

Habitats Regulations Assessment Screening (Stage 1) of the Greater Manchester Minerals DPD

November 2011



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For:

Urban Vision

November 2011

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HABITATS REGULATIONS ASSESSMENT SCREENING (STAGE 1) OF THE GREATER MANCHESTER MINERALS DPD: PREFERRED APPROACH

1 INTRODUCTION

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

'Any plan or project not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site but likely to have a significant effect thereon, either individually or in combination with other plans 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 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 Act (until such Plans are formally revoked)
- A Local Development Document as provided for in Part 2 of the 2004 Planning Act other than a statement of community involvement.

1.3 The Greater Manchester Minerals DPD (hereafter referred to as 'the 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 that potential SPAs (pSPA), candidate SACs (cSAC) and potential Ramsar (pRamsar) sites are also included in HRAs.

1.5 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

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

1.7 It is noted that the Plan being assessed is at its final development stage but further assessments may be required if further changes are made as a result of either the current consultation or the Examination in Publication. There is no statutory guidance on what stage of Plan production to 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.

1.8 The Greater Manchester Ecology Unit (GMEU), as the specialist ecological adviser to Greater Manchester local planning authorities, has prepared this Screening Opinion. Natural England and the 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 allowing for an informed assessment of the possible effects of the Plan, and any specific aims, objectives and policies contained in the Plan.

1.9 This report looks at the Publication Report and:

- Identifies by a screening process any European site that could potentially be affected by the operations covered by the Minerals Plan.
- Identifies sites that will require further Assessment as part of the ongoing HRA of Greater Manchester's Minerals Plan.
- Identifies Policies that will require further Assessment as part of the ongoing HRA of Greater Manchester's Minerals Plan and makes recommendations, where necessary, on changes to the wording of future policies.

2 BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PLAN

2.1 The Plan being assessed is the Greater Manchester Minerals DPD: Publication Report.

The Plan:

- Aims to reduce Greater Manchester's reliance on primary minerals through better use of recycled aggregates and secondary mineral products, such as fuel ash for building materials.
- Identifies locations for mineral extraction along with depots for transport and storage
- Aims to support economic growth whilst protecting the amenity of local residents and safeguarding the environment

The Publication Report is the sixth consultation on the Minerals Plan, since December 2009.

2.2 The Publication Report contains the policies in what effectively will be their final form. The Publication Report will be issued for a period of 6 weeks during which consultees can comment on issues of 'soundness'. Following this, it will be submitted to the Secretary of State in December 2011. The Plan includes details of Areas of Search for Minerals and Mineral Safeguarding Areas. Mineral planning policies are also included within the Plan. Further iterations may arise following the consultation process and the Examination in Public with potential changes to policy wording and the Areas. An opinion is being sought at this stage of Plan development to ensure that the requirements to meet the terms of the Regulations regarding HRA can be properly planned for and addressed.

2.3 Identifying Future Aggregate Resources

Previous versions of the Minerals Plan identified three potential site specific allocations; these have now been removed from the Publication Report.

2.4 Areas of Search

The Plan includes areas of search for different minerals types. Areas of Search are areas, where knowledge of mineral resources may be less certain than specific mineral extraction site allocations, but within which planning permissions for particular sites could be granted to meet any shortfall in supply if suitable applications are made. Areas of Search are located within the much larger Mineral Safeguarding Area allocations, which are based on the extent of the mineral resource. Areas of Search currently exclude areas within European Sites, although some areas lie either directly adjacent to or in close proximity to some European Sites. These are assessed under Policies 2 and 4 in Table 4.1 below.

2.5 Minerals Safeguarding Areas

Mineral Safeguarding Areas are based on the known extent of a mineral resource, they are areas of known mineral resources that are of sufficient economic or conservation value to warrant protection for generations to come. The purpose of Mineral Safeguarding Areas differ from Areas of Search allocations because the intention is to protect the resource from needless sterilisation and there is no presumption that the resources defined in Mineral Safeguarding Areas will be worked. This issue is assessed under Policy 7 in Table 4.1 below

2.6 Policies

The emerging Policies of the Minerals Plan have been considered in preparing this Assessment. The details of these Policies can be found elsewhere in the Plan documentation. The results of this assessment can be found in Section 4.

2.7 Strategic Aim and Objectives

This version of the Minerals Plan also includes a Strategic Aim and Objectives. These provide an overall framework within which the policies sit and therefore the most relevant level to make the HRA assessment is at this more detailed policy level.

3 IDENTIFICATION OF EUROPEAN DESIGNATED SITES CONCERNED

3.1 The initial iteration of the HRA (*Habitats Regulations Assessment Screening (Stage 1) of the Greater Manchester Minerals Plan (Issues & Options) March 2010*) identified by a screening process designated sites having the potential to be affected by mineral operations within Greater Manchester. Details of the screening criteria can be found in this document, which should be read along side the current HRA.

3.2 Summary Results of Screening of Sites

From the screening process the following European designated sites have been identified as having the potential to be affected by mineral operations within Greater Manchester:

- **Manchester Mosses SAC**
- **Rixton Clay Pits SAC**
- **Rochdale Canal SAC**
- **South Pennine Moors SAC**
- **South Pennine Moors Phase 1 & 2 SPAs**

The nature conservation importance of these 'screened in' European designated sites is described in Section 4 of the March 2010 document.

4 SCREENING OPINION

4.1 The Screening Criteria

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. Where (Buisson 2009):

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

Only if there is an identifiable source, a pathway and a receptor is there likely to be a significant effect.

Possible sources and pathways for (unmitigated) effects arising from minerals operations in the identified Sites/Areas and used in the screening of European sites are therefore considered to be:

- Land take
- Localised air pollution including dust and odour
- Noise
- Light spill
- Human presence/disturbance
- Emissions to water (surface or ground water) containing pollutants
- Ground water depression or flow interception
- Decrease in surface water run-off e.g. through interception in a void
- Shading (Rochdale Canal SAC only)

4.2 It should be noted that in this section and in Section 4 of the Report it is the *broad principles* of mineral operations that are 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 Plan production.

4.3 The results of the screening are shown in Table 4.1.

4.4 Each of the Policies 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

Only areas or policies with potential negative effects or significant effects have been “screened in”.

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

TABLE 4.1 SCREENING SUMMARY TABLES – POLICIES

POLICY 1 – KEY PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENTAL CRITERIA

European Site	Potential for Effect	Likely effects of Policy 1	Screening Assessment
Manchester Mosses SAC	Unlikely to have an effect on a European Site	Policy specifically refers to avoiding or mitigating any impacts on European sites.	Screened Out
Rixton Clay Pits SAC	Unlikely to have an effect on a European Site	Policy specifically refers to avoiding or mitigating any impacts on European sites.	Screened Out
Rochdale Canal SAC	Unlikely to have an effect on a European Site	Policy specifically refers to avoiding or mitigating any impacts on European sites.	Screened Out
South Pennine Moors SAC	Unlikely to have an effect on a European Site	Policy specifically refers to avoiding or mitigating any impacts on European sites.	Screened Out
South Pennine Moors Phase 1 & 2 SPAs	Unlikely to have an effect on a European Site	Policy specifically refers to avoiding or mitigating any impacts on European sites.	Screened Out

POLICY 2 – PRIMARY EXTRACTION OF MINERALS - AGGREGATE

European Site	Potential for Effect	Likely effects of Policy 2	Screening Assessment
Manchester Mosses SAC	Unlikely to have an effect on a European Site	This Policy is covered by the overarching provisions of Policy 1 and there is a requirement in the justification for individual applications for minerals extractions to be referred for possible HRA assessment.	Screened Out
Rixton Clay Pits SAC	Unlikely to have an effect on a European Site	This Policy is covered by the overarching provisions of Policy 1 and there is a requirement in the justification for individual applications for minerals extractions to be referred for possible HRA assessment.	Screened Out
Rochdale Canal SAC	Unlikely to have an effect on a European Site	This Policy is covered by the overarching provisions of Policy 1 and there is a requirement in the justification for individual applications for minerals extractions to be referred for possible HRA assessment.	Screened Out
South Pennine Moors SAC	Unlikely to have an effect on a European Site	This Policy is covered by the overarching provisions of Policy 1 and there is a requirement in the justification for individual applications for minerals extractions to be referred for possible HRA assessment.	Screened Out
South Pennine Moors Phase 1 & 2 SPAs	Unlikely to have an effect on a European Site	This Policy is covered by the overarching provisions of Policy 1 and there is a requirement in the justification for individual applications for minerals extractions to be referred for possible HRA assessment.	Screened Out

POLICY 3 – NATURAL BUILDING STONE

European Site	Potential for Effect	Likely effects of Policy 3	Screening Assessment
Manchester Mosses SAC	Unlikely to have an effect on a European Site	This Policy is covered by the overarching provisions of Policy 1	Screened Out
Rixton Clay Pits SAC	Unlikely to have an effect on a European Site	This Policy is covered by the overarching provisions of Policy 1	Screened Out
Rochdale Canal SAC	Unlikely to have an effect on a European Site	This Policy is covered by the overarching provisions of Policy 1	Screened Out
South Pennine Moors SAC	Unlikely to have an effect on a European Site	This Policy is covered by the overarching provisions of Policy 1	Screened Out
South Pennine Moors Phase 1 & 2 SPAs	Unlikely to have an effect on a European Site	This Policy is covered by the overarching provisions of Policy 1	Screened Out

POLICY 4 – PRIMARY EXTRACTION OF MINERALS – NON AGGREGATES

European Site	Potential for Effect	Likely effects of Policy 4	Screening Assessment
Manchester Mosses SAC	Unlikely to have an effect on a European Site	This Policy is covered by the overarching provisions of Policy 1 and there is a requirement in the justification for individual applications for minerals extractions to be referred for possible HRA assessment.	Screened Out
Rixton Clay Pits SAC	Unlikely to have an effect on a European Site	This Policy is covered by the overarching provisions of Policy 1 and there is a requirement in the justification for individual applications for minerals extractions to be referred for possible HRA assessment.	Screened Out
Rochdale Canal SAC	Unlikely to have an effect on a European Site	This Policy is covered by the overarching provisions of Policy 1 and there is a requirement in the justification for individual applications for minerals extractions to be referred for possible HRA assessment.	Screened Out
South Pennine Moors SAC	Unlikely to have an effect on a European Site	This Policy is covered by the overarching provisions of Policy 1 and there is a requirement in the justification for individual applications for minerals extractions to be referred for possible HRA assessment.	Screened Out
South Pennine Moors Phase 1 & 2 SPAs	Unlikely to have an effect on a European Site	This Policy is covered by the overarching provisions of Policy 1 and there is a requirement in the justification for individual applications for minerals extractions to be referred for possible HRA assessment.	Screened Out

POLICY 5 – UNCONVENTIONAL GAS RESOURCES

European Site	Potential for Effect	Likely effects of Policy 5	Screening Assessment
Manchester Mosses SAC	Could have a potential negative effect on the European Site	This Policy is covered by the overarching provisions of Policy 1	Screened Out
Rixton Clay Pits SAC	Could have a potential negative effect on the European Site	This Policy is covered by the overarching provisions of Policy 1	Screened Out
Rochdale Canal SAC	Could have a potential negative effect on the European Site	This Policy is covered by the overarching provisions of Policy 1	Screened Out
South Pennine Moors SAC	Could have a potential negative effect on the European Site	This Policy is covered by the overarching provisions of Policy 1	Screened Out
South Pennine Moors Phase 1 & 2 SPAs	Could have a potential negative effect on the European Site	This Policy is covered by the overarching provisions of Policy 1	Screened Out

POLICY 6 - PEAT

European Site	Potential for Effect	Likely effects of Policy 6	Screening Assessment
Manchester Mosses SAC	Could have a potential positive effect on a European Site	Under this policy peat extraction will only be granted under very limited circumstances, where the removal of peat is required to facilitate restoration of a site to lowland raised bog. The policy may therefore have a slight potential positive effect on the SACs by introducing positive hydrological management in the wider mossland area	Screened Out
Rixton Clay Pits SAC	Unlikely to have an effect on a European Site	None identified	Screened Out
Rochdale Canal SAC	Unlikely to have an effect on a European Site	None identified	Screened Out
South Pennine Moors SAC	Unlikely to have an effect on a European Site	None identified	Screened Out
South Pennine Moors Phase 1 & 2 SPAs	Unlikely to have an effect on a European Site	None identified	Screened Out

POLICY 7 – MINERALS SAFEGUARDING AREAS

European Site	Potential for Effect	Likely effects of Policy 7	Screening Assessment
Manchester Mosses SAC	Unlikely to have an effect on a European Site	This Policy is covered by the overarching provisions of Policy 1. The Policy also contains the following provision “Proposals for non-mineral development within the Mineral Safeguarding Areas which do not allow for the prior extraction of minerals will only be permitted where...it can be clearly demonstrated that it is not environmentally acceptable ...to extract the mineral prior to non-mineral development taking place”	Screened Out
Rixton Clay Pits SAC	Unlikely to have an effect on a European Site	This Policy is covered by the overarching provisions of Policy 1. The Policy also contains the following provision “Proposals for non-mineral development within the Mineral Safeguarding Areas which do not allow for the prior extraction of minerals will only be permitted where...it can be clearly demonstrated that it is not environmentally acceptable ...to extract the mineral prior to non-mineral development taking place”	Screened Out
Rochdale Canal SAC	Unlikely to have an effect on a European Site	This Policy is covered by the overarching provisions of Policy 1. The Policy also contains the following provision “Proposals for non-mineral development within the Mineral Safeguarding Areas which do not allow for the prior extraction of minerals will only be permitted where...it can be clearly demonstrated that it is not environmentally acceptable ...to extract the mineral prior to non-mineral development taking place”	Screened Out
South Pennine Moors SAC	Unlikely to have an effect on a European Site	This Policy is covered by the overarching provisions of Policy 1. The Policy also contains the following provision “Proposals for non-mineral development within the Mineral Safeguarding Areas which do not allow for the prior extraction of minerals will only be permitted where...it can be clearly demonstrated that it is not environmentally acceptable ...to extract the mineral prior to non-mineral development taking place”	Screened Out
South Pennine Moors Phase 1 & 2 SPAs	Unlikely to have an effect on a European Site	This Policy is covered by the overarching provisions of Policy 1. The Policy also contains the following provision “Proposals for non-mineral development within the Mineral Safeguarding Areas which do not allow for the prior extraction of minerals will only be permitted where...it can be clearly demonstrated that it is not environmentally acceptable ...to extract the mineral prior to non-mineral development taking place”	Screened Out

POLICY 8 – SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT OF MINERALS

European Site	Potential for Effect	Likely effects of Policy 8	Screening Assessment
Manchester Mosses SAC	Could have a potential positive effect on the European site	Proposals for sustainable transportation of minerals are encouraged under this policy, thereby potentially reducing atmospheric pollution from road traffic. Where such transportation methods are not available or unviable, the Policy requires impact of the generated traffic to “not have an unacceptable impact on the environment...”	Screened Out
Rixton Clay Pits SAC	Could have a potential positive effect on the European site	Proposals for sustainable transportation of minerals are encouraged under this policy, thereby potentially reducing atmospheric pollution from road traffic. Where such transportation methods are not available or unviable, the Policy requires impact of the generated traffic to “not have an unacceptable impact on the environment...”	Screened Out
Rochdale Canal SAC	Could have a potential positive effect on the European site	Proposals for sustainable transportation of minerals are encouraged under this policy, thereby potentially reducing atmospheric pollution from road traffic. Where such transportation methods are not available or unviable, the Policy requires impact of the generated traffic to “not have an unacceptable impact on the environment...”	Screened Out
South Pennine Moors SAC	Could have a potential positive effect on the European site	Proposals for sustainable transportation of minerals are encouraged under this policy, thereby potentially reducing atmospheric pollution from road traffic. Where such transportation methods are not available or unviable, the Policy requires impact of the generated traffic to “not have an unacceptable impact on the environment...”	Screened Out
South Pennine Moors Phase 1 & 2 SPAs	Could have a potential positive effect on the European site	Proposals for sustainable transportation of minerals are encouraged under this policy, thereby potentially reducing atmospheric pollution from road traffic. Where such transportation methods are not available or unviable, the Policy requires impact of the generated traffic to “not have an unacceptable impact on the environment...”	Screened Out

POLICY 9 – REWORKING OF COLLIERY SPOIL TIPS

European Site	Potential for Effect	Likely effects of Policy 9	Screening Assessment
Manchester Mosses SAC	Could have a potential negative effect on the European Site	Reworking of colliery spoil tips could potentially affect the SAC but this Policy is covered by the overarching provisions of Policy 1	Screened Out
Rixton Clay Pits SAC	Could have a potential negative effect on the European Site	Reworking of colliery spoil tips could potentially affect the SAC but this Policy is covered by the overarching provisions of Policy 1	Screened Out
Rochdale Canal SAC	Could have a potential negative effect on the European Site	Reworking of colliery spoil tips could potentially affect the SAC but this Policy is covered by the overarching provisions of Policy 1	Screened Out
South Pennine Moors SAC	Could have a potential negative effect on the European Site	Reworking of colliery spoil tips could potentially affect the SAC but this Policy is covered by the overarching provisions of Policy 1	Screened Out
South Pennine Moors Phase 1 & 2 SPAs	Could have a potential negative effect on the European Site	Reworking of colliery spoil tips could potentially affect the SAC but this Policy is covered by the overarching provisions of Policy 1	Screened Out

POLICY 10 – PROTECTING EXISTING MINERALS SITES/INFRASTRUCTURE

European Site	Potential for Effect	Likely effects of Policy 10	Screening Assessment
Manchester Mosses SAC	Could have a potential negative effect on the European Site	While there is a potential conflict of interest between works for conservation purposes that require planning permission on the Manchester Mosses and a continuation of mineral working or the continued operation of the minerals infrastructure, the wording of this policy is considered sufficiently robust to protect the interest of the SAC.	Screened Out
Rixton Clay Pits SAC	Unlikely to have a negative effect on the European Site	It is considered unlikely that any works requiring planning permission at Rixton Clay Pits would conflict with any minerals allocations or existing infrastructure in Greater Manchester	Screened Out
Rochdale Canal SAC	Could have a potential negative effect on the European Site	While there is a potential conflict of interest between works for conservation purposes that require planning permission on the Rochdale Canal and a continuation of mineral working or the continued operation of the minerals infrastructure, the wording of this policy is considered sufficiently robust to protect the interest of the SAC.	Screened Out
South Pennine Moors SAC	Could have a potential negative effect on the European Site	While there is a potential conflict of interest between works for conservation purposes that require planning permission on the South Pennine Moors and a continuation of mineral working or the continued operation of the minerals infrastructure, the wording of this policy is considered sufficiently robust to protect the interest of the SAC.	Screened Out
South Pennine Moors Phase 1 & 2 SPAs	Could have a potential negative effect on the European Site	While there is a potential conflict of interest between works for conservation purposes that require planning permission on the South Pennine Moors and a continuation of mineral working or the continued operation of the minerals infrastructure, the wording of this policy is considered sufficiently robust to protect the interest of the SPA.	Screened Out

POLICY 11- PROTECTING QUARRIES IMPORTANT FOR MAINTAINING HISTORIC BUILDINGS

European Site	Potential for Effect	Likely effects of Policy 11	Screening Assessment
Manchester Mosses SAC	Unlikely to have an effect on a European Site	It is considered unlikely that any works requiring planning permission on the Manchester Mosses would conflict with any quarry important for maintaining historic buildings in Greater Manchester	Screened Out
Rixton Clay Pits SAC	Unlikely to have an effect on a European Site	It is considered unlikely that any works requiring planning permission at Rixton Clay Pits would conflict with any quarry important for maintaining historic buildings in Greater Manchester	Screened Out
Rochdale Canal SAC	Unlikely to have an effect on a European Site	It is considered unlikely that any works requiring planning permission on the Rochdale Canal would conflict with any quarry important for maintaining historic buildings in Greater Manchester	Screened Out
South Pennine Moors SAC	Unlikely to have an effect on a European Site	While there is a potential conflict of interest between works for conservation purposes that requiring planning permission on the South Pennine Moors and any quarry important for maintaining historic buildings in Greater Manchester, the wording of this policy is considered sufficiently robust to protect the interest of the SAC.	Screened Out
South Pennine Moors Phase 1 & 2 SPAs	Unlikely to have an effect on a European Site	While there is a potential conflict of interest between works for conservation purposes that requiring planning permission on the South Pennine Moors and any quarry important for maintaining historic buildings in Greater Manchester, the wording of this policy is considered sufficiently robust to protect the interest of the SPA.	Screened Out

POLICY 12 - RESTORATION & AFTERCARE

European Site	Potential for Effect	Likely effects of Policy 12	Screening Assessment
Manchester Mosses SAC	Unlikely to have an effect on a European Site	This Policy is covered by the overarching provisions of Policy 1 and the wording is considered sufficiently robust to protect the interest of the SAC and provide for enhancement where appropriate.	Screened Out
Rixton Clay Pits SAC	Unlikely to have an effect on a European Site	This Policy is covered by the overarching provisions of Policy 1 and the wording is considered sufficiently robust to protect the interest of the SAC and provide for enhancement where appropriate.	Screened Out
Rochdale Canal SAC	Unlikely to have an effect on a European Site	This Policy is covered by the overarching provisions of Policy 1 and the wording is considered sufficiently robust to protect the interest of the SAC and provide for enhancement where appropriate	Screened Out
South Pennine Moors SAC	Unlikely to have an effect on a European Site	This Policy is covered by the overarching provisions of Policy 1 and the wording is considered sufficiently robust to protect the interest of the SAC and provide for enhancement where appropriate.	Screened Out
South Pennine Moors Phase 1 & 2 SPAs	Unlikely to have an effect on a European Site	This Policy is covered by the overarching provisions of Policy 1 and the wording is considered sufficiently robust to protect the interest of the SPA and provide for enhancement where appropriate.	Screened Out

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

- 5.1 The Habitats Regulation Assessment must consider the likely significant effect of the Plan in relation to other proposals and plans current or planned within the relevant administrative area, other administrative authorities or prepared by other statutory organisations (e.g. Environment Agency, United Utilities) and in combination with the identified effects of those Plans.
- 5.2 It can be considered that this will fall into two categories: those effects associated with regional strategic plans and proposals and those related to more localised ‘in-combination’ effects, either with adjacent Authorities or geographically localised plans from other statutory agencies.
- 5.3 The evidence base for the North West Regional Spatial Strategy considered the ‘in-combination’ effects of the Region’s Projects and Plans at a strategic level (Entec January 2007) and therefore such regionally strategic plans are not considered further in this Assessment. Even when the RSS is revoked, this evidence base will still be relevant.
- 5.4 Any Minerals Planning in the neighbouring sub-regions to Greater Manchester have also been considered. These are listed in Appendix 1. No potential “in combination” effects have been identified.
- 5.5 As regards the emerging Core Strategies and other Development Plan Documents of Greater Manchester authorities, those ready for initial Assessment have been screened by GMEU. These are listed in Appendix 2.
- 5.6 The HRAs of Trafford, Salford and Wigan Councils’ LDFs have identified potential site allocations that could have a significant effect on the Manchester Mosses SAC. In addition Manchester and Oldham LDFs have been assessed as potentially having an effect on the Rochdale Canal SAC. However, these Assessments concluded that providing mitigating plans, policies and strategies are adopted and implemented appropriately through the development management process, development within the sites identified could proceed without harm being caused to the special interest of the SAC. It was not considered justifiable to restrict development *per se* in any of the identified areas, although individual development proposals may need to undergo a separate HRA process as they are submitted. At this stage it is therefore considered that there will be no identifiable in-combination effects with the Greater Manchester Minerals DPD for Core Strategies within Greater Manchester.
- 5.7 Given the nature of the Manchester Mosses SAC, all plans and proposals in Warrington MBC area also need to be considered. The HRA of Warrington’s Core Strategy (Revised Issues and Options) is still at an early stage, being largely a screening opinion. As such the HRA merely identifies European Sites that may potentially be affected by proposals in the Core Strategy. In addition, a number of Supplementary Planning Documents have been produced, which are listed in Appendix 2. However none of these were found to have a significant effect on the SAC.
- 5.8 This Assessment will be updated and amended as necessary as further Plans come forward for Assessment to take into account possible ‘in-combination’ effects arising.

6 SUMMARY OF THE SCREENING OPINION

None of the policies have been identified as potentially having a damaging effect on any European Site.

7 SCREENING OPINION - OVERALL CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FURTHER SCREENING / APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT

- 7.1 Previous screening of European sites established that five European Sites are potentially being impacted by this Plan.
- 7.2 None of the Policies within this Plan have been identified as potentially having a damaging effect any of these European Sites.
- 7.3 All recommendations made in previous iterations of the HRA have been incorporated into the Plan.
- 7.4 It is recommended that if any changes are made to the Plan as a result of either the current consultation or the Examination in Public, the HRA be revisited to ensure that these changes would not result in a significant effect on any European Site.
- 7.5 In-combination effects will also need to be reconsidered at this time, as discussed above in section 5.

FIGURE 1 – MAP SHOWING LOCATION OF EUROPEAN SITES WITHIN GREATER MANCHESTER AND IN CLOSE PROXIMITY TO THE COUNTY

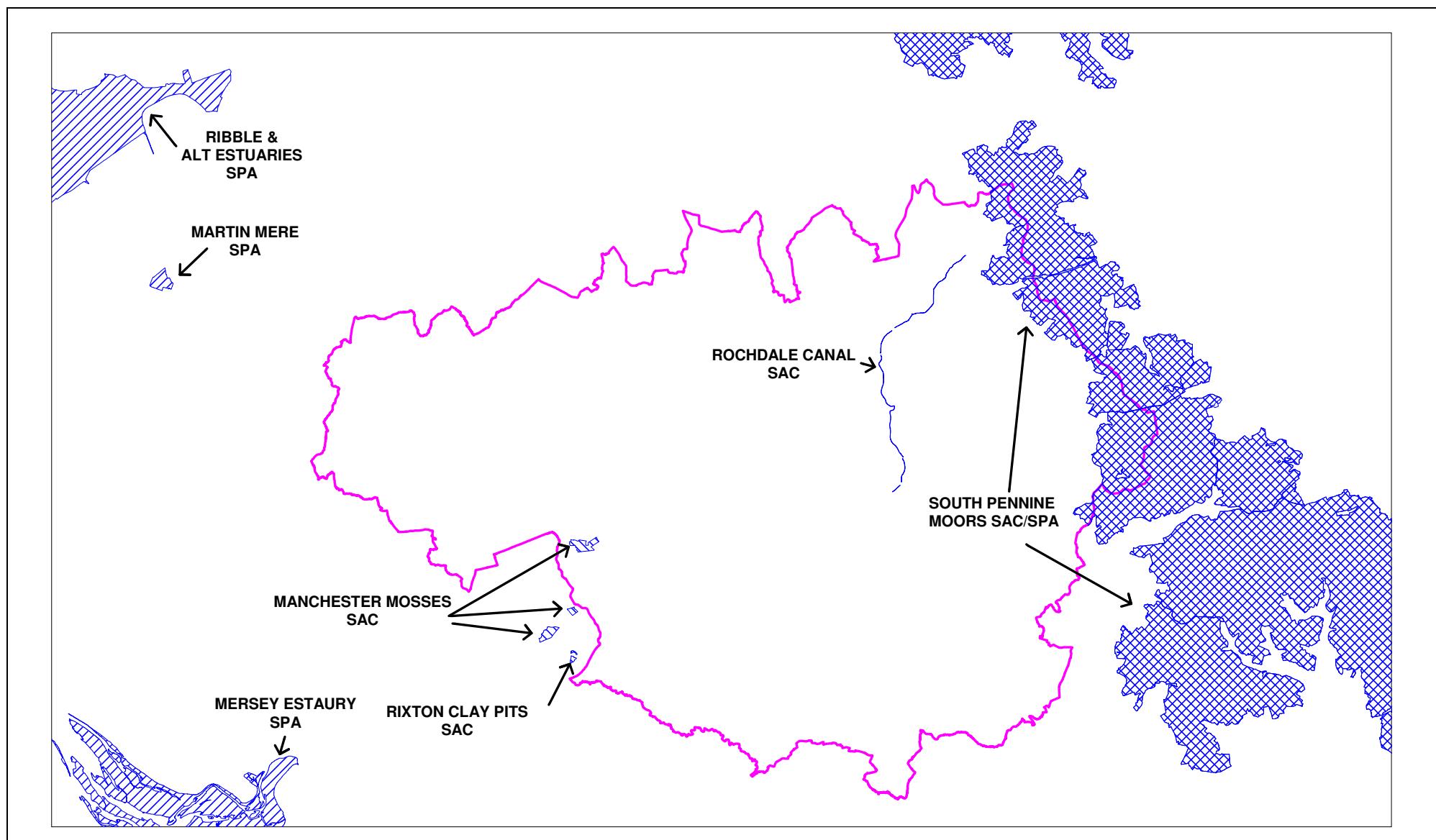
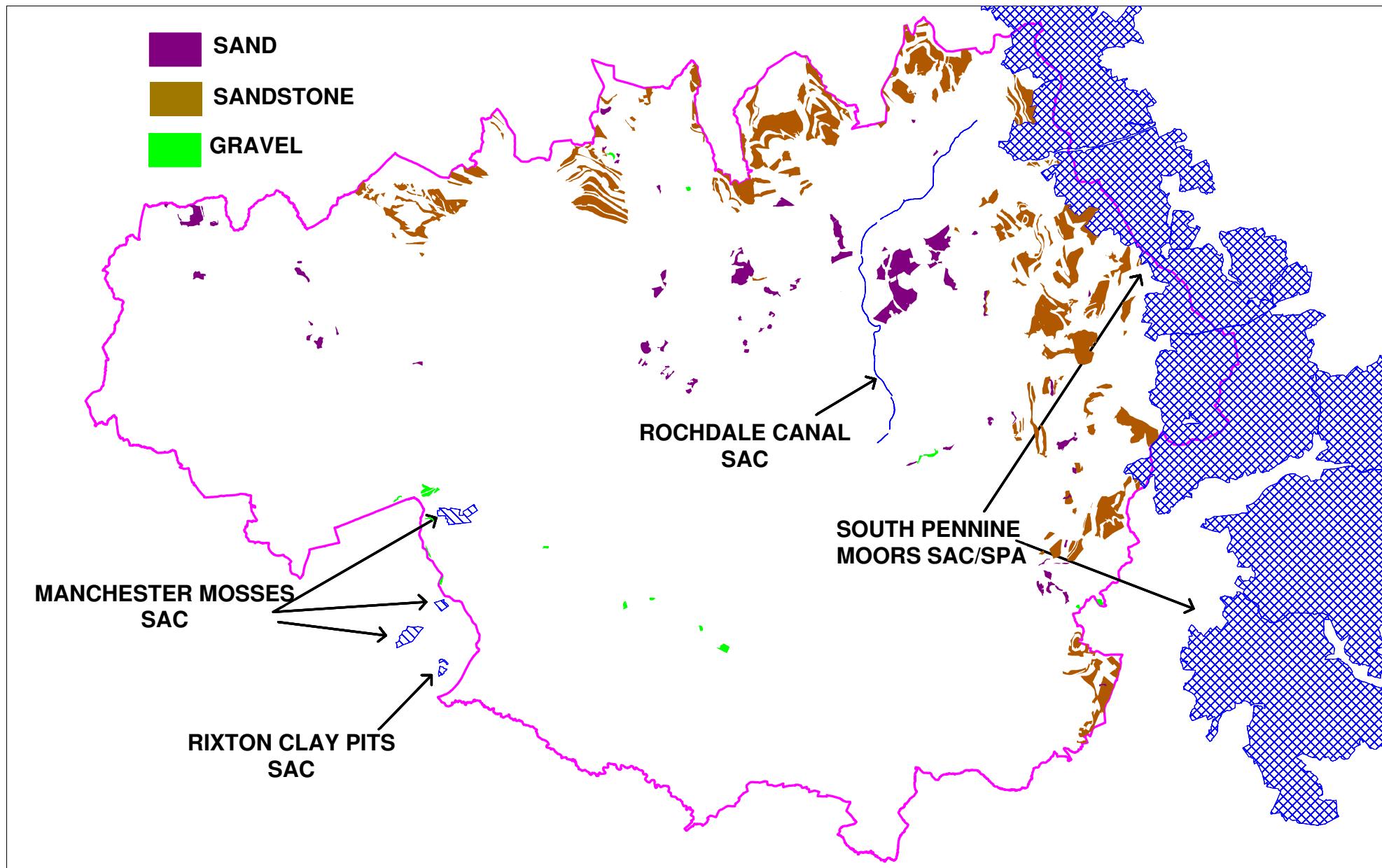


FIGURE 2 – MAP SHOWING AREAS OF SEARCH IN RELATION TO EUROPEAN SITES SCREEN INTO THIS ASSESSMENT



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APPENDIX 1: MINERALS PLANNING STATUS IN NEIGHBOURING SUB-REGIONS

SUB-REGION	MINERALS PLANNING STATUS	HRA STATUS	IN COMBINATION EFFECT
Derbyshire	Joint Minerals plan currently under review	In production	Not known at this stage
Merseyside	No joint plan – minerals being considered through district LDFs. St Helens Core Strategy considered in Appendix 2. Remaining authorities LDFs not available as yet	Not applicable	Not applicable
Cheshire West	Minerals being considered through Core Strategy	HRA produced on Core Strategy Issues & Options. European Sites potentially affected by plans in Greater Manchester screened out of assessment.	None identified
Cheshire East	Minerals being considered through Core Strategy	HRA produced for Core Strategy Issues & options as a Screening Assessment.	<p>HRA has broad conclusion that “there is a potential for the majority of the objectives, scenarios and options [in the Core Strategy] to impact upon the Natura 2000 sites within and adjacent to Cheshire East. Although the likelihood of this impact being significant in the majority of cases is minimal, until such time as further detail on the implementation is known this cannot be confirmed”.</p> <p>In combination effects are therefore not known at this stage.</p>

SUB-REGION	MINERALS PLANNING STATUS	HRA STATUS	IN COMBINATION EFFECT
Lancashire	Joint Lancashire Minerals and Waste Development Framework Core Strategy Development Plan Document - adopted February 2009	HRA included within Sustainability Report. Only one European Site potentially affected by plans in Greater Manchester was screened into the Lancashire plan: the South Pennine Moors SAC. Potential risk identified from " <i>Increasing dust, sediment and noise result from processing on-site construction and demolition waste in urban areas</i> " but " <i>Potential effects are likely to be minor. Protection against these effects is provided by Policies CS5 and CS9</i> ".	None Identified
Warrington	Minerals being considered through Core Strategy. Study has been commissioned to identify the minerals resource in borough to support Core Strategy.	Screening Opinion only at this stage.	Not known at this stage
Peak District National Park	Minerals being considered through Core Strategy – The Pre-submission version of the Strategy is currently out for consultation	HRA produced. Minerals policies within Strategy assess as "adverse effect on [European] site[s] unlikely". Overall it is concluded that "It should be entirely possible to avoid and mitigate any adverse impacts on N2K Sites as a result of the Core Strategy, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects".	None identified

APPENDIX 2 – 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
Rochdale MBC	LDF Core Strategy (Publication)	Potential effect on Rochdale Canal SAC
Manchester CC	SPD Providing for Housing Choice	No effect on European Sites
Manchester CC	LDF Core Strategy (Proposed Options)	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)	No effect on European Sites
Trafford MBC	LDF Core Strategy (Publication)	Potential Effect on Manchester Mosses SAC
Bury MBC	LDF Core Strategy (Draft Publication)	No effect on European Sites
Oldham MBC	LDF Core Strategy (Publication)	Potential Effects on Rochdale Canal SAC
Wigan MBC	LDF Core Strategy (Publication)	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

Plans Assessed under the Terms of the Habitats Regulations by other bodies

District	Plan	Outcome of Assessment
Warrington MBC	SPD – Managing the Housing Supply	No effect on European Sites
Warrington MBC	SPD – Affordable Housing	No effect on European Sites
Warrington MBC	SPD – Travel Plans	No effect on European Sites
Warrington MBC	SPD – Planning Obligations	No effect on European Sites
Warrington MBC	SPD – Landscape Design Guide for new development	No effect on European Sites
Warrington MBC	SPD – Open Space & Recreation Provision	No effect on European Sites
Warrington MBC	SPD – Bridge Street Area	No effect on European Sites
Warrington MBC	Core Strategy - (Revised Issues and Options) and draft Third Local Transport Plan (LTP3)	Screening Opinion only at this stage
St Helens MBC	LDF – Core Strategy Preferred Options DPD	European Sites potentially effected by mineral operations in Greater Manchester screened out of assessment