

Cheshire East Local Plan Site Allocations and Development Policies Document.

Habitats Regulations Assessment

Revised Publication Draft

Final Report (August 2020)

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Cheshire East Council



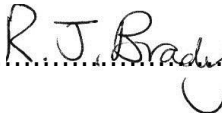
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Purpose

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Non-technical Summary

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

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

HRA has been undertaken throughout the development of the Cheshire East Local Plan and has informed key stages and assessment work. The Local Plan Strategy (Part 1) was adopted in July 2017 and was supported by a HRA. The second part of the Local Plan, the Site Allocations and Development Policies (SADPD) is now being assessed. The SADPD allocates sites for development (generally non-strategic sites of less than 150 homes or 5 hectares in size) and also sets more detailed policies to guide planning application decisions in the Borough. The initial Publication Draft SADPD was subject to public consultation between August and September 2019. Careful consideration has been given to all of the comments received about the Plan including the need for any further changes to its proposed policies and allocations.

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

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

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

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

The Screening Assessment determined that the Local Plan SADPD could potentially have significant adverse effects as a result of changes in water levels (due to abstraction) and recreational pressures, both alone and in-combination with other plans, on the following sites:

- River Dee and Bala Lake SAC

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

The Assessment identified that the existing policies and provisions of the Local Plan, Natural Resources Wales, the Environment Agency and United Utilities in relation to water supply, will ensure that the Local Plan SADPD will have no adverse effects on this European site.

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Abbreviations

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

1 Introduction

1.1 The Cheshire East Local Plan

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

- 1 The Local Plan Strategy (LPS) (Part 1) sets out the vision and overall planning strategy for the Borough and contains planning policies intended to ensure that new development addresses the economic, environmental and social needs of the area. It also identifies the strategic sites and strategic locations that should accommodate most of the new development needed (Cheshire East Council, 2017^a). JBA undertook the Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) for the LPS, which was adopted by the Council in July 2017.
- 2 The Site Allocations and Development Policies Document (SADPD) (Part 2) is the second part of the Local Plan that sets non strategic and detailed policies to guide planning application decisions in the Borough. It also allocates additional sites for development where necessary to do so.
- 3 The Minerals and Waste Development Plan Document (Part 3) will set out planning policies for minerals and waste, including the identification of specific sites for these uses.
- 4 The Crewe Hub Area Action Plan (CHAAP) is being prepared for a focused area around Crewe Railway Station and its vicinity to manage development opportunities likely to arise from investment at Crewe Railway Station, and set out a long term vision to capitalise on the arrival of HS2 to Crewe.

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

A 'call for sites' exercise was conducted for the Part 2 Plan alongside consultation on the Council's SADPD 'Issues Paper' at the end of February 2017 and held until April 2017. Furthermore, consultation on the First Draft of the Site Allocations and Development Policies document (held in September / October 2018) and initial Publication Draft (held in August / September 2019) allowed the submission of further sites to the Council.

The Council reviewed site submissions, in line with its stated site selection methodology (published separately), and those sites identified through stage 4 onwards of that process are the sites that this HRA relates to.

The initial Publication Draft SADPD was subject to public consultation between August and September 2019. Careful consideration has been given to all of the comments received about the Plan including the need for any further changes to its proposed policies and allocations.

This report details the HRA for the Cheshire East Local Plan Revised Publication Draft SADPD and includes an assessment for the development policies and site allocations. All previous consultation with Natural England throughout the local plan process has been considered in this documentation.

This report is produced in conjunction with the Revised Publication Draft of the Cheshire East Local Plan SADPD and should be read alongside that document.

1.2 Habitats Regulations Assessment

European Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and Wild Flora and Fauna (Habitats Directive) provides legal protection to habitats and species of European importance. The principal aim of this directive is to maintain

at, and where necessary restore to, favourable conservation status of flora, fauna and habitats found at these designated sites.

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

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

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

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

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

This report details the HRA for the Cheshire East Local Plan Part 2, hereafter referred to as the Site Allocations and Development Policies Document (SADPD) within this report. The HRA is written in relation to the Revised Publication Draft version of the SADPD.

1.3.1 Previous Assessment and Reporting

The HRA previously conducted for the LPS can be accessed at <http://cheshireeast-consult.limehouse.co.uk/portal/>. The final HRA report (examination document SD 004) consolidated all of the work undertaken for the LPS.

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

2 HRA Methodology

2.1 Introduction

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

2.2 HRA Process

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

Table 2-1: HRA Process

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

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

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

- Managing Natura 2000 sites: The provisions of Article 6 of the 'Habitats' Directive 92/43/EEC (European Communities, 2018)
- Guidance document on Article 6(4) of the 'Habitats Directive' 92/43/EEC (European Communities, 2007)
- The National Planning Policy Framework (2019) (NPPF) and National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG)
- The Planning Inspectorate PINS Note 05/ 2018: Consideration of avoidance and reduction measures in Habitats Regulations Assessment: *People over Wind*, Peter Sweetman, v Coillte Teoranta (The Planning Inspectorate, 2018).
- NEA001 Natural England's approach to advising competent authorities on the assessment of road traffic emissions under the Habitats Regulations (Natural England, 2018).

2.3 HRA Stage 1: Screening Methodology

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

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

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

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

2.3.1 The Precautionary Principle

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

2.3.2 Mitigation, Avoidance and Protective Measures

Following the *People over Wind & Sweetman v Coillte Teoranta* Case C-323/17, the assessment does not consider protective, avoidance or mitigation measures for

stage 1 Screening. These measures are carried forward and considered as part of the stage 2 Appropriate Assessment.

2.4 HRA Stage 2: Appropriate Assessment Methodology

2.4.1 Appropriate Assessment and Mitigation – HRA Tasks 2 and 3

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

The stages involved in the Appropriate Assessment are to:

- Explore the reasons for the European designation of the "screened in" European sites
- Explore the environmental conditions required to maintain the integrity of the "scoped in" European sites and become familiar with the current trends in these environmental processes
- Gain a full understanding of the SADPD and consider each within the context of the environmental processes – would the policies lead to an impact on any identified process?
- Decide whether the identified impact will lead to an adverse effect on the integrity of the European site
- In reference to the recent ECJ case C-462/17 (Nov 18) *Holohan v An Bord Pleanala*, the Appropriate Assessment needs to include all typical habitats and species present within and outside of the boundaries of the European site, if they are necessary for the conservation of the habitats and species listed for the protected area.
- Identify other plans that might affect these European sites in combination with the SADPD and decide whether there are any adverse effects that might not result from the strategy in isolation will do so in-combination.
- Develop measures to avoid the effect entirely, or if not possible, to mitigate the impact sufficiently such that its effect on the European site is rendered effectively insignificant.

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

2.5 Consultation

The HRA documents prepared to support the First Draft SADPD and initial Publication Draft SADPD have been subject to consultation with all statutory consultees and the general public. Any comments have been considered within this HRA for the Revised Publication Draft of the SADPD.

3 European Sites

3.1 Introduction

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

Natura 2000 consists of:

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

Possible SACs (pSACs) and *potential SPAs (pSPAs)* are given the same protection under the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF, 2019), following a precautionary approach.

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

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

3.2 European Sites In and Around Cheshire East

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

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

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

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

Designation	Within Cheshire East	Adjacent to Cheshire East and deemed to be within the influence of the Local Plan SADPD
SAC	West Midlands Mosses South Pennines Moors	West Midlands Mosses South Pennine Moors Rixton Clay Pits Brown Moss Manchester Mosses Oak Mere Fenn’s, Whixall, Bettisfield, Wem and Cadney Mosses Peak District Dales River Dee and Bala Lake Dee Estuary
SPA	Peak District Moors (South Pennines Moors Phase 1)	Peak District Moors (South Pennine Moors Phase 1) Mersey Estuary Dee Estuary Mersey Narrows and North Wirral Foreshore
Ramsar	Midland Meres and Mosses Phase 1 Midland Meres and Mosses Phase 2 Rostherne Mere	Midlands Meres and Mosses Phase 1 Midlands Meres and Mosses Phase 2 Mersey Estuary Dee Estuary Mersey Narrows and North Wirral Foreshore

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

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

3.3 Potential Hazards to European Sites

3.3.1 Introduction

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

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

3.3.2 Hazards to Sites

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

Table 3-2: Potential Hazards to European sites

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

3.3.3 Qualifying Features and Sensitivity to Hazards

Table 3-3 shows the qualifying features of the European sites within and adjacent to Cheshire East and identifies the hazards to which they are most sensitive. Their

qualifying features have been grouped based on guidance from the Environment Agency (2013) to facilitate the sensitivity assessment.

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

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

	Potential Hazards											
	Habitat loss	Habitat fragmentation	Changes in physical regime	Physical damage	Habitat/ community simplification	Disturbance (noise/ visual)	Competition from invasive non-native species	Changes in water levels or table	Changes in water quality	Changes to surface water flooding	Turbidity and siltation	Pollution
SAC/Ramsar Habitat Groups												
Fens and wet habitats	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Bogs and wet habitats	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Riverine habitats and running water	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Standing waters (sensitive to acidification)	✓			✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Dry woodlands and scrub	✓			✓	✓		✓			✓		✓
Dry grassland	✓			✓	✓		✓			✓		✓
Dry heathland habitats	✓			✓	✓		✓			✓		✓
Upland	✓			✓	✓		✓	✓		✓		✓
Coastal habitats	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
Coastal habitats (sensitive to abstraction)	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
Estuarine and intertidal habitats	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
SAC/Ramsar Species Groups												
Vascular plants of aquatic habitats	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Vascular plants, lower plants and invertebrates of wet habitats	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Mosses and liverworts	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Anadromous fish	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Non-migratory fish and invertebrates of rivers	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Mammals of riverine habitats	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Amphibia	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
SPA/Ramsar Bird Species Groups												
Birds of uplands	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓		✓
Birds of lowland wet grasslands	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Birds of lowland freshwaters and their margins	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

	Potential Hazards											
	Habitat loss	Habitat fragmentation	Changes in physical regime	Physical damage	Habitat/ community simplification	Disturbance (noise/ visual)	Competition from invasive non-native species	Changes in water levels or table	Changes in water quality	Changes to surface water flooding	Turbidity and siltation	Pollution
Birds of farmland	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓		✓
Birds of coastal habitats	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Birds of estuarine habitats	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Birds of open and offshore rocks	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓		✓	✓

3.4 Potential Impact Pathways

3.4.1 Introduction

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

3.4.2 Recreational Impacts

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

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

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

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

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

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

Most recreational activities with the potential to affect European sites are 'casual' and pursued opportunistically (e.g. walking, walking dogs, riding) which makes it difficult to quantify or predict the impacts of these activities on European sites and harder to control or manage. It also means it is difficult to explore in detail all potential impacts of recreational pressures at the strategic level. However, it is possible for plans and strategies to influence recreational use of European sites through the planning process, for example by increasing the amount of green/open space and leisure/recreational facilities required within or near developments if potentially vulnerable European sites are located nearby.

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

3.4.3 Hydrological Impacts

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

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

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

hydrological connectivity between the site and the areas proposed for development.

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

3.4.4 Air Quality Effects

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

It should be noted that the likelihood of this effect is greatly reduced as the distance increases between the deposit area (typically the road network) and the European site. The Design Manual for Roads and Bridges (DMRB) LA 105 document on Air Quality (formerly HA 207/07, IAN 170/12, IAN 174/13, IAN 175/13, part of IAN 185/15) states that designated sites within 200m should be included in an air quality assessment; pollution typically falls back to baseline levels beyond this distance from the road network (Highways Agency, 2019).

In addition, the clear majority of new vehicles on the road generally emit fewer emissions than older vehicles. This has become more apparent over the last 5 years as the car industry has responded to increasing climate change (carbon reduction) pressures (SMTT, 2017). Road tax bands were also amended by the Government in 2009 to ensure that the most polluting cars are penalised more heavily than previously. These measures have helped to increase the demand for cleaner more fuel-efficient vehicles; this trend will only increase further in the future as cars continue to become even greener.

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

This assessment takes into account the High Court judgment in *Wealden v SSCLG* [2017] ('the Wealden Judgment 2017') and Natural England's guidance on significance thresholds in relation to traffic emissions for roads within 200m of European Sites (Natural England, 2018).

4 Relevant Plans

This section gives a brief description of the development policies and site allocations within the SADPD and outlines how these may impact upon the European sites identified in Table 3-1. The HRA should be read in conjunction with the SADPD document where more specific details about the policies and site allocations can be found.

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

4.1 Cheshire East Local Plan

4.1.1 Introduction

The Local Plan is the Statutory Development Plan for Cheshire East and is the basis for determining planning applications. The SADPD is the second part of the Local Plan (intended as a 'daughter' document) and follows the strategic lead of the Local Plan Strategy. The SADPD sets non-strategic detailed policies to guide planning application decisions in the Borough and makes allocations, where necessary. The vision for the future of Cheshire East is to deliver sustainable, job-led growth and sustainable, vibrant communities.

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

The third aspect of the Local Plan will be the Minerals and Waste Development Plan Document; however, this is still in development and is not yet available for assessment. The Crewe Hub Area Action Plan is being prepared and has been supported by HRA reports, where necessary.

4.1.2 Development Policies

The SADPD sets out more detailed policies to inform planning application decisions in the Borough, including the establishment and / or revision of boundaries around settlements to guide the location of new development.

4.1.3 Site Allocations

Local residents, landowners, developers and other parties were invited to put forward sites to the Council for consideration as suitable sites for future development in the Borough. Sites are intended to be allocated in the SADPD to assist in meeting the overall development requirements set by the LPS, where

necessary. Potential Gypsy and Traveller and Travelling Showperson sites are also considered in the SADPD.

There are a number of stages and evidence-based documents utilised to identify the list of sites proposed to be allocated in the SADPD. A site selection methodology [ED 07] has been prepared that sets out the various stages used to select sites, informed by the outcomes of the HRA. Individual settlement reports [ED 21 - ED 46] have been prepared to set out the approach to development and the consideration of sites. A Sustainability Appraisal [ED 03] has also been prepared and includes a summary of the reasons for selection or rejection of each parcel of land from the initial pool of sites considered available for development. Although not the sole basis for progression or non-progression of site allocations, the Sustainability Appraisal has formed part of the evidence base used for the options appraisal (Cheshire East Council, 2020^a).

4.2 Other Relevant Plans and Projects that Might Act In-Combination

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

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

There is limited guidance available on the scope of the 'in-combination' element, particularly which plans or projects should be considered. The plans identified by the Sustainability Appraisal (Cheshire East Council, 2020^a) provided the basis for the assessment of 'in-combination' effects for plans. These plans were reviewed to identify any potential effects and these were then considered (as necessary) within this screening report. Attention was focused on those aimed at delivering planned spatial growth with the most significant being those that seek to provide housing, employment and infrastructure. The assessment did not include national plans/strategies, policy or legislation since the Local Plan must be compliant with these. It is considered that in-combination effects are most likely in respect of other regional and sub-regional development plans and strategies.

The review considered the most relevant plans and projects of this nature of Cheshire East and neighbouring authorities, along with relevant Water Resource Management Plans and Catchment Abstraction Management Plans. The largest and most relevant projects are initially with the potential to act in-combination with the SADPD. These include the major infrastructure projects being undertaken in Cheshire East (Cheshire East Council, 2020^b), as well as HS2 (Gov.UK, 2017). Where relevant, other smaller-scale projects have also been assessed.

The Minerals and Waste Development Plan Document and the Crewe Hub Area Action Plan are still in development and are therefore not yet available for assessment with regards to in-combination effects. However, HRA will be undertaken for these plans and in-combination effects with the SADPD will be considered as part of these assessments.

Table 4-1 lists the relevant plans and projects that have been identified as having the potential to result in adverse effects on European sites in-combination with the

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

Table 4-1: Relevant Plans and Projects

Other Relevant Plans and Projects
Strategic Economic Plan. Cheshire and Warrington Matters
Cheshire East Corporate Plan 2017 to 2020
Cheshire East Local Transport Plan 2019-2024
Cheshire East Rights of Way Improvement Plan 2011 – 2026 and Implementation Plan 2015 – 2019
Cheshire East Green Infrastructure Plan (2019)
Housing Strategy 2018 to 2023
Cheshire East Council Environment Strategy 2020-24
Carbon Neutrality Action Plan 2020-2025
Local Air Quality Strategy for Cheshire East Council and Action Plan
Cheshire East Visitor Economy Strategy 2016 – 2020
Cheshire Replacement Minerals Local Plan 1999
Cheshire Replacement Waste Local Plan 2007
Saved Policies from the Congleton Borough Local Plan, Borough of Crewe and Nantwich Local Plan and Macclesfield Local Plan
The United Utilities Final Water Resources Management Plan 2019
The Weaver and Dane Catchment Abstraction Management Strategy (CAMS)
The Dee Catchment Abstraction Management Strategy (CAMS)
Greater Manchester Spatial Framework Revised Draft – January 2019
Local Plans and Core Strategies of adjacent Authorities (Cheshire West and Chester; Peak District National Park; High Peak; Manchester; Newcastle-under-Lyme; Stockport; Shropshire; Peak District; Staffordshire Moorlands; Stoke-on-Trent; Trafford and Warrington Councils)
High Speed Two (HS2)
Sydney Road Bridge Improvement Crewe
Congleton Link Road
Crewe Green Roundabout
A500 Dualling
Middlewich Eastern Bypass
North West Crewe Package (road scheme)
Poynton Relief Road

5 Screening Assessment

5.1 Introduction

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

5.2 Development Policies

The development policies have initially been screened following the methodology set out in DTA Publications Habitats Regulations Assessment Handbook (DTA, 2019). Each policy is allocated one or more screening category, shown in Table 5-1 below. The results of the initial screening are shown in Table 5-2. Where a number of categories to screen out a policy are applicable, the most relevant categories are listed in the table. Any policies with likely significant effects and any in-combination effects are further discussed in Table 5-3 where appropriate. The screening outcome in Table 5-2 includes any relevant in-combination assessment outcomes. Where the outcome is marked with an asterisk, no in-combination assessment is necessary because the policy has zero impact alone on any European Sites.

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

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

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

* indicates policies where no in-combination assessment is necessary because there are zero impacts alone resulting from this policy

Policy no.	Policy title	Screening Category/Other notes	Screening Outcome
Chapter 2: Planning for Growth			
PG 8	Development at Local Service Centres	<p>K Policy or proposal not likely to have a significant effect either alone or in combination.</p> <p>The local service centres are expected to accommodate in the order of 7ha of employment land and 3,500 new homes. The overall level of development for local service centres identified in the LPS (Policy PG 7) can now largely be met from the developments already completed during the plan period as well as proposed developments with planning permission. It is expected that the housing element will be addressed by windfall going forward, in line with other policies in the Local Plan.</p> <p>Please refer to Table 5-3 for analysis of sites considered through the SADPD (in local service centres) that are considered in the initial site screening. With the exception of a potential employment allocation at Holmes Chapel (HCH 1), all other relevant settlements are considered to have no potential impacts upon any European sites. HCH 1 is considered further in the screening assessment (Table 5-5) in relation to potential impacts upon Midland Meres and Mosses Phase 1 Ramsar (component site Bagmere SSSI), but no likely significant affects are identified.</p>	Out
PG 9	Settlement boundaries	<p>B Policy listing general criteria for testing the acceptability/sustainability of proposals.</p> <p>H Policy or proposal, the actual or theoretical effects of which cannot undermine the conservation objectives (either alone or in-combination with other aspects of this or other plans or projects). This policy specifically refers to not allowing for conflict with any other relevant policy within the local plan. All development will therefore be required to follow the mitigation hierarchy for biodiversity (ENV 2), which is in keeping with the principles of the HRA process.</p> <p>K Policy or proposal not likely to have a significant effect either alone or in combination.</p>	Out
PG 10	Infill villages	<p>B Policy listing general criteria for testing the acceptability/sustainability of proposals. Policy wording looks to limit unacceptable impacts on any potential developments within infill villages.</p> <p>K Policy or proposal not likely to have a significant effect either alone or in combination.</p>	Out
PG 12	Green Belt and	<p>K Policy or proposal not likely to have a significant effect either alone or in combination.</p>	Out

Policy no.	Policy title	Screening Category/Other notes	Screening Outcome
	safeguarded land boundaries	Please refer to Table 5-3 for the initial screening of sites with proposed safeguarded land. This policy would not give rise to future development close enough to European sites for any foreseeable impacts upon these sites.	
PG 13	Strategic green gaps boundaries	D Environmental protection policy. F Policy that cannot lead to development or other change. K Policy or proposal not likely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination.	Out
PG 14	Local green gaps	D Environmental Protection policy. F Policy that cannot lead to development or other change. K Policy or proposal not likely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination.	Out
Chapter 3: General Requirements			
GEN 1	Design principles	A General statement of policy. F Policy that cannot lead to development or other change. G Policy or proposal that could not have any conceivable effect on a European site.	Out*
GEN 2	Security at crowded places	G Policy or proposal that could not have any conceivable effect on a European site. F Policy that cannot lead to development or other change.	Out*
GEN 3	Advertisements	E Policies or proposals that steer change in such a way as to protect European sites from adverse effects. K Policy or proposal not likely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination. No reference to specific developments and locations.	Out
GEN 4	Recovery of forward funded infrastructure costs	A General statement of policy/general aspiration. No reference to specific developments and locations. K Policy or proposal not likely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination.	Out
GEN 5	Aerodrome safeguarding	F Policy that cannot lead to development or other change. G Policy or proposal that could not have any conceivable effect on a European site	Out*
GEN 6	Airport public safety zone	F Policy that cannot lead to development or other change. G Policy or proposal that could not have any conceivable effect on a European site	Out*
GEN 7	Recovery of planning obligations reduced on viability grounds	A General statement of policy/general aspiration. No reference to specific developments and locations. K Policy or proposal not likely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination.	Out

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

Policy no.	Policy title	Screening Category/Other notes	Screening Outcome
		<p>E Policies or proposals that steer change in such a way as to protect European sites from adverse effects.</p> <p>K Policy or proposal not likely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination.</p>	
ENV 11	Proposals for battery energy storage systems	<p>B Policy listing general criteria for testing the acceptability/sustainability of proposals.</p> <p>E Policies or proposals that steer change in such a way as to protect European sites from adverse effects.</p> <p>K Policy or proposal not likely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination.</p>	Out
ENV 12	Air quality	<p>D Environmental protection policy.</p> <p>E Policies or proposals that steer change in such a way as to protect European sites from adverse effects.</p> <p>K Policy or proposal not likely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination.</p>	Out
ENV 13	Aircraft noise	<p>F Policy that cannot lead to development or other change.</p> <p>E Policies or proposals that steer change in such a way as to protect European sites from adverse effects.</p> <p>K Policy or proposal not likely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination.</p>	Out
ENV 14	Light pollution	<p>D Environmental protection policy.</p> <p>K Policy or proposal not likely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination.</p>	Out
ENV 15	New development and existing uses	<p>D Environmental protection policy.</p> <p>K Policy or proposal not likely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination.</p>	Out
ENV 16	Surface water management and flood risk	<p>D Environmental protection policy.</p> <p>E Policies or proposals that steer change in such a way as to protect European sites from adverse effects.</p> <p>K Policy or proposal not likely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination.</p>	Out
ENV 17	Protecting water resources	<p>D Environmental protection policy.</p> <p>E Policies or proposals that steer change in such a way as to protect European sites from adverse effects.</p> <p>K Policy or proposal not likely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination.</p>	Out
Chapter 5: The historic environment			
HER 1	Heritage assets	G Policy or proposal that could not have any conceivable effect on a European site.	Out*
HER 2	Heritage at risk	G Policy or proposal that could not have any conceivable effect on a European site.	Out*
HER 3	Conservation areas	G Policy or proposal that could not have any conceivable effect on a European site.	Out*

Policy no.	Policy title	Screening Category/Other notes	Screening Outcome
HER 4	Listed buildings	G Policy or proposal that could not have any conceivable effect on a European site.	Out*
HER 5	Registered parks and gardens	D Environmental protection policy. K Policy or proposal not likely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination.	Out
HER 6	Historic Battlefields	D Environmental protection policy. K Policy or proposal not likely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination.	Out
HER 7	Non designated heritage assets	D Environmental protection policy. K Policy or proposal not likely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination.	Out
HER 8	Archaeology	D Environmental protection policy. K Policy or proposal not likely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination.	Out
HER 9	World heritage site	D Environmental protection policy. K Policy or proposal not likely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination.	Out
Chapter 6: Rural issues			
RUR 1	New buildings for agriculture and forestry	B Policy listing general criteria for testing the acceptability/sustainability of proposals. Development can only go ahead if other environmental policies within the SADPD are adhered to. K Policy or proposal not likely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination.	Out
RUR 2	Farm diversification	B Policy listing general criteria for testing the acceptability/sustainability of proposals. Development can only go ahead if other environmental policies within the SADPD are adhered to. K Policy or proposal not likely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination.	Out
RUR 3	Agricultural and forestry workers dwellings	B Policy listing general criteria for testing the acceptability/sustainability of proposals. Development can only go ahead if other environmental policies within the SADPD are adhered to. K Policy or proposal not likely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination.	Out
RUR 4	Essential rural worker occupancy conditions	A General statement of policy. General policy regarding change of use conditions to dwellings. G Policy or proposal that could not have any conceivable effect on a European site.	Out*
RUR 5	Best and most versatile agricultural land	B Policy listing general criteria for testing the acceptability/sustainability of proposals. Any further development on agricultural land will be in consultation with Natural England. K Policy or proposal not likely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out
RUR 6	Outdoor sport, leisure and recreation outside of settlement	B Policy listing general criteria for testing the acceptability/sustainability of proposals. Development can only go ahead if other environmental policies within the SADPD are adhered to. K Policy or proposal not likely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out

Policy no.	Policy title	Screening Category/Other notes	Screening Outcome
	boundaries		
RUR 7	Equestrian development outside of settlement boundaries	B Policy listing general criteria for testing the acceptability/sustainability of proposals. Development can only go ahead if other environmental policies within the SADPD are adhered to. K Policy or proposal not likely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out
RUR 8	Visitor accommodation outside of settlement boundaries	B Policy listing general criteria for testing the acceptability/sustainability of proposals. Development can only go ahead if other environmental policies within the SADPD are adhered to. K Policy or proposal not likely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out
RUR 9	Caravan and camping sites	B Policy listing general criteria for testing the acceptability/sustainability of proposals. Development can only go ahead if other environmental policies within the SADPD are adhered to. K Policy or proposal not likely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out
RUR 10	Employment development in the open countryside	B Policy listing general criteria for testing the acceptability/sustainability of proposals. Development can only go ahead if other environmental policies within the SADPD are adhered to. K Policy or proposal not likely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out
RUR 11	Extensions and alterations to buildings outside of settlement boundaries	A General statement of policy/ general aspiration. B Policy listing general criteria for testing the acceptability/sustainability of proposals. General policy with no reference to when or where developments would take place and gives no geographical reference to infer potential impacts to any European sites K Policy or proposal not likely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out
RUR 12	Residential curtilages outside of settlement boundaries	A General statement of policy. General policy with no reference to when or where developments would take place and gives no geographical reference to infer potential impacts to any European sites. K Policy or proposal not likely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination.	Out
RUR 13	Replacement buildings outside of settlement boundaries	A General statement of policy. General policy with no reference to when or where developments would take place and gives no geographical reference to infer potential impacts to any European sites. K Policy or proposal not likely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination.	Out
RUR 14	Re-use of rural	A General statement of policy.	Out

Policy no.	Policy title	Screening Category/Other notes	Screening Outcome
	buildings for residential use	General policy with no reference to when or where developments would take place and gives no geographical reference to infer potential impacts to any European sites. K Policy or proposal not likely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination.	
Chapter 7: Employment and economy			
EMP 1	Strategic employment areas	C Proposal referred to but not proposed by the plan. Locations of strategic sites already outlined in LPS. K Policy or proposal not likely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination.	Out
EMP 2	Employment allocations	K Policy or proposal not likely to have a significant effect either alone or in combination. All potential employment sites are located sufficient distance from any European sites that no hydrological or air quality impacts are anticipated as a result of these potential developments. Furthermore, no recreational pressures are anticipated as a result of the increased employment provision. Please also refer to Table 5-3 and Table 5-4 for further details.	Out
Chapter 8: Housing			
HOU 1	Housing mix	A General statement of policy. General policy about housing types with no spatial reference. G Policy or proposal that could not have any conceivable effect on a European site	Out*
HOU 2	Specialist housing provision	A General statement of policy. General policy about housing types with no spatial reference. G Policy or proposal that could not have any conceivable effect on a European site	Out*
HOU 3	Self and custom-built dwellings	A General statement of policy. General policy about housing allocation and self-build feasibility with no spatial reference. G Policy or proposal that could not have any conceivable effect on a European site	Out*
HOU 4	Houses in multiple occupation	A General statement of policy/ general aspiration. General policy about housing types with no spatial reference. G Policy or proposal that could not have any conceivable effect on a European site	Out*
HOU 5a	Gypsy and Traveller Site Provision	K Policy or proposal not likely to have a significant effect either alone or in combination. All potential Gypsy & Traveller sites are located sufficient distance from any European sites that no hydrological or air quality impacts are anticipated as a result of these potential developments. Furthermore, no recreational pressures are anticipated. Refer to Table 5-3 for further details of all sites and Table 5-5 for information in relation to G&T 6 (Midland Meres and Mosses Phase 1 Ramsar).	Out

Policy no.	Policy title	Screening Category/Other notes	Screening Outcome
HOU 5b	Travelling Showpeople	K Policy or proposal not likely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination All potential Travelling Showpeople sites are located sufficient distance from any European sites that no hydrological or air quality impacts are anticipated as a result of these potential developments. Furthermore, no recreational pressures are anticipated. Refer to Table 5-3 for further details of all sites and Table 5-5 for information in relation to T&S 1, T&S 2 and T&S 3 (Midland Meres and Mosses Phase 1 Ramsar)	Out
HOU 5c	Gypsy and Traveller and Travelling Showperson Site Principles	B. Policy listing general criteria for testing the acceptability/sustainability of proposals. G. Policy or proposal that could not have any conceivable effect on a European site.	Out*
HOU 6	Accessibility, space and wheelchair housing standards	A General statement of policy. K Policy or proposal not likely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out*
HOU 7	Subdivision of dwellings	A General statement of policy.	Out*
HOU 8	Backland development	A General statement of policy. B Policy listing general criteria for testing the acceptability/sustainability of proposals.	Out*
HOU 9	Extensions and alterations	A General statement of policy. B Policy listing general criteria for testing the acceptability/sustainability of proposals	Out*
HOU 10	Amenity	A General statement of policy. B Policy listing general criteria for testing the acceptability/sustainability of proposals. D Environmental Protection policy. K Policy or proposal not likely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out
HOU 11	Residential standards	A General statement of policy/ general aspiration. K Policy or proposal not likely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out
HOU 12	Housing density	A General statement of policy/general aspiration. B Policy listing general criteria for testing the acceptability/sustainability of proposals. E Policies or proposals that steer change in such a way as to protect European sites from adverse effects. K Policy or proposal not likely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out
HOU 13	Housing delivery	A General statement of policy.	Out

Policy no.	Policy title	Screening Category/Other notes	Screening Outcome
		<p>D Environmental Protection policy. Any masterplans will be written in line with the SADPD and LPS.</p> <p>K Policy or proposal not likely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination</p>	
HOU 14	Small sites	<p>A General statement of policy. General policy for site allocation type with no spatial reference.</p> <p>K Policy or proposal not likely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination</p>	Out
Chapter 9: Town Centres and Retail			
RET 1	Retail hierarchy	<p>K Policy or proposal not likely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination. LPS policies which have been subject to HRA.</p>	Out
RET 2	Planning for retail needs	<p>K Policy or proposal not likely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination. LPS policies which have been subject to HRA; additional retail provisions in the centre of Crewe would be more than 5km from the nearest European site (West Midlands Mosses SAC and Midland Meres and Mosses Phase 1 Ramsar (Wybunbury Moss SSSI)) with no potential impact pathways identified. Any further retail provision in Macclesfield would be more than 7km from the nearest European site (Peak District Moors Phase 1 SPA and South Pennine Moors SAC), with no identifiable impact pathways.</p>	Out
RET 3	Sequential and impact tests	<p>B Policy listing general criteria for testing the acceptability/sustainability of proposals.</p> <p>K Policy or proposal not likely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination</p>	Out
RET 4	Shop fronts and security	<p>A General statement of policy/general aspiration. F Policy that cannot lead to development or other change. Design aspects which cannot lead to further development.</p>	Out*
RET 5	Restaurants, cafes, pubs and hot food takeaways	<p>E Policies or proposals which steer change in such a way as to protect European sites from adverse effects. Development must adhere to other policies in SADPD and LPS.</p>	Out*
RET 6	Neighbourhood parades of shops	<p>A General statement of policy/general aspiration. General policy with no spatial reference in relation to European sites.</p>	Out*
RET 7	Supporting the vitality of town and retail centres	<p>A General statement of policy. General policy, no spatial reference.</p>	Out*
RET 8	Residential accommodation in	<p>G Policy or proposal that could not have any conceivable effect on a European site.</p>	Out*

Policy no.	Policy title	Screening Category/Other notes	Screening Outcome
	the town centre		
RET 9	Environmental improvements, public realm and design in town centres	B Policy listing general criteria for testing the acceptability/sustainability of proposals. D Environmental Protection policy.	Out*
RET 10	Crewe town centre	G Policy or proposal not likely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination. More than 5km from the nearest European site West Midlands Mosses SAC and Midland Meres and Mosses Phase 1 Ramsar (Wybunbury Moss SSSI).	Out
RET 11	Macclesfield town centre and environs	G Policy or proposal not likely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination. Further retail provision in Macclesfield would be more than 7km from the nearest European site (Peak District Moors Phase 1 SPA and South Pennine Moors SAC, with no identifiable impact pathways).	Out
Chapter 10: Transport and infrastructure			
INF 1	Cycleways, bridleways and footpaths	A General statement of policy/general aspiration. General policy to increase sustainable transport with no spatial reference to European sites. G Policy or proposal that could not have any conceivable effect on a European site	Out*
INF 2	Public car parks	A General statement of policy/general aspiration. General policy with no spatial reference to European sites. G Policy or proposal that could not have any conceivable effect on a European site	Out*
INF 3	Highway safety and access	A General statement of policy/general aspiration. F Policy that cannot lead to development or other change. G Policy or proposal that could not have any conceivable effect on a European site Policy itself only relates to design of development proposals and does not lead to further development through the policy itself.	Out*
INF 4	Manchester airport	C Proposal referred to but not proposed by the plan. The planning permission in place for the airport extension is not part of the SADPD. G Policy or proposal that could not have any conceivable effect on a European site. The land to be safeguarded within the SADPD that forms part of the proposed airport development is sufficient distance from any European site that there are no identified impact pathways.	Out*
INF 5	Off-airport car	D Environmental Protection policy.	Out

Policy no.	Policy title	Screening Category/Other notes	Screening Outcome
	parking	Any new car parks must adhere to other environmental policies in the SADPD. K Policy or proposal not likely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination.	
INF 6	Protection of existing and proposed infrastructure	A General statement of policy/-general aspiration. C Proposal referred to but not proposed by the plan. Development only possible when not inhibiting policies for infrastructure (policies not directly part of SADPD). K Policy or proposal not likely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out
INF 7	Hazardous installations	B Policy listing general criteria for testing the acceptability/sustainability of proposals. G Policy or proposal that could not have any conceivable effect on a European site	Out*
INF 8	Telecommunications infrastructure	A General statement of policy/ general aspiration. G Policy or proposal that could not have any conceivable effect on a European site	Out*
INF 9	Utilities	B Policy listing general criteria for testing the acceptability/sustainability of proposals. G Policy or proposal that could not have any conceivable effect on a European site	Out*
INF 10	Canals and mooring facilities	B Policy listing general criteria for testing the acceptability/sustainability of proposals. D Environmental Protection policy. K Policy or proposal not likely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Out
Chapter 11: Recreation and community facilities			
REC 1	Green/ open space protection	B Policy listing general criteria for testing the acceptability/sustainability of proposals	Out*
REC 2	Indoor sport and recreation implementation	A General statement of policy/general aspiration. General policy with no spatial context to European sites. G Policy or proposal that could not have any conceivable effect on a European site	Out*
REC 3	Green space implementation	A General statement of policy/general aspiration. E Policies or proposals that steer change in such a way as to protect European sites from adverse effects. General policy with no spatial reference but potential for greenspace provision to direct recreational pressures away from European sites. G Policy or proposal that could not have any conceivable effect on a European site	Out*
REC 4	Day nurseries	A General statement of policy/general aspiration. B Policy listing general criteria for testing the acceptability/sustainability of proposals. G Policy or proposal that could not have any conceivable effect on a European site	Out*

Policy no.	Policy title	Screening Category/Other notes	Screening Outcome
REC 5	Community facilities	<p>F Policy that cannot lead to development or other change. Reference to the retention of existing facilities rather than any new developments.</p> <p>G Policy or proposal that could not have any conceivable effect on a European site</p>	Out*

5.3 Site Allocations

Table 5-3 summarises the sites being considered through stage 4 onwards of the Council's Site Selection Methodology (SSM) and provides a preliminary outline of the potential for each site being considered to impact upon European sites, taking into account the location of the potential site allocation in relation to each of the European sites. This table includes both potential site allocations (prefixed with SUB, FDR or CFS) as well as potential Gypsy and Traveller and Travelling Showperson sites (prefixed with GTTS). Employment allocations, as outlined SADPD Policy EMP 2 are also considered. This is a high-level screening assessment, taking into account the location of the European sites in relation to the sites being considered for allocation. This information is used to support the overall screening assessment (Table 5-5).

Further details of the site allocations can be seen in the Local Plan SADPD as well as settlement reports (ED 21 to 44) & documents ED 12 (employment allocations review) and ED 14 (Gypsy and Traveller and Travelling Showperson site selection report). These documents should be read in conjunction with this HRA. It should be noted that although all the sites that make it to stage 4 of the site selection methodology are considered in this document and within the HRA, not all sites will be carried forward for final selection and development.

Taking into account the location of the European sites in relation to the sites being considered for allocation (Table 5-3 and 5-4), the identified potential hazards and impact pathways associated with the developments, an assessment has been made as to whether the Local Plan SADPD, either alone or in-combination with other plans, will have likely significant effects on any European sites. This assessment is detailed in Table 5-5. Any relevant policies or site allocations that are considered to require further assessment in Table 5-2 or Table 5-3 are identified and considered in this table. For European sites covering several locations, this column also indicates which component SSSI site is considered to potentially be impacted upon.

It should be noted that potential impacts from other plans and projects are only considered in the screening assessment where there is no likely significant effect on a designated site from the Local Plan SADPD alone.

Table 5-3: Summary of site options and GTTS sites being considered in the development of the Cheshire East Local Plan SADPD and initial screening.

Site Option	Description	Use				Potential Impact on European Sites
		Residential	Employment	Retail	Other	
Alderley Edge Settlement						
CFS 130b	Land north of Beech Road				Safeguarded land	No. All sites considered through the site selection process for future allocation are more than 8km from the nearest European site with no potential impact pathways relating to the European sites identified.
CFS 301	Land adjacent to Jenny Heyes				Safeguarded land	
CFS 359	Land to the rear of Congleton Road and south of Lydiat Lane				Safeguarded land	
CFS 370 / FDR 1740	Land east of Heyes Lane				Safeguarded land	
CFS 394	Land south of Netherfields				Safeguarded land	
CFS 404a	Ryleys Farm (plot 1)				Safeguarded land	
CFS 404c	Ryleys Farm (plot 3)				Safeguarded land	
CFS 620	Land to the rear of 40 Congleton Road				Safeguarded land	
FDR2831	Mayfield, Wilmslow Road				Safeguarded land	

Site Option	Description	Use				Potential Impact on European Sites
		Residential	Employment	Retail	Other	
Bollington Settlement						
CFS 79	Land to east of 41a Shrigley Road				Safeguarded land	No. All sites being considered for allocation through the site selection process are more than 5km from the closest European site (South Pennine Moors SAC & Peak District Moors (South Pennine Moors Phase 1) SPA). No potential impact pathways were identified regarding any European site.
CFS 277	Land at 59 Shrigley Road				Safeguarded Land	
CFS 352a	Land at Greg Avenue/ Ashbrook Road				Safeguarded land	
CFS 352	Land at Hall Hill				Safeguarded land	
CFS557	Cocksheadhey Road				Safeguarded land	
CFS 561	Land at Henshall Road				Safeguarded land	
CFS 567	Land at Oak Lane/ Greenfield Road				Safeguarded land	
FDR855A	Land to the south of Grimshaw Lane				Safeguarded land	
FDR855B	Land between 15 and 17a Jackson Lane				Safeguarded land	
FDR2818A	Overflow car park at Hollin Hall Hotel				Safeguarded land	
FDR2818B	Land south of the				Safeguarded	

Site Option	Description	Use				Potential Impact on European Sites
		Residential	Employment	Retail	Other	
	overflow car park at Hollin Hall Hotel				land	
Chelford Settlement						
CFS 2/48	Land off Knutsford Road				Safeguarded Land	No. All sites being considered for allocation (safeguarded land) in the site selection process are more than 6km away from the nearest European site (Midland Meres and Mosses Phase 1 Ramsar). No potential impact pathways were identified regarding any European site.
CFS 427b	Land at Chelford Village – Parcel B				Safeguarded Land	
CFS 427c	Land at Chelford Village – Parcel C				Safeguarded Land	
CFS 427c(i)	Land east of Chelford Railway Station				Safeguarded Land	
Congleton Settlement						
CFS 220	Land north of Congleton Business Park		✓			Yes. CFS 220 is located within 5km of Midland Meres and Mosses Phase 1 Ramsar (Bagmere SSSI). Potential impacts may occur through increased recreational pressure. All other sites being considered for allocation through the site selection process are located more than 5km from any European Sites and no potential impact pathways were identified for these sites.
CFS 448	Land adjacent to Barn Road/ Viking Way		✓			
CFS 449	HWRC Site, Barn Road		✓	✓		
Cong E2	Land off Alexandria Way		✓			
Crewe Settlement						

Site Option	Description	Use				Potential Impact on European Sites
		Residential	Employment	Retail	Other	
CFS 594	Land off Gresty Road		✓			Yes. CFS 594 is located within 3.2km of West Midlands Mosses SAC (Wybunbury Moss SSSI) and Midland Meres and Mosses Phase 1 Ramsar. Potential impact pathways may include recreational pressure or hydrological impacts on groundwater levels and/or groundwater contamination. Natural England also recognises CFS 594 as within the Impact Risk Zone for Wybunbury Moss in relation to air pollution. No impact pathways identified for CFS 634
CFS 634	Land at Bentley Motors, Crewe		✓			
Disley Settlement						
CFS 29	Cloughside Farm, Lower Greenshall Lane				Safeguarded Land	No. All sites being considered for allocation (safeguarded land) are more than 6km from the nearest European site (South Pennine Moors SAC and Peak District Moors (South Pennine Moors Phase 1) SPA)) with no downstream hydrological connectivity.
CFS 196	Land at Hag Bank Lane				Safeguarded Land	
CFS 199	Greystones Allotment Site, Buxton Road				Safeguarded Land	
CFS 275	Land off Lymewood Drive				Safeguarded Land	
FDR1941	Land off Jacksons Edge Road				Safeguarded Land	

Site Option	Description	Use				Potential Impact on European Sites
		Residential	Employment	Retail	Other	
Holmes Chapel Settlement						
CFS 423a	Land east of London Road		✓			Yes. This site falls within the Natural England SSSI Impact Risk Zone for Bagmere SSSI (Midland Meres and Mosses Phase 1 Ramsar), so this site is considered in the screening assessment for air quality impacts. No increased recreational pressure is foreseen as a result of an employment site and there is no downstream hydrological connectivity to the Ramsar.
Middlewich Settlement						
CFS 164	Cledford Lagoon	✓				No. All sites being considered for future allocation through the site selection process are at least 7km from the nearest European site (Midland Meres and Mosses Phase 1 Ramsar (Bagmere SSSI)) and no potential impact pathways were identified regarding any European site.
CFS 387	Land at Tetton Lane	✓				
CFS 600	East and West of Croxton Lane	✓				
CFS 635A	Land off Centurion Way	✓				
FDR860	Land adjacent to Watersmeet, Nantwich Road	✓				
SUB 1654	Land to the east of Warmingham Lane	✓				

Site Option	Description	Use				Potential Impact on European Sites
		Residential	Employment	Retail	Other	
Mobberley Settlement						
CFS 168	Grove House	✓				<p>Yes. All sites being considered for allocation are within 2.8km of Midlands Meres and Mosses Phase 1 Ramsar (Tatton Meres SSSI). Identified impact pathways are increased disturbance through recreational pressure and hydrological impacts through changes in groundwater quality and levels.</p> <p>CFS 354 is also within the Impact Risk Zone for Midlands Meres and Mosses Phase 1 Ramsar and Rostherne Mere Ramsar in relation to air pollution and/or combustion.</p>
CFS 354	Land off, Ilford Way, Town Lane	✓	✓			
CFS 355	Land north of Carlilse Close / east of Harman technology	✓				
Poynton Settlement						
CFS 109	Poynton Sports Club	✓				<p>No. All sites being considered for allocation through the site selection process are more than 9km from the nearest European site (South Pennine Moors SAC and Peak District Moors (South Pennine Moors Phase 1) SPA)). No potential impact pathways were</p>
CFS 110	Land north of Glastonbury Drive				Sports and leisure uses	
CFS 205	Hope Green Cottage	✓				
CFS 412	Land off London Road South	✓				

Site Option	Description	Use				Potential Impact on European Sites
		Residential	Employment	Retail	Other	
CFS 636	Land at Poynton High School	✓				identified regarding any European site.
CFS 637	Former Vernon Infants School	✓				
Prestbury Settlements						
CFS 58	Land at Shirleys Drive				Safeguarded Land	No. All sites being considered for allocation (safeguarded land) through the site selection process are at least 8km from the nearest European site (South Pennine Moors SAC and Peak District Moors (South Pennine Moors Phase 1) SPA)). No potential impact pathways were identified regarding any European site.
CFS 154	Land at Bridge Green (area A)				Safeguarded Land	
CFS 155	Land at Bridge Green (area B)				Safeguarded Land	
CFS 197	Land north of Chelford Road and west of Collar House Drive				Safeguarded Land	
CFS 331a	Land at Heybridge Lane (southern site, larger area)				Safeguarded Land	
CFS 391 plot 1	Land at White Gables Farm, south of Cricket Ground				Safeguarded Land	
CFS 391 plot 2	Land at White Gables Farm, north east of cricket ground				Safeguarded Land	

Site Option	Description	Use				Potential Impact on European Sites
		Residential	Employment	Retail	Other	
CFS 391 plot 3	Land at White Gables Farm, north of cricket ground				Safeguarded Land	
CFS391 plot 4	The Bowery (land at White Gables Farm north of Bollin Grove)				Safeguarded Land	
CFS391 plot 5	Butley Heights smaller site (land at White Gables Farm off Butley Lanes)				Safeguarded Land	
CFS391 plot 5b	Butley Heights larger site (land at White Gables Farm off Butley Lanes)				Safeguarded Land	
CFS391 plot 8	Land at White Gables Farm, off Castle Hill				Safeguarded Land	
CFS 574	Land south of Prestbury Lane				Safeguarded Land	
FDR1730	Land off Macclesfield Road				Safeguarded Land	
FDR2001	Land off Heybridge Lane (Northern Site)				Safeguarded Land	
FDR2871	Land at Heybridge Lane (southern site,				Safeguarded Land	

Site Option	Description	Use				Potential Impact on European Sites
		Residential	Employment	Retail	Other	
	smaller area)					
Additional GTTS sites						
Site GTTS 12	Land east of Railway Bridge Cottages, Nantwich	✓			Potential GTTS site	No. This site is 4.5km from the nearest European site Midland Meres and Mosses Phase 1 Ramsar (Wynbunbury Moss SSSI) and is proposed to provide only eight pitches. Given the small-scale of the site and the distance from any European sites, no impacts are anticipated.
Site GTTS 13	Wybunbury Lane, Stapeley	✓			Potential GTTS site	Yes. This site is within 1.5km of the nearest European site (Midland Meres and Mosses Phase 1 Ramsar (Wynbunbury Moss SSSI)).
Site GTTS 14	The Oakes, Mill Lane, Smallwood	✓			Potential GTTS site	Yes. The site is within 3.1km of Midland Meres and Mosses Phase 1 Ramsar (Component site Bagmere SSSI).
Site GTTS 15 (a and b) Three Oakes Caravan Park	Site A & Site B	✓ (24 pitches, an extension to an existing site)			Potential GTTS site	No Both sites being considered for future allocation through the site selection process are over 7km from the nearest European site (Midland Meres and Mosses Phase 1 Ramsar (Bagmere SSSI)) and no potential impact pathways have been identified

Site Option	Description	Use				Potential Impact on European Sites
		Residential	Employment	Retail	Other	
						regarding any European site.
Site GTTS 17	New Start Park, Wettenhall Road, Reaseheath	✓			Potential GTTS site	No. This site is more than 7km from the nearest European site (Midland Meres and Mosses Phase 1 Ramsar (Wynbunbury Moss SSSI)).
Site GTTS 19	The Old Brickworks, Newcastle Road (A50)	✓			Potential GTTS site	Yes. The site is within 1.6km of Midland Meres and Mosses Phase 1 Ramsar (Component site Bagmere SSSI).
Site GTTS 30	Land at London Road, Bridgemere	✓			Potential GTTS site	Yes. This site is within 3.4km of Midland Meres and Mosses Phase 1 Ramsar (Betley Mere SSSI). It falls within the Natural England Impact Risk Zone for Betley Mere SSSI in relation to discharges.
Site GTTS 31	Land at Coppenhall Moss, Crewe	✓			Potential GTTS site	No. This site is more than 7km from the nearest European site (Midland Meres and Mosses Phase 2 Ramsar (constituent site Oakhanger Moss SSSI)). No impact pathways have been identified.
Site GTTS 64	Arclid Depot, Arclid	✓			Potential GTTS site	Yes. The site is within 1.1km of Midland Meres and Mosses Phase 1 Ramsar (Bagmere SSSI)r.
Site GTTS 66	Lorry Park, off Mobberley Road,	✓			Potential GTTS site	Yes. GTTS 66 is within close proximity (within 850m) of Midland Meres and

Site Option	Description	Use				Potential Impact on European Sites
		Residential	Employment	Retail	Other	
	Knutsford					Mosses Phase 1 Ramsar (Tatton Meres SSSI). Potential impact pathways may therefore be hydrological, recreational pressures and/or air quality impacts. This site is also within 5km of both Rostherne Mere Ramsar and the Mere, Mere SSSI (constituent of Midlands Meres and Mosses Phase 1 Ramsar).
Site GTTS 67	Cledford Hall, Cledford Lane, Middlewich	✓ (10 pitches)			Potential GTTS site	No. The site is more than 7.5km from the nearest European Site (Midland Meres and Mosses Phase 1 Ramsar (Bagmere SSSI)). No potential impact pathways were identified regarding any European site.
Site GTTS 68	Land at Fir Farm, Brereton	✓			Potential GTTS site	Yes. The site is within 1.3km of Midland Meres and Mosses Phase 1 Ramsar (Bagmere SSSI).
Policy EMP 2 Employment Allocations N.B. Please refer to document ED 12 for further detail						
EMP 2.1	Weston Interchange, Crewe		✓			No. All potential employment sites are located of sufficient distance from their respective nearest European sites that no hydrological or air quality impacts are anticipated as a result of these potential developments. Furthermore, no recreational pressures are
EMP 2.2	Meadow Bridge, Crewe		✓			
EMP 2.4	Hurdsfield Road, Macclesfield		✓			

Site Option	Description	Use				Potential Impact on European Sites
		Residential	Employment	Retail	Other	
EMP 2.5	61MU, Handforth		✓			anticipated as a result of the increased employment provision.
EMP 2.6	Land rear of Handforth Dean Retail Park, Handforth		✓			
EMP 2.7	New Farm, Middlewich		✓			
EMP 2.8	Land West of Manor Lane, Holmes Chapel		✓			
EMP 2.9	Land at Faulkner Drive, Middlewich		✓			

Table 5-3 (summary of site options) has informed the SADPD site selection process on an iterative and ongoing basis. The high-level HRA screening assessment (taking into account the location of the European sites in relation to the sites being considered for allocation), when considered alongside other suitability and achievability factors in the site selection process, has been used to inform decisions on which allocations are proposed to be brought forward in the SADPD.

Table 5-4 (below) sets out the list of proposed SADPD allocations (including safeguarded land designation), and also highlights those sites where a potential impact on a European site has been identified.

Table 5-4: Proposed SADPD allocations and potential for impacts on European Sites

Settlement	Site Allocations and Development Policies Document Reference	Other Site Reference	Site Name	Potential Impact on European Site
Crewe	CRE 1	CFS 634	Land at Bentley Motors	No
	CRE 2	CFS 594	Land off Gresty Green Road	Yes
Congleton	CNG 1	Cong E2	Land off Alexandria Way / Viking Way	No
Middlewich	MID 2	CFS 600	Land East and West of Croxton Lane	No
	MID 3	CFS635A	Land off Centurion Way	No
Poynton	PYT 1	CFS 109	Poynton Sports Club, London Road North	No
	PYT 2	CFS 110	Land north of Glastonbury Drive	No
	PYT 3	CFS 636	Land at Poynton High School, Dickens Lane	No
	PYT 4	CFS 637	Former Vernon Infants School, Bulkeley Road	No
Alderley Edge	ALD 3	CFS404a	Land at Ryleys Farm, Chelford Road	No
Bollington	BOL 1	CFS 561	Land at Henshall Road	No
	BOL 2	CFS 567	Land off Oak Lane and Greenfield Road	No

Settlement	Site Allocations and Development Policies Document Reference	Other Site Reference	Site Name	Potential Impact on European Site
Chelford	CFD 1	CFS 2/48	Land off Knutsford Road	No
	CFD 2	CFS 427 c1	Land east of Chelford Railway Station	No
Disley	DIS 2	FDR1941	Land off Jacksons Edge Road	No
Holmes Chapel	HCH 1	CFS 423a	Land east of London Road	Yes
Prestbury	PRE 2	CFS 574	Land south of Prestbury Lane	No
	PRE 3	Part of CFS 574 / FDR 2001	Land off Heybridge Lane	No
Gypsy and Traveller Site	G&T 1	GTTS 12	Land at Railway Cottages, Nantwich (Baddington Park)	No
	G&T 2	GTTS 31	Land at Coppenhall Moss	No
	G&T 3	GTTS 17	New Start Park, Wettenhall Road	No
	G&T 4	GTTS 15a	Three Oakes Caravan Park, Moston (option a)	No
	G&T 5	GTTS 67	Cledford Hall, Cledford Lane, Middlewich	No
	G&T 8	GTTS 14	The Oakes, Mill Lane, Smallwood	Yes
	TS 1	GTTS 66 (considered for Travelling Showperson use)	Lorry Park, Mobberley Road, Knutsford	Yes
	TS 2	GTTS 68 (considered for Travelling Showperson use)	Land at Fir Farm, Brereton	Yes

Settlement	Site Allocations and Development Policies Document Reference	Other Site Reference	Site Name	Potential Impact on European Site
	TS 3	GTTS 19 (considered for Travelling Showperson use)	The Old Brickworks, Newcastle Road, A50	Yes
Employment Allocations	EMP 2.1		Weston Interchange (Crewe)	No
	EMP 2.2		Meadow Bridge (Crewe)	No
	EMP 2.4		Hurdsfield Road, Macclesfield	No
	EMP 2.5		61MU, Handforth	No
	EMP 2.6		Land rear of Handforth Dean Retail Park, Handforth	No
	EMP 2.7		New Farm, Middlewich	No
	EMP 2.8		Land West of Manor Lane, Holmes Chapel	No
	EMP 2.9		Land at Faulkner Drive, Middlewich	No

Where there has been a potential impact on a European site identified in Table 5-4 (above), the site allocation will be considered in further detail through the remaining stages of the assessment (and outcomes documented in this report).

Table 5-5 (below) highlights the assessment of likely significant effects on European Sites (sites in the borough and within 10-15 km of the borough boundary) taking account of the relevant sites and policies identified in Table 5-2 (summary policy assessment) and tables 5-3 / 5-4 (site assessment).

Table 5-5: Assessment of Likely Significant Effects on European sites

N.b. Where this table refers to sites being 'considered for allocation', this describes sites considered for allocation and / or those being considered as safeguarded land.

Designated Site (including component SSSIs likely to be impacted upon, where applicable).	Potential Hazards	Relevant Policy / Site being considered in the assessment	Potential hazard impact pathways			Potential in-combination effects with other plans or projects (if applicable) *	Screening assessment
			Recreational	Hydrological	Air quality		
<p>West Midlands Mosses SAC</p> <p><i>Qualifying features:</i> Standing waters (sensitive to acidification) Bogs and wet habitats Wybunbury Moss SSSI</p>	<p>Changes in water quality Changes in water levels or table Pollution (air) Physical damage (due to recreational pressures)</p>	<p>Wybunbury Moss SSSI: CRE 2</p>	<p>CRE 2 is proposed as an owner expansion site for B1 and B8 employment uses. No increased recreational impacts are anticipated as a result of this employment site. No likely significant effect</p> <p>There are no conceivable recreational impacts upon any other constituent SSSIs within the West Midlands Mosses SAC as a result of the SADPD. No likely significant effect</p>	<p>The potential for adverse effects due to changes in water levels and/or quality is highly unlikely due to the distance (more than 1.5 km) of the SAC from the closest site being considered for allocation and the lack of hydrological connectivity between any constituent SSSIs forming the European site and any site allocations proposed in the SADPD. No likely significant effect</p>	<p>Some sections of road within the vicinity of West Midlands Mosses SAC (component site Wybunbury Moss SSSI) fall within 200m of the SAC and therefore may impact on air quality at the SAC should vehicle usage increase associated with the potential allocated sites (DMRB LA 105). However, any potential increase in traffic on the main road through Wybunbury as a direct result of the potential site allocation CRE 2 which is 3.2km from the SAC, or any site allocations further afield, are expected to be negligible.</p> <p>CRE 2 is located 3.2km from Wybunbury Moss SSSI and is within the Natural England Impact Risk Zone for air pollution for any industrial/agricultural development (including: industrial processes, livestock & poultry units with floorspace > 500m², slurry lagoons > 750m² & manure stores > 3500t). CRE 2 will be limited to B1 and B8 uses and therefore is not likely to involve industrial or agricultural processes that could lead to air quality impacts upon Wybunbury Moss SSSI. No likely significant effect</p>	<p>The Local Plan SADPD is unlikely to have significant adverse effects on the West Midlands Mosses SAC in-combination with any other relevant plans or projects. No likely significant effect</p>	<p>No likely significant effect. <i>Screened out.</i></p>
<p>South Pennine Moors SAC</p> <p><i>Qualifying features:</i> Bogs and wet habitats Fens and wet habitats Dry heathland habitats Dry woodlands and scrub</p>	<p>Changes in water quality Changes in water levels or table Pollution (air) Physical damage (due</p>	<p>None</p>	<p>It is unlikely that any sites being considered for potential allocation in the SADPD will result in recreational/disturbance impacts that extend as far as the South Pennine Moors SAC; all potential allocated sites are more than</p>	<p>The potential for adverse effects due to changes in water levels and/or quality is highly unlikely due to the distance (more than 5km) of the SAC from any potential allocated site within the SADPD, and the lack of</p>	<p>The potential for adverse effects on the South Pennine Moors SAC due to air pollution from increased vehicles associated with the potential site allocations using the local road and motorway network is unlikely. This is due to the distance of the SAC from the main</p>	<p>The Local Plan SADPD is unlikely to have significant adverse effects on the South Pennine Moors SAC in-combination with any other relevant plans or projects. No likely significant effect</p>	<p>No likely significant effect. <i>Screened out</i></p>

Designated Site (including component SSSIs likely to be impacted upon, where applicable).	Potential Hazards	Relevant Policy / Site being considered in the assessment	Potential hazard impact pathways			Potential in-combination effects with other plans or projects (if applicable) *	Screening assessment
			Recreational	Hydrological	Air quality		
	to recreational pressures)		5km from this SAC. No likely significant effect	hydrological connectivity with any watercourses that could be affected by development. No likely significant effect	road network, as pollutant levels can be expected to be expected to fall to background levels at a distance of more than 200m (DMRB LA 105). No likely significant effect		
Rixton Clay Pits SAC <i>Qualifying features:</i> Amphibia (Great Crested Newt <i>Triturus cristatus</i>)	Changes in water quality Changes in water levels or table Physical damage (due to recreational pressures)	None	It is unlikely that the development of any of the sites being considered for potential allocation in the SADPD will result in recreational/ disturbance impacts that extend as far as Rixton Clay Pits SAC; the closest site being considered for allocation is more than 13km from the SAC. No likely significant effect	The potential for adverse effects due to changes in water levels and/or quality is highly unlikely due to the distance (more than 13km) of the SAC from any potential allocated site within Cheshire East, and the lack of hydrological connectivity with any watercourses that could be affected by development. No likely significant effect	The potential for adverse effects due to air quality changes from increased traffic associated with new development at the potential site allocations is highly unlikely due to the distance of the SAC (more than 13km) from any site being considered for potential allocation within Cheshire East. No likely significant effect	The Local Plan SADPD is unlikely to have significant effects on Rixton Clay Pits SAC in-combination with any other relevant plans or projects. No likely significant effect	No likely significant effects. <i>Screened out.</i>
Brown Moss SAC <i>Qualifying features:</i> Vascular plants of aquatic habitats (Floating Water Plantain <i>Luronium natans</i>)	Changes in water quality Changes in water levels or table Physical damage (due to recreational pressures)	None	It is unlikely that development of any of the sites being considered for potential allocation in the SADPD will result in recreational/ disturbance impacts that extend as far as Brown Moss SAC; the closest site being considered for allocation is more than 13 km from the SAC. No likely significant effect	The potential for adverse effects due to changes in water levels and/or quality is highly unlikely due to the distance (more than 13km) of the SAC from any potential site allocation within Cheshire East, and the lack of hydrological connectivity with any watercourses that could be affected by development. No likely significant effect	The potential for adverse effects due to air quality changes from increased traffic associated with new development is highly unlikely due to the distance of the SAC (more than 13km) from any sites being considered for allocation within Cheshire East and due to the distance of the SAC from the main road network. Pollutant levels can be expected to fall substantially at a distance less than 50m from the source and can be expected to fall to background levels at a distance of more than 200m (DMRB LA 105). No likely significant effect	The Local Plan SADPD is unlikely to have any significant effects on Brown Moss SAC in-combination with any other relevant plans or projects. No likely significant effect	No likely significant effects. <i>Screened out.</i>
Manchester Mosses SAC <i>Qualifying features:</i> Bogs and wet habitats	Changes in water quality Changes in water levels or table Pollution (air) Physical damage (due to recreational	None	It is unlikely that the development of any of the sites being considered for potential allocation in the SADPD will result in recreational/ disturbance impacts that extend as far as Manchester Mosses SAC; the closest site being considered for allocation is more	The potential for adverse effects due to changes in water levels and/or quality is highly unlikely due to the distance (more than 15km) of the SAC from any potential allocated site within Cheshire East, and the lack of hydrological	The potential for adverse effects on Manchester Mosses SAC due to air pollution from increased vehicles associated with the potential site allocations using the local road and motorway network is unlikely. This is due to the distance of the SAC from the main road network, as pollutant levels can be expected to	Manchester Mosses SAC is considered in the HRA screening report for HS2 (cited in Temple-ERM, 2013). Although the HRA will require future updates, the initial report screens out any likely significant effects upon this SAC. The potential impact mechanisms discussed in the	No likely significant effects. <i>Screened out.</i>

Designated Site (including component SSSIs likely to be impacted upon, where applicable).	Potential Hazards	Relevant Policy / Site being considered in the assessment	Potential hazard impact pathways			Potential in-combination effects with other plans or projects (if applicable) *	Screening assessment
			Recreational	Hydrological	Air quality		
	pressures)		than 15km from the SAC. No likely significant effect	connectivity with any watercourses that could be affected by development. No likely significant effect	fall substantially at a distance less than 50m from the source and can be expected to fall to background levels at a distance of more than 200m (DMRB LA 105). No likely significant effect	sustainability report are considered to be hydrological. Any residual (non-significant) impacts resulting from this scheme would therefore be highly unlikely to impact on the SAC through any similar mechanisms to those impacts associated with the SADPD. No in-combination affects with the Greater Manchester Spatial Framework – draft Jan 2019 have been identified. The Local Plan SADPD is unlikely to have significant adverse effects on Manchester Mosses SAC in-combination with any other relevant plans or projects. No likely significant effect	
Oak Mere SAC <i>Qualifying features:</i> Standing waters (sensitive to acidification) Bogs and wet habitats	Changes in water quality Changes in water levels or table Pollution (air) Physical damage (due to recreational pressures)	None	It is unlikely that the development of any of the sites being considered for potential allocation in the SADPD will result in recreational/ disturbance impacts that extend as far as Oak Mere SAC; the closest site being considered for allocation is more than 11km from the SAC. No likely significant effect	The potential for adverse effects due to changes in water levels and/or quality is highly unlikely due to the distance (more than 11km) of the SAC from any potential site allocation within Cheshire East, and the lack of hydrological connectivity with any watercourses that could be affected by development. No likely significant effect	The potential for adverse effects on Oak Mere SAC due to air pollution from increased vehicles associated with the potential site allocations using the local road and motorway network is unlikely. This is due to the distance of the SAC from the main road network, as pollutant levels can be expected to fall to background levels at a distance of more than 200m (DMRB LA 105). No likely significant effect	The Local Plan SADPD is unlikely to have significant adverse effects on Oak Mere SAC in- combination with any other relevant plans. No likely significant effect	No likely significant effects. <i>Screened out.</i>
Fenn's, Whixall, Bettisfield, Wem and Cadney Mosses SAC <i>Qualifying features:</i> Bogs and wet habitats	Changes in water quality Changes in water levels or table Pollution (air) Physical damage (due to recreational pressures)	None	It is unlikely that the development of any of the sites being considered for potential allocation in the SADPD will result in recreational/ disturbance impacts that extend as far as Fenn's, Whixall, Bettisfield, Wem and Cadney Mosses SAC; the closest site being considered for allocation is more than 19km from the SAC. No likely significant effect	The potential for adverse effects due to changes in water levels and/or quality is highly unlikely due to the distance (more than 19km) of the SAC from any site being considered for potential allocation within Cheshire East, and the lack of hydrological connectivity with any watercourses that could be affected by development. No likely significant effect	The potential for adverse effects on Fenn's, Whixall, Bettisfield, Wem and Cadney Mosses SAC due to air pollution from increased vehicles associated with the potential site allocations using the local road and motorway network is unlikely. This is due to the distance of the SAC from the main road network, as pollutant levels can be expected to fall to background levels at a distance of more than 200m (DMRB LA 105). No likely significant effect	The Local Plan SADPD is unlikely to have significant adverse effects on Fenn's, Whixall, Bettisfield, Wem and Cadney Mosses SAC in-combination with any other relevant plans or projects. No likely significant effect	No Likely significant effects. <i>Screened out.</i>

Designated Site (including component SSSIs likely to be impacted upon, where applicable).	Potential Hazards	Relevant Policy / Site being considered in the assessment	Potential hazard impact pathways			Potential in-combination effects with other plans or projects (if applicable) *	Screening assessment
			Recreational	Hydrological	Air quality		
<p>Peak District Dales SAC</p> <p><i>Qualifying features:</i> Fens and wet habitats Dry woodlands and scrub Dry grassland Dry heathland habitats Upland Non-migratory fish and invertebrates of rivers</p>	<p>Changes in water quality Changes in water levels or table Physical damage (due to recreational pressures) Disturbance</p>	<p>None</p>	<p>It is unlikely that the development of any of the sites being considered for potential allocation in the SADPD will result in recreational/ disturbance impacts that extend as far as the Peak District Dales SAC; the closest site being considered for allocation is more than 14km from the SAC, No likely significant effect</p>	<p>The potential for adverse effects due to changes in water levels and/or quality is highly unlikely due to the distance (more than 14km) of the SAC from the nearest site being considered for allocation within Cheshire East, and the lack of hydrological connectivity with any watercourses that could be affected by development. No likely significant effect</p>	<p>The potential for adverse effects due to air quality changes from increased traffic associated with new development at the potential site allocations is highly unlikely due to the distance of the SAC (more than 14km) from any site being considered for allocation within Cheshire East and due to the distance of the SAC from the main road network. Pollutant levels can be expected to fall to background levels at a distance of more than 200m (DMRB LA 105). No likely significant effect</p>	<p>The Local Plan SADPD is unlikely to have any significant effects on the Peak District Dales SAC in-combination with any other relevant plans or projects. No likely significant effect</p>	<p>No likely significant effects. <i>Screened out.</i></p>
<p>River Dee and Bala Lake SAC</p> <p><i>Qualifying features:</i> Riverine habitats and running waters Vascular plants of aquatic habitats Anadromous fish Non-migratory fish and invertebrates of rivers Mammals of riverine habitats</p>	<p>Changes in water quality Changes in water levels or table Physical damage (due to recreational pressures) Disturbance</p>	<p>No specific policies or site allocations, but the provision of a limited amount of new housing through the SADPD as a whole is considered.</p>	<p>It is unlikely that the development of any of the sites being considered for potential allocation in the SADPD will result in recreational/ disturbance impacts that extend as far as the River Dee and Bala Lake SAC; the closest site being considered for allocation is more than 21km from the SAC. No likely significant effect</p>	<p>The potential for direct adverse effects on the River Dee and Bala Lake SAC due to changes in water levels and/or quality is highly unlikely due to the distance (more than 21km) of the SAC from the nearest allocated site within Cheshire East, and the lack of hydrological connectivity with any watercourses that could be affected by development. No likely significant effect Development of new housing and employment land within Cheshire East could lead to increased demand for water. Increased levels of abstraction could significantly affect the levels of flow in the River Dee and hence result in significant effects on qualifying features. Likely significant effect</p>	<p>The potential for adverse effects due to air quality changes from increased traffic associated with new development at the potential site allocations is highly unlikely due to the distance (more than 21km) of the SAC from any site considered to be allocated through the SADPD within Cheshire East and due to the distance of the SAC from the main road network. Pollutant levels can be expected to fall to background levels at a distance of more than 200m (DMRB LA 105). No likely significant effect</p>	<p>The Local Plan SADPD is unlikely to have any significant effects on the River Dee and Bala Lake SAC in-combination with any other relevant plans or projects, in relation to recreational or air quality impacts. No likely significant effect In-combination assessment for hydrological impacts undertaken at stage 2 Appropriate Assessment.</p>	<p>Potential for likely significant effects. <i>Screened in.</i></p>

Designated Site (including component SSSIs likely to be impacted upon, where applicable).	Potential Hazards	Relevant Policy / Site being considered in the assessment	Potential hazard impact pathways			Potential in-combination effects with other plans or projects (if applicable) *	Screening assessment
			Recreational	Hydrological	Air quality		
Dee Estuary SAC <i>Qualifying features:</i> Coastal habitats Coastal habitats (sensitive to abstraction) Estuarine and intertidal habitats Mosses and liverworts Anadromous fish	Changes in water quality Changes in water levels or table Physical loss Physical damage Pollution (air) Disturbance	None	It is unlikely that the development of any of the sites being considered for potential allocation in the SADPD will result in recreational/ disturbance impacts that extend as far as the Dee Estuary SAC; the closest site being considered for allocation in the SADPD is more than 40km from the SAC. No likely significant effect	The potential for adverse effects due to changes in water levels and/or quality is highly unlikely due to the distance (more than 40km) of the SAC from the closest potential allocated site within Cheshire East. Any impacts on local watercourses due to development at the site being considered for allocation are unlikely to cause significant effects on water levels/quality of the estuary, that far downstream. No likely significant effect	The potential for adverse effects due to air quality changes from increased traffic associated with new development at the potential site allocations is highly unlikely due to the distance (more than 40km) of the SAC from any site being considered for allocation in the SADPD within Cheshire East. No likely significant effect	The Local Plan SADPD is unlikely to have significant adverse effects the Dee Estuary SAC in-combination with any other relevant plans or projects. No likely significant effect	No likely significant effects. <i>Screened out.</i>
Peak District Moors (South Pennine Moors Phase 1) SPA <i>Qualifying features:</i> Birds of uplands Birds of lowland wet grasslands Birds of farmland Birds of coastal habitats Birds of estuarine habitats	Changes in water quality Changes in water levels or table Pollution (air) Physical damage (due to recreational pressures) Disturbance	None	It is unlikely that the development of any of the sites being considered for potential allocation in the SADPD will result in recreational/ disturbance impacts that extend as far as the that Peak District Moors SPA; all sites being considered for allocation in the SADPD are more than 5km from this SPA. No likely significant effect	The potential for adverse effects due to changes in water levels and/or quality is highly unlikely due to the distance (more than 5km) of the SPA from any site being considered for allocation within Cheshire East, and the lack of hydrological connectivity with any watercourses that could be affected by development. No likely significant effect	The potential for adverse effects on the Peak District Moors SPA due to air pollution from increased vehicles associated with the potential site allocations using the local road and motorway network is unlikely. This is due to the distance of the SPA from the main road network as pollutant levels can be expected to fall to background levels at a distance of more than 200m (DMRB LA 105). No likely significant effect	The Local Plan SADPD is unlikely to have significant adverse effects the Peak District Moors SPA in-combination with any other relevant plans or projects. No likely significant effect	No likely significant effects. <i>Screened out.</i>
Mersey Estuary SPA <i>Qualifying features:</i> Birds of uplands Birds of lowland wet grasslands Birds of lowland freshwaters and their margins Birds of farmland Birds of coastal habitats Birds of estuarine habitats	Changes in water quality Changes in water levels or table Physical damage (due to recreational pressures) Disturbance	None	It is unlikely that the development of any of the sites being considered for potential allocation in the SADPD will result in recreational/ disturbance impacts that extend as far as the Mersey Estuary SPA, which is more than 23km from the closest site being considered for allocation. No likely significant effect	The potential for adverse effects due to changes in water levels and/or quality is highly unlikely due to the distance (more than 23km) of the SPA from any potential site allocation within the SADPD. Any impacts on local watercourses due to development at the potential allocated sites are unlikely	The potential for adverse effects due to air quality changes from increased traffic associated with new development at site being considered for allocation is highly unlikely due to the distance (more than 23km) of the SPA from any site being considered for allocation within the SADPD No likely significant effect	No in-combination assessment is necessary because the SADPD alone will have zero impact upon the Mersey Estuary SPA.	No likely significant effects. <i>Screened out.</i>

Designated Site (including component SSSIs likely to be impacted upon, where applicable).	Potential Hazards	Relevant Policy / Site being considered in the assessment	Potential hazard impact pathways			Potential in-combination effects with other plans or projects (if applicable) *	Screening assessment
			Recreational	Hydrological	Air quality		
				to cause significant effects on water levels/quality of the estuary, that far downstream No likely significant effect			
Dee Estuary SPA <i>Qualifying features:</i> Birds of lowland wet grassland Birds of lowland freshwaters and their margins Birds of farmland Birds of coastal habitats Birds of estuarine habitats Birds of open sea and offshore rocks	Changes in water quality Changes in water levels or table Physical damage (due to recreational pressures) Disturbance	None	It is unlikely that the development of any of the sites being considered for potential allocation in the SADPD will result in recreational/ disturbance impacts that extend as far as the Dee Estuary SPA, which is more than 30km from the closest allocated site. No likely significant effect	The potential for adverse effects due to changes in water levels is highly unlikely due to the distance (more than 30km) of the SPA from any proposed site allocated within Cheshire East. Any impacts on local watercourses due to development at the allocated sites are unlikely to cause significant effects on water levels/ quality of the estuary, that far downstream No likely significant effect	The potential for adverse effects due to air quality changes from increased traffic associated with new development at the site allocations is highly unlikely due to the distance (more than 30km) of the SPA from any site being considered for allocation in the SADPD within the SADPD. No likely significant effect	No in-combination assessment is necessary because the SADPD alone will have zero impact upon the Dee Estuary SPA.	No likely significant effects. <i>Screened out.</i>
Mersey Narrows and North Wirral Foreshore SPA <i>Qualifying features:</i> Birds of lowland wet grasslands Birds of lowland freshwaters and their margins Birds of farmland Birds of coastal habitats Birds of estuarine habitats Birds of open sea and offshore rocks	Changes in water quality Changes in water levels or table Physical damage (due to recreational pressures) Disturbance	None	It is unlikely that the development of any of the sites being considered for potential allocation in the SADPD will result in recreational/ disturbance impacts that extend as far as the Mersey Narrows and North Wirral Foreshore SPA due to the relative distance of this SPA from the closest potential allocated site, being more than 44km away. No likely significant effect	The potential for adverse effects due to changes in water levels and/or quality is highly unlikely due to the distance (more than 44km) of the SPA from any potential allocated site within the SADPD. Any impacts on local watercourses due to development at the potential allocated sites are unlikely to cause significant effects on water levels/quality, that far downstream. No likely significant effect	The potential for adverse effects due to air quality changes as a result of increased traffic associated with new development at the potential site allocations is highly unlikely due to the distance (more than 44km) of the SPA from any site being considered for allocation in the SADPD. No likely significant effect	The Local Plan SADPD is unlikely to have significant adverse effects on the Mersey Narrows and North Wirral Foreshore SPA in-combination with any other relevant plans or projects. No likely significant effect	No likely significant effects. <i>Screened out.</i>
Midland Meres and Mosses Phase 1 Ramsar <i>Qualifying features:</i> Criteria 1 - The site comprises a diverse range of habitats from open water to raised bog.	Changes in water quality Changes in water levels or table Pollution (air) Physical damage (due	Bagmere SSSI: TS 2, TS 3, G&T8 HC 1	Bagmere SSSI: HCH 1 is an employment site so no increases in recreational pressure are expected as a result of this proposed site allocation. TS 2, TS 3 and G&T 8 are located within 1.3km. 1.6km	Bagmere SSSI: TS 2, TS 3, G&T8 and HCH 1 have no downstream hydrological connectivity to Bagmere SSSI, and no hydrological impacts, including changes to the water table, are anticipated	All potential site allocations (road-traffic related air quality impacts): With the exception of sections of the road network around Tatton Meres SSSI (discussed further below), all component sites of the Ramsar are further than 200m	The Local Plan SADPD is unlikely to have significant adverse effects on the Midland Meres and Mosses Phase 1 Ramsar in-combination with any other relevant plans or projects in relation any potential recreational and hydrological	No likely significant effects. <i>Screened out.</i>

Designated Site (including component SSSIs likely to be impacted upon, where applicable).	Potential Hazards	Relevant Policy / Site being considered in the assessment	Potential hazard impact pathways			Potential in-combination effects with other plans or projects (if applicable) *	Screening assessment
			Recreational	Hydrological	Air quality		
<p>Criteria 2 - Supports a number of rare species of plants associated with wetlands including five nationally scarce species together with an assemblage of rare wetland invertebrates (three endangered insects and five other British Red Data Book species of invertebrates).</p> <p>Bagmere SSSI Wybunbury Moss SSSI Tatton Meres SSSI The Mere, Mere SSSI Betley Mere SSSI</p>	to recreational pressures)	<p>Wybunbury Moss SSSI: CRE 2</p> <p>Tatton Meres SSSI: TS 1</p> <p>The Mere, Mere SSSI: TS 1</p>	<p>and 3.1km of Midland Meres and Mosses Phase 1 Ramsar (component site Bagmere SSSI), respectively. No effects in terms of increased recreational pressure are foreseen because Bagmere SSSI is not publicly accessible. No likely significant effect</p> <p>Wybunbury Moss SSSI: CRE 2 is planned for employment purposes only. No recreation impacts are therefore anticipated in relation to Wybunbury Moss SSSI. No likely significant effect</p> <p>Tatton Meres SSSI: TS 1 is less than 1km from Tatton Meres SSSI. It is unlikely that the development of a single GTTS site would have any significant recreational impact upon this European site. No likely significant effect</p> <p>The Mere, Mere SSSI: TS 1 is located approximately 3.8km from The Mere, Mere SSSI. It is unlikely that the development of a single GTTS site would have any significant recreational impact upon this European site. No likely significant effect</p> <p>No other component sites of the Midland Meres and Mosses Phase 1 Ramsar will be impacted upon through recreational pressure due to the distances of all sites within the SADPD from these component sites. No likely significant effect</p>	<p>to occur as a result of the proposed development in the SADPD. No likely significant effect</p> <p>Tatton Meres SSSI: TS 1 has no downstream hydrological connectivity to Midland Meres and Mosses Phase 1 Ramsar (Tatton Meres SSSI) and no change in the water table impacting upon Tatton Meres SSSI is anticipated to result from development of this site. No likely significant effect</p> <p>Wybunbury Moss SSSI: The potential development of CRE 2 is unlikely to result in adverse impacts on Wybunbury Moss SSSI, a component site of the Midland Meres and Mosses Phase 1 Ramsar, due to its relative distance from the Ramsar (3.2km) and the lack of hydrological connectivity to the site. No likely significant effect</p> <p>The Mere, Mere SSSI: The potential development of TS 1 is unlikely to result in adverse impacts on The Mere, Mere SSSI, a component site of the Midland Meres and Mosses Phase 1 Ramsar, due to its relative distance from the Ramsar (3.8km) and the lack of hydrological connectivity to the site. No likely significant effect</p> <p>No other component sites of</p>	<p>from the main road network. Air quality impacts from increased vehicles associated with the potential site allocations using the local road and motorway network are therefore unlikely because pollutant levels can be expected to fall to background levels at a distance of more than 200m (DMRB LA 105). No likely significant effect</p> <p>Tatton Meres SSSI: TS 1 is currently a lorry depot. Heavy good vehicles cause greater impacts upon air quality compared to individual cars (Natural England, 2018). The conversion of this site to a GTTS site from a Lorry Park, as well as the overall small size of this proposed site (3 plots), means that it is unlikely that there will be any increases from the baseline in air quality impacts (no increase in AADT) resulting in traffic on the Moberley Road, where it falls within 200m of Tatton Meres SSSI. No likely significant effect</p> <p>Bagmere SSSI: HCH 1 falls within the Natural England SSSI Impact Risk Zone for Bagmere SSSI, in relation to agricultural/industrial air pollution. The site is approximately 2.7km from Bagmere SSSI, a component of Midland Meres and Mosses Phase 1 Ramsar. The proposed development could be for an expansion of the adjacent pharmaceutical business, which mainly functions to manufacture inhalation products. The new site could provide pharmaceutical facilities including manufacture and product innovation including formulation, filling and packing</p>	<p>impacts. No likely significant effect</p> <p>Natural England recommends that air quality impacts in relation to road traffic undergo an in-combination assessment for potential traffic increases relating to plans and projects (Natural England, 2018) However, due to the current use of the TS 1 site as a lorry park, a change in site use to support three GTTS plots will not cause an increase in the baseline AADT. Furthermore, no other plans and projects have been identified that could act in combination with the SADPD to increase traffic along the Moberley Road. No likely significant effect</p>	

Designated Site (including component SSSIs likely to be impacted upon, where applicable).	Potential Hazards	Relevant Policy / Site being considered in the assessment	Potential hazard impact pathways			Potential in-combination effects with other plans or projects (if applicable) *	Screening assessment
			Recreational	Hydrological	Air quality		
				<p>the Midland Meres and Mosses Phase 1 Ramsar will be impacted upon through hydrological impact pathways due to the distances of all sites within the SADPD from these component sites. No likely significant effect</p>	<p>activities. The site does not and would not engage in the manufacture of chemicals or biological agents, so emissions are low. Furthermore, Cheshire East Council has consulted with Natural England regarding potential air quality impacts of this proposed site and no concerns have been raised regarding Bagmere SSSI.</p> <p>TS 2 falls within the Impact Risk Zone for Bagmere SSSI zone, but only in relation air pollution from industrial/agricultural developments; combustion processes; landfill; composting; discharges for large infrastructure projects. This is therefore not applicable for these small-scale proposed GTTS sites. No likely significant effect</p> <p>Wybunbury Moss: CRE 2 is located 3.2km from Wybunbury Moss SSSI and is within the Natural England Impact Risk Zone for air pollution for any industrial/agricultural development (incl: industrial processes, livestock & poultry units with floorspace > 500m², slurry lagoons > 750m² & manure stores > 3500t). CRE 2 will be limited to B1 and B8 uses and therefore is unlikely to involve industrial or agricultural processes which could lead to air quality impacts upon Wybunbury Moss SSSI. No likely significant effect</p>		
<p>Midland Meres and Mosses Phase 2 Ramsar</p> <p><i>Qualifying features:</i> Criteria 1 - The site comprises a diverse range of habitats from open water to</p>	<p>Changes in water quality Changes in water levels or table Pollution (air) Physical</p>	None	No increases in recreational pressure to any other constituent SSSIs within Midland Mosses Phase 2 Ramsar are anticipated because all residential site allocations within the SADPD are at least 5km	The potential for adverse effects due to changes in water levels and/or quality is highly unlikely due to the distance of the Ramsar from the nearest site being considered for allocation	The potential for adverse effects due to air quality changes from increased traffic associated with new development is highly unlikely due to the distance of the Ramsar from any potential allocated site within the SADPD (at least	Natural England recommends that air quality impacts in relation to road traffic undergo an in-combination assessment for potential traffic increases relating to plans and projects (Natural England, 2018). It is	No likely significant effects. <i>Screened out.</i>

Designated Site (including component SSSIs likely to be impacted upon, where applicable).	Potential Hazards	Relevant Policy / Site being considered in the assessment	Potential hazard impact pathways			Potential in-combination effects with other plans or projects (if applicable) *	Screening assessment
			Recreational	Hydrological	Air quality		
<p>raised bog.</p> <p>Criteria 2 - Supports a number of rare species of plants associated with wetlands, including the nationally scarce Cowbane and Elongated Sedge. Also present are the nationally scarce bryophytes <i>Dicranum affine</i> and <i>Sphagnum pulchrum</i>.</p> <p>Also supports an assemblage of invertebrates including several rare species. There are 16 species of British Red Data Book insect listed for this site including the following endangered species: the moth <i>Glyphipteryx lathamella</i>, the caddisfly <i>Hagenella clathrata</i> and the sawfly <i>Trichiosoma vitellinae</i>.</p>	<p>damage (due to recreational pressures)</p>		<p>from the Ramsar. No likely significant effect</p>	<p>within Cheshire East (4.2km), and the lack of hydrological connectivity with any watercourses that could be affected by development. No likely significant effect</p>	<p>4.2km). No likely significant effect</p>	<p>not anticipated that the proposed development of EMP 2.3 will cause an increase in traffic on the M6 greater than the threshold for potential impact (1000 AADT) due to the small size of this proposed development. The increase in traffic due to this site alone will be negligible. No other plans and projects have been identified that could act in combination with the SADPD to increase traffic along this section of road. No likely significant effect</p> <p>The Local Plan SADPD is unlikely to have significant adverse effects on Midland Meres and Mosses Phase 2 Ramsar in-combination with any other relevant plans or projects. No likely significant effect</p>	
<p>Rostherne Mere Ramsar</p> <p><i>Qualifying features:</i> Criteria 1 - Rostherne Mere is one of the deepest and largest of the meres of the Shropshire-Cheshire Plain. Its shoreline is fringed with common reed.</p> <p>Noteworthy Birds: - Great Cormorant - Great Bittern - Water Rail</p>	<p>Changes in water quality Changes in water levels or table Physical damage (due to recreational pressures) Disturbance</p>	<p>TS 1</p>	<p>TS 1 is located within 4.4 km of Rostherne Mere Ramsar. However, it is unlikely that the development of a single small GTTS site would have any significant recreational impact upon this European site. No Likely significant effect</p>	<p>No proposed allocated sites in the SADPD, including TS 1, are located upstream of Rostherne Mere Ramsar and all are sites are at least 4.2km from this European site. Therefore, no hydrological impacts due to changes in water levels and/or quality as a result of the development of the potential allocated sites are anticipated. No Likely significant effect</p>	<p>Some sections of road within the vicinity of Rostherne Mere fall within 200m of the Ramsar site and therefore may impact on air quality at the Ramsar should vehicle usage increase associated with the potential allocated sites (DMRB LA 105). However, any potential increase in traffic on the A556 or other roads within 200m of Rostherne Mere as a direct result of TS 1 is considered to be negligible. No likely significant effect</p>	<p>Natural England recommends that air quality impacts in relation to road traffic undergo an in-combination assessment for potential traffic increases relating to plans and projects (Natural England, 2018). It is not anticipated that the GTTS proposed development in Knutsford (TS 1 – 3 plots) will cause an increase in traffic on the A556 or other roads within 200m of Rostherne Mere greater than the threshold for potential impact (1000 AADT). The increase in traffic due to this site alone will be negligible due to its small size. No other plans and projects have been identified that could act in combination with the SADPD to increase traffic along the Mobberley Road. No likely significant effect</p>	<p>No likely significant effects. <i>Screened out.</i></p>

Designated Site (including component SSSIs likely to be impacted upon, where applicable).	Potential Hazards	Relevant Policy / Site being considered in the assessment	Potential hazard impact pathways			Potential in-combination effects with other plans or projects (if applicable) *	Screening assessment
			Recreational	Hydrological	Air quality		
						<p>Rostherne Mere Ramsar is considered in the HRA screening report for HS2 (cited in Temple-ERM, 2013). Although the HRA will require future updates, the initial report screens out any likely significant effects upon this Ramsar. The potential impact mechanisms discussed in the sustainability report are considered to be hydrological (ground water regime impacts). Any residual (non-significant) impacts resulting from this scheme would therefore be highly unlikely to impact on the Ramsar through any similar mechanisms to those impacts associated with the SADPD. No likely significant effect</p> <p>The Local Plan SADPD is unlikely to have significant adverse effects on the Rostherne Mere Ramsar in-combination with any other relevant plans or projects. No likely significant effect</p>	
<p>Mersey Estuary Ramsar</p> <p><i>Qualifying features:</i> Criteria 5 - Assemblages of international importance: Species with peak counts in winter: 89576 waterfowl (5 year peak mean 1998/99-2002/2003)</p> <p>Criteria 6 - species/populations occurring at levels of international importance. - Common Shelduck - Black-tailed Godwit - Common Redshank - Eurasian Teal - Northern Pintail - Dunlin</p>	<p>Changes in water quality Changes in water levels or table Physical damage (due to recreational pressures) Disturbance</p>	None	<p>It is unlikely that the development of any sites being considered for potential allocation in the SADPD will result in recreational/ disturbance impacts that extend as far as the Mersey Estuary Ramsar, which is more than 24km from the closest potential allocated site. No likely significant effect</p>	<p>The potential for adverse effects due to changes in water levels and/or quality is highly unlikely due to the distance (more than 24km) of the Ramsar from any potential site allocation within the SADPD. Any impacts on local watercourses due to development at the potential allocated sites are unlikely to cause significant effects on water levels/quality of the estuary that far downstream. No likely significant effect</p>	<p>The potential for adverse effects due to air quality changes from increased traffic associated with new development is highly unlikely due to the distance (more than 24km) of the Ramsar from any potential allocated site within the SADPD. No likely significant effect</p>	<p>The Local Plan SADPD is unlikely to have significant adverse effects on the Mersey Estuary Ramsar in-combination with any other relevant plans or projects. No likely significant effect</p>	<p>No likely significant effects. <i>Screened out.</i></p>

Designated Site (including component SSSIs likely to be impacted upon, where applicable).	Potential Hazards	Relevant Policy / Site being considered in the assessment	Potential hazard impact pathways			Potential in-combination effects with other plans or projects (if applicable) *	Screening assessment
			Recreational	Hydrological	Air quality		
<p>Dee Estuary Ramsar</p> <p><i>Qualifying features:</i> Criterion 1 - Extensive intertidal mud and sand flats (20km by 9km) with large expanses of saltmarsh towards the head of the estuary.</p> <p>Criterion 2 - it supports breeding colonies of the vulnerable Natterjack Toad, <i>Epidalea calamita</i></p> <p>Criterion 5 - Assemblages of international importance: Species with peak counts in winter: Non-breeding season regularly supports 120,726 individual waterbirds (5 year peak mean 1994/5 - 1998/9).</p> <p>Criterion 6 - species/populations occurring at levels of international importance: - Redshank - Teal - Shelduck - Oystercatcher - Curlew - Pintail - Grey plover - Dunlin - Black-tailed godwit - Bar-tailed godwit</p>	<p>Changes in water quality Changes in water levels or table Physical damage (due to recreational pressures) Disturbance</p>	<p>None</p>	<p>It is unlikely that development at any of the sites being considered for potential allocation in the SADPD will result in recreational/ disturbance impacts that extend as far as the Dee Estuary Ramsar, which is more than 30km from the closest potential allocated site. No likely significant effect</p>	<p>The potential for adverse effects due to changes in water levels is highly unlikely due to the distance (more than 30km) of the Ramsar from any proposed development within the SADPD. Any impacts on local watercourses due to development at the sites being considered for allocation are unlikely to cause significant effects on water levels/quality of the estuary, that far downstream. No likely significant effect</p>	<p>The potential for adverse effects due to air quality changes from increased traffic associated with new development at sites being considered for allocation in the SADPD is highly unlikely due to the distance (more than 30km) of the Ramsar from any potential allocated site within the SADPD. No likely significant effect</p>	<p>The Local Plan SADPD is unlikely to have significant adverse effects on the Dee Estuary Ramsar in-combination with any other relevant plans or projects. No likely significant effect</p>	<p>No likely significant effects. <i>Screened out.</i></p>
<p>Mersey Narrows and North Wirral Foreshore Ramsar</p> <p><i>Qualifying features:</i> Criterion 4 - the site regularly supports plant and/or animal species at a</p>	<p>Changes in water quality Changes in water levels or table Physical damage (due to recreational</p>	<p>None</p>	<p>It is unlikely that the development of any of the sites being considered for potential allocation in the SADPD will result in recreational/ disturbance impacts that extend as far as the Mersey Narrows and North Wirral Foreshore</p>	<p>The potential for adverse effects due to changes in water levels and/or quality is highly unlikely due to the distance (more than 44km) of the Ramsar from any potential allocated site within the SADPD. Any</p>	<p>The potential for adverse effects due to air quality changes as a result of increased traffic associated with new development at the potential allocated sites is highly unlikely due to the distance (more than 44km) of the Ramsar from any potential allocated site</p>	<p>The Local Plan SADPD is unlikely to have significant adverse effects on the Mersey Narrows and North Wirral Foreshore Ramsar in-combination with any other relevant plans or projects. No likely significant effect</p>	<p>No likely significant effects. <i>Screened out.</i></p>

Designated Site (including component SSSIs likely to be impacted upon, where applicable).	Potential Hazards	Relevant Policy / Site being considered in the assessment	Potential hazard impact pathways			Potential in-combination effects with other plans or projects (if applicable) *	Screening assessment
			Recreational	Hydrological	Air quality		
<p>critical stage in their life cycles, or provides refuge during adverse conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - supports important numbers of non-breeding little gulls and common terns. <p>Criterion 5 - the site regularly supports 20,000 or more waterbirds.</p> <p>Criterion 6 - species /populations occurring at levels of international importance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Knot - Bar-tailed Godwit - Little Gull - Common Tern 	pressures) Disturbance		<p>Ramsar due to the relative distance of this Ramsar from the closest potential allocated site being more than 44km away.</p> <p>No likely significant effect</p>	<p>impacts on local watercourses due to development at the potential allocated sites are unlikely to cause significant effects on water levels/quality that far downstream.</p> <p>No likely significant effect</p>	<p>within the SADPD.</p> <p>No likely significant effect</p>		

5.4 Screening Statement and Conclusions

The development policies within the SADPD have been screened out, both alone and in-combination with other plans or projects.

This screening assessment has determined that the SADPD site allocations and development policies are not likely to have significant effects, either alone or in-combination with other plans or projects, on the following European sites:

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

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

- River Dee and Bala Lake SAC

This is due to increased abstraction pressures due to new development. Therefore, an Appropriate Assessment is required to assess in more detail the likely nature of the effects on the integrity of this European site.

6 Appropriate Assessment

6.1 Introduction

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

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

6.2 Screening Conclusion

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

- River Dee and Bala Lake SAC

6.3 Assessment of Effects on Site Integrity

This section details the Appropriate Assessment of the potential effects of the SADPD document on the integrity of the identified European site. This assessment lists and considers all qualifying species in the European sites. Any other typical habitats or species within or outside the boundaries of this protected site that are necessary to the conservation qualifying features are also considered in the assessment.

6.3.1 River Dee and Bala Lake SAC

Qualifying Features

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

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

Conservation Objectives

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

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

- The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species
- The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats
- The structure and function of the habitats of qualifying species

- The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats and the habitats of qualifying species rely
- The populations of qualifying species, and,
- The distribution of qualifying species within the site.

Environmental Conditions Sustaining Integrity of Site

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

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

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

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

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

Assessment of Impacts Upon Site Integrity

Details for the Appropriate Assessment of the Local Plan SADPD, both alone and in combination with other plans and projects on the integrity of the River Dee and Bala Lake SAC in relation to the impacts identified in the screening assessment are described in Table 6-1.

Table 6-1: Test of adverse effects of integrity on River Dee and Bala Lake SAC

Qualifying Feature	Identified Hazard	Adverse Effect of SADPD Alone and In-combination	Avoidance/Mitigation Measures for SADPD impacts	Adverse impact upon Site Integrity
<p>Riverine habitats and running waters Vascular plants of aquatic habitats Anadromous fish Non-migratory fish and invertebrates of rivers Mammals of riverine habitats</p>	<p>Changes in water levels or table</p> <p><i>N.B. Changes in water quality, physical damage due to recreation pressure and disturbance were screened out during stage 1 of the HRA.</i></p>	<p>Development of new housing and employment land within Cheshire East could lead to increased demand for water. Increased levels of abstraction could significantly affect the levels of flow in the River Dee and hence result in significant effects on any of the qualifying features as well as all of the typical habitats and species present which support these qualifying species.</p> <p>No other plans or projects have been identified which could act in-combination with the identified hazards for the River Dee and Bala Lake SAC.</p>	<p>The River Dee Catchment Abstraction Management Strategy (CAMS) 2015 identifies the River Dee as an important resource for public water supply as it is used to supply the homes of more than two million people. In dry periods when the river is being regulated, to protect this supply, more water is not available for abstraction from the River Dee (or its tributaries) upstream of Chester Weir. Additional water may be available during wetter periods, but abstractors are required to stop taking water as soon as the river flow dropped again. Natural Resources Wales may also have to place special conditions on any new licences granted to safeguard the wildlife and conservation interest of the River Dee (NRW, 2015).</p> <p>The secure provision of a water supply is not the statutory responsibility of Cheshire East Council or any other Local Authority; the responsibility lies with the water companies as statutory undertakers for the provision of water. The abstraction of water to provide a water supply is also heavily regulated by the Environment Agency and Natural Resources Wales.</p> <p>United Utilities is the principal water provider for Cheshire East and such provision is covered by the Strategic Resource Zone which serves 7 million people in South and West Cumbria, Lancashire, Greater Manchester, Merseyside and most of Cheshire. The United Utilities Final Water Resources Management Plan 2019 provides a comprehensive statement of their water supply and</p>	<p>No adverse impact upon site integrity</p>

Qualifying Feature	Identified Hazard	Adverse Effect of SADPD Alone and In-combination	Avoidance/Mitigation Measures for SADPD impacts	Adverse impact upon Site Integrity
			<p>water demand forecasts between 2020 and 2045. It also describes the resulting supply-demand balances and the actions they propose to take as part of their preferred strategy to achieve water supply reliability standards for their customers.</p> <p>The Plan states that the water available for use in the Strategic Resource Zone is expected to meet the projected demand between 2020 and 2040, but there is a very small predicted deficit between 2041 and 2045, due to economic and population growth and climate change. This deficit is addressed through leakage reduction and water efficiency. The plan also considers water supply resilience risks and considers future water trade options with other parts of the UK (although trade is not within the preferred plan but considered for the future). The Plan’s HRA does not identify any adverse impacts upon European sites, although acknowledges that project-level HRAs are required.</p> <p>United Utilities abstract water from the River Dee at various locations to supply both potable and non-potable customers, including a supply of raw water from the River Dee to Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water and a non-potable supply of raw water from the River Dee to industrial customers in the Wirral (80. MI/d on average).</p> <p>The River Dee is managed by Natural Resources Wales through a regulation scheme. United Utilities abstractions are governed by the River Dee General Directions (NRW, 2016; United Utilities 2018), which set out rules for abstraction during drought conditions and are approved by the statutory Dee Consultative Committee.</p> <p>Therefore, it is unlikely that the SADPD will result in the need for</p>	

Qualifying Feature	Identified Hazard	Adverse Effect of SADPD Alone and In-combination	Avoidance/Mitigation Measures for SADPD impacts	Adverse impact upon Site Integrity
			further abstraction from the River Dee.	

7 Conclusions

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

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

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

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

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

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

Likely significant effects as a result of changes in water levels (due to abstraction) have been identified for River Dee and Bala Lake SAC.

The Appropriate Assessment identified that the existing policies and provisions of Natural Resources Wales, the Environment Agency and United Utilities, through the Dee Catchment Abstraction Management Plan (2015), the River Dee General Directions (NRW, 2016) and the United Utilities Final Water Resources Management Plan 2019 in relation to water supply, will ensure that the Local Plan SADPD will have no adverse impact on this European site.

A Map showing distribution of European sites around Cheshire East

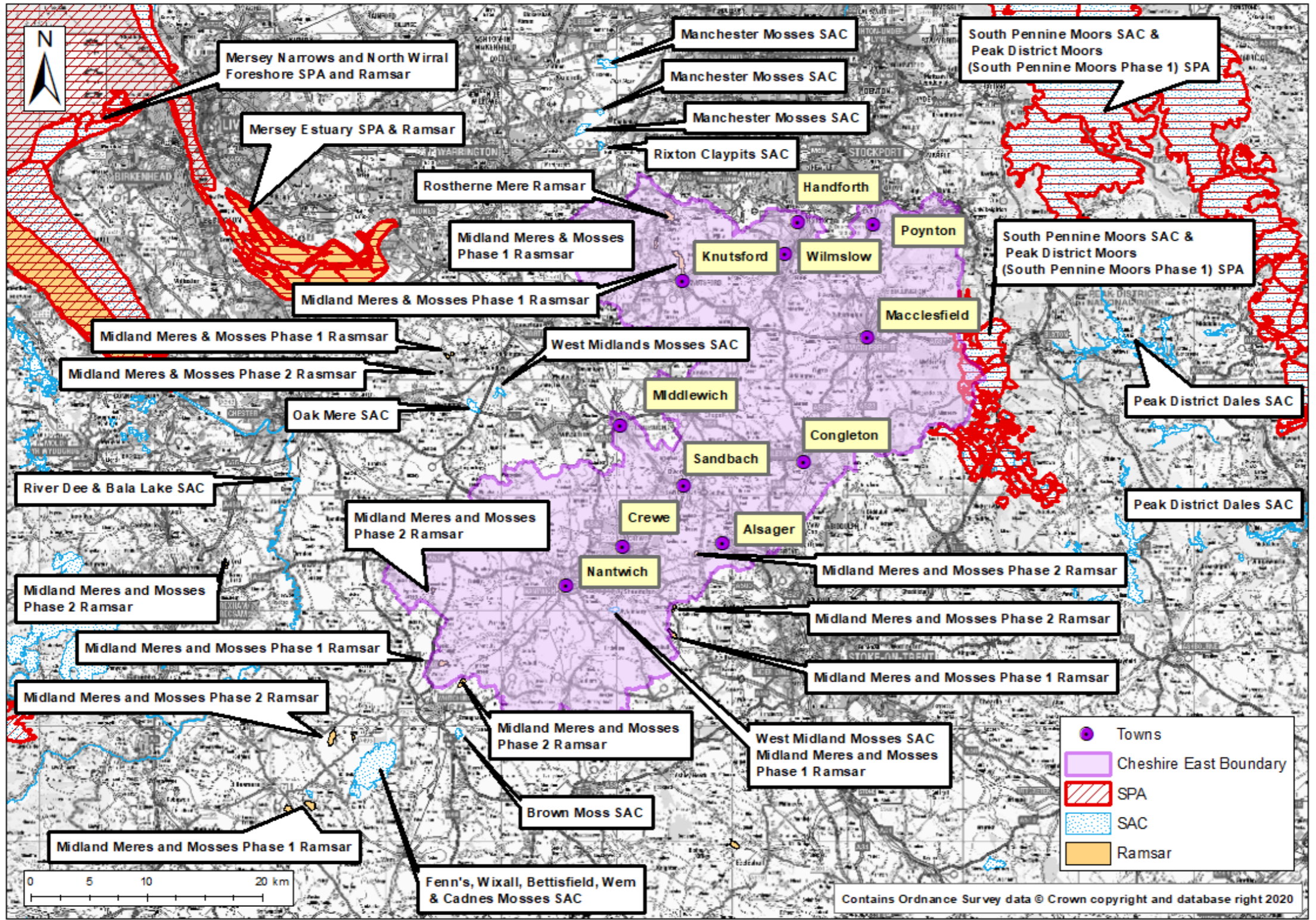


Figure A-1: Location of European sites within and Adjacent to Cheshire East

Appendices

B Details of European sites within and adjacent to Cheshire East

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

European Site	Qualifying Feature (Broad Habitat/ Species Groupings)	Qualifying Feature	Conservation Objectives	Threats and Pressures
		<i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles	(including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats, and - The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats rely.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Vehicles - Overgrazing - Forestry and woodland management - Changes in species distribution - Disease - Undergrazing - Invasive species - Planning permission
Rixton Clay Pits SAC <i>Site Area 13.99ha</i>	Amphibia	Great Crested Newt <i>Triturus cristatus</i>	Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The extent and distribution of the habitats of qualifying species - The structure and function of the habitats of qualifying species - The supporting processes on which the habitats of qualifying species rely - The populations of qualifying species, and, - The distribution of qualifying species within the site. 	Identified threats and pressures are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Direct impact from 3rd party
Brown Moss SAC <i>Site Area 32.03ha</i>	Vascular plants of aquatic habitats	Floating Water Plantain <i>Luronium natans</i>	Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and	Identified threats and pressures are:

European Site	Qualifying Feature (Broad Habitat/ Species Groupings)	Qualifying Feature	Conservation Objectives	Threats and Pressures
			<p>ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The extent and distribution of the habitats of qualifying species - The structure and function of the habitats of qualifying species - The supporting processes on which the habitats of qualifying species rely - The populations of qualifying species, and, - The distribution of qualifying species within the site. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hydrological changes - Water pollution - Invasive species - Siltation - Air pollution
<p>Manchester Mosses SAC <i>Site Area 172.81ha</i></p> <p>Component SSSI: Astley and Bedford Mosses SSSI, Holcroft Moss SSSI, Risley Moss SSSI</p>	<p>Bogs and wet habitats</p>	<p>Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration.</p>	<p>Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats - The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats, and - The supporting processes on which qualifying natural 	<p>Identified threats and pressures are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hydrological changes - Air pollution

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

European Site	Qualifying Feature (Broad Habitat/ Species Groupings)	Qualifying Feature	Conservation Objectives	Threats and Pressures
			habitats rely.	
Peak District Dales SAC <i>Site Area 2326.33ha</i>	Fens and wet habitats Dry woodlands and scrub Dry grassland Dry heathland habitats Upland Non-migratory fish and invertebrates of rivers	Alkaline fens Tilio-Acerion forests of slopes, screes and ravines Calaminarian grasslands of the <i>Violetalia calaminariae</i> Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies: on calcareous substrates (<i>Festuco-Brometalia</i>) (*important orchid sites) European dry heaths Calcareous and calcshist screes of the montane to alpine levels (<i>Thlaspietea rotundifolii</i>) Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation White-clawed (or Atlantic stream) crayfish <i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i> Brook Lamprey <i>Lampetra planeri</i> Bullhead <i>Cottus gobio</i>	Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The extent and distribution of the habitats of qualifying species - The structure and function of the habitats of qualifying species - The supporting processes on which the habitats of qualifying species rely - The populations of qualifying species, and, - The distribution of qualifying species within the site. 	Identified threats and pressures are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Inappropriate scrub control - Fertiliser use - Water pollution - Inappropriate weirs, dams and other structures - Overgrazing/undergrazing - Inappropriate water levels - Disease - Invasive species - Climate change - Air pollution - Vehicles - Forestry and woodland management - Direct impact from 3rd party - Public access/disturbance
River Dee and Bala Lake SAC <i>Site Area 1308.93ha</i>	Riverine habitats and running waters Vascular plants of aquatic	Watercourses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculion fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitricho-Batrachion</i> vegetation	Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site	Identified threats and pressures are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reduction in water quality - Changes to quantity and

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

European Site	Qualifying Feature (Broad Habitat/ Species Groupings)	Qualifying Feature	Conservation Objectives	Threats and Pressures
		<p>Humid dune slacks</p> <p>Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts</p> <p>Estuaries</p> <p>Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide</p> <p>Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i>)</p> <p><i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals colonising mud and sand</p> <p>Petal wort <i>Petalophyllum ralfsii</i></p> <p>Sea Lamprey <i>Petromyzon marinus</i> River Lamprey <i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats - The structure and function of the habitats of qualifying species - The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats and the habitats of qualifying species rely - The populations of qualifying species, and, - The distribution of qualifying species within the site. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Inappropriate coastal management - Overgrazing - Direct impact from 3rd party - Marine litter - Predation - Marine consents and permits - Wildfire/arson - Air pollution - Transportation and service corridors - Physical modification
<p>Peak District Moors (South Pennine Moors Phase 1) SPA Site Area 45270.52ha</p>	<p>Birds of uplands</p> <p>Birds of lowland wet grasslands</p> <p>Birds of farmland</p> <p>Birds of coastal habitats</p> <p>Birds of estuarine habitats</p>	<p>Merlin <i>Falco columbarius</i> <i>Breeding: 2.3% of the breeding population in Great Britain (Count as at 1990 and 1998)</i></p> <p>European Golden Plover <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> <i>Breeding: 1.9% of the breeding population in Great Britain (Count, as at 1990 and 1998)</i></p> <p>Short-eared Owl <i>Asio flammeus</i> <i>Breeding: 2.2% of the breeding</i></p>	<p>Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the aims of the Wild Birds Directive, by maintaining or restoring:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The extent and distribution of the habitats of the qualifying features - The structure and function of the habitats of the qualifying features 	<p>Identified threats and pressures are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hydrological changes - Managed rotational burning - Low breeding success/poor recruitment - Inappropriate management practices - Public Access/Disturbance - Air Pollution - Wildfire/arson - Vehicles

European Site	Qualifying Feature (Broad Habitat/ Species Groupings)	Qualifying Feature	Conservation Objectives	Threats and Pressures
		<p><i>population in Great Britain (Count, as at 1990 and 1998)</i></p> <p>Peregrine Falcon <i>Falco peregrinus</i> <i>Not formally listed at the time of designation, but subsequently identified as a qualifying feature</i></p> <p>Dunlin <i>Calidris alpina</i> <i>Not formally listed at the time of designation, but subsequently identified as a qualifying feature</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The supporting processes on which the habitats of the qualifying features rely - The population of each of the qualifying features, and, - The distribution of the qualifying features within the site. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Overgrazing - Forestry and woodland management - Changes in species distribution - Disease - Undergrazing - Invasive species - Planning Permission
<p>Mersey Estuary SPA <i>Site Area 5023.25ha</i></p>	<p>Birds of uplands</p> <p>Birds of lowland wet grasslands</p> <p>Birds of lowland freshwaters and their margins</p> <p>Birds of farmland</p> <p>Birds of coastal habitats</p> <p>Birds of estuarine habitats</p>	<p>European Golden Plover <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> <i>Over winter: 1.2% of the wintering population in Great Britain (5 year peak mean 1991/2 - 1995/6)</i></p> <p>Common Redshank <i>Tringa totanus</i> <i>On passage: 2.0% of the Eastern Atlantic - wintering population (5 year peak mean, 1987-1991)</i></p> <p><i>Over winter: 3.1% of the wintering Eastern Atlantic - wintering population (5 year peak mean 1991/2 - 1995/6)</i></p> <p>Ringed Plover <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i> <i>On passage: 2.9% of the Europe/Northern Africa - wintering population (Count, as at 1989)</i></p> <p>Dunlin <i>Calidris alpina</i> <i>Over winter: 3.2% of the wintering</i></p>	<p>Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the aims of the Wild Birds Directive, by maintaining or restoring:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The extent and distribution of the habitats of the qualifying features - The structure and function of the habitats of the qualifying features - The supporting processes on which the habitats of the qualifying features rely - The population of each of the qualifying features, and, - The distribution of the qualifying features within the site. 	<p>Identified threats and pressures are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Changes in species distribution - Invasive species - Public access/disturbance

European Site	Qualifying Feature (Broad Habitat/ Species Groupings)	Qualifying Feature	Conservation Objectives	Threats and Pressures
		<p><i>Northern Siberia/Europe/Western Africa population (5 year peak mean 1991/2 - 1995/6)</i></p> <p>Northern Pintail <i>Anas acuta</i> Over winter: 4.6% of the wintering Northwestern Europe population (5 year peak mean 1991/2 - 1995/6)</p> <p>Common Shelduck <i>Tadorna tadorna</i> Over winter: 1.7% of the wintering Northwestern Europe population (5 year peak mean 1991/2 - 1995/6)</p> <p>Eurasian Teal <i>Anas crecca</i> Over winter: 2.9% of the wintering Northwestern Europe population (5 year peak mean 1991/2 - 1995/6)</p> <p>The area qualifies under Article 4.2 of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by regularly supporting at least 20,000 waterfowl.</p>		
<p>Dee Estuary SPA Site Area 14291.56ha</p>	<p>Birds of lowland wet grassland</p> <p>Birds of lowland freshwaters and their margins</p> <p>Birds of farmland</p> <p>Birds of coastal habitats</p> <p>Birds of estuarine habitats</p>	<p>Little Tern <i>Sterna albifrons</i> <i>Breeding: 2.9% of the GB breeding population (5 year peak mean 1995-1999)</i></p> <p>Common Tern <i>Sterna hirundo</i> <i>Breeding: 3.2% of the population in Great Britain (5 year peak mean 1995-1999)</i></p> <p>Bar-tailed Godwit <i>Limosa lapponica</i></p>	<p>Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the aims of the Wild Birds Directive, by maintaining or restoring:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The extent and distribution of the habitats of the qualifying features - The structure and function 	<p>Identified threats and pressures are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Public access/disturbance - Changes in species distribution - Invasive species - Climate change - Coastal squeeze - Inappropriate scrub control - Water pollution

European Site	Qualifying Feature (Broad Habitat/ Species Groupings)	Qualifying Feature	Conservation Objectives	Threats and Pressures
	Birds of open sea and offshore rocks	<p><i>Wintering: 2.2% of the GB population (5 year peak mean 1994/95-1998/99)</i></p> <p>Sandwich Tern <i>Sterna sandvicensis</i> <i>On passage: 2.3% of the population in Great Britain (5 year peak mean 1995-1999)</i></p> <p>Pintail <i>Anas acuta</i> <i>Over winter: 9.0% of the population (5 year peak mean 1994/95-1998/99)</i></p> <p>Teal <i>Anas crecca</i> <i>Over winter: 1.3% of the population (5 year peak mean 1994/95-1998/99)</i></p> <p>Dunlin <i>Calidris alpina alpina</i> <i>Over winter: 2% of the population (5 year peak mean 1994/95-1998/99)</i></p> <p>Knot <i>Calidris canutus</i> <i>Over winter: 3.5% of the population (5 year peak mean 1994/95-1998/99)</i></p> <p>Oystercatcher <i>Haematopus ostralegus</i> <i>Over winter: 2.5% of the population (5 year peak mean 1994/95-1998/99)</i></p> <p>Black-tailed Godwit <i>Limosa limosa</i></p>	<p>of the habitats of the qualifying features</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The supporting processes on which the habitats of the qualifying features rely - The population of each of the qualifying features, and, - The distribution of the qualifying features within the site. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fisheries - Inappropriate coastal management - Overgrazing - Direct impact from 3rd party - Marine litter - Predation - Marine consents and permits - Wildfire/arson - Air pollution - Transportation and service corridors - Physical modification

European Site	Qualifying Feature (Broad Habitat/ Species Groupings)	Qualifying Feature	Conservation Objectives	Threats and Pressures
		<p>Over winter: 2.5% of the population (5 year peak mean 1994/95-1998/99)</p> <p>Curlew <i>Numenius arquata</i> Over winter: 1.1% of the population (5 year peak mean 1994/95-1998/99)</p> <p>Grey Plover <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i> Over winter: 1.1% of the population (5 year peak mean 1994/95-1998/99)</p> <p>Shelduck <i>Tadorna tadorna</i> Over winter: 2.6% of the population (5 year peak mean 1994/95-1998/99)</p> <p>Redshank <i>Tringa totanus</i> Over winter: 3.5% of the population (5 year peak mean 1994/95-1998/99) On passage: 5.9% of the population (5 year peak mean 1994/95-1998/99)</p> <p>In the non-breeding season the area regularly supports: 120726 waterfowl (5 year peak mean 1994/95-1998/99)</p>		
<p>Mersey Narrows and North Wirral Foreshore SPA Site Area 2078.41ha</p>	<p>Birds of lowland wet grasslands</p> <p>Birds of lowland freshwaters and their margins</p>	<p>Bar-tailed Godwit <i>Limosa lapponica</i> Over winter: 5.5% of the GB population (5-year peak mean 2004/05 - 2008/09)</p>	<p>Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site</p>	<p>Identified threats and pressures are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Public access/disturbance - Changes in species

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

European Site	Qualifying Feature (Broad Habitat/ Species Groupings)	Qualifying Feature	Conservation Objectives	Threats and Pressures
Brown Moss SSSI, Chartley Moss SSSI, Clarepool Moss SSSI, Fenemere SSSI, Flaxmere Moss SSSI, Hatch Mere SSSI, Marton Pool, Chirbury SSSI, Quoisley Meres SSSI, Tatton Meres SSSI, The Mere, Mere SSSI, White Mere SSSI, Wybunbury Moss SSSI		insects and five other British Red Data Book species of invertebrates). Noteworthy flora: - Six-stamened Waterwort <i>Elatine hexandra</i> - Needle Spike-rush <i>Eleocharis acicularis</i> - Cowbane <i>Cicuta virosa</i> - Marsh Fern <i>Thelypteris palustris</i> - Elongated Sedge <i>Carex elongata</i> Noteworthy fauna: - Caddisfly <i>Hagenella clathrata</i> - Crane fly <i>Limnophila fasciata</i> - Spider <i>Carorita limnaea</i> - Rove Beetle <i>Lathrobium rufipenne</i> - Reed Beetle <i>Donacia aquatica</i> - Crane fly <i>Prionocera pubescens</i> - Crane fly <i>Gonomyia abbreviata</i> - Spider <i>Sitticus floricola</i>	species - The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats - The structure and function of the habitats of qualifying species - The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats and the habitats of qualifying species rely - The populations of qualifying species, and, - The distribution of qualifying species within the site.	
Midland Meres and Mosses Phase 2 Ramsar <i>Site Area 1588.24ha</i> Component SSSI: Abbots Moss SSSI, Aqualate Mere SSSI, Black Firs & Cranberry Bog SSSI, Brownheath Moss SSSI, Chapel Mere SSSI, Cole Mere	n/a	Ramsar Convention Criteria: Criteria 1 - The site comprises a diverse range of habitats from open water to raised bog. Criteria 2 - Supports a number of rare species of plants associated with wetlands, including the nationally scarce Cowbane <i>Cicuta virosa</i> and, Elongated Sedge <i>Carex elongata</i> . Also present are the nationally scarce	Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring: - The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species	The site is vulnerable to: - Eutrophication - Introduction of non-native plant species - Pollution from pesticides, agricultural run-off

European Site	Qualifying Feature (Broad Habitat/ Species Groupings)	Qualifying Feature	Conservation Objectives	Threats and Pressures
<p>SSSI, Cop Mere SSSI, Fenn's, Whixall, Bettisfield, Wem & Cadney Mosses SSSI, Hencott Pool SSSI, Linmer Moss SSSI, Morton Pool and Pasture SSSI, Oak Mere SSSI, Oakhanger Moss SSSI, Oss Mere SSSI, Sweat Mere and Crose Mere SSSI</p>		<p>bryophytes <i>Dicranum affine</i> and <i>Sphagnum pulchrum</i>. Also supports an assemblage of invertebrates including several rare species. There are 16 species of British Red Data Book insect listed for this site including the following endangered species: the moth <i>Glyphipteryx lathamella</i>, the caddisfly <i>Hagenella clathrata</i> and the sawfly <i>Trichiosoma vitellinae</i>.</p> <p>Noteworthy flora:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Narrow Small-reed <i>Calamagrostis stricta</i> - Elongated Sedge <i>Carex elongata</i> - Cowbane <i>Cicuta virosa</i> - Marsh Fern <i>Thelypteris palustris</i> - Golden Bog-moss <i>Sphagnum pulchrum</i> - Undulate Dicranum Moss <i>Dicranum undulatum</i> <p>Noteworthy Birds:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Northern Shoveler <i>Anas clypeata</i> - Great Cormorant <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i> - Great Bittern <i>Botaurus stellaris stellaris</i> - Water Rail <i>Rallus aquaticus</i> <p>Noteworthy invertebrates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - True fly <i>Limnophila heterogyna</i> - True fly <i>Atylotus plebeius</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats - The structure and function of the habitats of qualifying species - The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats and the habitats of qualifying species rely - The populations of qualifying species, and, - The distribution of qualifying species within the site. 	

European Site	Qualifying Feature (Broad Habitat/ Species Groupings)	Qualifying Feature	Conservation Objectives	Threats and Pressures
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Caddisfly <i>Hagenella clathrata</i> - Cranefly <i>Limnophila fasciata</i> - Spider <i>Carorita limnaea</i> - Micro-moth <i>Glyphipteryx lathamella</i> - Sawfly <i>Trichiosoma vitellinae</i> - Moth <i>Eilema sericea</i> - Sawfly <i>Brachythops wuesteneii</i> - <i>Pachinematus xanthocarpus</i> - Spider <i>Sittcus floricola</i> - Moth <i>Lampronia fuscata</i> - Horse fly <i>Hybomitra lurida</i> 		
<p>Rostherne Mere Ramsar Site Area 79.76ha</p>	n/a	<p>Ramsar Convention Criteria:</p> <p>Criteria 1 - Rostherne Mere is one of the deepest and largest of the meres of the Shropshire-Cheshire Plain. Its shoreline is fringed with common reed <i>Phragmites australis</i>.</p> <p>Noteworthy Birds:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Great Cormorant <i>Phalacrocorax carbo carbo</i> - Great Bittern <i>Botaurus stellaris stellaris</i> - Water Rail <i>Rallus aquaticus</i> 	<p>Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species - The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats - The structure and function of the habitats of qualifying species - The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats and the habitats of qualifying species rely 	<p>Identified threats and pressures are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Eutrophication - Introduction of non-native plant species

European Site	Qualifying Feature (Broad Habitat/ Species Groupings)	Qualifying Feature	Conservation Objectives	Threats and Pressures
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The populations of qualifying species, and, - The distribution of qualifying species within the site. 	
<p>Mersey Estuary Ramsar <i>Site Area 5023.35ha</i></p>	<p>n/a</p>	<p>Ramsar Convention Criteria:</p> <p>Criteria 5 - Assemblages of international importance: Species with peak counts in winter: 89576 waterfowl (5 year peak mean 1998/99-2002/2003)</p> <p>Criteria 6 - species/populations occurring at levels of international importance.</p> <p>Qualifying Species/populations (as identified at designation): Species with peak counts in spring/autumn: Common Shelduck - 12676 individuals, representing an average of 4.2% of the population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3).</p> <p>Black-tailed Godwit - 2011 individuals, representing an average of 5.7% of the population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3).</p> <p>Common Redshank - 6651 individuals, representing an average of 2.6% of the population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3).</p>	<p>Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species - The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats - The structure and function of the habitats of qualifying species - The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats and the habitats of qualifying species rely - The populations of qualifying species, and, - The distribution of qualifying species within the site. 	<p>Identified threats and pressures are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Changes in species distribution - Invasive species - Public access/ disturbance

European Site	Qualifying Feature (Broad Habitat/ Species Groupings)	Qualifying Feature	Conservation Objectives	Threats and Pressures
		<p>Species with peak counts in winter:</p> <p>Eurasian Teal - 10613 individuals, representing an average of 2.6% of the population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3).</p> <p>Northern Pintail - 565 individuals, representing an average of 2% of the GB population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3).</p> <p>Dunlin - 48364 individuals, representing an average of 3.6% of the population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3).</p> <p>Noteworthy birds:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ringed Plover <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i> - Eurasian Curlew <i>Numenius arquata arquata</i> - Spotted Redshank <i>Tringa erythropus</i> - Common Greenshank <i>Tringa nebularia</i> - Eurasian Wigeon <i>Anas penelope</i> 		
<p>Dee Estuary Ramsar Site Area 14302.02ha</p>	n/a	<p>Ramsar Convention Criteria:</p> <p>Criterion 1 - Extensive intertidal mud and sand flats (20km by 9km) with large expanses of saltmarsh towards the head of the estuary. Habitats Directive Annex I features present on the SAC include:</p> <p>H1130 Estuaries</p>	<p>Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The extent and distribution 	<p>Identified threats and pressures are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Public access/disturbance - Changes in species distribution - Invasive species - Climate change - Coastal squeeze - Inappropriate scrub control

European Site	Qualifying Feature (Broad Habitat/ Species Groupings)	Qualifying Feature	Conservation Objectives	Threats and Pressures
		<p>H1140 Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide</p> <p>H1210 Annual vegetation of drift lines</p> <p>H1230 Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts</p> <p>H1310 Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand</p> <p>H1330 Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i>)</p> <p>H2110 Embryonic shifting dunes</p> <p>H2120 Shifting dunes along the shoreline with ("white dunes") <i>Ammophila arenaria</i></p> <p>H2130 Fixed dunes with herbaceous vegetation ("grey dunes")</p> <p>H2190 Humid dune slacks</p> <p>Criterion 2 - it supports breeding colonies of the vulnerable Natterjack Toad <i>Epidalea calamita</i></p> <p>Criterion 5 - Assemblages of international importance: Species with peak counts in winter: Non-breeding season regularly supports 120,726 individual waterbirds (5 year peak mean 1994/5 - 1998/9).</p> <p>Criterion 6 - species/populations occurring at levels of international importance: Qualifying Species/populations (as identified at designation): Species with peak counts in</p>	<p>of qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats - The structure and function of the habitats of qualifying species - The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats and the habitats of qualifying species rely - The populations of qualifying species, and, - The distribution of qualifying species within the site. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Water pollution - Fisheries - Inappropriate coastal management - Overgrazing - Direct impact from 3rd party - Marine litter - Predation - Marine consents and permits - Wildfire/arson - Air pollution - Transportation and service corridors - Physical modification

European Site	Qualifying Feature (Broad Habitat/ Species Groupings)	Qualifying Feature	Conservation Objectives	Threats and Pressures
		<p>spring/autumn: Redshank <i>Tringa totanus</i> 8,795 individuals, representing an average of 5.9% of the Eastern Atlantic population (5 year peak mean 1994/95 - 1998/99)</p> <p>Species with peak counts in winter: Teal <i>Anas crecca</i> NW Europe 5,251 individuals, representing an average of 1.3% of the population (5 year peak mean 1994/95 - 1998/99)</p> <p>Shelduck <i>Tadorna tadorna</i> NW Europe 7,725 individuals, representing an average of 2.6% of the population (5 year peak mean 1994/95 - 1998/99)</p> <p>Oystercatcher <i>Haematopus ostralegus</i> Europe & W Africa 22,677 individuals, representing an average of 2.5% of the population (5 year peak mean 1994/95 - 1998/99)</p> <p>Curlew <i>Numenius arquata</i> Europe/NW Africa 3,899 individuals, representing an average of 1.1% of the Europe population (5 year peak mean 1994/95 - 1998/99)</p> <p>Pintail <i>Anas acuta</i> NW Europe 5,407 individuals, representing an average of 9.0% of the population (5 year peak mean 1994/95 - 1998/99)</p>		

European Site	Qualifying Feature (Broad Habitat/ Species Groupings)	Qualifying Feature	Conservation Objectives	Threats and Pressures
		<p>Grey plover <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i> E Atlantic 1,643 individuals, representing an average of 1.1% of the GB population (5 year peak mean 1994/95 - 1998/99)</p> <p>Dunlin <i>Calidris alpina alpina</i> Europe (breeding) 27,769 individuals, representing an average of 2.0% of the population (5 year peak mean 1994/95 - 1998/99)</p> <p>Black-tailed godwit <i>Limosa limosa islandica</i> Iceland (breeding) 1,747 individuals, representing an average of 2.5% of the population (5 year peak mean 1994/95 - 1998/99)</p> <p>Bar-tailed godwit <i>Limosa lapponica</i> W European (wintering) 1,150 individuals, representing an average of 1.2% of the Europe population (5 year peak mean 1994/95 - 1998/99)</p> <p>Redshank <i>Tringa totanus</i> Eastern Atlantic 5,293 individuals representing an average of 3.5% Eastern Atlantic population (5 year peak mean 1994/95 - 1998/99)</p>		
Mersey Narrows and North Wirral Foreshore Ramsar Site Area 2708.41ha	n/a	Ramsar Convention Criteria: Criterion 4 - the site regularly supports plant and/or animal species	Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site	Identified threats and pressures are: - Public access/disturbance - Changes in species

European Site	Qualifying Feature (Broad Habitat/ Species Groupings)	Qualifying Feature	Conservation Objectives	Threats and Pressures
		<p>at a critical stage in their life cycles, or provides refuge during adverse conditions:</p> <p>During 2004/05 - 2008/09 the Mersey Narrows and North Wirral Foreshore Ramsar site supported important numbers of non-breeding little gulls and common terns.</p> <p>Criterion 5 - the site regularly supports 20,000 or more waterbirds: During the winters 2004/05 - 2008/09, the Mersey Narrows and North Wirral Foreshore Ramsar site supported an average peak of 32,402 individual waterbirds.</p> <p>Criterion 6 - species /populations occurring at levels of international importance: Qualifying Species/populations (as identified at designation): Species with peak counts in winter:</p> <p>Knot <i>Calidris canutus</i> W Europe/Waddensea /Britain/Ireland (non-breeding) 10,655 individuals representing 2.4% of the population (5 year peak mean (2004/05 - 2008/09)</p> <p>Bar-tailed Godwit <i>Limosa lapponica</i> W Europe/NW Africa (non-breeding) 3,344 individuals representing 2.8% of the population (5 year peak mean</p>	<p>contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species - The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats - The structure and function of the habitats of qualifying species - The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats and the habitats of qualifying species rely - The populations of qualifying species, and, - The distribution of qualifying species within the site. 	<p>distribution</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Invasive species - Climate change - Coastal squeeze - Inappropriate scrub control - Water pollution - Fisheries - Inappropriate coastal management - Overgrazing - Direct impact from 3rd party - Marine litter - Predation - Marine consents and permits - Wildfire/arson - Air pollution - Transportation and service corridors - Physical modification

European Site	Qualifying Feature (Broad Habitat/ Species Groupings)	Qualifying Feature	Conservation Objectives	Threats and Pressures
		<p><i>(2004/05 – 2008/09)</i></p> <p>Little Gull <i>Hydrocoloeus minutus</i> (non-breeding) 213 individuals <i>No national population estimate (5 year peak mean 2004/05 – 2008/09)</i></p> <p>Common Tern <i>Sterna hirundo</i> (non- breeding) 1,475 individuals. <i>No national population estimate (5 year peak mean 2004 – 2008)</i></p>		

C Other Relevant Plans

Document	Summary of content, objectives and targets	Potential for in-combination effects on European sites
Strategic Economic Plan. Cheshire and Warrington Matters	This is a ten year strategic economic plan to support growth and economic development. It sets out intervention priorities and investment proposals. In Cheshire East, an outcome is to improve the connectivity between Crewe, the M6 and mid-Cheshire towns for the development of Crewe High Growth City.	This strategy could potentially have adverse in-combination effects if it proposes developments in close proximity to European sites.
Cheshire East Corporate Plan 2017 to 2020	The Corporate Plan consists of six outcomes that demonstrate how Cheshire East Council will put the residents of Cheshire East first in the way that services are provided. Outcome numbers 1-5 focus on activities directly affecting residents and local businesses. Outcome number 6 focuses on maximising value for money in the way the Council operates.	The outcomes of the Corporate Plan are compatible with those of the Local Plan and are unlikely to result in in-combination effects.
Cheshire East Local Transport Plan 2019-2024	This Local Transport Plan is a strategic plan for the development of transport within Cheshire East over the period 2019 to 2024, outlining how transport will contribute to and support the longer-term aspirations of the Borough.	The Local Plan supports schemes outlined within the Transport Plan and promotes sustainable transport. The majority of actions within this plan would not give rise to any potential impacts upon European sites. However, development supported by the actions in this plan, such as upgrades to railway lines and the investment in road infrastructure, could potentially lead to adverse in combination impacts, should any developments occur within proximity to any European sites.

Document	Summary of content, objectives and targets	Potential for in-combination effects on European sites
<p>Cheshire East Rights of Way Improvement Plan 2011-2026 and Implementation Plan 2015 - 2019</p>	<p>The Cheshire East Rights of Way Improvement Plan was developed to assess: the extent to which the local rights of way network meets the present and future needs of the public; the opportunities provided by the local rights of way network for exercise and other forms of open-air recreation and the enjoyment of the Local Authority's area; and the accessibility of local rights of way for blind or partially sighted persons and others with mobility problems.</p> <p>The plan also contains a statement of the actions that the authority proposes to take for the management of local rights of way, and for securing an improved network of local rights of way.</p>	<p>The aim of this plan is to maintain and improve the provision of green infrastructure within the county, the connectivity of the network, the provision for cyclists and horse riders and the network's accessibility for all users, including those with a disability. Improvements to, and expansion of, the Rights of Way network, if located in close proximity to European sites, could result in in-combination effects through increased visitor numbers which may result in adverse impacts such as disturbance (i.e. noise, visual) or physical damage (i.e. vandalism, trampling). However, these initiatives are Borough-wide and therefore would also increase accessibility to other areas and routes away from European sites.</p>
<p>Housing Strategy: 2018 to 2023</p>	<p>This Housing Strategy sets out Cheshire East's long term housing vision for the Borough.</p> <p>The housing vision of the document is that housing supports the creation of balanced and sustainable communities, where all residents can achieve independent living in good quality, affordable homes that are appropriate to their needs.</p>	<p>The objectives of the Housing Strategy are compatible with those of the Local Plan and are unlikely to result in in-combination effects.</p>
<p>Local Air Quality Strategy for Cheshire East Council and Action Plan</p>	<p>This strategy outlines high level, broad commitments across the Council aimed at improving air quality.</p> <p>The Action Plan outlines measures to make sure that air quality work undertaken within the Borough is coordinated at a strategic level. The current action plan addresses poor air quality in the following areas: M6 Cranage; West Road,</p>	<p>This Strategy and Action Plan aims to improve air quality across the County and identifies specific areas where poor air quality is to be addressed. In general, the Local Plan is compatible with this Strategy and Action Plan as it aims to reduce travel by improving connectivity, public transport and green infrastructure, which should reduce traffic emissions. This strategy may therefore reduce the impact of atmospheric deposition on European sites.</p>

Document	Summary of content, objectives and targets	Potential for in-combination effects on European sites
	<p>Congleton; A34 to A54, Rood Lane, Congleton; A534 Hospital Street, Nantwich; A34 Lower Heath, Congleton; A5022/A534, Sandbach; and A556 Chester Road, Mere. The Action Plan focuses on these areas and the impact of nitrogen dioxide from transportation sources.</p>	
<p>Cheshire East Visitor Economy Strategy 2016-2020</p>	<p>A visitor economy strategy for Cheshire East was first adopted in February 2011 to cover a five year period. This has now been updated for the period 2016-20, providing an approach to maintaining growth. It sets out the Council’s aspirations to continue to enhance and grow Cheshire East’s visitor economy for the benefit of the current residents, its future residents and its visitors.</p>	<p>The ambition of the Strategy is focussed around maximising growth of the visitor economy whilst ensuring greater prosperity across the widest number of communities and encouraging participation that will lead to greater wellbeing for both residents and visitors. This includes developing a distinctive rural tourism offering.</p> <p>Promotion of the countryside as part of the visitor economy by this strategy and the Local Plan SADPD could therefore result in adverse in-combination effects on nearby European sites as a result of increased visitor pressure. For example, the Tatton/Knutsford/Jodrell area is identified as a key hub for developing the visitor economy and being located in close proximity to Rostherne Mere Ramsar and Tatton Meres SSSI (part of the Midland Meres and Mosses Phase 1 Ramsar) may suffer from increased visitor pressure. This strategic framework however, does recognise that the protection and enhancement of the County’s natural assets, such as the Meres and Mosses is a fundamental requirement in defining the quality of experience that visitors seek.</p>
<p>Cheshire Replacement Minerals Local Plan 1999</p>	<p>This Plan provides planning advice on where mineral development can take place. It covers both Cheshire East and Cheshire West & Chester Boroughs. Together, these Boroughs contain a variety of minerals including salt, construction sand and silica sand which are important to the regional and national economy.</p> <p>A philosophy of sustainable development underpins</p>	<p>Both the Local Plan Strategy and the Minerals Local Plan identify the need for Cheshire East to provide an adequate and steady supply of minerals in support of sustainable economic growth.</p> <p>The Local Plan has recognised that, for all mineral extraction, it is essential that workings do not give rise to any unacceptable adverse impacts on the natural environment and therefore detailed policies will be brought forward through the SADPD and the Minerals and Waste Development Plan Document, setting out criteria against</p>

Document	Summary of content, objectives and targets	Potential for in-combination effects on European sites
	<p>the Cheshire Replacement Minerals Local Plan. This philosophy looks at conserving the County’s environment and natural resources for the benefit of future generations.</p> <p>The Plan proposes that future working of salt, silica sand and sand and gravel should come from limited areas of the County and that detailed policies will minimise the impact of all mineral working by enabling rigorous monitoring of site operations and ensuring a positive restoration of sites on set timescales for both phasing and completion.</p>	<p>which all mineral related planning proposals will be assessed, consistent with national policy and guidance.</p>
<p>Cheshire Replacement Waste Local Plan 2007</p>	<p>This Replacement Waste Local Plan attempts to achieve a more sustainable approach to waste management within Cheshire. The Plan aims to fulfil this purpose in two ways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) by establishing policies against which planning applications for the development of waste management facilities will be assessed. b) by identifying sites which are considered suitable ‘in principle’ for a waste management use in order to enable the development of an adequate network of waste management facilities. 	<p>The Cheshire East LPS states that to achieve the sustainable management of waste in Cheshire East, the Council will prepare a Waste Development Plan Document (DPD) consistent with national waste planning policy. Policy will be set by the Minerals and Waste DPD to ensure that the environment is protected through the prevention or reduction of the adverse impacts of the generation and management of waste.</p>
<p>Saved Policies from the Congleton Borough Local Plan First Review, Borough of Crewe and Nantwich Local Plan and Macclesfield Local</p>	<p>Saved policies are planning policies from local plans that remain part of the statutory development plan for Cheshire East and can still be used in determining planning applications.</p> <p>Currently, these Local Plans have saved policies that apply within part of the Cheshire East area.</p> <p>Saved policies in these documents will continue to be used until they are replaced by new policies in</p>	<p>The saved policies of these Local Plans are compatible with those of the Local Plan Strategy and SADPD and are unlikely to result in in-combination effects.</p>

Document	Summary of content, objectives and targets	Potential for in-combination effects on European sites
Plan	the Cheshire East Local Plan.	
The United Utilities Final Water Resources Management Plan 2019	This plan describes in detail United Utilities' assessment of the available water supplies and the demand for water by their customers over the 2020-2045 period. The plan also sets out their proposed strategy for water resources and demand management to ensure they have adequate water supplies to serve their customers.	<p>United Utilities is the principal water provider for Cheshire East and such provision is covered by the Strategic Resource Zone which serves 7 million people in South Cumbria, Lancashire, Greater Manchester, Merseyside and most of Cheshire.</p> <p>Development of new housing and employment land within Cheshire East, as outlined in the LPS and SADPD, could lead to increased demand for water. Increased levels of abstraction could significantly affect the levels of flow in the River Dee and hence result in significant effects on qualifying features.</p>
The Weaver and Dane Catchment Abstraction Management Strategy (CAMS)	This Strategy sets out how water resources are managed by the Environment Agency in the Weaver and Dane area. It provides information about where water is available for further abstraction and an indication of how reliable a new abstraction licence may be.	<p>Development of new housing and employment land within Cheshire East, as outlined in the Local Plan SADPD, could lead to increased demand for water abstractions.</p> <p>However, as stated in the CAM, the Environment Agency has assessed the effects of existing abstraction licences and will assess all new applications to make sure they are not impacting on internationally important nature conservation sites.</p>
The Dee Catchment Abstraction Management Strategy (CAMS)	This Strategy sets out how water resources are managed by the Environment Agency in the Dee catchment. It provides information about how much and where water is available for further abstraction.	<p>Development of new housing and employment land within Cheshire East, as outlined in the Local Plan SADPD, could lead to increased demand for water abstractions.</p> <p>The River Dee is an important resource for public water supply and used to supply the homes of more than two million people. Because of the over-riding need to protect this supply, more water is not available for abstraction from the River Dee (or its tributaries) upstream of Chester Weir, when the river is being regulated. Some additional water may be available during wetter periods, but abstractors would be required to stop taking water as soon as the river flow dropped again. The Environment Agency may also have to place special conditions on any new licences granted to safeguard</p>

Document	Summary of content, objectives and targets	Potential for in-combination effects on European sites
<p>Greater Manchester Spatial Framework Revised Draft- January 2019</p>	<p>A joint plan to manage the supply of land for jobs and new homes across Greater Manchester up to 2035, along with identifying new infrastructure. The key themes are: Garden City Suburbs; Greener Growth; Opportunity for all; homes you can afford and local benefits.</p>	<p>the wildlife and conservation interest of the River Dee.</p> <p>Site allocations for this strategy are located around Greater Manchester. Some of the allocations for the Stockport area are within the vicinity of the site allocations at the Poynton Settlement. This allocation is, however, more than 10km from the nearest European site, as are the other allocations to the east of Manchester Airport. The proposed Heald Green allocation for Greater Manchester is within the vicinity of the Alderley Edge proposed allocations within the SADPD. However, there are no effects identified for these SADPD proposed site allocations due to the distance of Alderley Edge from any European sites. No in-combination effects are therefore anticipated between the SADPD and the Greater Manchester Spatial Framework Revised Draft 2019.</p>
<p>Local Plans and Core Strategies of adjacent Authorities (Cheshire West and Chester; Peak District National Park, High Peak; Manchester; Newcastle-under-Lyme; Stockport; Shropshire; Staffordshire Moorlands; Stoke-on-Trent; Trafford; and Warrington Council's)</p>	<p>These documents contain the development plan for the relevant adjacent area. They will specify a vision, objectives and policies for each area.</p>	<p>There is the potential for adverse in-combination effects, particularly in boundary areas. If projects (i.e. developments, infrastructure construction) proposed in the Local Plan Strategy are located in relatively to close proximity to those proposed by the Local Plans and Core Strategies of neighbouring authorities, adverse effects may arise if there are cross-boundary or nearby European sites.</p>
<p>Cheshire East Green</p>	<p>This plan is a road map for a comprehensive and connected Green Infrastructure across Cheshire</p>	<p>Although sustainability underpins this plan, improving the multifunctionality of greenspaces could lead to conflicts with</p>

Document	Summary of content, objectives and targets	Potential for in-combination effects on European sites
Infrastructure Plan 2019 (Cheshire East, 2019 ^c)	East as a framework for residents, partners, landowners and developers to develop projects that deliver net gain in green infrastructure.	European sites. For example, a target activity of the plan is 'Getting Outdoors Easily', which could increase recreational activity at European sites vulnerable to disturbance.
Cheshire East Council Environment Strategy (2020 - 2024)	This document has been developed to ensure that all emerging strategies, plans and projects in Cheshire East consider the environment and climate change.	This strategy supports the SADPD and will not give rise to any in-combination effects on European sites because it is a general framework for sustainability.
Carbon Neutrality Action Plan 2020 - 2025	This plan provides actions for Cheshire East Council to consider in support of its carbon neutral 2025 target.	This plan supports sustainable development for the long-term decarbonisation of Cheshire East Council. None of the actions outlined in this plan would give rise to impacts upon any European sites.

D Other Relevant Projects

Project Name	Summary of Project	Potential In-combination Effect on European Sites
Congleton Link Road	A new 5.5km bypass is proposed for Congleton. Site under construction. Works are anticipated to be completed by 2020	This proposed road is within 3km of Midland Meres and Mosses Ramsar (Bagmere SSSI). No aspect of the Cheshire East SADPD will impact upon this constituent site of the Ramsar.
HS2	A new high-speed railway line connecting London, Birmingham, the East Midlands, Leeds and Manchester. HS2b will pass through Cheshire East, from Crewe to Manchester	The proposed new railway route will pass within the vicinity of European sites including Midland and Mosses Phase 1 Ramsar (The Mere, Mere SSSI), Rostherne Mere Ramsar and Manchester Mosses SAC. The sustainability report (Temple ERM, 2013), makes reference to the HRA screening exercise, which is not publicly accessible at present. The HRA screening rules out likely significant effects of the scheme on the three European sites.
A500 Dualling	Upgrade the section of the A500 between Meremoor Moss roundabout and M6 junction 16 to dual carriageway standard.	This proposed project is located within 2km of Midland Meres and Mosses Phase 2 Ramsar constituent sites Oakhanger Moss SSSI and Black Firs & Cranberry Bog SSSI. No aspect of the Cheshire East SADPD will impact upon these constituent sites of the Ramsar. No in-combination effects are therefore anticipated.
Middlewich Eastern Bypass	This project has planning permission. The current programme (subject to planning and final funding approvals) is for main works to start in 2021 with an estimated 30 month construction period.	All sites considered for allocation in the SADPD in the Middlewich area are at least 7km from the nearest European site (Midland Meres and Mosses Phase 1 Ramsar (Bagmere SSSI)) and no potential impact pathways were identified regarding any European site. As there will be no impacts on any European sites, no pathways can interact in-combination with this proposed project.
North West Crewe Package (road scheme)	Proposed road scheme adjacent to Leighton Hospital (north-west Crewe).	Impacts relating to proposed sites for the SADPD in the Crewe area relate to potential impacts upon the Midlands Meres and Mosses Phase 1 Ramsar (Wynbunbury Moss SSSI) (in relation to CFS 594). The proposed road scheme is located more than 5.8km from Wynbunbury Moss SSSI. Due to the distance of this road scheme from the

Project Name	Summary of Project	Potential In-combination Effect on European Sites
		European site, no potential impact pathways have been identified that could act in-combination with the proposed site allocation, CFS 594.
Poynton Relief Road	Single carriageway 3km in length being developed by Cheshire East Council in partnership with Stockport Council, running to the west of Poynton. This project has planning permission and a tender was recently awarded for the roads construction.	There are sites proposed for allocation in the SADPD within Poynton, but all of these are located more than 9km from the nearest European site (South Pennine Moors SAC and Peak District Moors (South Pennine Moors Phase 1) SPA). As the SADPD will have zero impact upon any European sites alone, no in-combination effects with Poynton Relief Road can occur.

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