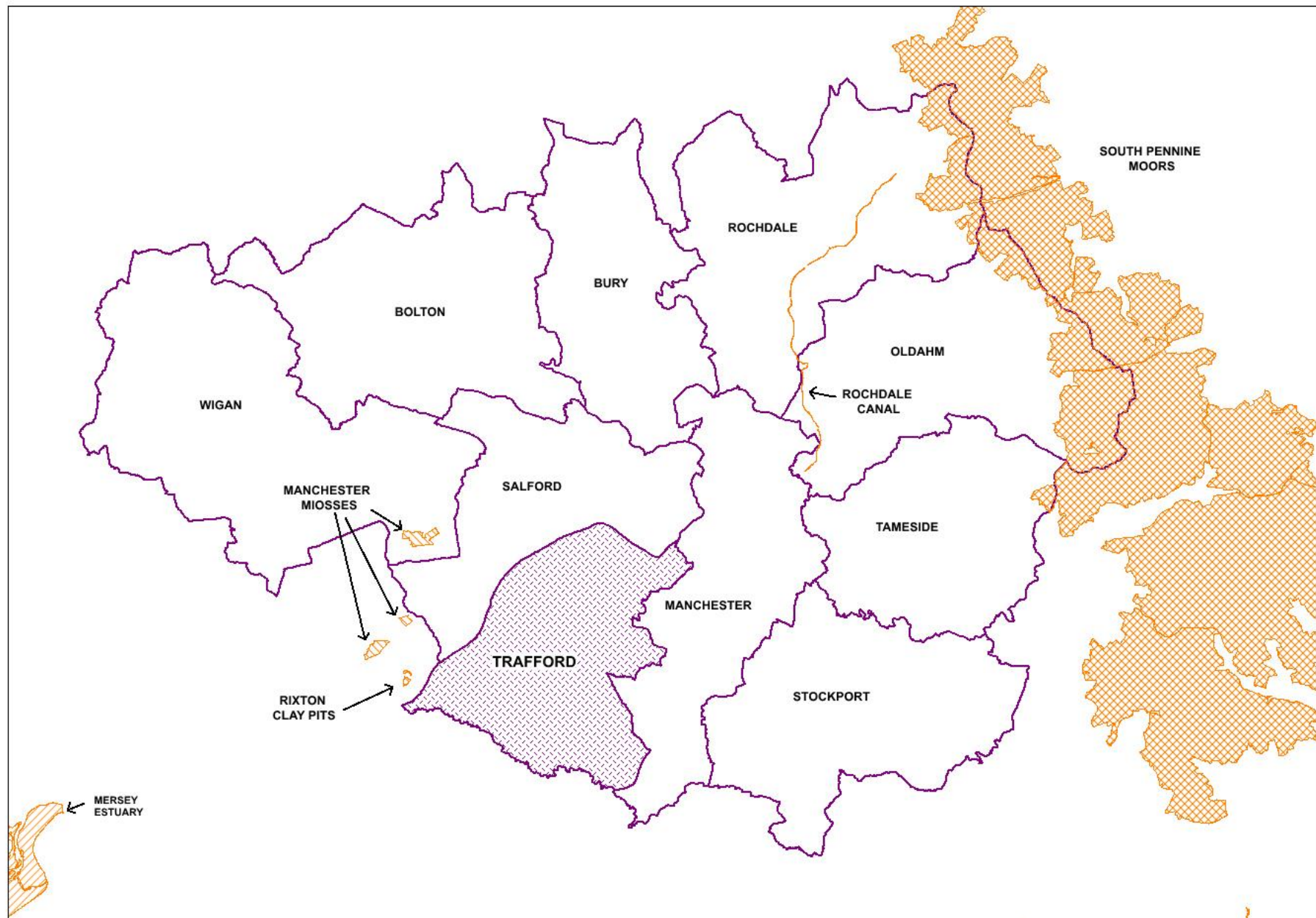
The Conservation of Habitats and Species and Planning (Various Amendments) (England and Wales) Regulations 2017

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

Warrington Borough Council Updated Proposed Submission version Local Plan: Amended HRA – August 2021 AECOM

St Helens Local Plan 2018 – 2033 Preferred options, Habitat Regulation Assessment – December 2016 – AECOM

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 (freshwater 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 rainwater 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
Wigan	Wigan Borough Local Plan: Initial Draft Consultation	No effect on the integrity of European sites, providing that recommended changes and mitigation are implemented