

Habitats Regulations Assessment of the Impact on European Protected Sites of Bury Council's Second Draft Publication Core Strategy

September 2012



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September 2012

Table of Contents

Table of Contents	3
1 Introduction	4
2 Brief description of The Plan	7
3 Identification of European Designated Sites Concerned	14
4 The Nature Conservation Interest of Rochdale Canal SAC	17
5 Screening Opinion – Bury Second Draft Publication Core Strategy	19
6 Screening Opinion – Rochdale Canal SAC	25
7 Consideration of ‘In Combination’ Effects with Other Plans and Proposals	26
8 Assessment of Potential Effects identified through the Screening Process	27
9 Summary and Recommendations	28
Figure 1: Bury’s The Core Strategy Key Diagram showing Key Centres, Regeneration Areas, Employment Development Ares and main areas for Housing Growth. (Taken from The Plan figure 35)	29
Figure 2 – Map Showing Location of European Sites within Greater Manchester and in Close Proximity to the County (edged pink) and Bury (edged black)	30
REFERENCES	31
APPENDIX 1: European designated sites within the North West Region and possible effects from development within Bury MBC	32
APPENDIX 2: Screening Summary of European designated sites within the North West Region and possible impacts from development within Bury MBC	47
APPENDIX 3 – List of Other Plans and Projects Considered within the Assessment	51

1 Introduction

- 1.0 Article 6(3) of the European Habitats Directive dealing with the conservation of European protected sites states that:
- 1.1 *'Any plan or project not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site but likely to have a significant effect thereon, either individually or in combination with other plans and projects, shall be subject to assessment of its implications for the site in view of the site's conservation objectives. In light of the conclusions of the assessment of the implications for the site and subject to the provisions of paragraph 4, the competent national authorities shall agree to the plan or project only after having ascertained that it will not adversely affect the integrity of the site concerned and, if appropriate, after having obtained the opinion of the general public.'*
- 1.2 Under the terms of amendments made to the Habitats Directive in 2007 the following relevant land-use plans are considered to require a Habitats Regulation Assessment:
- The Regional Spatial Strategy under Part 1 of the 2004 Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act.
 - A Local Development Document as provided for in Part 2 of the 2004 Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act other than a statement of community involvement.
- 1.3 The Core Strategy of Bury Metropolitan Borough Council's Local Plan is considered to be a Local Development Document (a 'Plan') that falls under Part IV, 85A-(2) of the 2007 Habitats Regulations Amendments and therefore is required to be subject to a Habitats Regulations Assessment (to be taken at least through the screening stage (Stage 1)).
- 1.4 European protected sites (the 'Natura 2000 Network') are of exceptional importance for the conservation of important species and natural habitats within the European Union. The purpose of Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA) of land use plans is to ensure that protection of the integrity of European protected sites is an integral part of the planning process at a regional and local level. The network of European protected sites comprises Special Protection Areas (SPAs), Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Ramsar sites. Government guidance advises under the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF paragraph 118 March 2012) that potential SPAs (pSPA), candidate SACs (cSAC) and potential Ramsar (pRamsar) sites are also included in HRAs.
- 1.5 Earlier iterations of the HRA for the Core Strategy – 2nd Stage Issues & Options (July 2007) and the publication Core Strategy (June 2010 withdrawn) were presented by Bury MBC for consultation. These Assessments concluded that no significant effects have been identified and that at that stage an Appropriate Assessment was not required for the following reasons;-
- The strategic implications of increased amounts of housing are to be considered within the Regional Spatial Strategy.
 - The SA/SEA Scoping Report identifies that there are no European designations within the Borough or within the immediate vicinity
 - The Report identified three spatial options for future development, but as these are only options there are no definitive plans associated with it is not possible to undertake a more detailed HRA at this stage.
 - The vast majority of the new development is proposed within urban areas and none of the options steer development towards European sites.
 - It is unlikely that any development within the Borough will affect the nature conservation status of the nearest European sites – The Rochdale Canal SAC, South Pennines SAC, Peak District SPA or the Manchester Mosses SAC.

- Under the Publication Core Strategy (June 2010 - withdrawn) under Policy SDS1 Strand 1 Bury Centre – Western Waterside, there *may potentially* be an *indirect* effect on the Rochdale Canal SAC from increased boat movements. The detail at that stage was in insufficient detail to assess whether there was a need for an Appropriate Assessment
- 1.6 Since the withdrawal of the June 2010 Publication Core Strategy there has been a significant redraft of the document and the NPPF has been introduced (March 2012). It has been concluded by Bury MBC under advisement from GMEU that a full reconsideration of the impacts of the Core Strategy should be undertaken in accordance with the Habitats Regulations.
- 1.7 The current HRA looks at the Second Draft Publication Core Strategy (hereafter referred to as 'The Plan') prior to public consultation in October 2012. This report;-
- Provides a summary of the spatial elements of The Plan and its Core Policies.
 - Identifies by a screening process any European site that could potentially be affected by either development in areas selected by Bury Council as strategic sites or affected by Core Policies outlined within The Plan.
 - Outlines details of the nature conservation importance of any European sites 'screened in' to the process.
 - Identifies the possible impacts that the Core Policies in The Plan or of development within the spatial element may have on features of nature conservation importance within European sites.
 - Assesses development or Core Policy impacts that could potentially have a significant effect on the favourable conservation status of European sites.
 - Identifies controls within The Plan and other development plan documents, strategies, policies and plans that could act to avoid or mitigate these effects.
 - Proposes amendments and alterations to plans and policies where necessary to avoid these impacts.
 - Identifies sites and development proposals that will require further Assessment as part of the ongoing HRA of Bury's LDF process.
 - Considers The Plan in combination with other plans, projects or proposals.
- 1.8 Habitats Regulation Assessments can be seen as having a number of discrete stages -
- Stage 1 - Screening
 Stage 2 – Appropriate Assessment
 Stage 3 – Assessment of Alternatives
 Stage 4 – Assessment where no alternatives are available
- 1.9 This report comprises Stage 1 of the Habitats Regulation Assessment process and contributes to the fulfilment of the Council's statutory duty as regards Article 6(3). That is, it is an Opinion on, and an Assessment of, whether or not the selection of the strategic sites for development and the Core Policies identified within Bury Council's Second Draft Publication Core Strategy, may have a significant effect on the special interest of any European designated protected sites. It is also an Opinion on, and an Assessment of, whether any of the identified effects (if any) can be avoided or mitigated or whether any of the strategic sites need to be deselected or whether the wording of the Core Policies needs to be amended.
- 1.10 It is noted that The Plan being assessed may require further assessments at the Publication Stage, following minor alterations prior to submission, or the results of the Examination in Public. There is no statutory guidance on what stage of Plan production to best prepare an HRA but Natural England recommends that HRA begins at an early stage and if necessary continues through all the stages of plan production. HRA Methodologies are at a relatively early stage of development and examples of Best Practice have not yet emerged. As Best Practice emerges the methodology undertaken for this HRA may develop.

1.11 The Greater Manchester Ecology Unit (GMEU), as the specialist ecological adviser to Bury Council, has prepared this Screening Opinion. Natural England and the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) were consulted for information on the conservation objectives and favourable condition tables for the European Sites concerned (the information is summarised below). GMEU ecologists, who are familiar with the European sites concerned and their special interest, reviewed the ecological information for the site. The key vulnerabilities and sensitivities of the European sites concerned are well understood by GMEU as are the impact pathways which may affect a European site, allowing for an informed assessment of the possible effects of The Plan, and any specific aims, objectives and policies contained in The Plan.

2 Brief description of The Plan

- 2.0 The Plan being assessed is Bury's Second Draft Publication Core Strategy. The Plan is:
- the document which has been prepared for consultation prior to the formal Publication of the proposed submission Core Strategy. It will;
 - Outline the Council's vision for Bury up to the year 2029 and how managing the change necessary to achieve this vision is envisaged.
 - Provide strategic objectives and the level and type of development to deliver the vision.
 - Policies are then set to deliver each objective.
- 2.1 Bury has consulted on Issues & Options (July 2007), Preferred Options (May 2008) and subsequently on the Publication Core Strategy (July 2010) (withdrawn) and amended Draft Publication Core Strategy (November 2011). The details of these consultations are not repeated in this document but can be found in the Core Strategy documentation that should be read alongside this HRA.
- 2.2 For the purposes of this Assessment The Plan is nearly complete. Following consultation on this Second Draft Publication Core Strategy further amendments may take place prior to formal Publication. After the formal Publication stage further minor iterations may arise following consultation on The Plan or the Examination in Public. An opinion is being sought at this stage of Plan development to ensure that the requirements to meet terms of the Regulations regarding Habitats Regulation Assessment can be properly planned for and addressed.
- 2.3 The Plan has identified 5 Strategic Objectives;
- Objective 1 – To deliver high quality development in sustainable locations
 - Objective 2 – To deliver a competitive and diverse local economy
 - Objective 3 – To promote strong, vibrant and healthy communities
 - Objective 4 – To improve and manage the Borough's environment
 - Objective 5 – To improve transport and connectivity
- 2.4 These Objectives are supplemented with Bury's Spatial Framework (Policy SF1) and a series of spatial policies identifying specific types of development for specific areas of the Borough. In order to ensure a high standard of design and layout in new development the Core Strategy is supported by an overarching Policy CP1 and a series of DM (Development Management) Policies under each objective theme.
- 2.5 For the purposes of The Plan the Borough of Bury has been divided into 6 Townships, which support Key Centres (Key Town Centres or Key District Centres) and these are further refined in the Spatial Framework and spatial policies identifying areas for regeneration and targeted areas for high density development. The 6 areas are;-
- Ramsbottom, Tottington & North Manor
 - Bury West
 - Bury East
 - Radcliffe
 - Whitefield & Unsworth
 - Prestwich
- 2.6 The positions of these locations within the Borough are shown on the Key Diagram, reproduced at figure 35. Further diagrams are included within The Plan, which show the detail for each Township Framework (figures within Section 5 of The Plan).
- 2.7 The rationale behind the selection of these regeneration areas and broad locations for development can be found in other documents within the overall Local Plan evidence base. Details of the exact nature and type of development that may be allowed in these

areas are not yet available. At this stage of the process only the broad type and scale of preferred development is available for Assessment and consequently the Assessment has largely considered the *principle* of allowing the Sites to be proposed as areas where development is to be brought forward as part of The Plan. The identified spatial features will be further consulted upon as part of the development of other documents including DPDs and SPDs. It is recognised that the locations, and the type of preferred development in these areas, may be subject to change.

- 2.8 Figure 2 shows the Borough of Bury and its position within Greater Manchester in relation to European sites in the region. No Natura 2000 sites lie within the administrative boundary of Bury MBC, therefore no direct land take of a European Site is proposed and many parts of the Borough lie more than 5km away from any protected sites. The Rochdale Canal SAC is between 5 and 10 km from many parts of the Borough. The next nearest site is Manchester Mosses SAC, one part of which is just 10km from the Borough's southwestern boundary.
- 2.9 Table 1 below, shows the distances from broad locations for development, where these have been identified spatially. These broad locations are;
- Key Centres (Policy EC4)
 - regeneration areas (Policy CO7)
 - employment development areas (Policy EC1)
 - housing growth (Policy CO1)
 - sustainable power & zero carbon economy (Policy EN10)
 - mineral extraction (Policy EN16)
- 2.10 These broad locations are assessed against their proximity to the nearest Natura 2000 site, which in this case is the Rochdale Canal SAC. The proposal descriptions in Table 1 are summaries of what occurs in The Plan's full document, which should be consulted for clarification if required. Broad locations, which lie closer than 5km (as justified in section 3.4 below) have been highlighted within the table for further consideration.

Table 1 Key Centres & Broad Locations under Bury's Spatial Framework Core Policy SF1 and Spatial Policies

Name	Distance from European Site (km)	Strategic Proposal
Spatial Policy EC1- Broad Employment Development Areas (EDAs)		
Bury North	10 km - >10 km	Broad area for employment growth in range of business B1, industrial (B2) and warehousing (B8) with encouragement to capitalise on opportunities to recycle and regenerate existing older employment areas as well as provision of additional employment land. Has the potential to supply 4% of future supply in addition to reuse of existing buildings.
Bury Central	7.5 – 10 km	Broad area for employment growth offering high quality office jobs. Borough's main focal point for higher density & good quality B1 office-based employment with up to 27% of future supply of employment land
Irwell Bank	7.5 – 10 km	Broad area for employment growth, consolidation of existing employment areas and bringing forward Swan Lodge for business, industrial and warehouse uses Localised growth in lower density Business (B1), General Industrial (B2) and Warehousing (B8) uses with potential to accommodate 35% of future supply of employment land
Pilsworth	5 – 7.5 km	Broad area for employment growth in range of business, industrial and warehouse uses An area for growth in Business (B1), General Industrial (B2) and Warehousing (B8) uses. Predominantly by recycling existing employment land with the potential to accommodate 15% of future supply of employment land
Bury South	7.5 – 10 km	Broad area for employment growth with office development in and around Prestwich town centre and intensification and modernisation at Mountheath. An area for an increase in B1 office-based employment in and around Prestwich Key Centre by capitalising on opportunities to recycle and regenerate existing older employment areas. Potential to accommodate 10% of future supply of employment land
Additional Provision – Gin Hall	10 km	Encouragement of provision at Gin Hall (Junction 1 of M66) in the interests of providing additional improvements to quality & distribution of employment land. Green Belt status requires demonstration of 'very special circumstances'.

Name	Distance from European Site (km)	Strategic Proposal
Spatial Policy EC4 – Creating Thriving and Competitive Key Centres		
Bury Sub-Regional Centre		
Bury Key Centre	7.5 – 10 km	Support the retail role of the town centre Encourage diversity of uses, including higher density residential Encourage high quality, office-based employment Support and build on tourism, historical and cultural assets Manage flood risk Capitalise on opportunities for using low and zero carbon energy infrastructure
Western Waterside	7.5 -10 km	Mixed use waterside redevelopment
Phoenix Quarter	7.5 -10 km	Consolidate residential neighbourhoods Improve leisure facilities
Chamberhall	7.5 -10 km	High quality business development
Historic Core	7.5 -10 km	Build upon area's cultural, historic and tourism assets Improve public realm of Bolton Street area Introduce office/residential uses to underused upper floors
Shopping Quarter	7.5 -10 km	Maintain and enhance retail facilities Improve linkages between shopping areas Encouragement of small-scale retail development within or close to Millgate
Eastern Gateway	7.5 -10 km	Regenerate transitional area with new housing/business uses Potential qualitative improvement to the provision of convenience/food accommodation Act as catalyst for regeneration of Bury East
Southern Gateway	7.5 -10 km	Promote as mixed-uses area including educational facilities, offices, healthcare and residential Potential qualitative improvement to the provision of convenience/food accommodation Improve linkages into Primary Shopping Area

Name	Distance from European Site (km)	Strategic Proposal
Spatial Policy EC4 – Creating Thriving and Competitive Key Centres (continued)		
Ramsbottom Key Centre	>10km	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Build on tourism assets Respect character and heritage of town Support and encourage diversity of uses in town Consolidate retail role of town centre Restructure and consolidate the East Lancashire Railway/Bridge Street intersection Improve role, function and environment of ‘Backlands’ area Maintain and improve employment Take account of flood risk
Radcliffe Key Centre	10km	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consolidate and improve the town centre Encourage quantitative and qualitative improvements to retail Transform image of town Encourage new housing Protect and encourage new jobs Improve links in and around the town centre Encourage carbon reduction Take account of flood risk
Prestwich Key Centre	7.5 – 10 km	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduce a diversity of uses including health care Regenerate the retail function of the town Support redevelopment of Longfield Centre Promote centre as ‘low carbon village’ Promote the centre as gateway to green infrastructure Improve access and car parking Improve the public realm Introduce new high quality office-based employment
Tottington Key Centre	>10km	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage diversity of uses including health care Consolidate retail role

Name	Distance from European Site (km)	Strategic Proposal
Whitefield Key Centre	7.5 – 10 km	Consolidate retail role of District Centre Encourage diversity of uses including new health care provision
Spatial Policy CO7 – Addressing the needs of our Regeneration Areas		
East Bury Regeneration Area	5 – 7.5 km	In identified Regeneration Areas the Strategy is to address deprivation issues associated with income, employment, health, education, living environment and crime
Inner Radcliffe Regeneration Area	7.5 – 10 km	
Besses Regeneration Area	7.5 – 10 km	
Rainsough Regeneration Area	7.5 – 10 km	
Spatial Policy CO1 Delivering a Choice of Quality Housing for Everyone		
Ramsbottom, Tottington and North Manor	>10km	There are some opportunities for large scale residential development Smaller sites on previously developed land can supply 10% for residual housing target
Bury West	7.5 – 10km	Area in and around Bury town centre to the west Around 10% for residual housing target
Bury East	<5 – 7.5 km	Area in and around Bury town centre provides some of the key strategic opportunities. Around 35% for residual housing target
Spatial Policy CO1 Delivering a Choice of Quality Housing for Everyone (continued)		
Radcliffe	7.5 – 10 km	A number of large sites in short – medium term in and around Radcliffe town centre Around 35% for residual housing target
Whitefield and Unsworth	7.5 – 10km	Opportunities are limited and are likely to be small scale infill developments Only around 3% for residual housing target
Prestwich	7.5 – 10 km	Most of the sites focused around Town Centre including redevelopment of Longfield Centre Around 7% for residual housing target
Windfall Development	-	See Development Management Policy CO2 for guidelines and criteria

Name	Distance from European Site (km)	Strategic Proposal
Spatial Policy EN10 Moving towards a zero Carbon Borough (Plan figure 38)		
<u>Heat networks</u> – Bury, Radcliffe & Prestwich Town centre	7.5 - > 10km	Develop opportunities in conjunction with new development
<u>Sewage gas</u> – Bury WWTW	10km	Existing facility generating electricity
<u>Landfill Gas</u> – Pilsworth landfill and pipeline to Bury town centre	5km	Existing quarry with extant permissions for landfill.
Broad location main wind energy opportunities	5 – 10km	Broad location along District’s western and north eastern boundaries and north of the Irwell Valley along the M60 corridor
<u>Specific Wind Energy Opportunity</u>	5km	Two specific locations identified - Irwell Sewage Works and Pilsworth
<u>Geothermal mine water</u> – Radcliffe	10km	Opportunity to capitalise on heated mine water
<u>Hydroelectricity</u> – Chamberhall, Castlestead, Irwell Bank & Heap Bridge	<5km to > 10km	Locations identified along river corridors. Heap Bridge on River Roch less than 5km of Rochdale Canal SAC
Spatial Policy EN16 Managing Mineral Resources		
Fletcher Bank Quarry	10km	Existing quarry with extant permissions for sand and sandstone extraction
Pilsworth South Quarry	5km	Existing quarry with extant permissions for sand extraction
Pilsworth South (expansion)	5km	Potential for expansion of existing quarry for sand and gravel extraction

3 Identification of European Designated Sites Concerned

- 3.0 This Assessment has first screened European protected sites in the North West of England to decide which of these sites are likely to be affected by development in Bury (and in particular by development within the broad locations). When assessing the impact of The 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 (see figure 3).
- 3.1 As a useful starting point, the Assessment has considered the suite of European sites assessed within the Northwest Regional Spatial Strategy's (RSS) Habitat Regulations Assessment. These sites are listed in Appendix 1. This ensures that *all* European sites considered to have the potential to be affected by development within the northwest region can be initially considered for assessment (screening assessment).

The Screening Criteria

- 3.2 In carrying out this screening process the Assessment has considered the main possible **sources** of effects on the European sites arising from The 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.
- 3.3 Possible sources and pathways for effects arising from development in the identified Sites and used in the screening of European sites are considered to be:
- Water (water pollution, sediment and hydrology)
 - Air (air pollution)
 - Direct land-take
 - Habitat/Species Disturbance
 - Increased recreational pressure
- 3.4 Guidance from the Environment Agency (EA) concerning distances at which significant effects on European sites are caused by water or air pollution have been taken into account during the screening of European sites. The EA has set recommended buffer zones for certain types of operation (in particular, waste treatment operations) that are in part applicable to other types of operation. Outside of these buffer zones significant effects on European sites arising from water and air pollution are considered unlikely to arise. The largest (most cautious) buffer zone considered by the EA is 5km; that is, most operations with the potential of causing direct water and/or air pollution impacts located further than 5km from the boundary of a European site are considered very unlikely to have a significant effect on the special interest of that site. Having taken advice DCLG has recognised a 5km buffer in its award of special resources to local authorities for carrying out HRAs of Plans. Those authorities whose boundaries lie more than 5km away from a European protected sites have not received additional resources to carry out Assessments because it is considered that effects are less likely to arise from development within the boundaries of these authorities.
- 3.5 Although this guidance has been taken into account when screening European protected sites, in the case of a Plan affecting the development of an entire metropolitan area, the 5km buffer zone should be regarded as important but not as definitive – for example, this buffer zone may not be sufficient when assessing certain large-scale developments or secondary impacts. In particular, applying the 5km buffer may not be appropriate where the likely effect on a European site is caused by **diffuse air or water pollution** that may arise from large scale development, or where there are secondary **recreational** pressures on more distant protected sites arising from increased regional and sub-regional populations.

Diffuse Air Pollution

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

- Oxides of Nitrogen (NO_x)
- Ammonia (NH₃)
- Dust
- Sulphur Dioxide (SO₂)
- Low level Ozone (O₃)

(Scott Wilson Ltd 2007)

3.7 Of these NO_x and SO₃ are the most likely to arise as a result of development controlled by the LDF process. The greatest damage caused by these pollutants occurs close to where they are emitted (within 250m) but an individual source of pollution may add to the general background levels, as pollutants are dispersed by prevailing winds. The main sources of these pollutants are road traffic and industrial processes. Where proposed developments within Bury are likely to result in these pollutants arising, these have been screened into this Assessment. Where the proposed scale of development has already been assessed at the Regional level, these will be screened out.

3.8 Other forms of strategic development, outside the control of the LDF process, also produce diffuse air pollution such as the construction of major strategic road routes and air traffic. Although it is recognised that the decisions regarding these strategic elements are taken at a regional or national level via the Infrastructure Planning Commission (IPC), it is useful to identify them within this document in order to demonstrate completeness. Other LDF's (eg Southampton City and Newcastle-upon-Tyne City) considered the impacts of airports and used a 15km and 20km buffer, respectively, when identifying impacts from airport expansion.

Diffuse Water Pollution

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

3.10 Of the sites considered under Appendix 1, diffuse water pollution could potentially have an effect on the Mersey Estuary SPA/Ramsar Site, since most of the rivers in the Borough (eg Irwell & Roch) are all tributaries of the River Mersey and this eventually discharges into the Estuary. However, prior to discharging into the Estuary these watercourses pass through other Metropolitan areas and the Estuary itself is adjacent to the Merseyside conurbation. It would therefore be very difficult to establish whether any water pollution arising from development in Bury Borough was responsible for a significant effect on pollution in the Estuary. It is further noted that the HRA for the Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) did not identify development within Greater Manchester as likely to have a significant effect on this European protected site and for these reasons; the Mersey Estuary has been screened out of this HRA.

Recreational Pressure

3.11 The effects of increased regional and sub-regional populations on recreational pressures on the north west's European protected sites has been considered in the HRA of the North West RSS and is therefore not considered in detail in this report. Since there are no protected sites within Bury it is generally considered that any recreational pressures arising from development within Bury on protected sites will be diffuse and not significant.

3.12 The detailed results of the site screening process are found in Appendices 1 and 2 of this document. Appendix 1 shows the likely effects of the possible pathway and sources,

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

Summary Results of Screening of Sites

- 3.13 From the screening process detailed in Appendix 1 and 2 the following European designated sites have been identified as having the potential to be affected by development by the selected broad locations within the Spatial Polices and by the Core Policies:

Rochdale Canal SAC

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

- 3.14 **There are no European sites within the administrative boundary of Bury Metropolitan Borough Council and therefore, direct impacts such as habitat loss will not occur.**

4 The Nature Conservation Interest of Rochdale Canal SAC

4.0 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 the Rochdale Canal as a European protected site

4.1 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 *Potamogeton* spp pondweeds. The canal has predominantly mesotrophic water. This population of *Luronium* is representative of the formerly more widespread canal populations of this species found in northwest England. However the Rochdale Canal supports unusually dense populations of the plant.

Conservation Objective for the Rochdale Canal SAC

4.2 Although formal conservation objectives are still awaited from Natural England, it has been taken that the objective for the European interest of the SAC is to maintain, in favourable condition, the habitats for the population of floating water-plantain (*Luronium natans*). Maintenance implies restoration if the feature is not currently in favourable condition.

Floating water-plantain - description and ecological characteristics

4.3 Floating water-plantain (*Luronium natans*) occurs in a range of freshwater situations, including nutrient-poor lakes in the uplands and slowly-flowing lowland rivers, pools, ditches and canals that are moderately nutrient-rich (mesotrophic).

4.4 Floating water plantain 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 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. Populations fluctuate from year to year, and at many sites records of floating water plantain have been infrequent, suggesting that only small populations occur, in some cases possibly as transitory colonists of the habitat. Populations tend to be more stable at natural sites than at artificial ones, but approximately half of the recent (post-1980) records are from canals and similar artificial habitats. Its habitat in rivers has been greatly reduced by channel-straightening, dredging and pollution, especially in lowland situations.

Possible Impacts of the Proposals on the Rochdale Canal SAC

4.5 Operations that may damage the special interest of the canal include operations and activities that affect the growth and survival of *Luronium natans*. These have been identified as:-

- Dredging of the canal
- Draining of the canal
- Pollution of the canal
- Shading of the canal
- Increased boat traffic using the canal, increasing both water turbidity and disturbance of substrates

- Use of herbicides in or adjacent to the canal

- 4.6 When assessing the possible impacts of a proposal on the Rochdale Canal SAC, the potential of the proposal to cause the above listed damaging operations has been considered when reaching a decision as to whether the plan needs to undergo a full Appropriate Assessment. A recent High Court judgment (The Queen on the application of Hart District Council v The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, Luckmore Ltd, Barratt Homes Ltd case 2008) has confirmed that avoidance and mitigation measures which form part of the project should be taken into account in the screening of projects for the likelihood of a significant effect (Stage 1). However, the purpose of compensatory measures is different and these should not be taken into account in assessing whether the proposal is likely to have significant effects on a European site.
- 4.7 The precautionary principle must be applied when making such an assessment. If it is found that the development could result in a damaging operation then the proposal is likely to have a significant effect on the European site and should be subject to full Appropriate Assessment (Stages 2-4).

5 Screening Opinion – Bury Second Draft Publication Core Strategy

- 5.0 Of the operations identified in Section 4.5 - dredging, shading and herbicide application will not occur from operations in Bury MBC, as these are actions which occur directly adjacent to or within the SAC. There are no pathways which could produce a damaging effect from Bury MBC as the sites are not contiguous with the boundary of the canal.
- 5.1 Of the operations listed in section 4.5 above some can potentially be considered to be affected by matters subject to the Local Plan process in Bury Borough. Both pollution (air, water and sediments) and draining of the SAC may occur from events at a distance from the Canal.
- 5.2 It is not possible for hydrological events within Bury MBC to cause drainage of the Rochdale Canal as there is no hydrological connectivity so therefore no pathways between land, reservoirs or watercourses in Bury and the water supply or water body of the Rochdale Canal.
- 5.3 Pollution incidents may occur some distance from the Canal, but for polluted water to enter the SAC there must be a hydrological connectivity. Air pollution and air borne sediments/dust could potentially be deposited within the canal. However, it has been identified that the greatest damage from these sources occurs within 250m and that at distances greater than this air pollutants become dispersed (see section 3.7 and EA Report). The broad locations for development within The Plan are all greater than 4km away from the Rochdale Canal SAC. Therefore, it is considered that by the nature of their scale, location and statutory environmental control measures (for quarry working), that there is unlikely to be a significant effect on the interest of the SAC.
- 5.4 Increased boat traffic may occur from distal developments such as new marinas and boat hire facilities, which occur on other canals within or outside Greater Manchester. Currently Bury MBC has no canals which are open to boat traffic or are connected to the Greater Manchester Canal network. However, as there is an aspiration within the Core Strategy (Spatial Policy EC9) to assist/facilitate the reopening of the Manchester, Bolton & Bury Canal and therefore any consequent potentially damaging impacts have been considered within this analysis.
- 5.5 From the discussion above it can be concluded that of the operations listed in Section 4.5 only increased boat traffic will be considered further in this HRA.
- 5.6 It should be noted, that in this section and in Section 6 of the report, it is the *broad principle* of development that is being assessed, rather than the detail of any proposed development, since these details are not yet available. Details of possible sources, pathways and receptors for impacts are not available for assessment at this stage of the Plan production.
- 5.7 The summary results of the screening are shown in Tables 5.1 for the broad locations, which were identified as closer than 5km to the Rochdale Canal SAC. Although pollution (air & sediment) has been screened out as discussed above, for the sake of completeness it has been included in the summary table.
- 5.8 Table 5.2 shows the results of screening on all the Core Policies within The Plan. Each Policy has been assessed to determine whether it is;
- Unlikely to have an effect on a European Site
 - Could have a potential positive effect on a European Site
 - Could have a potential negative effect on a European Site
 - Would be likely to have a significant effect on a European Site
- 5.9 Only sites or Policies with potential negative effects or significant effects have been 'Screened In' and considered for further Assessment.

Table 5.1 Screening Summary Table Strategic Locations – Effect on Rochdale Canal SAC

Broad Location	Damaging Impact	Likely significant effects of development	Screening Assessment
CO1 Bury East	Pollution (sediment/dust)	Highly unlikely as site too distant from European site for such direct effect to arise	Screened Out
	Pollution (air)	Highly unlikely as site too distant from European site for such direct effect to arise	Screened Out
	Increased boat traffic	Not possible as proposal has no mechanism to increase boat movements	Screened Out
EN10 Pilsworth landfill gas & pipeline	Pollution (sediment/dust)	Unlikely, as site over 4km from European site and airborne pollutants usually have greatest impact at 250m before their effects begin to become dispersed	Screened Out
	Pollution (air)	Unlikely as site too distant from European site for such direct effect to arise	Screened Out
	Increased boat traffic	Not possible as proposal has no mechanism to increase boat movements	Screened Out
EN10 Heap Bridge hydroelectric scheme	Pollution (sediment/dust)	Unlikely, as site over 4km from European site and airborne pollutants usually have greatest impact at 250m before their effects begin to become dispersed	Screened Out
	Pollution (air)	Unlikely as site too distant from European site for such direct effect to arise	Screened Out
	Increased boat traffic	Not possible as proposal has no mechanism to increase boat movements	Screened Out
EN10 Specific Wind Opportunities - Pilsworth	Pollution (sediment/dust)	Unlikely, as site over 4km from European site and airborne pollutants usually have greatest impact at 250m before their effects begin to become dispersed	Screened Out
	Pollution (air)	Highly unlikely as site too distant from European site for such direct effect to arise	Screened Out
	Increased boat traffic	Not possible as proposal has no mechanism to increase boat movements	Screened Out
EN16 Pilsworth South Quarry & Pilsworth South (expansion)	Pollution (sediment/dust)	Unlikely, as site over 4km from European site and airborne pollutants usually have greatest impact at 250m before their effects begin to become dispersed	Screened Out
	Pollution (air)	Highly unlikely as site too distant from European site for such direct effect to arise	Screened Out
	Increased boat traffic	Not possible as proposal has no mechanism to increase boat movements	Screened Out

Table 5.2 Summary Policy Approaches (October 2012)

Policy Principle	Potential for Effect	Likely effects of Core Policy	Screening Assessment
Overarching Policies			
Overarching Policy SF1 – Bury’s Spatial Framework	Considered in broad locations above	-	-
Overarching Policy CP1 – Delivering High Standards of Design & Layout in New Development	Unlikely to have an effect on a European Site	None	Screened Out
Delivering a Competitive and Diverse Economy			
Spatial Policies			
EC1 Protecting Existing & Providing for New Employment Opportunities	Considered in broad locations above	-	-
EC4 Creating Thriving & Competitive Key Centres	Considered in broad locations above	-	-
EC6 Accommodating New Retail Development	Key Centres considered in broad locations above District centres, local and neighbourhood centres	- None	- Screened Out
EC9 Developing Attractive Tourism and Cultural Assets	Could have a potential negative effect from reopening the Manchester Bolton & Bury Canal on Rochdale Canal SAC	Unknown	Screened in
Development Management Policies			
EC2 Employment Generating Areas (EGAs)	Unlikely to have an effect on a European Site	None	Screened Out
EC3 Existing Employment Sites Outside EGAs	Unlikely to have an effect on a European Site	None	Screened Out
EC5 Managing the Location & Scale of Town Centre Uses	Unlikely to have an effect on a European Site	None	Screened Out
EC7 Primary Shopping Areas & Shopping Frontages	Unlikely to have an effect on a European Site	None	Screened Out

Policy Principle	Potential for Effect	Likely effects of Core Policy	Screening Assessment
EC8 Managing the Loss of Retail Uses in all Other Areas	Unlikely to have an effect on a European Site	None	Screened Out
Promoting Strong, Vibrant & Healthy Communities			
Spatial Policies			
CO1 Delivering a Choice of Quality Housing for Everyone	Considered in broad locations above	-	-
CO7 Addressing the Needs of our Regeneration Areas	Considered in broad locations above	-	-
CO8 Supporting the Development of Sustainable Communities	Unlikely to have an effect on a European Site	None	Screened Out
Development Management Policies			
CO2 Managing 'Windfall' Housing	Unlikely to have an effect on a European Site	None	Screened Out
CO3 Managing the Density of New Housing	Unlikely to have an effect on a European Site	None	Screened Out
CO4 Meeting Housing Needs	Unlikely to have an effect on a European Site	None	Screened Out
CO5 Providing for Affordable Housing	Unlikely to have an effect on a European Site	None	Screened Out
CO6 Meeting the Needs of Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople	Unlikely to have an effect on a European Site	None	Screened Out
CO9 Safeguarding and Improving Community Facilities	Unlikely to have an effect on a European Site	None	Screened Out
CO10 Open Space, Sport & Recreation Provision in New Housing Development	Unlikely to have an effect on a European Site	None	Screened Out
CO11 Protecting & Enhancing Open Space, Sport & Recreation Provision	Unlikely to have an effect on a European Site	None	Screened Out

Policy Principle	Potential for Effect	Likely effects of Core Policy	Screening Assessment
Improving and Managing the Borough's Environment			
Spatial Policies			
EN1 Green Belt	Unlikely to have an effect on a European Site	None	Screened Out
EN3 Creating & Enhancing a Network of Green Infrastructure	Could have a potential negative effect from reopening the Manchester Bolton & Bury Canal on Rochdale Canal SAC	Unknown	Screened In
EN5 Conserving an Ecological Network & Promoting Ecological Enhancement	Unlikely to have an effect on a European Site	None	Screened Out
EN7 Managing Flood Risk	Unlikely to have an effect on a European Site	None	Screened Out
EN10 Moving Towards a Zero Carbon Borough	Considered in broad locations above	-	-
EN12 Built Heritage Assets and Landscape Character Areas	Unlikely to have an effect on a European Site	None	Screened Out
EN13 Built Heritage Assets & Landscape Character Areas	Unlikely to have an effect on a European Site	None	Screened Out
EN16 Managing Mineral Resources	Considered in broad locations above	-	-
EN17 Sustainable Waste Management	Unlikely to have an effect on a European Site	None	Screened Out
Development Management Policies			
EN2 Development in the Green Belt	Unlikely to have an effect on a European Site	None	Screened Out
EN4 Protecting & Enhancing the Green Infrastructure Network	Unlikely to have an effect on a European Site	None	Screened Out

Policy Principle	Potential for Effect	Likely effects of Core Policy	Screening Assessment
EN6 Conserving & Enhancing the Borough's Natural Assets	Unlikely to have an effect on a European Site	None	Screened Out
EN8 New Development and Flood Risk	Could have a positive effect on a European Site	Potential to reduce pollution and sediment loads to rivers	Screened Out
EN9 Surface Water Management and Drainage	Could have a positive effect on a European Site	Potential to reduce pollution and sediment loads to rivers	Screened Out
EN11 Reducing Carbon Emissions from New Buildings	Unlikely to have an effect on a European Site	None	Screened Out
EN12 Decentralised, Low & Carbon Energy Infrastructure	Unlikely to have an effect on a European Site	None	Screened Out
EN14 Conserving and Enhancing the Borough's Built Heritage and Landscape Character	Unlikely to have an effect on a European Site	None	Screened Out
EN15 New Development and Contaminated & Unstable Land	Unlikely to have an effect on a European Site	None	Screened Out
EN18 Pollution Control	Unlikely to have an effect on a European Site	Potential to reduce pollution	Screened Out
Improving Transport and Connectivity			
Spatial Policies			
T1 Better Connecting Places and Improving Accessibility	Unlikely to have an effect on a European Site	None	Screened Out
Development Management Policies			
T2 Transport Requirements in New Development	Unlikely to have an effect on a European Site	None	Screened Out
Delivering Bury's Strategy			
DEL1 Delivering Sustainable Development	Unlikely to have an effect on a European Site	None	Screened Out

6 Screening Opinion – Rochdale Canal SAC

Impacts on the Rochdale Canal SAC

6.0 The Screening Opinion of the HRA has concluded that under the Spatial Policies any development in the following areas could have potential to have a significant effect on the special interest of the Rochdale Canal:

Strategic Location / Site	Potential effect/impact on the Rochdale Canal SAC
EC9 Developing Attractive Tourism and Cultural Assets	Effects could arise from increased boat traffic
EN3 Creating & Enhancing a Network of Green Infrastructure	Effects could arise from increased boat traffic

6.1 The Screening Opinion of the HRA has concluded that none of the Development Management Core Policies could have a significant effect on the special interest of the Rochdale Canal SAC.

6.2 Further Assessment of these impacts is carried out below in section 8.

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

- 7.0 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.
- 7.1 It can be considered that this will fall into two categories: those effects associated with regional strategic plans and proposals and those related to more localised 'in combination' effects, either with adjacent Authorities or geographically localised plans from other statutory agencies.
- 7.2 The North West Regional Spatial Strategy has considered the 'in combination' effects of the Region's Projects and Plans at a strategic level (Entec January 2007) and therefore such regionally strategic plans are not considered further in this Assessment.
- 7.3 As regards the emerging Core Strategies and other Development Plan Documents of neighbouring Greater Manchester authorities, those ready for initial Assessment have been screened by GMEU. These are listed in Appendix 3.
- 7.4 Both the Core Strategy's for Oldham and Manchester have been assessed as potentially having an effect on the Rochdale Canal European site. These plans will require further Assessment either as the Core Strategy develops or when DPD Policy is developed.
- 7.5 Wigan Borough's and Trafford Borough's LDFs also have the potential to have a significant effect on the Manchester Mosses SAC. However, the Manchester Mosses SAC has been screened out of this Assessment.
- 7.6 Both Oldham's and Manchester's HRAs have included the need for further assessment of the element of potential increase in boat traffic and have highlighted the agreement between Natural England and Canal & River Trust (formerly British Waterways) which identifies the trigger levels of boat movements.
- 7.7 This Assessment will be updated and amended as necessary as further Plans come forward for Assessment in order to take into account possible 'in combination' effects arising at a later stage.

8 Assessment of Potential Effects identified through the Screening Process

8.0 Assessment of the potential effects of development on the special interest of the Rochdale Canal SAC identified through the Screening stage of the HRA with consideration of the potentially mitigating influence of other plans, policies and strategies.

Broad Location	Potential Effects	Mitigating plans, policies and strategies	Is the impact considered to remain significant after applying mitigating influences?
<p>EC9 Developing Attractive Tourism and Cultural Assets</p> <p>and</p> <p>EN3 Creating & Enhancing a Network of Green Infrastructure s</p>	<p>The proposed use of these policies includes significant regeneration based on the reopening of the Manchester, Bolton & Bury Canal. It is proposed to redevelop the area as mixed-use waterside development of primarily residential and office uses, although no details are available as to the exact nature of this development. The reopening of the Canal may result in the creation of canal side moorings may increase boat traffic through the Manchester canal network to the Rochdale Canal.</p> <p>Details of these impacts cannot be fully assessed at this stage because details of any specific development are not yet available. This Assessment considers the <i>principle</i> of allowing the area to be put forward and whether there are sufficient safeguards in place to allow it to be brought forward for development without damaging the integrity of the European site.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Policy SDS8 Creating & Enhancing a Network of Green Infrastructure 2. Policy EN5 Conserving an Ecological Framework & Promoting Ecological Enhancement 3. EN6 Conserving & Enhancing the Borough's Natural Assets 4. Conservation Agreement between Canal & River Trust and Natural England. This establishes trigger levels for boat movements of 800/annum requiring a full Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment. 5. The Greater Manchester Biodiversity Action Plan identifying canals as a priority habitat for conservation. 6. Canal & River Trust's agreement is needed for new moorings and their internal policy documents on Biodiversity (2006) and moorings protect features of the SAC 7. European Habitats Directive requiring Appropriate Assessment of individual proposals. 	<p>Providing that the mitigating plans, policies and strategies are adopted and implemented appropriately through the development management process, it is considered that there will be sufficient safeguards in place to avoid significant harm to the special interest of the Rochdale Canal arising from the development at this Strategic Location.</p> <p>However, if further details of the likely nature of the proposed developments come forward further assessment may be needed.</p>

8.1 There are no potential effects of Core Policies on the special interest of the Rochdale Canal SAC identified through the Screening stage of the HRA with consideration of the potentially mitigating influence of other plans, policies and strategies.

9 Summary and Recommendations

9.1 Screening of European sites (Section 2) has established that the following site has the potential to be affected by development in the broad locations of the Spatial Development Strategic Policies and the Core Policies identified as part of Bury Metropolitan Borough's Local Plan Second Draft Publication Core Strategy:

- Rochdale Canal SAC

9.2 Screening of these factors (section 6) has established that development within the following locations and the Core Policies have the potential to have a significant effect on the Rochdale Canal SAC:

Strategic Location / Site/ Core Policy	Potential effect/impact on the Rochdale Canal SAC
EC9 Developing Attractive Tourism and Cultural Assets	Effects could arise from increased boat traffic
EN3 Creating & Enhancing a Network of Green Infrastructure	Effects could arise from increased boat traffic

9.3 Further, more detailed Assessment of the possible effects of development of the Strategic Locations, Strategic Sites and Core Policies on the Rochdale Canal SAC identified in the Screening process has been undertaken (Section 8) both alone and in combination (Section 7).

9.4 This Assessment has **concluded** that, providing mitigating plans, policies and strategies are adopted and implemented appropriately through the development management process, development within the identified area could proceed without harm being caused to the special interest of the Canal. It is recognised that the implementation of such plans, policies and strategies may restrict the scale and type of development brought forward in the identified Sites. However, it is not justifiable to restrict development *per se* in these areas. This opinion is based on this Screening Opinion supplemented by the experience and knowledge of the author in assessing the impacts of developments considered to have the potential to affect the special interest of the Canal.

9.5 It is **recommended** that if provision for canal side moorings or marinas are made on the Manchester, Bolton & Bury Canal, once reopened under Policy EC9 – Developing Attractive Tourism and Cultural Assets or elsewhere along the canal then these proposals should be referred for possible HRA as part of the development management process so that appropriate mitigation for any damaging impacts can be implemented.

9.6 It is **recommended** that if any changes are made to the boundaries of any of the Strategic Locations and Strategic Sites or to the type of development that may be preferred in these areas, the allocations should be subject to further Assessment under the terms of the HRA.

9.7 GMEU will continue to consider the in combination effects of this Plan with the emerging Oldham LDF and Manchester LDF in relation to boat traffic on the Rochdale Canal as further iterations of both plans progress.

Figure 1: Bury's The Core Strategy Key Diagram showing Key Centres, Regeneration Areas, Employment Development Ares and main areas for Housing Growth. (Taken from The Plan figure 35)

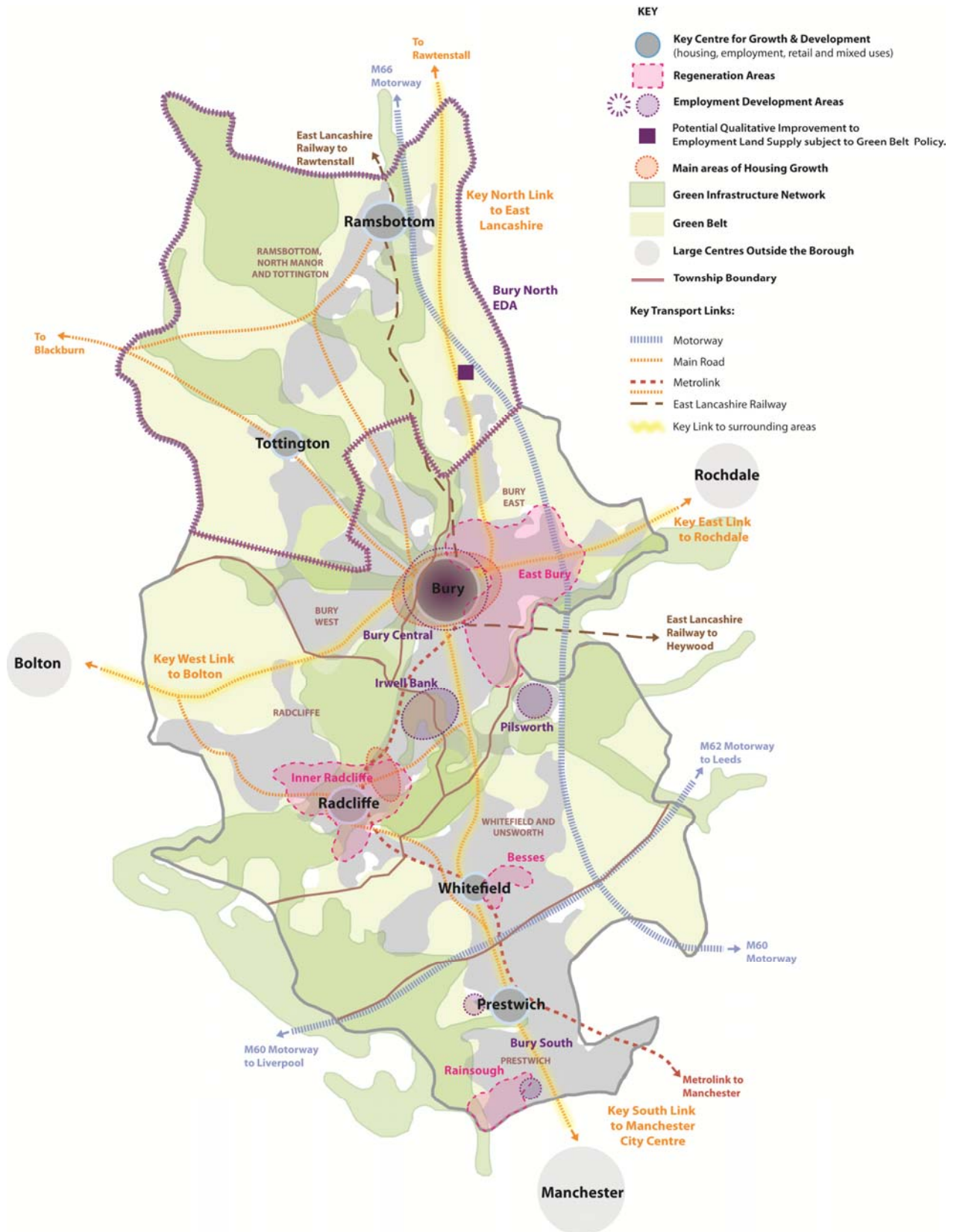
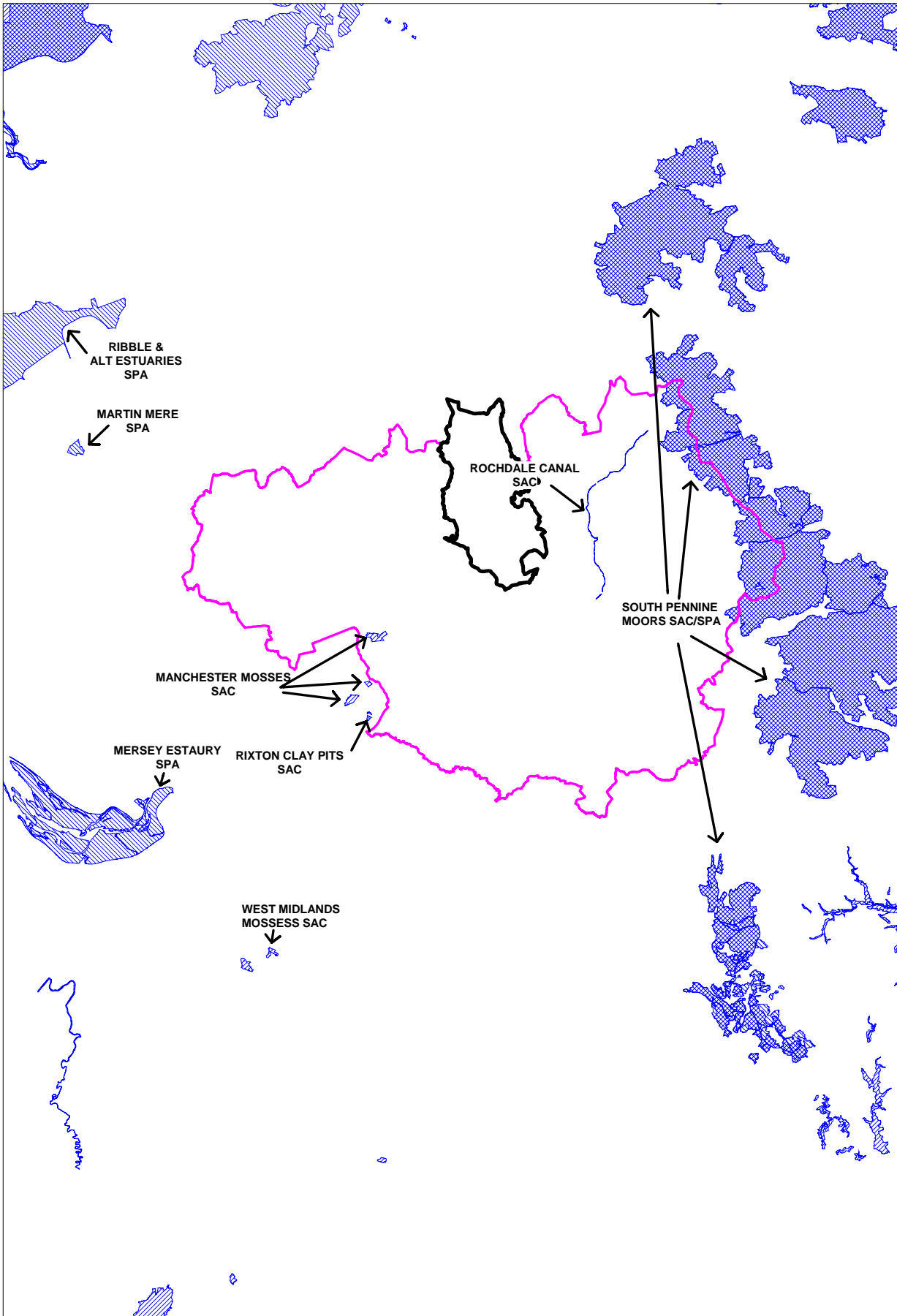


Figure 2 – Map Showing Location of European Sites within Greater Manchester and in Close Proximity to the County (edged pink) and Bury (edged black)



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APPENDIX 1: European designated sites within the North West Region and possible effects from development within Bury MBC

Site Name	Designation	Type of Effect	Likely Effects
Asby Complex	SAC	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - No hydrological pathways between SAC and land within Bury
		Air Pollution	None – No atmospheric pathways and any pollutants are likely to have dispersed prior to reaching SAC (see EA report).
		Direct land take	None
		Habitat/Species Disturbance	None – Site too distant for any direct or indirect disturbance to habitats.
		Increased recreational Pressure	None – site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Bury
Border Mires, Kielder – Butterburn	SAC	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - No hydrological pathways between SAC and land within Bury
		Air Pollution	None – No atmospheric pathways and any pollutants are likely to have dispersed prior to reaching SAC (see EA report).
		Direct land take	None
		Habitat/Species Disturbance	None – Site too distant for any direct or indirect disturbance to habitats.
		Increased recreational Pressure	None – site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Bury
Borrowdale Woodland Complex	SAC	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - No hydrological pathways between SAC and land within Bury
		Air Pollution	None – No atmospheric pathways and any pollutants are likely to have dispersed prior to reaching SAC (see EA report).
		Direct land take	None
		Habitat/Species Disturbance	None – Site too distant for any direct or indirect disturbance to habitats.
		Increased recreational Pressure	None – site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Bury
Bowland Fells	SPA	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - No hydrological pathways between SPA and land within Bury
		Air Pollution	None – No atmospheric pathways and any pollutants are likely to have dispersed prior to reaching SPA (see EA report).
		Direct land take	None
		Habitat/Species Disturbance	None – identified species are highly unlikely to utilise habitats within Bury
		Increased recreational Pressure	None – site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Bury

Site Name	Designation	Type of Effect	Likely Effects
Calf Hill & Cragg Woods	SAC	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - No hydrological pathways between SAC and land within Bury
		Air Pollution	None – No atmospheric pathways and any pollutants are likely to have dispersed prior to reaching SAC (see EA report).
		Direct land take	None
		Habitat/Species Disturbance	None – Site too distant for any direct or indirect disturbance to habitats.
		Increased recreational Pressure	None – site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Bury
Clints Quarry	SAC	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - No hydrological pathways between SAC and land within Bury
		Air Pollution	None – No atmospheric pathways and any pollutants are likely to have dispersed prior to reaching SAC (see EA report).
		Direct land take	None
		Habitat/Species Disturbance	None - Species population too distant to be affected by any development within 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 Bury
Cumbrian Marsh Fritillary Site	SAC	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - No hydrological pathways between SAC and land within Bury
		Air Pollution	None – No atmospheric pathways and any pollutants are likely to have dispersed prior to reaching SAC (see EA report).
		Direct land take	None
		Habitat/Species Disturbance	None - Species found in Cumbria is distinct national population, with adults being sedentary. Species not known to occur in Greater Manchester
		Increased recreational Pressure	None – site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Bury
Dee Estuary	SPA/Ramsar	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - No hydrological pathways between SPA and land within Bury
		Air Pollution	None – No atmospheric pathways and any pollutants are likely to have dispersed prior to reaching SPA (see EA report).
		Direct land take	None
		Habitat/Species Disturbance	None – species identified highly unlikely to be effected by any habitat changes in Bury
		Increased recreational Pressure	None – site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Bury

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

Site Name	Designation	Type of Effect	Likely Effects
Irthinghead Mires	Ramsar	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - No hydrological pathways between Ramsar site and land within Bury
		Air Pollution	None – No atmospheric pathways and any pollutants are likely to have dispersed prior to reaching Ramsar site (see EA report).
		Direct land take	None
		Habitat/Species Disturbance	None – habitats and species identified highly unlikely to be effected by any habitat changes in Bury
		Increased recreational Pressure	None – site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Bury
Lake District High Fells	SAC	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - No hydrological pathways between SAC and land within Bury
		Air Pollution	None – No atmospheric pathways and any pollutants are likely to have dispersed prior to reaching SAC (see EA report).
		Direct land take	None
		Habitat/Species Disturbance	None – Site too distant for any direct or indirect disturbance to habitats or species
		Increased recreational Pressure	None – site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Bury
Leighton Moss	SPA/Ramsar	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - No hydrological pathways between SPA/Ramsar Site and land within Bury
		Air Pollution	None – No atmospheric pathways and any pollutants are likely to have dispersed prior to reaching SPA and Ramsar Site (see EA report).
		Direct land take	None
		Habitat/Species Disturbance	None – Habitats and species identified highly unlikely to be effected by any habitat changes in Bury
		Increased recreational Pressure	None – site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Bury
Liverpool Bay	pSPA	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - No hydrological pathways between SPA and land within Bury
		Air Pollution	None – No atmospheric pathways and any pollutants are likely to have dispersed prior to reaching SPA (see EA report).
		Direct land take	None
		Habitat/Species Disturbance	None – no information available as to species site selected for but type of species present highly unlikely to be effected by any habitat changes in Bury (based on knowledge of Greater Manchester bird populations)
		Increased recreational Pressure	None – site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Bury

Site Name	Designation	Type of Effect	Likely Effects
Manchester Mosses	SAC	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - No hydrological pathways between SAC Site and land within Bury
		Air Pollution	None – No atmospheric pathways and any pollutants are likely to have dispersed prior to reaching SAC Site (see EA report).
		Direct land take	None
		Habitat/Species Disturbance	None – Habitats and species identified highly unlikely to be effected by any habitat changes in Bury
		Increased recreational Pressure	None – site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Bury
Martin Mere	SPA/Ramsar	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - No hydrological pathways between SPA/Ramsar Site and land within Bury
		Air Pollution	None – No atmospheric pathways and any pollutants are likely to have dispersed prior to reaching SPA/Ramsar Site (see EA report).
		Direct land take	None
		Habitat/Species Disturbance	None – Habitats and species identified highly unlikely to be effected by any habitat changes in Bury
		Increased recreational Pressure	None – site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Bury
Mersey Estuary	SPA/Ramsar	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - Strategic impacts of increased development in Bury on the water quality in the SPA/Ramsar Site are considered under the HRA for RSS, where figures for employment land and residential development are set.
		Air Pollution	None – No atmospheric pathways and any pollutants are likely to have dispersed prior to reaching SPA/Ramsar Site (see EA report).
		Direct land take	None
		Habitat/Species Disturbance	None – Habitats and species identified highly unlikely to be significantly effected by any habitat changes in Bury
		Increased recreational Pressure	None – site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Bury

Site Name	Designation	Type of Effect	Likely Effects
Mersey Narrows & Wirral Foreshore	pSPA	Water Quality/Hydrology	Site classification details unavailable but there are unlikely to be any hydrological pathways between SPA and land within Bury
		Air Pollution	Site classification details unavailable but there are unlikely to be any atmospheric pathways between SPA and land within Bury
		Direct land take	None
		Habitat/Species Disturbance	None – no information available as to species site selected for but type of species present highly unlikely to be effected by any habitat changes in Bury (based on knowledge of Greater Manchester bird populations).
		Increased recreational Pressure	None – site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Bury
Midland Meres & Mosses – Phase 1 & Phase 2	2 x Ramsar	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - No hydrological pathways between Ramsar site and land within Bury
		Air Pollution	None – No atmospheric pathways and any pollutants are likely to have dispersed prior to reaching Ramsar site (see EA report).
		Direct land take	None
		Habitat/Species Disturbance	None – habitats and species identified highly unlikely to be effected by any habitat changes in Bury
		Increased recreational Pressure	None – site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Bury
Moor House – Upper Teasdale	SAC	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - No hydrological pathways between SAC and land within Bury
		Air Pollution	None – No atmospheric pathways and any pollutants are likely to have dispersed prior to reaching SAC (see EA report).
		Direct land take	None
		Habitat/Species Disturbance	None – Site too distant for any direct or indirect disturbance to habitats and species.
		Increased recreational Pressure	None – site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Bury

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

Site Name	Designation	Type of Effect	Likely Effects
North Pennine Dales Meadows	SAC	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - No hydrological pathways between SAC and land within Bury
		Air Pollution	None – No atmospheric pathways and any pollutants are likely to have dispersed prior to reaching SAC (see EA report).
		Direct land take	None
		Habitat/Species Disturbance	None – Site too distant for any direct or indirect disturbance to habitats and species. Habitats in SAC are generally restricted to habitat types that do not occur in Greater Manchester
		Increased recreational Pressure	None – site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Bury
North Pennine Moors	SAC/SPA	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - No hydrological pathways between SAC/SPA and land within Bury
		Air Pollution	None – No atmospheric pathways and any pollutants are likely to have dispersed prior to reaching SAC/SPA (see EA report).
		Direct land take	None
		Habitat/Species Disturbance	None – Site too distant for any direct or indirect disturbance to habitats and species. Species unlikely to be effected by changes to habitats in Bury.
		Increased recreational Pressure	None – site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Bury
Oak Mere	SAC	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - No hydrological pathways between SAC and land within Bury
		Air Pollution	None – No atmospheric pathways and any pollutants are likely to have dispersed prior to reaching SAC (see EA report).
		Direct land take	None
		Habitat/Species Disturbance	None – Site too distant from for any direct or indirect disturbance to habitats and species.
		Increased recreational Pressure	None – site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Bury
Peak District Moors (South Pennine Moors Phase 1)	SPA	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - No hydrological pathways between SPA and land within Bury
		Air Pollution	None – Any pollutants are likely to have dispersed prior to reaching SPA (see EA report).
		Direct land take	None
		Habitat/Species Disturbance	None – species identified highly unlikely to be effected by any habitat changes in Bury
		Increased recreational Pressure	None – site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Bury

Site Name	Designation	Type of Effect	Likely Effects
Ribble & Alt Estuaries	SPA/Ramsar	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - No hydrological pathways between SPA/Ramsar Site and land within Bury
		Air Pollution	None – No atmospheric pathways and any pollutants are likely to have dispersed prior to reaching SPA/Ramsar Site (see EA report).
		Direct land take	None
		Habitat/Species Disturbance	None – habitats and species identified highly unlikely to be effected by any habitat changes in Bury
		Increased recreational Pressure	None – site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Bury
River Dee & Bala Lake	SAC	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - No hydrological pathways between SAC and land within Bury
		Air Pollution	None – No atmospheric pathways and any pollutants are likely to have dispersed prior to reaching SAC (see EA report).
		Direct land take	None
		Habitat/Species Disturbance	None – Site too distant for any direct or indirect disturbance to habitats and species.
		Increased recreational Pressure	None – site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Bury
River Derwent & Bassenthwaite Lake	SAC	Water Quality/Hydrology	None – no water borne pollution pathways to SAC from Greater Manchester. Strategic impacts of increased development in Bury on the water levels in the SAC are considered under the HRA for RSS, where figures for employment land and residential development are set.
		Air Pollution	None – No atmospheric pathways and any pollutants are likely to have dispersed prior to reaching SAC (see EA report).
		Direct land take	None
		Habitat/Species Disturbance	None – Site too distant for any direct or indirect disturbance to habitats and species.
		Increased recreational Pressure	None – site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Bury

Site Name	Designation	Type of Effect	Likely Effects
River Eden	SAC	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - No hydrological pathways between SAC and land within Bury
		Air Pollution	None – No atmospheric pathways and any pollutants are likely to have dispersed prior to reaching SAC (see EA report).
		Direct land take	None
		Habitat/Species Disturbance	None – Site too distant for any direct or indirect disturbance to habitats and species.
		Increased recreational Pressure	None – site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Bury
River Eden	SAC	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - No hydrological pathways between SAC and land within Bury
		Air Pollution	None – No atmospheric pathways and any pollutants are likely to have dispersed prior to reaching SAC (see EA report).
		Direct land take	None
		Habitat/Species Disturbance	None - No hydrological connections and main species (fresh water pearl mussel) does not occur in Greater Manchester
		Increased recreational Pressure	None – site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Bury
River Kent	SAC	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - No hydrological pathways between SAC and land within Bury
		Air Pollution	None – No atmospheric pathways and any pollutants are likely to have dispersed prior to reaching SAC (see EA report).
		Direct land take	None
		Habitat/Species Disturbance	None – Site too distant for any direct or indirect disturbance to habitats and species.
		Increased recreational Pressure	None – site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Bury
Rixton Clay Pits	SAC	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - No hydrological pathways between SAC and land within Bury
		Air Pollution	None – No atmospheric pathways and any pollutants are likely to have dispersed prior to reaching SAC (see EA report).
		Direct land take	None
		Habitat/Species Disturbance	None – Site too distant for any direct or indirect disturbance to habitats and species.
		Increased recreational Pressure	None – site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Bury

Site Name	Designation	Type of Effect	Likely Effects
Rochdale Canal	SAC	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - No hydrological pathways between Ramsar site and land within Bury
		Air Pollution	Possible from major developments – but generally atmospheric pathways and any pollutants are likely to have dispersed prior to reaching SAC (see EA report).
		Direct land take	None
		Habitat/Species Disturbance	Possible – Site is ecologically contiguous with canal in Bury City and populations of plant species may be altered by development in the City.
		Increased recreational Pressure	Possible – canal side moorings/marinas may increase boat traffic in SAC
Rostherne Mere	Ramsar	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - No hydrological pathways between Ramsar site and land within Bury
		Air Pollution	None – No atmospheric pathways and any pollutants are likely to have dispersed prior to reaching Ramsar site (see EA report).
		Direct land take	None
		Habitat/Species Disturbance	None – habitats and species identified highly unlikely to be effected by any habitat changes in Bury
		Increased recreational Pressure	None – site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Bury
Roudsea Wood & Mosses	SAC	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - No hydrological pathways between SAC and land within Bury
		Air Pollution	None – No atmospheric pathways and any pollutants are likely to have dispersed prior to reaching SAC (see EA report).
		Direct land take	None
		Habitat/Species Disturbance	None – Site too distant for any direct or indirect disturbance to habitats and species.
		Increased recreational Pressure	None – site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Bury

Site Name	Designation	Type of Effect	Likely Effects
Sefton Coast	SAC	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - No hydrological pathways between SAC and land within Bury
		Air Pollution	None – No atmospheric pathways and any pollutants are likely to have dispersed prior to reaching SAC (see EA report).
		Direct land take	None
		Habitat/Species Disturbance	None – Site too distant for any direct or indirect disturbance to habitats and species. Habitat types do not occur in Greater Manchester
		Increased recreational Pressure	None – site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Bury
Solway Firth	SAC	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - No hydrological pathways between SAC and land within Bury
		Air Pollution	None – No atmospheric pathways and any pollutants are likely to have dispersed prior to reaching SAC (see EA report).
		Direct land take	None
		Habitat/Species Disturbance	None – Site too distant for any direct or indirect disturbance to habitats and species.
		Increased recreational Pressure	None – site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Bury
South Pennine Moors	SAC	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - No hydrological pathways between SAC and land within Bury
		Air Pollution	None – Any pollutants are likely to have dispersed prior to reaching SAC (see EA report).
		Direct land take	None
		Habitat/Species Disturbance	None – Site too distant for any direct or indirect disturbance to habitats and species.
		Increased recreational Pressure	None – site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Bury
South Pennine Moors Phase 2	SPA	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - No hydrological pathways between SPA and land within Bury
		Air Pollution	None – Any pollutants are likely to have dispersed prior to reaching SPA (see EA report).
		Direct land take	None
		Habitat/Species Disturbance	None – species identified highly unlikely to be effected by any habitat changes in Bury
		Increased recreational Pressure	None – site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Bury

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

Site Name	Designation	Type of Effect	Likely Effects
Ullswater Oakwoods	SAC	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - No hydrological pathways between SAC and land within Bury
		Air Pollution	None – No atmospheric pathways and any pollutants are likely to have dispersed prior to reaching SAC (see EA report).
		Direct land take	None
		Habitat/Species Disturbance	None – Site too distant for any direct or indirect disturbance to habitats.
		Increased recreational Pressure	None – site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Bury
Upper Solway Flats & Marshes	SPA/Ramsar	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - No hydrological pathways between SPA/Ramsar Site and land within Bury
		Air Pollution	None – No atmospheric pathways and any pollutants are likely to have dispersed prior to reaching SPA/Ramsar Site (see EA report).
		Direct land take	None
		Habitat/Species Disturbance	None – species identified highly unlikely to be effected by any habitat changes in Bury
		Increased recreational Pressure	None – site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Bury
Walton Moss	SAC	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - No hydrological pathways between SAC and land within Bury
		Air Pollution	None – No atmospheric pathways and any pollutants are likely to have dispersed prior to reaching SAC (see EA report).
		Direct land take	None
		Habitat/Species Disturbance	None – Site too distant for any direct or indirect disturbance to habitats.
		Increased recreational Pressure	None – site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Bury
Wast Water	SAC	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - No hydrological pathways between SAC and land within Bury
		Air Pollution	None – No atmospheric pathways and any pollutants are likely to have dispersed prior to reaching SAC (see EA report).
		Direct land take	None
		Habitat/Species Disturbance	None – Site too distant for any direct or indirect disturbance to habitat. Habitat does not occur in Greater Manchester
		Increased recreational Pressure	None – site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Bury

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

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

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

Site Name	Designation	Screened in/out	Justification
Liverpool Bay	pSPA	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and strategic impacts considered by RSS HRA
Manchester Mosses	SAC	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and strategic impacts considered by RSS HRA
Martin Mere	SPA/Ramsar	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and strategic impacts considered by RSS HRA
Mersey Estuary	SPA/Ramsar	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and strategic impacts considered by RSS HRA
Mersey Narrows & Wirral Foreshore	pSPA	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and strategic impacts considered by RSS HRA
Midland Meres & Mosses – Phase 1 & Phase 2	2 x Ramsar	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and strategic impacts considered by RSS HRA
Moor House – Upper Teasdale	SAC	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and no strategic impacts or pathways identified in RSS HRA
Morcombe Bay	SAC/Ramsar/SAC	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and no strategic impacts or pathways identified in RSS HRA
Morcombe Bay Pavements	SAC	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and no strategic impacts or pathways identified in RSS HRA
Naddle Forest	SAC	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and no strategic impacts or pathways identified in RSS HRA
North Pennine Dales Meadows	SAC	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and no strategic impacts or pathways identified in RSS HRA
North Pennine Moors	SAC/SPA	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and strategic impacts considered by RSS HRA
Oak Mere	SAC	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and no strategic impacts or pathways identified in RSS HRA
Peak District Moors (South Pennine Moors Phase 1)	SPA	Out	Although within Greater Manchester the site is considered too distant for significant effects to arise and no known pathways exist between SPA and Wigan.
Ribble & Alt Estuaries	SPA/Ramsar	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and strategic impacts considered by RSS HRA
River Dee & Bala Lake	SAC	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and no strategic impacts or pathways identified in RSS HRA

Site Name	Designation	Screened in/out	Justification
River Derwent & Bassenthwaite Lake	SAC	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and strategic impacts considered by RSS HRA
River Eden	SAC	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and no strategic impacts or pathways identified in RSS HRA
River Ehen	SAC	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and no strategic impacts or pathways identified in RSS HRA
River Kent	SAC	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and no strategic impacts or pathways identified in RSS HRA
Rixton Clay Pits	SAC	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and no strategic impacts or pathways identified in RSS HRA
Rochdale Canal	SAC	In	
Rostherne Mere	Ramsar	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and no strategic impacts or pathways identified in RSS HRA
Roudsea Wood & Mosses	SAC	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and no strategic impacts or pathways identified in RSS HRA
Sefton Coast	SAC	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and no strategic impacts or pathways identified in RSS HRA
Solway Firth	SAC	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and no strategic impacts or pathways identified in RSS HRA
South Pennine Moors	SAC	Out	Although within Greater Manchester the site is considered too distant for significant effects to arise and no known pathways exist between SPA and Bury.
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 Bury.
South Solway Mosses	SAC	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise
Subberthwaite, Blawith & Torver Low Commons	SAC	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and no strategic impacts or pathways identified in RSS HRA
Tarn Moss	SAC	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and no strategic impacts or pathways identified in RSS HRA

Site Name	Designation	Screened in/out	Justification
Tyne & Nent	SAC	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and no strategic impacts or pathways identified in RSS HRA
Ullswater Oakwoods	SAC	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and no strategic impacts or pathways identified in RSS HRA
Upper Solway Flats & Marshes	SPA/Ramsar	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and no strategic impacts or pathways identified in RSS HRA
Walton Moss	SAC	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and no strategic impacts or pathways identified in RSS HRA
Wast Water	SAC	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and no strategic impacts or pathways identified in RSS HRA
West Midlands Mosses	SAC	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and no strategic impacts or pathways identified in RSS HRA
Witherslack Mosses	SAC	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and no strategic impacts or pathways identified in RSS HRA
Yewbarrow Woods	SAC	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and no strategic impacts or pathways identified in RSS HRA

APPENDIX 3 – List of Other Plans and Projects Considered within the Assessment

Plans Assessed under the Terms of the Habitats Regulations by GMEU

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