LANCASHIRE
COMBINED COUNTY
AUTHORITY

Lancashire Local Transport Plan

Habitats Regulations Assessment Stage 1 Screening and Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment | July 2025

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1 Introduction

1.1 Terms of reference

AtkinsRéalis UK Limited has been appointed by Lancashire Combined County Authority (CCA) to provide a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) for the Local Transport Plan (hereafter referred to as the 'LTP').

HRA is required by Regulation 63 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) (the 'Habitats Regulations') for all plans and projects which may have a likely significant effect on and are not directly connected with or necessary to the management of, a European Site[1].

1.2 Background and need for the LTP

Lancashire CCA is developing their LTP which is a statutory document. While replacing the constituent Local Transport Authorities' existing LTPs, it is the first to be produced by the new Combined County Authority. This LTP Core Strategy provides the policy foundation for transport investment in Lancashire between 2025 and 2045. All subsequent transport-related documents will build on this LTP Core Strategy – including implementation plans and mode-specific strategies.

The LTP is intended to serve a range of purposes:

- It demonstrates the CCA's ambitions to the public, businesses, stakeholders and national government;
- It supports the case for transport investment, especially related to national priorities such as economic growth;
- It provides a framework for prioritising the allocation of transport funding in the CCA;
- It enables the CCA and constituent authorities' other strategic plans and priorities, such as the Lancashire Growth Plan and Local Plans;
- It shows how the CCA will improve transport choices to meet the needs of those who live, work, visit and do business in Lancashire;
- It demonstrates our commitment to long-term sustainability – ensuring that future development is sustainable and inclusive.

The LTP identifies three main challenges that the LTP aims to tackle, which then sets the case for transport investment in the CCA:

- The need to create a stronger economy: recognising a large productivity gap between the economy and the national average. This is related to business performance, workforce

[1] This is defined as a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) or Special Protection Area (SPA), which as a matter of government policy (Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (2024) National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), Paragraph 194) also includes possible SACs (pSAC), potential SPAs (pSPA), listed or proposed Ramsar sites (wetland sites of international importance, as designated under the Ramsar Convention 1971) and any site identified, or required, as compensatory measures for adverse effects on any of the above listed designations. Following the changes made to the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) by the Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019, SACs and SPAs in the UK no longer form part of the EU's Natura 2000 network, but form the UK's national site network. The term 'Habitats Sites' is sometimes now used instead of 'European Sites' following the UK's departure from the EU.

health and skills deficits, levels of innovation, and transport connectivity. Closing this gap is anticipated to boost the economy by up to £10 billion per annum;

- The need to create a fairer future: the social challenges include significant health inequalities and social exclusion, relating to poor early years outcomes, education, limited travel choices, low-paid jobs, and poor housing, which are concentrated in many towns across Lancashire. Transforming travel choices across Lancashire is recognised in the LTP as a means to improving the lives of residents across the CCA;
- The need to plan for a sustainable future: the LTP recognises a need to ensure networks are resilient and rapidly reduce polluting emissions – transport is one of the major sources of emissions in Lancashire. The LTP then aims to reduce transport emissions, protect and enhance our built and natural environments, and support improved resilience across Lancashire.

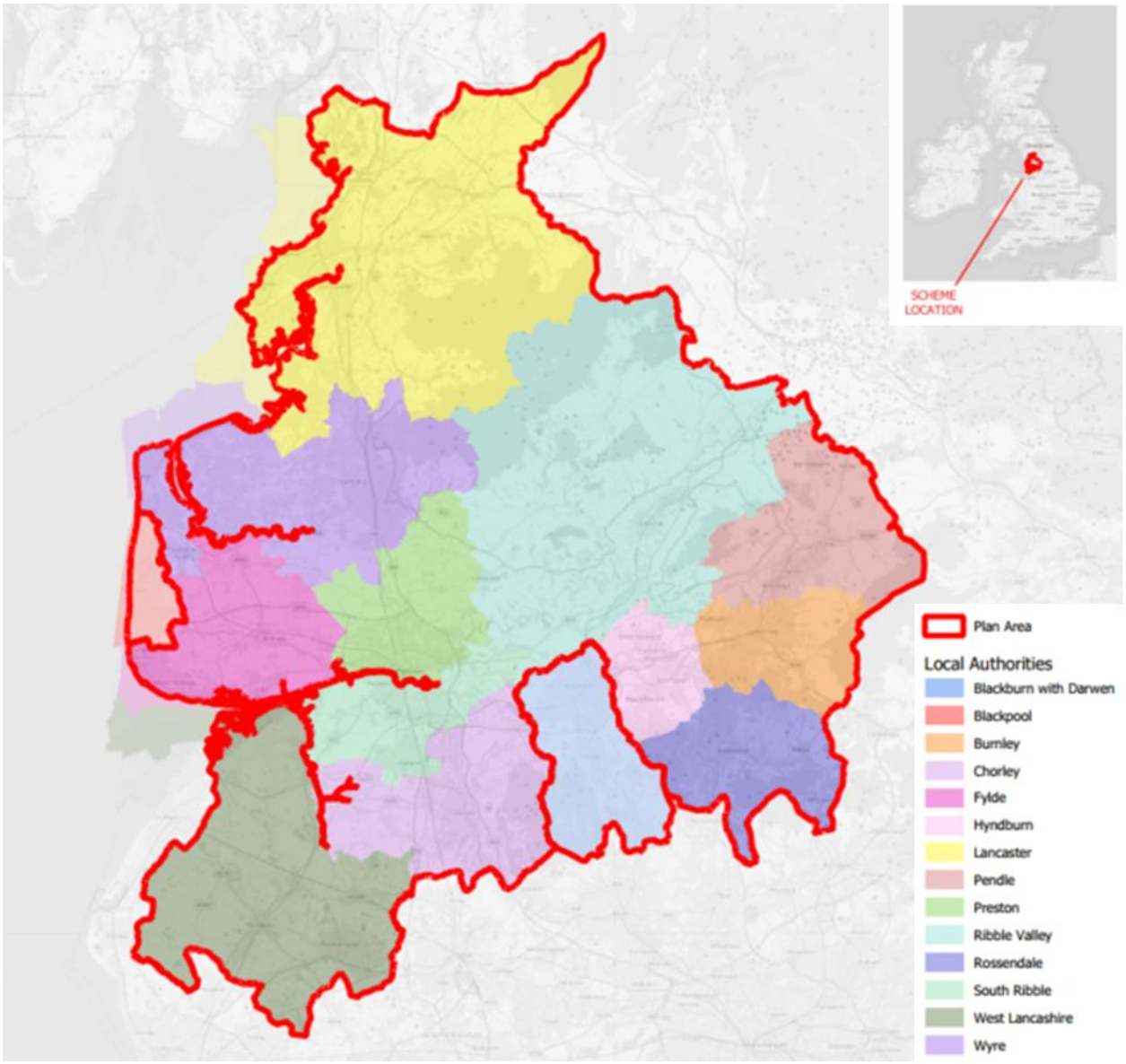
As recognised above, the LTP consists of a Core Strategy which provides the overall context, purpose and direction of the plan and which will be supported by a range of supporting sub-strategies and technical documents.

1.3 The Plan

The LTP will span the period between 2025 and 2045 and cover a county council (Lancashire County Council) and two unitary authorities (Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council and Blackpool Council). Within Lancashire County Council there are 12 local authorities as follows and shown in Figure 1-1 below:

- Burnley;
- Chorley;
- Fylde;
- Hyndburn;
- Lancaster;
- Pendle;
- Preston;
- Ribble Valley;
- Rossendale;
- South Ribble;
- West Lancashire;
- Wyre.

Figure 1-1 LTP Area



It is also important to recognise that the implementation of the LTP may have effects outside of the CCA. The Local Authorities adjacent to the CCA are as follows:

- Westmorland and Furness;
- North Yorkshire;
- Bolton;
- Bury;
- Rochdale;
- Wigan;
- Knowsley;
- St. Helens;

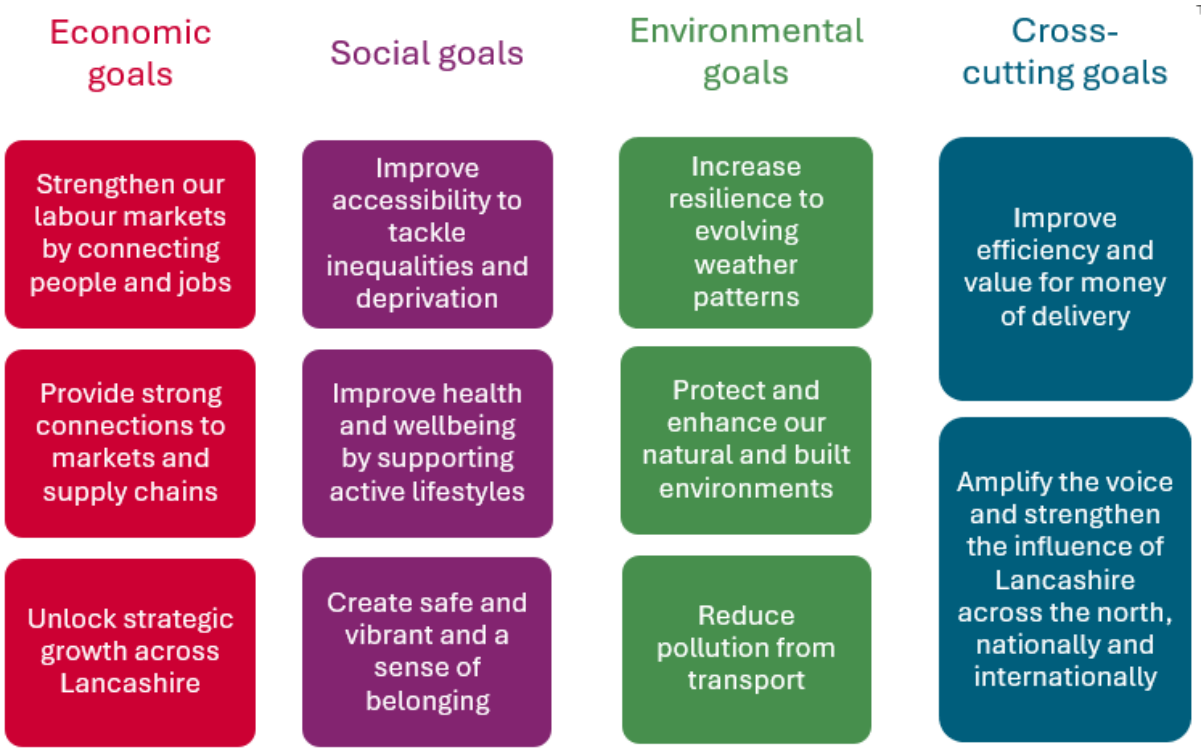
- Sefton;
- Bradford;
- Calderdale.

The LTP has identified a vision and 11 goals that summarise the LTPs purpose and ambition, as listed below. The LTP goals are set out in Figure 1-2.

Vision

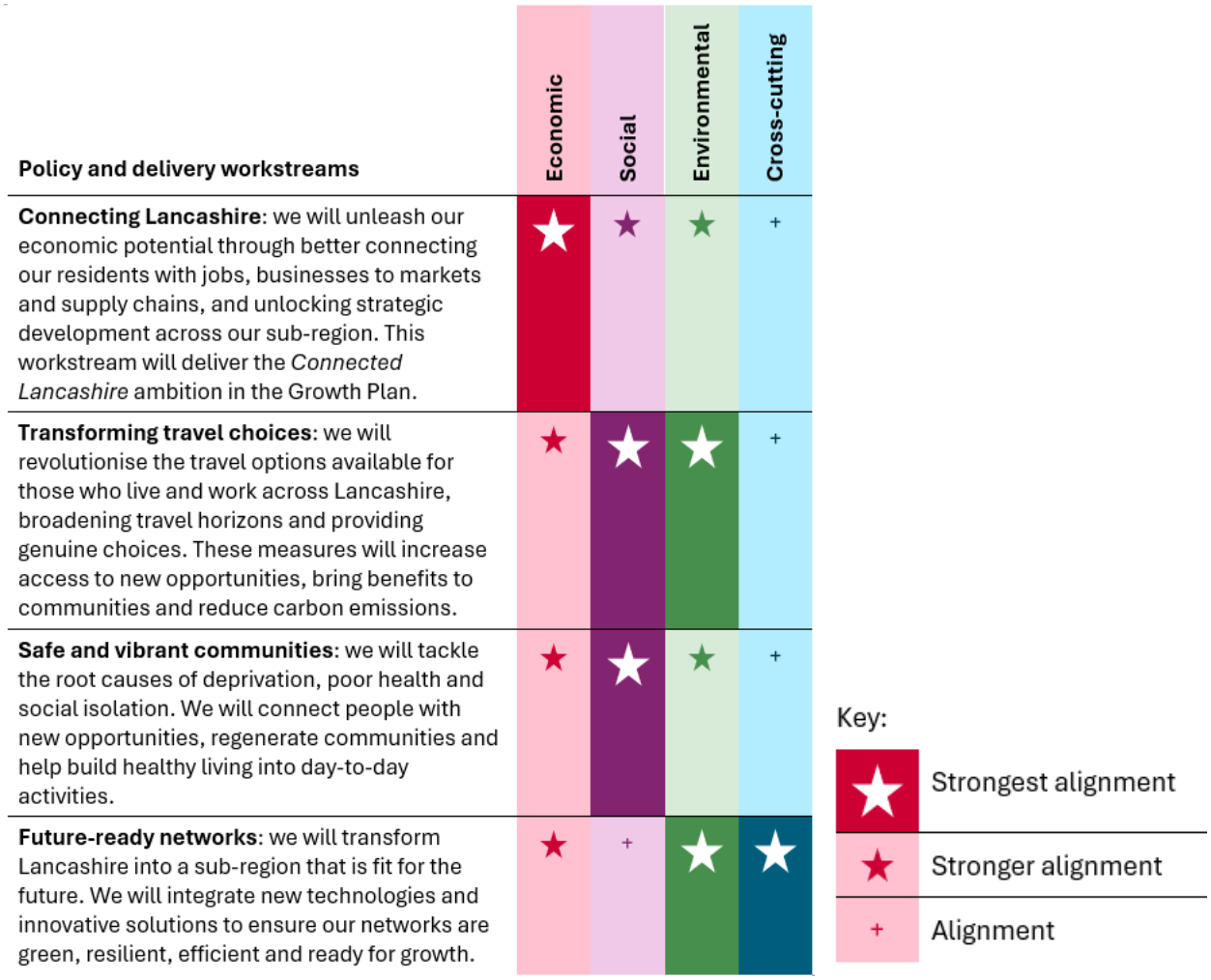
"*The vision for the* LTP *is for the transport network to support a stronger economy, with fairer opportunities and a sustainable future*".

Figure 1-2 LTP goals



The four LTP policy and delivery workstreams, detailed below in Figure 1-3, set out the approach for achieving the LTP vision and goals.

Figure 1-3 LTP 4 Policy and Delivery Workstreams



1.4 Background to HRA

According to Regulation 63 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) (the 'Habitats Regulations'), before deciding to undertake or give any consent for a plan or project, '*..which 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 is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of that site,'* the Competent Authority must *'make an appropriate assessment of the implications of the plan or project for that site in view of that site's conservation objectives*.'

The LTP is not directly connected with, or necessary to, the nature conservation management of any European Site.

UK Government policy: National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)[2], states that potential Special Protection Areas (pSPA) and possible Special Areas of Conservation (pSAC), listed or proposed Ramsar sites[3] and sites identified, or required, as compensatory measures for adverse effects on habitats sites, pSPAs, pSACs, and listed or proposed Ramsar sites, should

[2] Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (2024) National Planning Policy Framework. Available from: National Planning Policy Framework - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk) (Accessed June 2025)
[3] Defined by the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, especially as waterfowl habitat (otherwise known as the 'Ramsar Convention). Refer to: https://www.ramsar.org/

also be considered European Sites. Hereafter, all of the above designated nature conservation sites are referred to as 'European Sites'.

The stages of the HRA process are:

- Stage 1 - Screening: To assess whether a plan or project either alone or in combination with other plans and projects is likely to have a significant effect on a European Site;
- Stage 2 - Appropriate Assessment: To determine whether, in view of a European Site's conservation objectives, the project or plan (either alone or in combination with other projects and plans) would have an adverse effect (or risk of this) on the integrity of the site with respect to the conservation objectives. If adverse impacts are anticipated, potential mitigation measures to alleviate impacts should be proposed and assessed;
- Stage 3[4] – Derogations (allow exceptions): Where a project or plan is assessed as having an adverse residual impact (or risk of this) on the integrity of a European Site, it may qualify for a derogation. Three legal tests must be applied in the following order:
    1. There are no feasible alternative solutions that would be less damaging or avoid damage to the site;
    2. The proposal needs to be carried out for imperative reasons of overriding public interest;
    3. The necessary compensatory measures can be secured.

This report comprises Stage 1 - HRA Screening of the plan and Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment.

1.5 Legal Context to HRA

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. The concept of likely significant effects ('LSE') as embodied in Regulation 63(1) is central to their operation. Its interpretation is well established in law and guidance and embraces the precautionary principle.

The European Court Waddenzee judgement[5] provides clarification regarding the term 'likely'. It concludes that: *"any plan or project not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site is to be subject to an Appropriate Assessment of its implications for the site in view of the site's conservation objectives if it cannot be excluded, on the basis of objective information, that it will have a significant effect on that site, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects."*

Clarification has also been provided through case law on the meaning of 'likely' in relation to Bagmoor Wind Ltd. v The Scottish Ministers[6]: *"the word 'likely' in the regulation is not to be construed as an expression of probability, in a legal sense, but as a description of the existence of a risk (or possibility)."* Consequently, if the possibility of a significant effect cannot be excluded based on objective information, an Appropriate Assessment will be required.

[4] Derogations stages were previously described as two separate stages, but now commonly grouped together.
[5] Case C – 127/02 Waddenzee, reference for a preliminary ruling from the Raad van State: Landelijke Vereniging tot Behoud van de Waddenzee, Nederlandse Vereniging tot Bescherming van Vogels v Staatssecretaris van Landbouw, Natuurbeheer en Visserij, 7th September 2004.
[6] Bagmoor Wind Limited v The Scottish Ministers, Court of Sessions (2012) CSIH 93.

The European Court Waddenzee judgement also provides further clarification regarding the term 'significant': *"..where a plan or project not directly connected with or necessary to the management of a site is likely to undermine the site's conservation objectives, it must be considered likely to have a significant effect on that site. The assessment of that risk must be made in the light inter alia of the characteristics and specific environmental conditions of the site concerned by such a plan or project."*

The Bagmoor Wind case also provides guidance on the term 'objective'. It states: *"..objective, in this context, means information based on clear verifiable fact rather than subjective opinion"*. The Habitats Regulations Assessment Handbook[7] states: *"..it will not normally be sufficient for an applicant merely to assert that the plan or project will not have an adverse effect on a site, nor will it be appropriate for a competent authority to rely on reassurances based on supposition or speculation. On the other hand, there should be credible evidence to show that there is a real rather than a hypothetical risk of effects that could undermine the site's conservation objectives. Any serious possibility of a risk that the conservation objectives could be undermined should trigger an 'appropriate assessment'"*.

The test for likelihood of significant effects requires that consideration is given to potential causes and potential effects (i.e. any potential impact pathways). To do this, information on the Plan is needed to identify the potential causes of effects and information on the European Site is needed to identify any potential implications related to these effects. In the absence of a potential impact pathway, it can be concluded that no likely significant effect would arise. Relevant aspects (effects) of the Scheme have been checked against all features of the relevant European Sites (i.e. screened) to determine whether a likely significant effect may arise.

The judgement as to whether a significant effect is likely needs to be based on the best readily available information. Sources of information may include evidence from projects where similar operations have affected sites with similar qualifying features and conservation objectives and the judgement of relevant specialists that an effect is likely, as well as survey data collected to date for a particular project. In line with the precautionary principle, where there is uncertainty and/ or information is lacking in relation to the capacity of the effect to undermine the site's conservation objectives, it must be assumed that there will be an effect, unless further information can be made available to eliminate any areas of doubt.

The implication of the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU) judgement referred to as 'People Over Wind'[8] is that competent authorities cannot take account of any *"..measures that are intended to avoid or reduce the harmful effects of the envisaged project on the site concerned"*, when considering at the HRA screening stage whether the plan or project is likely to have an adverse effect on a European Site. The effect of this is that the screening stage must be undertaken on a precautionary basis with no regard to any proposed integrated or additional avoidance or reduction measures. Where the likelihood of significant effects cannot be excluded on the basis of objective information, the competent authority must proceed to carry out an Appropriate Assessment to establish whether the plan or project will affect the integrity of the European Site, which can include at that stage consideration of the effectiveness of the proposed avoidance or reduction measures.

[7] Tyldesley, D., and Chapman, C., (2013) *The Habitats Regulations Assessment Handbook, June 2025 edition UK: DTA Publications Limited.* Available at: www.dtapublications.co.uk (Accessed September 2024).
[8] Peter Sweetman v Coillte Teoranta, Case C-323/17

Case law in 2017 referred to as the 'Wealden Judgement'[9] prompted Natural England to make their internal guidance on assessing the effects of road traffic emissions on European Sites public[10]. The guidance provides further information on the in-combination assessment at screening stage with regard to air quality effects following the Wealden Judgement.

1.6 Consultation

Under Regulation 63(3) of the Habitats Regulations, the appropriate statutory nature conservation body, in this case Natural England, must be consulted at Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment.

Since LSEs could not be discounted at all European Sites and Appropriate Assessment is required, Natural England will be made aware of this plan and consideration will be given to their advice and comments throughout the HRA process. A draft of this report will be made available to Natural England for comment.

[9] Case no: CO/3943/2016 – Between Wealden District Council and Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, Lewes District Council and South Downs National Park Authority and Natural England.
[10] NE Internal Guidance – *Approach to advising Competent Authorities on Road Traffic Emissions and HRAs* V1.4 Final – June 2018.

2 Methods

2.1 Overview

The LTP Core Strategy is a high-level plan which provides no specific details or outline of any development proposals, no details of where development may be located and/ or when (or if) these sites will be constructed.

The HRA has also been undertaken at a strategic level. It broadly assesses where there is scope for impacts upon European Sites due to proximity, the presence of impact pathways and the type of impacts that may occur as a result of a proposed scheme, such as changes in air quality, recreational pressure, and changes in hydrology. Due to the high-level strategic nature of the plan, any development will need to be assessed at the project or scheme level, with reference to the conservation objectives of the qualifying features of each of the European Sites.

The Habitats Regulations Assessment Handbook[11] outlines that screening for appropriate assessment requires gathering sufficient information to objectively conclude whether effects on a European Site will be significant or not. On this basis, screening to ascertain whether appropriate assessment is required covers four themes:

- Determining whether the plan (or project) is directly connected with or necessary to the management of the European Site;
- Identifying the potential effects on the European Site;
- Assessing the likely significant effect (LSE) on the European Site; and,
- Describing the plans (or projects) and characterising other plans (or projects) that in combination have the potential for having significant effects on the European Site.

The preliminary steps in the assessment have been based on these themes.

2.2 Preliminary Steps

The LTP is not considered to be directly connected with or necessary for the management of the European Site.

2.2.1 Identification of sites for consideration

The following selection criteria, based on the geographic extent of any impacts which could arise as a result of the LTP and as explained below, have been used to determine what European Sites to consider in the HRA screening assessment.

- All European Sites within 2 km of the LTP Area;
- All European Sites up to 20 km from the LTP Area where birds are a qualifying interest feature;
- All European Sites up to 30 km from the LTP Area where bats are a qualifying interest feature.

[11] Tyldesley, D., and Chapman, C., (2013) *The Habitats Regulations Assessment Handbook: DTA Publications Limited. Edition: June 2025.* Available at: www.dtapublications.co.uk (Accessed June 2025).

- All European Sites upstream or downstream of watercourses within the LTP Area.

The core range for many species for example breeding and non-breeding bird species, otter and fish can extend beyond the boundaries of SAC, SPA and Ramsar site designations, meaning land beyond a designated site boundary having 'functional linkage' with the designated sites. Functional linkages include key flyways, foraging areas, breeding or roost sites. Although core ranges of species can vary from very short distances to tens of kilometres or more, for inland sites in this region a distance of 20 km is considered to be sufficient and precautionary in this instance.

2.2.2 Data gathering

Baseline information about the location, characteristics and vulnerabilities of European Sites and Conservation objectives was taken from following sources:

- Multi-Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside (MAGIC) Webmap[12];
- Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) Natura 2000 Standard Data Forms[13];
- Natural England Designated Site Information[14].

2.2.3 Effect pathways

Plans or projects can adversely affect a site by:

- Causing delays in progress towards achieving the Conservation objectives of the European Site;
- Interrupting progress towards achieving the Conservation objectives of the European Site;
- Disrupting those factors that help to maintain the favourable conditions of the European Site; and,
- Interfering with the balance, distribution and density of key species that are the indicators of the favourable condition of the European Site.

Supplementary Advice[15] from Natural England describes the measures necessary to achieving the Conservation objectives for a European Site, comprising a range of ecological attributes that are most likely to contribute to the overall integrity of a European Site.

With reference to the Supplementary Advice on Conservation objectives (SACOs)[16], effect pathways on the Conservation objectives for the European Site were considered against the following list:

[12] Available from http://magic.defra.gov.uk (accessed June 2025).
[13] Available from http://jncc.defra.gov.uk (accessed June 2025).
[14] Available from https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/SiteSearch.aspx (accessed June 2025)
[15] Natural England. (2015) *Conservation objectives for land-based protected sites in England: how to use the site advice* [online]. Available from <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/conservation-objectives-for-land-based-protected-sites-in-england-how-to-use-the-site-advice> (accessed June 2025).
[16] Natural England. (2015) Conservation objectives for land-based protected sites in England: how to use the site advice [online]. Available from <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/conservation-objectives-for-land-based-protected-sites-in-england-how-to-use-the-site-advice> (accessed June 2025).

- **Habitat loss and fragmentation** – includes direct loss of habitats under the footprint of temporary or permanent works. Indirect effects through the loss of functionally linked habitats, i.e. habitats that support species outside of the European Site boundary;
- **Species disturbance** (visual, noise, vibration) – this refers to disturbance during construction, operation or decommissioning works on species that may cause behavioural effects, e.g. avoidance, change in foraging behaviour. Physical works, vehicle movements, light pollution and presence of staff/ workers are all considered;
- **Changes to water quality** – considers effects on species (and their prey) as a result of contamination, changes in pH, increased nutrient loads, salinity, turbidity, alterations in the thermal regime, discharges or changes in sedimentation levels;
- **Changes to air quality** – evaluates the risk of discharges to air, including fugitive dust and combustion emissions;
- **Changes to surface and groundwater hydrology** – changes to the flow, supply, availability and drainage of water, and increased risks associated with flooding;
- **Introduction of Invasive Non-Native Species** (INNS) – the risk of introducing or spreading INNS as a result of the CONSERVATION OBJECTIVES;
- **Recreation** – direct and indirect impacts on species and habitats as a result of increased recreational use, including increased visitor numbers, dog walkers, vehicle or watercraft use and associated issues such as dog fouling, litter and anti-social behaviour (littering, vandalism and fires).

2.2.4 Obtaining information on other projects and plans

The Habitats Regulations requires assessment of the potential for LSE of the LTP 'in combination' with other projects and plans.

The effects of the LTP in combination with other plans and projects are the cumulative effects which will, or might, result from the addition of the effects of other relevant plans or projects, and making an assessment as to whether these could be significant.

The Habitats Regulations Assessment Handbook[17] advises that any plans or projects at the following stages may be relevant to an in-combination assessment:

- Planning applications submitted but not yet determined;
- Planning application refusals subject to appeal procedures and not yet determined;
- Projects authorised but not yet started;
- Projects started but not yet completed;
- Known projects that do not require external authorisation, e.g. permitted development;
- Projects subject to periodic review, e.g. annual licences, during the time that their renewal is under consideration;

[17] Tyldesley, D., and Chapman, C., (2013) *The Habitats Regulations Assessment Handbook: DTA Publications Limited.* Available at: www.dtapublications.co.uk (Accessed June 2025).

- Proposals in adopted plans (e.g. land use plans, transport plans, minerals and waste plans, shoreline management plans, etc.); and
- Proposals in finalised draft plans (see examples above) formally published or submitted for final consultation, examination or adoption.

The National Infrastructure Planning[18] website was searched for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects which could have effects 'in combination' with the Plan.

A desktop review of local authority websites and planning portals was completed to identify plans or projects that have undergone a HRA and could have an LSE in combination with the Plan. Based on the scale, complexity and duration of the Plan, a desktop review of projects and plans proposed or consented within the last five years is considered to be sufficient and precautionary in this instance. Only 'reasonably foreseeable' and 'committed' projects and plans have been included in this assessment.

The search included the following local authority planning website(s) for relevant planning documents, planning applications and consents, as well as a review of allocated and proposed sites:

- Lancashire County Council[19];
- Burnley Borough Council[20];
- Chorley Council[21];
- Fylde Borough Council[22]
- Hyndburn Borough Council[23];
    - Blackpool Council[24];
- Lancaster City Council[25];
- Pendle Borough Council[26];
- Preston City Council[27];
- Ribble Valley Borough Council[28];
- Rossendale Borough Council[29];
- South Ribble Borough Council[30];
- West Lancashire Borough Council[31];

[18] National Infrastructure Planning. Available at: https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/ (Accessed June 2025).
[19] https://lancashire.gov.uk/
[20] https://burnley.gov.uk/
[21] https://chorley.gov.uk/
[22] https://new.fylde.gov.uk/
[23] https://www.hyndburnbc.gov.uk/
[24] https://www.blackpool.gov.uk/Home.aspx
[25] https://www.lancaster.gov.uk/
[26] https://www.pendle.gov.uk/
[27] https://www.preston.gov.uk/
[28]https://www.ribblevalley.gov.uk/
[29] https://www.rossendale.gov.uk/
[30] https://southribble.gov.uk/
[31] https://www.westlancs.gov.uk/

- Wyre Council[32];
- Westmorland and Furness Council;[33]
- North Yorkshire Council[34];
- Bolton Council[35];
- Bury Council[36];
- Ribble Valley Council[37];
- Rochdale Borough Council[38];
- Wigan Council[39];
- Knowsley Council[40];
- St. Helens Borough Council[41];
- Sefton Council[42];
- City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council[43];
- Calderdale Council[44].

2.3 Stage 1: Screening for Likely Significant Effects (LSE)

2.3.1 Alone

The precautionary principle (as enshrined in the Habitats Regulations) has been taken into account during this HRA. Whenever potential significant effects could not be objectively discounted, the European Site has been screened in.

Following the gathering of information on the LTP and the European Sites, an assessment was undertaken to determine whether there could be any LSE on the European Sites 'alone' as a result of the LTP. In order to inform this process, all parts of the LTP were assessed. All text that is aspirational or administrative in nature and will not result in future development/ environmental change and, therefore, have no ability to impact upon European Sites, was identified.

Any LSEs are assessed by reference to the conservation objectives of the qualifying feature (interest feature) of the European Site.

[32] https://www.wyre.gov.uk/
[33] https://www.westmorlandandfurness.gov.uk/
[34] https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/
[35] https://www.bolton.gov.uk/
[36] https://www.bury.gov.uk/
[37] https://www.ribblevalley.gov.uk/
[38] https://www.rochdale.gov.uk/
[39] https://www.wigan.gov.uk/index.aspx
[40] https://www.knowsley.gov.uk/
[41] https://www.sthelens.gov.uk/
[42] https://sefton.gov.uk/
[43] https://www.bradford.gov.uk/
[44] https://new.calderdale.gov.uk/

Any plan or project that causes a cited interest features to fall into unfavourable condition can be considered to have an LSE on the European Site. Stage 1 of the HRA process assesses potential effects on the European Sites without mitigation.

Following the completion of the Stage 1 'alone' screening, consideration was also given to the potential for the effects of the LTP to combine with other plans and projects and result in additional LSEs that were discounted by the Plan 'alone'.

Any European Sites with LSE pathways 'alone', that were already screened in and requiring Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment, were not subject to 'in-combination' assessment[45].

2.3.2 Stage 2: Appropriate Assessment

Appropriate Assessment for a plan cannot be as detailed an assessment as one undertaken at a project level. Impacts of a plan depend to a large extent on how policies and proposals are implemented on the ground. Due to the uncertainties inherent in policy-making, the exact effect of a policy or proposal may not be certain until detailed implementation. This can make it difficult to conclude with any certainty that adverse effects on integrity will not take place.

Due to the requirement to apply the precautionary principle, if it is not possible to be certain that adverse effects will not occur, this HRA proposes methods to mitigate for adverse effects that could occur. This is important in order to demonstrate that any development brought forward as a result of policies in the LTP can be delivered without adverse effects on integrity. Changes to the detailed design of development schemes, when they arise, may be necessary as well as mitigation.

For European Sites where an LSE is predicted (alone or in combination with other plans or projects), or it cannot be concluded that there is no LSE, an Appropriate Assessment has been undertaken. The purpose of the Appropriate Assessment is to establish whether there are elements of the project which could have an adverse effect on the integrity (AEoI) of any European Site. The integrity of a European Site is defined as:

> *"..the coherence of the site's ecological structure and function, across its whole area, that enables it to sustain the habitat, complex of habitats and/ or the populations of the species for which the site is, or will be, designated"*[46]

The Habitats Regulations Assessment Handbook provides guidance on the 'integrity test'[47]. It emphasises that the integrity of a European Site involves its ecological structure, function and ecological processes, and relates to the site's Conservation objectives; if the Conservation Objective for a feature will be undermined, site integrity is adversely affected.

The Appropriate Assessment considers each individual effect pathway separately, as well as any combination of relevant effect pathways from the LTP and any other plans or projects.

Therefore, the Appropriate Assessment:

- Outlines the elements of the LTP that were identified as having a potential LSE on one or more qualifying features of a European Site;

[45] Regulation 63(1)(a) requires appropriate assessment if LSE is likely *either alone or in combination with other plans or projects.*
[46] Natural England (2019) MPA Conservation Advice Glossary of Terms. Available here: https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/pdfs/MPA_CAGlossary_March2019.pdf
[47] Section C11 The 'integrity test'. Available here: https://www.dtapublications.co.uk/handbook/content.aspx?section=C11

- Assesses the effects of the LTP on the Conservation objectives of the relevant interest features, with reference to any Supplementary Advice;
- Determines whether or not the integrity of the European Site(s) will be affected, taking into account proposed mitigation measures.

3 Stage 1 – Screening

3.1 European Sites Identified for Screening

3.1.1 List of European Sites Identified

The European Sites identified in the search areas are detailed in Table 3-1 below. This includes five SACs, six SPAs and four Ramsar sites within the LTP Area.

Region	SAC	SPA	Ramsar sites
Within the LTP Area	South Pennine Moors Calf Hill & Cragg Woods Morecambe Bay Pavements North Pennine Dales Meadows Morecambe Bay	Bowland Fells Leighton Moss Martin Mere Morecambe Bay and Duddon Estuary Ribble & Alt Estuaries South Pennine Moors Phase 2	Leighton Moss Martin Mere Ribble & Alt Estuaries Morecambe Bay
Within 2 km of the LTP Area	Ingleborough Complex Sefton Coast	Liverpool Bay	
Within 20 km of the LTP Area for Birds (SPA / Ramsar)	N/A	Mersey Estuary Mersey Narrows & North Wirral Foreshore North Pennine Moors Peak District Moors (South Pennine Moors Phase 1)	Mersey Estuary Mersey Narrows & North Wirral Foreshore Duddon Estuary Dee Estuary
Within 30 km of the LTP Area for Bats (SACs)	There are no SACs within 30 km of the plan area with bats as a qualifying feature	N/A	N/A

The following SACs were identified between 2 km and 10 km of the LLPT4 area, however, as there was no potential impact pathways they were discounted from the assessment:

- Roudsea Woods and Mosses SAC;
- Witherslack Mosses SAC;
- Rochdale Canal SAC;
- River Kent SAC.

3.2 Information on European Sites Identified for Screening

Relevant environmental information for each European Site taken from the Standard Date Forms is presented in Appendix A.

3.3 Screening of LTP Policies

As outlined in section 2.2.4, the following effect pathways have been identified. Each Conservation Objective has been considered against each pathway:

- Habitat loss and fragmentation;
- Species disturbance (visual, noise, vibration);
- Changes to water quality;
- Changes to air quality;
- Changes to surface and groundwater hydrology;
- Introduction of INNS;
- Recreation.

3.3.1 Likely Significant Effect Screening – Alone

LSE screening for the identified European Sites is provided in Table 3-2 below. The assessment considers the construction and operation of the LTP. As the LTP will be operational for the foreseeable future, decommissioning has not been considered within the assessment.

Table 3-1 – Screening of LTP Policies Summary Table

Connecting Lancashire

Policy Reference	Policy	LSE	Justification
CL1	Enable the delivery of strategic growth sites	**Yes**	The policy may lead to development, therefore, there is a potential risk of an LSE subject to design and location.
CL2	Transform east / west public transport through the Central Belt	**Yes**	The policy may lead to development, therefore, there is a potential risk of an LSE subject to design and location.
CL3	Improve public transport connections with neighbouring regions	**Yes**	The policy may lead to development, therefore, there is a potential risk of an LSE subject to design and location.
CL4	Improve reliability of strategic and major roads for all modes of transport	**Yes**	The policy may lead to development, therefore, there is a potential risk of an LSE subject to design and location.
CL5	Explore new or expanded heavy rail and mass transit networks	**Yes**	The policy may lead to development, therefore, there is a potential risk of an LSE subject to design and location.

CL6	Improve high-speed broadband, especially in rural areas	**No**	The policy will not lead to development.

Transforming travel choices

Policy Reference	Policy	LSE	Justification
TC1	Improve and modernise bus journeys	**Yes**	The policy may lead to development, therefore, there is a potential risk of an LSE subject to design and location.
TC2	Revolutionise rail travel so it is reliable and affordable	**No**	The policy will not lead to development.
TC3	Establish convenient and safe active travel options	**Yes**	The policy may lead to development, therefore, there is a potential risk of an LSE subject to design and location.
TC4	Enable increased use of bus, rail and active travel	**No**	The policy will not lead to development.
TC5	Broaden travel choices in rural areas	**No**	The policy will not lead to development.
TC6	Ensure taxis offer a reliable and safe service	**No**	The policy will not lead to development.
TC7	Transform sustainable travel choices for tourists	**Yes**	The policy may lead to development, therefore, there is a potential risk of an LSE subject to design and location.
TC8	Reimagine public transport ticketing	**No**	The policy will not lead to development.

Safe and vibrant communities

Policy Reference	Policy	LSE	Justification
SV1	Empower everyone to travel safely and securely, wherever they go	**No**	The policy will not lead to development.
SV2	Deliver accessible and affordable public transport	**No**	The policy will not lead to development.

SV3	Develop accessible, high-quality spaces and infrastructure	**Yes**	The policy may lead to development, therefore, there is a potential risk of an LSE subject to design and location.
SV4	Embed placemaking in new developments	**No**	The policy will not lead to development.
SV5	Alleviate adverse impacts of travel on communities	**Yes**	The policy may lead to development, therefore, there is a potential risk of an LSE subject to design and location.

Future-ready networks

Policy Reference	Policy	LSE	Justification
FN1	Embrace new transport data and technologies	**No**	The policy will not lead to development.
FN2	Accelerate the uptake of electric vehicles	**Yes**	The policy may lead to development, therefore, there is a potential risk of an LSE subject to design and location.
FN3	Improve journey time reliability	**Yes**	The policy may lead to development, therefore, there is a potential risk of an LSE subject to design and location.
FN4:	Deliver sustainable, resilient infrastructure	**Yes**	The policy may lead to development, therefore, there is a potential risk of an LSE subject to design and location.
FN5	Embed whole-life approaches to asset management	**No**	The policy will not lead to development.
FN6	Implement smarter public parking strategies that meet evolving needs	**No**	The policy will not lead to development.
FN7	Support sustainable first and last mile freight	**Yes**	The policy may lead to development, therefore, there is a potential risk of an LSE subject to design and location.

3.4 Stage 1 Screening Conclusions

The HRA Stage 1 Screening assessment has concluded that LSE cannot be discounted for all potential impact pathways for all policies within the LTP as 14 out of the 26 policies screened could lead to development.

Owing to the potential for LSEs 'alone', the in-combination assessment will be undertaken at Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment.

Therefore, Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment has been undertaken and is detailed in Section 4.

4 Stage 2 – Appropriate Assessment

4.1 Introduction

The HRA Stage 1 screening assessment concluded that 14 of the LTP policies may result in an LSE on European Sites. These are:

Connecting Lancashire

- Policy CL1
- Policy CL2
- Policy CL3
- Policy CL4
- Policy CL5

Transforming travel choices

- Policy TC1
- Policy TC3
- Policy TC7

Safe and vibrant communities

- Policy SV3
- Policy SV5

Future-ready networks

- Policy FN2
- Policy FN3
- Policy FN4
- Policy FN7

Following completion of the HRA Stage 1 Screening assessment, potential LSE risks were identified due to a potential LSE from the following on European Site qualifying features:

- Habitat loss;
- Species disturbance;
- Changes to water quality;
- Changes to air;
- Changes to surface and groundwater hydrology;
- Introduction of Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS);
- Recreation.

Potential LSE on the following sites were identified and taken forward for Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment:

European Sites located within the LTP Area

- South Pennine Moors SAC;
- Calf Hill & Cragg Woods SAC;
- Morecambe Bay Pavements SAC;
- North Pennine Dales Meadows SAC;
- Morecambe Bay SAC;
- Bowland Fells SPA;
- Leighton Moss SPA;
- Martin Mere SPA;
- Morecambe Bay and Duddon Estuary SPA;
- Ribble & Alt Estuaries SPA;
- South Pennine Moors Phase 2 SPA;
- Leighton Moss Ramsar Site;
- Martin Mere Ramsar Site;
- Ribble & Alt Estuaries Ramsar Site;
- Morecambe Bay Ramsar Site.

Within 2 km of the LTP Area

- Ingleborough Complex SAC;
- Sefton Coast SAC;
- South Pennine Moors SAC.

Within 20 km of the LTP Area

- Mersey Estuary SPA;
- Mersey Narrows & North Wirral Foreshore SPA;
- North Pennine Moors SPA;
- Peak District Moors (South Pennine Moors Phase 1) SPA;
- Mersey Estuary Ramsar Site;
- Mersey Narrows & North Wirral Foreshore Ramsar Site;
- Duddon Estuary Ramsar Site;
- Dee Estuary Ramsar Site.

Therefore, Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment is required for each of these sites.

As there is not sufficient detail within the LTP to enable the specific impacts on individual features of the European Sites to be determined, those features on which there may be an LSE cannot be singled out and taken forward to AA. Therefore, the risk of having an impact

was broadly assessed by considering all qualifying features, which will indicate whether there could be a subsequent risk to the integrity of the European Site.

4.2 Mitigation and Control Measures

Detailed information is not yet available about the nature and extent of any works or actions as part of schemes that are likely to arise out of the conservation objectives. However, it is considered reasonable to anticipate from the information available that the developments could be delivered in a manner which avoids any adverse effects on the integrity of the European Sites through the use of standard mitigation techniques which are set out below. Furthermore, it is predicted that adverse impacts could be avoided or 'designed out' and to facilitate this process, early consultation with Natural England is strongly recommended, i.e. at the screening and scoping stage of projects.

For those projects that require planning permission, the relevant planning authority, if required, will need to undertake a HRA prior to any grant of permission, and it will have to be demonstrated that the project complies with the Habitats Regulations. For schemes that would be progressed under permitted development rights it may be necessary to obtain 'prior approval' from the relevant planning authority, and approval will only be given for those schemes that comply with the Habitats Regulations.

Each potential impact pathway potentially arising out the LTP identified by the screening stage is considered in turn below taking into account relevant specific information and mitigation measures.

4.2.1 Habitat Loss

There is no detail currently available regarding the actual works to be undertaken as part of any scheme arising from the LTP and the final scheme extent. It is anticipated that none of the schemes would fall directly within any of the European Sites identified.

Conclusion

It is concluded that with avoidance and the implementation of appropriate mitigation, no adverse effect on the integrity of the European Sites identified will result from the LTP alone through habitat loss.

4.2.2 Species disturbance (visual, noise, vibration)

Given the high level of the LTP and the lack of scheme details, it is not possible at this stage to confirm that species disturbance may occur. However, schemes arising out of the LTP could in theory result in species disturbance via noise, vibration and visual disturbance of the qualifying species of European Sites. This particularly applies where the affected land is situated in close proximity to a European Site, but impacts to mobile species using functionally linked land or commuting routes outside European Site boundaries will also be considered.

In order to limit the potential for impacts on European Sites the following mitigation could be implemented, where appropriate, for schemes or actions arising out of LTP in locations within or close to European Sites, or where disturbance impacts to mobile species are possible:

- Obtain appropriate licencing for legally protected species to ensure no impact on favourable conservation status;
- Restrict timing of most disturbing activities to avoid or limit seasonal disturbance (e.g. avoid or limit disturbance during core breeding seasons);
- Limit noise from plant and machinery;
- Creation of noise attenuation bunds;
- Creation of buffer zones and set-back distances, particularly around sensitive features (e.g. bat roosts);
- Visual screening of works;
- Sensitively designed lighting directed away from habitat areas and the minimum amount of lighting required to undertake the task;
- Restrict works either geographically or temporally (e.g. avoid winter or avoid night-time working);
- Educate workers on the importance of adjacent European Sites;
- Create alternative areas for outdoor recreation to discourage workers from visiting European Sites, particularly those with species prone to disturbance or sensitive habitats.

Conclusion

It is concluded that with the implementation of appropriate mitigation, no adverse effect on the integrity of the European Sites identified will result from the LTP alone through species disturbance.

4.2.3 Changes to water quality

Changes in water quality could result from direct discharges from sewage or surface water run-off outfalls, altering water chemistry, nutrient levels, pH or oxygen levels. Any de-watering works could also result in sediment discharge into aquatic habitats. Other potential pollutant sources include accidental spillages of fuels or oil, heavy metals leaching from soil run-off, pollutants such as dust and construction waste in surface water run-off and increases in nutrient loading. Any surface water discharges that are made into local watercourses and waterbodies or directly or indirectly into European Sites could be damaging. The release of these pollutants and increases in suspended sediment into freshwater environments could lead to smothering of habitats and species, or changes in species diversity as a result of increased toxicity or nutrients, so affecting the achievement of the conservation objectives and site integrity.

In order to mitigate these potential effects, drainage systems should be designed to either avoid discharge into watercourses, or to attenuate and reduce the risk of pollutants and suspended solids. Modelling of any discharges or releases may be required once any project-level details are known in order to quantify any impacts. As such, the following mitigation measures could be implemented:

- Works will adhere to the Guidance for Pollution Prevention (GPPs)[48] and Construction Industry Research and Information Association (CIRIA) C762 Environmental good practice[49];
- Design drainage systems to avoid direct discharge into watercourses;
- Install attenuation and/ or settlement ponds to reduce the risk of pollutants and suspended sediment reaching the receptors;
- Install Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS);
- Implementation of a flocculant system before discharge;
- Silt curtains used whilst dredging;
- Effective soil management plans to avoid run-off from any earthworks;
- Foul water discharge to existing treatment plants and not to surface water;
- Appropriate bunding around fuel storage.

Conclusion

It is concluded that with the implementation of appropriate mitigation no adverse effect on the integrity of the European Sites identified will result from the LTP alone through changes in water quality.

4.2.4 Changes to air quality

During construction, emissions to air would be mainly from plant and machinery, road traffic and dust from works or emissions from concrete batching plants. During operation, traffic on new roads or increased volumes of traffic on existing roads may alter local air quality resulting in additional impacts on sensitive habitats within 200 m of the affected road network.

The potential effects of increases in deposition of nitrogen compounds (NOx) include long-term changes in habitat and species distribution and diversity as nutrient loading encourages more vigorous species, such as grasses, to out-compete forbs and slow growing non-vascular plants. Acidification of soils and freshwater (primarily today through nitrogen deposition) causes similar effects, depending on the geology and soil chemistry influence susceptibility of an ecosystem to acid deposition.

An assessment of any adverse impacts from changes in air quality should be undertaken on a site-by-site basis, through determination of the applicability of the critical levels and critical loads at each site, and further ecological assessment and modelling. Critical loads for vegetation types are presented on the Air Pollution Information System (APIS) website[50].

Good practice measures to control dust from construction sites[5152] is considered likely to be sufficient to limit the amount of emissions reaching the European Sites. With respect to emissions of NOx or acidic compounds through construction activities, generic mitigation

[48] The GPPs provide environmental good practice guidance for the whole UK, and environmental regulatory guidance directly to Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales only. For businesses in England, regulatory guidance is available from GOV.UK instead.
[49] CIRIA C762 Environmental good practice provides advice on the management of a range of environmental issues that may be encountered on site and presents good practice to reduce the environmental impacts due to construction.
[50] http://www.apis.ac.uk/

measures such as turning engines off when not required, operating equipment on ultra-low sulphur diesel, ensuring engines are routinely maintained and providing public transport for workers, are considered likely to limit emissions to within acceptable thresholds.

In order to limit the potential for impacts the following mitigation could be implemented for any schemes or actions arising out of the conservation objectives:

- Enclosure of silos, cement powder delivery systems and installation of dust mitigation systems;
- Avoidance of dust releasing activities;
- Site design to reduce dust emissions (e.g. covering stockpiles, reducing vehicle speed);
- Dust control measures implemented (water bowsers);
- Regular maintenance of plant and machinery;
- Avoid use of diesel generators;
- Implement air quality monitoring scheme;
- Turning engines off when idle;
- Operating equipment on ultra-low sulphur diesel or electric equipment;
- Providing public transport for workers.

Operational impacts cannot be mitigated in this way, but could be avoided through modelling and management of the affected road network, particularly roads that lie within 200 m of a European Site.

Conclusion

It is concluded that with the implementation of appropriate mitigation, no adverse effect on the integrity of the European Sites identified will result from the LTP alone through changes in air quality.

4.2.5 Changes to surface and groundwater hydrology

Excavations and earthworks during construction and new roads and other impermeable surfaces during operation have the potential to change surface water hydrodynamics. Diversion or blocking of surface water features, the presence of earthworks or roads all have the potential to alter existing surface water drainage characteristics in the catchment. Pluvial flood events may become more frequent as the built-up area increases, and fluvial flooding may increase if surface water run-off is diverted into watercourses. A reduction or increase in surface water flows could affect water quality.

In order to limit the potential for impacts the following mitigation could be implemented for any schemes or actions arising out of the conservation objectives:

- Positioning of earthworks to reduce risk of effects;
- Modelling or monitoring of flow rates and water levels in local watercourses where these may be affected by development;

- Complete a Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) to assess potential surface water and groundwater effects during phases of development and operation;
- Mitigation to control any surface floodwater.

Conclusion

It is concluded that with the implementation of appropriate mitigation, no adverse effect on the integrity of the European Sites identified will result from the LTP alone through changes in surface and groundwater hydrology.

4.2.6 Introduction of INNS

The risk of terrestrial and aquatic INNS introduction to European Sites remains if appropriate mitigation measures are not implemented. Any works have the potential to spread INNS that are already established on the site and elsewhere in the UK. During operation the introduction and spread of INNS is considered less likely due to reduced movement of substrate and vehicles.

In practice, to manage these risks, any future project proponent will be required to apply Biosecurity Risk Assessments and Method Statements to cover all activities. These are likely to include regular survey and monitoring requirements for INNS. The implementation of effective Biosecurity Risk Assessments and procedures are considered likely to rule out any risk to site integrity from INNS.

In order to limit the potential for impacts the following mitigation could be implemented for any schemes or actions arising out of the conservation objectives:

- Implement Biosecurity Risk Assessments and Method Statements to cover all activities;
- Undertake measures that would control and eradicate INNS within the area of works;
- Implement regular survey and monitoring requirements for INNS;
- Mitigation through iterative design and the implementation of standard mitigation and good practice guidance should ensure no risk to achievement of conservation objectives and consequently no adverse effect on site integrity.

Conclusion

It is concluded that with the implementation of appropriate mitigation, no adverse effect on the integrity of the European Sites identified will result from the LTP alone through the introduction of INNS.

4.2.7 Recreation

Improving access to European Sites, particularly in combination with local increases in population driven by housing and employment development, can increase the amount of recreation at a European Site. This may result in increased disturbance/ erosion of habitats, disturbance of species within the site from increased numbers of people and dogs, littering, vandalism and other anti-social behaviour. It can also drive the need for more visitor facilities and car parking facilities, visitor management, an educational programme and site wardens; increased recreational pressure on European Sites from increased accessibility and visitor numbers, can result in disturbance and habitat erosion if not managed.

In order to limit the potential for impacts the following mitigation could be implemented for any schemes or actions arising out of the conservation objectives:

- Visitor management schemes, including provision of dedicated footpaths, fencing and screening of sensitive areas;
- Education of visitors through signage and online information;
- Provision of Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace (SANGS) for new residential developments to ease the pressure on European Sites where this is an issue.

Conclusion

It is concluded that with the implementation of appropriate mitigation, no adverse effect on the integrity of the European Sites identified will result from the LTP alone through recreational pressures.

4.3 In-combination Assessment

Table 4-1 below sets out the findings of the in-combination assessment. It has been concluded above that the LTP will have no adverse effects on the integrity of European Sites once mitigation has been considered. The need for an in-combination assessment will still need to be considered at a lower level of plan making, once more details are available and particularly at the project-stage when more specific information about proposed development will be available.

Table 4-1 – In-combination Effects with other Plans and Projects

Competent Authority	Plan	Overview	In-combination Assessment
Lancashire County Council	None identified	N/A	N/A
Burnley Borough Council	Strategic Environmental Assessment/Habitats Regulations Assessment: Screening Statement – FINAL Proposed Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) Worsthorne with Hurstwood NDP Burnley Borough Council, October 2024[51]	The assessment concluded that provided the council prepares and contributes to the implementation of a Visitor Management Plan for the South Pennine Moors SPA and SAC there would be no effect on the integrity of the sites.	The assessment of the LTP also identified potential effects from increased recreation. However, appropriate mitigation measures have been identified. As the Worsthorne with Hurtswood NDP assessment also Identified mitigation measures it is not expected that an in-combination assessment would occur.
Chorley Council	None identified	N/A	N/A

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Competent Authority	Plan	Overview	In-combination Assessment
Fylde Borough Council	None identified	N/A	N/A
Hyndburn Borough Council	Hyndburn Local Development Plan HRA Screening Report 2022, a report for Hyndburn Borough Council[52]	The assessment concluded that there were no potential impact pathways and, therefore, no LSE on any European Sites.	As no potential impact pathways were recorded, there is no potential for in-combination effects.
Blackpool Council	Habitats Regulations Assessment Blackpool Local Plan Part 2: Site Allocations and Development Management Policies Screening Report, November 2020[53]	The assessment screened out all potential impact pathways and, therefore, no LSE on any European Sites.	As no LSE were recorded, there is no potential for in-combination effects.
Blackpool Council	Habitats Regulations Assessment: Marton Moss Neighbourhood Plan Marton Moss Neighbourhood Forum, July 2022[54]	The policies were amended to ensure that there were no adverse effects on site integrity.	As the plan was amended to remove risks to the European Sites there is no potential no potential for an LSE and appropriate mitigation has been identified for the LTP, therefore there will be no in-combination effects.

[52] https://www.hyndburnbc.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/HBC2.004_Hyndburn-HRA-screening-report_FINAL.pdf
[53] https://www.blackpool.gov.uk/Residents/Planning-environment-and-community/Documents/Local-plan-2021/SD006-HRA-Update-May-2021.pdf
[54] https://democracy.blackpool.gov.uk/documents/s72367/App%20C%20-%20HRA%20Addendum.pdf

Competent Authority	Plan	Overview	In-combination Assessment
Lancaster City Council	HRA Screening of the Climate Emergency Review of the Lancaster Local Plan Development Plan Documents Lancaster City Council, December 2021 [55]	The assessment identified changes to the plan which would result in no LSE on the European sites.	Although no LSE was recorded in the Climate Emergency Review HRA, the assessment did identify potential impact pathways. However, with the amendments to the policies and the mitigation measures outlined in this assessment it is considered that there is no potential for in-combination effects.
Pendle Borough Council	Habitats Regulations Assessment, Pendle Local Plan Publication Draft, July 2024[56]	The assessment screened out all potential impact pathways and, therefore, no LSE on any European Sites.	As no LSE were recorded, there is no potential for in-combination effects.
Pendle Borough Council	Pendle Local Plan, Habitats Regulations Assessment, January 2021[57]	The assessment screened out all potential impact pathways and, therefore, no LSE on any European Sites.	As no LSE were recorded, there is no potential for in-combination effects.
Preston City Council	The Draft Woodplumpton Neighbourhood Development Plan Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening	The assessment screened out all potential impact pathways and, therefore, no LSE on any European Sites.	As no LSE were recorded, there is no potential for in-combination effects.

[55] file:///C:/Users/WATS1068/Downloads/P_04%20(2).pdf
[56] file:///C:/Users/WATS1068/Downloads/Habitat_Regulations_Assessment_Screening_Report%20(2).pdf
[57] file:///C:/Users/WATS1068/Downloads/HRA_Screening_Report__FINAL_%20(2).pdf

Competent Authority	Plan	Overview	In-combination Assessment
	Report and Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) Screening Opinion, November 2022[58]		
Preston City Council	Central Lancashire Authorities Central Lancashire Local Plan: Habitats Regulations Assessment Report Screening and Appropriate Assessment Final report January 2025[59]	The assessment concluded that Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment would be required.	As the Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment has not yet been completed, it is not possible to undertake an in-combination assessment at this stage.
Preston City Council	Barton Neighbourhood Development Plan Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) Screening Opinion Revised, November 2022[60]	The assessment screened out all potential impact pathways and, therefore, no LSE on any European Sites.	As no LSE were recorded, there is no potential for in-combination effects.

[58] https://www.preston.gov.uk/media/12953/Woodplumpton-SEA-Screening-and-HRA-screening-report/pdf/Final_Woodplumton_SEA_Screening_and_HRA_screening_report.pdf?m=1675161942237
[59] https://www.preston.gov.uk/media/20332/Appendix-Five-Habitats-Regulations-Assessment-of-the-Central-Lancashire-Local-Plan-Pre-Submission-Local-Plan/pdf/Appendix_Five_Habitats_Regulations_Assessment_of_the_Central_Lancashire_Local_Plan_Pre-Submission_Lo.pdf?m=1737379009857
[60] https://www.preston.gov.uk/media/12870/Strategic-Environmental-Assessment-SEA-Screening-Opinion/pdf/Barton_Strategic_Environmental_Assessment__Nov_2022_.pdf

Competent Authority	Plan	Overview	In-combination Assessment
Preston City Council	Stoneygate Regeneration Framework Supplementary Planning Document Screening Report for Sustainability Appraisal (SA) and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA), January 2020[61]	The assessment concluded that Stoneygate Regeneration Framework Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) does not need to be subject to further HRA. This is not because the Council believe the SPD should not be subject to HRA, rather that the statutory planning framework that already exists in Preston has sufficiently considered these matters to the extent that a separate HRA for the SPD would not be justified.	As the Stoneygate Regeneration Framework SPD did not require a HRA, there is no potential for in-combination effects.
Ribble Valley Borough Council	None identified	N/A	N/A
Rossendale Borough Council	None identified	N/A	N/A
South Ribble Borough Council	None identified	N/A	N/A
West Lancashire Borough Council	Habitats Regulations Assessment of the West Lancashire Local Plan Screening for Likely	The assessment concluded a likely significant effect at Stage 1;	As the Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment has not yet been completed, it is not possible to undertake an in-combination assessment at this stage.

[61] https://www.preston.gov.uk/media/2546/Stoneygate-Screening-Report/pdf/Stoneygate_SA_SEA_Screening_2020.pdf

Competent Authority	Plan	Overview	In-combination Assessment
	Significant Effects West Lancashire Borough Council, September 2021[62]	however, no evidence of Stage 2 having been completed was found.	However, based on the mitigation identified within this assessment and the requirement for any schemes to be further assessed, it is considered unlikely that there would be in-combination effects.
Wyre Council	Habitats Regulations Assessment of the Wyre Local Plan Partial Review Screening Report, NOVEMBER 2021[63]	The assessment concluded that there were no potential impact pathways and, therefore, no LSE any European Sites.	As no potential impact pathways were recorded, there is no potential for in-combination effects.
Wyre Council	Barton Neighbourhood Development Plan Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) Screening Report Wyre Borough Council, 3rd February 2021[64]	The assessment screened out all potential impact pathways and therefore no LSE any European Sites.	As no LSE were recorded, there is no potential for in-combination effects.
Westmorland and Furness Council	Marina Village Residential Opportunity SPD Habitats	Four of the principals were identified as have an LSE and taken forward for Stage 2 Appropriate	As the LTP includes measures to protect the European Sites, requiring HRA (where necessary) of development

[62] https://democracy.westlancs.gov.uk/documents/s25809/LP%202040%20IO_Cab-EOS_Appendix%20C%20HRA.pdf
[63] https://www.wyre.gov.uk/downloads/file/1401/sdpr04-habitats-regulations-assessment-screening-report-november-2021-
[64] https://www.wyre.gov.uk/downloads/file/1593/barton-ndp-screening-report

Competent Authority	Plan	Overview	In-combination Assessment
	Regulations Assessment, December 2024[65]	Assessment. The Stage 2 assessment identified mitigation measures which were considered sufficient to result in no effect on integrity of the European Sites.	arising out of the plan and the implementation of the mitigation measures identified, it is considered that, at this stage, there will be no in-combination effects.
Westmorland and Furness Council	Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) Schedule of Amendments to SPD, March 2025[66]	Minor amendments only. The assessment screened out all potential impact pathways and, therefore, no LSE any European Sites.	As no LSE were recorded, there is no potential for in-combination effects.
North Yorkshire Council	Habitat Regulations Assessment Examination of Likely Significant Effects Prepared in relation to the Publication of the Bradleys Both Neighbourhood Plan, September 2022[67]	The assessment concluded that with the implementation of mitigation measures there would be no effect on the integrity of the European Sites.	As the LTP includes measures to protect the European Sites, requiring HRA (where necessary) of development arising out of the plan and the implementation of the mitigation measures identified, it is considered that, at this stage, there will be no in-combination effects.
Bolton Council	None identified	N/A	N/A
Bury Council	Habitats Regulations Assessment of the Bury	The Stage 1 concluded that the plan could have an LSE on the South	As the LTP includes measures to protect the European Sites, requiring

[65] https://consult.westmorlandandfurness.gov.uk/planning-policy/mv-spd_hra-update-2025/user_uploads/marina-village-spd-habitats-regulations-assessment-update-december-2024.pdf
[66] https://consult.westmorlandandfurness.gov.uk/planning-policy/mv-spd_hra-update-2025/user_uploads/hra-update---schedule-of-amendments-to-spd.pdf
[67] https://www.cravendc.gov.uk/media/11738/appendix-7-bradley-np-hra-september-2022.pdf

Competent Authority	Plan	Overview	In-combination Assessment
	Local Plan 2025, March 2025[68]	Pennine Moors SAC and South Pennine Moors SPA via increased recreation and air pollution. The Stage 2 assessment concluded that with the implementation of mitigation measures there would be no effect on the integrity of the European Sites.	HRA (where necessary) of development arising out of the plan and the implementation of the mitigation measures identified, it is considered that, at this stage, there will be no in-combination effects.
Ribble Valley Council	None identified	N/A	N/A
Rochdale Borough Council	None identified	N/A	N/A
Wigan Council	None identified	N/A	N/A
Knowsley Council	None identified	N/A	N/A
St. Helens Borough Council	None identified	N/A	N/A
Sefton Council	Bootle Area Action Plan Publication Draft Final Habitats Regulations Assessment Test of Likely Significant Effects	The Stage 1 concluded that the plan could have an LSE via recreational pressure and disturbance. The Stage 2 assessment concluded that the mitigation measures set out in	As the LTP includes measures to protect the European sites, requiring HRA (where necessary) of development arising out of the plan and the implementation of the mitigation

[68] https://www.bury.gov.uk/asset-library/hra-of-the-bury-local-plan-2025.pdf

Competent Authority	Plan	Overview	In-combination Assessment
	and Appropriate Assessment Report HRA of Publication Draft, May 2024[69]	the Sefton Local Plan are sufficient to protect the Sefton Coast SAC, Ribble & Alt Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site, Liverpool Bay SPA and Mersey Narrows & North Wirral Foreshore SPA and Ramsar site covered under the Bootle Area Action Plan.	measures identified, it is considered that, at this stage, there will be no in-combination effects.
City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council	None identified	N/A	N/A
Calderdale Council	Calderdale Local Plan Proposed Main Modifications to the Calderdale Local Plan Publication Draft – Habitats Regulations Assessment Statement Calderdale Metropolitan Borough Council, August 2022[70]	It was not considered that the main modifications to the 2018 plan required an updated HRA.	As a HRA of the main modifications was not required, there is no potential of in-combination effects.
Planning Inspectorate	Habitats Regulations Assessment for an Application under The	The assessment went to Stage 3 derogations and concluded that with compensation in relation to	The North Pennie Moors SAC is located outside of the LTP boundary and is not considered in this assessment. In

[69] https://www.sefton.gov.uk/media/y5ul1h2m/07-final_hra_baap_may2024.pdf
[70] https://www.calderdale.gov.uk/docs/local-plan/examination/HRA%20FINAL.pdf

Competent Authority	Plan	Overview	In-combination Assessment
	Planning Act 2008, A66 Northern Trans-Pennine Project, 7th March 2024[71]	blanket bog in the North Pennine Moors SAC, the Secretary of State was satisfied that compensatory measures would be effective and appropriate.	respect of the other sites included in the assessment, the LTP includes measures to protect the European Sites, requiring HRA (where necessary) of development arising out of the plan and the implementation of the mitigation measures identified, it is considered that, at this stage, there will be no in-combination effects.
Planning Inspectorate	Morecambe Offshore Windfarm: Generation Assets, Development Consent Order Documents, Volume 4, Habitats Regulations Assessment Without Prejudice Derogation Case, Pins Doc Ref: 4.11, APFP Regulation: 5(2)(g), Rev 04, April 2025[72]	The assessment focused on the Morecambe Bay and Duddon Estuary SPA and Ramsar site and the Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site. Following further assessment compensation was necessary.	The designated sites are not directly within the LTP boundary and the Morecambe Offshore Windfarm assessment was concerned with bird collisions with wind turbines. None of the LTP policies would result in concerns regarding bird collisions, therefore, there is no potential for in-combination effects.
Planning Inspectorate	Morgan and Morecambe Offshore Wind Farms: Transmission Assets	The Morgan and Morecambe Offshore Wind Farms: Transmission Assets Stage 2 assessment	As the LTP includes measures to protect the European Sites, requiring HRA (where necessary) of development

[71] https://nsip-documents.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/published-documents/TR010062-002490-Habitats%20Regulation%20Assessment%20-%20A66%20Northern%20Trans-Pennine%20Project.pdf

[72] https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/ipc/uploads/projects/EN010121/EN010121-001182-Morecambe%20Offshore%20Windfarm%20Ltd%20-%204.11%20Habitatsons%20Assessment%20Without%20Prejudice%20Derogoration%20Case%20-%20Revision%204%20(clean)%20.pdf

Competent Authority	Plan	Overview	In-combination Assessment
	Habitats Regulations Assessment Stage 2 Information to Support Appropriate Assessment, Part 2: Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) Assessment, September 2024[73]	concluded that, owing to the distance of the SAC from the scheme, there is no potential risk to integrity of the SAC.	arising out of the plan and the implementation of the mitigation measures identified, it is considered that, at this stage, there will be no in-combination effects.

[73] https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/ipc/uploads/projects/EN020032/EN020032-000546-E2.1_MMTA_Information%20to%20Support%20Appropriate%20Assessment%20part%201.pdf

5 Conclusions

The following European Sites were considered at Stage 1 Screening:

European Sites Located within the LTP Area

- South Pennine Moors SAC;
- Calf Hill & Cragg Woods SAC;
- Morecambe Bay Pavements SAC;
- North Pennine Dales Meadows SAC;
- Morecambe Bay SAC;
- Bowland Fells SPA;
- Leighton Moss SPA;
- Martin Mere SPA;
- Morecambe Bay and Duddon Estuary SPA;
- Ribble & Alt Estuaries SPA;
- South Pennine Moors Phase 2 SPA;
- Leighton Moss Ramsar Site;
- Martin Mere Ramsar Site;
- Ribble & Alt Estuaries Ramsar Site;
- Morecambe Bay Ramsar Site.

Within 2 km of the LTP Area

- Ingleborough Complex SAC;
- Morecambe Bay SAC;
- Morecambe Bay Pavements SAC;
- Sefton Coast SAC;
- South Pennine Moors SAC;
- Liverpool Bay SPA;
- Morecambe Bay and Duddon Estuary SPA;
- Ribble & Alt Estuaries SPA;
- South Pennine Moors Phase 2 SPA;
- Ribble & Alt Estuaries Ramsar Site;
- Morecambe Bay Ramsar Site.

Within 20 km of the LTP Area

- Mersey Estuary SPA;

- Mersey Narrows & North Wirral Foreshore SPA;
- North Pennine Moors SPA;
- Peak District Moors (South Pennine Moors Phase 1) SPA;
- Mersey Estuary Ramsar Site;
- Mersey Narrows & North Wirral Foreshore Ramsar Site;
- Duddon Estuary Ramsar Site;
- Dee Estuary Ramsar Site.

The Stage 1 Screening of the LTP concluded that the following policies could lead to development which could have an LSE on the European Sites identified:

Connecting Lancashire

- CL1 - Enable the delivery of strategic growth sites;
- CL2 - Transform east / west public transport through the Central Belt;
- CL3 - Improve public transport connections with neighbouring regions;
- CL4 – Improve reliability of strategic and major roads for all modes of transport;
- CL5 - Explore new or expanded heavy rail and mass transit networks.

Transforming travel choices

- TC1 - Improve and modernise bus journeys;
- TC3 - Establish convenient and safe active travel options;
- TC7 - Transform sustainable travel choices for tourists.

Safe and vibrant communities

- SV3 – Develop accessible, high-quality spaces and infrastructure;
- SV5 - Alleviate adverse impacts of travel on communities.

Future-ready networks

- FN2 - Accelerate the uptake of electric vehicles;
- FN3 – Improve journey time reliability;
- FN4 - Deliver sustainable, resilient infrastructure;
- FN7 - Support sustainable first and last mile freight.

HRA Stage 1 Screening Assessment has concluded that an LSE could **not** be discounted for all LSE pathways, and so, a Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment was undertaken.

With due consideration given to the information provided above for the Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment, it is considered that with the mitigation proposed, the LTP will not adversely affect the integrity of the European Sites, alone or in-combination with other plans or projects.

Appendix A European Site Information

A.1 European Sites within the conservation objectives area

Table A-1 South Pennine Moors SAC

EU Site Code	UK0030280
Designation	SAC
Name	South Pennine Moors
Area	65024.32 ha
Proximity	Within the LTP Area
Qualifying Interest Features	Annex I habitats that are a primary reason for selection of this site • European dry heaths; • Blanket bogs. Annex I habitats present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for site selection • Northern Atlantic wet heaths with *Erica tetralix;* • Transition mires and quaking bogs.
Conservation objectives	Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring: • The extent and distribution of the qualifying natural habitats; • The structure and function (including typical species) of the habitats of qualifying natural habitats; and • The supporting processes on which the qualifying natural habitats rely.
Vulnerabilities	The site is vulnerable to: • Agricultural activities not referred to via A01-A10; • Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities; • Air pollution, air-borne pollutants; • Fire and fire suppression; • Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions.

Table A-2 Calf Hill and Cragg Woods SAC

EU Site Code	UK0030106
Designation	SAC
Name	Calf Hill and Cragg Woods
Area	34.43 ha
Proximity	Within the LTP Area
Qualifying Interest Features	Annex I habitats that are a primary reason for selection of this site • Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles. Annex I habitats present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for site selection • Alluvial forests with Alnus glutinosa and Fraxinus excelsior.
Conservation objectives	Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring: • The extent and distribution of the qualifying natural habitats; • The structure and function (including typical species) of the habitats of qualifying natural habitats; and • The supporting processes on which the qualifying natural habitats rely.
Vulnerabilities	The site is vulnerable to: • Air pollution, air-borne pollutants.

Table A-3 Morecambe Bay Pavements SAC

EU Site Code	UK0014777
Designation	SAC
Name	Morecambe Bay Pavements
Area	2607.95 ha
Proximity	Within the LTP Area
Qualifying Interest Features	Annex I habitats that are a primary reason for selection of this site • Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of Chara spp; • Juniperus communis formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands; • Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (*Festuco-Brometalia*); • Limestone pavements; • Tilio-Acerion forests of slopes, screes and ravines; • *Taxus baccata* woods of the British Isles. Annex I habitats present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for site selection • European dry heaths; • Calcareous fens with *Cladium mariscus* and species of the *Caricion davallianae*; • Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles. Annex II species that are a primary reason for selection of this site • Narrow-mouthed whorl snail *Vertigo angustior*.
Conservation objectives	Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring: • The extent and distribution of the 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 the qualifying natural habitats and the habitats of qualifying species rely; • The populations of qualifying species; and

	• The distribution of qualifying species within the site.
Vulnerabilities	The site is vulnerable to: • Grazing; • Forest and Plantation management and use; • Problematic native species; • Biocenotic evolution, succession.

Table A-4 North Pennine Dales Meadows SAC

EU Site Code	UK0014775
Designation	SAC
Name	North Pennine Dales Meadows
Area	481.64 ha
Proximity	Within the LTP Area
Qualifying Interest Features	Annex I habitats that are a primary reason for selection of this site • Mountain hay meadows. Annex I habitats present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for site selection • Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils.
Conservation objectives	Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring: • The extent and distribution of the qualifying natural habitats; • The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats; • The supporting processes on which the qualifying natural habitats and the habitats of qualifying species rely.
Vulnerabilities	The site is vulnerable to: • Mowing / cutting of grassland; • Fertilisation; • Modification of cultivation practices; • Air pollution, air-borne pollutants.

Table A-5 Morecambe Bay SAC

EU Site Code	UK0013027
Designation	SAC
Name	Morecambe Bay
Area	61538.23 ha
Proximity	Within the LTP Area
Qualifying Interest Features	Annex I habitats that are a primary reason for selection of this site • Estuaries; • Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide; • Large shallow inlets and bays; • Perennial vegetation of stony banks; • Salicornia and other annuals colonizing mud and sand; • Atlantic salt meadows; • Shifting dunes along the shoreline with *Ammophila arenaria;* • Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation; • Humid dune slacks. Annex I habitats present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for site selection • Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time; • Coastal lagoons; • Reefs; • Embryonic shifting dunes; • Atlantic decalcified fixed dunes (*Calluno-Ulicetea*); • Dunes with Salix repens ssp. argentea (Salicion arenariae). Annex II species that are a primary reason for selection of this site • Great crested newt.
Conservation objectives	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.
Vulnerabilities	The site is vulnerable to: • Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources; • Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities; • Air pollution, air-borne pollutants.

Table A-6 Bowland Fells SPA

EU Site Code	UK9005151
Designation	SPA
Name	Bowland Fells
Area	16007.64 ha
Proximity	Within the LTP Area
Qualifying Interest Features	ARTICLE 4.1 QUALIFICATION (79/409/EEC) During the breeding season the area regularly supports: • *Circus cyaneus* 1.3% of the GB breeding population Three-year mean, 1995-1997; • *Falco columbarius* 1.5% of the GB breeding population Three-year mean, 1994-1996 ARTICLE 4.2 QUALIFICATION (79/409/EEC) During the breeding season the area regularly supports: • *Larus fuscus* (Western Europe/Mediterranean/Western Africa) 7.6% of the breeding population Count, as at 1992.
Conservation objectives	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.
Vulnerabilities	The site is vulnerable to: • Changes in biotic conditions; • Hunting and collection of wild animals (terrestrial), including damage caused by game (excessive density), and taking/removal of terrestrial animals (including collection of insects, reptiles, amphibians, birds of prey, etc, trapping, poisoning, poaching, predator control, accidental capture (e.g. due to fishing gear) etc.); • Fire and fire suppression;

	• Reduced fecundity / genetic depression.

Table A-7 Leighton Moss SPA

EU Site Code	UK9005091
Designation	SPA
Name	Leighton Moss
Area	129.65 ha
Proximity	Within the LTP Area
Qualifying Interest Features	ARTICLE 4.1 QUALIFICATION (79/409/EEC) During the breeding season the area regularly supports: • *Botaurus stellaris* (Europe - breeding) 20% of the GB breeding population. No count period specified; • Circus *aeruginosus* 1.3% of the GB breeding population. No count period specified.
Conservation objectives	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.
Vulnerabilities	The site is vulnerable to: • Changes in abiotic conditions; • Pollution to groundwater (point sources and diffuse sources); • Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions; • Problematic native species.

Table A-8 Martin Mere SPA

EU Site Code	UK9005111
Designation	SPA
Name	Martin Mere
Area	119.75 ha
Proximity	Within the LTP Area
Qualifying Interest Features	ARTICLE 4.1 QUALIFICATION (79/409/EEC) Over winter the area regularly supports: • *Cygnus columbianus bewickii* (Western Siberia/North-eastern & North-western Europe) 6.2% of the GB population 5 year peak mean 1991/92-1995/96; • *Cygnus cygnus* (Iceland/UK/Ireland) 11.1% of the GB population 5 year peak mean 1991/92-1995/96. ARTICLE 4.2 QUALIFICATION (79/409/EEC) Over winter the area regularly supports: • *Anas acuta* (North-western Europe) 1.6% of the population 5 year peak mean 1991/92-1995/96; • *Anas penelope* (Western Siberia/North-western/North-eastern Europe) 0.7% of the population 5 year peak mean 1991/92-1995/96; • *Anser brachyrhynchus* (Eastern Greenland/Iceland/UK) 11.5% of the population 5 year peak mean 1991/92-1995/96.
Conservation objectives	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.
Vulnerabilities	The site is vulnerable to: • Invasive non-native species; • Pollution to groundwater (point sources and diffuse sources);

	• Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions.

Table A-9 Morecambe Bay and Duddon Estuary SPA

EU Site Code	UK9020326
Designation	SPA
Name	Morecambe Bay and Duddon Estuary
Area	66899.0 ha
Proximity	Within the CONSERVATION OBJECTIVES
Qualifying Interest Features	ARTICLE 4.1 QUALIFICATION (2009/147/EC) Over winter the site regularly supports • *Cygnus Cygnus*: 113 individuals, 1.0 % of GB population (5 year peak mean 2009/10 – 2013/14); • *Egretta garzetta*: 134 individuals, 3.0 % of GB population (5 year peak mean 2009/10 – 2013/14); • *Pluvialis apricaria*: 1,900 individuals, 1.0 % of GB population (Morecambe Bay SPA 1991 citation value); • *Calidris pugnax*: 8 individuals, 1.0 % of GB population (5 year peak mean 2009/10 – 2013/14); • *Limosa lapponica*: 3,046 individuals, 8.0 % of GB population (5 year peak mean 2009/10 – 2013/14); and • *Larus melancephalus*: 18 individuals, 1.0 % of GB population (5 year peak mean 2009/10 – 2013/14). During the breeding season the site regularly supports • *Sterna hirundo*: 570 individuals, 2.0 % of the population in Great Britain (Morecambe Bay SPA 1991 citation value); Sterna sandvicensis: 1,608 individuals, 5.7 % of GB population (summed SMP data from original Morecambe Bay SPA and Duddon Estuary SPA); and • *Sternula albifrons*: 84 individuals, 2.2 % of GB population (RSPB data 2010 – 2014). ARTICLE 4.2 QUALIFICATION (79/409/EEC) On passage the site regularly supports • *Anser brachyrhynchus*: 15,648 individuals, 4.5 % of biogeographical population (5 year peak mean 2009/10 – 2013/14); • *Tadorna tadorna*: 5,878 individuals, 2.0 % of biogeographical population (5 year peak mean 2009/10 – 2013/14); • *Haematopus ostralegus*: 55,888 individuals, 6.8 % of biogeographical population (5 year peak mean 2009/10 – 2013/14);

	• *Charadrius hiaticula*: 1,049 individuals, 1.4 % of biogeographical population (5 year peak mean 2009/10 – 2013/14); • *Pluvialis squatarola*: 2,000 individuals, 1.0 % of biogeographical population (Morecambe Bay SPA 1991 citation value); • *Calidris canutus*: 32,739 individuals, 7.3 % of biogeographical population (5 year peak mean 2009/10 – 2013/14); • *Calidris alba*: 3,600 individuals, 3.0 % of biogeographical population (Morecambe Bay SPA citation 1991); • *Calidris alpina alpina*: 26,982 individuals, 2.0 % of biogeographical population (5 year peak mean 2009/10 – 2013/14); • *Limosa limosa*: 2,413 individuals, 4.0 % of biogeographical population (5 year peak mean 2009/10 – 2013/14); • *Numenius arquata*: 12,209 individuals, 1.5 % of biogeographical population (5 year peak mean 2009/10 –2013/14); • *Anas acuta*: 2,498 individuals, 4.2 % of biogeographical population (5 year peak mean 2009/10 –2013/14); • *Arenaria interpres*: 1,359 individuals, 1.0 % of biogeographical population (5 year peak mean 2009/10 – 2013/14); • *Tringa totanus*: 11,133 individuals, 4.6 % of biogeographical population (5 year peak mean 2009/10 – 2013/14); and • *Larus fuscus*: 9,450 individuals, 1.7 % of biogeographical population (5 year peak mean 2009/10 – 2013/14). During the breeding season the site regularly supports • *Larus fuscus*: 9,720 individuals, 2.7 % of biogeographic population (Seabird monitoring programme database 2011 – 2015) and • *Larus argentatus argentatus*: 20,000 individuals, 1.0 % of biogeographic population (Morecambe Bay SPA 1991 citation value). ARTICLE 4.2 QUALIFICATION (2009/147/EC): AN INTERNATIONALLY IMPORTANT ASSEMBLAGE OF BIRDS The site qualifies as it is regularly used by over 20,000 seabirds in any season, including *Larus argentatus argentatus, Larus fuscus, Sterna sandvicensis, Sterna hirundo and Sternula albifrons*. The site qualifies as it is regularly used by over 20,000 waterbirds in any season (266,751 individuals recorded 5 year peak mean 2009/10 – 2013/14). The main components of the assemblage include all qualifying features listed above, as well as the following species present in numbers exceeding 1 % of the GB total population, and/or exceeding 2,000 individuals: *Ardea*

	alba, Platalea leucorodia, Branta bernicla, Anas penelope, Anas crecca, Anas carolinensis, Anas platyrhynchos, Aythya collaris, Somateria mollissima, Bucephala clangula, Mergus serrator, Phalacrocorax carbo, Vanellus vanellus, Calidris minuta, Tringa erythropus, Tringa nebularia, Chroicocephalus ridibundus, Larus canus and Larus argentatus argentatus (non-breeding).
Conservation objectives	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.
Vulnerabilities	The site is vulnerable to: • Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities; • Air pollution, air-borne pollutants; • Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources; • Marine water pollution; • Changes in biotic conditions; • Changes in abiotic conditions; • Airports, flightpaths; • Interspecific faunal relations.

Table A-10 Ribble & Alt Estuaries SPA

EU Site Code	UK9005103
Designation	SPA
Name	Ribble & Alt Estuaries
Area	12449.92 ha
Proximity	Within the LTP Area
Qualifying Interest Features	ARTICLE 4.1 QUALIFICATION (79/409/EEC) During the breeding season the area regularly supports: • *Philomachus pugnax* (Western Africa - wintering) 9.1% of the GB breeding population Count as at late 1980s; • *Sterna hirundo* (Northern/Eastern Europe - breeding) 1.5% of the GB breeding population Count as at 1996. Over winter the area regularly supports: • *Cygnus columbianus bewickii* (Western Siberia/North-eastern & North-western Europe) 3.9% of the GB population 5 year peak mean 1993/94 - 1997/98; • *Cygnus cygnus* (Iceland/UK/Ireland) 3.3% of the GB population 5 year peak mean 1993/94 - 1997/98; • *Limosa lapponica* (Western Palearctic - wintering) 37.9% of the GB population 5 year peak mean 1993/94 - 1997/98; • *Pluvialis apricaria* [North-western Europe - breeding] 1.4% of the GB population 5 year peak mean 1993/94 -1997/98. ARTICLE 4.2 QUALIFICATION (79/409/EEC) During the breeding season the area regularly supports: • *Larus fuscus* (Western Europe/Mediterranean/Western Africa) 1.5% of the breeding population Count as at 1993; • *Larus ridibundus* (North-western Europe - breeding) 7.1% of the population in Great Britain Count as at 1996; Over winter the area regularly supports: • *Anas acuta* (North-western Europe) 4.6% of the population 5 year peak mean 1993/94 - 1997/98; • *Anas crecca* (North-western Europe) 1.8% of the population 5 year peak mean 1993/94 - 1997/98; • *Anas penelope* (Western Siberia/North-western/North-eastern Europe) 6.8% of the population 5 year peak mean 1993/94 - 1997/98;

	• *Anser brachyrhynchus* (Eastern Greenland/Iceland/UK) 5.2% of the population 5 year peak mean 1993/94 - 1997/98; • *Aythya marila* (Northern/Western Europe) 1.0% of the population in Great Britain 5 year peak mean 1993/94 - 1997/98; • *Calidris alba* (Eastern Atlantic/Western & Southern Africa - wintering) 2.9% of the population 5 year peak mean 1993/94 - 1997/98; • *Calidris alpina alpina* (Northern Siberia/Europe/Western Africa) 2.8% of the Population 5 year peak mean 1993/94 - 1997/98; • *Calidris canutus* (North-eastern Canada/Greenland/Iceland/North-western Europe) 19.7% of the population 5 year peak mean 1993/94 - 1997/98; • *Haematopus ostralegus* (Europe & Northern/Western Africa) 2.1% of the population 5 year peak mean 1993/94 - 1997/98; • *Limosa limosa islandica* (Iceland - breeding) 1.8% of the population 5 year peak mean 1993/94 - 1997/98; • *Melanitta nigra* (Western Siberia/Western & Northern Europe/North-western Africa) 2.7% of the population in Great Britain 5 year peak mean 1993/94 - 1997/98; • *Numenius arquata* (Europe - breeding) 1.7% of the population in Great Britain 5 year peak mean 1993/94 - 1997/98; • *Phalacrocorax carbo* (North-western Europe) 2.4% of the population in Great Britain 5 year peak mean 1993/94 - 1997/98; • *Pluvialis squatarola* (Eastern Atlantic - wintering) 6.2% of the population 5 year peak mean 1993/94 -1997/98; • *Tadorna tadorna* (North-western Europe) 1.6% of the population 5 year peak mean 1993/94 - 1997/98; • *Tringa tetanus* (Eastern Atlantic - wintering) 1.7% of the population 5 year peak mean 1993/94 - 1997/98; • *Vanellus Vanellus* (Europe - breeding) 0.8% of the population in Great Britain 5 year peak mean 1993/94 - 1997/98. On passage the area regularly supports: • *Calidris alba* (Eastern Atlantic/Western & Southern Africa - wintering) 6.5% of the population 5 year peak mean 1993 – 1997; • *Charadrius hiaticula* (Europe/Northern Africa - wintering) 3.3% of the population 5 year peak mean 1993 – 1997; • *Numenius phaeopus* (Europe/Western Africa) 13.9% of the population in Great Britain 5 year peak mean 1993/94 - 1997/98;

	• *Tringa totanus* (Eastern Atlantic - wintering) 2.2% of the population 5 year peak mean 1993 – 1997. ARTICLE 4.2 QUALIFICATION (79/409/EEC): AN INTERNATIONALLY IMPORTANT ASSEMBLAGE OF BIRDS During the breeding season the area regularly supports: 29236 seabirds(5 year peak mean 1991/92-1995/96) Including: *Larus ridibundus, Larus fuscus, Sterna Hirundo*. Over winter the area regularly supports: 323861 waterfowl (5 year peak mean 1991/92-1995/96) Including: *Phalacrocorax carbo , Cygnus columbianus bewickii , Cygnus cygnus , Anser brachyrhynchus , Tadorna tadorna , Anas penelope , Anas crecca , Anas acuta , Aythya marila , Melanitta nigra , Haematopus ostralegus , Charadrius hiaticula , Pluvialis apricaria [North-western Europe - breeding], Pluvialis squatarola , Vanellus vanellus , Calidris canutus , Calidris alba , Calidris alpina alpina , Limosa limosa islandica , Limosa lapponica , Numenius phaeopus , Numenius arquata , Tringa totanus*
Conservation objectives	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.
Vulnerabilities	The site is vulnerable to: • Air pollution, air-borne pollutants; • Invasive non-native species; • Biocenotic evolution, succession; • Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions; • Changes in abiotic conditions.

Table A-11 South Pennine Moors Phase 2 SPA

EU Site Code	UK9007022
Designation	SPA
Name	South Pennine Moors Phase 2
Area	20944.46 ha
Proximity	Within the LTP Area
Qualifying Interest Features	ARTICLE 4.1 QUALIFICATION (79/409/EEC) During the breeding season the area regularly supports: • *Asio flammeus* 0.3% of the GB breeding population Count as at 1990; • *Falco columbarius* 2.2% of the GB breeding population Count as at 1995; • *Pluvialis apricaria* [North-western Europe - breeding] 1.3% of the GB breeding population No count period specified. ARTICLE 4.2 QUALIFICATION (79/409/EEC): AN INTERNATIONALLY IMPORTANT ASSEMBLAGE OF BIRDS
Conservation objectives	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.
Vulnerabilities	The site is vulnerable to: • Hunting and collection of wild animals (terrestrial), including damage caused by game (excessive density), and taking/removal of terrestrial animals (including collection of insects, reptiles, amphibians, birds of prey, etc., trapping, poisoning, poaching, predator control, accidental capture (e.g. due to fishing gear), etc.); • Fire and fire suppression; • Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions; • Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities.

Appendix A

Table A-12 Leighton Moss Ramsar site

EU Site Code	UK11035
Designation	Ramsar
Name	Leighton Moss
Area	128.61 ha
Proximity	Within the LTP Area
Qualifying Interest Features	**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 Botaurus stellaris, Eurasian marsh harrier (*Circus aeruginosus*) and bearded tit (*Panurus biarmicus)*. **Ramsar criterion 3** The site supports a range of breeding birds including great bittern Botaurus stellaris, Eurasian marsh harrier (*Circus aeruginosus*)and bearded tit (*Panurus biarmicus);* Species occurring in nationally important numbers outside the breeding season include northern shoveler (*Anas clypeata*) and water rail (*Rallus aquaticus*).
Conservation objectives	Ramsar sites do not have conservation objectives therefore the objectives for the Leighton Moss SPA have been referenced.
Vulnerabilities	The site is vulnerable to: • Sedimentation/siltation; • Pollution – pesticides/agricultural runoff.

Table A-13 Martin Mere Ramsar site

EU Site Code	UK11039
Designation	Ramsar
Name	UK11039
Area	119.89 ha
Proximity	Within the LTP Area
Qualifying Interest Features	**Ramsar criterion 5** Assemblages of international importance: Species with peak counts in winter: • 25,306 waterfowl (5 year peak mean 1998/99-2002/2003) **Ramsar criterion 6 – species/populations occurring at levels of international importance.** Qualifying Species/populations (as identified at designation): Species with peak counts in spring/autumn: • Pink-footed goose, (*Anser brachyrhynchus*), Greenland, Iceland/UK 8186 individuals, representing an average of 3.4% of the population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3) Species with peak counts in winter: • Tundra swan, (*Cygnus columbianus bewickii*), NW Europe 61 individuals, representing an average of 0.7% of the GB population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3); • Whooper swan, (*Cygnus cygnus*), Iceland/UK/Ireland 1320 individuals, representing an average of 6.3% of the population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3); • Eurasian wigeon, (*Anas Penelope*), NW Europe 3062 individuals, representing an average of 0.7% of the GB population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3); • Northern pintail, (Anas acuta), NW Europe415 individuals, representing an average of 1.4% of the GB population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3).
Conservation objectives	Ramsar sites do not have conservation objectives therefore the objectives for the Martin Mere SPA have been referenced.
Vulnerabilities	No factors reported.

Table A-14 Ribble & Alt Estuaries Ramsar site

EU Site Code	UK11057
Designation	Ramsar
Name	Ribble & Alt Estuaries
Area	13464.1 ha
Proximity	Within the LTP Area
Qualifying Interest Features	Ramsar criterion 2 This site supports up to 40% of the Great Britain population of natterjack toads (*Bufo calamita*). Ramsar criterion 5 Assemblages of international importance: Species with peak counts in winter: • 22,2038 waterfowl (5 year peak mean 1998/99-2002/2003) Ramsar criterion 6 – species/populations occurring at levels of international importance. Qualifying Species/populations (as identified at designation): Species regularly supported during the breeding season: • Lesser black-backed gull, (*Larus fuscus graellsii*), W Europe/Mediterranean/W Africa 4108 apparently occupied nests, representing an average of 2.7% of the breeding population (Seabird 2000 Census). Species with peak counts in spring/autumn: • Ringed plover, (*Charadrius hiaticula*), Europe/Northwest Africa 3761 individuals, representing an average of 5.1% of the population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3 - spring peak); • Grey plover, (*Pluvialis squatarola*), E Atlantic/W Africa -wintering 11021 individuals, representing an average of 4.4% of the population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3 - spring peak); • Red knot, (Calidris canutus islandica), W & Southern Africa (wintering) 42692 individuals, representing an average of 9.4% of the population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3) • Sanderling, (Calidris alba), Eastern Atlantic 7401 individuals, representing an average of 6% of the population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3 - spring peak) • Dunlin, (Calidris alpina alpina), W Siberia/W Europe 38196 individuals, representing an average of 2.8% of the population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3 - spring peak)

	• Black-tailed godwit, (Limosa limosa islandica), Iceland/W Europe 3323 individuals, representing an average of 9.4% of the population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3) • Common redshank, (Tringa totanus tetanus), 4465 individuals, representing an average of 1.7% of the population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3) • Lesser black-backed gull, (Larus fuscus graellsii), 1747 individuals, representing an average of 2.8% of the GB population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3) Species with peak counts in winter: • Tundra swan, (*Cygnus columbianus bewickii*), NW Europe 230 individuals, representing an average of 2.8% of the GB population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3); • Whooper swan, (*Cygnus cygnus*), Iceland/UK/Ireland 211 individuals, representing an average of 1% of the population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3); • Pink-footed goose, (*Anser brachyrhynchus*), Greenland, Iceland/UK 6552 individuals, representing an average of 2.7% of the population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3); • Common shelduck, (*Tadorna tadorna*), NW Europe 2944 individuals, representing an average of 3.7% of the GB population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3); • Eurasian wigeon, (*Anas Penelope*), NW Europe 69841 individuals, representing an average of 4.6% of the population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3); • Eurasian teal, (*Anas crecca*), NW Europe 5107 individuals, representing an average of 1.2% of the population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3); • Northern pintail, (*Anas acuta*), NW Europe 1497 individuals, representing an average of 2.4% of the population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3); • Eurasian oystercatcher, (*Haematopus ostralegus ostralegus*), Europe & NW Africa -wintering 18926 individuals, representing an average of 1.8% of the population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3); • Bar-tailed godwit, (*Limosa lapponica lapponica*), W Palearctic 13935 individuals, representing an average of 11.6% of the population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3).
Conservation objectives	Ramsar sites do not have conservation objectives therefore the objectives for the Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA have been referenced.

Vulnerabilities	The site is vulnerable to: • Erosion.

Table A-15 Morecambe Bay Ramsar site

EU Site Code	UK11045
Designation	Ramsar
Name	Morecambe Bay
Area	37404.6 ha
Proximity	Within the LTP Area
Qualifying Interest Features	Ramsar criterion 4 The site is a staging area for migratory waterfowl including internationally important numbers of passage ringed plover *Charadrius hiaticula* Ramsar criterion 5 Assemblages of international importance: Species with peak counts in winter: • 223709 waterfowl (5 year peak mean 1998/99-2002/2003) Ramsar criterion 6 – species/populations occurring at levels of international importance. Qualifying Species/populations (as identified at designation): Species regularly supported during the breeding season: • Lesser black-backed gull, (*Larus fuscus graellsii*), W Europe/Mediterranean/W Africa 19666 apparently occupied nests, representing an average of 13.3% of the breeding population (Seabird 2000 Census); • Herring gull, (*Larus argentatus argentatus*), NW Europe and Iceland/W Europe) 10431 apparently occupied nests, representing an average of 2.8% of the breeding population (Seabird 2000 Census) • Sandwich tern, (*Sterna (Thalasseus) sandvicensis sandvicensis*), W Europe 290 pairs, representing an average of 2.8% of the GB population (5 year mean for 1992 to 1996). Species with peak counts in spring/autumn: • Great cormorant, (*Phalacrocorax carbo carbo*), NW Europe 967 individuals, representing an average of 4.2% of the GB population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3); • Common shelduck, (*Tadorna tadorna*), NW Europe 7032 individuals, representing an average of 2.3% of the population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3); • Northern pintail, (*Anas acuta*), NW Europe 3743 individuals, representing an average of 6.2% of the population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3);

	• Common eider, (Somateria mollissima mollissima), NW Europe 5657 individuals, representing an average of 7.7% of the GB population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3); • Eurasian oystercatcher, (Haematopus ostralegus ostralegus), Europe & NW Africa -wintering 66577 individuals, representing an average of 6.5% of the population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3); • Ringed plover, (Charadrius hiaticula), Europe/ Northwest Africa 1041 individuals, representing an average of 1.4% of the population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3); • Grey plover, (Pluvialis squatarola), E Atlantic/W Africa -wintering 1655 individuals, representing an average of 3.1% of the GB population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3); • Sanderling, (Calidris alba), Eastern Atlantic 703 individuals, representing an average of 3.4% of the GB population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3 - spring peak); • Eurasian curlew, (Numenius arquata Arquata), N. a. arquata Europe (breeding) 20018 individuals, representing an average of 4.7% of the population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3); • Common redshank, (Tringa totanus tetanus),8816 individuals, representing an average of 3.5% of the population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3); • Ruddy turnstone, (Arenaria interpres interpres), NE Canada, Greenland/W Europe & NW Africa 1371 individuals, representing an average of 1.4% of the population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3); • Lesser black-backed gull, (Larus fuscus graellsii), 40393 individuals, representing an average of 7.6% of the population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3). Species with peak counts in winter: • Great crested grebe, (*Podiceps cristatus cristatus*), NW Europe 217 individuals, representing an average of 1.3% of the GB population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3); • Pink-footed goose, (Anser brachyrhynchus), Greenland, Iceland/UK 3665 individuals, representing an average of 1.5% of the population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3); • Eurasian wigeon, (Anas Penelope), NW Europe 6133 individuals, representing an average of 1.5% of the GB population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3);

	• Common goldeneye, (Bucephala clangula clangula), NW & C Europe 285 individuals, representing an average of 1.1% of the GB population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3); • Red-breasted merganser, (Mergus serrator), NW & C Europe 327 individuals, representing an average of 3.3% of the GB population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3); • European golden plover, (Pluvialis apricaria apricaria, P. a. altifrons) Iceland & Faroes/E Atlantic 4073 individuals, representing an average of 1.6% of the GB population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3); • Northern lapwing, (Vanellus vanellus), Europe -breeding 16492 individuals, representing an average of 1% of the GB population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3); • Red knot, (Calidris canutus islandica), W & Southern Africa (wintering) 66335 individuals, representing an average of 14.7% of the population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3); • Dunlin, (Calidris alpina alpina), W Siberia/W Europe 26416 individuals, representing an average of 1.9% of the population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3); • Bar-tailed godwit, (Limosa lapponica lapponica), W Palearctic 4579 individuals, representing an average of 3.8% of the population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3).
Conservation objectives	Ramsar sites do not have conservation objectives therefore the objectives for the Morecambe Bay SAC have been referenced.
Vulnerabilities	No factors reported

A.2 European Sites within 2 km of the LTP area

Table A-16 Sefton Coast SAC

EU Site Code	UK0013076
Designation	SAC
Name	Sefton Coast SAC
Area	4591.59 ha
Proximity	Approximately 380 m from the LTP Area
Qualifying Interest Features	Annex I habitats that are a primary reason for selection of this site • Embryonic shifting dunes; • "Shifting dunes along the shoreline with Ammophila arenaria (""white dunes"")"; • Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (""grey dunes"")"; • Dunes with Salix repens ssp. argentea (Salicion arenariae); • Humid dune slacks. Annex I habitats present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for selection of this site • Atlantic decalcified fixed dunes (*Calluno-Ulicetea*). Annex II species that are a primary reason for selection of this site • Petalwort (Petalophyllum ralfsii). Annex II species present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for site selection • Great crested newt (*Triturus cristatus*).
Conservation objectives	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.

Vulnerabilities	The site is vulnerable to: • Invasive non-native species; • Air pollution, air-borne pollutants; • Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions; • Changes in abiotic conditions; • Biocenotic evolution, succession.

Table A-17 Ingleborough Complex SAC

EU Site Code	UK0012782
Designation	SAC
Name	Ingleborough Complex
Area	5770.45 ha
Proximity	Approximately 570 m from the LTP Area
Qualifying Interest Features	Annex I habitats that are a primary reason for selection of this site • Juniperus communis formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands; • Alkaline fens; • Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation; • Limestone pavements. Annex I habitats present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for selection of this site • Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (*Festuco-Brometalia*) (* important orchid sites); • Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (*Molinion caeruleae*); • Blanket bogs (* if active bog); • Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion); • Tilio-Acerion forests of slopes, screes and ravines.
Conservation objectives	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.
Vulnerabilities	The site is vulnerable to: • Air pollution, air-borne pollutants; • Grazing; • Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions; • Interspecific floral relations;

	• Modification of cultivation practices.

A.3 European Sites within 20 km of the LTP area

Table A-18 Peak District Moors (South Pennine Moors Phase 1) SPA

EU Site Code	9007021
Designation	SPA
Name	Peak District Moors (South Pennine Moors Phase 1)
Area	45301 ha
Proximity	Approximately 3.1 km from the LTP Area
Qualifying Interest Features	ARTICLE 4.1 QUALIFICATION (79/409/EEC) During the breeding season the area regularly supports: • *Asio flammeus* at least 2.2% of the GB breeding population Count, as at 1990 and 1998; • *Falco columbarius* at least 2.3% of the GB breeding population Count as at 1990 and 1998; • *Pluvialis apricaria* [North-western Europe - breeding] at least 1.9% of the GB breeding population Count, as at 1990 and 1998.
Conservation objectives	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.
Vulnerabilities	The site is vulnerable to: • Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities; • Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions; • Fire and fire suppression; • Hunting and collection of wild animals (terrestrial), including damage caused by game (excessive density), and taking/removal of terrestrial animals (including collection of insects, reptiles,

	amphibians, birds of prey, etc., trapping, poisoning, poaching, predator control, accidental capture (e.g. due to fishing gear), etc.); • Reduced fecundity/ genetic depression.

Table A-19 Liverpool Bay SPA

EU Site Code	UK9020294
Designation	SPA
Name	Liverpool Bay
Area	252757.73 ha
Proximity	Approximately 3.34 km from the LTP Area
Qualifying Interest Features	ARTICLE 4.1 QUALIFICATION (79/409/EEC) Over winter the area regularly supports: • *Gavia stellata* (North-western Europe - wintering) 6.89% of the GB population (5 year peak mean 2004/05 - 2010/11, 1,171 individuals) Hydrocoloeus minutus (wintering) (5 year peak mean 2004/05 - 2010/11, 319 individuals); • *Sternula albifrons* (breeding) 6.84% of the GB population 5 year mean 2010 - 2014, 130 pairs (Apparently Occupied Nests at Gronant Beach from Seabird Monitoring Programme database). These figures represent the current population at the site (SMP, pers. comm.). The 'at classification' population for little tern in The Dee Estuary SPA is 138 individuals (1995-1999); • *Sterna hirundo* (breeding) 1.80% of the GB population 5 year mean 2011 - 2015, 180 pairs (Apparently Occupied Nests at Seaforth Nature Reserve from Seabird Monitoring Programme database). ARTICLE 4.2 QUALIFICATION (79/409/EEC) Over winter the area regularly supports: • Melanitta nigra (North-western Europe - wintering) 10.31% of the NW European population regularly occurring migrant (5 year mean of peaks 2004/05 - 2010/11, 56,679 individuals). ARTICLE 4.2 QUALIFICATION (79/409/EEC) AN INTERNATIONALLY IMPORTANT ASSEMBLAGE OF BIRDS Over winter the area regularly supports: 69,687 waterbirds (5 year peak mean 2004/05 - 2010/11) Including: (over 1% GB or 2000 individuals) *Gavia stellata , Melanitta nigra, Hydrocoloeus minutus, Mergus serrator, Phalacrocorax carbo*; (less than 1% GB or less than 2000 Individuals) *Chroicocephalus ridibundus, Larus canus, Somateria mollissima, Fulmarus glacialis, Larus marinus, Podiceps cristatus, Uria*

	aalge, Morus bassanus, Fratercula arctica, Larus argentatus, Rissa tridactyla, Larus fuscus, Gavia immer, Phalacrocorax aristotelis, Alca torda, Melanitta fusca.
Conservation objectives	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.
Vulnerabilities	The site is vulnerable to: • Pollution to surface waters (limnic & terrestrial, marine & brackish); • Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities; • Invasive non-native species; • Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions; • Mining and quarrying; • Exploration and extraction of oil or gas; • Shipping lanes, ports, marine constructions; • Airports, flightpaths; • Utility and service lines; • Marine water pollution; • Roads, paths and railroads; • Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources; • Renewable abiotic energy use.

Table A-20 Mersey Narrows & North Wirral Foreshore Ramsar Site

EU Site Code	UK11042
Designation	Ramsar site
Name	Mersey Narrows & North Wirral Foreshore
Area	2078.41 ha
Proximity	Approximately 6.35 km from the LTP Area
Qualifying Interest Features	**Ramsar criteria 4** The site qualifies under Criterion 4 because it regularly supports plant and/or animal species at a critical stage in their life cycles, or provides refuge during adverse conditions: • During 2004/05 - 2008/09 the Mersey Narrows and North Wirral Foreshore Ramsar site supported important numbers of non-breeding little gulls and common terns. **Ramsar criteria 5** The site qualifies under Criterion 5 because it regularly supports 20,000 or more waterbirds: • During the winters 2004/05 - 2008/09, the Mersey Narrows and North Wirral Foreshore. Ramsar site supported an average peak of 32,402 individual waterbirds. **Ramsar criteria 6** The site qualifies under Criterion 6 because it regularly supports 1% of the individuals in the populations of the following species or subspecies of waterbird in any season: • During the winters 2004/05 - 2008/09, the Mersey Narrows and North Wirral Foreshore Ramsar site supported 2.4% of the islandica subspecies, W Europe/Waddensea/Britain/Ireland (non-breeding) population of knot and 2.8% of the lapponica subspecies W Europe/NW Africa (non-breeding) population of bar-tailed godwits.
Conservation objectives	Ramsar sites do not have conservation objectives therefore the objectives for the Mersey Narrows & North Wirral Foreshore SPA have been referenced.
Vulnerabilities	The site is vulnerable to: • Unspecific development urban use; • Recreation/ tourism disturbance; • Vegetation succession.

Table A-21 Mersey Narrows & North Wirral Foreshore SPA

EU Site Code	UK9020287
Designation	SPA
Name	Mersey Narrows & North Wirral Foreshore SPA
Area	12078 ha
Proximity	Approximately 6.35 km from the LTP Area
Qualifying Interest Features	ARTICLE 4.1 QUALIFICATION(2009/147/EC): Over winter the area regularly supports: • *Limosa lapponica*:5.5% of the GB population 5-year peak mean 2004/05 - 2008/09. On passage the area regularly supports: • *Hydrocoloeus minutus* (formerly Larus minutus): 213 individuals (no national population estimate); • *Sterna hirundo*: 1,475 individuals (no national population estimate). In the breeding season the area regularly supports: • *Sterna hirundo*: 1.8% of the GB population (2005-2009). ARTICLE 4.2 QUALIFICATION(2009/147/EC): Over winter the area regularly supports: • *Calidris canutus islandica* 2.4% W Europe/ Waddensea/Britain/Ireland population 5 year peak mean (2004/05 - 2008/09). ARTICLE 4.2 QUALIFICATION(2009/147/EC): An internationally important assemblage of birds In the non-breeding season the area regularly supports: 32,366 individual waterbirds (five year peak mean 2004/05 - 2008/09) Including: *Phalacrocorax carbo, Haematopus ostralegus, Pluvialis squatarola, Calidris alba, Calidris canutus, Calidris alpina alpina, Limosa lapponica and Tringa totanus*.
Conservation objectives	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.
Vulnerabilities	The site is vulnerable to: • Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities; • Invasive non-native species; • Changes in abiotic conditions; • Changes in biotic conditions.

Table A-22 North Pennine Moors SPA

EU Site Code	UK9006272
Designation	SPA
Name	North Pennine Moors
Area	147267 ha
Proximity	Approximately 11.5 km from the LTP Area
Qualifying Interest Features	ARTICLE 4.1 QUALIFICATION (79/409/EEC) During the breeding season the area regularly supports: • *Circus cyaneus* 2.2% of the GB breeding population Count as at 1993 and 1994; • *Falco columbarius* 10.5% of the GB breeding population Estimated population • *Falco peregrinus* 1.3% of the GB breeding population Count as at 1991; • *Pluvialis apricaria* [North-western Europe - breeding] at least 6.2% of the GB breeding population Estimated population
Conservation objectives	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.
Vulnerabilities	The site is vulnerable to: • Reduced fecundity/ genetic depression; • Grazing; • Fire and fire suppression; • Hunting and collection of wild animals (terrestrial), including damage caused by game (excessive density), and taking/removal of terrestrial animals (including collection of insects, reptiles, amphibians, birds of prey, etc., trapping, poisoning, poaching,

	predator control, accidental capture (e.g. due to fishing gear), etc.); • Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions.

Table A-23 Mersey Estuary SPA

EU Site Code	UK9005131
Designation	SPA
Name	Mersey Estuary
Area	5023 ha
Proximity	Approximately 14.69 km from the LTP Area
Qualifying Interest Features	ARTICLE 4.1 QUALIFICATION (79/409/EEC) Over winter the area regularly supports: • *Pluvialis apricaria* [North-western Europe - breeding] 1.2% of the GB population 5-year peak mean, 1993/94?1997/98. ARTICLE 4.2 QUALIFICATION (79/409/EEC) Over winter the area regularly supports: • *Anas acuta* (North-western Europe) 1.9% of the population 5-year peak mean, 1993/94?1997/98; • *Anas crecca* (North-western Europe) 2.9% of the population 5-year peak mean, 1993/94?1997/98; • *Anas penelope* (Western Siberia/North-western/North-eastern Europe) 4.2% of the population in Great Britain 5-year peak mean, 1993/94?1997/98; • *Calidris alpina alpina* (Northern Siberia/Europe/Western Africa) 3.6% of the population 5-year peak mean, 1993/94?1997/98; • *Limosa limosa* islandica (Iceland - breeding) 1.6% of the population 5-year peak mean, 1993/94?1997/98; • *Numenius arquata* (Europe - breeding) 1.1% of the population in Great Britain 5-year peak mean, 1993/94?1997/98; • *Pluvialis squatarola* (Eastern Atlantic - wintering) 2.3% of the population in Great Britain 5-year peak mean, 1993/94?1997/98; • *Podiceps cristatus* (North-western Europe - wintering) 1.4% of the population in Great Britain 5-year peak mean, 1993/94?1997/98; • *Tadorna tadorna* (North-western Europe) 2.2% of the population 5-year peak mean, 1993/94?1997/98; • *Tringa totanus* (Eastern Atlantic - wintering) 2.8% of the population 5-year peak mean, 1993/94?1997/98; • *Vanellus vanellus* (Europe - breeding) 0.7% of the population in Great Britain 5-year peak mean, 1993/94?1997/98. On passage the area regularly supports:

	• *Charadrius hiaticula* (Europe/Northern Africa - wintering) 1.7% of the population in Great Britain 5-year peak mean, 1993?1997; • *Tringa totanus* (Eastern Atlantic - wintering) 3.8% of the population 5-year peak mean, 1993?1997.
Conservation objectives	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.
Vulnerabilities	The site is vulnerable to: • Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities; • Changes in biotic conditions; • Invasive non-native species.

Table A-24 Mersey Estuary Ramsar Site

EU Site Code	UK11041
Designation	Ramsar site
Name	Mersey Estuary
Area	5023.35 ha
Proximity	Approximately 14.69 km from the LTP Area
Qualifying Interest Features	**Ramsar criterion 5** Assemblages of international importance: Species with peak counts in winter: • 89576 waterfowl (5 year peak mean 1998/99-2002/2003). **Ramsar criterion 6** – species/populations occurring at levels of international importance. Qualifying Species/populations (as identified at designation): Species with peak counts in spring/autumn: • Common shelduck, (*Tadorna tadorna*), NW Europe 12676 individuals, representing an average of 4.2% of the population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3); • Black-tailed godwit, (*Limosa limosa islandica*), Iceland/W Europe 2011 individuals, representing an average of 5.7% of the population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3); • Common redshank, (*Tringa totanus tetanus*), 6651 individuals, representing an average of 2.6% of the population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3); Species with peak counts in winter: • Eurasian teal, (*Anas crecca*), NW Europe 10613 individuals, representing an average of 2.6% of the population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3); • Northern pintail, (*Anas acuta*), NW Europe 565 individuals, representing an average of 2% of the GB population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3); • Dunlin, (*Calidris alpina alpina*), W Siberia/W Europe 48364 individuals, representing an average of 3.6% of the population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3).
Conservation objectives	Ramsar sites do not have conservation objectives therefore the objectives for the Mersey Estuary SPA have been referenced.
Vulnerabilities	No factors reported.

Table A-25 Duddon Estuary Ramsar Site

EU Site Code	UK11022
Designation	Ramsar site
Name	Duddon Estuary
Area	6806.3 ha
Proximity	Approximately 19.57 km from the LTP Area
Qualifying Interest Features	**Ramsar criterion 2** Supports nationally important numbers of the rare natterjack toad Bufo calamita, near the northwestern edge of its range (an estimated 18-24% of the British population). Supports a rich assemblage of wetland plants and invertebrates - at least one nationally scarce plant and at least two British Red Data Book invertebrates. **Ramsar criterion 4** The site supports nationally important numbers of waterfowl during spring and autumn passage. **Ramsar criterion 5** Assemblages of international importance: Species with peak counts in winter: • 26326 waterfowl (5 year peak mean 1998/99-2002/2003) **Ramsar criterion 6** – species/populations occurring at levels of international importance. Qualifying Species/populations (as identified at designation): Species with peak counts in winter: • Northern pintail, (*Anas acuta*), NW Europe 687 individuals, representing an average of 1.1% of the population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3); • Red knot, (*Calidris canutus islandica*), W & Southern Africa (wintering) 749 individuals, representing an average of 0.2% of the GB population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3); • Common redshank, (*Tringa totanus tetanus*), 2197 individuals, representing an average of 1.8% of the GB population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3).
Conservation objectives	Ramsar sites do not have conservation objectives.
Vulnerabilities	No factors report.

Table A-26 Dee Estuary Ramsar Site

EU Site Code	UK11082
Designation	Ramsar site
Name	Dee Estuary
Area	14302.02 ha
Proximity	Approximately 20 km from the LTP Area
Qualifying Interest Features	**Ramsar criterion 1** Extensive intertidal mud and sand flats (20 km by 9 km) with large expanses of saltmarsh towards the head of the estuary. Habitats Directive Annex I features present on the pSAC include: • Estuaries; • Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide; • Annual vegetation of drift lines; • Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts; • Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand; • Atlantic salt meadows (Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae); • Embryonic shifting dunes; • Shifting dunes along the shoreline with Ammophila arenaria ("white dunes"); • Fixed dunes with herbaceous vegetation ("grey dunes"); • Humid dune slacks. **Ramsar criterion 2** It supports breeding colonies of the vulnerable Natterjack Toad, *Epidalea calamita* **Ramsar criterion 5** Assemblages of international importance: Species with peak counts in winter: Non-breeding season regularly supports 120,726 individual waterbirds (5 year peak mean 1994/5 – 1998/9). **Ramsar criterion 6** – species/populations occurring at levels of international importance. Qualifying Species/populations (as identified at designation): Species with peak counts in spring/autumn: • Redshank, (*Tringa tetanus*), 8,795 individuals, representing an average of 5.9% of the Eastern Atlantic population (5 year peak mean 1994/95 - 1998/99).

	Species with peak counts in winter: • Teal, (*Anas crecca*), NW Europe 5,251 individuals, representing an average of 1.3% of the population (5 year peak mean 1994/95 - 1998/99); • Shelduck,(*Tadorna tadorna*), NW Europe 7,725 individuals, representing an average of 2.6% of the population (5 year peak mean 1994/95 - 1998/99); • Oystercatcher, (*Haematopus ostralegus*), Europe & W Africa 22,677 individuals, representing an average of 2.5% of the population (5 year peak mean 1994/95 - 1998/99); • Curlew, (*Numenius Arquata*) Europe/NW Africa 3,899 individuals, representing an average of 1.1% of the Europe population (5 year peak mean 1994/95 - 1998/99); • Pintail, (*Anas acuta*), NW Europe 5,407 individuals, representing an average of 9.0% of the population (5 year peak mean 1994/95 - 1998/99); • Grey plover, (*Pluvialis squatarola*), E Atlantic 1,643 individuals, representing an average of 1.1% of the GB population (5 year peak mean 1994/95 - 1998/99) • Knot, (*Calidris canutus*) islandica, W Europe/ Canada 12,394 individuals, representing an average of 3.5% of the GB population (5 year peak mean 1994/95 - 1998/99); • Dunlin, (*Calidris alpina alpina*) Europe (breeding) 27,769 individuals, representing an average of 2.0% of the population (5 year peak mean 1994/95 - 1998/99); • Black-tailed godwit, (*Limosa limosa islandica*), Iceland (breeding) 1,747 individuals, representing an average of 2.5% of the population (5 year peak mean1994/95 - 1998/99); • Bar-tailed godwit, (*Limosa lapponica*) , W European (wintering) 1,150 individuals, representing an average of 1.2% of the Europe population (5 year peak mean 1994/95 - 1998/99); • Redshank, (*Tringa tetanus*), Eastern Atlantic 5,293 individuals representing an average of 3.5% Eastern Atlantic population (5 year peak mean 1994/95 - 1998/99).
Conservation objectives	Ramsar sites do not have conservation objectives.
Vulnerabilities	The site is vulnerable to: • Introduction/invasion of exotic animal species; • Introduction/invasion of non-native plant species;

	• Overfishing; • Pollution – industrial waste; • General disturbance from human activities; • Transport infrastructure development; • Sand dune erosion and accretion along the North Wales open coast.

Appendix B Stage 1 Screening Assessment

Table C-1 – Stage 1 Screening Assessment

Connecting Lancashire

Policy Reference	Policy	Policy Proposal	LSE	Justification
Policy CL1	Enable the delivery of strategic growth sites	We will work with partners to ensure that strategic growth sites (as set out in the Growth Plan and relevant Development Plans) are appropriately located, accessible and supported. We will do this by delivering suitable multi-modal transport infrastructure investment, leveraging developer funding where required.	**Yes**	The policy is likely to lead to the development of new infrastructure, services and attractions, new access routes and the enabling of new housing, commercial and industrial development.
Policy CL2	Transform east / west public transport through the Central Belt	We will work with partners to transform public transport linkages throughout the Central Belt, making it much easier to travel between settlements and across the entire corridor, increasing access to opportunities such as work, training, healthcare and leisure.	**Yes**	The policy is likely to lead to new infrastructure that increases frequency of services, improves accessibility and improves access.
Policy CL3	Improve public transport connections with neighbouring regions	We will boost Lancashire's strategic position in the North West by working closely with neighbouring regions to improve our cross-border connections.	**Yes**	The policy is likely to lead to the development of new infrastructure, new access routes and the enabling of new housing, commercial and industrial development.
Policy CL4	Improve reliability of strategic and major	We will work closely with National Highways and Highway Authorities to ensure that Lancashire's strategic and major road	**Yes**	The policy is likely to lead to the development of new infrastructure such as major

	roads for all modes of transport	networks are efficient and reliable for our residents, businesses and visitors. By tackling congestion hotspots, we will support the efficient movement of goods and people across our county.		highway improvement and new junctions.
Policy CL5	Explore new or expanded heavy rail and mass transit networks	We will work with Network Rail, transport operators and other partners to provide strategic upgrades to our rail network and Superbus corridors, and explore opportunities for light rail expansion. These upgrades will improve service reliability and frequency, and bring new opportunities for those who live, work, visit and transport goods in Lancashire.	**Yes**	The policy is likely to lead to new infrastructure including providing new passing loops, double tracks and increased station lengths to improve capacity, delivering electrification to reduce running costs and improve reliability, and transforming stations into 'Gateways'.
Policy CL6	Improve high-speed broadband, especially in rural areas	We will support the continued rollout of broadband and 5G connectivity across Lancashire to provide equitable and reliable access to the internet, new technologies and digital services.	**No**	The policy concerns the roll-out of high-speed broadband countywide through working with BT other and key utility providers and is unlikely to lead to new development.

Transforming travel choices

Policy Reference	Policy	Policy Proposal	LSE	Justification
TC1	Improve and modernise bus journeys	We will work with operators and leverage available funding streams to develop a	**Yes**	While soft measures are included, the policy may include

		modernised, comprehensive and integrated bus network. We will do this by delivering improved network coverage, enhancing bus priority, and providing passengers with cutting edge real-time information and journey planning tools.		new infrastructure associated with prioritisation of buses, such as bus lanes. Increased coverage may require new or improved transport infrastructure provisions (road widening, new bus stops and stations).
TC2	Revolutionise rail travel so it is reliable and affordable	We will work with operators, Network Rail, neighbouring areas, and Transport for the North to transform our rail services and improve performance.	**No**	The policy is associated with improving train usage such as an increased number of trains, improved ticketing and is therefore unlikely to lead to development.
TC3	Establish convenient and safe active travel options	We will support the development of a countywide network of footpaths and cycle routes which are accessible, attractive and safe, to make active travel the natural first choice for short trips.	**Yes**	The policy aims to provide dedicated paths between residential areas, education centres, amenities, services and employment, as well as developing leisure routes.
TC4	Enable increased use of bus, rail and active travel	We will ensure that our residents feel enabled to use bus, rail and active modes for travel through marketing, incentives, engagement, information and partnerships with education providers, workplaces, visitor destinations and developers.	**No**	The policy is likely to lead to interventions that include engagement events, learn to cycle schemes, road safety educational programmes, simple signage and journey planning information, and travel planning for schools, workplaces and new

				developments. It is anticipated that interventions of this nature would not give rise to significant effects on European Sites.
TC5	Broaden travel choices in rural areas	We will work proactively with private providers, local operators and neighbouring areas to provide better public and shared transport for our remote communities reducing the risk of social isolation and broadening travel horizons.	**No**	The policy is not anticipated to give rise to new infrastructure, rather promote more efficient use of existing facilities like park and ride.
TC6	Ensure taxis offer a reliable and safe service	We will enhance the performance and accessibility of private hire vehicles through improved facilities, and supporting fair licensing and pricing arrangements.	**No**	It is not anticipated that the policy would lead to new infrastructure at a scale likely to cause significant effects on European Sites noting interventions include support for effective licensing arrangement, and safety features such as on-board CCTV.
TC7	Transform sustainable travel choices for tourists	Supporting our growing visitor economy, and mitigating impacts on congestion and pollution through the provision of improved sustainable transport options to, from, and between our major destinations.	**Yes**	The policy is likely to lead to new infrastructure that enables greater provision of coach handling facilities and interchanges.
TC8	Reimagine public transport ticketing	Working with operators, neighbouring authorities and key stakeholders, we will continue to progress towards a fairer, more	**No**	Measures to *realise* the policy could include the use of simpler, more flexible and better integrated ticketing

		affordable and more integrated ticketing system.		across modes and operators and, therefore, unlikely to give rise to significant effects on European Sites.

Safe and vibrant communities

Policy Reference	Policy	Policy Proposal	LSE	Justification
SV1	Empower everyone to travel safely and securely, wherever they go	We will apply a 'vision zero' approach to road safety – an ambition for there to be no fatalities or serious injuries on our road network. We will take a holistic approach to road safety, considering the locations of collision hotspots, road user behaviour and personal security.	**No**	The policy concerns the provision of education and training targeted at schools and general campaigns, changes to street scape and safety measures such as CCTV and lighting to improve personal safety and discourage anti-social behaviour, safe havens at public transport interchanges and physical design measures to address key safety hotspots such as junctions or near schools.
SV2	Deliver accessible and affordable public transport	Support social mobility and inclusion by progressing towards a public transport system that is truly accessible and affordable for all our residents, ensuring access to education, services and employment.	**No**	The policy covers pre-journey making information, including real-time journey times, improvements to wayfinding and the accessibility of bus stops and bus and rail

				interchanges. Whilst in journey it will mean more level-boarding buses with better audio and visual information. In network terms, there will be wider spatial coverage of bus services complemented by demand responsive transport and community and school transport. It is therefore anticipated that infrastructure required to deliver interventions of this nature would not be of a scale likely to give rise to significant effects on European Sites.
SV3	Develop accessible, high-quality spaces and infrastructure	Improving our travel choices, providing equality of opportunity, and reducing social isolation by ensuring that our built environment and infrastructure is accessible and inviting.	**Yes**	While the policy is likely to include measures that would not cause LSE such as decluttering and maintenance of footways and crossings, features such as accessible seating, sanitary facilities such as accessible toilets, baby change and breastfeeding facilities, the implementation of lighting at sensitive locations may give rise to LSE.

SV4	Embed placemaking in new developments	We support a vision-led approach to planning for new developments that puts the needs of people and communities first, by prioritising access to amenities and services, nature, and public spaces.	**No**	The policy points to vision-led approaches in local plans with place-based principles having greater influence over site selection. There will include new parking standards, better public transport connections and more transit orientated mixed-use development around current and new transport hubs. However, the policy itself will not lead to development.
SV5	Alleviate adverse impacts of travel on communities	Working with local communities, stakeholders and highways authorities, we will reduce and proactively design out the potential adverse impacts that transport can have on our communities.	**Yes**	The policy is likely to support public realm improvements and measures to improve safety on high streets.

Future-ready networks

Policy Reference	Policy	Policy Proposal	LSE	Justification
FN3	Embrace new transport data and technologies	We will continue to embrace data and new technologies to enhance the efficiency, reliability and sustainability of our transport networks. Building on Lancashire's industry strengths, we will lead in the development and deployment of innovative transport solutions – supporting cutting-edge research, piloting new	**No**	The policy concerns smart traffic management and the integration of technology, digital connectivity and monitoring of congestion in real time.

		technologies, and fostering partnerships that position the us at the forefront of future mobility.		
FN1	Accelerate the uptake of electric vehicles	We will facilitate the accelerated uptake of electric vehicles by supporting and working with residents, stakeholders, and public and private sector partners.	**Yes**	The policy is anticipated to support roll-out of home charging and on-street charging. The potential for this policy to support or enable the creation of larger scale EV charging stations may, however, increase potential for LSE on European Sites.
FN2	Improve journey time reliability	We will improve journey time reliability for all users of transport network by targeting the causes of delays and disruption, and ensuring resilience to seasonal or event-based changes in demand.	**Yes**	The policy is likely to result or support infrastructure interventions that aim to reduce congestion.
FN4:	Deliver sustainable, resilient infrastructure	We will embed resilience into our infrastructure to protect our road, rail and active travel networks and keep Lancashire moving into the future.	**Yes**	The policy is likely to support new infrastructure measures and interventions that mitigate flood risk.
FN5	Embed whole-life approaches to asset management	We will get the most out of our existing and future transport assets through a whole-life approach to maintenance and management, focusing on maximising performance and reducing overall costs.	**No**	The policy concerns improved asset maintenance and management across the wider network. It is considered that such activities could be delivered without giving rise to LSE on European Sites.

FN6	Implement smarter public parking strategies that meet evolving needs	We will work closely with local planning authorities to provide appropriate and flexible parking.	**No**	The policy is likely to support further review of parking supply such as higher turnover for on-street retail parking, longer stay for residential areas, a review of resident permit zones or new bus and rail park and ride which isunlikely to result in development.
FN7	Support sustainable first and last mile freight	We will encourage first and last mile deliveries to be made more efficiently and increase the provision of delivery options for our residents.	**Yes**	While the policy aims to move away from large LGV movements for last mile delivery, there may be a requirement for new infrastructure, local distribution centres/micro-consolidation to support this policy.