

HABITATS REGULATIONS ASSESSMENT

Ribble Valley Borough Council Housing and Economic
Development – Development Plan Document Screening
Report

JULY 2017

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This report dated 21 July 2017 has been prepared for Ribble Valley Borough Council (the "Client") in accordance with the terms and conditions of appointment dated 05 May 2016 (the "Appointment") between the Client and **Arcadis Consulting (UK) Limited** ("Arcadis") for the purposes specified in the Appointment. For avoidance of doubt, no other person(s) may use or rely upon this report or its contents, and Arcadis accepts no responsibility for any such use or reliance thereon by any other third party.

ABBREVIATIONS

AA	Appropriate Assessment
AONB	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
cSAC	Candidate Special Area of Conservation
DPD	Development Plan Documents
FCS	Favourable Conservation Status
GIS	Geographic Information System
HED	Housing and Economic Development
HRA	Habitats Regulations Assessment
IROPI	Imperative Reasons of Overriding Public Interest
IRZ	Impact Risk Zone
LDF	Local Development Framework
LSE	Likely Significant Effect
NE	Natural England
pSPA	Potential Special Protection Area
SA	Sustainability Appraisal
SAC	Special Area of Conservation
SPA	Special Protection Area
RVBC	Ribble Valley Borough Council

CONTENTS

VERSION CONTROL	2
1 INTRODUCTION AND PURPOSE OF THIS REPORT	6
1.1 Introduction	6
1.2 Purpose of this report	6
1.3 Background to Habitats Regulations Assessment	6
1.4 Legislation and Guidance	7
2 INTRODUCTION TO THE HED DPD	8
2.1 Background and Purpose	8
2.2 Allocation Sites	8
3 THE HABITAT REGULATIONS ASSESSMENT PROCESS	12
3.1 Stages in HRA	12
3.2 Approach to Screening	12
3.3 Consultation	13
3.4 In-Combination Effects	13
3.5 Consideration of Effects	15
3.7 Scoping potential Impact Pathways	18
4 IDENTIFYING THE EUROPEAN SITES	19
4.1 Approach to Identifying Sites	19
4.2 European Sites within Ribble Valley	19
4.3 European Sites Outside of Ribble Valley	19
4.4 Relevant European Sites Outside of Ribble Valley	20
4.5 Conservation Objectives of the European Sites	21
5 SCREENING	23
5.1 Overview	23
5.2 Screening of Potential Impact Pathways	27
5.3 Embedded Avoidance and Mitigation	28
5.4 Screening Summary	43
5.5 Initial Screening	43
5.6 Detailed screening	43
5.7 Screening conclusion	43
5.8 In Combination Effects	44

6 CONCLUSION	45
APPENDIX A	46
European Sites within and surrounding Ribble Valley	46
APPENDIX B	56
Conservation Objectives	56
APPENDIX C	65
Information from NE	65
APPENDIX D	68
Designated Sites Figure	68

TABLES

Table 1: Employment allocation sites	8
Table 2: Housing allocation sites	9
Table 3: Preferred Options Sites	11
Table 4: Plans and Projects Considered in respect of In-Combination Effects.....	14
Table 5: Screening Assessment Categories	16
Table 6: Summary of European Sites within or partially within Ribble Valley	19
Table 7: Potential Impacts and Effects of the Local Plan on European Sites outside Ribble Valley boundaries	19
Table 8: Summary of European Sites Outside of the Ribble Valley Boundary	20
Table 9: European sites outside of Ribble Valley where no impact pathway has been identified	20
Table 10: Screening European Sites within and outside of Ribble Valley Borough boundaries	24
Table 11: Screening summary in relation to employment and housing allocation sites within Ribble Valley .	29

1 INTRODUCTION AND PURPOSE OF THIS REPORT

1.1 Introduction

1.1.1 This Screening Report has been prepared by Arcadis Consulting UK (Ltd) on behalf of Ribble Valley Borough Council (RVBC) as part of the statutory Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) of the Ribble Valley Housing and Economic Development (HED) Development Plan Document (DPD). The HED DPD forms part of the Council's Local Development Framework (LDF) 2008-2028 which sets out site based policies, including specific site allocations for housing and employment.

1.2 Purpose of this report

1.2.1 This report is the first stage in the HRA process, commonly referred to as Screening. The Screening exercise will identify whether or not the Ribble Valley HED DPD is likely to result in significant effects upon one or more European sites (either in isolation and/or in combination with other plans or projects), and consequently whether or not an Appropriate Assessment (AA) will be required. Further details on the HRA stages are provided in Section 3.

1.3 Background to Habitats Regulations Assessment

1.3.1 Under Article 6 of the Habitats Directive, an assessment is required where a plan or project may give rise to significant effects upon any Natura 2000 sites (also known as 'European sites'). There are two European sites within the boundaries of the Ribble Valley Borough, and a further 14 sites within a 20km radius of the borough boundary which form part of the Natura 2000 network. All 16 of these sites could potentially be affected by the HED DPD and therefore will be considered in this Screening Report to determine if such affects are likely to be significant.

1.3.2 Natura 2000 is a network of areas designated to conserve natural habitats and species that are rare, endangered, vulnerable or endemic within the European Community. This includes Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), designated under the Habitats Directive for their habitats and/or species of European importance, and Special Protection Areas (SPAs), classified under Directive 2009/147/EC on the Conservation of Wild Birds (the codified version of Directive 79/409/EEC as amended) for rare, vulnerable and regularly occurring migratory bird species and internationally important wetlands.

1.3.3 In addition, it is a matter of law that candidate SACs (cSACs) and Sites of Community Importance (SCI) are considered in this process; furthermore, it is Government Policy that sites designated under the 1971 Ramsar Convention for their internationally important wetlands (Ramsar sites) and potential SPAs (pSPAs) are also considered.

1.3.4 The requirements of the Habitats Directive are transposed into English and Welsh law by means of the Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) Regulations 2010¹, as amended.

Regulation 61, Part 6 of the Habitats Regulations states that:

'A competent authority, before deciding to undertake, or give consent, permission or other authorisation for, a plan or project which (a) is likely to have a significant effect on a European site or a European offshore marine site (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects), and (b) is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site, must make and appropriate assessment of the implications for that site in view of that site's conservation objectives.'

Regulation 62, Part 6 of the Habitats Regulations states that:

'If the competent authority are satisfied that, there being no alternative solutions, the plan or project must be carried out for imperative reasons of overriding public interest (which, subject to paragraph (2), may be of a social or economic nature), they may agree to the plan or project notwithstanding a negative assessment of the implications for the European site or the European offshore marine site (as the case may be).'

Regulation 66, Part 6 of the Habitats Regulations states that:

¹ SI 2010/490: Explanatory memorandum to the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations, 2010.

Where in accordance with regulation 62 (considerations of overriding public interest)— (a) a plan or project is agreed to, notwithstanding a negative assessment of the implications for a European site or a European offshore marine site, or (b) a decision, or a consent, permission or other authorisation, is affirmed on review, notwithstanding such an assessment,— the appropriate authority must secure that any necessary compensatory measures are taken to ensure that the overall coherence of Natura 2000 is protected

- 1.3.5 The overarching aim of HRA is to determine, in view of a site's conservation objectives and qualifying interests, whether a plan, either in isolation and/or in combination with other plans, would have a significant adverse effect on the European site. If the Screening (the first stage of the process, see Section 3 for details) concludes that significant adverse effects are likely, then AA must be undertaken to determine whether there will be adverse effects on a site's integrity.

1.4 Legislation and Guidance

- 1.4.1 The HRA is being made in accordance with the requirements of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010, as amended. In doing so, this Screening Report has drawn upon the following guidance:

- European Commission, Managing Natura 2000 sites: The provisions of Article 6 of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC.
- European Commission, Guidance document on Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC.
- Department for Communities and Local Government (2006) Planning for the Protection of European Sites: Appropriate Assessment. Guidance for Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Documents.
- DTA Publications Limited, The Habitats Regulations Assessment Handbook.

2 INTRODUCTION TO THE HED DPD

2.1 Background and Purpose

2.1.1 Ribble Valley is a predominantly rural Borough located in the North East of Lancashire. It is situated to the east of the M6 motorway and Preston, and lies to the north of the M65 and the towns of Blackburn and Burnley. It is the largest Borough in the County of Lancashire covering an area of 585 square kilometres. The main commercial centres are Clitheroe, Longridge and Whalley. The Borough has a very high-quality environment with the Forest of Bowland Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) occupying over 70% of the Borough's land area.

2.1.2 The RVBC Core Strategy was adopted in 2014 and is the central document within the LDF. It establishes a vision, underlying objectives and key principles that will guide development of the area over the period 2008-2028. As part of the Core Strategy, the Local Development Scheme sets out that it will produce a HED DPD which will provide more detailed coverage of key issues related to the economy and housing. It includes all relevant allocations, including housing and employment land and policies of the town centres of Clitheroe, Longridge and Whalley. It will also establish constraints and allocations relating to wider environmental matters, and land uses emerging from the Core Strategy. These potential allocations include detailed boundaries set out on an Ordnance Survey (OS) plan base and show a number of potential specific sites that the Council proposes to allocate for differing forms of development.

2.2 Allocation Sites

2.2.1 The HED DPD currently comprises 45 committed housing allocation sites, 14 committed employment allocation sites and five preferred options sites including two housing and three employment sites.

Table 1: Employment allocation sites

Site Name	Size	Planning status
Land North of Barrow Brook Business Village, Barrow	6.7ha	-
Land off Hey Road, Barrow Brook Business Village, Barrow	<5ha	-
Hindle and Schofield Site, Barrow Brook Business Park, Barrow	<5ha	Planning permission has lapsed
Papillion Site, Barrow Brook Business Park, Barrow	<5ha	-
Building 611, Samlesbury Aerodrome, Myerscough Road, Balderstone	<5ha	Development complete
Casting Foundry Site, Fort Vale Engineering, Calder Vale Park	<5ha	Outstanding permission (and new current application as at Jan 2016)
Rear of Building S, Fort Vale Engineering, Calder Vale Park, Simonstone	<5ha	Development complete
Land Adjacent to Simonstone Lane, Time Technology Park, Simonstone	<5ha	-
Land at Salthill Industrial Estate, Lincoln Way, Clitheroe	<5ha	Part of site complete
B Dugdale and Son, Bellman Mill, Salthill, Clitheroe	<5ha	-
Carr Hall Garden Centre, Whalley Road, Wilpshire	<5ha	-

Former Golf Driving Range Upbrooks Lincoln Way, Clitheroe	<5ha	Planning permission granted
Land at Higher Standen Farm and part Littlemoor Farm, Clitheroe	<5ha	Planning permission granted
Land at BAe Systems, Samlesbury Aerodrome, Myerscough Road, Balderstone	<5ha	Development complete

Table 2: Housing allocation sites

Site Name	Size	No. of homes	Greenbelt (G)/ Brownfield (B)	Planning status (F=Full, O=Outline, RM=Reserve Matters)
Land north of Whalley Road, Hurst Green	2.44ha	30	G	F
1-5 Anchor Hill Close, Ribchester	0.75ha	15	G	F
Strawberry Fields, Gisburn	1.42ha	34	G	RM
Land off Mill Lane, Gisburn	0.54ha	3	G	F
Whins Lane, Read and Simonstone	1.07ha	15	G	F
Land off Longsight Road, Langho	5.4ha	18	G	O
Land off Chatburn Old Road, Chatburn	0.68ha	10	G	F
Land rear Pendle Street East, Ribchester	0.63ha	17	G	O
Land at Elker Lane, Billington	0.53ha	19	G	F
Land at Sunnyside Avenue, Billington	1.68ha	39	G	O
Land off Dale View, Billington	2.14ha	49	G	F
Nab Rise, Painter Crescent Billington	2.35ha	57	G	F
Wheatsheaf Close, Whalley	0.71ha	28	G	F
Land off Clitheroe Road, Barrow	0.77ha	9	G	O
Land at Whiteacre Lane, Barrow	0.7ha	7	G	RM
South-west of Barrow/West of Whalley, Barrow	18.26ha	504	G	RM
Middle Lodge Road, Barrow	4.35ha	105	G	F
23-25 Old Row, Barrow	1.13ha	23	G	O

Site Name	Size	No. of homes	Greenbelt (G)/ Brownfield (B)	Planning status (F=Full, O=Outline, RM=Reserve Matters)
Hanson Garden Centre, Barrow	1.92ha	43	B	O
100-112 Clitheroe Road, Barrow	0.46ha	7	B	F
Land at Bennetts Close, Whalley	1.44ha	4	G	F
Oak Hill College, Whalley	1.00ha	6	G	O
Land East of Clitheroe Road, Whalley	8.30ha	214	G	RM
Land at Accrington Road, Whalley	2.97ha	77	G	O
North of Riddings Lane, Whalley	2.12ha	71	G	RM
Land at Mitton Road, Whalley	6.20ha	137	G	F
Land north of Dilworth Lane, Longridge	6.26ha	195	G	RM
East of Chipping Lane, Longridge	24.8ha	363	G	O
Land at Chapel Hill, Longridge	3.4ha	53	G	F
Spout Farm, Longridge	1.78ha	32	G	O
Water Meadows, Longridge	2.25	-	G	Unknown
Barnacre, Longridge	0.44ha	32	G	F
Adjacent to Greenfield Ave, Clitheroe	1.37ha	30	G	O
Adjacent to St Paul's Church, Clitheroe	0.55ha	8	G	RM
Land off Henthorn Road I, Clitheroe	8.27ha	270	G	F
Land off Henthorn Road II, Clitheroe	4.97ha	130	G	RM
Southwest of Primrose Village, Clitheroe	2.48ha	81	G	F
Primrose Mill, Clitheroe	1.75ha	49	G	O
Higher Standen, Clitheroe	45.25ha	1,040	G	O
15 Parker Avenue, Clitheroe	0.73ha	14	G	F
Northwest of Littlemoor, Clitheroe	2.68ha	126	G	RM
Land at Chatburn Road, Clitheroe	1.82ha	23	G	O

Site Name	Size	No. of homes	Greenbelt (G)/ Brownfield (B)	Planning status (F=Full, O=Outline, RM=Reserve Matters)
Land off Pimlico Link Road, Clitheroe	0.76ha	19	G	O
Waddington, Clitheroe	9.2ha	275	G	O
Milton Ave, Clitheroe	1.23ha	50	G	O

Table 3: Preferred Options Sites

Site Name	Size	No. of homes	Greenbelt (G)/ Brownfield (B)	Planning status (F=Full, O=Outline, RM=Reserve Matters)
WILPSHIRE 3	5.67ha	226.8	G	None
MELLOR1	0.29ha	10	G	None
Land at Sykes Holt, Mellor	1.7ha	N/A	B	Application submitted
TIME Technology Park, Simonstone	1.0ha	N/A	B	Application submitted but withdrawn in 2016
Land at Higher College Farm, Longridge	2.2ha	N/A	G	None

3 THE HABITAT REGULATIONS ASSESSMENT PROCESS

3.1 Stages in HRA

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

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

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

3.2 Approach to Screening

3.2.1 This Screening Report takes into account the requirements of the Habitats Directive and relevant guidance produced by David Tyldesley Associates².

3.2.2 The following stages have been completed:

- Identification of all European sites potentially affected (including those outside of the Ribble Valley HED DPD area);
- A review of each site, including the features for which the site is designated, the Conservation Objectives, and an understanding of the current conservation status and the vulnerability of the individual features to threats;
- A review of the site allocations which have the potential to affect the European sites, and whether the sites are vulnerable to these effects (this has included a categorisation of the potential effects of development, in line with current guidance);
- A consideration of any impacts in combination with other plans or projects;
- Where potential effects are identified, avoidance or mitigation measures have been considered in order to avoid significant effects.

² DTA Publications Limited. The Habitats Regulations Assessment Handbook.

3.3 Consultation

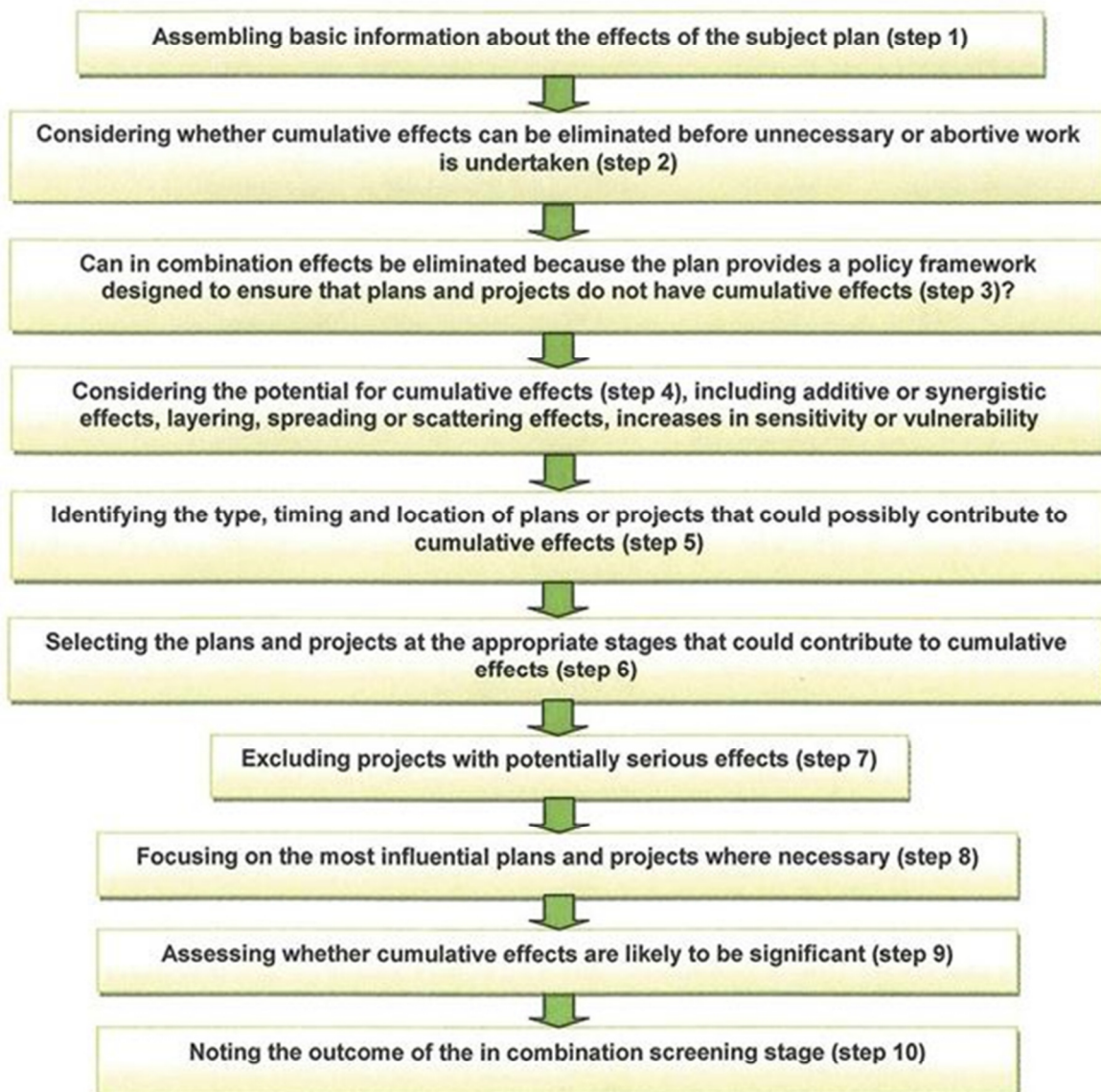
3.3.1 Consultation with Natural England (NE) on the conclusions of this Screening Report will be carried out following confirmation of the final list of allocation sites to be included within the HED DPD.

3.4 In-Combination Effects

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

3.4.2 Where an aspect of a plan could have some effect on the qualifying feature(s) of a European site, but the effects of that aspect of the plan alone would not be significant, the effects of that aspect of the plan will need to be checked in combination firstly with other effects of the same plan, and then with the effects of other plans and projects.

3.4.3 The flow chart below is taken from DTA Publications Limited, The Habitats Regulations Assessment Handbook, and illustrates the outline methodology for the in-combination assessment.



- 3.4.4 If the prospect of cumulative effects cannot be eliminated in steps 2 and 3 in the figure above, it is necessary to consider how the addition of effects from other plans or projects may produce a combined adverse effect on a European site that would be significant. Taking the effects which would not be likely to be significant alone, it is necessary to make a judgement as to whether these effects would be made more likely or more significant if the effects of other plans or projects are added to them. Effects would be considered to be cumulative if they would:
- Increase the effects on the qualifying features affected by the subject plan in an additive, or synergistic way;
 - Increase the sensitivity or vulnerability of the qualifying features of the site affected by the subject plan; and/or
 - Be felt more intensely by the same qualifying features over the same area (a layering effect), or by the same qualifying feature over a greater (larger) area (a spreading effect), or by affecting new areas of the same qualifying feature (a scattering effect)?
- 3.4.5 In accordance with the DTA guidance, it will be necessary to look for plans or projects at the following stages:
- Applications lodged but not yet determined.
 - Projects subject to periodic review e.g. annual licences, during the time that their renewal is under consideration.
 - 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.
 - Proposals in adopted plans.
 - Proposals in finalised draft plans formally published or submitted for final consultation, examination or adoption
- 3.4.6 Consideration of in-combination effects is included in Section 5.8.
- 3.4.7 Plans under consideration may range from neighbouring authorities' planning documents down to sector-specific strategic plans on such topics as flood risk. A review has been undertaken of plans and projects with the potential for an in-combination effect with the Ribble Valley HED DPD, and these are listed in Table 4.

Table 4: Plans and Projects Considered in respect of In-Combination Effects

Authority	Relevant Plan/Project
United Utilities	Water Resources Management Plan (2015).
Environment Agency	Lune and Wyre Abstraction Licensing Strategy (2013)
Lancashire County Council	Local Transport Plan 2011 – 2021: A Strategy for Lancashire May (2011).
Lancashire County Council	Joint Lancashire Minerals and Waste Development Framework Core Strategy (2009) (Site Allocations document in preparation).
AONB Unit	The Forest of Bowland Action Plan (adopted 2000)
Blackburn with Darwen Council	Local Plan Part 1: Core Strategy (adopted 2011) Local Plan Part 2 (adopted 2015)
Burnley Borough Council	Local Plan (adopted 2006) (New Local Plan in preparation)
Craven District Council	Saved policies from the 1999 Local Plan (New Local Plan in

Authority	Relevant Plan/Project
	preparation)
Hyndburn Borough Council	Core Strategy (adopted 2012) Accrington Area Action Plan (adopted 2012) Development Management DPD (New Local Plan in preparation)
Lancaster City Council	Lancaster City Council Core Strategy (adopted 2008) (New Local Plan in preparation) Morecambe Area Action Plan (2014) Arnsdale and Silverdale AONB DPD (with South Lakeland District Council)
Ribble Valley Borough Council	Core Strategy (adopted 2014)
Pendle Borough Council	Core Strategy (adopted 2015) Bradley Area Action Plan (2011) Saved policies from the Replacement Pendle Local Plan (adopted 2006)
Preston City Council	Core Strategy (adopted 2012) Local Plan (adopted 2015)
South Lakeland District Council	Local Plan Part 1 - Core Strategy (adopted 2010) Local Plan Part 2 – Land Allocations (adopted 2013) Local Plan Part 3 - Currently in preparation
South Ribble Borough Council	Local Plan (adopted 2015)
Wyre Borough Council	Wyre Borough Local Plan (Adopted 1999) (New Local Plan in preparation).

3.5 Consideration of Effects

Definition of Significant Effects

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

'...likely means readily foreseeable not merely a fanciful possibility; significant means not trivial or inconsequential but an effect that is potentially relevant to the site's conservation objectives'³.

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

³ Welsh Assembly Government Annex to Technical Advice Note 5: Nature conservation and planning. The Assessment of Development Plans in Wales Under the Provision of The Habitats Regulations' (October 2006).

- The plan should be considered 'likely' to have such an effect if the plan-making authority is unable (on the basis of objective information) to exclude the possibility that the plan could have significant effects on any European site, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects.
- An effect will be 'significant' in this context if it could undermine the site's conservation objectives. The assessment of that risk must be made in the light of factors such as the characteristics and specific environmental conditions of the European site in question.

Categorising Effects

3.5.3 The housing and employment allocations of the Ribble Valley HED DPD, have been screened for likely significant effects on European sites and categorised in accordance with DTA's Habitats Regulations Assessment Handbook.

3.5.4 The effects associated with the HED DPD can be allocated into one of 12 categories according to the ways in which the option, policy or proposal could affect the European site. These are described in Table 5 below. The assessment category relating to each of the allocation sites is set out in Table 11 (Section 5).

Table 5: Screening Assessment Categories

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

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

3.7 Scoping potential Impact Pathways

3.7.1 During the HRA screening stage, the likely nature, magnitude, frequency, timing, duration, location and spatial extent of changes resulting from implementation of the HED DPD will be assessed. As a part of this, mechanisms through which the Ribble Valley Local Plan could impact upon European sites will be considered. The potential impact pathways could comprise the following.

- Direct habitat loss associated with European sites
- Direct loss of/ disturbance to habitat within Ribble Valley that is functionally linked to the Ribble and Alt Estuaries or Morecambe Bay SPA/ Ramsar sites
- Disturbance/displacement of species as a result of construction activities/ operational stage
- Disturbance of species and habitats through increased recreational pressure as a result of population growth within Ribble Valley
- Habitat degradation as a result of increased air pollution
- Changes in water quality where sites are hydrologically linked to European sites

3.7.2 Further details on the potential impact pathways are provided in Table 10 and Section 5.2.

4 IDENTIFYING THE EUROPEAN SITES

4.1 Approach to Identifying Sites

4.1.1 There are two European sites located within the Borough boundary which need to be taken into consideration in this assessment. In addition, European sites outside of the Borough may also be affected by activities undertaken in Ribble Valley if they are connected through an impact pathway, for example, hydrological links, or, if mobile species (i.e. birds) use land which is functionally linked to a European site for foraging.

4.1.2 Given the Ribble Valley Local Plan can only have a physical effect on the land in certain ways, it was not considered appropriate to identify all European sites within a set distance of the Borough boundary. Therefore, in addition to all sites within the Borough, European sites which may be affected by the HED DPD activities through an identifiable impact pathway have been considered, within a 20km distance from the Borough.

4.2 European Sites within Ribble Valley

4.2.1 Two European sites have been identified within the Ribble Valley Borough boundary. These European sites are listed in Table 6 and shown on Figure 1 in Appendix D. Both of these sites will be taken into consideration within the Screening Assessment (refer to Section 5).

Table 6: Summary of European Sites within or partially within Ribble Valley

Name of Site	Identification Number	Designation
Bowland Fells	UK9005151	SPA
North Pennine Dales and Meadows	UK0014775	SAC

4.3 European Sites Outside of Ribble Valley

Potential Impacts and Effects of the HED DPD

4.3.1 The HED DPD was reviewed and, in conjunction with the parallel Sustainability Appraisal (SA), the following potential impact pathways, shown in Table 7, were identified that may have some effect on European sites located outside the Borough Boundary. Detailed screening of each of these potential impact pathways is presented in Section 5.

Table 7: Potential Impacts and Effects of the Local Plan on European Sites outside Ribble Valley boundaries

Potential impacts and effects of the Local Plan	European sites and features potentially affected
Direct loss of or disturbance to habitat within Ribble Valley that is functionally linked to a European site.	<p>Direct loss of agricultural land used by foraging wintering wildfowl and waders associated with the Morecambe Bay SPA and Ramsar site and the Ribble and Alt SPA and Ramsar site.</p> <p>Given the distance of these sites from Borough boundary (approximately 12.9 km and 14.7 km away, respectively), only pink-footed goose, lapwing and golden plover are considered likely to travel far enough to utilise habitats within Ribble Valley [as determined by information provided by NE, within Appendix C]. However, sensitivity is reduced beyond 10 km for lapwing and golden plover.</p>

Potential impacts and effects of the Local Plan	European sites and features potentially affected
Changes in water quality where sites are hydrologically linked to European sites	The River Ribble flows through Ribble Valley and forms part of the Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA/Ramsar, therefore any impacts upon the water quality within the river has the potential to impact upon this European site.

4.4 Relevant European Sites Outside of Ribble Valley

4.4.1 As a result of details provided in Table 7, the following European designated sites outside Ribble Valley will be considered further in this Screening Report.

Table 8: Summary of European Sites Outside of the Ribble Valley Boundary

Name of Site	Identification Number	Designation	Approximate Distance
Morecambe Bay	UK9005081	SPA	12.9km
Morecambe Bay	UK11045	Ramsar site	12.9km
Ribble and the Alt Estuaries	UK9005103	SPA	14.7km
Ribble and the Alt Estuaries	UK11057	Ramsar site	14.7km

4.4.2 Appendix A provides further information regarding the European sites, including current conservation status, threats and the results of the most recent condition assessments, where available.

4.4.3 The sites displayed in Table 9 (below) are located outside of Ribble Valley, within a 20km buffer of the Borough boundary. These sites have been considered within this assessment; however, no impact pathways between the designated sites and Ribble Valley's HED DPD have been identified and these sites have therefore been screened out of further assessment.

4.4.4 Morecambe Bay and Duddon Estuary pSPA is currently under consultation⁴. The plan is to combine these two existing large SPAs. Potential effects on the Morecambe Bay SPA will be considered in the assessment. Given the distance of Duddon Estuary SPA from Ribble Valley (more than 40km away), no potential impact pathways have been identified between this designated sites and Ribble Valley's HED DPD; hence Duddon Estuary SPA has been screened out of further assessment.

Table 9: European sites outside of Ribble Valley where no impact pathway has been identified

Name of site	Identification number	Designation	Approximate distance
Malham Tarn	UK11038	Ramsar site	12.6km
South Pennine Moors Phase 2	UK9007022	SPA	10km
South Pennine Moors	UK0030280	SAC	10km

⁴ Morecambe Bay and Duddon Estuary SPA has been approved and the sites are now combined into one SPA. The changes to the designation do not affect this assessment and all references to Morecambe Bay SPA take alterations to the designation into account.

North Pennine Moors	UK9006272	SPA	19.3km
North Pennine Moors	UK0030033	SAC	19.3km
Craven Limestone Complex	UK0014776	SAC	12.2km
Calf Hill and Crag Woods	UK0030106	SAC	8.5km
Ingleborough Complex	UK0012782	SAC	7km
Morecambe Bay Pavements	UK0014777	SAC	19.9km
Morecambe Bay	UK0013027	SAC	12.9km
Morecambe Bay and Duddon	Not applicable	pSPA	12.9km
Liverpool Bay	UK9020294	SPA	20km

4.5 Conservation Objectives of the European Sites

4.5.1 Under Regulation 35(3) of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (as amended) the appropriate statutory nature conservation body (in this case Natural England) has a duty to communicate the conservation objectives for a European site to the relevant/competent authority responsible for that site. The information provided under Regulation 35 must also include advice on any operations which may cause deterioration of the features for which the site is designated.

4.5.2 The conservation objectives for a European site are intended to represent the aims of the Habitats and Birds Directives in relation to that site. To this end, habitats and species of European Community importance should be maintained or restored to 'favourable conservation status' (FCS), as defined in Article 1 of the Habitats Directive below:

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

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

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

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

4.5.3 Guidance from the European Commission⁵ indicates that the Habitats Directive intends FCS to be applied at the level of an individual site, as well as to habitats and species across their European range. Therefore, in order to properly express the aims of the Habitats Directive for an individual site, the conservation objectives for a site are essentially to maintain (or restore) the habitats and species of the site at (or to) FCS.

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

4.5.4 Conservation Objectives for Bowland Fells SPA, North Pennine Dales Meadows SAC, Morecambe Bay SPA/Ramsar site and Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA/Ramsar site, were obtained from Natural England's website and are provided in Appendix B⁶.

⁶ <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/category/4582026845880320> accessed 16/11/16

5 SCREENING

5.1 Overview

- 5.1.1 Each of the European sites screened into the assessment has been reviewed against the allocation locations to determine whether an impact pathway from the allocations to the European sites exist. Where no impact pathways are identified, the European site has been screened out from further assessment against that potential impact. The detailed screening of the Ribble Valley HED DPD in relation to the European sites is presented in Table 10.
- 5.1.2 Each proposed development allocation has then been checked for the likelihood of it leading to a significant effect on a European site where a potential impact pathway could occur, either alone (refer to Table 11) or in-combination with other allocations within the same HED DPD or with other plans or projects (refer to Section 5.8). Table 11 provides details of the screening in reference to the committed allocation sites and preferred options in relation to the impact pathways not screened out in Table 10.

Table 10: Screening European Sites within and outside of Ribble Valley Borough boundaries

Potential impact pathway	European Sites within Ribble Valley boundary		European Sites outside Ribble Valley boundary	
	Bowland Fells SPA	North Pennine Dales and Meadows SAC	Morecambe Bay SPA/Ramsar site	Ribble and the Alt Estuaries SPA/Ramsar site
Direct loss of habitat associated with European sites	<p>Bowland Fells SPA is located along the north-western boundary of the Borough and North Pennine Dales and Meadows SAC is located at the north of the Borough. None of the proposed housing or employment allocation sites lie within either of these European sites (the closest allocation site being more than 6km away from Bowland Fells SPA and 10km away from North Pennine Dales and Meadows SAC).</p> <p>There will be no LSE in relation to direct habitat loss within either of these European sites as a result of the HED DPD, this impact is screened out of further assessment.</p>		Not applicable, designated sites outside of the Ribble Valley Borough boundary.	
Direct loss of or disturbance to habitat within Ribble Valley that is functionally linked to a European site	<p>All of the allocation sites lie within 20km from the Bowland Fells SPA; however, the closest site (Land East of Chipping Lane, Longridge) is more than 6km away, with the remaining sites at least 10km away. Breeding hen harrier and merlin are listed as Annex 1 qualifying features of this SPA. It is considered unlikely that these species would range far beyond the edge of the SPA when provisioning young during the breeding season. In addition, all of the allocation sites are located within, or directly adjacent to built-up areas, therefore none of the allocation sites (or land directly adjacent) would provide suitable foraging habitat for hen harrier and merlin. Therefore, none of the allocation sites would constitute functionally linked land to this SPA for these species.</p> <p>Lesser black-backed gull is also a qualifying feature of the SPA during the breeding season. Although the habitats within, and adjacent to the allocation sites, could provide some potential foraging opportunities for this species, given that lesser black-backed gull forage over a wide area, and within a wide range of habitat types including arable land (which are not limiting in this part of Lancashire). The allocations are all located on either greenfield or a mix of greenfield and hardstanding sites. Whilst gulls could utilise fields at various times, especially after ploughing, there are no features that would suggest the fields that would be lost to development offer a valuable resource that would support regular, large aggregations of gulls. Therefore, it is considered unlikely that any of the allocation sites would constitute important functionally-linked land to the Bowland Fells population. In addition, the three main colonies in the northwest are located at Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA (more than 15km away), Walney (more than 20km away) and Bowland Fells which are all to the north west of the allocation sites.</p> <p>Therefore, there will be no LSE in relation to direct loss of or disturbance to habitat within Ribble Valley that is functionally-linked to Bowland Fells SPA, as a result of the HED DPD and this impact is screened out of further assessment</p>	Not applicable	<p>The closest allocation sites to the Morecambe Bay SPA/Ramsar site and the Ribble and Alt Estuary SPA/Ramsar site lie approximately 19.5 km and 16 km away respectively. Of the 59 allocation sites, only one is within 20 km of the Morecambe Bay SPA/Ramsar site and nine allocations and three preferred options sites are within 20 km of the Ribble and Alt Estuary SPA/Ramsar. Of the nine allocations, two are employment sites which have already been developed and therefore are removed from further assessment. The remaining sites are all more than 20km away from both of these sites and therefore outside the distance birds associated with these designated sites would regularly forage (refer to Appendix C).</p> <p>Of the overwintering qualifying features of these SPA/Ramsar sites, only pink-footed geese, lapwing and golden plover are considered likely to range far enough to utilise habitats within the Ribble Valley boundary (refer to Table 7 and Appendix C). Only the areas within the south and west of the Borough which fall within 20km of the two European sites would be considered to be within range of the species associated with the SPA/Ramsar sites (as defined by the information provided in Appendix C).</p> <p>Although the habitats within, and adjacent to, the seven housing allocation sites and three preferred options sites within 20 km could provide some potential foraging opportunities for these species, none are considered to offer a particularly high value resource. It is considered unlikely that there will be any LSE in relation to direct loss of habitat within Ribble Valley that is functionally-linked to the Morecambe Bay SPA/Ramsar site and the Ribble and Alt Estuary SPA/Ramsar site, as a result of the HED DPD, however, the seven housing allocations within 20 km will be reviewed in further detail below to confirm the suitability of the habitats.</p>	
Disturbance/displacement of species as a result of construction activities/	All of the allocations are over 6 km from the Bowland Fells SPA, therefore no disturbance effects as a result of the construction or operational phases of the allocations would	Not applicable	All of the allocations are over 16 km from the Morecambe Bay and the Ribble and Alt Estuary SPA/Ramsar sites therefore no disturbance effects as a result of the construction or operational phases of the allocations would occur.	

Potential impact pathway	European Sites within Ribble Valley boundary		European Sites outside Ribble Valley boundary	
	Bowland Fells SPA	North Pennine Dales and Meadows SAC	Morecambe Bay SPA/Ramsar site	Ribble and the Alt Estuaries SPA/Ramsar site
operational stage	occur. This impact pathway is therefore screened out of further assessment		This impact pathway is therefore screened out of further assessment	
Disturbance of species and habitats through increased recreational pressure as a result of population growth within Ribble Valley	<p>Although the potential exists for increased disturbance through a rise in visitor pressure as the housing developments are progressively completed, the risk is low that residents in the new housing developments will choose to regularly visit European sites more than 10km away, in preference to more local destinations. All but one of the European sites are more than 10km away from the allocation sites (with Bowland Fells being 6km away from the nearest allocation). A recreational disturbance study carried out by Footprint Ecology for the Morecambe Bay Partnership⁷ identified that visitors to Morecambe Bay who were on a day-trip/short visit from home travelled a median distance of 3.454km to get to the designated site. Therefore, increased disturbance to birds, and/or impacts on important habitats (as a result of recreational pressure) at all of these European sites (or on functionally-linked land associated with them) is considered unlikely.</p> <p>Therefore, there will be no LSE in relation to increased recreational pressure at Bowland Fells SPA, North Pennine Dales and Meadows SAC, Morecambe Bay SPA/Ramsar site and the Ribble and Alt Estuary SPA/Ramsar site, as a result of the HED DPD, and this impact is screened out of further assessment.</p>			
Habitat degradation as a result of increased air pollution	Not applicable	<p>The majority of the allocation sites are located to the south and east of the Borough, in particular along the A59 corridor.</p> <p>Given the nearest allocation site to the North Pennine Dales and Meadows SAC is 10km away, and the fact that air quality effects usually manifest themselves within 500m (air quality effects may occur up to 500m from large sites, 200m from medium sites and 50m from small sites, as measured from the site exit⁸), any effects as a result of increased air pollution are considered to be negligible.</p> <p>Therefore, there will be no LSE on North Pennine Dales and Meadows SAC in relation to increases in air pollution, as a result of the HED DPD and this impact is screened out of further assessment.</p>	Not applicable	Not applicable
Changes in water quality where sites are hydrologically linked to European sites	Bowland Fells SPA, and Ribble and Alt Estuary SPA/Ramsar site are all located upstream of the allocation sites and would therefore not be affected as a result of hydrological changes.		<p>Although Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA/Ramsar site has been identified as being hydrologically linked to watercourses within Ribble Valley, adverse impacts on water quality are considered to be unlikely, given the small scale of the developments and the distance from the European sites, which are over 10 km downstream.</p> <p>In addition, the implementation of standard mitigation measures that are required of all new developments (such as pollution prevention) to meet with National Policies and frameworks will also provide a 'safety net' to ensure that significant damage to European sites is avoided.</p>	

⁷ Liley, D., Underhill-Day, J., Panter, C., Marsh, P. & Roberts, J. (2015). Morecambe Bay Bird Disturbance and Access Management Report. Unpublished report by Footprint Ecology for the Morecambe Bay Partnership

⁸ Institute of Air Quality Management (IAQM) (2011) Guidance on the assessment of the impacts of construction on air quality and determination of their significance http://iaqm.co.uk/text/guidance/construction_guidance_2011.pdf accessed 18/11/16

Potential impact pathway	European Sites within Ribble Valley boundary		European Sites outside Ribble Valley boundary	
	Bowland Fells SPA	North Pennine Dales and Meadows SAC	Morecambe Bay SPA/Ramsar site	Ribble and the Alt Estuaries SPA/Ramsar site
				Therefore, there will be no LSE on the Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA/ Ramsar site in relation to changes in water quality, as a result of the HED DPD and this impact is screened out of further assessment.

5.2 Screening of Potential Impact Pathways

Direct habitat loss associated with European sites

- 5.2.1 Construction works could result in the direct destruction of habitats, leading to a net loss in the extent of habitat area. There are two European sites within the Ribble Valley boundary. The North Pennine Dales and Meadows SAC is formed of three discrete sub-sites within the northern half of the Borough (in the area around Slaidburn). The Bowland Fells SPA is located along the north-western boundary of the Borough. None of the allocations are located within or adjacent to either of these sites (the closest allocation is 6 km away) and therefore no direct habitat loss as a result of implementation of the HED DPD will occur.
- 5.2.2 This potential impact pathway has been screened out of the assessment of the allocations.

Direct loss of/ disturbance to habitat within Ribble Valley that is functionally linked to a European site

- 5.2.3 Functionally-linked land is considered to be any land outside of the European designated site which is used by species that are qualifying interest features of that designated site. In relation to this Screening Report, this includes land used by qualifying bird species during the wintering and passage periods for foraging or roosting (i.e. birds associated with Morecambe Bay SPA/Ramsar site and the Ribble and Alt Estuary SPA/Ramsar site) and also land used by birds during the breeding season for foraging (i.e. birds associated with Bowland Fells SPA). As described in Table 10 (above), potential impacts upon the designated features of the Bowland Fells are considered unlikely and have been screened out of the assessment. Nine of the allocations are within the foraging distance of the Ribble and Alt Estuaries and Morecambe Bay SPA / Ramsar sites, with the remaining sites all over 20 km away.
- 5.2.4 The potential impact pathway has been screened in to the assessment of the seven allocations within 20 km of the Ribble and Alt Estuaries and Morecambe Bay SPA / Ramsar sites only.

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

- 5.2.5 There is the potential to disturb species associated with European sites, in particular birds, during the construction and operational phases of new developments. Disturbance could occur as a result of increased visual, noise, vibration and lighting disturbance, with a resultant potential loss of fitness and the consequential health or mortality effects on birds and their prey species. Fragmentation effects could also cause a barrier to the movement and dispersal of species, thereby limiting access to foraging opportunities. The allocations are all located within or adjacent to existing development and as such no fragmentation effects would occur. As described in paragraph 5.2.1, all allocations are over 6 km from the European sites and therefore, no construction or operational disturbance effects would occur.
- 5.2.6 This potential impact pathway has been screened out of the assessment of the allocations.

Disturbance of species and habitats through increased recreational pressure as a result of population growth within Ribble Valley

- 5.2.7 An increase in population (as a result of new development and improved road infrastructure) could result in increased recreational pressure as a result of additional people in an area and the consequent increases in people visiting the European sites or utilising areas that constitute functionally-linked land adjacent to new developments. In relation to this Screening Report, this would focus on recreational pressure on European sites within the borough, i.e. Bowland Fells SPA and the North Pennine Dales Meadows SAC. As described in Table 10 (above), the allocations are all over 6 km from the nearest European site with most being over 10 km away. As such it is considered unlikely that people would regularly travel such distances to visit the European sites.
- 5.2.8 This potential impact pathway has been screened out of the assessment of the allocations.

Habitat degradation as a result of increased air pollution

5.2.9 Changes in air quality from increased traffic and development (including new road links) could have impacts on European sites. For example, changes in air quality as a result of increased population and road traffic may affect habitats that are sensitive to increased nitrogen deposition. As described in paragraph 5.2.1, the closest allocation to the European sites within Ribble Valley is 6 km away, with the majority being over 10 km from the sites. The allocations are also focused along the A59 corridor within the Borough and therefore no increases in traffic close to the European sites would occur.

5.2.10 This impact pathway has been screened out of the assessment of the allocations.

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

5.2.11 Changes in water quality as a result of new development could have impacts on European sites. For example, these could include increased risk of potential pollution incidents, and potential increases in suspended sediments resulting in ecological effects, such as the direct loss of habitats caused by re-deposition of suspended sediment, and the consequential health or mortality effects on prey species, particularly invertebrates associated with the intertidal mudflats. Watercourses within Ribble Valley flow into the Ribble and Alt Estuaries SAC/SPA/Ramsar site, however, the European site is over 10km downstream of the allocations (and in most cases further), therefore the potential for development of the generally small allocations within the Borough to affect the downstream European sites would be negligible.

5.2.12 This impact pathway has been screened out of the assessment of the allocations.

5.3 Embedded Avoidance and Mitigation

5.3.1 The avoidance/mitigation measures included within the Core Strategy comprise Key Statement EN4. This provides for ensuring that negative impacts upon biodiversity through development are avoided.

5.3.2 All development proposals that adversely affect a site of recognised environmental or ecological importance will need to demonstrate that negative effects can be mitigated or, as a last resort, compensated in order for planning permission to be granted. Any proposals that could affect European designated sites will be bound by the provision of the relevant Directives and Regulations.

5.3.3 Such measures are intended to ensure that there would be no likely significant effects on European sites.

Table 11: Screening summary in relation to employment and housing allocation sites within Ribble Valley

Allocation and area	Name	Planning Status	No. of homes	Allocation Description	Potential Effects	Significant alone	Significant in combination	HRA Assessment Category
Committed Employment Sites								
Land North of Barrow Brook Business Village, Barrow and (6.7 ha)		-	-	Grassland site comprising four sheep-grazed fields. The site is adjacent to A59 dual carriageway to the east, an existing industrial site to the south, farm buildings to the west and fields to the north.	The closest European site (Bowland Fells SPA) is more than 13.5 km from the allocation site with the remaining European sites over 20 km away. Based on this and the location adjacent to existing development, no effects upon the European sites would occur.	N	N	G
Land off Hey Road, Barrow Brook Business Village, Barrow (6 ha)		-	-			N	N	G
Hindle and Schofield Site, Barrow Brook Business Park, Barrow <1 ha		Planning permission has lapsed	-	Small, rough grassland site within existing industrial estate. New office building to the north, scrub hedgerow and housing estate to the west, housing and roads to the south and Papillion Site allocation to the east.	Given that the closest European site (Bowland Fells SPA) is more than 13.5 km from the allocation site, the absence of any hydrological links between the allocation and the European sites, the small size and location adjacent to existing development, no effects upon the European sites would occur.	N	N	G
Papillion Site, Barrow Brook Business Park, Barrow <2 ha		-	-	Small, rough grassland site within existing industrial estate. Barrow Brook allocations to the north, Hindle and Schofield allocation and new office development to the west, garage, shop and the A59 to the east and Barrow Lodge Reservoir to the south.	Barrow Lodge Reservoir is identified as a WeBS Core Count Zone; however, no surveys have been undertaken at the site since 1990/91 when small numbers of mallard and great crested grebe were the only species recorded. Given the location surrounded by industrial units, housing and the A59, the reservoir is unlikely to support	N	N	H

Allocation and area	Name	Planning Status	No. of homes	Allocation Description	Potential Effects	Significant alone	Significant in combination	HRA Assessment Category
					large numbers of SPA species. In addition, the closest European site (Bowland Fells) is also over 13.5 km from the allocation site, there are no hydrological links between the allocation and the European sites, therefore, no effects upon the European sites would occur.			
Casting Foundry Site, Fort Vale Engineering, Calder Vale Park <1.5 ha		Outstanding permission (and new current application as at Jan 2016)	-	Small field of grassland, bare ground and scrub adjacent to industrial site with evidence of vehicle access to the site. Open fields are located to the north, west and south of the allocation with existing industrial development and hard-standing to the east.	Given that the closest European site (Bowland Fells SPA) is more than 19.5 km from the allocation site and the location adjacent to existing development, no effects upon the European sites would occur.	N	N	G
Land Adjacent to Simonstone Lane, Time Technology Park, Simonstone <1 ha		-	-	Small, brownfield site within an existing Technology Park surrounded by existing development, roads or hardstanding with some scrub.	The site is small, and already disturbed by existing development. The site is 20 km from the closest European site, therefore, no effects upon the European sites would occur.	N	N	G
Land at Salthill Industrial Estate, Lincoln Way, Clitheroe <1 ha		Part of site complete	-	Redevelopment of an existing industrial unit and area of hard standing with development on all sides.	The site is a small redevelopment surrounded by existing development almost 12.5 km from the closest European site (Bowland Fells SPA), therefore, no effects upon the European sites would occur.	N	N	G
B Dugdale and Son, Bellman Mill, Salthill, Clitheroe <1 ha		-	-	Existing industrial unit and area of hard standing with open fields to the south and scrub and rough grassland to the east.	Given that the site is a small redevelopment site and that the closest European site (Bowland Fells SPA) is more than 13 km away, no effects upon the European sites would occur.	N	N	G

Allocation and area	Name	Planning Status	No. of homes	Allocation Description	Potential Effects	Significant alone	Significant in combination	HRA Assessment Category
Carr Hall Garden Centre, Whalley Road, Wilpshire <2 ha		-	-	Redevelopment of an existing industrial unit on hard standing, surrounded by open fields and woodland to the south and east.	The site is 14 km from the closest European site (Bowland Fells SPA) and is a small development of an existing site. Therefore, no effects upon the European sites would occur.	N	N	G
Former Golf Driving Range Upbrooks Lincoln Way, Clitheroe <3 ha		Planning permission granted	-	Agricultural field adjacent to an industrial site with existing hard standing and vehicle access routes.	Given that the closest European site is more than 13 km from the allocation site and the location adjacent to existing development, no effects upon the European sites would occur.	N	N	G
Land at Higher Standen Farm and part Littlemoor Farm, Clitheroe <2 ha		Planning permission granted	-	Grassland site completely surrounded by agricultural land, south east of Clitheroe.	Given that the closest European site (Bowland Fells SPA) is more than 13 km from the allocation site and the location adjacent to existing development, no effects upon the European sites would occur.	N	N	H
Building 611, Samlesbury Aerodrome, Myerscough Road, Balderstone		Development complete						
Rear of Building S, Fort Vale Engineering, Calder Vale Park, Simonstone		Development complete						
Land at BAe Systems, Samlesbury		Development complete						

Allocation and area	Name	Planning Status	No. of homes	Allocation Description	Potential Effects	Significant alone	Significant in combination	HRA Assessment Category
Aerodrome, Myerscough Road, Balderstone								
Committed housing allocation sites (45 sites, refer to Section 2.2)								
Land north of Whalley Road, Hurst Green 2.44ha		Full	30	Agricultural land on the outskirts of the village of Hurst Green, bordered by the B6243 and a minor road to the south.	No potential effects upon the European sites identified during the ecological appraisal of the site.	N	N	G
1-5 Anchor Hill Close, Ribchester 0.75ha		Full	15	Agricultural land adjacent to residential buildings and Ribchester playing fields to the north and east, and grassland to the south and west.	The site is a small, grassland field on the south west edge of Ribchester. Although the site is 19.5 km from the Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA/ Ramsar site, the small size and location adjacent to existing development indicates that it would not constitute functionally linked land. No effects upon the European sites would occur.	N	N	G
Strawberry Fields, Gisburn 1.42ha		Reserve Matters (Partially Complete)	34	Redevelopment of an existing industrial/residential site on the outskirts of Gisburn.	Given that the closest European site (Bowland Fells SPA) is more than 14.5 km from the allocation site and the European sites and the location, no effects upon the European sites would occur.	N	N	G
Land off Mill Lane, Gisburn 0.54ha		Full	3	Agricultural land with industrial buildings and railway to the south and east and Mill lane to the north and fields to the west.	This small site is situated on agricultural land adjacent to farm buildings and an industrial site on the edge of Gisburn. Given the disturbed location and the distance from the closest European site (Bowland Fells SPA) over 14.5 km, no effects upon	N	N	G

Allocation and area	Name	Planning Status	No. of homes	Allocation Description	Potential Effects	Significant alone	Significant in combination	HRA Assessment Category
					European sites would occur.			
Whins Lane, Read and Simonstone 1.07ha		Full (Partially completed)	15	Redevelopment of an existing brownfield site, surrounded on 3-sides by residential buildings with agricultural land to the south	Given that the closest European site (Bowland Fells SPA) is more than 18 km from the allocation site and the European sites and the location, no effects upon the European sites would occur.	N	N	G
Land off Longsight Road, Langho 5.4ha		Outline	18	Single field between the A59 and railway line on the north-western edge of Langho.	No potential effects upon the European sites identified during the ecological appraisal of the site.	N	N	G
Land off Chatburn Old Road, Chatburn 0.68ha		Full	10	Small area of grassland and scrub on the western edge of Chatburn with a large quarry to the east.	Given the small size of the allocation and its location 13.5 km from the nearest European site (Bowland Fells SPA), no effects upon the European sites would occur.	N	N	G
Land rear Pendle Street East, Ribchester 0.63ha		Outline	17	Single grassland field on the southern edge of Ribchester.	Given the small size of the allocation and its location 17.5 km from the nearest European site (Bowland Fells SPA), no effects upon the European sites would occur.	N	N	G
Land at Elker Lane, Billington 0.53ha		Full (under construction)	19	Grassland site on the outskirts of Billington, with the A59 to the north and residential buildings to the south east.	Given the small size of the allocation and its location over 14.5 km from the nearest European site (Bowland Fells SPA), no effects upon the European sites would occur.	N	N	G
Land at Sunnyside Avenue, Billington		Outline	39	Grassland site on the north-western edge of Billington with the A59 200m to the north and existing development to the south, east and	Given the urban location and the location 14.5 km from the closest European site (Bowland Fells SPA), no effects upon European sites would	N	N	G

Allocation and area	Name	Planning Status	No. of homes	Allocation Description	Potential Effects	Significant alone	Significant in combination	HRA Assessment Category
1.68ha				west.	occur.			
Land off Dale View, Billington 2.14ha		Full	49	In-fill around an existing recent development, the allocation is surrounded on all sides. Part of the allocation comprises a play area.	Given the urban location, absence of any hydrological links and the location 14.5 km from the closest European site (Bowland Fells SPA), no effects upon European sites would occur.	N	N	G
Nab Rise, Painter Crescent Billington 2.35ha		Full (partially complete)	57	Situated between Whalley Road, Old Whalley road and the railway, within a residential area.	Given the urban location and the location 16 km from the closest European site (Bowland Fells SPA), no effects upon European sites would occur.	N	N	G
Wheatsheaf Close, Whalley 0.71ha		Full (partially completed)	28	Re-development of an existing industrial site adjacent to Clitheroe road.	Given that this is a small re-development in an urban setting, and the location, approximately 16 km from the closest European site (Bowland Fells SPA), no effects upon European sites would occur.	N	N	G
Land off Clitheroe Road, Barrow 0.77ha		Outline	9	Small patch of grass, surrounded by trees with development to north and south and A59 to the west. Adjacent to recently completed development.	Given its urban setting and distance from the closest European site (Bowland Fells SPA) more than 13.5 km away, no effects upon the European sites would occur.	N	N	G
Land at Whiteacre Lane, Barrow 0.7ha		Reserve Matters (Under construction)	7	Small site adjacent to the A59, already under construction.	Given its urban setting and distance from the closest European site (Bowland Fells SPA) more than 13.5 km away, no effects upon the European sites would occur.	N	N	G
South-west of Barrow/West of		Reserve Matters	504	Large site of open fields on the western edge of Barrow.	No effects upon European sites were identified in the Ecological Appraisal	N	N	G

Allocation and area	Name	Planning Status	No. of homes	Allocation Description	Potential Effects	Significant alone	Significant in combination	HRA Assessment Category
Whalley, Barrow 18.26ha					for the planning application.			
Middle Lodge Road, Barrow 4.35ha		Full (under construction)	105	Urban site surrounded on 3 sides by development with the A59 to the east.	No effects upon European sites were identified during the planning application process.	N	N	G
23-25 Old Row, Barrow 1.13ha		Outline	23	Small grassland field behind existing residential development, with an industrial site and employment allocation to the east and a school to the north.	Given its urban setting and distance from the European site (Bowland Fells SPA) more than 13.5 km away, no effects upon the European sites would occur.	N	N	G
Hanson Garden Centre, Barrow 1.92ha		Outline	43	Redevelopment of a garden centre site to provide new homes.	Redevelopment site over 13.5 km from the closest European site (Bowland Fells SPA); therefore, no effects would occur.	N	N	G
100-112 Clitheroe Road, Barrow 0.46ha		Development Complete						
Land at Bennetts Close, Whalley 1.44ha		Full (partially completed)	4	Grassland adjacent to existing school east of the A671.	Small development in an urban setting, over 14.5 km away from the closest European site (Bowland Fells SPA), therefore, no effects upon the European sites would occur.	N	N	G
Oak Hill College, Whalley 1.00ha		Outline	6	Small field adjacent to existing school and carpark to north and west and new housing development to south with a scrub field and the	Small development in an urban setting and the closest European site (Bowland Fells) is over 14.5 km away, therefore, no effects would occur.	N	N	G

Allocation and area	Name	Planning Status	No. of homes	Allocation Description	Potential Effects	Significant alone	Significant in combination	HRA Assessment Category
				A671 to the east.				
Land East of Clitheroe Road, Whalley 8.30ha		Reserve Matters (Partially complete)	214	Greenfield site on the outskirts of Whalley, east of the A671.	No potential effects upon the European sites identified during the ecological appraisal of the site.	N	N	G
Land at Accrington Road, Whalley 2.97ha		Outline	77	Grassland site adjacent to the River Calder to the south with existing development to the north, west and east.	No potential effects upon the European sites identified during the ecological appraisal of the site.	N	N	G
North of Riddings Lane, Whalley 2.12ha		Reserve Matters (under construction)	71	Partial redevelopment, surrounded by existing buildings to east, south and west, a single field then the A59 to the north.	No potential effects upon the European sites identified during the ecological appraisal of the site.	N	N	G
Land at Mitton Road, Whalley 6.20ha		Full	137	Grassland site bordered by roads with areas of scattered scrub to the west. The river Calder runs south of the site.	No potential effects upon the European sites identified during the ecological appraisal of the site.	N	N	G
Land north of Dilworth Lane, Longridge 6.26ha		Reserve Matters	195	Area of grassland on the eastern side of Longridge with development to the north, west and south and Spade Mill Reservoirs.	The allocation is 17.2 km from the Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA/ Ramsar site and 19 km from the Morecambe Bay SPA/ Ramsar site. Although the habitats within the allocation could be used by SPA birds, it is not considered to support habitat of particular importance with large areas of similar habitats in the surrounding area. The site is located on the eastern edge of Longridge with development to the south and west and therefore is already subject to	N	N	G

Allocation and area	Name	Planning Status	No. of homes	Allocation Description	Potential Effects	Significant alone	Significant in combination	HRA Assessment Category
					<p>disturbance.</p> <p>The site has already obtained planning permission and no potential effects upon European sites were identified during the ecological appraisal of the site.</p>			
<p>East of Chipping Lane, Longridge</p> <p>24.8ha</p>		Outline	363	<p>Grassland fields on the northern outskirts of Longridge, adjacent to residential and industrial buildings to the south, with open farmland to the north.</p>	<p>The allocation is 17.3 km from the Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA/ Ramsar site and 19 km from the Morecambe Bay SPA/ Ramsar site. Although the habitats within the allocation could be used by SPA birds, it is not considered to support habitat of particular importance with large areas of similar habitats in the surrounding area. The site is located along the northern edge of Longridge and therefore is already subject to disturbance and is considered unlikely to lead to a significant effect in terms of loss of or disturbance to functionally linked land.</p> <p>In addition, the site has already obtained outline planning permission and no potential effects upon European sites was identified during the ecological appraisal of the site.</p>	N	N	H
<p>Land at Chapel Hill, Longridge</p> <p>3.4ha</p>		Full	53	<p>Small area of grassland bordered by a minor road and existing development to the north, east and west and Alston Reservoir No 2 to the south.</p>	<p>Although the site is 16.7 km from the Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA/ Ramsar sites and could support SPA birds, the small size of the site, restricted sightlines and presence of adjacent development it is not considered to be functionally-linked</p>	N	N	G

Allocation and area	Name	Planning Status	No. of homes	Allocation Description	Potential Effects	Significant alone	Significant in combination	HRA Assessment Category
					land. No potential effects upon European sites was identified during the ecological appraisal of the site.			
Spout Farm, Longridge 1.78ha		Outline	32	Small area of grassland and bare ground with some scattered scrub located south of Alston Reservoir No. 2, bordering the B6243 and existing development to the west.	Although the site is 16.7 km from the Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA/ Ramsar sites, the habitats within the allocation are not considered to be suitable for use by SPA bird species and therefore does not constitute functionally-linked land. Therefore, no effects upon European sites would occur.	N	N	G
Water Meadows, Longridge 2.25ha	Development Complete							
Barnacre, Longridge 0.44ha		Full	32	A small area of rough grassland surrounded by existing residential development.	Small development in an urban setting. The allocation is 17 km from the Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA / Ramsar site, however the site is not considered to constitute functionally-linked land due to its small size and urban location. Therefore, no effects on the European sites would occur.	N	N	G
Adjacent to Greenfield Ave, Clitheroe 1.37ha		Outline	30	Improved pasture with existing residential buildings to the south and east.	The site is approximately 11km from the closest European site (Bowland Fells SPA) and is a small site in an urban setting, therefore no effects upon European sites would occur.	N	N	G

Allocation and area	Name	Planning Status	No. of homes	Allocation Description	Potential Effects	Significant alone	Significant in combination	HRA Assessment Category
Adjacent to St Paul's Church, Clitheroe 0.55ha		Reserve Matters (under construction)	8	Rough grassland located behind St Paul's Church, surrounded by road and residential development on all sides.	The site is a small, urban allocation approximately 11km from the closest European site (Bowland Fells SPA), therefore no effects upon European sites would occur.	N	N	G
Land off Henthorn Road I, Clitheroe 8.27ha		Full (under construction)	270	Redevelopment, surrounded by existing buildings to the east, fields to the north and south and Clitheroe Camping and Caravanning Club Site to the west.	No potential effects upon European sites was identified during the ecological appraisal of the site.	N	N	G
Land off Henthorn Road II, Clitheroe 4.97ha		Reserve Matters	130	Grassland surrounded by fields to the south and west and residential housing to the north and east.	No potential effects upon European sites was identified during the ecological appraisal of the site.	N	N	G
Southwest of Primrose Village, Clitheroe 2.48ha		Full	81	Grassland site with residential and industrial developments to the north and east and the Ribble Valley railway line to the west. Scrub and a small field to the south with farmland beyond.	No potential effects upon European sites was identified during the ecological appraisal of the site.	N	N	G
Primrose Mill, Clitheroe 1.75ha		Outline (under construction)	49	Partial redevelopment, surrounded by existing residential buildings to the north, the Ribble Valley Railway Line to the west, an industrial unit to the east and an open field to the south (to be developed)	No potential effects upon European sites was identified during the ecological appraisal of the site.	N	N	G
Higher Standen, Clitheroe 45.25ha		Outline	1,040	Grassland site situated in a large area of open fields south of Clitheroe.	No potential effects upon European sites was identified during the ecological appraisal of the site.	N	N	H

Allocation and area	Name	Planning Status	No. of homes	Allocation Description	Potential Effects	Significant alone	Significant in combination	HRA Assessment Category
15 Parker Avenue, Clitheroe 0.73ha		Full	14	Small area of rough grassland and scrub situated between Pendleton Brook and existing residential development.	No potential effects upon European sites was identified during the ecological appraisal of the site.	N	N	G
Northwest of Littlemoor, Clitheroe 2.68ha		Reserve Matters (under construction)	126	Former grassland site surrounded by residential and industrial buildings.	No potential effects upon European sites was identified during the ecological appraisal of the site.	N	N	G
Land at Chatburn Road, Clitheroe 1.82ha		Outline	23	Small area of grassland situated between the A671 and Ribble Valley railway line with other open fields to the north and south.	No potential effects upon European sites was identified during the ecological appraisal of the site.	N	N	G
Land off Pimlico Link Road, Clitheroe 0.76ha		Outline	19	Grassland between the Pimlico Link road to the north and woodland to the south.	No potential effects upon European sites was identified during the ecological appraisal of the site.	N	N	G
Land Off Waddington Rd, Clitheroe 9.2ha		Outline	275	A number of grassland fields south of Clitheroe Cemetery, adjacent to residential buildings to the east and more open fields to the west.	No potential effects upon European sites was identified during the ecological appraisal of the site.	N	N	H
Milton Ave, Clitheroe 1.23ha		Outline	50	Single with residential development to the north, east and south and Land Off Waddington Road allocation to the west	No potential effects upon European sites was identified during the ecological appraisal of the site.	N	N	G

Allocation and area	Name	Planning Status	No. of homes	Allocation Description	Potential Effects	Significant alone	Significant in combination	HRA Assessment Category
Preferred Options sites: (5 sites, refer to Section 2.2)								
WILPSHIRE 3 (Housing) 5.67ha		None	226.8	Three green fields on the eastern edge of Wilpshire with development to the south, north and west and farmland to the east.	The allocation is over 15 km from the nearest European site (Bowland Fells SPA) and is over 22 km from the Ribble and Alt Estuaries and Morecambe Bay SPA/ Ramsar sites and therefore beyond the foraging range of species associated with these sites. No effects upon European sites would occur.	N	N	G
MELLOR1 (Housing) 0.29ha		None	10	Small greenfield site with church and cemetery to the west, existing residential development to the south and east and a small field and road to the north.	Although the allocation is within 20 km of the Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA, given the small size (<0.3 ha) and urban location it is not considered to be functionally-linked land and no effects upon the European sites (over 14.5 km away) would occur.	N	N	G
Land at Sykes Holt, Mellor (Employment) 1.7ha		Application submitted	N/A	Area of woodland with small number of farm buildings to the north of the A59, east of Mellor.	Although the allocation is within 20 km of the Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA it does not support habitats that would be suitable for use by SPA species. The small employment allocation is over 13.5 km from the nearest European site (Bowland Fells) with no hydrological links. Potential impacts upon European sites are unlikely to occur.	N	N	G
TIME Technology Park, Simonstone (Employment)		Application submitted but withdrawn in 2016	N/A	Redevelopment of an existing brownfield site consisting of hard and some scattered scrub.	This small employment site is located approximately 11.5km from the nearest European site (Bowland Fells SPA). Given this, no effects would occur on the European sites.	N	N	G

Allocation and area	Name	Planning Status	No. of homes	Allocation Description	Potential Effects	Significant alone	Significant in combination	HRA Assessment Category
1.0ha								
Land at Higher College Farm, Longridge 2.2ha		None	N/A	Single grassland field with an area of farmland south of the B6243 with Spades Mill Reservoir to the north, Higher College Farm to the south east and a school to the south west.	Although the allocation is 17.6 km from the Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA/ Ramsar site and the habitat on site could be used by SPA birds, it's relatively small size and presence of adjacent development suggest it would be unlikely to be used regularly by significant numbers of birds and therefore would not be functionally-linked land. The site is located approximately 7.5km from the nearest European site (Bowland Fells), and has no hydrological links. Given this, no effects would occur on the European sites.	N	N	G

5.4 Screening Summary

5.5 Initial Screening

5.5.1 Following the initial screening of the Ribble Valley HED DPD, a number of European sites were screened out completely from further assessment. This was on the basis of no identifiable impact pathway linking the allocation sites with the European sites (refer to Table 10). The European sites taken through to the detailed screening process included:

- Bowland Fells SPA.
- North Pennine Dales and Meadows SAC
- Morecambe Bay SPA/Ramsar site
- Ribble and Alt Estuary SPA/Ramsar site.

5.5.2 The potential impact pathways identified for consideration in the screening comprised the following (only the two highlighted in bold text were screened in to be assessed against the individual allocations (refer to Table 10 and Section 5.2):

- Direct habitat loss within European sites.
- **Direct loss of/ disturbance to habitat within Ribble Valley that is functionally linked to the Ribble and Alt Estuaries or Morecambe Bay SPA/ Ramsar sites**
- Disturbance/displacement of species as a result of construction activities/ operational stage
- Disturbance of species and habitats through increased recreational pressure as a result of population growth within Ribble Valley
- Habitat degradation as a result of increased air pollution
- Changes in water quality where sites are hydrologically linked to European sites

5.6 Detailed screening

5.6.1 All 59 housing and employment allocation sites and five preferred options sites were examined to determine the need for further assessment. The sites have been split into those identified within the HED DPD as development allocations for housing, those areas included as employment sites and those included as preferred options.

5.6.2 Following the review of potential impacts (set out within Section 5.2), a conclusion has been drawn as to whether any of the individual sites could have a potentially significant impact upon European sites either alone or in-combination with other plans or projects.

5.7 Screening conclusion

5.7.1 Based on the information provided within Tables 10 and 11, it is concluded that none of the allocation sites or preferred options would give rise to likely significant effects on the European sites considered within this assessment alone.

5.7.2 As detailed in Table 11, all of the 45 committed housing allocation sites and four of the committed employment sites have at least outline planning permission and therefore have already gone through the planning process. None of the planning documents (where available) for these sites identified any potential effects on European sites.

5.7.3 Whilst planning documents for some of the smaller housing sites were not obtained, no potential impact pathways from these small (<3 ha) sites were identified by this assessment and therefore these could also be screened out. Three of the committed employment sites have already been completed.

5.7.4 The seven committed employment sites which are not in the planning system, are all less than 3 ha in size, and comprise either redevelopments, or development of rough grassland/scrub within existing industrial settings. All of the sites are over 20 km from the Ribble and Alt Estuaries and Morecambe Bay SPA/ Ramsar sites and therefore would not be considered to be support functionally-linked land. The review of the available information for these sites (presented in Table 11) determined that there would be no likely significant effects on European sites as a result of development at these locations.

- 5.7.5 Of the five preferred options sites, three relate to employment and two to housing. The largest employment allocation site was 2.2 ha. Based on their small size, location and distance from the European sites, it has been determined that there would be no likely significant effects as a result of development at these sites. In relation to the two preferred options housing sites, Mellor 1 is 0.29 ha and located adjacent to existing development, therefore, no likely significant effects would occur. Wilpshire 3 is a larger development of 5.67 ha and is located on green field land. However, the European sites are all over 15 km from the site. In addition, the site is beyond the foraging range of species associated with the Ribble and Alt Estuaries and Morecambe Bay SPA/ Ramsar sites and therefore would not constitute functionally-linked land. No likely significant effects would be expected from this allocation site.
- 5.7.6 In addition, all allocation sites with planning permission would have been required to adhere to the policies set out within the Adopted Core Strategy, including Key Statement EN4 which provides for ensuring that negative impacts upon biodiversity through development are avoided (refer to Section 3.7)). Whilst the 11 allocations which do not yet have permission are not considered likely to lead to an effect upon the European sites, these will also be required to adhere to Key Statement EN4, providing a safeguard to ensure all potential ecological impacts are considered before planning permission is granted.

5.8 In Combination Effects

- 5.8.1 The HRA needs to consider not only the allocation sites within the HED DPD that may lead to significant impacts upon European sites on their own, but also those that may have a significant impact in combination with other allocations within the HED DPD itself or other plans and projects within the local area that could affect the same European sites, refer to Table 4 (which outlines relevant plans and projects that were considered in-combination with the HED DPD).

Sites within the Ribble Valley HED DPD

- 5.8.2 Based on the information presented in Table 11, which highlights the generally small sizes of the allocations, the absence of suitable functionally-linked and hydrological links that would be affected by the allocations as well as the disturbed nature of the allocation sites which are all adjacent to existing settlements, there would be no likely significant in combination effects on European sites as a result of the development of all of the employment, housing and preferred option allocation sites listed with Ribble Valley HED DPD.
- 5.8.3 In all instances where ecological assessments have been carried out, no potential effects on European sites were identified and as such, there are no impact pathways that could lead to a significant effect either alone or in-combination with other allocations within the Ribble Valley HED DPD.
- 5.8.4 Therefore, it is concluded that none of the allocation sites would give rise to significant effects on the European sites considered within this assessment, alone or in combination with other sites within the HED DPD.

Other Plans and projects

- 5.8.5 Only the effects of other plans or projects which (like those of the HED DPD under consideration here) alone would not be likely to be significant, need to be included in the in-combination assessment. If the effects of other plans or projects will already be significant on their own, they are not added to those associated with the HED DPD.
- 5.8.6 The only impact pathway considered within the assessment of the Ribble Valley HED DPD allocations was the loss of or disturbance to functionally-linked land. The assessment of the allocations within the Ribble Valley HED DPD did not identify any potential effects occurring via this impact pathway as a result of implementation of the plan. The majority of the committed allocations have already passed through the planning system and site level assessments have been carried out, none of which have identified potential effects upon European sites. The small number of allocations yet to obtain planning permission were not found to have any potential effects upon the European sites and therefore, no in combination effects with other plans or projects would occur.

5.8.7 Therefore, it is concluded that implementation of the Ribble Valley HED DPD would not give rise to significant effects on the integrity of the European sites considered within this assessment, alone or in combination with other plans and projects.

6 Conclusion

6.1.1 This HRA Screening of the Ribble Valley HED DPD has considered the potential implications of the plan for European Sites within and near to the Borough boundary.

6.1.2 The committed housing and employment allocations and preferred options sites identified within the HED DPD have all been assessed for the potential for impacts upon European sites. None of the proposed development allocations within the Ribble Valley HED DPD were considered likely to give rise to significant effects on the European sites considered within this assessment either alone or in combination with each other.

6.1.3 The only potential impact pathway identified by the assessment was the possibility of effects to land that could be functionally-linked to the Ribble and Alt Estuaries or Morecambe Bay SPA/ Ramsar sites. The assessment revealed that only seven committed allocations and three preferred options sites were within 20 km of these sites and therefore the majority of sites were beyond the range for foraging pink-footed geese, lapwing and golden plover (refer to Appendix C). The largest allocation within 20 km of the Ribble and Alt Estuaries (17.3 km) and the Morecambe Bay SPA/ Ramsar sites was East of Chipping Lane, Longridge (24.8 ha). Although the habitats within this allocation could be suitable for use by SPA birds, it was not considered to support habitat of particular importance with large areas of similar habitats in the surrounding area. The site is located along the northern edge of Longridge and therefore is already subject to disturbance and is considered unlikely to lead to a significant effect in terms of loss of or disturbance to functionally linked land. The remaining sites within 20 km were all much smaller and (<7 ha) and none were considered to constitute functionally-linked land (refer to Table 11).

6.1.4 In addition, most of the allocations within the HED DPD already have planning permission and no potential effects upon European sites have been identified during the ecological appraisals of the sites. For the small number of sites where planning permission has not yet been obtained, developers will be required to comply with Key Statement EN4 within the Core Strategy to further ensure any potential impacts upon European sites are fully assessed before planning permission can be granted.

6.1.5 No other impact pathways either alone or in-combination have been identified. Therefore, it is not considered that the Ribble Valley HED DPD would contribute to significant effects upon the European sites, which is in agreement with the HRA conclusions of the Adopted Core Strategy HRA.

6.1.6 It has, therefore, been concluded that the Ribble Valley HED DPD is unlikely to have any significant effects on the European sites identified, either alone or in-combination with other plans or projects.

APPENDIX A

European Sites within and surrounding Ribble Valley

Table A 1 European Sites that could be adversely affected by the DPD

Site Name	Qualifying Features		Current Condition and Vulnerability ⁹	Site Condition Assessment March 2013
	Habitats	Species		
Morecambe Bay SPA	N/A	<p>This site qualifies under Article 4.1 of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following species listed on Annex I of the Directive:</p> <p>During the breeding season;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Little Tern <i>Sterna albifrons</i> ▪ Sandwich Tern <i>Sterna sandvicensis</i> <p>Over winter;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Bar-tailed Godwit <i>Limosa lapponica</i> ▪ Golden Plover <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> <p>This site also qualifies under Article 4.2 of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following migratory species:</p> <p>During the breeding season;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Herring Gull <i>Larus argentatus</i> ▪ Lesser Black-backed Gull <i>Larus fuscus</i> <p>On passage;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ringed Plover <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i> ▪ Sanderling <i>Calidris alba</i> <p>Over winter;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Curlew <i>Numenius arquata</i> ▪ Dunlin <i>Calidris alpina alpina</i> ▪ Grey Plover <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i> 	<p>The site is subject to a wide range of pressures such as land-claim for agriculture, overgrazing, dredging, overfishing, industrial uses and unspecified pollution. However, overall the site is relatively robust and many of those pressures have only slight to local effects and are being addressed through Management Plans. The breeding tern interest is very vulnerable and the colony has recently moved to the adjacent Duddon Estuary. Positive management is being secured through management plans for non-governmental organisation reserves, Natural England's Site Management Statements, European Marine Site Management Scheme, and the Morecambe Bay Partnership.</p>	<p>Area favourable 94.23%</p> <p>Area unfavourable but recovering 5.77%</p> <p>Area unfavourable no change 0%</p> <p>Area unfavourable declining 0%</p> <p>Area destroyed / part destroyed 0%.</p>

⁹ Taken from Natura 2000 Standard Data Forms (SAC and SPA) and Ramsar Information Sheets.

Site Name	Qualifying Features	Current Condition and Vulnerability ⁹	Site Condition Assessment March 2013	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Knot <i>Calidris canutus</i> ▪ Oystercatcher <i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>, ▪ Pink-footed Goose <i>Anser brachyrhynchus</i> ▪ Pintail <i>Anas acuta</i> ▪ Redshank <i>Tringa totanus</i> ▪ Shelduck <i>Tadorna tadorna</i> ▪ Turnstone <i>Arenaria interpres</i> <p>Assemblage qualification: A seabird assemblage of international importance</p> <p>The area qualifies under Article 4.2 of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by regularly supporting at least 20,000 seabirds</p> <p>During the breeding season, the area regularly supports 61,858 individual seabirds (5-year peak mean for 1991/92 to 1995/96) including: Herring Gull <i>Larus argentatus</i>, Lesser Black-backed Gull <i>Larus fuscus</i>, Little Tern <i>Sterna albifrons</i>, Sandwich Tern <i>Sterna sandvicensis</i>.</p> <p>Assemblage qualification: A wetland of international importance.</p> <p>The area qualifies under Article 4.2 of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by regularly supporting at least 20,000 waterfowl</p> <p>Over winter, the area regularly supports 210,668 individual waterfowl (5-year peak mean for 1991/92 to 1995/96)</p>			
Morecambe Bay Ramsar site	N/A	<p>Ramsar criterion 4</p> <p>The site is a staging area for migratory waterfowl including internationally</p>	N/A	See above.

Site Name	Qualifying Features	Current Condition and Vulnerability ⁹	Site Condition Assessment March 2013
	<p>important numbers of passage ringed plover <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>.</p> <p>Ramsar criterion 5</p> <p>Assemblages of international importance:</p> <p>Species with peak counts in winter:</p> <p>223709 waterfowl (5-year peak mean 1998/99-2002/2003)</p> <p>Ramsar criterion 6 – species/populations occurring at levels of international importance.</p> <p>Qualifying Species/populations (as identified at designation):</p> <p>Species regularly supported during the breeding season:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Lesser black-backed gull, <i>Larus fuscus graellsii</i>, ▪ Herring gull, <i>Larus argentatus</i> ▪ Sandwich tern, <i>Sterna (Thalasseus) sandvicensis</i> <p>Species with peak counts in spring/autumn:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Great cormorant, <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i> ▪ Northern pintail, <i>Anas acuta</i>, ▪ Common eider, <i>Somateria mollissima</i>, ▪ Eurasian oystercatcher, <i>Haematopus ostralegus</i> ▪ Ringed plover, <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>, ▪ Grey plover, <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>, ▪ Sanderling, <i>Calidris alba</i>, ▪ Eurasian curlew, <i>Numenius arquata</i>, ▪ Common redshank, <i>Tringa totanus</i>, 		

Site Name	Qualifying Features		Current Condition and Vulnerability ⁹	Site Condition Assessment March 2013
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ruddy turnstone, <i>Arenaria interpres</i>, ▪ Lesser black-backed gull, <i>Larus fuscus graellsii</i>, <p>Species with peak counts in winter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Great crested grebe, <i>Podiceps cristatus</i>, ▪ Pink-footed goose, <i>Anser brachyrhynchus</i> ▪ Eurasian wigeon, <i>Anas Penelope</i> ▪ Common goldeneye, <i>Bucephala clangula</i>, ▪ Red-breasted merganser, <i>Mergus serrator</i> ▪ European golden plover, <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>, ▪ Northern lapwing, <i>Vanellus vanellus</i>, ▪ Red knot, <i>Calidris canutus islandica</i>, ▪ Dunlin, <i>Calidris alpina</i>, ▪ Bar-tailed godwit, <i>Limosa lapponica</i>, 		
Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA	N/A	<p>This site qualifies under Article 4.1 of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following species listed on Annex I of the Directive:</p> <p>During the breeding season;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Common Tern <i>Sterna hirundo</i> ▪ Ruff <i>Philomachus pugnax</i>, <p>Over winter;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Bar-tailed Godwit <i>Limosa lapponica</i> ▪ Bewick's Swan <i>Cygnus columbianus</i> 	<p>Overall, the dunes, intertidal flats and saltmarsh enjoy a relatively robust status and a favourable condition. However, the site is, in places, subject to pressure from recreation, built development (including coastal defence), wildfowling and industry, including sand-winning. Wildfowling is not considered to have a significant impact in terms of direct take; resulting disturbance is effectively managed through the provision of refuge areas and strict regulation on shooting activities. Military activities only take</p>	<p>Area favourable 99.10% Area unfavourable but recovering 0% Area unfavourable no change 0.90% Area unfavourable declining 0% Area destroyed / part destroyed 0%</p>

Site Name	Qualifying Features	Current Condition and Vulnerability ⁹	Site Condition Assessment March 2013
	<p><i>bewickii</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Golden Plover <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>, ▪ Whooper Swan <i>Cygnus cygnus</i>, <p>This site also qualifies under Article 4.2 of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following migratory species:</p> <p>During the breeding season;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Lesser Black-backed Gull <i>Larus fuscus</i> <p>On passage;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ringed Plover <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i> ▪ Sanderling <i>Calidris alba</i> <p>Over winter;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Black-tailed Godwit <i>Limosa limosa</i> ▪ Dunlin <i>Calidris alpina</i> ▪ Grey Plover <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i> ▪ Knot <i>Calidris canutus</i> ▪ Oystercatcher <i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>, ▪ Pink-footed Goose <i>Anser brachyrhynchus</i> ▪ Pintail <i>Anas acuta</i> ▪ Redshank <i>Tringa totanus</i> ▪ Sanderling <i>Calidris alba</i> ▪ Shelduck <i>Tadorna tadorna</i> ▪ Teal <i>Anas crecca</i> ▪ Wigeon <i>Anas penelope</i> <p>Assemblage qualification: A seabird assemblage of international importance</p> <p>The area qualifies under Article 4.2 of the</p>	<p>place at Altcar Rifle Range which is adjacent to the Alt Estuary. Recreation is informal and of relatively low intensity along most of the Sefton Coast and in the Ribble Estuary. There is no longer a registered beach airfield at Sefton, however occasional landing of pleasure craft may be requested during large events. Beach activities are managed by the Beach Management Plan. Sand-winning was addressed during a Public Inquiry in August 2001, with the result that detailed environmental monitoring will now be incorporated into the renewed planning permission. Much of the site attracts beneficial land management via the implementation of agreed plans for three NNRs, two LNRs and other initiatives developed by the Sefton Coast Partnership. These plans/initiatives are addressing a number of these pressures, whilst other pressures will be addressed following procedures under the Habitat Regulations. Wider land management issues are being developed via the neighbouring Ribble and Mersey Estuary Strategies. The issue of grazing pressure on the saltmarsh will be addressed through a management agreement to reduce the grazing pressure.</p> <p>Although there is little evidence of sea-level rise so far, the extent and distribution of habitats remains vulnerable to changes in the physical environment, either natural or man-induced. In contrast the coast at Formby Point and Ainsdale is suffering</p>	

Site Name	Qualifying Features		Current Condition and Vulnerability ⁹	Site Condition Assessment March 2013
		<p>Directive (79/409/EEC) by regularly supporting at least 20,000 seabirds</p> <p>During the breeding season, the area regularly supports 29,236 individual seabirds.</p> <p>Assemblage qualification: A wetland of international importance.</p> <p>The area qualifies under Article 4.2 of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by regularly supporting at least 20,000 waterfowl</p>	<p>intense erosion which is being investigated through the Sefton Shoreline Management Plan, and beach management practices have effectively encouraged the creation of considerable areas of embryo dunes on the upper shore elsewhere. The Ribble Estuary is also evolving as sediment patterns are changing and saltmarsh continues to accrete following past land-claim and the closure of Preston Docks. The intertidal habitats are vulnerable to accidental pollution from the nearby Mersey Estuary and the Irish Sea oil and gas fields. Oil spill contingency plans are being updated to deal with such events. The Ribble in particular has failed to meet the requirements of the Bathing Waters Directive. Government Office North West and the Environment Agency are investigating likely sources of pollution that may have caused this.</p>	
Ribble and Alt Estuaries Ramsar site	N/A	<p>Ramsar criterion 2</p> <p>This site supports up to 40% of the Great Britain population of natterjack toads <i>Bufo calamita</i>.</p> <p>Ramsar criterion 5</p> <p>Assemblages of international importance:</p> <p>Species with peak counts in winter:</p> <p>222,038 waterfowl</p> <p>Ramsar criterion 6</p> <p>Species/populations occurring at levels of international importance.</p> <p>Qualifying Species/populations (as</p>	<p>Coastal erosion is a factor at Formby Point with an estimated loss of 4 metres per year. It is a concern because pine woodland on the sand dunes is causing coastal squeeze and therefore preventing sand dune habitats from rolling back; as such dune slack habitats for natterjack toads are declining/being lost.</p>	See above.

Site Name	Qualifying Features		Current Condition and Vulnerability ⁹	Site Condition Assessment March 2013
		<p>identified at designation): Species regularly supported during the breeding season:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Lesser black-backed gull <i>Larus fuscus graellsii</i>, <p>Species with peak counts in spring/autumn:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ringed plover, <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>, ▪ Grey plover <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i> ▪ Red knot <i>Calidris canutus islandica</i> ▪ Sanderling <i>Calidris alba</i> ▪ Dunlin <i>Calidris alpina</i> ▪ Black-tailed godwit <i>Limosa limosa</i> ▪ Common redshank <i>Tringa totanus</i>, ▪ Lesser black-backed gull <i>Larus fuscus graellsii</i>, <p>Species with peak counts in winter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Tundra swan <i>Cygnus columbianus bewickii</i> ▪ Whooper swan, <i>Cygnus cygnus</i> ▪ Pink-footed goose <i>Anser brachyrhynchus</i> ▪ Common shelduck <i>Tadorna tadorna</i> ▪ Eurasian wigeon <i>Anas penelope</i> ▪ Eurasian teal <i>Anas crecca</i> ▪ Northern pintail <i>Anas acuta</i> ▪ Eurasian oystercatcher <i>Haematopus ostralegus</i> ▪ Bar-tailed godwit <i>Limosa lapponica</i> 		
Bowland Fells SPA	N/A	This site qualifies under Article 4.1 of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting	The expansive blanket bog and heather dominated moorland provides suitable	Area favourable 5.28% Area unfavourable but

Site Name	Qualifying Features		Current Condition and Vulnerability ⁹	Site Condition Assessment March 2013
	<p>populations of European importance of the following species listed on Annex I of the Directive:</p> <p>During the breeding season;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Hen Harrier <i>Circus cyaneus</i> ▪ Merlin <i>Falco columbarius</i> <p>This site also qualifies under Article 4.2 of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following migratory species:</p> <p>During the breeding season;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Lesser Black-backed Gull <i>Larus fuscus</i> 		<p>habitat for a diverse range of upland breeding birds. Favourable nature conservation status of the site depends on appropriate levels of sheep grazing, sympathetic moorland burning practice, sensitive water catchment land management practices and on-going species protection. Since designation as an SPA, many localised problems of over-grazing have been controlled through management agreements or the Countryside Stewardship Scheme. To date approximately 20% of SPA is under Section 15 management agreements and Countryside Stewardship to stimulate heather regeneration in order to produce better moorland for grouse and raptors alike. Burning plans and stocking levels have also been agreed for all other areas of the SPA through Site Management Statements, whilst problems of raptor persecution continues to be addressed by the RSPB in conjunction with North West Water, Natural England and Lancashire Constabulary.</p>	<p>recovering 71.99%</p> <p>Area unfavourable no change 0%</p> <p>Area unfavourable declining 22.72%</p> <p>Area destroyed / part destroyed 0%</p>
North Pennine Dales and Meadows SAC	<p>Annex 1 habitats that are a primary reason for selection of this site: Mountain hay meadows.</p> <p>Annex 1 habitats present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for selection of this site. Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt laden soils</p>	N/A	<p>The North Pennine Dales Meadows SAC is a series of isolated fields within the higher parts of the enclosed valley bottoms of several north Pennine and Cumbrian valleys. The SAC is comprised of 58 component Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), which are located across the counties of Cumbria, Durham, Lancashire, North Yorkshire and Northumberland. It contains the major part of the remaining UK resource</p>	<p>79% of the component SSSI's combined were classified as 'area favourable,'</p> <p>19% were classified as 'unfavourable recovering,' and 1.6% were classified as 'unfavourable no change.'</p> <p>The favourable condition status of the site has improved marginally (by 2%) between</p>

Site Name	Qualifying Features		Current Condition and Vulnerability ⁹	Site Condition Assessment March 2013
			<p>of mountain hay meadows and purple moor grass meadows, supporting a characteristic herb-rich vegetation unique to the Pennines and other upland areas of Northern England. The fields are part of the agricultural landscape and economy and are managed by summer cutting for hay; and grazing through the rest of the year.</p>	<p>the condition assessments of 2013 and 2015.</p>

APPENDIX B

Conservation Objectives



European Site Conservation Objectives for Ribble and Alt Estuaries Special Protection Area Site Code: UK9005103

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

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

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

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

Qualifying Features:

- A037 *Cygnus columbianus bewickii*; Bewick's swan (Non-breeding)
- A038 *Cygnus cygnus*; Whooper swan (Non-breeding)
- A040 *Anser brachyrhynchus*; Pink-footed goose (Non-breeding)
- A048 *Tadorna tadorna*; Common shelduck (Non-breeding)
- A050 *Anas penelope*; Eurasian wigeon (Non-breeding)
- A052 *Anas crecca*; Eurasian teal (Non-breeding)
- A054 *Anas acuta*; Northern pintail (Non-breeding)
- A130 *Haematopus ostralegus*; Eurasian oystercatcher (Non-breeding)
- A137 *Charadrius hiaticula*; Ringed plover (Non-breeding)
- A140 *Pluvialis apricaria*; European golden plover (Non-breeding)
- A141 *Pluvialis squatarola*; Grey plover (Non-breeding)
- A143 *Calidris canutus*; Red knot (Non-breeding)

- A144 *Calidris alba*; Sanderling (Non-breeding)
A149 *Calidris alpina alpina*; Dunlin (Non-breeding)
A151 *Philomachus pugnax*; Ruff (Breeding)
A156 *Limosa limosa islandica*; Black-tailed godwit (Non-breeding)
A157 *Limosa lapponica*; Bar-tailed godwit (Non-breeding)
A162 *Tringa totanus*; Common redshank (Non-breeding)
A183 *Larus fuscus*; Lesser black-backed gull (Breeding)
A193 *Sterna hirundo*; Common tern (Breeding)
Waterbird assemblage
Seabird assemblage

This is a European Marine Site

This SPA is a part of the Ribble and Alt Estuaries European Marine Site (EMS). These Conservation Objectives should be used in conjunction with the Regulation 35 Conservation Advice document for the EMS. For further details about this please visit the Natural England website at <http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/marine/protectandmanage/mpa/europeansites.aspx> or contact Natural England's enquiry service at enquiries@naturalengland.org.uk or by phone on 0845 600 3078.

Explanatory Notes: European Site Conservation Objectives

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

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

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



European Site Conservation Objectives for Morecambe Bay Special Protection Area Site Code: UK9005081

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

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

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

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

Qualifying Features:

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

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

A191 *Sterna sandvicensis*; Sandwich tern (Breeding)

Waterbird assemblage

Seabird assemblage

This is a European Marine Site

This SPA is a part of the Morecambe Bay European Marine Site (EMS). These Conservation Objectives should be used in conjunction with the Regulation 35 Conservation Advice document for the EMS. For further details about this please visit the Natural England website at <http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/marine/protectandmanage/mpa/europeansites.aspx> or contact Natural England's enquiry service at enquiries@naturalengland.org.uk or by phone on 0845 600 3078.

Explanatory Notes: European Site Conservation Objectives

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

Qualifying Features:

A082 *Circus cyaneus*; Hen harrier (Breeding)

A098 *Falco columbarius*; Merlin (Breeding)

Explanatory Notes: European Site Conservation Objectives

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

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

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

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



European Site Conservation Objectives for North Pennine Dales Meadows Special Area of Conservation Site Code: UK0014775

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

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

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

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

Qualifying Features:

H6410. *Molinia* meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (*Molinion caeruleae*); Purple moor-grass meadows

H6520. Mountain hay meadows

Explanatory Notes: European Site Conservation Objectives

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

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

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

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

APPENDIX C

Information from NE

Bird Group	Birds	Extent of Functional Habitat from site	Note
Birds 1	All breeding bird assemblages (excluding ground-nesting heathland species, stone-curlew, marsh harrier & nightjar)	500m	Breeding SSSI birds of prey (peregrine, merlin, hen harrier & honey buzzard) can also forage up to 4km. It is not thought likely, however, that these species would make significant use of farmland habitat beyond semi-natural areas encompassed by protected site boundaries.
Birds 2	All wintering birds (except wintering waders and grazing wildfowl; wigeon and geese) ^{1,2}	500m	Home ranges of dabbling ducks such as teal, mallard and gadwall could extend beyond site boundaries at coastal sites, but less likely to do so at inland water bodies. Where functional habitat of dabbling ducks does extend beyond site boundaries then this is likely to be accommodated by presence of wigeon, geese or waders. Wintering marsh harrier and hen harrier can forage 10s of km and are likely to make significant use of farmland habitat beyond semi-natural areas encompassed by site boundaries. Owing to extensive presence of farmland within 10s of km and low densities of birds, the standard distance of 500m relating to all wintering birds is deemed acceptable.
Birds 3	Wintering waders (except golden plover and lapwing), brent goose & wigeon ^{1,3} marsh harrier ^{4,5}	2km	Breeding marsh harrier can also forage up to 4km and are likely to make significant use of farmland habitat beyond semi-natural areas encompassed by site boundaries. Owing to extensive presence of farmland and low densities of birds, a reduced distance of 2km is deemed acceptable.
Birds 4	Ground nesting heathland species, breeding nightjar & stone curlew	2km	Many sites (e.g. TBH/ Dorset Heaths) have issues of recreational disturbance. Buffers need to take into account travel to sites from proposed residential developments. Nightjar - up to 4km foraging distance for nightjars but unlikely to be >2km beyond site boundary. Likely to need site specific assessment as depending on adjacent land use there may be extensive or no functional habitat beyond the site boundary e.g. discrete heathland SSSI amongst grassland and woodland in comparison to discrete heathland site surrounded by development
Birds 5	Wintering lapwing and golden plover	15-20km	Golden plover can forage up to 15km from a roost site within a protected site. Lapwing can also forage similar distances. Both species use lowland farmland in winter, so difficult to distinguish between designated populations and those present within the wider environment unconnected to a designated site. Reduced sensitivity beyond 10km
Birds 6	Wintering white-fronted goose, greylag goose, Bewick's swan, whooper swan & wintering bean goose.	10km	No information

Bird Group	Birds	Extent of Functional Habitat from site	Note
Birds 7	Wintering pink-footed goose, barnacle goose	15-20km	No information

APPENDIX D

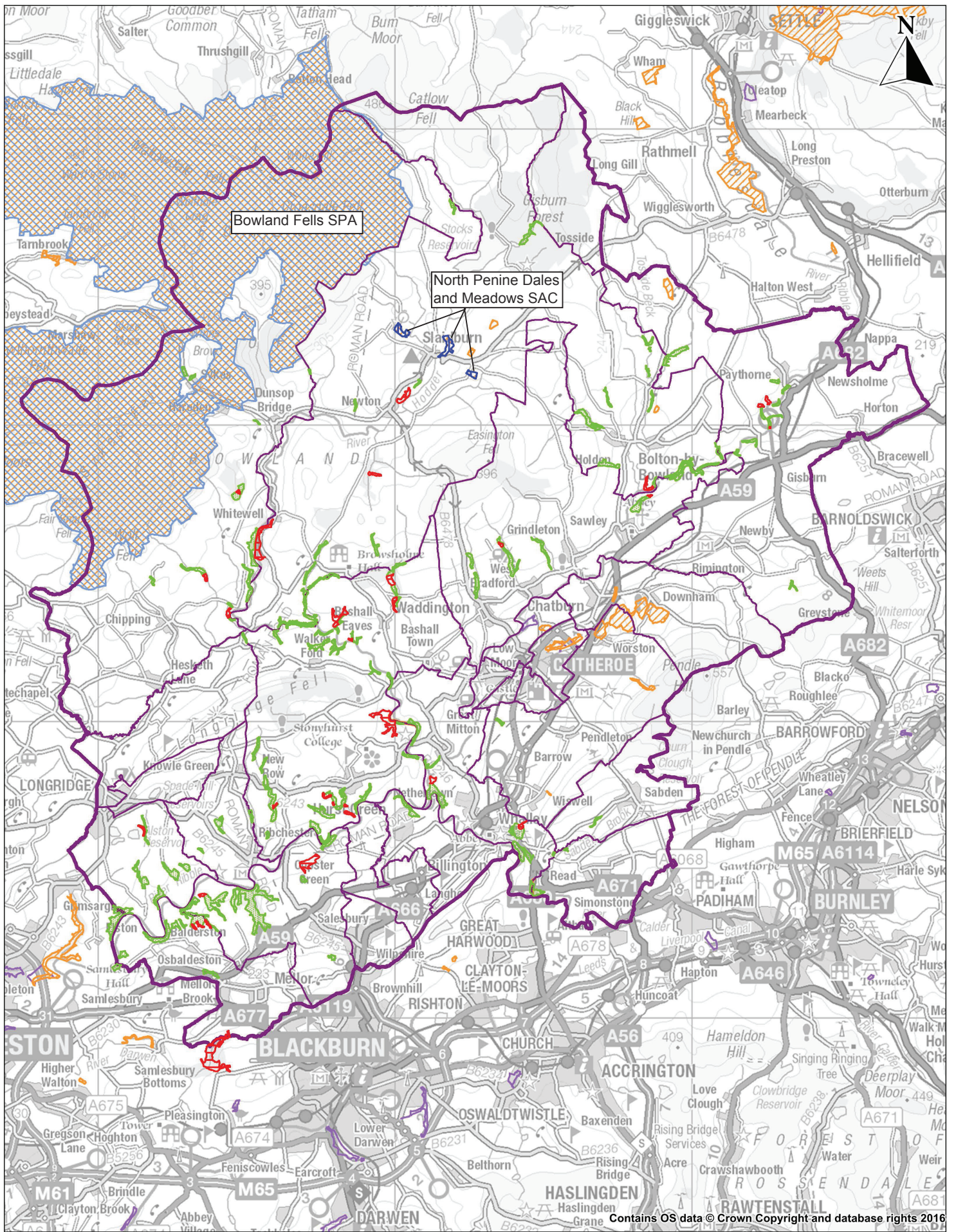
Designated Sites Figure

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-  Special Protection Area
-  Special Area of Conservation
-  Local Nature Reserve
-  Site of Special Scientific Interest
-  District Boundary
-  Ward Boundaries
-  Ancient Replanted Woodland
-  Ancient and Semi-Natural Woodland

Client



Ribble Valley
Borough Council



Project

RIBBLE VALLEY

Drawing Title

Figure 1 Ecological Assets

Status	FINAL	Revision	01
Scale	NTS	Date	19/05/2016
Drawn By	M.MUTALE		
Checked By	D.HOUD		
Approved By	D.HOUD		
Project No.	UA006336	Original Size	A3
Drawing Number	004-UA003663-UE31D-01		