

# LANCASTER LOCAL PLAN PART 2: DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT POLICIES

Habitats Regulations Assessment Report

OCTOBER 2018 AUGUST 2019

Incorporating

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## VERSION CONTROL

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026-UA001453-02-EEC-F	25/01/17	LT	Final for consultation
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<a href="#">026-UA001453-06-EEC-F</a>	<a href="#">06/08/19</a>	<a href="#">LT</a>	<a href="#">Amendments as a result of Main Modifications following the Local Plan Examination</a>

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## Executive Summary

This Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) Screening Report has been prepared by Arcadis Consulting UK (Ltd) on behalf of Lancaster City Council. Lancaster City Council is currently preparing Part Two of its Local Plan which comprises a review of its Development Management (DM) Policies Development Plan Document (DPD) (referred to as the Local Plan Part Two). A separate HRA Screening Report has been produced for Part One of the Local Plan (Part One: Strategic Policies and Land Allocations DPD). The Local Plan Part Two provides detailed policy guidance on a range of planning matters including environmental, social and economic issues and is of key importance in the determination of planning applications. The Local Plan Part Two is applicable to the whole of the Lancaster district and all types of development. There is an important cross over between the two HRAs, and therefore these have been developed in parallel and should be read in conjunction.

The Local Plan Part Two comprises 66 policies. The policies included in the Local Plan Part Two reflect guidance set out within the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and build upon guidance provided at the national level to address local issues. This HRA Screening Report has been produced during the preparation of the Local Plan Part Two.

The initial screening exercise (Section 5) identified 16 European designated sites (including SACs/SPAs and Ramsar sites) within 20 km of the district boundary. Of these, 13 could be ruled out completely on the basis that there were no potential impact pathways which could give rise to likely significant effects. The remaining three European sites (Morecambe Bay and Duddon Estuary SPA, and Morecambe Bay Ramsar site/SAC) were taken through to the detailed screening stage. During the initial screening exercise, it was also possible to screen out all of the policies contained within Chapters 7, 9, 10, 11, 12, 15, 17 and 18 of the Local Plan Part Two, as well as several individual policies within the remaining chapters.

The detailed screening (Section 6.2) identified several potential impact pathways associated with the three European sites (Morecambe Bay and Duddon Estuary SPA, and Morecambe Bay Ramsar site/SAC). Those which were taken forward into the detailed screening tables included: loss of habitat functionally linked to a European (i.e. used by overwintering birds for foraging); disturbance to habitats and species through increased recreational activity, during operational stage; and disturbance to species as a result of construction activities/operational stage. All other potential impacts were scoped out of the assessment.

The detailed screening of the policies is presented in Table 8. The detailed screening exercise used a variety of resources to provide a robust assessment of each policy. The results of the detailed screening (and consultation with Natural England) determined that a number of policies required strengthening to include specific reference to compliance with Policy DM43DM44 which serves protect European sites. Lancaster City Council subsequently made the policy wording changes, and the detailed screening has been updated to reflect the final Pre-publication version of the Local Plan Part Two.

Following the wording changes, the results of the detailed screening has confirmed that the Local Plan Part Two will not have any likely significant effects on the European sites identified within the HRA Report, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects.

No further Appropriate Assessment of the Local Plan Part Two is required.

# 1 Introduction and Purpose

## 1.1 Introduction

1.1.1 This Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) Screening Report has been prepared by Arcadis Consulting UK (Ltd) on behalf of Lancaster City Council. Lancaster City Council is currently preparing Part Two of its Local Plan which comprises a review of its Development Management (DM) Policies Development Plan Document (DPD) (referred to as the Local Plan Part Two).

~~1.1.2 The HRA Report has been produced following the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU) judgement (People over Wind & Sweetman v Coillte Teoranta Case C-323/17), dated 12<sup>th</sup> April 2018, in Ireland.~~

~~1.1.3 The ruling stated:~~

~~1.1.4 'Article 6(3)..... must be interpreted as meaning that, in order to determine whether it is necessary to carry out, subsequently, an appropriate assessment of the implications, for a site concerned, of a plan or project, it is not appropriate, at the screening stage, to take account of measures intended to avoid or reduce the harmful effects of the plan or project on that site.'~~

~~1.1.5 1.2 The HRA Report was updated to ensure that the HRA of the Lancaster Local Plan is legally compliant, and therefore superseded the previous HRA Screening Report (February 2018).~~

~~1.1.6 1.3 Lancaster City Council is currently preparing Part Two of its Local Plan which comprises a review of its Development Management (DM) Policies Development Plan Document (DPD) (referred to as the Local Plan Part Two).~~ The Local Plan provides guidance for planning within the district of Lancaster and will eventually replace the existing Lancaster District Local Plan policy documents. A separate HRA Report has been produced for Part One of the Local Plan (Part One: Strategic Policies and Land Allocations DPD). There is important cross over between the two HRAs, and these documents have been developed in parallel with each other and should be read in conjunction.

~~1.1.7 1.4~~ The Local Plan Part Two provides detailed policy guidance on a range of planning matters including environmental, social and economic issues and is of key importance in the determination of planning applications. The Local Plan Part Two is applicable to the whole of the Lancaster district and all types of development.

~~1.1.8 1.5~~ The policies included in the Local Plan Part Two reflect guidance set out with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and build upon guidance provided at national levels to address local issues.

1.1.6 This HRA Report has been produced for the publication version of the Local Plan Part Two. Previous iterations of the draft Local Plan Part Two, were submitted to Natural England (NE) for comment in January and December 2017. This HRA Report (~~October 2018~~ August/July 2019) addresses the comments received from NE, as well as the amendments that have been made to the Local Plan Part Two prior to publication and as a result of the Main Modifications following the Examination in 2019. It ~~it~~ has also been updated as a result of the ~~CJEU ruling, the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU) judgement (People over Wind & Sweetman v Coillte Teoranta Case C-323/17), dated 12<sup>th</sup> April 2018, in Ireland.~~

1.1.7 The ruling stated:

1.1.8 *'Article 6(3)..... must be interpreted as meaning that, in order to determine whether it is necessary to carry out, subsequently, an appropriate assessment of the implications, for a site concerned, of a plan or project, it is not appropriate, at the screening stage, to take account of measures intended to avoid or reduce the harmful effects of the plan or project on that site.'*

1.1.9 This iterative approach ensures that the plan avoids likely significant effects on protected sites of international importance, and the recent updates (in relation to the CJEU ruling) ensure that

[the document is legally compliant](#). This document should be read in conjunction with the HRA Report for the Local Plan Part One: Strategic Policies and Land Allocations DPD.

## 1.2 Background to the Habitats Regulations Assessment

- 1.2.1 Under Article 6 of the Habitats Directive (and Regulation 102 of the Habitats Regulations), an assessment is required where a plan or project may give rise to significant effects upon a Natura 2000 site (also known as 'European site').
- 1.2.2 Within Lancaster there are eight European sites, and within a 20km radius of the district boundary there are a further eight sites which form part of the Natura 2000 network that could potentially be affected by the Local Plan Part Two. Natura 2000 is a network of areas designated to conserve natural habitats and species that are rare, endangered, vulnerable or endemic within the European Community. This includes Special Areas of Conservation (SAC), designated under the Habitats Directive for their habitats and/or species of European importance, and Special Protection Areas (SPA), classified under Directive 2009/147/EC on the Conservation of Wild Birds (the codified version of Directive 79/409/EEC as amended) for rare, vulnerable and regularly occurring migratory bird species and internationally important wetlands.
- 1.2.3 In addition, it is a matter of law that candidate SACs (cSACs) and Sites of Community Importance (SCI) are considered in this process; furthermore, it is Government policy that sites designated under the 1971 Ramsar Convention for their internationally important wetlands (Ramsar sites) and potential SPAs (pSPAs) are also considered.
- 1.2.4 The requirements of the Habitats Directive are transposed into English and Welsh law by means of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017<sup>1</sup>.
- 1.2.5 Regulation 61, Part 6 of the Habitats Regulations states that:  
*'A competent authority, before deciding to undertake, or give consent, permission or other authorisation for, a plan or project which (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, must make and appropriate assessment of the implications for that site in view of that site's conservation objectives.'*
- 1.2.6 Regulation 62, Part 6 of the Habitats Regulations states that:  
*'If the competent authority are satisfied that, there being no alternative solutions, the plan or project must be carried out for imperative reasons of overriding public interest (which, subject to paragraph (2), may be of a social or economic nature), they may agree to the plan or project notwithstanding a negative assessment of the implications for the European site or the European offshore marine site (as the case may be).'*
- 1.2.7 Regulation 66, Part 6 of the Habitats Regulations states that:  
*'Where, in accordance with regulation 62 (considerations of overriding public interest)— (a) a plan or project is agreed to, notwithstanding a negative assessment of the implications for a European site or a European offshore marine site, or (b) a decision, or a consent, permission or other authorisation, is affirmed on review, notwithstanding such an assessment,— the appropriate authority must secure that any necessary compensatory measures are taken to ensure that the overall coherence of Natura 2000 is protected.'*
- 1.2.8 The overarching aim of HRA is to determine, in view of a site's conservation objectives and qualifying interests, whether a plan, either in isolation and/or in combination with other plans, would have a significant adverse effect on the European site. If the Screening (the first stage of the process, see Section 5 for details) concludes that likely significant effects cannot be ruled out, then Appropriate Assessment must be undertaken to determine whether there will be adverse effects on site integrity.

<sup>1</sup> SI 2017/1012: Explanatory memorandum to the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations, 2017.



## 1.3 Legislation and Guidance

1.3.1 This HRA screening report has drawn upon the following legislation and guidance:

- The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017. In 2012, these Regulations were amended to transpose more clearly certain aspects of the Habitats Directive. In 2017, the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (the "Habitats Regulations 2017") consolidated and updated the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (the "Habitats Regulations 2010"). No fundamental changes to the Regulations were made in 2012 or 2017.
- European Commission, Managing Natura 2000 sites: The provisions of Article 6 of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC.
- European Commission, Guidance document on Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC.
- Department for Communities and Local Government (2006) Planning for the Protection of European Sites: Appropriate Assessment. Guidance for Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Documents.
- [Tyldesley D. and Chapman, C \(2013\) The Habitats Regulations Assessment Handbook \(accessed July 2019\) edition UK DTA Publications Limited \[www.dtapublications.co.uk\]\(http://www.dtapublications.co.uk\) DTA Publications Limited \(June 2016\), The Habitats Regulations Assessment Handbook<sup>2</sup>.](#)

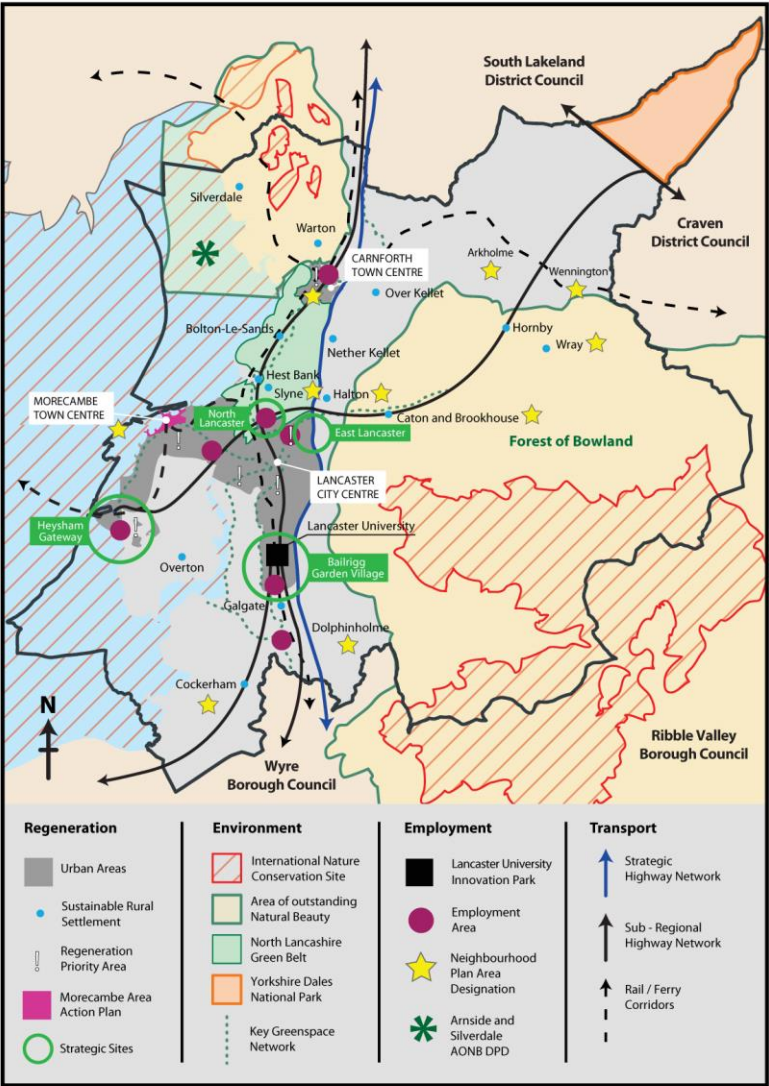
2 The Local Plan

2.1 Background

2.1.1 The Local Plan provides a new planning framework for the area. The Key Diagram (below) shows the main locations for development and the environmental considerations.

Image 1: Lancaster Local Plan Key Diagram

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- 2.1.2 The preparation of the Local Plan Part Two, along with other key documents including the Local Plan Part One, Arnsdale and Silverdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) DPD, Morecambe Area Action Plan (AAP) DPD and the Lancaster South AAP (formerly known as Bailrigg Garden Village AAP) will form the new local development plan for Lancaster District for the period 2011 – 2031.
- 2.1.3 The Local Plan Part Two will set out the generic policies which will be used by both Development Management Officers and Planning Committee to determine planning applications. The Local Plan Part One will identify land to meet future development needs and land which should be protected for a specific environmental, economic or social value. These two documents represent the key strands of the new Local Plan for the District. This HRA Screening Report focusses on the Local Plan Part Two.

## 2.2 Consultation

- 2.2.1 A HRA Screening Report was produced for the DM DPD in 2014. This DPD forms the basis of the Local Plan Part Two, although a number of the policies have now been modified. Consultation with NE was carried out for the previous Screening Report in 2014.
- 2.2.2 The first draft of this current HRA Report was submitted to NE for comment in January 2017. Comments made by NE and updates to the Local Plan Part Two were incorporated into an updated version of the HRA which was issued to NE for further comment in December 2017. Updates included strengthening policy wording to ensure compliance with other environmental policies within the Plan, in particular compliance with Policy DM43DM44 (which ensures appropriate safeguards for protected European sites are incorporated into any new development within Lancaster).
- 2.2.3 This report represents an update to the final HRA report for the [Pre-publication version of the Local Plan Part Two](#). [The report takes into consideration the HRA CJEU Irish judgement \(April 2018\) and the Main Modifications as a result of the Local Plan Examination, following the HRA CJEU Irish judgement \(April 2018\).](#) The updates included within this HRA Report do not affect the overall outcome of the Publication version HRA Report (February 2018), but ensures that the document is legally compliant.

## 2.3 Objectives of the Local Plan Part Two

- 2.3.1 The Local Plan Part Two objectives (set out in the Table below) will be delivered through the appropriate application of the policies contained within the plan and will assist in the delivery of sustainable development, which is one of the cornerstones of National Planning Policy. The success of the policies will be measured via regular monitoring through the Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) which identifies a series of targets and indicators which will be used to measure the effectiveness of policy implementation.
- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1 | That development makes an overall positive contribution to the delivery of sustainable communities, the economy and the environment         |
| 2 | That development contributes to the needs of local communities and delivers sustainable development.  |
| 3 | That development is well designed, sympathetic to the natural and built environment and is planned and constructed in a sustainable manner. |

## 2.4 Local Plan Part Two Policies

There are 65 policies contained within the Local Plan Part Two. These are set out within

2.4.1 Table 1~~Table 1~~, below.

Table 1: Policies within the DM DPD

Overarching Policy Areas	Development Management Policies
Chapter 5: Housing	DM1: New Residential Development and Meeting Housing Needs DM2: Housing Standards DM3: The Delivery of Affordable Housing DM4: Residential Development outside Main Urban Areas DM5: Rural Exception Sites DM6: Housing Provision in the Forest of Bowland AONB DM7: Accommodation for Students DM8: Accommodation for Older People and Vulnerable Communities DM9: Accommodation for Gypsies and Travellers, and Travelling Showpeople DM10: Accommodation for <a href="#">Agricultural and Forestry</a> Rural Workers DM11: Residential Moorings on Lancaster Canal DM12: Self Build, Custom Build and Community led Housing DM13: Residential Conversions
Chapter 6: Employment and Economic Growth	DM14: Proposals Involving Employment Land and Premises DM15: Small Business Generation
Chapter 7: Town Centres and Retailing	DM16: Town Centre Development DM17: Retail Frontages DM18: Local Centres DM19: Retail Development outside Defined Centres DM20: Hot Food Takeaways and Betting Shops DM21: Advertisements and Shopfronts
Chapter 8: Leisure and Culture	DM22: Leisure Facilities and Attractions DM23: Visitor Accommodation DM24: The Creation and Protection of Cultural Assets DM25: The Evening and Night-time Economy DM26: Public Realm and Civic Space DM 27: Open Space, Sports and Recreational Facilities
Chapter 9: Education and Skills	DM28: Employment and Skills Plans
Chapter 10: The Design of Development	DM29: Key Design Principles DM30: Sustainable Design DM31: Air Quality Management and Pollution DM32: Contaminated Land DM33: Development and Flood Risk DM34: Surface Water Run-Off and Sustainable Drainage DM35: Water Supply and Waste Water

Overarching Policy Areas	Development Management Policies
	DM36: Protecting Water Resources and Infrastructure
Chapter 11: The Historic Environment	DM37: Development affecting Listed Buildings DM38: Development affecting Conservation Areas DM39: The Setting of Designated Heritage Assets <a href="#">DM40: Registered Parks and Gardens</a> DM419: Development Affecting Non-Designated Heritage Assets or their Settings DM424: Archaeology
Chapter 12: The Natural Environment	<a href="#">DM423</a> : Green Infrastructure DM443: The Protection and Enhancement of Biodiversity DM454: Protection of Trees, Hedgerows and Woodland DM465: Development and Landscape Impact
Chapter 13: Development in Rural areas	DM476: Economic Development in Rural Areas DM487: Diversification Agricultural Premises DM498: The Re-Use and Conversion of Rural Buildings DM5049: Development in the Green Belt DM519: Equine Related Development DM524: Holiday Caravans, Chalets, Camping Pods and Log Cabins
Chapter 14: Energy Generation	DM532: Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Generation DM543: Upgrades to the National Grid
Chapter 15: Sustainable Communities	DM554: Neighbourhood Planning DM565: Protection of Local Services and Community Facilities DM576: Health and Well-being
Chapter 16: Infrastructure Delivery	DM587: Infrastructure Funding and Delivery DM598: Telecommunications and Broadband Improvements
Chapter 17: Transport, Accessibility and Connectivity	DM6059: Enhancing Accessibility and Transport Linkages DM619: Walking and Cycling DM624: Vehicle Parking Provision DM632: Transport Efficiency and Travel Plans DM643: Lancaster District Highways and Transport Masterplan
Chapter 18: Planning Enforcement	DM654: The Enforcement of Planning Controls DM665: Enforcement Action against Untidy Sites & Buildings

## 2.5 Environmental Policies within the Local Plan Part Two

- 2.5.1 Throughout the consultation period revisions have been made to the Local Plan Part Two to ensure the final Local Plan Part Two avoids or minimises the potential for impacts upon European sites.
- 2.5.2 The environmental policies included in the Local Plan Part Two comprise policies contained within Chapter 12: The Natural Environment. Policy [DM43DM44](#): The Protection and Enhancement of Biodiversity outlines the hierarchy of nature conservation sites and details the

requirement to ensure there is no net loss of biodiversity within the district. Under the heading of 'Development affecting Internationally Designated Sites', the policy states that:

*'Development proposals affecting directly or indirectly an international designated site's qualifying habitat and/or species are subject to the requirements of The Conservation and Habitats and Species Regulations 2017. In accordance with the above regulations where a proposal has implications for internationally designated sites, the proposal will be expected to be accompanied by sufficient information to inform a suitable Habitats Regulation Assessment.'*

*Adverse effects should be avoided, or where this is not possible they should be mitigated, to make sure that the integrity of the internationally important sites are protected. Development that may adversely affect the integrity of internationally important sites will only be permitted where there are absolutely no alternative solutions and there are imperative reasons of overriding public interest and where compensatory provision has been made. Such mitigation or compensation must be functional before any likely adverse effect arises and should be accompanied by a dedicated project related Habitats Regulation Assessment. This also applies to sites and habitats outside the designated boundaries, which are shown to be functionally linked and support species listed as being important in the designations of the internationally important sites (i.e. supporting habitat).*

*Development proposals that involve the removal of naturally occurring areas of water worn limestone, or that could damage limestone pavement, will not be permitted.'*

- 2.5.3 The requirement for consideration of European sites is also included within the Local Plan Part One, with specific cross reference to Policy [DM43DM44](#) within Policy [EN9EN7](#): Environmentally Important Areas.

*'Development proposals which may have impacts on species and habitats will be expected to have due regard to Policy [DM43DM44](#) of the Development Management DPD'*

- 2.5.4 Policy [EN9EN7](#) also states that:

*'There are a number of sites within the district which have been designated at a [European/International](#), National and Local level for their environmental importance. These have been identified on the Local Plan Policies Map and will be protected from development proposals which have a detrimental impact on their designation'*

- 2.5.5 Policies [DM43DM44](#) and [EN9EN7](#) (and appropriate cross references to these throughout the Local Plan Parts One and Two) will provide assurance that projects proposed within the Local Plan, with the potential to adversely affect European sites, are adequately assessed prior to planning permission being granted, to ensure that there would be no likely significant effects on European sites.

## 3 The Habitats Regulations Assessment Process

3.1.1 This section provides an outline of the stages involved in HRA and the specific methods that have been used in preparing this report.

### 3.1 Stages in HRA

3.1.1 The requirements of the Habitats Directive comprise four distinct stages:

1. **Stage 1: Screening** is the process which initially identifies the likely impacts upon a European site of a project or plan, either alone or in-combination with other projects or plans, and considers whether these impacts may have a significant effect on the integrity of the site's qualifying habitats and/or species. It is important to note that the burden of evidence is to show, on the basis of objective information, that there will be no significant effect; if the effect may be significant, or is not known, that would trigger the need for an Appropriate Assessment. There is European Court of Justice case law to the effect that unless the likelihood of a significant effect can be ruled out on the basis of objective information, and adopting the precautionary principle, then an Appropriate Assessment must be made. The April 2018 CJEU judgement determined that mitigation to avoid or reduce harmful effects of the plan or project on a European site cannot be taken into account at the screening stage (Stage 1). Where such measures are required, a plan or project will require Appropriate Assessment to be undertaken (Stage 2).
2. **Stage 2: Appropriate Assessment** is the detailed consideration of the impact on the integrity of the European site of the project or plan, either alone or in combination with other projects or plans, with respect to the site's conservation objectives and its structure and function. This is to determine whether or not there will be adverse effects on the integrity of the site. This stage also includes the development of mitigation measures to avoid or reduce any possible impacts.
3. **Stage 3: Assessment of alternative solutions** is the process which examines alternative ways of achieving the objectives of the project or plan that would avoid adverse impacts on the integrity of the European site, should avoidance or mitigation measures be unable to cancel out adverse effects.
4. **Stage 4: Assessment where no alternative solutions exist and where adverse impacts remain.** At Stage 4, an assessment is made with regard to whether or not the development is necessary for imperative reasons of overriding public interest (IROPI). If it is, this stage also involves detailed assessment of the compensatory measures needed to protect and maintain the overall coherence of the Natura 2000 network.

### 3.2 Approach to Screening

3.2.1 This Screening Report takes into account the requirements of the Habitats Regulations and relevant guidance produced by David Tyldesley Associates<sup>3</sup>.

3.2.2 The following stages have been completed:

- Identification of all European sites potentially affected (including those outside of the Local Plan area);
- A review of each European site, including the features for which the site is designated, the Conservation Objectives, and an understanding of the current conservation status and the vulnerability of the individual features to threats;
- A review of the policies which have the potential to affect the European sites, and whether the sites are vulnerable to these effects (this has included a categorisation of the potential effects of the Policy, in line with current guidance); and
- A consideration of any impacts in-combination with other plans or projects;

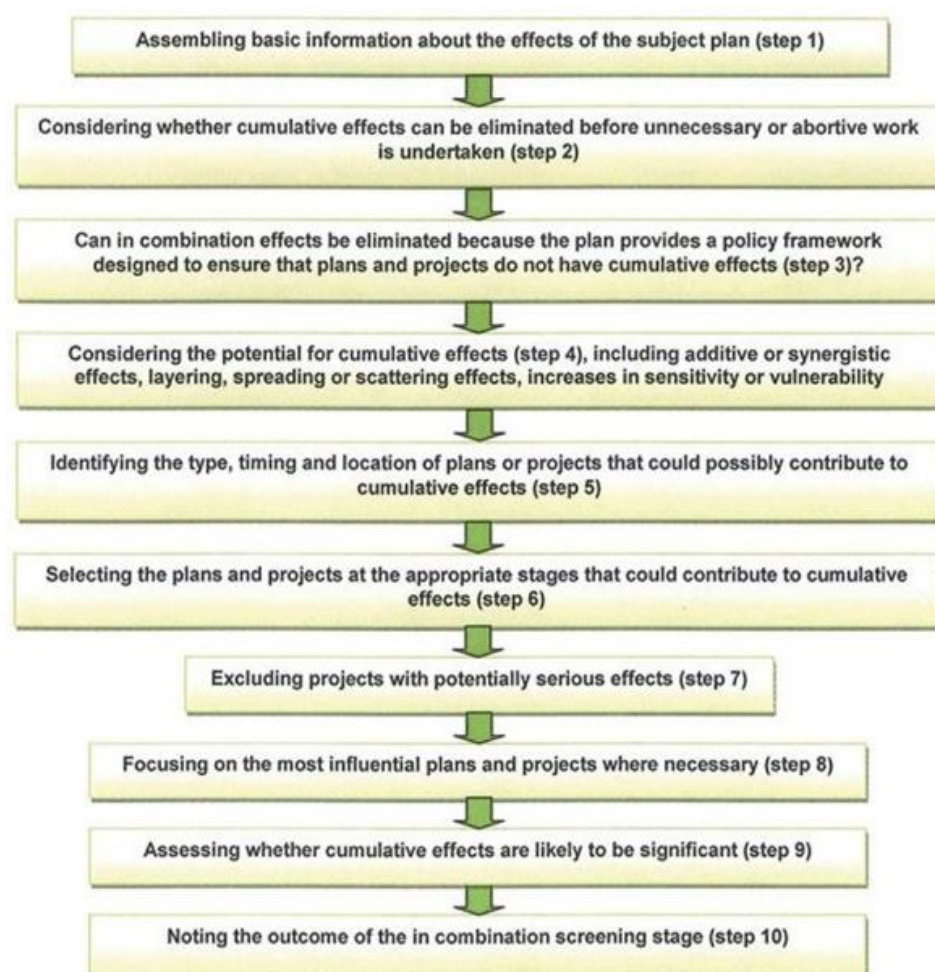
### 3.3 In-combination Effects

3.3.1 As outlined in Section 3.1, it is necessary for HRA to consider in-combination effects with other plans and projects.

<sup>3</sup> DTA Publications Limited (June 2016) The Habitats Regulations Assessment Handbook.



- 3.3.2 Where an aspect of a plan could have some effect on the qualifying feature(s) of a European site, but the effects of that aspect of the plan alone would not be significant, the effects of that aspect of the plan will need to be checked in-combination firstly, with other effects of the same plan, and then with the effects of other plans and projects.
- 3.3.3 The flow chart below is taken from DTA Publications Limited, The Habitats Regulations Assessment Handbook, and illustrates the outline methodology for the in-combination assessment.



- 3.3.4 If the prospect of cumulative effects cannot be eliminated in steps 2 and 3 in the figure above, it is necessary to consider how the addition of effects from other plans or projects may produce a combined adverse effect on a European site that would be significant. Taking the effects which would not be likely to be significant alone, it is necessary to make a judgement as to whether

these effects would be made more likely or more significant if the effects of other plans or projects are added to them. Most cumulative effects can be identified by way of the following characteristics. Could additional effects be cumulative because they would:

- a. Increase the effects on the qualifying features affected by the subject plan in an additive, or synergistic way
- b. Increase the sensitivity or vulnerability of the qualifying features of the site affected by the subject plan?
- c. Be felt more intensely by the same qualifying features over the same area (a layering effect), or by the same qualifying feature over a greater (larger) area (a spreading effect), or by affecting new areas of the same qualifying feature (a scattering effect)?

3.3.5 It will be necessary to look for plans or projects at the following stages:

- a. Applications lodged but not yet determined.
- b. Projects subject to periodic review e.g. annual licences, during the time that their renewal is under consideration.
- c. Refusals subject to appeal procedures and not yet determined.
- d. Projects authorised but not yet started.
- e. Projects started but not yet completed.
- f. Known projects that do not require external authorisation.
- g. Proposals in adopted plans.
- h. Proposals in finalised draft plans formally published or submitted for final consultation, examination or adoption.

3.3.6 Plans under consideration may range from neighbouring authorities' planning documents down to sector-specific strategic plans on such topics as flood risk. A review has been undertaken of plans and projects with the potential for an in-combination effect with the Local Plan, and these are listed in Table 2.

Table 2: Plans and projects considered for in-combination effects

Authority	Relevant Plan/ Project
Lancashire County Council	Lancashire Minerals and Waste Plan
Cumbria County Council	Cumbria Minerals and Waste Plan
North Yorkshire County Council	North Yorkshire Minerals and Waste Plan
Lancaster City Council and South Lakeland District Council	Arnsdale and Silverdale AONB Statutory Management Plan (2014)
Lancaster City Council and South Lakeland District Council	Arnsdale and Silverdale AONB DPD ( <a href="#">adopted March 2019</a> in progress).
Lancashire County Council	Local Transport Plan 2011 – 2021: A Strategy for Lancashire (May 2011)
	District of Lancaster Highways and Transport Masterplan (2016)
Forest of Bowland AONB Joint Advisory Committee	Forest of Bowland 2009 - 2014 Management Plan
Lancaster City Council	The Lancaster Local Plan is split into two sections. Local Plan Part One comprises the Strategic Policies and Land Allocations Development Plan Document (DPD). Local Plan Part Two

Authority	Relevant Plan/ Project
	comprises a review of the Development Management (DM) DPD. The two documents should be read in conjunction.
Neighbourhood Plans within Lancaster district	Nine Neighbourhood Plans listed within the Lancaster Local Plan, comprising: Cockerham Neighbourhood Plan, Caton Neighbourhood Plan, Halton Neighbourhood Plan, Morecambe Neighbourhood Plan, Slyne-With-Hest Neighbourhood Plan, Wennington Neighbourhood Plan, Dolphinhholme Neighbourhood Plan, Arkholme Neighbourhood Plan, and Wray Neighbourhood Plan
Lancaster City Council	Morecambe Area Action Plan
Craven District Council	<a href="#">Saved policies from the 1999 Local Plan (currently preparing their Local Development Plan and is at Examination stage). New Local Plan submitted March 2018</a>
South Lakeland District Council	South Lakeland Core Strategy (adopted October 2010), Land Allocations DPD (2013) and Local Plan 2006 saved policies
Ribble Valley Council	Core Strategy and DM Policies
Wyre District Council	Wyre District Local Plan ( <del>in progress</del> )( <a href="#">adopted 2018</a> )
Yorkshire Dales National Park	Yorkshire Dales National Park Local Plan (adopted 2016)
United Utilities	Water Resources Management Plan (2015).
Lancashire County Council	Lancashire and Blackpool Flood Risk Management Strategy
Environment Agency	The Lune Catchment Abstraction Management Strategy (2003) and Lune and Wyre Abstraction Licensing Strategy (2013)
Environment Agency	Caton Road Flood defence
Various	North West and North Wales - Shoreline Management Plan 2 (2011)
Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects	Highways England M6 Junction 33 Heysham Nuclear Power Station Extension

### 3.4 Consideration of Effects

#### Definition of Significant Effects

- 3.4.1 A critical part of the HRA screening process is determining whether or not the proposals are likely to have a significant effect on European Sites and, therefore, if they will require an Appropriate Assessment. Judgements regarding significance should be made in relation to the qualifying interests for which the site is of European importance and also its conservation objectives. A useful definition of 'likely' significant effects is as follows:

*'...likely means readily foreseeable not merely a fanciful possibility; significant means not trivial or inconsequential but an effect that is potentially relevant to the site's conservation objectives'<sup>4</sup>.*

<sup>4</sup> Welsh Assembly Government Annex to Technical Advice Note 5: Nature conservation and planning. The Assessment of Development Plans in Wales Under the Provision of The Habitats Regulations' (October 2006).

3.4.2 In considering whether the plan is likely to have a significant effect on a European site, a precautionary approach must be adopted:

- The plan should be considered 'likely' to have such an effect if the plan making authority is unable (on the basis of objective information) to exclude the possibility 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' in this context if it could undermine the site's conservation objectives. The assessment of that risk must be made in the light of factors such as the characteristics and specific environmental conditions of the European site in question.

### Categorising Effects

3.4.3 All elements of the Local Plan Part Two, have been screened for likely significant effects on European sites and categorised in accordance with DTA Publications Limited The Habitats Regulations Assessment Handbook.

3.4.4 The effects associated with the Local Plan Part Two can be allocated into one of 12 categories according to the ways in which the option, policy or proposal could affect the European site. These are described in Table 3 below.

Table 3: Screening Assessment Categories

Category	Description
Category A:	<b>General statements of policy/general aspirations.</b> Policies which are no more than general statements of policy or general political aspirations should be screened out because they cannot have a significant effect on a site.
Category B:	<b>Policies listing general criteria for testing the acceptability/sustainability of proposals.</b> These general policies cannot have any effect on a European site and should be screened out.
Category C:	<b>Proposal referred to but not proposed by the plan.</b> Screen out any references to specific proposals for projects, such as those which are identified, for example, in higher policy frameworks such as the Wales Spatial Plan or National Policy Statements, relating perhaps to nationally significant infrastructure projects. These will be assessed by the Secretary of State or Welsh Ministers. A useful 'test' as to whether a project should be screened out in this step is to ask the question:  'Is the project provided for/proposed as part of another plan or programme and would it be likely to proceed under the other plan or programme irrespective of whether this subject plan is adopted with or without reference to it?'  If the answer is 'yes' it will normally be appropriate to screen the project out in this step.
Category D:	<b>General plan-wide environmental protection/site safeguarding/ threshold policies</b> <del>Environmental protection/site safeguarding policies</del> . These are policies, the obvious purpose of which is to protect the natural environment, including biodiversity, or to conserve or enhance the natural, built or historic environment, where enhancement measures will not be likely to have any adverse effect on a European Site. They can be screened out because the implementation of the policies is likely to protect rather than adversely affect European sites and not undermine their conservation objectives.
Category E:	<b>Policies or proposals that steer change in such a way as to protect European sites from adverse effects.</b> These types of policies or proposals will have the effect of steering change away from European sites whose qualifying features may be affected by the change and they can therefore be screened out.
Category F:	<b>Policies or proposals that cannot lead to development or other change.</b> Policies that do not themselves lead to development or other change, for example, because they relate to

Category	Description
	design or other qualitative criteria for development, such as materials for new development. They do not trigger any development or other changes that could affect a European site and can be screened out.
Category G:	<b>Policies or proposals that could not have any conceivable adverse effect on a site.</b> Policies which make provision for change, but which could have no conceivable effect on a European site, because there is no causal connection or link between them and the qualifying features of any European site, and can therefore be screened out.
Category H:	<b>Policies or proposals 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).</b> Policies or proposals which make provision for change, but which could have no significant effect on a European site, either alone or in combination with other aspects of the same plan, or in combination with other plans or projects, can be screened out. These may include cases where there are some potential effects which (and theoretically even in combination) would plainly be insignificant and could not undermine the conservation objectives.
Category I:	<b>Policies or proposals with a likely which may have a significant effect on a site alone.</b> Policies or proposals which are likely to have a significant effect on a European site alone, should be screened in.
Category J:	<b>Policies or proposals not likely to have a significant effect alone.</b> These aspects of the plan would have some effect on a site, but the effect would not be likely to be a significant effect; so they must be checked for in-combination (cumulative) effects. They will then be re-categorised as either Category K (no significant effect in combination) or Category L (likely to have a significant effect in-combination), as explained below.
Categories K and L:	<b>Policies or proposals not likely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination (K) or likely to have a significant effect in-combination (L) after the in-combination test.</b> Where an aspect of a plan could have some effect on the qualifying feature(s) or a European site, but the effects of that aspect of the plan alone would not be significant, the effects of that aspect of the plan will need to be checked in-combination firstly, with other effects of the same plan, and then with the effects of other plans and projects.  i.e. policies or proposals which will have no likely significant effect alone or in combination are classified as Category K. Policies or proposals which are likely to have a significant effect in combination are classified as Category L. Category L policies or proposals will require further consideration in terms of potential in combination effects. Firstly, this will be with regard to other aspects of the Plan itself, and subsequently with other separate plans or projects, for example neighbouring Local Plans.
Category M:	<b><u>Bespoke area, site or case specific policies or proposals intended to avoid or reduce harmful effects on European sites.</u></b>  <u>Policies or proposals which have been included in the plan with the intension of avoiding or reducing effects on specific European site(s) whose qualifying features may otherwise be affected by the plan being implemented.</u>

### 3.5 Potential Impact Pathways

- 3.5.1 During the HRA screening stage, the likely nature, magnitude, frequency, timing, duration, location and spatial extent of changes resulting from implementation of the Local Plan Part Two will be assessed. As a part of this, mechanisms through which the plan could impact upon European sites will be considered. Further details on the potential impact pathways are presented in Section 6.2
- 3.5.2 The main impact pathways could be:

- Direct habitat and species loss associated with European sites.
- Habitat degradation as a result of increased air pollution.
- Changes in water quality where sites are hydrologically linked to European sites.
- Loss of habitat functionally linked to a European site (i.e. used by overwintering or passage birds for foraging).
- Disturbance/displacement to species as a result of construction activities/ operational stage.
- Disturbance to habitats and species through increased recreational activity, during operational stage.

## 4 The European Sites

4.1.1 Sixteen European sites have been identified within the Lancaster District and within 20km of the district boundary. A list of the sites together with their status and location is presented in [Table 4Table 4](#), below. Figure 1, Appendix B also shows the locations of the European sites identified in [Table 4Table 4](#).

Table 4: Summary of European Sites

Name of Site	Identification Number	Status	Distance from district boundary (approximate km)
Morecambe Bay	UK11045	Ramsar site	Within the district boundary
Morecambe Bay and Duddon Estuary	UK9020326	SPA	Within the district boundary
Morecambe Bay	UK0013027	SAC	Within the district boundary
Bowland Fells	UK9005151	SPA	Within the district boundary
Morecambe Bay Pavements	UK0014777	SAC	Within the district boundary
Calf Hill and Cragg Woods	UK0030106	SAC	Within the district boundary
Leighton Moss	UK11035	Ramsar site	Within the district boundary
Leighton Moss	UK9005091	SPA	Within the district boundary
Ingleborough Complex	UK0012782	SAC	0.6km
Witherslack Mosses	UK0030302	SAC	3.7km
Roudsea Wood and Mosses	UK0019834	SAC	6.3km
North Pennine Dales Meadows	UK0014775	SAC	6.5km
Shell Flat and Lune Deep	UK0030376	cSAC	8.2km
River Kent	UK0030256	SAC	9.7km
Yewbarrow Woods	UK0030306	SAC	12.1km
Liverpool Bay SPA	UK9020294	SPA	12.2km

4.1.2 Appendix A provides further information regarding the European sites including current conditions, threats and the results of the April 2012 condition survey.

### 4.2 Conservation objectives of the European Sites

4.2.1 Under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 the appropriate statutory nature conservation body (in this case Natural England) has a duty to communicate the conservation objectives for a European site to the relevant/competent authority responsible for that site. The information provided must also include advice on any operations which may cause deterioration of the features for which the site is designated.

4.2.2 The conservation objectives for a European site are intended to represent the aims of the Habitats and Birds Directives in relation to that site. To this end, habitats and species of

European Community importance should be maintained or restored to 'favourable conservation status' (FCS), as defined in Article 1 of the Habitats Directive below:

The conservation status of a natural habitat will be taken as 'favourable' when:

- Its natural range and the area it covers within that range are stable or increasing;
- The specific structure and functions which are necessary for its long-term maintenance exist and are likely to continue to exist for the foreseeable future;
- Conservation status of typical species is favourable as defined in Article 1(i).

4.2.3 The conservation status of a species will be taken as favourable when:

- Population dynamics data on the species concerned indicate that it is maintaining itself on a long-term basis as a viable component of its natural habitats;
- The natural range of the species is neither being reduced nor is likely to be reduced for the foreseeable future;
- There is, and will probably continue to be, a sufficiently large habitat to maintain its populations on a long-term basis.

4.2.4 Guidance from the European Commission<sup>5</sup> indicates that the Habitats Directive intends FCS to be applied at the level of an individual site, as well as to habitats and species across their European range. Therefore, in order to properly express the aims of the Habitats Directive for an individual site, the conservation objectives for a site are essentially to maintain (or restore) the habitats and species of the site at (or to) FCS.

4.2.5 Conservation Objectives for the Morecambe Bay SAC and Ramsar site, Morecambe Bay Pavements SAC, Leighton Moss SPA, Calf Hill and Cragg Woods SAC and Bowland Fells SPA were obtained from Natural England's website<sup>6</sup>. They are summarised in Appendix 1. There is currently no Supplementary Advice documentation associated with Morecambe Bay and Duddon Estuary SPA and therefore the overarching Conservation Objectives will be used. . Conservation Objectives for all other sites can be found on Natural England's website at:

<http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/conservation/designations/sac/northwest.aspx>

<sup>5</sup> Managing Natura 2000 sites: the provisions of Article 6 of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC. (European Commission 2000)

<sup>6</sup> <http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/conservation/designatedareas/sac/northwest.aspx>



## 5 Screening

### 5.1 Context

- 5.1.1 The Local Plan Part Two includes policies which will assist with determining future planning applications. The plan provides detailed policy guidance on a range of planning matters including environmental, social and economic issues. The Local Plan Part Two is of key importance in the determination of planning applications. The Local Plan Part Two is applicable to the whole of the Lancaster district and all types of development.

### 5.2 Screening Approach taken for the Local Plan Part Two

- 5.2.1 The screening process has been split into two distinct stages, initial screening and detailed screening.
- 5.2.2 The initial screening stage has provided a high-level screening assessment to determine if the Local Plan Part Two could possibly lead to significant adverse effects on European sites identified in Section 4. The purpose of this was to eliminate those policies and sites from the assessment which very clearly would not affect European sites in order to focus on those policies and sites where there was potential for effects or uncertainty about potential effects.
- 5.2.3 When identifying the elements of the Local Plan Part Two that could potentially affect European sites, it was important to focus upon those elements that would have the greatest likelihood of impacting the sites. Therefore, the definition of significance identified in Section 3.2 was very important for the detailed screening.
- 5.2.4 The Local Plan is intended to be read as a single document rather than a series of separate policies and has been assessed as such. Proposals in one area of the Local Plan may mitigate potentially damaging activities promoted in another area and should be understood in the wider context of the Plan's aims and purposes.
- 5.2.5 The sections below outline the initial and detailed screening of the Local Plan Part Two.

### 5.3 Initial Screening of the Local Plan Part Two Policies

- 5.3.1 An initial Screening exercise has been undertaken to determine if there are any European sites, or policies/allocation sites within the Local Plan Part Two which can be scoped out of the detailed assessment. The initial Screening is shown in Table 5. The notations below were used to indicate if further detailed assessment screening is required:

✓ Further detailed screening is required to determine the nature of effects on the European site.

✗ No further screening is required as no effects are predicted on the European site.

#### European sites

- 5.3.2 European sites screened out in the initial screening comprised those European sites where there was no clear link, or conceivable impact pathway between the European sites and the policies set out within the Local Plan Part Two.
- 5.3.3 For those European sites with the potential for LSE, as a result of implementation of the Local Plan Part Two, or those European sites for which impacts were uncertain, were carried forward into the more detailed screening assessment.

#### Policies

- 5.3.4 Policies screened out in the initial screening were generally those that could not lead to 'direct development', or could have no impact pathway to any of the European sites identified. This included policies which directly seek to protect the local historic and natural environment, or those which support the implement other policies and therefore could not directly affect European sites. All of the policies screened out of the detailed assessment are not directly linked to allocation sites. Allocation sites are dealt with separately within the HRA Report for Local Plan Part One.

Table 5: Initial Screening of the Local Plan Part Two: DM DPD

Development Management Policies (Further assessment required: ✖/✓)																
European sites	Chapter														Comments	
	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18		
Morecambe Bay and Duddon Estuary SPA	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	✗	Further assessment is required to determine whether policies within Chapters 5, 6, 8, 13, 14 and 16 would lead to likely significant effects on the Morecambe Bay SAC/ Ramsar site or the Morecambe Bay and Duddon Estuary SPA due to the nature of development the policies are likely to lead to i.e. retail, leisure, employment, energy, transport and housing development.	
Morecambe Bay Ramsar site	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	✗		Policies within Chapters 12 directly seek to protect the local environment. Policy <a href="#">DM43DM44</a> (within Chapter 12) includes specific reference to Development affecting Internationally Designated sites. This policy ensures proposals which may have implications on Natura 2000 sites are accompanied by a project-specific HRA which sets out potential effects that may arise from a specific development and where necessary includes appropriate mitigation measures. Therefore, the policies within Chapter 12 are not considered further in this assessment as they would ensure no likely significant effect on European sites.
Morecambe Bay SAC	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	✗		
Bowland Fells SPA	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	Although this SPA is located within the east of the district, it is unlikely that any elements of the Local Plan Part Two would lead to any likely significant effects on the SPA. Whilst Policy DM6: Housing Provision in the Forest of Bowland AONB could lead to development within the SPA, there are no sites allocated within Part One of the Local Plan within the Bowland Fells SPA. The closest allocations are more than 3 km away, with the majority of allocations located to the west of the M6 corridor.	
															In relation to recreational pressure, the majority of development within the Lancaster District is concentrated to the west of the M6 corridor, more than 3 km away from the edge of the SPA. Only three of the residential allocations within the Local Plan are within 3.5 km of the SPA comprising a total of 457 new homes. These developments are all within 500 m of Williamson Park, on the edge of Lancaster which provides a large area of public open space and an alternative to the more distant SPA., therefore, there would be no likely significant effect on Bowland Fells as a result of increased recreational pressure. In addition, the Site Improvement Plan for Bowland Fells does not include recreational pressure as a potential pressure/threat.	
															Potential effects on this European site can be <b>screened out</b> .	
Calf Hill and Cragg Woods SAC	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	Although this SAC is within the boundary of the Lancaster District, it is unlikely that any elements of the Local Plan Part Two would lead to any likely significant effects on the SAC due to its qualifying habitats (old sessile oak woods and alluvial forests) and distance from the nearest allocation sites.	
															There are no allocations within the SAC. The closest allocations are 4 km away, with the majority of allocations located to the west of the M6 corridor. Potential impacts associated with direct habitat loss can therefore be ruled out.	
															All allocations within the Local Plan Part One are located downstream of the SAC. The Site Improvement Plan for the SAC does not include water quality as a potential pressure/threat. Potential impacts associated with hydrological change can also be ruled out.	
															Given the distance from the nearest allocations (4 km), potential impacts associated with recreational pressure are considered unlikely. The Site Improvement Plan for the SAC does not include public access as a potential pressure/threat. Potential impacts associated with recreational pressure at this SAC have been ruled out.	
															The Site Improvement Plan for the SAC lists air pollution as the only potential pressure/threat to the site. However, the plan also clarifies that: 'the sensitive features are currently considered to be in favourable condition on the site. Past knowledge of the site over the past 20 years has not produced any evidence of adverse nitrogen impact.' Given that all allocations are more than 4 km away, potential impacts associated with atmospheric nitrogen deposition during the construction phase can be ruled out. In addition,- compliance with Policy DM31 would ensure that any new development does not have a detrimental impact on air quality. Therefore, potential impacts associated with air pollution can be ruled out.	
															Potential effects on this European site can be <b>screened out</b> .	
Morecambe Bay Pavements SAC	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	This SAC is located at the northern edge of the district boundary and comprises a number of compartments. Four of the compartments are within the district boundary, with the remaining seven to the north of the boundary. It is unlikely that any elements of the Local Plan Part Two would lead to any likely significant effects on the SAC due to its qualifying habitats (woodland, heathland and calcareous grassland) and distance from the nearest allocation sites.	
															There are no allocations within the SAC. The closest allocations (around Carnforth) are more than 3 km away from the closest SAC compartment (Cringlebarrow Wood) with all of the other SAC designated compartments over 4.5 km away from the allocations. The majority of allocations are more than 10 km away, south of Carnforth. Potential impacts associated with direct habitat loss can therefore be ruled out.	
															There are 13 potential pressures/threats which have been identified for this European site within the Site Improvement Plan for Morecambe Bay Pavements SAC. The only potential pressures/threats relevant to this assessment would comprise: public access/disturbance, air pollution, and water pollution. Given that all allocations are more than 3 km away, potential impacts associated with atmospheric nitrogen deposition during the construction phase can be ruled out. In addition, as stated above, compliance with Policy DM31 would ensure that any new development does not have a detrimental impact on air quality.	
															Potential effects on this European site can be <b>screened out</b> .	

Development Management Policies (Further assessment required: ✖/✓)																	
European sites	Chapter														Comments		
	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18			
Leighton Moss SPA	✖	✖	✖	✖	✖	✖	✖	✖	✖	✖	✖	✖	✖	✖	<p>Although this SPA/Ramsar site is located at the northern edge of the district boundary, it is unlikely that any elements of the Local Plan Part Two would lead to any likely significant effects on the SPA/ Ramsar site.</p> <p>There are no allocations within the SPA/Ramsar site. The closest allocations are more than 3 km away, however, the majority of allocations are more than 10 km away south of Carnforth in and around Lancaster itself. Potential impacts associated with direct habitat loss can therefore be ruled out.</p> <p>The qualifying features of the SPA/Ramsar site comprise bittern, marsh harrier and bearded tit. None of these species would not be expected to utilise habitats which would be affected by the Local Plan (i.e. land in close proximity to existing development/roads) during the breeding season and therefore no effects on these qualifying features (in terms of loss of functionally linked land) are anticipated. The Site Improvement Plan for Leighton Moss does not include loss of functionally linked land as a potential pressure/ threat to the SPA/Ramsar site</p> <p>Given that all allocations are more than 3 km away, potential impacts associated with atmospheric nitrogen deposition during the construction phase can also be ruled out. In addition, as stated above, Policy DM31 would ensure that any new development does not have a detrimental impact on air quality. The Site Improvement Plan for the SPA/Ramsar site does not include air pollution as a potential pressure/threat. Potential impacts associated with air pollution can be ruled out.</p> <p>There are five potential pressures/threats which have been identified for this European site within the Site Improvement Plan for Leighton Moss. The only potential pressure/threat relevant to this assessment would comprise water pollution. However, none of the allocations are hydrologically linked to Leighton Moss within the closest allocations being more than 3 km away. Potential impacts associated with water quality can be ruled out.</p> <p>Although there is the potential for an increase in visitor numbers to the SPA/Ramsar site, given that the site is managed by the RSPB (and is a visitor attraction in its own right and visitor numbers are closely monitored to prevent adverse effects on the SPA/Ramsar site), it is unlikely that an increased in visitor pressure would adversely affect Leighton Moss SPA/Ramsar site. The Ramsar site citation states that: 'Visitor usage and visitor numbers are monitored on a daily basis at this extremely popular and well visited RSPB bird reserve'. The Site Improvement Plan for Leighton Moss does not include recreational pressure as a potential pressure/ threat to the SPA/Ramsar site. Potential impacts associated with recreational pressure at this European site have therefore been ruled out.</p> <p>Potential effects on this European site can be <b>screened out</b>.</p>		
Leighton Moss Ramsar site	✖	✖	✖	✖	✖	✖	✖	✖	✖	✖	✖	✖	✖	✖			
Ingleborough Complex SAC	✖	✖	✖	✖	✖	✖	✖	✖	✖	✖	✖	✖	✖	✖			
Witherslack Mosses SAC	✖	✖	✖	✖	✖	✖	✖	✖	✖	✖	✖	✖	✖	✖			
Roudsea Wood and Mosses SAC	✖	✖	✖	✖	✖	✖	✖	✖	✖	✖	✖	✖	✖	✖			

Development Management Policies (Further assessment required: ✖/✓)																
European sites	Chapter														Comments	
	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18		
North Pennine Dales Meadows SAC	✖	✖	✖	✖	✖	✖	✖	✖	✖	✖	✖	✖	✖	✖	<p>This SAC is approximately 6.5km from the Lancaster District boundary. The qualifying features comprise mountain hay meadows and <i>molinia</i> meadows on calcareous, peaty / clayey-silt-laden soils. There are 14 potential pressures/threats which have been identified for this European site within the Site Improvement Plan for North Pennine Dales Meadows SAC. The only potential pressure/threat relevant to this assessment would comprise hydrological change and air pollution. Given that all allocations are more than 11.5 km away, potential impacts associated with atmospheric nitrogen deposition during the construction phase can be ruled out. In addition, as stated above, Policy DM31 would ensure that any new development does not have a detrimental impact on air quality. Therefore, potential impacts associated with air pollution can be ruled out. All allocations within the Local Plan are located downstream of the SAC, potential impacts associated with hydrological change can also be ruled out.</p> <p>Potential effects on this European site can be <b>screened out</b>.</p>	
River Kent SAC	✖	✖	✖	✖	✖	✖	✖	✖	✖	✖	✖	✖	✖	✖	<p>This SAC is located approximately 9.7km north of the district boundary. The qualifying features comprise water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculion fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitricho-Batrachion</i> vegetation, White-clawed (or Atlantic stream) crayfish <i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i>, Freshwater pearl mussel <i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i> and Bullhead <i>Cottus gobio</i>.</p> <p>There are seven potential pressures/threats which have been identified for this European site within the Site Improvement Plan for River Kent SAC. The only potential pressure/threat relevant to this assessment would comprise water pollution. None of the allocations within the Local Plan are hydrologically linked to the European site, therefore potential impacts associated with water pollution can be ruled out.</p> <p>Potential effects on this European site can be <b>screened out</b>.</p>	
Yewbarrow Woods SAC	✖	✖	✖	✖	✖	✖	✖	✖	✖	✖	✖	✖	✖	✖	<p>Yewbarrow Woods SAC is located approximately 12.1km north west of the district boundary. The qualifying interests include <i>Juniperus communis</i> formations on heaths / calcareous grasslands and old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i>.</p> <p>None of the five potential pressures/ threats identified in the Site Improvement Plan for the site would be relevant to this assessment.</p> <p>Potential effects on this European site can be <b>screened out</b>.</p>	
Shell Flat and Lune Deep cSAC	✖	✖	✖	✖	✖	✖	✖	✖	✖	✖	✖	✖	✖	✖	✖	<p>Liverpool Bay SPA is 12.2km and Shell Flat and Lune Deep cSAC is 8.2km from the Local Plan boundary. No likely significant effects are predicted on these two European marine sites.</p>
Liverpool Bay SPA	✖	✖	✖	✖	✖	✖	✖	✖	✖	✖	✖	✖	✖	✖		<p>The qualifying features of Shell Flat and Lune Deep cSAC comprise sandbanks and reefs. The qualifying features of Liverpool Bay SPA comprise red-throated diver and common scoter. None of the six potential pressures/ threats identified in the Site Improvement Plan for the combined Liverpool Bay and Shell Flat and Lune Deep sites would be relevant to this assessment.</p> <p>Potential effects on these European sites can be <b>screened out</b>.</p>

### Initial Screening of European Sites

5.3.5 Table 5, above, provides the initial Screening of the European sites. Sixteen European sites have been identified within, and up to 20 km from the Lancaster district boundary. Of these, 13 can be ruled out completely on the basis that there are no potential impact pathways which are likely to give rise to likely significant effects on these sites:

- North Pennine Dales Meadows SAC
- Witherslack Mosses SAC
- Yewbarrow Woods SAC
- Roudsea Wood and Mosses SAC
- Ingledistrict Complex SAC
- River Kent SAC
- Shell Flat and Lune Deep cSAC
- Liverpool Bay SPA
- Bowland Fells SPA
- Morecambe Bay Pavements SAC
- Calf Hill and Cragg Woods SAC
- Leighton Moss SPA
- Leighton Moss Ramsar site

5.3.6 For the remaining three European sites, likely significant effects cannot be ruled out at this stage. The sites that will be taken through into the detailed screening assessment comprise the following:

- Morecambe Bay and Duddon Estuary SPA
- Morecambe Bay Ramsar site
- Morecambe Bay SAC

### Initial Screening of Policies within the Local Plan Part Two

5.3.7 In addition to Screening out 13 of the European sites, policies contained within Chapters 7, 9, 10, 11, 12, 15, 17 and 18 in the Local Plan Part Two can also be screened out from further assessment. This is on the basis that no identifiable impact pathway exists linking the policies with the European sites and/or because there will be no foreseeable adverse impact on designated sites through policy implementation.

5.3.8 Several policies under each of the remaining Chapters have also been screened out of further assessment. Table 6, below, provides a justification for the policies that have been screened out of further assessment. Table 6 also includes the HRA assessment category in accordance with DTA Publications Limited, The Habitats Regulations Assessment Handbook.

5.3.9 The remaining policies have been carried forward into the more detailed screening assessment (refer to Section 5.4, below).

Table 6: Policies Screened Out of Further Assessment

Policy	Justification	Assessment Category
Chapter 5: Housing		
DM6: Housing Provision in the Forest of Bowland AONB	<p>This policy relates to construction of new housing within the boundary of the Forest of Bowland AONB, part of which is also designated as the Bowland Fells SPA.</p> <p>Although there is the potential to impact on Bowland Fells SPA as a result of this policy, there are no sites allocated within Local Plan Part One that are within the SPA boundary.</p> <p>The policy states that '<u><i>In determining whether a proposed development constitutes major development the Council will consider whether by reason of its scale, form, character and of nature, the proposal has the potential to have significant adverse impact on the natural beauty of the AONB, in determining whether a proposed development constitutes major development the Council will consider whether by reason of its scale, character of nature, the proposal has the potential to have significant adverse impact on the natural beauty of the AONB.</i></u></p> <p>As the allocations within the AONB are over 3 km from the Bowland Fells SPA, implementation of this policy will not affect European sites.</p>	H
DM7: Purpose Built Accommodation for Students DM8: Accommodation for Older People and Vulnerable Communities DM13: Residential Conversions	<p>Housing requirements for students (DM7) and vulnerable communities (DM8) would require good access to shops, public transport, and medical facilities etc., therefore would be located within or close to urban settings. DM13 focuses on residential conversions of existing buildings within urban settings and rural settlements (rural conversions are dealt with by Policy DM4<del>89</del> which has been screened in to the detailed assessment). As all of these policies relate to housing development or redevelopment within an urban setting, there is no impact pathway from the implementation of these policies to the European sites.</p>	H
DM2: Housing Standards	<p>This policy aims to ensure that the houses built meet standards (National Space Standards and Building Regulation M4 (2)). Implementation of this policy will not affect European sites.</p>	G
DM9: Accommodation for Gypsies <del>iesy</del> and Travellers, and Travelling Showpeople	<p>Policy DM9 relates to accommodation for gypsies, travellers and travelling show people. The policy states that sites will be supported where they '<u><i>Preference will be given to new sites within the urban area of Lancaster, Morecambe, Heysham or Carnforth. However, sites in other Sustainable Settlements in accordance with the Settlement Hierarchy set out in Policy SP2 of the Strategic Policies &amp; Land Allocations DPD will be considered where it can be demonstrated that appropriate sites cannot be provided within the specified urban areas and that the proposal would neither dominate nor be disproportionate to the scale of the existing community are located within the urban area of Lancaster, Morecambe, Heysham or</i></u></p>	H

Policy	Justification	Assessment Category
	<p><i>Carnforth. Sites in other locations will only be considered if it can be demonstrated that appropriate sites cannot be provided within the specified urban areas.</i></p> <p>New sites are also required to be within walking distance of public transport provision, therefore, will be located near urban areas and, as such, are unlikely to have an impact on European sites.</p>	
DM11: Residential Moorings on Lancaster Canal	This policy relates to providing additional residential moorings on the Lancaster Canal to meet the growing need. Implementation of this policy is considered to have no likely significant effects on European sites.	H
Chapter 7: Town Centres and Retailing		
DM16: Town Centre Development	This policy deals with development within town centres. There is no impact pathway from the implementation of this policy to the European sites.	G
DM17: Retail Frontages DM18: Local Centres DM20: Hot Food Takeaways and Betting Shops DM21: Advertisements and Shopfronts	<p>Policies DM17, DM18 and DM20 relate to retail, food outlets, new betting shop development and use of advertisements and design of shop fronts (DM21) in urban settings. None of these policies would have impacts on European sites.</p> <p>Policy DM18 relates to change of use of existing businesses within District, Local and Neighbourhood Centres. There are no impact pathways from the implementation of this policy to European sites.</p>	F
DM19: Retail Development outside Defined Centres	This policy only refers to existing spaces less than 150sqm located in an urban setting, anything larger would be directed toward a defined town or local centre. There are no impact pathways from the implementation of this policy to European sites, as development is of existing properties is focused in urban locations.	G
Chapter 8: Leisure and Culture		
DM24: The Creation and Protection of Cultural Assets	Policy DM24 relates to heritage assets. The implementation of this policy 'will have due regard to all relevant policies within the Local Plan', and as such, they are considered to have no adverse impacts on European sites.	G
DM25: The Evening and Night-Time Economy	Implementation of policy DM25 would lead to new development within existing urban areas. The policy states that <u>development will not be permitted unless 'there will be no significant individual or cumulative effect on the surrounding character of the area and residential amenity; and Arrangements for mitigating pollution including odour and noise, are provided in a way that minimises visual and environmental impact; there will be no significant individual or cumulative effect on the surrounding amenity and character of the area due to noise, litter, odour, traffic</u>	H



Policy	Justification	Assessment Category
	<i>generation, highway safety, parking, general disturbance or problems of disorder and nuisance</i> .  There is no impact pathway from the implementation of this policy to the European sites.	
DM26: Public Realm and Civic Space	This policy relates to development within urban sites only. There is no impact pathway from the implementation of this policy to the European sites.	G
DM27: Open Space, Sports and Recreational Facilities	This policy protects current open space and recreational facilities from development. This policy protects European sites through the following phrasing: ' <i>Development proposals that are adjacent to designated open spaces, sports and recreational facilities will be required to incorporate design measures that ensure that there are no negative impacts on amenity, landscape value, ecological value and functionality of the space. Development proposals which are within the vicinity of designated open spaces will be required to incorporate design measures that ensure that there are no negative impacts on amenity, ecological value and functionality of the space.</i> '	D
Chapter 9: Education and Skills		
DM28: Employment and Skills Plans	This policy relates to developers using the local work force and upskilling local people. Implementation of this policy would not lead to any impacts on European sites.	F
Chapter 10: The Design of Development		
DM29: Key Design Principles DM30: Sustainable Design DM32: Contaminated Land DM33: Development and Flood Risk DM34: Surface Water Run-Off and Sustainable Drainage DM35: Water Supply and Waste Water DM36: Protecting Water Resources and Infrastructure	These policies are all associated with the design of new developments. These are statements of intent and aspirations. The implementation of these policies is not expected to have any implications on European sites and potentially some beneficial effects through, for example, the careful design of Sustainable Drainage (DM34).	A
DM31: Air Quality Management and Pollution	This policy focuses on environmental safeguarding to reduce air pollution, and includes specific reference to the protection of designated sites. This policy is considered to have no adverse impacts on European sites.	D
Chapter 11: The Historic Environment		
DM37: Development affecting Listed Buildings	These policies relate to heritage assets. The implementation of these policies ' <i>will have due regard to all relevant policies within the Local Plan</i> ', and as such, they	D



Policy	Justification	Assessment Category
DM38: Development affecting Conservation Areas	are considered to have no adverse impacts on European sites.	
DM39: The Setting of Designated Heritage Assets		
<a href="#">DM40: Registered Parks and Gardens</a>		
DM410: Development Affecting Non-Designated Heritage Assets or their Settings		
DM424: Archaeology		
Chapter 12: The Natural Environment		
DM432: Green Infrastructure	These policies are designed to protect, and enhance (where possible) the natural environment.  Policy <a href="#">DM43DM44</a> , specifically focuses on protecting designated sites. The policy states that ' <i>Development proposals affecting directly or indirectly an international designated site's qualifying habitat and/or species are subject to the requirements of The Conservation and Habitats and Species Regulations 2017. In accordance with the above regulations where a proposal has implications for international designated sites, the proposal will be expected to be accompanied by a Habitats Regulation Assessment.</i> '  The implementation of these policies is considered to have no adverse impacts and potentially some beneficial effects on the European sites.	D
<a href="#">DM43DM44</a> : The Protection and Enhancement of Biodiversity		
DM454: Protection of Trees, Hedgerows and Woodland		
DM465: Development and Landscape Impact		
Chapter 13: Development in rural areas		
DM5049: Development in the Green Belt	This policy is designed to ' <i>manage development in the Green Belt to avoid inappropriate development, consistent with paragraph 87 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)</i> '. This policy is considered to have no adverse impacts, and potentially some beneficial effects on European sites (i.e. by protecting land in the green belt which could be <a href="#">functionally-linked</a> <a href="#">functionally linked</a> to a European site).	E
DM512: Holiday Caravans, Chalets, Camping Pods and Log Cabins	Policy DM524 states that ' <i>Within the Forest of Bowland Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), or within its setting, proposals for new static or touring caravan development will not be permitted where it is concluded that such proposals will have an adverse impact on conserving the landscape and natural beauty of the AONB</i> '. And where the ' <i>proposal does not have an adverse impact on biodiversity and where appropriate seeks to raise the environmental value of the locality</i> '  The Council are not encouraging the development of new caravan sites, or expansions of existing sites within sensitive locations (particularly within the AONBs). Outside of AONBs, the council will support applications in	H

Policy	Justification	Assessment Category
	<p>appropriate and sustainable locations. Implementation of this policy is unlikely to have adverse impacts on European sites.</p> <p>Furthermore, mitigation measures to help reduce recreational pressure on Morecambe Bay, set out within Section 9 of the HRA Report for the Local Plan Part One, would also help towards minimising potential impacts on European sites within the district.</p>	
Chapter 14: Energy Generation		
DM543: Upgrades to the National Grid	<p>This policy states that '<i>The majority of upgrades to National Grid assets within Lancaster District are likely to be considered as Nationally Strategic Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs). In the case of NSIPs, decisions will be taken by the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change and not the Local Planning Authority.</i></p> <p>Projects which are identified in higher policy frameworks such as the National Policy Framework, do not need to be considered in this assessment.</p>	C
Chapter 15: Sustainable Communities		
DM554: Neighbourhood Planning DM565: Protection of Local Services and Community Facilities DM576: Health and Well-being	<p>These policies set out aspirations for community planning and do not directly link to development. Neighbourhood Plans will also be subject to their own HRA prior to adoption.</p> <p>The implementation of these policies is not expected to have any implications on European sites.</p>	A
Chapter 16: Infrastructure delivery		
DM587: Infrastructure Funding and Delivery	This policy details how development will be funded. The implementation of this policy will not have any implications on European sites.	A
Chapter 17: Transport, Accessibility and Connectivity		
DM6059: Enhancing Accessibility and Transport Linkages	<p>This policy provides details of how new development should minimise the need to travel, and increase the opportunity to access development by walking, cycling or public transport.</p> <p>The implementation of this policy will not have any implications on European sites.</p>	A
DM619: Walking and Cycling	This policy aims to ensure that development proposals maintain and enhance walking and cycling linkages. This policy relates to promoting and enhancing existing walking and cycling routes, and as such implementation of this policy is unlikely to have adverse impacts on European sites.	H
DM624: Vehicle Parking Provision	This policy provides details of how to ensure that development proposals provide suitable car parking	A

Policy	Justification	Assessment Category
	provision within the plans. This policy is statement of intent and would not have any implications on European sites.	
DM632: Transport Efficiency and Travel Plans	<p>This policy sets out how new developments ensure that they contribute toward improving the transport network. Alternative forms of travel, to the private car, are encouraged. Any proposal that will generate high visitor numbers will be required to undertake a Transport Assessment.</p> <p>The policy states that '<i>proposals should not give rise to traffic volumes which exceed the capacity of the local road network without mitigation measures being agreed, nor cause harm to the character of the surrounding area</i>'</p> <p>The implementation of this policy will not have any implications on European sites.</p>	A
DM643: Lancaster District Highways and Transport Masterplan	This policy relates to how key issues in the Lancaster District Transport and Highways Masterplan will be addressed by future schemes. The policy itself will not lead to development, as such, the implementation of this policy will not have any implications on European sites.	A
Chapter 18: Planning Enforcement		
DM654: The Enforcement of Planning Controls	These policies set out how the planning system will be enforced. The implementation of this policy will not have any implications on European sites.	F
DM665: Enforcement Action against Untidy Sites & Buildings		

5.3.10 The remaining policies within the Local Plan Part Two have been screened in to the detailed assessment, these are listed in Table 7, below. The Table also includes the HRA assessment category in accordance with DTA Publications Limited, The Habitats Regulations Assessment Handbook.

Table 7: Policies Screened in to the Detailed Assessment

Policy	Assessment Category
Chapter 5: Housing	
DM1: New Residential Development and Meeting Housing Needs	I/J
DM3: The Delivery of Affordable Housing	
DM4: Residential Development outside Main Urban Areas	
DM5: Rural Exception Sites	
DM10: Accommodation for <a href="#">Agricultural and Forestry</a> Rural Workers	
DM12: Self Build, Custom Build and Community led Housing	
Chapter 6: Employment and Economic Growth	
DM14: Proposals Involving Employment Land and Premises	I/J
DM15: Small Business Generation	

#### Chapter 8: Leisure and Culture

DM22: Leisure Facilities and Attractions	I/J
DM23: Visitor Accommodation	

#### Chapter 13: Development in Rural Areas

DM476: Economic Development in Rural Areas	I/J
DM487: Diversification of Agricultural Premises	
DM498: The Re-Use and Conversion of Rural Buildings	
DM510: Equine Related Development	

#### Chapter 14: Energy Generation

DM532: Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Generation	I/J
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#### Chapter 16: Infrastructure Delivery

DM589: Telecommunications and Broadband Improvements	I/J
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## 6 Detailed Screening of the Local Plan Part Two

### 6.1 Overview

- 6.1.1 The detailed screening of the Local Plan Part Two policies in relation to the European sites is presented in Table 8 and is based on the findings of the initial screening exercise.
- 6.1.2 The detailed screening of the Local Plan Part Two policies contains details of the potential impacts upon the European sites potentially affected, and whether further Appropriate Assessment would be required. Each policy also included a categorisation of the potential effects in line with current guidance<sup>7</sup>. The detailed screening also takes into consideration consultation with NE.

### 6.2 Potential Impact pathways

- 6.2.1 The following potential impacts have been considered in the detailed screening assessment. They were identified through a review of the current pressures/threats to the European sites considered in this assessment (which comprise Morecambe Bay Ramsar site/SAC and Morecambe Bay and the Duddon Estuary SPA, refer to paragraphs 5.3.7 and 5.3.8):
- Direct habitat and species loss associated with European sites.
  - Habitat degradation as a result of increased air pollution.
  - Changes in water quality where sites are hydrologically linked to European sites.
  - Loss of habitat functionally linked to a European site (i.e. used by overwintering or passage birds for foraging).
  - Disturbance/displacement to habitats and species through increased recreational activity, during operational stage.
  - Disturbance to species as a result of construction activities/ operational stage.
- 6.2.2 Each potential impact pathway is described in more detail below. The description includes an explanation as to why each of the potential impact pathways has been screened in or out of the detailed assessment. The potential impact pathways carried through into the detailed screening assessment comprise the following:

<sup>7</sup> DTA Publications Limited (June 2006) The Habitats Regulations Assessment Handbook.

- Loss of habitat functionally linked to a European (i.e. used by overwintering birds for foraging).
- Disturbance to habitats and species through increased recreational activity, during operational stage.
- Disturbance to species as a result of construction activities/operational stage.

#### Direct habitat and species loss associated with European sites

6.2.3 Construction work could result in the direct destruction of habitats, leading to a net loss in the extent of habitat area. Morecambe Bay SAC/Ramsar site and Morecambe Bay and Duddon Estuary SPA are located along the western coast of the Local Plan area. None of the policies within Local Plan Part Two would lead to the direct loss of habitat within any of these designated sites (there are no sites allocated within the Local Plan Part One within any of these European sites). There would be no direct habitat loss as a result of implementation of the policies within Local Plan Part Two.

6.2.4 This potential impact pathway has been **screened out** of the detailed screening assessment.

#### Habitat degradation as a result of increased air pollution

6.2.5 Changes in air quality from increased traffic and development could have impacts on European sites. Changes in air quality due to increased nitrogen deposition could occur as a result of the following:

- Construction activities in the vicinity of European sites.
- Increased population and road traffic may increase nitrogen deposition on sensitive habitats.

6.2.6 The Site Improvement Plan for Morecambe Bay<sup>8</sup> also identified the risk of atmospheric nitrogen deposition as a potential pressure/threat to the European sites. The plan states that:

*'Nitrogen deposition exceeds the site-relevant critical load for ecosystem protection and hence there is a risk of harmful effects, but the sensitive features are currently considered to be in favourable condition on the site.'*

6.2.7 The policies included within the Local Plan Part Two set criteria for future development within the district, and as such would not lead directly to changes in air quality as a result of policy implementation. Potential changes in air quality as a result of new development is discussed in detail within the Local Plan Part One HRA Report (Section 6.2).

6.2.8 All new developments would be required produce a Construction Environmental Management Plan as part of the planning process, which ensures any environmental impacts are avoided or minimised during construction. This would be in addition to according with relevant legislation ensuring any emissions meet appropriate guidelines and complying with all relevant policies within the Local Plan Part One and Part Two. This includes Policy DM31 within the Local Plan Part Two which states that:

*'Any proposal must not worsen any emissions or air pollutants in areas that could result in a breach of, or worsen site-level critical loads for ecosystems within relevant Internationally designated nature conservation sites during both construction and operational phases. Air Quality Assessments must be submitted for relevant development proposals, as outlined in the Council's Validation Guide. All development proposals must seek to minimise the associated emission of harmful air pollutants during operational phases. They must avoid causing or worsening a breach of an air quality objective level or limit value, or exposing those who use and occupy the site to unacceptable adverse exposure. They must also avoid worsening any emissions of air pollutants in areas that could result in a breach of, or worsen site-level critical loads for ecosystems within relevant European designated nature conservation sites during both construction and operational phases.'*

and Policy EN914 within the Local Plan Part One that relates to the three Air Quality Management Areas within the district (Central Carnforth, Central Lancaster and Galgate) and which states that:

*'Developments located within or adjacent to AQMAs will be expected to ensure that they do not contribute to increasing levels of air pollutants within the locality'.*

<sup>8</sup> Natural England. Site Improvement Plan Morecambe Bay (including Morecambe Bay and Duddon Estuary SPA/Ramsar site and SAC).

- 6.2.9 Given that no development would be consented without complying with strict air quality legislation and relevant policy within the Local Plan Parts One and Two, this potential impact has been **screened out** of the detailed screening assessment.

#### **Changes in water quality where sites are hydrologically linked to European sites**

- 6.2.10 Changes in water quality as a result of new development could have impacts on European sites. For example, increased risk of potential pollution incidents, and potential increases in suspended sediments resulting in ecological effects, such as the direct loss of habitats caused by re-deposition of suspended sediment, and the consequential health or mortality effects on prey species, particularly invertebrates associated with the intertidal mudflats.
- 6.2.11 The Site Improvement Plan for Morecambe Bay<sup>9</sup> identified that:
- 'Diffuse pollution and/or uncontrolled release of pollutants from terrestrial sources could alter or damage the habitats and species found within the estuary.'*
- 6.2.12 There are no policies within the Local Plan Part Two which would lead to significant changes in water quality as a result of policy implementation. Policy DM34 ensures that all new developments consider the implications of the proposals on surface water and implement appropriate mitigation as necessary to deal with such issues, including measures such as Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) and other surface water drainage solutions.
- 6.2.13 Water quality issues associated with sites allocated within the Local Plan Part One are discussed within the Local Plan Part One HRA (Sections 6.2 and Section 10).
- 6.2.14 Given that no development would be consented without complying with strict water quality legislation and relevant policy within the Local Plan Parts One and Two, this potential impact has been **screened out** of the detailed screening assessment.

#### **Loss of habitat functionally-linked to a European site (i.e. used by overwintering or passage birds for foraging)**

- 6.2.15 Functionally-linked land is considered to be any land outside of a European site, which is regularly used by significant numbers of birds that are qualifying interest features of that European site.
- 6.2.16 In relation to this HRA Report, this includes land (comprising farmland, or other wetland habitat and brown field sites) used by qualifying bird species associated with Morecambe Bay and Duddon Estuary SPA during the winter and on passage for foraging or roosting, such as pink-footed geese.
- 6.2.17 A number of policies related to development could lead to loss of functionally-linked land. A number of the allocation sites within the Local Plan Part One are also located within, or adjacent to land which could potentially constitute functionally-linked land. This impact pathway will therefore be considered in the detailed screening assessment.

#### **Disturbance/displacement to species as a result of construction activities/ operational stage**

- 6.2.18 There is the potential to disturb qualifying species within European sites, in particular birds, during the construction and operational phases of new developments in proximity to the site's boundary.
- 6.2.19 Disturbance/displacement could occur as a result of the following activities:
- Noise, visual, vibration and lighting disturbance during both the construction and operational phase of new developments. This could result in potential loss of fitness and the consequential health or mortality effects on birds and their prey species.
  - A number of the allocation sites are also located adjacent to land which could potentially constitute functionally-linked land. These developments could also lead to significant effects, in

<sup>9</sup> Natural England. Site Improvement Plan Morecambe Bay (including Morecambe Bay and Duddon Estuary SPA/Ramsar site and SAC).

terms of noise, visual, vibration and lighting disturbance during both the construction and operational phase of new developments.

- 6.2.20 A number of policies related to development could lead to disturbance/displacement of species as a result of construction/operational activities. A number of the allocation sites within the Local Plan Part One could also potentially cause disturbance to birds associated with the European sites. This impact pathway will therefore be considered in the detailed screening assessment

### **Disturbance to habitats and species through increased recreational activity, during operational stage**

- 6.2.21 There is the potential to disturb and/or displace qualifying habitats and/or species associated with European sites, during the construction and operational phases of new developments in proximity to the site's boundary. Recreational disturbance/displacement could occur as a result of the following:

- Increase in use of footpaths across land which is considered to be functionally-linked land as a result of new housing developments.
- Increase in recreational disturbance to birds as a result of an increase in visitors to the coast.
- Increase in recreational pressure on the Morecambe Bay SAC leading to degradation of habitats within the SAC.

- 6.2.22 The Site Improvement Plan for Morecambe Bay identified public access/disturbance as a potential pressure/threat to the site. The plan states that:

*'There is recreational disturbance to all features from various activities from individuals (e.g. dog walkers) to organised groups occurring throughout Morecambe Bay. In some cases, (e.g. wind and kite surfing) activities are increasing. Previous attempts at developing 'codes of conduct', and good practice have not been successful. New access points are being created or old tracks widened etc., and there are long term/historical issues.*

*'The scale of recreational disturbance is currently unknown but considered to be both localised and widespread. Activities require regulation to ensure birds are not disturbed and habitats are not damaged.'*

- 6.2.23 A number of policies related to development could lead to recreational pressure on Morecambe Bay. A number of the allocation sites within the Local Plan Part One could also potentially cause disturbance to Morecambe Bay. This impact pathway will therefore be considered in the detailed screening assessment.

## **6.3 Further Assessment of Local Plan Part Two Policies**

The screened in Local Plan Part Two policies were examined in detail to determine the need for further Appropriate Assessment. Table 8, below, provides the detailed screening of the DM DPD policies of the pre-publication version of the Local Plan Part Two.

It should be noted that specific land allocations which would be required to comply with the policies set out with the Local Plan Part Two are assessed separately within the HRA of the Local Plan Part One. This has concluded that (with mitigation in place) there would be no adverse impact on the integrity of Morecambe Bay and Duddon Estuary SPA/Morecambe Bay Ramsar site/SAC.

Table 8: Detailed Screening of Policies within the Local Plan Part 2

Development Management Policy	European site Potentially Affected	Potential Effects	Detailed Assessment	Assessment Category	Conclusion
Chapter 5: Housing					
DM1: New Residential Developments and Meeting Housing Needs	Morecambe Bay and Duddon Estuary SPA Morecambe Bay Ramsar site/SAC	The purpose of this Policy is to ensure new market homes are delivered over the plan period.  Construction of new residential homes has the potential to impact European sites through increased recreational pressure, loss of habitat functionally-linked to a European site, and disturbance to species as a result of construction activities/ operational stage.	The policy states that all proposals should have due consideration of all other relevant policies within the DM DPD which would guard against inappropriate development (this would include complying with Policy <a href="#">DM43DM44</a> which relates to protection of European sites). This ensures appropriate safeguards for protected European sites are incorporated into any proposed residential developments.	H	No Likely Significant Effect (LSE) on European sites are predicated as a result of implementation of this policy.
DM3: The Delivery of Affordable Housing	Morecambe Bay and Duddon Estuary SPA Morecambe Bay Ramsar site/SAC	Policy DM3 relates to the delivery of starter and affordable housing.  Construction of new residential homes has the potential to impact European sites through increased recreational pressure, loss of habitat functionally-linked to a European site, and disturbance to species as a result of construction activities/ operational stage.	The Policy provides details on the percentage of affordable homes that must be delivered by new residential schemes throughout the district. Any increase in housing as a result of this policy will be included within DM1 and the associated allocations included within the Local Plan Part One.	H	No LSE on European sites are predicated as a result of implementation of this policy.
DM4: Residential Development outside Main Urban Areas	Morecambe Bay and Duddon Estuary SPA Morecambe Bay Ramsar site/SAC	This policy will lead to development in rural areas that may be in close proximity to European sites, or land which is functionally-linked to such sites.  Construction of new residential homes outside main urban areas has the potential to impact European sites through increased recreational pressure, loss of habitat functionally-linked to a European site, and disturbance to species as a result of construction activities/ operational stage.	The policy states that residential development will be supported if ' <i>located where the environment and infrastructure can accommodate the impacts of expansion</i> '.  This Policy includes -specific reference to compliance with <a href="#">DM43DM44</a> -. This ensures appropriate safeguards for protected European sites are incorporated into any proposed residential developments -outside of urban areas.	H	No LSE on European sites are predicated as a result of implementation of this policy.
DM5: Rural Exception Sites	Morecambe Bay and Duddon Estuary SPA Morecambe Bay Ramsar site/SAC	This policy could lead to development in rural areas that may be in close proximity to European sites, or land which is functionally-linked to such sites.  Construction of new residential homes in rural areas has the potential to impact European sites through increased recreational pressure, loss of habitat functionally-linked to a European site, and disturbance to species as a result of construction activities/ operational stage.	This Policy -includes reference to compliance with the 'general requirements' of Policy DM4, which includes reference to compliance with <a href="#">DM43DM44</a> -. This ensures appropriate safeguards for protected European sites are incorporated into any new residential development outside of urban areas.	H	No LSE on European sites are predicated as a result of implementation of this policy.
DM10: Accommodation for <a href="#">Agricultural and ForestryRural</a> Workers	Morecambe Bay and Duddon Estuary SPA Morecambe Bay Ramsar site/SAC	This policy relates to providing accommodation within or near to already existing agricultural and forestry operations.  Construction of new accommodation has the potential to impact European sites through loss of habitat functionally-linked to a European site, and disturbance to species as a result of construction activities/ operational stage.	This policy states that ' <i>new dwelling(s) are sited to minimise the impact on the surrounding area</i> ' and that ' <i>Proposals for both permanent and temporary dwellings for <del>rural</del><a href="#">agricultural / forestry</a> workers should also have due regard to all other relevant policies within this DPD.</i> ' This would include Policy <a href="#">DM43DM44</a> .  Compliance with Policy <a href="#">DM43DM44</a> -, and citing new buildings close to existing development would ensure appropriate safeguards for protected European sites are incorporated into any proposals which seek to change the use of rural buildings.	H	Given the small-scale of these potential developments and assuming that any new conversion projects comply with Policy <a href="#">DM43DM44</a> , no LSE on European sites are predicated as a result of implementation of this policy.
DM12: Self Build, Custom Build and Community led Housing	Morecambe Bay and Duddon Estuary SPA Morecambe Bay Ramsar site/SAC	This Policy relates construction of self-build houses. Although likely to only comprise small numbers of houses, they could be located close to a European site, or on/adjacent to areas which could constitute functionally-linked land to a European site.  Construction of new self-build homes has the potential to impact European sites through loss of habitat functionally-linked to a European site, and disturbance to species as a result of construction activities/ operational stage.	This Policy- includes specific reference to compliance with <a href="#">DM43DM44</a>  Compliance with Policy <a href="#">DM43DM44</a> -,and avoiding building within or directly adjacent to European sites would ensure appropriate safeguards for protected European sites are incorporated into any new self-build homes.	H	Given the small-scale of these potential developments and assuming that any new conversion projects comply with Policy <a href="#">DM43DM44</a> , no LSE on European sites are predicated as a result of implementation of this policy.



Development Management Policy	European site Potentially Affected	Potential Effects	Detailed Assessment	Assessment Category	Conclusion
Chapter 6 Employment and Economic Growth					
DM14: Proposals Involving Employment Land and Premises	Morecambe Bay and Duddon Estuary SPA Morecambe Bay Ramsar site/SAC	<p>The purpose of this policy is to facilitate employment development. These will be primarily located on previously developed land or existing premises but, allocation sites could be within rural areas.</p> <p>Developing employment land has the potential to impact European sites through loss of habitat functionally-linked to a European site (if sites are located in rural areas), and disturbance to species as a result of construction activities/ operational stage.</p>	<p>The Policy states development will be supported provided <i>'there is no significant detrimental impact on local residential amenity or natural environment.'</i></p> <p>The Policy- includes specific reference to compliance with <a href="#">DM43DM4</a>. This ensures appropriate safeguards for protected European sites are incorporated into any employment developments.</p>	H	No LSE on European sites are predicated as a result of implementation of this policy.
DM15: Small Business Generation	Morecambe Bay and Duddon Estuary SPA Morecambe Bay Ramsar site/SAC	<p>The purpose of this policy is to support small business generation. These will be primarily located within the built-up areas of Morecambe, Lancaster, Heysham, Carnforth. However, allocation sites could be within rural areas where an identified employment area or a site specifically allocated for that type of use e.g. sustainable farm diversification has been identified.</p> <p>Small business generation has the potential to impact European sites through loss of habitat functionally-linked to a European site (if sites are located in rural areas), and disturbance to species as a result of construction activities/ operational stage.</p>	<p>This Policy states that the Council will support '<a href="#">re-usedevelopment</a> of suitable existing buildings in accordance with all other relevant policies within this <a href="#">document Development Management DPD</a>'.</p> <p>This Policy- includes reference to compliance with all other policies within the DPD. This would include Policy <a href="#">DM43DM44</a>. This ensures appropriate safeguards for protected European sites are incorporated into any new small businesses located in rural areas.</p>	H	No LSE on European sites are predicated as a result of implementation of this policy
Chapter 8 Leisure and Culture					
DM22: Leisure Facilities and Attractions	Morecambe Bay and Duddon Estuary SPA Morecambe Bay Ramsar site/SAC	<p>This policy relates to building leisure facilities and attractions. For major facilities (1,000sqm or one hectare plus) this policy could lead to development in the countryside through expansion of existing leisure facilities, or conversion of existing buildings on greenfield sites.</p> <p>Implementation of this policy has the potential to impact European sites through increased recreational pressure, loss of habitat functionally- linked to a European site and disturbance to species as a result of construction activities/ operational stage.</p>	<p>This Policy states that '<i>Developments that are likely to increase harm through visitor pressure <a href="#">withinupon</a> internationally designated wildlife sites or designated landscape areas will not be supported.</i></p> <p>In addition, '<del>minor and major facilities in towns, brownfield sites or expansion within an already existing complex is preferable.</del>' And '<del>the conversion of suitable existing buildings in the countryside and the proposal complies with other relevant policies within this Development.</del>' <a href="#">Management DPDAll proposals for leisure and visitor facilities should have due regard to all relevant planning policies within the Development Management DPD.</a> '</p> <p>This Policy- includes <a href="#">protective wording, as well as</a> reference to compliance with all other policies within the DPD. This would include Policy <a href="#">DM43DM44</a>. This ensures appropriate safeguards for protected European sites are incorporated into any <a href="#">future development associated with leisure facilities and attractions,employment developments,</a></p>	H	No LSE on European sites are predicated as a result of implementation of this policy.
DM23: Visitor Accommodation	Morecambe Bay and Duddon Estuary SPA Morecambe Bay Ramsar site/SAC	<p>The purpose of this policy is to increase the range of visitor accommodation in the district. These will be primarily located urban areas but, a proportion could be within the wider countryside.</p> <p>New visitor accommodation has the potential to impact European sites through increased recreational pressure, loss of habitat functionally linked to a European site (if sites are located in rural areas), and disturbance to species as a result of construction activities/ operational stage.</p>	<p>This policy includes reference to sequential testing of non-town centre locations for hotels. This <del>would</del> ensures <del>that no preferable sites exist, and</del> proposals within town centres are <a href="#">prioritised over more rural locations.preferred.</a></p> <p>This Policy- includes reference to compliance with all other policies within the DPD. This would include Policy <a href="#">DM43DM44</a>. The Policy has also been worded such that development within or directly adjacent to European sites should be avoided. The policy states that: <i>Developments which are likely to increase harm through visitor pressure <a href="#">uponwithin or adjacent to</a> internationally designated wildlife sites or in protected landscapes will not be supported.</i></p> <p>Compliance with Policy <a href="#">DM43DM44</a>, and avoiding building within or directly adjacent to European sites ensures</p>	H	No LSE on European sites are predicated as a result of implementation of this policy.

Development Management Policy	European site Potentially Affected	Potential Effects	Detailed Assessment	Assessment Category	Conclusion
			appropriate safeguards for protected European sites are incorporated into any new visitor accommodation projects.		
Chapter 13 Development in Rural Areas					
DM476: Economic Development in Rural Areas	Morecambe Bay and Duddon Estuary SPA Morecambe Bay Ramsar site/SAC	<p>This policy sets out the principles for employment development that will be supported in rural areas of Lancaster. Such sites are unlikely to affect European sites directly but, could be located on functionally- linked land associated with such sites.</p> <p>New economic development in rural areas has the potential to impact European sites through increased recreational pressure, loss of habitat functionally- linked to a European site, and disturbance to species as a result of construction activities/ operational stage.</p>	<p>This policy states that ‘<i>development in rural locations should not adversely affect biodiversity and/or geodiversity through, for example, increasing the risk of disturbance created by visitor pressure. The principles of Policy DM43DM44 should apply.</i>’</p> <p>The policy also includes preference for reuse of previously developed land, and conversion of existing buildings. This would help to minimise potential impacts on European sites.</p> <p>Compliance with Policy DM43DM44 also ensures appropriate safeguards for protected European sites are incorporated into any proposed economic developments.</p>	H	No LSE on European sites are predicated as a result of implementation of this policy.
DM478: Diversification of Agricultural Premises		<p>This policy relates to the redevelopment of buildings within an agricultural setting for diversification purposes.</p> <p>Diversification has the potential to impact European sites through loss of habitat functionally- linked to a European site, and disturbance to species as a result of construction activities/ operational stage.</p>	<p>This policy states: ‘<i>Development in rural areas will not be supported if it is likely to generate adverse impacts on designated wildlife sites or designated landscape areas, either directly or indirectly. -The principles of Policies DM44 and DM46 should apply.</i>’</p> <p>Compliance with Policy DM43DM44 also ensures appropriate safeguards for protected European sites are incorporated into any proposed agricultural developments.</p>	H	Given the small-scale of these potential developments, no LSE on European sites are predicated as a result of implementation of this policy.
DM489: The Re-Use and Conversion of Rural Buildings		<p>This policy relates to any proposals which seek to change of use of rural buildings. This has the potential to impact European sites through disturbance to species as a result of construction activities/ operational stage.</p>	<p>The policy commits to ensuring the re-use of buildings in rural areas, and safeguards roosting / nesting habitat of any protected species present in the building.</p> <p>This Policy includes reference to compliance with Policy DM43DM44.-).</p> <p>Compliance with Policy DM43DM44, and avoiding building within or directly adjacent to European sites ensures appropriate safeguards for protected European sites are incorporated into any new visitor accommodation projects.</p>	H	Given the small-scale of these potential developments, no LSE on European sites are predicated as a result of implementation of this policy.
DM501: Equine Related Development		<p>This policy is specifically associated with equine related development. This has the potential to impact European sites through loss of habitat functionally- linked to a European site, and disturbance to species as a result of construction activities/ operational stage.</p>	<p>The policy states that ‘<i>new stables and associated infrastructure (including ménages, storage, lighting, hard-standing, fencing and other paraphernalia) should be well screened from the surrounding countryside and should not interfere within the amenity of surrounding residents.</i> Such screening would also reduce any potential impacts on bird species associated with European sites.</p> <p>The policy also states that:</p> <p>‘<i>Their design, scale, siting, external lighting and use of materials should respect the rural setting, visual amenity and landscape</i>’</p> <p>This Policy- includes reference to compliance with all other policies within the DPD. This would include Policy DM43DM44. The Policy has also been worded such that development within or directly adjacent to European sites should be avoided.</p> <p>Compliance with Policy DM43DM44, and avoiding building within or directly adjacent to European sites ensures</p>	H	Given the small-scale of these potential developments, no LSE on European sites are predicated as a result of implementation of this policy.

Development Management Policy	European site Potentially Affected	Potential Effects	Detailed Assessment	Assessment Category	Conclusion
			appropriate safeguards for protected European sites are incorporated into any new visitor accommodation projects.		
Chapter 14 Energy Generation					
DM523: Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Generation	Morecambe Bay and Duddon Estuary SPA Morecambe Bay Ramsar site/SAC	<p>There is an uncertainty as to whether renewable energy development would lead to any likely significant effects on European sites as locations of such development are not known.</p> <p>New renewable energy projects have the potential to impact European sites through loss of habitat functionally- linked to a European site, and disturbance to species as a result of construction activities/ operational stage.</p>	<p>This policy states that ‘<i>In areas which have been designated for their national importance, as identified in the National Planning Policy Framework, large-scale renewable energy infrastructure will only be permitted where it can be demonstrated that it would be appropriate in scale, located in areas which do not contribute positively to the objectives of the designation, is sympathetically designed and includes any necessary mitigation measures.</i>’</p> <p>It also goes on to state that ‘<i>Developers will be expected to provide evidence to support their proposals including landscape, visual and ecological assessments (including where required an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA)) and to demonstrate that any impacts can be satisfactorily mitigated where negative impacts cannot be solely removed through site selection. Mitigation and compensatory measures should be investigated as part of this process.</i>’</p>	H	No LSE on European sites are predicted as a result of implementation of this policy.
Chapter 16 Infrastructure Delivery					
DM589: Telecommunications and Broadband Improvements	Morecambe Bay and Duddon Estuary SPA Morecambe Bay Ramsar site/SAC	<p>This policy relates to improvement and extension of telecommunication and broadband coverage and broadband speeds, particularly in rural areas.</p> <p>Telecommunications and broadband improvements have the potential to impact European sites through temporary loss of habitat functionally- linked to a European site, and disturbance to species as a result of construction activities.</p>	<p>This policy states that ‘<i>The principles of Policy <a href="#">DM43DM44</a> and <a href="#">DM46</a> will apply in relation to the impacts on the natural environment.</i>’</p> <p>Compliance with Policy <a href="#">DM43DM44</a> would ensure appropriate safeguards for protected European sites are incorporated into any future telecommunications and broadband improvement projects. For larger projects, this would include additional screening at the project-level to consider the implications of the detailed project proposals.</p>	H	Given the small-scale of these potential projects and assuming that any future telecommunications and broadband improvement projects comply with Policy <a href="#">DM43DM44</a> , no LSE on European sites are predicated as a result of implementation of this policy.

## 7 In-combination Effects

### 7.1 Overview

- 7.1.1 The HRA needs to consider not only the 'screened in' policies within the Lancaster Local Plan where no likely significant effects upon European sites as a result of the policy or site alone have been confirmed, but also those that may have a significant impact in combination either with other policies within the Lancaster Local Plan itself or with other plans and projects within the local area (or both).

### 7.2 Lancaster Local Plan Part Two

- 7.2.1 There are no policies within the Local Plan Part Two which would act together to lead to a likely significant effect on the three European sites considered in the detailed assessment. All policies within the plan have been designed to act together to provide a coherent set of criteria which will enable developers to deliver the housing, employment, recreation and retail developments to meet the future needs of the community within the Lancaster district. The Plan includes Policy [DM43DM44](#) which specifically protects designated sites. This ensures that no developments would be consented without adhering to this Policy. Therefore, there would be no significant in combination effects between policies within the Local Plan Part Two, and this potential impact has been screened out of further assessment.

### 7.3 Other Plans and Projects

- 7.3.1 In addition to in combination effects of the policies within the Lancaster Local Plan itself, there is the potential for effects to occur upon Morecambe Bay SAC/Ramsar and Morecambe Bay and Duddon Estuary SPA in combination with other plans or projects.
- 7.3.2 Only the effects of other plans or projects which would not be likely to be significant alone, need to be included in the in-combination assessment. If the effects of other plans or projects will already be significant on their own, they are not added to those associated with the Lancaster Local Plan as they already have their own measures in place to mitigate for those effects.
- 7.3.3 Table 9 below shows the plans and project reviewed for the in-combination assessment.

Table 9: Plan/projects reviewed for potential in combination effects

Authority	Relevant Plan/ Project
Lancashire County Council	Lancashire Minerals and Waste Plan
Cumbria County Council	Cumbria Minerals and Waste Plan
North Yorkshire County Council	North Yorkshire Minerals and Waste Plan
Lancaster City Council and South Lakeland District Council	Arnsdale and Silverdale AONB Statutory Management Plan (2014).
Lancaster City Council and South Lakeland District Council	Arnsdale and Silverdale AONB DPD ( <a href="#">adopted March 2019</a> in progress).
Lancashire County Council	Local Transport Plan 2011 – 2021: A Strategy for Lancashire (May 2011).
	District of Lancaster Highways and Transport Masterplan (2016)
Forest of Bowland AONB Joint Advisory Committee	Forest of Bowland 2009 - 2014 Management Plan.
Lancaster City Council	The Lancaster Local Plan is split into two sections. Local Plan Part One comprises the Strategic Policies and Land Allocations Development Plan Document (DPD). Local Plan Part Two comprises a review of the

Authority	Relevant Plan/ Project
	Development Management (DM) DPD. The two documents should be read in conjunction.
Neighbourhood Plans within Lancaster district	There are nine Neighbourhood Plans listed within the Lancaster Local Plan, comprising: Cockerham Neighbourhood Plan, Caton Neighbourhood Plan, Halton Neighbourhood Plan, Morecambe Neighbourhood Plan, Slyne-With-Hest Neighbourhood Plan, Wennington Neighbourhood Plan, Dolphinholme Neighbourhood Plan, Arkholme Neighbourhood Plan, and Wray Neighbourhood Plan
Lancaster City Council	Morecambe Area Action Plan.
Craven District Council	<a href="#">Saved policies from the 1999 Local Plan (currently preparing their Local Development Plan and is at Examination stage). New Local Plan submitted March 2018</a>
South Lakeland District Council	South Lakeland Core Strategy (adopted October 2010), Land Allocations DPD (2013) and Local Plan 2006 saved policies.
Ribble Valley Council	Core Strategy and DM Policies
Wyre District Council	Wyre District Local Plan ( <a href="#">adopted 2018 in progress</a> )
Yorkshire Dales National Park	Yorkshire Dales National Park Local Plan (adopted 2016)
United Utilities	Water Resources Management Plan (2015).
Lancashire County Council	Lancashire and Blackpool Flood Risk Management Strategy
Environment Agency	The Lune Catchment Abstraction Management Strategy (2003) and Lune and Wyre Abstraction Licensing Strategy (2013)
Environment Agency	Caton Road Flood defence.
Various	North West and North Wales - Shoreline Management Plan 2 (2011).
Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects	Highways England M6 Junction 33 Heysham Nuclear Power Station Extension

### Other plans and projects scoped out of the in-combination assessment

7.3.4 From those listed in Table 9, a number of plans and projects have been scoped out of the in-combination assessment. These are described below.

#### Minerals and Waste Local Plans for Lancashire, Cumbria and Yorkshire

7.3.5 The Minerals and Waste Local Plans for Lancashire, Cumbria and Yorkshire are over-arching plans, and as such, the allocations shown on the Policies Maps coincide with developments already considered within the individual Local Plans. Given the overlap between the overarching Minerals and Waste Local Plans and the Lancaster Local Plan (i.e. all plans need to work coherently to ensure that they are all deliverable), there are no policies within the Mineral and Waste Local Plans which would act in combination with policies within the Local Plan Part Two to have a significant impact on the European sites considered in this assessment. Therefore, the Minerals and Waste Plans will be scoped out of the in-combination assessment.

#### Morecambe Bay Area Action Plan

7.3.6 The Area Action Plan lies within the boundary of the Lancaster district, and as such must comply with the policies set out within the Lancaster Local Plan Parts One and Two (where relevant). There are no

additional policies within the AAP which would act in combination with policies within the Local Plan Part Two. Therefore, Morecambe Bay AAP will be scoped out of the in-combination assessment.

#### **Neighbourhood Plans**

- 7.3.7 There are nine Neighbourhood Plans listed within the Lancaster Local Plan, comprising: Cockerham Neighbourhood Plan, Caton Neighbourhood Plan, Halton Neighbourhood Plan, Morecambe Neighbourhood Plan, Slyne-With-Hest Neighbourhood Plan, Wennington Neighbourhood Plan, Dolphinholme Neighbourhood Plan, Arkholme Neighbourhood Plan, and Wray Neighbourhood Plan. All of these Neighbourhood Plans will have due regard for the policies and land allocations set out within the Lancaster Local Plans Part One and Two. Any new policies written for these Neighbourhood Plans would need to ensure that they do not conflict with existing policies within the over-arching Lancaster Local Plan. As such, there would be no additional policies within the Neighbourhood Plans which would act in combination with policies within the Local Plan Part Two to have a significant impact on the European sites considered in this assessment, Neighbourhood Plans within the district will be scoped out of the in-combination assessment.

#### **Lancashire and Blackpool Flood Risk Management Strategy**

- 7.3.8 The Lancashire and Blackpool Flood Risk Management Strategy details how Lancashire County Council will manage local flood risk in the area. However, there are no elements of the Flood Risk Management Strategy which would act in combination with policies the Lancaster Local Plan Part Two (in particular the Flood Risk Policy DM33) to have a significant impact on the European sites considered in this assessment. This strategy has therefore been scoped out of the in-combination assessment.

#### **Local Transport Plan 2011 – 2021: A Strategy for Lancashire and District of Lancaster Highways and Transport Masterplan (2016)**

- 7.3.9 The Local Transport Plan 2011 – 2021: A Strategy for Lancashire includes Heysham-M6 link, Broughton Bypass, Reopening of the Todmorden Curve and the Pennine Reach bus service. The District of Lancaster Highways and Transport Masterplan (2016) provides a vision for travel and transport to 2031 and beyond. It focuses on plans to transform Lancaster City Centre and the towns of Morecambe, Carnforth and Heysham. All of these Schemes would fall within Category C in accordance with DTA Publications Limited The Habitats Regulations Assessment Handbook (refer to Table 3). Separate project-level HRAs will be carried out for these projects, and appropriate mitigation and compensation will be put in place to off-set any potential impacts on European sites. Given that these projects would already be significant on their own, they will not be considered further in the in-combination assessment.

#### **Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects**

- 7.3.10 NSIPs also fall within Category C in accordance with DTA Publications Limited The Habitats Regulations Assessment Handbook (refer to Table 3). Separate project-level HRAs will be carried out for these projects, and appropriate mitigation and compensation ~~will be~~ put in place to off-set any potential impacts on European sites. [As per the Habitats Regulations Assessment Handbook, Given that](#) these projects would already be significant on their own, [and therefore they](#) will not be considered further in the in-combination assessment.

#### **The Lune Catchment Abstraction Management Strategy (2003) and Lune and Wyre Abstraction Licensing Strategy (2013)**

- 7.3.11 The Lune Catchment Abstraction Management Strategy (published in 2003) sets out how the proposed future licensing strategy for the Lune catchment will be managed by the Environment Agency. The strategy includes reference to the conservation status of the Morecambe Bay SAC/ Ramsar site and SPA but concludes that *'there is no evidence that abstraction is adversely affecting biodiversity within them'*. The Lune and Wyre Abstraction Licensing Strategy sets out how the Environment Agency will manage water resources in the Lune and Wyre catchment and provide information on how the Environment Agency will manage existing abstraction licences and water availability for further abstraction. Section 4.8 of the Strategy ensures that there would be no impact on European designated



sites as a result of water abstraction from the Lune or Wyre. There are no elements of these Strategies which would act in combination with policies the Lancaster Local Plan Part Two (in particular the water resources policies DM35 and 36) to have a significant impact on the European sites considered in this assessment. This strategy has therefore been scoped out of the in-combination assessment.

#### **North West England and North Wales Shoreline Management Plan SMP2**

- 7.3.12 This Shoreline Management Plan (SMP2) is a non-statutory, high-level policy document for coastal flood and erosion risk management planning. Such developments would require specific, project-level assessments to be undertaken to ensure appropriate protection of adjacent designated sites. There are no elements of the Management Plan which would act in combination with policies the Lancaster Local Plan Part Two (in particular the Flood Risk Policy DM33) to have a significant impact on the European sites considered in this assessment. This management plan will therefore be scoped out of the in combination assessment.

#### **Other plans and projects scoped in to the in combination assessment**

- 7.3.13 To be relevant to the in combination assessment, the residual effects of other plans or projects will need to be sufficient either to make the unlikely effects of the Lancaster Local Plan likely, or insignificant effects of the plan significant, or both. An assessment has therefore been made of the other plans listed in Table 9 (excluding those scoped out in the previous section) with a view to determining whether or not they would result in impacts which, in combination with the policies set out in the Lancaster Local Plan, could have likely significant effects on European sites.
- 7.3.14 A number of the local plans (as detailed in the following paragraphs), are currently being produced, under review, or are being updated. As it is not possible to review all of the information about these emerging Local Plans, the in-combination assessment will instead look at the information currently available in the public domain. Where recent Plan-level HRAs have been undertaken and are in the public domain (for example the [emerging Wyre Local Plan](#)), the HRA assessments (and associated documentation) have been reviewed as part of the in-combination assessment.
- 7.3.15 The in-combination assessment with all of the relevant plans (whether based on new or soon-to-be-replaced plans, as appropriate) is presented in the following paragraphs.

#### **Lancaster Local Plan Part One**

- 7.3.16 The Lancaster Local Plan is split into two documents. Local Plan Part Two, which is the plan currently being assessed in this HRA Report, comprises the Development Management DPD. The Local Plan Part One comprises the policies associated with development and sets out the allocations to deliver the housing and employment needs for Lancaster. A separate HRA Report [is currently beinghas been](#) produced for the Local Plan Part One. As both parts of the Local Plan have been designed to work together (and should be read as such), there are no policies within the Local Plan Part Two which would act in combination with policies/allocations with the Local Plan Part One to have a likely significant effect on European sites in combination.

#### **Wyre Local Plan**

- 7.3.17 Wyre borders Lancaster to the south. [TheA new Local Plan for Wyre was adopted in 2018is currently being developed and was submitted for examination in May 2018.](#) From the information currently available online (including a publication stage HRA Report produced in 2017<sup>10</sup>), new development in Wyre would be located on the edge of existing urban developments within the borough. The HRA identified two allocations with the potential for likely significant effects that were taken through to Appropriate Assessment. The AA concluded that, with appropriate mitigation in place, there would be no adverse impact on the integrity of the Morecambe Bay SPA/ Ramsar site/ Morecambe Bay and Duddon Estuary SPA as a result of implementation of the Local Plan either alone or in combination . Given that the in combination assessment in the Wyre Local Plan HRA included reference to the emerging Lancaster Local Plan, the potential for likely significant effects on European sites in combination with the Lancaster Local Plan Part Two are not anticipated.

<sup>10</sup> HRA Report, 2017 [http://www.wyre.gov.uk/info/200317/planning\\_policy/1168/publication\\_draft\\_wyre\\_local\\_plan\\_september\\_2017](http://www.wyre.gov.uk/info/200317/planning_policy/1168/publication_draft_wyre_local_plan_september_2017)

#### **Ribble Valley Local Plan**

- 7.3.18 Ribble Valley is located to the south-east of Lancaster. The Local Plan for Ribble Valley, which was formally adopted in December 2014, is currently under review. From the information currently available online (including the Core Strategy 2008-2028 and the emerging Housing and Economic Development DPD (HED DPD)), new development within Ribble Valley will be small-scale (most developments under 5ha) and located on the edge of existing development within the borough. Given the small-scale of the potential developments within Ribble (and their associated policies), and their distance to the Morecambe Bay and Duddon Estuary SPA and Morecambe Bay SAC/Ramsar site (all potential developments in Ribble Valley would be more than 10 km from Morecambe Bay), the potential for likely significant effects on Morecambe Bay and Duddon Estuary SPA/Ramsar site in combination with the Lancaster Local Plan Part Two are not anticipated.

#### **Craven Local Plan**

- 7.3.19 Craven is located to the north-east of Lancaster. The Local Plan is currently under review and was submitted for examination in March 2018. From the information currently available online (including the submission Local Plan and HRA Report), new development within the district (and its associated policies) will be concentrated on the south-east side of the district, outside of the National Park boundary. The HRA of Craven Local Plan included reference to the Lancaster Local Plan within the in combination assessment and concluded that there would be no in combination effect with Lancaster, or any other adjoining Local Plans. Given that the majority of the larger developments are concentrated around Skipton and the edge of other smaller towns, it is agreed that the potential for likely significant effects on the Morecambe Bay and Duddon Estuary SPA and Morecambe Bay SAC/Ramsar in combination with the Lancaster Local Plan Part Two, as a result of implementation of the Craven Local Plan, are unlikely.

#### **South Lakeland Local Plan**

- 7.3.20 South Lakeland is located to the north of Lancaster. The South Lakeland Core Strategy was adopted in October 2010 and the Land Allocations DPD was adopted in 2013. Mitigation measures to off-set potential impacts on Morecambe Bay have been included within the South Lakeland Local Plan. The HRA Screening for the Local Plan (September 2017) concluded that with mitigation in place there would be no likely significant effects on Morecambe Bay SAC/SPA/Ramsar site. The potential for likely significant effects on the Morecambe Bay and Duddon Estuary SPA and Morecambe Bay SAC/Ramsar site in combination with the Lancaster Local Plan Part Two, as a result of implementation of the South Lakeland Local Plan, are considered unlikely.

#### **Arnsdale and Silverdale AONB DPD**

- 7.3.21 The Arnsdale and Silverdale AONB DPD is located within the north-west of the Lancaster district, extending north into South Lakeland. The AONB DPD [was adopted in March 2019](#) ~~is currently being jointly prepared~~ by South Lakeland District Council and Lancaster City Council. The HRA Report (produced in 2018) concluded that there would not be adverse effects on European sites alone or in combination with any other plan or projects. Therefore, the potential for likely significant effects on the Morecambe Bay and Duddon Estuary SPA and Morecambe Bay SAC/Ramsar site in combination with the Lancaster Local Plan Part Two, as a result of implementing the Arnsdale and Silverdale AONB DPD, are not anticipated.

#### **Arnsdale and Silverdale AONB Statutory Management Plan**

- 7.3.22 The Arnsdale and Silverdale AONB Statutory Management Plan (2014-2019) sets out the management objectives for the AONB. The objectives will lead to the positive management of the AONB for the benefit of the natural environment within and surrounding the AONB. This accords with Policy DM44 within the Lancaster Local Plan Part Two which is in place to protect the AONB's within the Lancaster district. The potential for likely significant effects on the Morecambe Bay and Duddon Estuary SPA and Morecambe Bay SAC/Ramsar site in combination with the Lancaster Local Plan Part Two, as a result of implementing the Arnsdale and Silverdale AONB Statutory Management Plan, are not anticipated.



#### **Forest of Bowland 2009 - 2014 Management Plan**

- 7.3.23 The Forest of Bowland Management Plan (2009-2014) sets out the management objectives for the AONB. The objectives will lead to the positive management of the AONB for the benefit of the natural environment within and surrounding the AONB. This accords with Policy DM44 within the Lancaster Local Plan Part Two which is in place to protect the AONB's within the district. The potential for likely significant effects the Morecambe Bay and Duddon Estuary SPA and Morecambe Bay SAC/Ramsar site in combination with the Lancaster Local Plan Part Two, as a result of implementing the Forest of Bowland AONB Management Plan, are not anticipated.

#### **Yorkshire Dales National Park Local Plan**

- 7.3.24 The Yorkshire Dales National Park lies to the north-east of Lancaster, with only a very small portion of the National Park (north of the A65) within the district boundary itself. A Local Plan for the National Park was adopted in 2016. A HRA Screening Report (January 2016), confirmed that there would be no likely significant effects on European sites as a result of implantation of the National Park Local Plan. Given that the Yorkshire Dales National Park Local Plan sets out the policies within the Lancaster Local Plan which it will adhere to, potential for likely significant effects on the Morecambe Bay and Duddon Estuary SPA and Morecambe Bay SAC/Ramsar site in combination with the Lancaster Local Plan Part Two, as a result of implementing the Yorkshire Dales National Park Local Plan, are not anticipated.

#### **Water Resources Management Plan**

- 7.3.25 The Water Resources Management Plan (WRMP), published in March 2015, covers the approach United Utilities will use to manage these water resource issues for the years 2015-2040. Although United Utilities have suggested that there may be a water supply issue in East Lancaster, this has not been raised as a concern. Lancaster City Council have confirmed that United Utilities will address this issue through work at the Cuckoo Farm allocation. In addition, the HRA of the WRMP concluded that *'the final WRMP will have no significant adverse effects of any of the European sites either alone or in combination with other known projects, plans or programmes as a result of its implementation.'* Therefore, there would be no likely significant effects on the Morecambe Bay and Duddon Estuary SPA and Morecambe Bay SAC/Ramsar site in combination with the Lancaster Local Plan Part Two, as a result of implementing the WRMP.

## 8 Screening Summary

### 8.1 Initial Screening

- 8.1.1 Sixteen European sites have been identified within, and up to 20km from the Lancaster district boundary. Following the initial screening of the Local Plan Part Two, 13 were ruled out completely on the basis that there are no potential impact pathways which are likely to give rise to likely significant effects on these sites (refer to Table 5). The three remaining European sites considered in the detailed screening assessment comprised:
- Morecambe Bay and Duddon Estuary SPA.
  - Morecambe Bay SAC.
  - Morecambe Bay Ramsar site.
- 8.1.2 In addition to Screening out 13 of the European sites, policies contained within Chapters 7, 9, 10, 11, 12, 15, 17 and 18 in the Local Plan Part Two were screened out from the detailed screening assessment. This was on the basis that no identifiable impact pathway exists linking the policies with the European sites and/or because there will be no foreseeable adverse impact on European sites through policy implementation. Several policies under each of the remaining Chapters were also screened out of the detailed screening assessment (refer to Table 6).
- 8.1.3 Fifteen policies (refer to Table 7) were carried forward into the detailed screening assessment.
- 8.1.4 The potential impacts identified comprised the following (only the three highlighted in bold text were considered in the detailed screening assessment; refer to Section 6.2 for further details):
- Direct habitat and species loss within European sites.
  - Habitat degradation as a result of increased air pollution.
  - Changes in water quality where sites are hydrologically linked to European sites.
  - **Loss of habitat functionally linked to a European site (i.e. used by overwintering birds for foraging, in particular pink-footed geese).**
  - **Disturbance to habitats and species through increased recreational activity, during the operational stage.**
  - **Disturbance to species as a result of construction activities/ operational stage.**

### 8.2 Detailed Screening

- 8.2.1 Detailed screening of the 15 policies considered the potential for likely significant effects on Morecambe Bay and Duddon Estuary SPA, Morecambe Bay SAC and Morecambe Bay Ramsar site (refer to Table 8)
- 8.2.2 The results of the detailed screening have determined that the policy wording is sufficient to conclude that there would be no likely significant effect of implementation of the policies set out within the Local Plan Part Two alone (Pre-Publication Version, 2018). No further Appropriate Assessment of individual policies within the Local Plan Part Two are considered necessary.

### 8.3 In combination effects Screening

- 8.3.1 The in combination assessment determined that there are no policies within the Local Plan Part Two itself which would act together to lead to a likely significant effect on the three European sites considered in the detailed assessment (refer to Section 8.2). In addition, the review of other Local Plans and Management Plans/ Strategies (outlined in Section 8.3) also did not identify any potential in combination effects with other plans or strategies. Therefore, no further in combination Appropriate Assessment is required.

## 9 Overall Conclusion

- 9.1.1 This HRA Screening of the Local Plan Part Two has considered the potential implications of the Lancaster Local Plan Part ~~three~~ Two for European sites within and near to the district boundary.
- 9.1.2 The detailed screening looked at each of the screened in policies to determine the potential for likely significant effects as a result of policy implementation.
- 9.1.3 The results of the detailed screening and in combination effects screening has confirmed that the Local Plan Part Two will not have any likely significant effects on the European sites identified within this HRA Report, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects. No further Appropriate Assessment of the Local Plan Part Two is therefore required.

**APPENDIX A**  
**Conservation objectives**

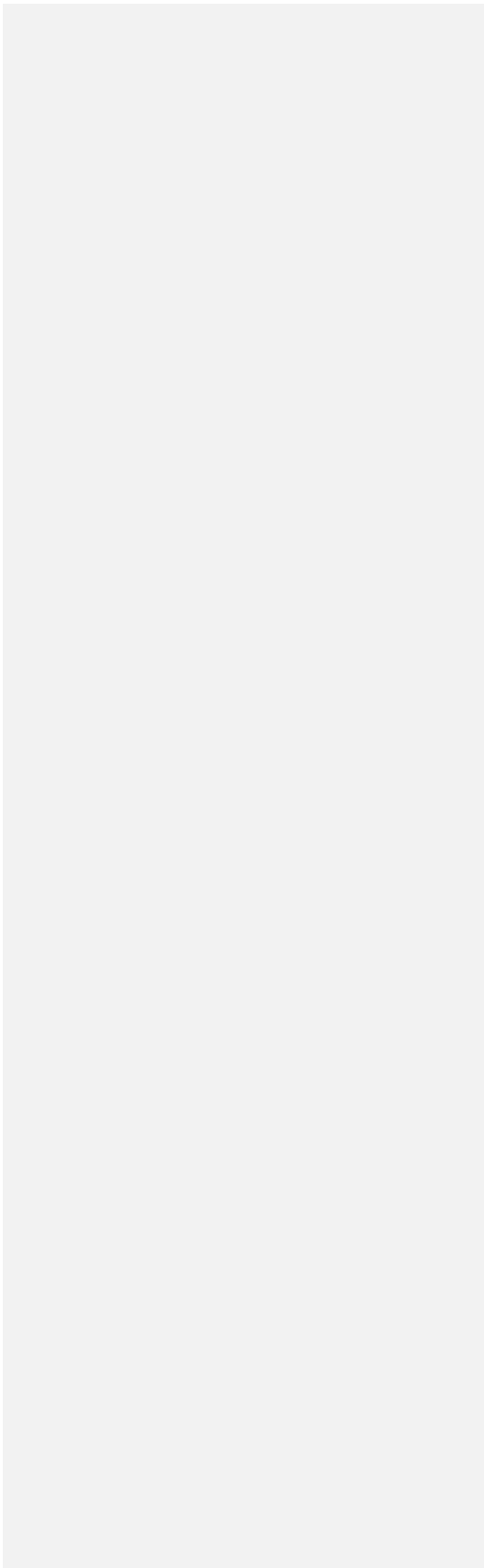


Table A 1 European Sites that could be adversely affected by Lancaster's Local Plan Part Two

Site Name	Qualifying Features (Habitats/Species)		Current Conditions and Threats <sup>11</sup>	Results of SSSI Condition Surveys
Morecambe Bay Ramsar Site	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Ramsar criterion 4: The site is a staging area for migratory waterfowl including internationally important numbers of passage ringed plover <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>.</li><li>▪ Ramsar criterion 5 Assemblages of international importance with peak counts in the winter: 223709 waterfowl</li><li>▪ Ramsar criterion 6 Species/populations occurring at levels of international importance during the breeding season: Lesser black-backed gull, <i>Larus fuscus graellsii</i> Herring gull, <i>Larus argentatus argentatus</i> Sandwich tern, <i>Sterna (Thalasseus) sandvicensis sandvicensis</i> Species with peak counts in spring/autumn: Great cormorant, <i>Phalacrocorax carbo carbo</i> Common shelduck, <i>Tadorna tadorna</i> Northern pintail, <i>Anas acuta</i> Common eider, <i>Somateria mollissima mollissima</i> Eurasian oystercatcher, <i>Haematopus ostralegus ostralegus</i> Ringed plover, <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i> Grey plover, <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i> Sanderling, <i>Calidris alba</i> Eurasian curlew, <i>Numenius arquata arquata</i> Common redshank, <i>Tringa totanus tetanus</i> Ruddy turnstone, <i>Arenaria interpres interpres</i> Lesser black-backed gull, <i>Larus fuscus graellsii</i> Species with peak counts in winter: Great crested grebe, <i>Podiceps cristatus cristatus</i> Pink-footed goose, <i>Anser brachyrhynchus</i> Eurasian wigeon, <i>Anas penelope</i> Common goldeneye, <i>Bucephala clangula clangula</i> Red-breasted merganser, <i>Mergus serrator</i> European golden plover, <i>Pluvialis apricaria apricaria</i> Northern lapwing, <i>Vanellus vanellus</i> Red knot, <i>Calidris canutus islandica</i> Dunlin, <i>Calidris alpina alpina</i> Bar-tailed godwit, <i>Limosa lapponica lapponica</i></li></ul>	No factors reported adversely affecting the sites ecological character (past, present or potential).	Area favourable 94.31% Area unfavourable but recovering 5.69% Area unfavourable no change 0% Area unfavourable declining 0% Area destroyed / part destroyed 0%
Morecambe Bay and Duddon Estuary SPA	N/A	<p>The site qualifies under Article 4.1 of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following species listed on Annex I of the Directive:</p> <p><b>During the breeding season;</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Little Tern <i>Sterna albigrons</i></li><li>▪ Sandwich Tern <i>Sterna sandvicensis</i></li></ul> <p><b>Over winter;</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Bar-tailed Godwit <i>Limosa lapponica</i></li><li>▪ Golden Plover <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i></li></ul> <p>The site also qualifies under Article 4.2 of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following migratory species:</p> <p><b>During the breeding season;</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Herring Gull <i>Larus argentatus</i></li><li>▪ Lesser Black-backed Gull <i>Larus fuscus</i></li></ul> <p><b>On passage;</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Ringed Plover <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i></li><li>▪ Sanderling <i>Calidris alba</i></li></ul> <p><b>Over winter;</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Curlew <i>Numenius arquata</i></li><li>▪ Dunlin <i>Calidris alpina alpina</i></li><li>▪ Grey Plover <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i></li><li>▪ Knot <i>Calidris canutus</i></li><li>▪ Oystercatcher <i>Haematopus ostralegus</i></li></ul>	The site is subject to a wide range of pressures such as land-claim for agriculture, overgrazing, dredging, overfishing, industrial uses and unspecified pollution. However, overall the site is relatively robust and many of those pressures have only slight to local effects and are being addressed thorough Management Plans. The breeding tern interest is very vulnerable and the colony has recently moved to the adjacent Duddon Estuary. Positive management is being secured through management plans for non-governmental organisation reserves, Natural England, Site Management Statements, European Marine Site Management Scheme, and the Morecambe Bay Partnership. <del>There are plans to combine Morecambe bay SPA with the Duddon SPA (Morecambe and Duddon pSPA) to further protect breeding terns.</del>	Area favourable 94.31% Area unfavourable but recovering 5.69% Area unfavourable no change 0% Area unfavourable declining 0% Area destroyed / part destroyed 0%

<sup>11</sup> Taken from Natura 2000 Standard Data Forms (SAC and SPA) and Ramsar Information Sheets.

Site Name	Qualifying Features (Habitats/Species)		Current Conditions and Threats <sup>11</sup>	Results of SSSI Condition Surveys	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Pink-footed Goose <i>Anser brachyrhynchus</i></li><li>▪ Pintail <i>Anas acuta</i></li><li>▪ Redshank <i>Tringa totanus</i></li><li>▪ Shelduck <i>Tadorna tadorna</i></li><li>▪ Turnstone <i>Arenaria interpres</i></li></ul> <p>The area qualifies under Article 4.2 of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by regularly supporting at least 20,000 seabirds.</p> <p>The area qualifies under Article 4.2 of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by regularly supporting at least 20,000 waterfowl.</p>			
Morecambe Bay SAC	<p>Annex I habitats that are a primary reason for selection of this site:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Estuaries</li><li>▪ Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide</li><li>▪ Large shallow inlets and bays</li><li>▪ Perennial vegetation of stony banks</li><li>▪ <i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals colonising mud and sand</li><li>▪ Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i>)</li><li>▪ Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> (‘white dunes’)</li><li>▪ Fixed dunes with herbaceous vegetation (‘grey dunes’)</li></ul> <p><b>*Priority feature</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Humid dune slacks</li></ul> <p>Annex I habitats present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for selection of this site:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time</li><li>▪ Coastal lagoons <b>*Priority feature</b></li><li>▪ Reefs</li><li>▪ Embryonic shifting dunes</li><li>▪ Atlantic decalcified fixed dunes (<i>Calluno-Ulicetea</i>)</li></ul> <p><b>*Priority feature</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Dunes with <i>Salix repens</i> ssp. <i>argentea</i> (<i>Salicion arenariae</i>)</li></ul>	<p>Annex II species that are a primary reason for selection of this site:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Great crested newt <i>Triturus cristatus</i></li></ul>	<p>There are a wide range of pressures on Morecambe Bay but the site is relatively robust and many of these pressures have only slight or local effects on its interests. The interests depend largely upon the coastal processes operating within the Bay, which have been affected historically by human activities including coastal protection and flood defence works. Current pressures include fisheries, aggregate extraction, gas exploration, recreation and other activities.</p>	<p>Area favourable 94.31%</p> <p>Area unfavourable but recovering 5.69%</p> <p>Area unfavourable no change 0%</p> <p>Area unfavourable declining 0%</p> <p>Area destroyed / part destroyed 0%</p>	
Bowland Fells SPA	N/A	<p>This site qualifies under Article 4.1 of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following species listed on Annex I of the Directive:</p> <p><b>During the breeding season;</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Hen Harrier <i>Circus cyaneus</i></li><li>▪ Merlin <i>Falco columbarius</i></li></ul> <p>This site also qualifies under Article 4.2 of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following migratory species:</p> <p><b>During the breeding season;</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Lesser Black-backed Gull <i>Larus fuscus</i></li></ul>	<p>The expansive blanket bog and heather dominated moorland provides suitable habitat for a diverse range of upland breeding birds. Favourable nature conservation status of the site depends on appropriate levels of sheep grazing, sympathetic moorland burning practice, sensitive water catchment land management practices and ongoing species protection. Since designation as an SPA, many localised problems of over-grazing have been controlled through management agreements or the Countryside Stewardship Scheme. To date approximately 20% of SPA is under Section 15 management agreements and Countryside Stewardship to stimulate heather regeneration in order to produce better moorland for grouse and raptors alike. Burning plans and stocking levels have also been agreed for all other areas of the SPA through Site Management Statements, whilst problems of raptor persecution continues to be addressed by the RSPB in conjunction with North West Water, Natural England and Lancashire Constabulary.</p>	<p>Area favourable 5.29%</p> <p>Area unfavourable but recovering 85.39%</p> <p>Area unfavourable no change 0%</p> <p>Area unfavourable declining 14.61%</p> <p>Area destroyed / part destroyed 0%</p>	
Calf Hill and Cragg Woods SAC	<p>Annex I habitats that are a primary reason for selection of this site:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles</li></ul> <p>Annex I habitats present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for selection of this site:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (<i>Alno-Padion</i>, <i>Alnion incanae</i>, <i>Salicion albae</i>)</li></ul> <p><b>*Priority feature</b></p>	N/A	<p>Currently there is limited intervention in land-use/management terms. There is also no immediate need for woodland management in order to safeguard the interest of the site. However, in the long-term it would be desirable to repair some of the walls/fences at the far eastern most end of Calf Hill Wood in order to control sheep grazing from the adjacent fell. In addition, since the canopy of the oak woodland is fairly dense and natural regeneration is quite limited, it would be desirable over the long-term to instigate small-scale</p>	<p>Area favourable 100%</p> <p>Area unfavourable but recovering 0%</p> <p>Area unfavourable no change 0%</p> <p>Area unfavourable declining 0%</p> <p>Area destroyed / part destroyed 0%</p>	

Site Name	Qualifying Features (Habitats/Species)		Current Conditions and Threats <sup>11</sup>	Results of SSSI Condition Surveys
			selective fellings/silvicultural thinning, whilst felling a small stand of planted larch/pine (<0.5 ha) and replacing it with oak/birch.	
North Pennine Dales and Meadows SAC	Annex I habitats that are a primary reason for selection of this site: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Mountain hay meadows</li></ul> Annex I habitats present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for selection of this site: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (<i>Molinion caeruleae</i>)</li></ul>	N/A	These grasslands are dependent upon traditional agricultural management, with hay-cutting and no or minimal use of agrochemicals. Such management is no longer economic. Management agreements and ESA payments are being used to promote the continuation of traditional management. The refining of the prescriptions underpinning these schemes in the light of the findings of monitoring programmes is an important, continuing, part of delivering favourable condition.	<b>Oughtershaw and Beckermonds SSSI</b> Area favourable 36.23% Area unfavourable but recovering 63.77% Area unfavourable no change 0% Area unfavourable declining 0% Area destroyed / part destroyed 0% <b>Deepdale Meadows, Langstrothdale SSSI</b> Area favourable 100% Area unfavourable but recovering 0% Area unfavourable no change 0% Area unfavourable declining 0% Area destroyed / part destroyed 0%
Leighton Moss Ramsar site		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Ramsar criterion 1 An example of large reedbed habitat characteristic of the biogeographical region. The reedbeds are of particular importance as a northern outpost for breeding populations of great bittern <i>Botaurus stellaris</i>, Eurasian marsh harrier <i>Circus aeruginosus</i> and bearded tit <i>Panurus biarmicus</i>.</li><li>Ramsar criterion 3 The site supports a range of breeding birds including great bittern, Eurasian marsh harrier and bearded tit. Species occurring in nationally important numbers outside the breeding season include northern shoveler <i>Anas clypeata</i> and water rail <i>Rallus aquaticus</i></li></ul>	The site is currently vulnerable to sedimentation / siltation and pollution – pesticides / agricultural runoff.	Area favourable 0% Area unfavourable but recovering 100% Area unfavourable no change 0% Area unfavourable declining 0% Area destroyed / part destroyed 0%
Leighton Moss SPA	N/A	This site qualifies under Article 4.1 of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following species listed on Annex I of the Directive: <b>During the breeding season;</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Bittern</li><li>Marsh Harrier</li></ul> <b>Over winter;</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Bittern</li></ul>	Leighton Moss is vulnerable to changes in water quality and water levels. The maintenance of a high quality spring fed water supply is important and although there are few opportunities for this to become polluted within the catchment, agricultural run-off from land immediately adjacent to the reserve has been identified as a potential hazard in recent years. Initiatives are currently being initiated to reduce/remove this threat by the EA. The Moss is also susceptible to saline intrusion upstream of its tidal sluice from Morecambe Bay. This is potentially one of the most damaging threats to the reserve, there having been three inundations since 1964 caused by gales pushing in unusually high 10 metre tides.	Area favourable 0% Area unfavourable but recovering 100% Area unfavourable no change 0% Area unfavourable declining 0% Area destroyed / part destroyed 0%
Witherslack Mosses SAC	Annex I habitats that are a primary reason for selection of the site: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Active raised bogs * Priority feature</li><li>Degraded raised bog</li><li>Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration</li></ul>	N/A	Past drainage for peat extraction and forestry has lowered the water table and allowed scrub to spread across the mosses. A programme of restoration works is in place on two of the mosses, and a management plan has been completed for major works on the third.	<b>Foulshaw Moss SSSI</b> Area favourable 0% Area unfavourable but recovering 91.31% Area unfavourable no change 6.11% Area unfavourable declining 2.59% Area destroyed / part destroyed 0% <b>Meathop Moss SSSI</b> Area favourable 0% Area unfavourable but recovering 100% Area unfavourable no change 0% Area unfavourable declining 0% Area destroyed / part destroyed 0% <b>Nichols Moss SSSI</b>

Site Name	Qualifying Features (Habitats/Species)		Current Conditions and Threats <sup>11</sup>	Results of SSSI Condition Surveys	
				Area favourable 20.63% Area unfavourable but recovering 0% Area unfavourable no change 8.17% Area unfavourable declining 70.65% Area destroyed / part destroyed 0%	
Morecambe Bay Pavements SAC	<p>Annex I habitats that are a primary reason for selection of the site:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of <i>Chara spp.</i></li><li>▪ <i>Juniperus communis</i> formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands</li><li>▪ Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies: on calcareous substrates (<i>Festuco-Brometalia</i>)</li><li>▪ Limestone pavements * Priority feature</li><li>▪ <i>Tilio-Acerion</i> forests of slopes, screes and ravines * Priority feature</li><li>▪ <i>Taxus baccata</i> woods of the British Isles * Priority feature</li></ul> <p>Annex I habitats present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for selection of the site:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ European dry heaths</li><li>▪ Calcareous fens with <i>Cladium mariscus</i> and species of the <i>Caricion davallianae</i> * Priority feature</li><li>▪ Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles</li></ul>	<p>Annex II species that are a primary reason for selection of this site</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Narrow-mouthed whorl snail <i>Vertigo angustior</i></li></ul>	<p>The under-grazing of grasslands and decline of traditional cattle grazing is leading to the loss of sward diversity and scrub encroachment problems. Localised overgrazing (sheep-dominated) has impoverished the pavement flora on one of the component sites. A decline of traditional coppice management has reduced the interest of some of the woodland sites. The planting of non-native conifer crops on some of the sites has led to localised declines in condition.</p>	See Appendix C	
Yewbarrow Woods SAC	<p>Annex I habitats that are a primary reason for selection of the site:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ <i>Taxus baccata</i> woods of the British Isles* Priority feature</li></ul> <p>Annex I habitats present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for selection of the site:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ <i>Juniperus communis</i> formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands</li><li>▪ Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles</li></ul>	N/A	<p>Although lack of regeneration at Yewbarrow is a problem resulting from browsing by deer, woodland grants have been given in recent years to encourage regeneration of native trees, together with funding for stockproof fencing.</p>	Area favourable 25.47% Area unfavourable but recovering 74.53% Area unfavourable no change 0% Area unfavourable declining 0% Area destroyed / part destroyed 0%	
Roudsea Wood and Mosses SAC	<p>Annex I habitats that are a primary reason for selection of the site:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Active raised bogs* Priority feature</li><li>▪ Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration</li><li>▪ <i>Tilio-Acerion</i> forests of slopes, screes and ravines* Priority feature</li><li>▪ <i>Taxus baccata</i> woods of the British Isles* Priority feature</li></ul>	N/A	<p>In the latter part of the 20th century, coppicing of the woodland ceased and lower water tables on the bogs, caused by drainage for peat-cutting, had allowed scrub to spread across them. Most of the site is now managed as a National Nature Reserve. Woodland management is carried out and much scrub has been cleared from Deer Dike Moss and ditches blocked to allow regeneration of the bog vegetation. Management of the southern bog, added to the National Nature Reserve, has been addressed in the management plan.</p>	Area favourable 2.35% Area unfavourable but recovering 56.55% Area unfavourable no change 0% Area unfavourable declining 41.10% Area destroyed / part destroyed 0%	
River Kent SAC	<p>Annex I habitats present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for selection of the site:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculon fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitricho-Batrachion</i> vegetation</li></ul>	<p>Annex II species that are a primary reason for selection of the site:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ White-clawed (or Atlantic stream) crayfish <i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i></li></ul> <p>Annex II species present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for site selection:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Freshwater pearl mussel <i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i></li><li>▪ Bullhead <i>Cottus gobio</i></li></ul>	<p>The maintenance of breeding and nursery areas for the species on this site depends on the habitat quality of streams and their margins. Some areas of the site suffer from poor habitat quality. The intention is to address this through implementation of habitat improvement schemes. The impact of point-discharges on water quality will be reviewed and action proposed where necessary. A particular problem on this site and affecting white-clawed crayfish is incidents of pyrethroid sheep-dip pollution of watercourses. These are currently under investigation. The dwindling population of freshwater pearl mussels needs to be investigated in relation to the factors affecting its recruitment and structure. A management plan will be developed for the part of the catchment supporting this species.</p>	Area favourable 0.37% Area unfavourable but recovering 83.32% Area unfavourable no change 16.31% Area unfavourable declining 0% Area destroyed / part destroyed 0%	
Ingleditstrict Complex SAC	<p>Annex I habitats that are a primary reason for selection of the site:</p>	N/A	<p>The diversity of interest of the limestone pavements, juniper and limestone rock habitats is dependent on there being a range of grazing intensities, from</p>	Area favourable 21.21% Area unfavourable but recovering 75.65%	



Site Name	Qualifying Features (Habitats/Species)		Current Conditions and Threats <sup>11</sup>	Results of SSSI Condition Surveys
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ <i>Juniperus communis</i> formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands</li><li>▪ Alkaline fens</li><li>▪ Calcareous rocky slopes with <i>chasmophytic</i> vegetation</li><li>▪ Limestone pavements * Priority feature</li></ul> Annex I habitats present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for selection of the site: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies: on calcareous substrates (<i>Festuco-Brometalia</i>)</li><li>▪ Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (<i>Molinion caeruleae</i>)</li><li>▪ Blanket bogs* Priority feature</li><li>▪ Petrifying springs with tufa formation (<i>Cratoneurion</i>)* Priority feature</li><li>▪ <i>Tilio-Acerion</i> forests of slopes, screes and ravines Priority feature</li></ul>		moderate to light to areas with no livestock grazing. Heavy livestock or rabbit grazing has been damaging and the Wildlife Enhancement Scheme and other forms of agri-environmental agreement are being used, successfully, to promote appropriate management. Removal of limestone pavement for sale as rockery stone and limestone quarrying have both caused problems in the past and are now addressed through Limestone Pavement Orders, the development planning process and the provisions for review of existing permissions under the Habitats Regulations.	Area unfavourable no change 3.14% Area unfavourable declining 0% Area destroyed / part destroyed 0%
Liverpool Bay SPA	N/A	<p>This site qualifies under Article 4.1 of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following species listed on Annex I of the Directive:</p> <p><b>Over winter the area regularly supports;</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Red-throated Diver <i>Gavia stellata</i></li></ul> <p>This site also qualifies under Article 4.2 of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following species over winter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Common Scoter, <i>Melanitta nigra</i></li></ul> <p>The site also qualifies under Article 4.2 (79/409/EEC) as an Internationally Important Assemblage of birds during the non-breeding season regularly supporting 55,597 waterfowl.</p>	<p>Liverpool Bay SPA is subject to commercial fishing. The sandbanks support the nursery and feeding grounds for many fish species. The distribution and concentrations of red-throated divers will at least partly be determined by the presence, abundance, and availability of their prey species. The site holds various fish of commercial importance, and extraction of the red-throated diver's main fish prey, as either target and/or bycatch species, or through recreational fishing could impact the population. Entanglement in static fishing nets is an important cause of death for red-throated divers in the UK waters however the extent of this impact in Liverpool Bay is not known.</p> <p>Commercial and recreational fishing could directly affect both the food source and feeding grounds used by common scoters and in addition a number of ports undertake navigational dredging and disposal both in, and adjacent to, the site. Dredging for bivalves has been shown to have significant negative effects on their benthic habitat.</p> <p>Red throated divers and common scoters are sensitive to non physical, (noise and visual) disturbance by both commercial and recreational activities, for example disturbance by moving vessels .</p> <p>Aggregate extraction presents some risks of disturbance and also changes to sediment structures which may, in particular, impact on common scoter through changes to their benthic feeding grounds.</p> <p>However, aggregate extraction tends to be temporary and localised and so is not anticipated that moderate and targeted extraction will present a significant risk to either of the qualifying species.</p> <p>Liverpool Bay is an attractive location for the off-shore renewable energy industry and there is evidence that red-throated divers and common scoters are displaced by the presence of the turbines and the associated activities of construction and maintenance vessels. A number of wind farms in the site are currently in operation, under construction or consented.</p> <p>There are a number of areas along the coast where marine tourism and leisure activities are common, with existing marinas and partially completed and proposed marina developments. As a result of these leisure users of the area, in combination with the whole suite of commercial activities, including those outlined above, the site is a very active boating and shipping site.</p> <p>However, most vessel activity is restricted to well-established areas which the birds already tend to avoid.</p>	N/A

Site Name	Qualifying Features (Habitats/Species)		Current Conditions and Threats <sup>11</sup>	Results of SSSI Condition Surveys	
Shell Flat and Lune Deep SAC	Annex I habitats that are a primary reason for selection of this site: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time</li><li>Reefs</li></ul>	N/A	Operations likely to affect the habitats are: i) Physical loss by smothering; ii) Physical damage by siltation or abrasion; iii) Toxic contamination by introduction of synthetic or non-synthetic compounds; iv) Non-toxic contamination from changes in nutrient loading, organic loading, or changes in turbidity; v) Changes in salinity; vi) Biological disturbance by Introduction of microbial pathogens, introduction of non-native species and translocation, or selective extraction of species.	N/A	

Morecambe Bay Pavements SAC	
SSSI	Results of SSSI Condition Surveys
Whitbarrow SSSI	Area favourable 34.44% Area unfavourable but recovering 58.17% Area unfavourable no change 7.39% Area unfavourable declining 0% Area destroyed / part destroyed 0%
Underlaid Wood SSSI	Area favourable 0% Area unfavourable but recovering 100% Area unfavourable no change 0% Area unfavourable declining 0% Area destroyed / part destroyed 0%
Marble Quarry And Hale Fell SSSI	Area favourable 4.99% Area unfavourable but recovering 95.01% Area unfavourable no change 0% Area unfavourable declining 0% Area destroyed / part destroyed 0%
Gait Barrows SSSI	Area favourable 92.50% Area unfavourable but recovering 7.5% Area unfavourable no change 0% Area unfavourable declining 0% Area destroyed / part destroyed 0%
Thrang End And Yealand Hall Allotment SSSI	Area favourable 0% Area unfavourable but recovering 100% Area unfavourable no change 0% Area unfavourable declining 0% Area destroyed / part destroyed 0%
Hawes Water SSSI	Area favourable 28.16% Area unfavourable but recovering 71.03% Area unfavourable no change 0.81% Area unfavourable declining 0%

Morecambe Bay Pavements SAC	
	Area destroyed / part destroyed 0%
Middlebarrow SSSI	Area favourable 4.56% Area unfavourable but recovering 54.86% Area unfavourable no change 0% Area unfavourable declining 40.59% Area destroyed / part destroyed 0%
Scout and Cunswick Scars SSSI	Area favourable 63.54% Area unfavourable but recovering 17.45% Area unfavourable no change 0.37% Area unfavourable declining 18.65% Area destroyed / part destroyed 0%
Farleton Knott SSSI	Area favourable 46.71% Area unfavourable but recovering 36.34% Area unfavourable no change 0% Area unfavourable declining 16.94% Area destroyed / part destroyed 0%
Hutton Roof Craggs SSSI	Area favourable 42.52% Area unfavourable but recovering 29.09% Area unfavourable no change 3.88% Area unfavourable declining 24.52% Area destroyed / part destroyed 0%



## **European Site Conservation Objectives for Morecambe Bay Special Protection Area and potential Special Protection Area Site Code: UK9005081**

With regard to the SPA and pSPA and the individual species and/or assemblage of species for which the site has been or may be classified (the 'Qualifying Features' including the 'Additional Qualifying Features' listed below), and subject to natural change;

Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the aims of the Wild Birds Directive, by maintaining or restoring;

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

This document should be read in conjunction with the accompanying Conservation Advice document which provides more detailed advice and information to enable the application and achievement of the Objectives set out above.

### **Qualifying Features**

- A040 *Anser brachyrhynchus*; Pink-footed goose (Non-breeding)
- A048 *Tadorna tadorna*; Common shelduck (Non-breeding)
- A054 *Anas acuta*; Northern pintail (Non-breeding)
- A130 *Haematopus ostralegus*; Eurasian oystercatcher (Non-breeding)
- A137 *Charadrius hiaticula*; Ringed plover (Non-breeding)
- A141 *Pluvialis squatarola*; Grey plover (Non-breeding)
- A143 *Calidris canutus*; Red knot (Non-breeding)
- A149 *Calidris alpina alpina*; Dunlin (Non-breeding)
- A157 *Limosa lapponica*; Bar-tailed godwit (Non-breeding)
- A160 *Numenius arquata*; Eurasian curlew (Non-breeding)
- A162 *Tringa totanus*; Common redshank (Non-breeding)

Contd/

A169 *Arenaria interpres*; Ruddy turnstone (Non-breeding)

A191 *Sterna sandvicensis*; Sandwich tern (Breeding)

Waterbird assemblage

Seabird assemblage

**Additional Qualifying Features\***

A026 *Egretta garzetta*; Little egret (Non-breeding)

A038 *Cygnus cygnus*; Whooper swan (Non-breeding)

A140 *Pluvialis apricaria*; European golden plover (Non-breeding)

A144 *Calidris alba*; Sanderling (Non-breeding)

A151 *Philomachus pugnax*; Ruff (Non-breeding)

A156 *Limosa limosa islandica*; Black-tailed godwit (Non-breeding)

A176 *Larus melanocephalus*; Mediterranean gull (Non-breeding)

A183 *Larus fuscus*; Lesser black-backed gull (Non-breeding)

A183 *Larus fuscus*; Lesser black-backed gull (Breeding)

A184 *Larus argentatus*; Herring gull (Breeding)

A193 *Sterna hirundo*; Common tern (Breeding)

A195 *Sterna albifrons*; Little tern (Breeding)

\*Government has initiated public consultation on the scientific case for the classification of these additional features as part of this Special Protection Area (SPA).

### **This is a European Marine Site**

This SPA is a part of the Morecambe Bay European Marine Site (EMS). These Conservation Objectives should be used in conjunction with the current Conservation Advice document for the EMS. For further details about this please visit the Natural England website at <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/conservation-advice-packages-for-marine-protected-areas> or contact Natural England's enquiry service at [enquiries@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@naturalengland.org.uk) or by phone on 0845 600 3078.

### **This is a potential Special Protection Area (pSPA)**

This is also a site on which Government has initiated public consultation on the scientific case for the classification of additional qualifying features as part of this Special Protection Area (SPA). As a matter of Government policy, potential SPAs and their features are treated as if they are formally classified. The provisions of the Habitats Regulations therefore apply to them (see below).

If classified as a SPA, this site will merge with Duddon Estuary SPA (UK9005031).

### **Explanatory Notes: European Site Conservation Objectives**

These Conservation Objectives are those referred to in the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (the "Habitats Regulations") and Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive. They must be considered when a competent authority is required to make a 'Habitats Regulations Assessment' including an Appropriate Assessment, under the relevant parts of this legislation.

These Conservation Objectives and the accompanying Supplementary Advice (where this is available) will also provide a framework to inform the management of the European Site under the provisions of Articles 4(1) and 4(2) of the Wild Birds Directive, and the prevention of deterioration of habitats and significant disturbance of its qualifying features required under Article 6(2) of the Habitats Directive.

These Conservation Objectives are set for each bird feature for a [Special Protection Area \(SPA\)](#). Where the objectives are met, the site will be considered to exhibit a high degree of integrity and to be contributing to achieving the aims of the Wild Birds Directive.

**Publication date:** 29 January 2016 (Version 4). This document updates and replaces an earlier version dated 7 August 2015 in order to include the additional qualifying features ('pSPA features') listed above.



## European Site Conservation Objectives for Morecambe Bay Special Area of Conservation Site Code: UK0013027

With regard to the SAC and the natural habitats and/or species for which the site has been designated (the 'Qualifying Features' listed below), and subject to natural change;

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.

This document should be read in conjunction with the accompanying *Supplementary Advice* document, which provides more detailed advice and information to enable the application and achievement of the Objectives set out above.

### Qualifying Features:

H1110. Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time; Subtidal sandbanks

H1130. Estuaries

H1140. Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide; Intertidal mudflats and sandflats

H1150. Coastal lagoons\*

H1160. Large shallow inlets and bays

H1170. Reefs

H1220. Perennial vegetation of stony banks; Coastal shingle vegetation outside the reach of waves

H1310. *Salicornia* and other annuals colonising mud and sand; Glasswort and other annuals colonising mud and sand

H1330. Atlantic salt meadows (*Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae*)

H2110. Embryonic shifting dunes

H2120. Shifting dunes along the shoreline with *Ammophila arenaria* ("white dunes"); Shifting dunes with marram  
H2130. Fixed dunes with herbaceous vegetation ("grey dunes"); Dune grassland\*  
H2150. Atlantic decalcified fixed dunes (*Calluno-Ullicetea*); Coastal dune heathland\*  
H2170. Dunes with *Salix repens* ssp. *argentea* (*Salicion arenariae*); Dunes with creeping willow  
H2190. Humid dune slacks  
S1166. *Triturus cristatus*; Great crested newt

\* denotes a priority natural habitat or species (supporting explanatory text on following page)



### This is a European Marine Site

This site is a part of the Morecambe Bay European Marine Site. These conservation objectives should be used in conjunction with the Regulation 35 Conservation Advice Package, for further details please contact Natural England's enquiry service at [enquiries@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@naturalengland.org.uk), or by phone on 0845 600 3078, or visit the Natural England website at:

<http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/marine/protectandmanage/mpa/europeansites.aspx>

#### \* Priority natural habitats or species

Some of the natural habitats and species listed in the Habitats Directive and for which SACs have been selected are considered to be particular priorities for conservation at a European scale and are subject to special provisions in the Directive and the Habitats Regulations. These priority natural habitats and species are denoted by an asterisk (\*) in Annex I and II of the Directive. The term 'priority' is also used in other contexts, for example with reference to particular habitats or species that are prioritised in UK Biodiversity Action Plans. It is important to note however that these are not necessarily the priority natural habitats or species within the meaning of the Habitats Directive or the Habitats Regulations.

### Explanatory Notes: European Site Conservation Objectives

These Conservation Objectives are those referred to in the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (the "Habitats Regulations") and Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive. They must be considered when a competent authority is required to make a 'Habitats Regulations Assessment', including an Appropriate Assessment, under the relevant parts of this legislation.

These Conservation Objectives and the accompanying Supplementary Advice (where available) will also provide a framework to inform the measures needed to conserve or restore the European Site and the prevention of deterioration or significant disturbance of its qualifying features as required by the provisions of Article 6(1) and 6(2) of the Directive.

These Conservation Objectives are set for each habitat or species of a [Special Area of Conservation \(SAC\)](#). Where the objectives are met, the site will be considered to exhibit a high degree of integrity and to be contributing to achieving Favourable Conservation Status for that species or habitat type at a UK level. The term 'favourable conservation status' is defined in Article 1 of the Habitats Directive.

**Publication date:** 30 June 2014 – version 2. This document updates and replaces an earlier version dated 29 May 2012 to reflect Natural England's Strategic Standard on European Site Conservation Objectives 2014.



### **European Site Conservation Objectives for Bowland Fells Special Protection Area Site Code: UK9005151**

With regard to the SPA and the individual species and/or assemblage of species for which the site has been classified (the 'Qualifying Features' listed below), and subject to natural change;

Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the aims of the Wild Birds Directive, by maintaining or restoring;

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

This document should be read in conjunction with the accompanying *Supplementary Advice* document, which provides more detailed advice and information to enable the application and achievement of the Objectives set out above.

#### **Qualifying Features:**

A082 *Circus cyaneus*; Hen harrier (Breeding)

A098 *Falco columbarius*; Merlin (Breeding)

### Explanatory Notes: European Site Conservation Objectives

These Conservation Objectives are those referred to in the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (the "Habitats Regulations") and Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive. They must be considered when a competent authority is required to make a 'Habitats Regulations Assessment' including an Appropriate Assessment, under the relevant parts of this legislation.

These Conservation Objectives and the accompanying Supplementary Advice (where this is available) will also provide a framework to inform the management of the European Site under the provisions of Articles 4(1) and 4(2) of the Wild Birds Directive, and the prevention of deterioration of habitats and significant disturbance of its qualifying features required under Article 6(2) of the Habitats Directive.

These Conservation Objectives are set for each bird feature for a [Special Protection Area \(SPA\)](#). Where the objectives are met, the site will be considered to exhibit a high degree of integrity and to be contributing to achieving the aims of the Wild Birds Directive.

**Publication date:** 30 June 2014 (Version 2). This document updates and replaces an earlier version dated 29 May 2012 to reflect Natural England's Strategic Standard on European Site Conservation Objectives 2014. Previous references to additional features identified in the 2001 UK SPA Review have also been removed.



## European Site Conservation Objectives for Calf Hill and Cragg Woods Special Area of Conservation Site code: UK0030106

With regard to the SAC and the natural habitats and/or species for which the site has been designated (the 'Qualifying Features' listed below), and subject to natural change;

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

- The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats
- The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats, and
- The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats rely

This document should be read in conjunction with the accompanying *Supplementary Advice* document, which provides more detailed advice and information to enable the application and achievement of the Objectives set out above.

### Qualifying Features:

H91A0. Old sessile oak woods with *Ilex* and *Blechnum* in the British Isles; Western acidic oak woodland  
H91E0. Alluvial forests with *Alnus glutinosa* and *Fraxinus excelsior* (*Alno-Padion*, *Alnion incanae*, *Salicion albae*); Alder woodland on floodplains\*

#### \* Priority natural habitats or species

Some of the natural habitats and species listed in the Habitats Directive and for which SACs have been selected are considered to be particular priorities for conservation at a European scale and are subject to special provisions in the Directive and the Habitats Regulations. These priority natural habitats and species are denoted by an asterisk (\*) in Annex I and II of the Directive. The term 'priority' is also used in other contexts, for example with reference to particular habitats or species that are prioritised in UK Biodiversity Action Plans. It is important to note however that these are not necessarily the priority natural habitats or species within the meaning of the Habitats Directive or the Habitats Regulations.

#### Explanatory Notes: European Site Conservation Objectives

These Conservation Objectives are those referred to in the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (the "Habitats Regulations") and Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive. They must be considered when a competent authority is required to make a 'Habitats Regulations Assessment', including an Appropriate Assessment, under the relevant parts of this legislation.

These Conservation Objectives and the accompanying Supplementary Advice (where available) will also provide a framework to inform the measures needed to conserve or restore the European Site and the prevention of deterioration or significant disturbance of its qualifying features as required by the provisions of Article 6(1) and 6(2) of the Directive.

These Conservation Objectives are set for each habitat or species of a [Special Area of Conservation \(SAC\)](#). Where the objectives are met, the site will be considered to exhibit a high degree of integrity and to be contributing to achieving Favourable Conservation Status for that species or habitat type at a UK level. The term 'favourable conservation status' is defined in Article 1 of the Habitats Directive.

**Publication date:** 30 June 2014 (version 2). This document updates and replaces an earlier version dated 29 May 2012 to reflect Natural England's Strategic Standard on European Site Conservation Objectives 2014.



## European Site Conservation Objectives for Morecambe Bay Pavements Special Area of Conservation Site Code: UK0014777

With regard to the SAC and the natural habitats and/or species for which the site has been designated (the 'Qualifying Features' listed below), and subject to natural change;

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.

This document should be read in conjunction with the accompanying *Supplementary Advice* document, which provides more detailed advice and information to enable the application and achievement of the Objectives set out above.

### Qualifying Features:

H3140. Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of *Chara* spp.; Calcium-rich nutrient-poor lakes, lochs and pools

H4030. European dry heaths

H5130. *Juniperus communis* formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands

H6210. Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies: on calcareous substrates (*Festuco-Brometalia*); Dry grasslands and scrublands on chalk or limestone

H7210. Calcareous fens with *Cladium mariscus* and species of the *Caricion davallianae*; Calcium-rich fen dominated by great fen sedge (saw sedge)\*

H8240. Limestone pavements\*

H9180. *Tilio-Acerion* forests of slopes, screes and ravines; Mixed woodland on base-rich soils associated with rocky slopes\*

H91A0. Old sessile oak woods with *Ilex* and *Blechnum* in the British Isles; Western acidic oak woodland  
H91J0. *Taxus baccata* woods of the British Isles; Yew-dominated woodland\*  
S1014. *Vertigo angustior*; Narrow-mouthed whorl snail

\* denotes a priority natural habitat or species (supporting explanatory text on following page)

#### \* Priority natural habitats or species

Some of the natural habitats and species listed in the Habitats Directive and for which SACs have been selected are considered to be particular priorities for conservation at a European scale and are subject to special provisions in the Directive and the Habitats Regulations. These priority natural habitats and species are denoted by an asterisk (\*) in Annex I and II of the Directive. The term 'priority' is also used in other contexts, for example with reference to particular habitats or species that are prioritised in UK Biodiversity Action Plans. It is important to note however that these are not necessarily the priority natural habitats or species within the meaning of the Habitats Directive or the Habitats Regulations.

#### Explanatory Notes: European Site Conservation Objectives

These Conservation Objectives are those referred to in the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (the "Habitats Regulations") and Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive. They must be considered when a competent authority is required to make a 'Habitats Regulations Assessment', including an Appropriate Assessment, under the relevant parts of this legislation.

These Conservation Objectives and the accompanying Supplementary Advice (where available) will also provide a framework to inform the measures needed to conserve or restore the European Site and the prevention of deterioration or significant disturbance of its qualifying features as required by the provisions of Article 6(1) and 6(2) of the Directive.

These Conservation Objectives are set for each habitat or species of a [Special Area of Conservation \(SAC\)](#). Where the objectives are met, the site will be considered to exhibit a high degree of integrity and to be contributing to achieving Favourable Conservation Status for that species or habitat type at a UK level. The term 'favourable conservation status' is defined in Article 1 of the Habitats Directive.

**Publication date:** 30 June 2014 – version 2. This document updates and replaces an earlier version dated 29 May 2012 to reflect Natural England's Strategic Standard on European Site Conservation Objectives 2014.





### European Site Conservation Objectives for Leighton Moss Special Protection Area Site Code: UK9005091

With regard to the SPA and the individual species and/or assemblage of species for which the site has been classified (the 'Qualifying Features' listed below), and subject to natural change;

Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the aims of the Wild Birds Directive, by maintaining or restoring;

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

This document should be read in conjunction with the accompanying *Supplementary Advice* document, which provides more detailed advice and information to enable the application and achievement of the Objectives set out above.

#### Qualifying Features:

A021 *Botaurus stellaris*; Great bittern (Breeding)

### Explanatory Notes: European Site Conservation Objectives

These Conservation Objectives are those referred to in the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (the "Habitats Regulations") and Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive. They must be considered when a competent authority is required to make a 'Habitats Regulations Assessment' including an Appropriate Assessment, under the relevant parts of this legislation.

These Conservation Objectives and the accompanying Supplementary Advice (where this is available) will also provide a framework to inform the management of the European Site under the provisions of Articles 4(1) and 4(2) of the Wild Birds Directive, and the prevention of deterioration of habitats and significant disturbance of its qualifying features required under Article 6(2) of the Habitats Directive.

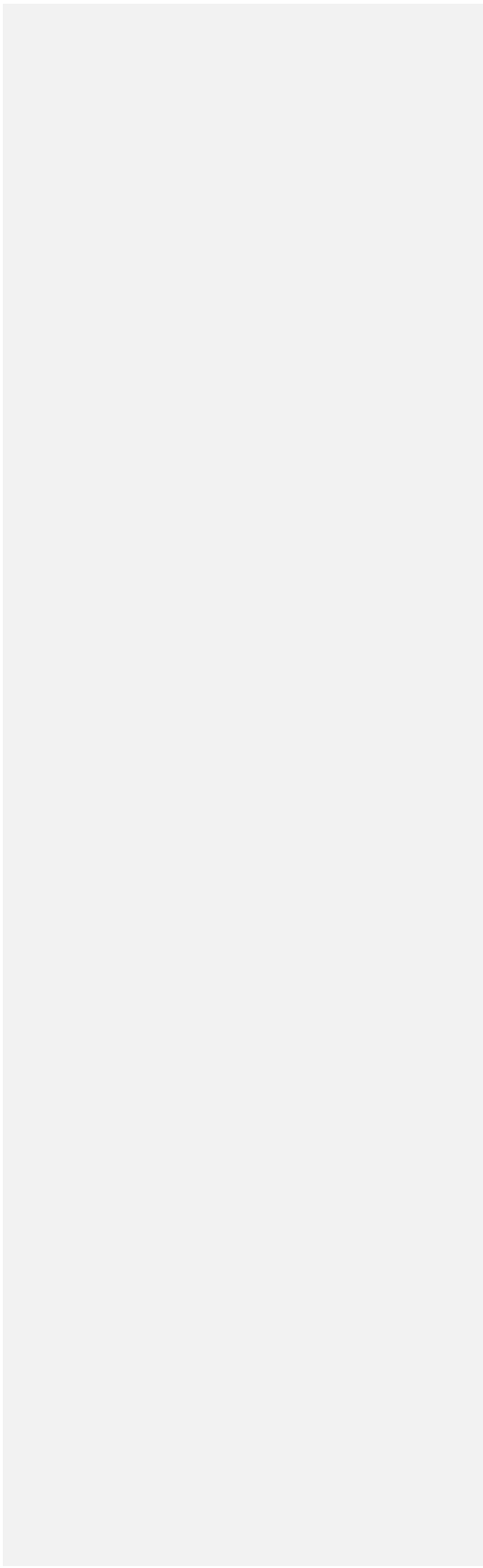
These Conservation Objectives are set for each bird feature for a [Special Protection Area \(SPA\)](#). Where the objectives are met, the site will be considered to exhibit a high degree of integrity and to be contributing to achieving the aims of the Wild Birds Directive.

**Publication date:** 30 June 2014 (Version 2). This document updates and replaces an earlier version dated 29 May 2012 to reflect Natural England's Strategic Standard on European Site Conservation Objectives 2014. Previous references to features listed in the 2001 UK SPA Review have also been removed.



APPENDIX B

Figure 1

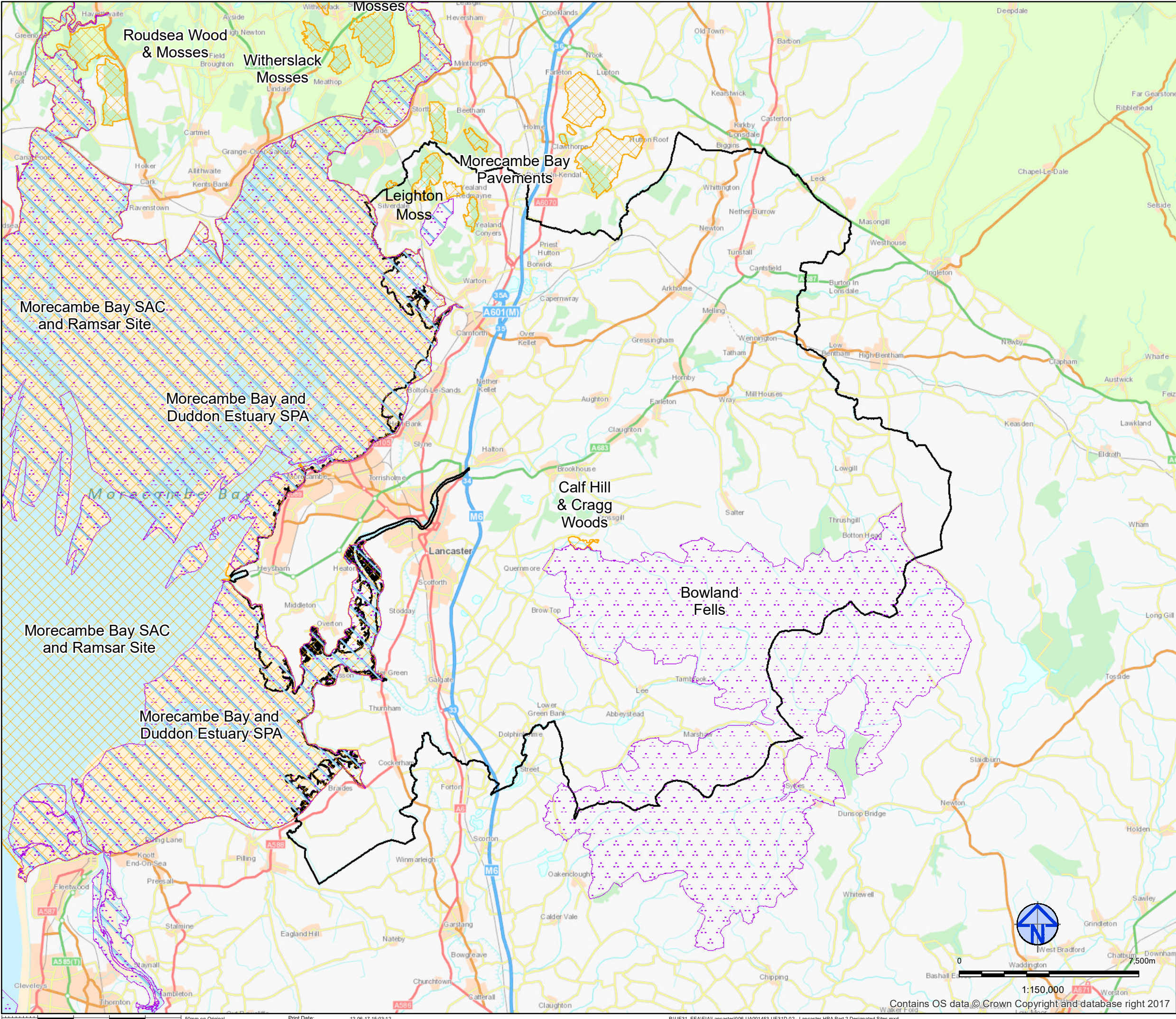


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NOTES:

Legend:

- Special Protection Area
- Ramsar site
- Special Area of Conservation
- Lancaster

02	06/12/17	First draft	RM	JW	LT
01	21/11/16	First draft	RM	LT	DH
Rev	Date	Description	Drawn	Check	Approv

Client

LANCASTER CITY COUNCIL

PROJECT:

LOCAL PLAN

PART TWO: HRA

Site

Lancaster

Client

Lancaster City Council

Town Hall

Dalton Square

Lancaster

LA1 1PJ

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22 Carlisle Place

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Coordinating office:

5TH Floor,

401 Faraday Street,

Warrington

WA3 6GA

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TITLE:

Figure 1

EUROPEAN DESIGNATED SITES

Designed	X.XXXXX	Date	XXJANXX	Signed
Drawn	R.MILLMAN	Date	06DEC17	Signed
Checked	J.WEAVER	Date	06DEC17	Signed
Approved	L.TURLEY	Date	06DEC17	Signed
Scale:	1:150,000	Datum:	AOD	
Original Size:	A3	Grid:	OS	
Suitability Code:	S2	Project Number:	UA001453	

Suitability Description:

Issued for Information

Drawing Number:	006-UA001453-UE31D-	Revision:	02
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