

HABITATS REGULATIONS ASSESSMENT

Fylde Local Plan to 2032: HRA Report

JUNE 2018

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Fylde Local Plan to 2032: HRA Report

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ABBREVIATIONS

AA	Appropriate Assessment
CJEU	Court of Justice of the European Union
cSAC	Candidate Special Area of Conservation
FCS	Favourable Conservation Status
GIS	Geographic Information System
HRA	Habitats Regulations Assessment
IRZ	Impact Risk Zone
LSE	Likely Significant Effect
NE	Natural England
OS	Ordnance Survey
PPG	Pollution Prevention Guidance
pSPA	Potential Special Protection Area
SAC	Special Area of Conservation
SCI	Sites of Community Importance
SPA	Special Protection Area
WeBS	Wetland Bird Surveys

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1 Introduction and purpose of this report

1.1 Introduction

- 1.1.1 This Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) Report has been prepared by Arcadis Consulting UK (Ltd) (previously Hyder Consulting) on behalf of Fylde Council as part of the statutory HRA of the Fylde Local Plan to 2032: Publication Local Plan (hereafter referred to as the Fylde Local Plan or the Plan).
- 1.1.2 Future development within Fylde up to 2032 will be guided by the plans and policies within the Fylde Local Plan. The Fylde Local Plan will supersede the adopted Fylde Borough Local Plan (as altered) October 2005.

1.2 Purpose of this report

- 1.2.1 This HRA Report has been produced following the recent Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU) judgement (People over Wind & Sweetman v Coillte Teoranta Case C-323/17), dated 12th April 2018, in Ireland.
- 1.2.2 The ruling stated:
- 1.2.3 'Article 6(3)..... must be interpreted as meaning that, in order to determine whether it is necessary to carry out, subsequently, an appropriate assessment of the implications, for a site concerned, of a plan or project, it is not appropriate, at the screening stage, to take account of measures intended to avoid or reduce the harmful effects of the plan or project on that site.'
- 1.2.4 This HRA Report has been produced to ensure that the HRA of the Fylde Local Plan is legally compliant, and therefore supersedes the previous HRA Screening Report (May 2017) and Modifications Addendum (April 2018).
- 1.2.5 This report comprises the first and second stages in the HRA process, commonly referred to as Screening (stage 1) and Appropriate Assessment (AA). The Screening stage identifies whether or not the Fylde Local Plan is likely to result in significant effects upon one or more European sites, either alone or in-combination with other plans or programmes and whether or not an Appropriate Assessment will be required. The AA stage looks at those policies/ allocation sites where likely significant effect cannot be ruled out and assesses the potential for adverse effect on the integrity of the European sites considered in the assessment. The need for mitigation to off-set any potential impacts is discussed within the AA. Further details on the HRA stages are provided in Section 3.

1.3 Background to Habitat 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'). Within Fylde there are four European sites; however, it is considered there are also a further five sites which form part of the Natura 2000 network that could potentially be affected by the Fylde Local Plan.
- 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 2017¹.

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

Paragraph 3, Article 6 of the Habitats Directive states that:

‘Any plan or project not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site but likely to have a significant effect thereon, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, shall be subject to appropriate assessment of its implications for the site in view of the site’s conservation objectives. In the light of the conclusions of the assessment of the implications for the site and subject to paragraph 4 (see below), the competent national authority shall agree to the plan or project only having ascertained that it will not adversely affect the integrity of the site concerned and, if appropriate, after having obtained the opinion of the general public.’

Paragraph 4, Article 6 of the Habitats Directive states that:

‘If, in spite of a negative assessment of the implications for the site and in the absence of alternative solutions, a plan or project must nevertheless be carried out for imperative reasons of overriding public interest, including those of social or economic nature, the Member State shall take all compensatory measures to ensure that the overall coherence of Natura 2000 is protected. It shall inform the Commission of the compensatory measures adopted.’

- 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, is likely to 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 Appropriate Assessment must be undertaken to determine whether there will be adverse effects on a site’s integrity.

1.4 Legislation and Guidance

1.4.1 This HRA Report has drawn upon the following legislation and guidance:

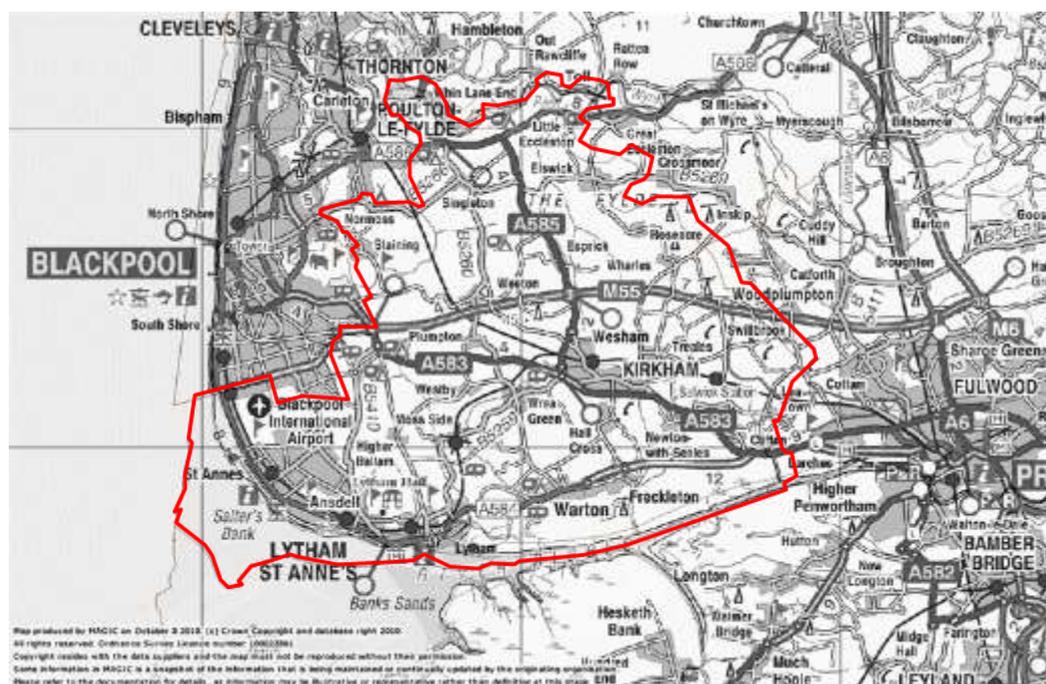
- The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017. In 2012, these Regulations were amended to transpose more clearly certain aspects of the Habitats Directive. In 2017, the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (the “Habitats Regulations 2017”) consolidated and updated the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (the “Habitats Regulations 2010”).
- 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 Local Plan

2.1 Background and Purpose

- 2.1.1 Fylde is a predominantly rural Borough occupying the southern part of the Fylde peninsula in western Lancashire. It is bounded to the north by Wyre Borough and the River Wyre, to the west by the densely populated urban area of Blackpool and the sea, by Preston City Council to the east and by the Ribble Estuary to the south (Figure 2-1).

Figure 2-1 Map of Fylde Borough



- 2.1.2 The Fylde Local Plan will provide the locally specific part of the development plan for Fylde, whilst the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) provides the national framework against which all development in Fylde will be assessed. Once adopted, the Fylde Local Plan will supersede the adopted Fylde Borough Local Plan (as altered) October 2005.
- 2.1.3 Future development within Fylde will be guided by the plans and policies within the Fylde Local Plan, which runs from 1 April 2011 to 31 March 2032.

2.2 Consultation

- 2.2.1 Consultation with Natural England has been carried out throughout the development of the Fylde Local Plan. Each iteration of the report has taken Natural England's comments in to consideration, and incorporated additional information as required (refer to Appendix D for further information). Following the recent HRA CJEU judgement (April 2018), Natural England were again consulted (June 2018) to agree the most appropriate approach to the addressing the ruling, and this document provides an update to the publication version HRA Screening Report to take the ruling into consideration. The report has been amended to move allocations and policies where mitigation has been incorporated in order to reduce or avoid impacts on European sites from the Screening Stage into the Appropriate Assessment Stage, as required. The updates included within this HRA Report do not affect the overall outcome of the May 2017 HRA Screening Report, but ensures that the document is legally compliant. Relevant consultation emails are included in Appendix D.

2.3 Strategic Objectives

2.3.1 In order to achieve the Vision for Fylde, five strategic objectives have been produced. They express the purpose of the Fylde Local Plan and are important as they will be used as a measure of the success of the plan in delivering the Vision.

2.3.2 These objectives are as follows:

Objective 1: To create sustainable communities.

Objective 2: To maintain, improve and enhance the environment.

Objective 3: To make services accessible.

Objective 4: To diversify and grow the local economy.

Objective 5: To develop socially cohesive, safe, diverse and healthy communities.

2.4 Strategic Locations for Development

2.4.1 The Development Strategy within the Local Plan identifies the proposed Settlement Hierarchy and the Strategic and Non-Strategic Locations for Development which will accommodate the level of growth in new homes, jobs and associated services, required across Fylde during the entire plan period to 2032. The proposed Settlement Hierarchy by the end of the plan period, is set out in policy S1 and it provides the basis for sustainable communities.

2.4.2 Under Policy DLF1, the Local Plan will provide sites for a minimum of 8,715 new homes and a minimum of 60.6 ha (gross requirement) of additional employment land over the plan period to 31st March 2032.

2.4.3 Four Strategic Locations for Development (employment and housing) have been identified in the Fylde Local Plan within which 90% of homes to be developed in the plan period will be located. These are:

- Lytham and St Annes.
- Fylde-Blackpool Periphery.
- Warton.
- Kirkham and Wesham.

2.5 Non-Strategic Locations for Development

2.5.1 Other development (approximately 10% of homes to be developed in the plan period) will mainly be located in the Non-strategic Locations for Development, which comprise the Local Service Centre of Freckleton, the Tier 1 Larger Rural Settlements and the Tier 2 Smaller Rural Settlements.

2.6 Local Plan Policies

2.6.1 There are 50 policies contained within the Fylde Local Plan which relate to the Strategic Objectives above. These are set out under the following chapter headings:

- The Development Strategy.
- Strategic Locations for Development.
- General Development Policies.
- The Fylde Economy.
- Provision of Homes in Fylde.
- Health and Wellbeing.
- Infrastructure, Service Provision and Transport.
- Water Resource Management, Flood Risk and Addressing Climate Change.
- Conserving and Enhancing the Natural, Historic and Built Environment.

2.7 Policies within Fylde Local Plan

2.7.1 The policies within the Fylde Local Plan (2016) are listed below:

The Development Strategy

Policy S1 – The proposed settlement hierarchy

Policy DLF1- Development locations for Fylde.

Strategic Locations for Development

Policy M1 Masterplanning the strategic locations for development

Policy SL1 Lytham and St Annes Strategic location for development

Policy SL2 The Fylde-Blackpool periphery strategic location for development

Policy SL3 Warton strategic location for development

Policy SL4 Kirkham and Wesham strategic location for development

Policy SL5 Development sites outside the strategic locations for development

General Development Policies

GD1: Settlement boundaries

GD2: Green belt

GD3: Areas of separation

GD4: Development in the countryside

GD5: Large developed sites in the countryside and Green Belt

GD6: Promoting mixed use development

GD7: Achieving good design in development

GD8: Demonstrating viability

GD9: Contaminated land

The Fylde Economy

EC1: Overall provision of employment land and existing employment sites

EC2: Employment opportunities

EC3: Lancashire advanced engineering and manufacturing (AEM) enterprise zone at BAE Systems, Warton

EC4: Blackpool Airport Enterprise Zone

EC5: Vibrant town, district and local centres

EC6: Leisure, culture and tourism development

EC7: Tourism accommodation

Provision of Homes in Fylde

H1: Housing delivery and the allocation of housing land

H2: Density and mix of new residential development

H3: Conversions and change of use to residential

H4: Affordable housing

H5: Gypsies, travellers and travelling show people's sites

H6: Isolated new homes in the countryside

H7: Replacements of, and extensions to, existing homes in the countryside

Health and Wellbeing

HW1: Health and wellbeing

HW2: Community facilities

HW3: Provision of indoor and outdoor sports facilities

Infrastructure, Service Provision and Transport

INF1: Services accessibility and infrastructure

INF2: Developer contributions

T1: Strategic highway improvements

T2: Warton Aerodrome

T3: Blackpool Airport

T4: Enhancing sustainable transport choice

T5: Parking standards

Water Management, Flood Risk and Addressing Climate Change

CL1: Flood alleviation, water quality and water efficiency

CL2: Surface water run-off and sustainable drainage

CL3: Renewable and low carbon energy generation

CL4: Decentralised energy networks and district heating systems

Conserving and Enhancing the Natural, Historic and Built Environment

ENV1: Landscape

ENV2: Biodiversity

ENV3: Protecting existing open space (Part of the Green Infrastructure Network)

ENV4: Provision of New Open Space (Part of the Green Infrastructure Network)

ENV5: Historic environment

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 Regulations Assessment 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 site's qualifying habitats and/or species. It is important to note that the burden of evidence is to show, on the basis of objective information, that there will be no significant effect; if the effect may be significant, or is not known, that would trigger the need for an Appropriate Assessment. There is European Court of Justice case law to the effect that unless the likelihood of a significant effect can be ruled out on the basis of objective information, and adopting the precautionary principle, then an Appropriate Assessment must be made. The April 2018 CJEU judgement determined that mitigation to avoid or reduce harmful effects of the plan or project on a European site cannot be taken into account at the screening stage (Stage 1). Where such measures are required, a plan or project will require Appropriate Assessment to be undertaken (Stage 2).
2. **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 the HRA Report

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

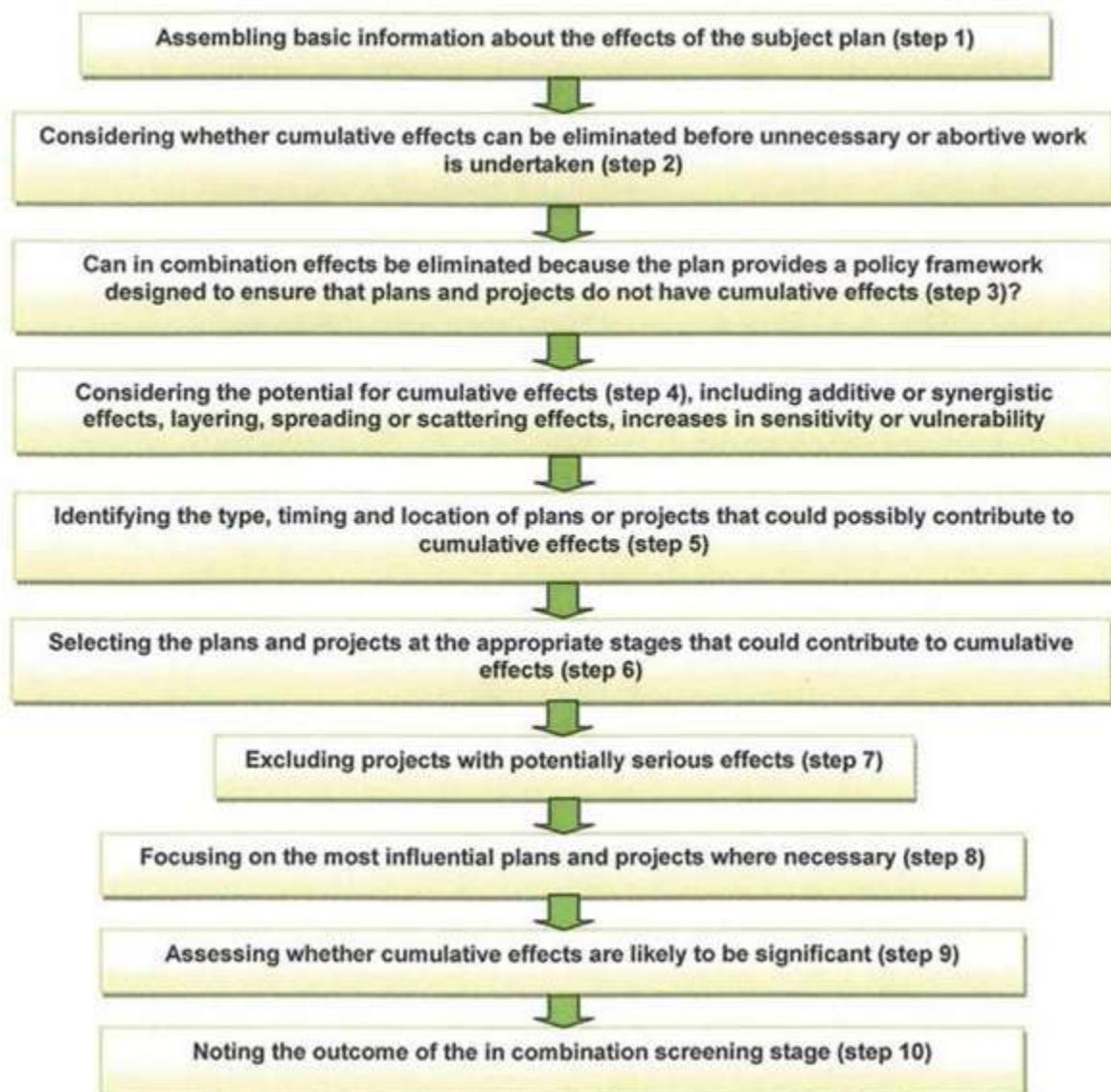
The following stages have been completed:

- Identification of all European sites potentially affected (including those outside of the Fylde Local Plan 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 to determine the potential for likely significant effect;
- A review of the policies which have the potential to affect the European sites, and whether the sites are vulnerable to these effects (this has included a categorisation of the potential effects of the Policy, in line with current guidance);
- An Appropriate Assessment of those policies/ allocation sites where likely significant effects could not be ruled out at the screening stage;
- Where potential effects have been identified, avoidance or mitigation measures have been considered in order to avoid adverse effects on the integrity of a European Site(s); and
- A consideration of any impacts in-combination with other plans or projects.

² DTA Publications Limited (June 2016) The Habitats Regulations Assessment Handbook.

3.3 In-Combination Effects

- 3.3.1 As outlined in Section 3.1, it is necessary for HRA to consider in-combination effects with other plans and projects.
- 3.3.2 Where an aspect of a plan could have some effect on the qualifying feature(s) of a European site, but the effects of that aspect of the plan alone would not be significant, the effects of that aspect of the plan will need to be checked in-combination: firstly, with other effects of the same plan, and then with the effects of other plans and projects.
- 3.3.3 The flow chart below is taken from DTA Publications Limited, The Habitats Regulations Assessment Handbook -, and illustrates the outline methodology for the in-combination assessment.



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

cumulative effects can be identified by way of the following characteristics. Could additional effects be cumulative because they would:

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

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

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

3.3.6 Consideration of in-combination effects is included in Section 6.5.

3.3.7 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 Fylde Local Plan, and these are listed in Table 1.

Table 1: Plans and Projects considered to potentially contribute to In-Combination Effects

Authority	Status of Plan/Project
Blackpool Council	A new Local Plan for Blackpool is currently being developed.
Wyre Council	A new Local Plan for Wyre is currently being developed.
Lancaster City Council	A new Local Plan for Lancaster is currently being developed.
Preston City Council	Total requirement of 8,637 dwellings from 2014 – 2026. 2,837 will be delivered after 2026. 99.52 ha of employment land, 2.1 ha at North West Preston. HRA of current Plan concluded no likely significant effect on European sites alone or in-combination.
West Lancashire District Council	A new Local Plan for West Lancashire is currently being developed.
South Ribble Council	HRA of current Plan concluded no likely significant effect on European sites alone or in-combination.
Sefton Council	A total requirement for 11,070 dwellings from 2012-2030 plus 84.5ha of employment land.

Authority	Status of Plan/Project
	HRA of Plan adopted in 2017 concluded no likely significant effect on European sites alone or in-combination (with measures in place to mitigate for loss of functionally linked land).
Lancashire County Council	The Lancashire Minerals and Waste Local Plan Site Allocations and Development Management Policies Local Plan is currently under review.
Dong Energy	Walney Offshore Wind Farm - active Walney Extension – under construction West of Duddon Sands Offshore Wind – active Project-level HRA has been carried out for these projects.
National Grid - North West Coastal Connections	Construction of a new nuclear power station at Sellafield. Power will be transmitted via a crossing under Morecambe Bay to the new Middleton substation at Heysham, Lancashire. Project-level HRA is currently being carried out for this project.

3.4 Consideration of Effects

Definition of Significant Effects

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

'...likely means readily foreseeable not merely a fanciful possibility; significant means not trivial or inconsequential but an effect that is potentially relevant to the site's conservation objectives³'.

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

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

Categorising Effects

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

3.4.4 The effects associated with the Fylde Local Plan 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 2 below.

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).

Table 2: 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 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	Description
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>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.</p>

3.5 Potential Impact Pathways

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

3.5.2 The main impact pathways could be:

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

4 Identifying the European Sites

4.1 Approach to Identifying Sites

- 4.1.1 Fylde is a predominantly rural Borough occupying the southern part of the Fylde peninsula in western Lancashire. It is bound to the north by Wyre Borough Council and the River Wyre estuary to the north, to the west by the densely-populated urban area of Blackpool and the Irish Sea, by Preston City Council to the east and by the Ribble Estuary to the south.
- 4.1.2 There are European sites located within, and on, the Borough boundary which need to be taken into consideration in this assessment. In addition, European sites outside of the Borough may be affected by activities undertaken in Fylde 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 example for foraging.
- 4.1.3 European sites which may be affected by the Local Plan activities through an identifiable impact pathway have been considered, within a 20 km distance from the Borough boundary.
- 4.1.4 The following approach to identifying European sites to be included within the HRA Report involved:
- 1 Sites within Fylde: Identify all sites within / partially within Fylde; and
 - 2 Sites outside Fylde: Identify the likely impact pathways of the Fylde Local Plan and hence identify whether features of European sites outside of the Borough may be affected by the Fylde Local Plan. Give due consideration to the likely distances that mobile species from other European sites would travel to land within Fylde (or indeed to the distances people from Fylde might be likely to travel to a sensitive site outside the Borough). European sites within 20 km of the boundary of Fylde were considered.

4.2 European Sites within Fylde

- 4.2.1 Four European sites have been identified on or within the Fylde Borough boundary. These are listed in Table 3. Figure 4-1 also shows the locations of the European sites. Table 3: Summary of European Sites within or partially within Fylde

Name of Site	Identification Number	Designation
Morecambe Bay and Duddon Estuary	UK9020326	SPA
Morecambe Bay	UK11045	Ramsar site
Ribble and Alt Estuaries	UK9005103	SPA
Ribble and Alt Estuaries	UK11057	Ramsar site

4.3 European Sites Outside of Fylde

Impacts and Effects of the Local Plan

- 4.3.1 The Revised Preferred Option Local Plan was reviewed and, in conjunction with the parallel SA, the following potential impact types, shown in Table 4, were identified that may have some effect on European sites and their qualifying species.

Table 4: Potential Impacts and Effects of the Local Plan on European Sites outside Fylde boundaries

Potential impacts and effects of the Local Plan	European sites and features potentially affected
Increased disturbance of species through increased recreational pressure as a result of population growth within Fylde.	Overwintering / migratory bird populations of Martin Mere SPA/Ramsar site. Breeding populations of marsh harrier, merlin and lesser black-backed gull of Bowland Fells SPA.
Degradation of habitat due to increased recreational pressure as a result of population growth.	Coastal habitats (particularly sand dunes) of Sefton SAC and Morecambe Bay SAC.
Impacts on European sites outside the Borough boundary as a result of changes in air quality from increased traffic and development.	Blanket bog habitats that support the bird population of Bowland Fells SPA.
Direct loss of habitat within Fylde that is functionally linked to a European site outside the Fylde boundary.	Agricultural land used by foraging pink-footed geese, a feature of Martin Mere SPA, Ramsar site.
Adverse impact on water quality through pollution of watercourses linked to European sites, by an increase in the number of potential pollution sources in Fylde.	Sefton Coast SAC and Morecambe Bay SAC have both been identified as being hydrologically linked to watercourses within Fylde.
Impacts on groundwater on those European sites that are hydro-geologically linked to aquifers under Fylde, for example through increased water abstraction as a result of development.	A review of aquifers has been undertaken. Much of Fylde is underlain by a Secondary B Aquifer; however, the east of the Borough is underlain by a Principal Aquifer. These are permeable layers capable of supporting water supplies at a local rather than strategic scale, in some cases forming an important source of base flow to rivers or otherwise yielding limited groundwater. Martin Mere SPA/Ramsar site is underlain by the same broad aquifer.

Sites outside of Fylde identified due to mobile species

4.3.2 The mobile species listed in Table 5 are qualifying features of European designated sites outside of Fylde and have been identified as potentially using (non-designated) land within Fylde that could be affected by the Fylde Local Plan or use watercourses or areas downstream of Fylde which may be affected by hydrogeological changes.

Table 5: Relationship between mobile species and European Sites in Fylde and surrounding areas

Species	Relevant information about distribution	European sites supporting this species outside Fylde	Reason for inclusion or otherwise
Little tern	A strictly coastal species found around the UK coastline at suitable breeding beaches.	Morecambe Bay and Duddon Estuary SPA within Fylde.	Morecambe Bay and Duddon Estuary SPA is already included.
Common tern	Passage/summer species. Breeds in coastal areas around the UK. Forages around coastal habitats and inland waterbodies and rivers.	Morecambe Bay and Duddon Estuary SPA within Fylde.	Morecambe Bay and Duddon Estuary SPA is already included.

Species	Relevant information about distribution	European sites supporting this species outside Fylde	Reason for inclusion or otherwise
Herring gull	Resident bird, found in habitats around coasts and inland around rubbish tips, fields, large reservoirs and lakes.	Morecambe Bay and Duddon Estuary SPA and Morecambe Bay Ramsar site in Fylde	Morecambe Bay and Duddon Estuary SPA and Ramsar site are already included.
Lesser Black-backed Gull	Resident bird, found on coastlines in summer and on some inland high moors.	Morecambe Bay and Duddon Estuary SPA / Morecambe Bay Ramsar site and Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA / Ramsar site all within Fylde. Bowland Fells SPA outside the Borough boundary.	Morecambe Bay and Duddon Estuary SPA and Morecambe Bay Ramsar site and Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site are already included. Feature for which the Bowland Fells SPA has been designated, have potential to use land within Fylde.
Ringed Plover	Largely resident bird, that breeds on beaches around the coast, but has also now been recorded breeding inland in sand and gravel pits and former industrial sites. Nests on the ground in open areas with little or no plant growth.	Morecambe Bay and Duddon Estuary SPA / Morecambe Bay Ramsar site and Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA / Ramsar site all within Fylde.	Morecambe Bay and Duddon Estuary SPA / Morecambe bay Ramsar site and Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site are already included.
Golden Plover	Lowland fields.	Morecambe Bay and Duddon Estuary SPA / Morecambe Bay Ramsar site and Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA / Ramsar site all within Fylde.	Morecambe Bay and Duddon Estuary SPA / Morecambe bay Ramsar site and Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site are already included.
Sanderling	Largely a winter visitor and passage migrant. Habitats include long, sandy beaches on the coast.	Morecambe Bay and Duddon Estuary SPA / Morecambe Bay Ramsar site and Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA / Ramsar site all within Fylde.	Morecambe Bay and Duddon Estuary SPA / Morecambe bay Ramsar site and Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site are already included.
Curlew	Winter occurrence in coastal areas.	Morecambe Bay and Duddon Estuary SPA / Morecambe Bay Ramsar site within Fylde.	Morecambe Bay and Duddon Estuary SPA / Morecambe bay Ramsar site are already included.
Dunlin	Coastal areas.	Morecambe Bay and Duddon Estuary SPA / Morecambe Bay Ramsar site and Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA / Ramsar site all within Fylde.	Morecambe Bay and Duddon Estuary SPA / Morecambe bay Ramsar site and Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site are already included.
Grey Plover	Found only along coasts, preferring large muddy and sandy estuaries.	Morecambe Bay and Duddon Estuary SPA / Morecambe bay Ramsar site and Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA / Ramsar site all within Fylde.	Morecambe Bay and Duddon Estuary SPA / Morecambe bay Ramsar site and Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site are already included.

Species	Relevant information about distribution	European sites supporting this species outside Fylde	Reason for inclusion or otherwise
Knot	Many knots use UK estuaries as feeding grounds in winter, and therefore the population is vulnerable to any changes such as barrages, sea-level rises and human disturbance. Large numbers of birds visit the UK in winter from their Arctic breeding grounds.	Morecambe Bay and Duddon Estuary SPA / Morecambe bay Ramsar site and Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA / Ramsar site all within Fylde.	Morecambe Bay and Duddon Estuary SPA / Morecambe bay Ramsar site and Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site are already included.
Sandwich Tern	Coastal habitats – i.e. sandy seacoasts. Breed in dense colonies on coasts and islands and inland on suitable large freshwater lakes close to the coast,	Morecambe Bay and Duddon Estuary SPA / Morecambe Bay Ramsar site within Fylde.	Morecambe Bay and Duddon Estuary SPA / Morecambe bay Ramsar site are already included.
Pink-footed Goose	Large numbers of birds spend the winter in the UK on large estuaries or on surrounding farmland where birds go in the day to feed.	Morecambe Bay and Duddon Estuary SPA / Morecambe Bay Ramsar site and Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA / Ramsar site all within Fylde. Martin Mere SPA and Ramsar site outside of Fylde.	Features for which the Martin Mere SPA and Ramsar site is designated, have potential to use land within Fylde.
Pintail	Pintails occur on sheltered coasts and estuaries over winter.	Morecambe Bay and Duddon Estuary SPA / Morecambe Bay Ramsar site and Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA / Ramsar site all within Fylde.	Morecambe Bay and Duddon Estuary SPA / Morecambe bay Ramsar site and Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site are already included.
Redshank	During winter largely seen on estuaries and coastal lagoons.	Morecambe Bay and Duddon Estuary SPA / Morecambe Bay Ramsar site and Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA / Ramsar site all within Fylde.	Morecambe Bay and Duddon Estuary SPA / Morecambe bay Ramsar site and Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site are already included.
Shelduck	Common around coastlines where it frequents salt marshes and estuaries. Can also be found around inland waters such as reservoirs and gravel workings.	Morecambe Bay and Duddon Estuary SPA / Morecambe Bay Ramsar site and Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA / Ramsar site all within Fylde.	Morecambe Bay and Duddon Estuary SPA / Morecambe bay Ramsar site and Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site are already included.

Species	Relevant information about distribution	European sites supporting this species outside Fylde	Reason for inclusion or otherwise
Turnstone	Found all around the UK coastline. Likes rocky shores as well as sandy and muddy ones. Particularly likes feeding on rocks covered with seaweed, and will feed along seawalls and jetties.	Morecambe Bay and Duddon Estuary SPA / Morecambe Bay Ramsar site within Fylde.	Morecambe Bay and Duddon Estuary SPA / Morecambe bay Ramsar site are already included.
Great cormorant	Found around the UK coastline on rocky shores, coastal lagoons and estuaries, it is increasingly being seen inland at reservoirs, lakes and gravel pits.	Morecambe Bay and Duddon Estuary SPA / Morecambe Bay Ramsar site within Fylde.	Morecambe Bay Ramsar site is included.
Common eider	Coastal areas.	Morecambe Bay Ramsar site within Fylde.	Morecambe Bay Ramsar site is included.
Oystercatcher	Most UK birds spend the winter on the coast.	Morecambe Bay and Duddon Estuary SPA / Morecambe bay Ramsar site and Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA / Ramsar site all within Fylde.	Morecambe Bay and Duddon Estuary SPA / Morecambe bay Ramsar site and Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site are already included.
Great crested grebe	Found along coasts in winter.	Morecambe Bay Ramsar site within Fylde.	Morecambe Bay Ramsar site is included.
Whooper swan	Estuaries and wetlands for winter roosts.	Morecambe Bay and Duddon Estuary SPA and Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site within Fylde. Martin Mere SPA and Ramsar site outside Fylde.	Features for which the Martin Mere SPA and Ramsar site is designated, have potential to use land within Fylde.
Bewick's swan / Tundra swan	Wintering bird, favours lakes, ponds and rivers along with estuaries.	Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site within Fylde. Martin Mere SPA and Ramsar site outside Fylde.	Features for which the Martin Mere SPA and Ramsar site is designated, have potential to use land within Fylde.
Wigeon	Wintering bird, large numbers found on the coast. Wigeon is largely a coastal species, feeding on mud-flats, coastal flooded grassland and saltmarsh pastures. The species is also widespread on inland flooded grassland ⁴ .	Morecambe Bay Ramsar site and Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA / Ramsar site all within Fylde.	Morecambe Bay and Duddon Estuary SPA / Morecambe bay Ramsar site and Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site are already included.

⁴<http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/pdf/UKSPA/UKSPA-A6-28B.pdf>

Species	Relevant information about distribution	European sites supporting this species outside Fylde	Reason for inclusion or otherwise
Goldeneye	Wintering bird in the area found on lakes, large rivers and sheltered coasts.	Morecambe Bay Ramsar site within Fylde.	Morecambe Bay Ramsar site is included.
Red-breasted merganser	UK birds start to flock on the coast from July, reaching a peak in December.	Morecambe Bay Ramsar site within Fylde.	Morecambe Bay Ramsar site is included.
Northern lapwing	In the breeding season prefer spring sown cereals, root crops, permanent unimproved pasture, meadows and fallow fields. They can also be found on wetlands with short vegetation. In winter they flock on pasture and ploughed fields.	Morecambe Bay Ramsar site within Fylde.	Morecambe Bay Ramsar site is included.
Bar-tailed godwit	Largest numbers occur on large estuaries – wintering bird.	Morecambe Bay and Duddon Estuary SPA / Morecambe bay Ramsar site, Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site all within Fylde.	Morecambe Bay and Duddon Estuary SPA / Morecambe bay Ramsar site and Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site are already included.
Black-tailed godwit	Estuaries and coastal lagoons though they also visit wetland sites inland.	Morecambe Bay and Duddon Estuary SPA and Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site within Fylde.	Morecambe Bay and Duddon Estuary SPA and Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site are already included.
Teal	In winter birds congregate in low-lying wetlands.	Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site both within Fylde.	Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site are already included.
Common tern	Breeds along coasts with shingle beaches and rocky islands, on rivers with shingle bars, and at inland gravel pits and reservoirs, feeding along rivers and over freshwater.	Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA within Fylde.	Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA is already included.
Ruff	Grassy tundra, lakes, farmland.	Morecambe Bay and Duddon Estuary SPA and Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA in Fylde.	Morecambe Bay and Duddon Estuary SPA and Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site are already included.
Little egret	Recent colonist in the UK. Utilising coastal and inland waters as its range increases northwards.	Morecambe Bay and Duddon Estuary SPA	Morecambe Bay and Duddon Estuary SPA is already included.

Relevant European Sites Outside of Fylde

As a result of Table 4 and Table 5, the following European designated sites outside Fylde will be considered further in this HRA Report.

Table 6: Summary of European Sites Outside Fylde Boundary

Name of Site	Identification Number	Designation
Morecambe Bay	UK 0013027	SAC
Sefton Coast	UK 0013076	SAC
Martin Mere	UK 9005111	SPA
Martin Mere	UK 11039	Ramsar Site
Bowland Fells	UK 9005151	SPA

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

4.4 Conservation Objectives of the European Sites

4.4.1 Under Regulation 35(3) of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (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.

4.4.2 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:

4.4.3 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).

4.4.4 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.

4.4.5 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,

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

the conservation objectives for a site are essentially to maintain (or restore) the habitats and species of the site at (or to) FCS.

- 4.4.6 Conservation Objectives for Morecambe Bay and Duddon Estuary SPA / Morecambe Bay Ramsar site / SAC, Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA / Ramsar site and Martin Mere SPA / Ramsar site, Bowland Fells SPA, Martin Mere SPA and Ramsar site were obtained from Natural England's website and are provided in Appendix B⁶.

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

5 Screening

5.1 Context

- 5.1.1 The Fylde Local Plan contains a vision and strategy that sets out how the Council would like Fylde to develop over the Plan period. It seeks to not only ensure that new homes, jobs and services required by communities are located in the most sustainable locations, but also that the framework for delivering the necessary infrastructure, facilities and other development will be provided to make this possible.

5.2 Screening Approach taken for the Local Plan

- 5.2.1 The screening process has been split into two distinct stages, initial screening and detailed screening. The initial screening stage has provided a high-level screening 'matrix style' assessment to determine if the Fylde Local Plan could possibly lead to significant adverse effects on European sites identified in Section 4. The purpose of this was to eliminate those policies from the assessment which very clearly would not affect European sites in order to focus on those policies where there was potential for effects or uncertainty about potential effects. These policies were generally those that could not lead to 'direct development', or could have no impact pathway to any of the European sites identified. The policies that were identified as having potential impacts on the European sites or those policies for which impacts were uncertain, were carried forward into a more detailed screening assessment.
- 5.2.2 All strategic and non-strategic sites were carried forward into the detailed screening assessment.
- 5.2.3 When identifying the elements of the Fylde Local Plan that could potentially affect European sites, it was important to focus upon those elements that would have the greatest likelihood of impacting the sites. Therefore, the definition of significance identified in Section 3.2 was very important for the detailed screening. Consultation with NE also determined that additional bird data was required to aid the detailed screening assessment of strategic and non-strategic strategic sites (refer to Section 2.2).
- 5.2.4 The Fylde Local Plan is intended to be read as a single document rather than a series of separate policies, and has been assessed as such. Proposals in one area of the Local Plan may mitigate potentially damaging activities promoted in another area and should be understood in the wider context of the Plan's aims and purposes.
- 5.2.5 The sections below outline the initial and detailed screening of the Fylde Local Plan.

5.3 Initial Screening of the Local Plan Policies

- 5.3.1 The initial screening of the Fylde Local Plan is presented in Table 7 below.

The policies within the sub-headings were initially examined to determine their need for further detailed screening. The notations below were used to indicate if further detailed assessment screening is required:

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

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

.

Table 7: Initial Screening of the Local Plan

European Sites		The Development Strategy	Strategic Locations for Development	General Development Policies	The Fylde Economy	Provision of Homes in Fylde	Health and Wellbeing	Infrastructure, Services Provision and Transport	Water Resource Management, Flood Risk and Addressing Climate Change	Conserving and Enhancing the Natural, Historic and Built Environment
Morecambe Bay and Duddon Estuary SPA		✓	✓	✓	✓	X	X	✓	X	X
Morecambe Bay Ramsar site		✓	✓	✓	✓	X	X	✓	X	X
Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA		✓	✓	✓	✓	X	X	✓	X	X
Ribble and Alt Estuaries Ramsar site		✓	✓	✓	✓	X	X	✓	X	X
Morecambe Bay SAC		✓	✓	✓	✓	X	X	✓	X	X
Sefton Coast SAC		✓	✓	✓	✓	X	X	✓	X	X
Martin Mere SPA		✓	✓	✓	✓	X	X	✓	X	X
Martin Mere Ramsar site		✓	✓	✓	✓	X	X	✓	X	X
Bowland Fells SPA		✓	✓	✓	✓	X	X	✓	X	X
Policies Screened In		DLF1	SL1, SL2, SL3, SL4, SL5	GD3, GD4, GD5	EC1, EC4			T3		
Policies Screened out		S1	M1	GD1, GD2, GD6, GD7, GD8, GD9	EC2, EC3, EC5, EC6, EC7	H1, H2, H3, H4, H5, H6, H7	HW1, HW2, HW3	T1, INF1, INF2, T2, T4, T5	CL1, CL2, CL3, CL4	ENV1, ENV2, ENV3, ENV4, ENV5, ENV6

5.3.2 Following the initial screening of the Fylde Local Plan, policies contained within four of the sub-headings in the plan can be screened out completely from further assessment, on the basis that no identifiable impact pathway exists linking the policies with the European Sites and/or because there will be no foreseeable adverse impact on European sites through Policy implementation. In addition, several further policies under each of the sub-headings have been screened out of further assessment on a similar justification. Table 8 provides a justification for the policies screened out of further assessment, and the assessment categories as set out within Table 2, above.

Table 8: Policies screened out of further assessment

Policy	Justification	Assessment Category (refer to Table 2)
The Development Strategy: S1	<p>Policy S1 provides details on the settlement hierarchy, development that is appropriate to the scale and character of settlements at each level of the settlement hierarchy, will be promoted in accordance with the development strategy.</p> <p>The policy itself does not provide for change, there would be no impacts on European sites as a result of implementation of this policy.</p>	F
Master planning the Strategic Locations for Development: M1	<p>This policy details the criteria developments need to meet. The Policy states that <i>'The conservation and enhancement of important environmental assets and natural resources, biodiversity (nature conservation) and ecological networks. Ecological connectivity within the site and with the surroundings should be maintained and enhanced through appropriate site layout; the retention of existing important features including trees, woods and water bodies and their integration within a well-designed landscape with appropriate habitat protection. The site designs should be informed by appropriate ecological surveys to ensure appropriate mitigation measures are implemented. Potentially damaging effects of development on sites of nature conservation value, especially Natura 2000 sites should be avoided, unless the potential effects can be mitigated.'</i></p> <p>If this is adhered to European sites will not be impacted. However, individual sites should be assessed on a case by case basis, therefore Policies SL1 to SL5 have been screened into the detailed assessment.</p>	D
General Development Policies: GD1, GD2, GD6, GD7, GD8, GD9	<p>Policies GD1 and GD2, relate to issues such as settlement boundaries and retaining the Green Belt GD6 and GD7 relate to the requirement to provide mixed development. GD8 seeks to retain employment uses in that use, unless certain tests are met. GD9 relates to preference for development on contaminated land.</p> <p>There is no impact pathway from the implementation of these policies to European sites.</p>	F
The Fylde Economy: EC2, EC3, EC5, EC6 and EC7	<p>Policy EC2 seeks to retain continued employment use of existing employment sites. Sustainable growth and expansion of business is supported where this is in accordance with other policies in this Local Plan, requirements within ENV2 would therefore need to be taken into consideration ensuring protection of European sites. The implementation of policy EC3 provides for continued support of Lancashire advanced engineering and manufacturing (AEM) enterprise zone at BAE</p>	G

Policy	Justification	Assessment Category (refer to Table 2)
	<p>Systems, Warton, but the policy itself would not lead directly to development. Policy EC5 sets out the retail hierarchy for Fylde and aims to enhance the vitality and viability of town, district and local centres. It identifies types of use that would be allowed in certain areas rather than specifically allowing for development to occur. Policy EC6 relates to promoting leisure and tourism in the coastal town of St Anne's, such plans have the potential to impact European sites, however, the Policy also specifies that a project-specific HRA is required for any proposal near the Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA /Ramsar site, therefore sufficient safeguards are included within this policy to ensure no adverse impacts on the integrity of European sites; Policy EC7 supports development of tourism accommodation, but specifically states that such developments will not impact on European sites.</p> <p>None of these policies are anticipated to have any impacts on European sites.</p>	
<p>Provision of Homes in Fylde: H1, H2, H3, H4, H5, H6, H7</p>	<p>Policies H1 to H7 relate to the allocation of housing, density and mix of residential developments, conversion of buildings to residential, providing affordable housing, gypsy, traveller and travelling show people sites, isolated new homes in the countryside and replacements and extensions to existing dwellings in the countryside. These policies relate to provision of housing, but the policies themselves would not lead directly to development.</p> <p>None of these policies are anticipated to have any impacts on European sites.</p>	<p>G</p>
<p>Health and Wellbeing: HW1, HW2, HW3</p>	<p>Policies HW1 and HW2 concern the reduction of health inequalities through the integration of public health principles and planning, the integration of community and health facilities. The implementation of these Policies is not expected to have any implications on European sites. Policy HW3 concerns the provision of indoor and outdoor sport facilities, and the requirement for these to be accessible by public transport, walking and cycling. Therefore, these facilities will be located near urban areas and are unlikely to have an impact on European sites.</p> <p>None of these policies are anticipated to have any impacts on European sites.</p>	<p>G</p>
<p>Infrastructure, Services Provision and Transport: INF1, INF2, T1, T2, T4, T5</p>	<p>Policy INF1 relates to the provision of new sustainable infrastructure in relation to new developments. Construction of new infrastructure may have potential impacts on European sites, however the policy states that mitigation for any environmental impacts will be required. The policy itself would not lead directly to development. Policy INF2 concerns developer contributions to infrastructure development and has no impact on European sites.</p> <p>T1 details the Strategic Highway Improvements at a) The M55 to Heyhouses (St Annes) Link Road; b) The M55 Fleetwood corridor improvement; and c) The A585 Skippool – Windy</p>	<p>G</p>

Policy	Justification	Assessment Category (refer to Table 2)
	<p>Harbour Improvements. All of these would fall within Category C in accordance with DTA Publications Limited <i>The Habitats Regulations Assessment Handbook</i> (Refer to Table 2). Projects which are identified in higher policy frameworks, such as the National Policy Statements, are assessed separately by the Secretary of State; and can therefore be screened out of detailed assessment stage.</p> <p>T2 details the development at Warton Aerodrome. The policy states that the proposals will only include extension to existing properties, which would have no impacts on European sites. T4 relates to enhancing sustainable transport choice, which will have no adverse impact on the European sites. T5 relates to car parking provision to ensure no detrimental effect on highway safety, this will have no adverse impact on European sites.</p> <p>None of these policies are anticipated to have any impacts on European sites.</p>	
<p>Water Resource Management, Flood Risk and Addressing Climate Change: CL1, CL2, CL3, CL4</p>	<p>Policy CL1 concerns flood alleviation, water quality and water efficiency. Policy CL2 relates to surface water run-off and sustainable drainage. Policy CL4 promotes small scale decentralised energy networks and district heating system. None of these policies are anticipated to have adverse impacts on the European sites. CL3 promotes renewable and low carbon energy generation (excluding onshore wind turbines), such developments have the potential to impact on European sites that are designated for mobile species such as migratory birds. Within the policy a clause states project specific HRA for any proposal near to European designated sites will be required and HRAs will need to demonstrate no likely significant effect before permission is granted.</p> <p>None of these policies are anticipated to have any impacts on European sites.</p>	D
<p>Conserving and Enhancing the Natural, Historic and Built Environment: ENV1, ENV2, ENV3, ENV4, ENV5, ENV6</p>	<p>Policy ENV1 is related to the protection of the landscape and its character through visual impact, landscape character amenity and tranquillity. Coastal change management is also incorporated in this policy, and specifies that any tourist or coastal defence development will require a project level HRA to demonstrate no LSE on the Ribble or Alt Estuaries SPA/Ramsar site. Policy ENV2 provides protection and enhancement of biodiversity. Policy ENV3 protects existing open space of the green infrastructure network. Policies ENV4 is concerned with new provision of open space and the green infrastructure network. Policy ENV5 relates to heritage assets.</p> <p>The implementation of these policies is considered to have no adverse impacts and potentially some beneficial effects on the European sites.</p>	D

5.3.3 Table 9 provides a justification for the policies screened in for further assessment.

Table 9: The policies screened in for further assessment

Policy	Justification
The Development Strategy: DLF1	Policy DLF1 provides details of the proposed housing and employment development locations for Fylde. The policy aims to focus development at the four strategic locations for development, with smaller amount of development at the tier 1 larger rural settlements and tier 2 smaller rural settlements. Some development will be located in rural areas, therefore, there are potential impacts on European sites as a result of the implementation of this policy.
Strategic Locations for Development, Strategic Development Sites and Non-Strategic Development Sites: SL1, SL2, SL3, SL4 and SL5	Policies SL1, SL2, SL3, SL4 and SL5 lead to development of housing and employment that could have impacts on the European sites through increased recreational and other disturbance pressure leading to degradation of habitats and disturbance of species.
General Development Policies: GD3, GD4, GD5	Policy GD3 relates to Areas of Separation and how proposed developments in these areas should be assessed in terms of the impact upon the Area of Separation. It allows for small scale developments and provides limitations that development proposals will be required to meet. Policy GD4 concerns development in the countryside, specifically restricting this to that needed for agriculture, horticulture or forestry. However, this does include the building of some new homes in the countryside and development essential for continuation of an enterprise facility or operation. Policy GD5 concerns the redevelopment of large, already developed sites in the countryside. Such developments as outlined within policies GD3, GD4 and GD5 have the potential to affect European sites.
The Fylde Economy: EC1, EC4	Policy EC1 concerns the overall provision of employment land, the development of which may lead to impacts on European sites. Policy EC4 relates to the Blackpool Airport Enterprise Zone. Development within this area has the potential to impact upon European sites, through disturbance to birds at the adjacent European site.
Infrastructure, Services Provision and Transport: T3	Further development of Blackpool International Airport (Policy T3) may have the potential to affect European sites.

6 Detailed Screening of the Fylde Local Plan Policies and Sites

6.1 Overview

- 6.1.1 The detailed screening of the Fylde Local Plan policies and sites (strategic and non-strategic) in relation to the European Sites is presented in Table 10 to Table 14, and is based on the findings of the initial screening exercise. In Table 10, where a policy is implemented through a later policy within the Fylde Local Plan (which specifies particular strategic sites), the potential for significant effects on European sites have been categorised in accordance with the classification for the later policy. For example, Policy DLF1 is implemented through the Strategic Locations for Development policies (presented in Table 11).
- 6.1.2 The detailed screening of the Fylde Local Plan policies and sites presented in Tables 10 to 14 contains details of the potential impacts (refer to Section 6.2), the European sites potentially affected, and whether further Appropriate Assessment would be required. Each policy and site also included a categorisation of the potential effects in line with current guidance³ (refer to Section □, Table 2).
- 6.1.3 The detailed screening of strategic and non-strategic sites (not policies), presented in Tables 11 to 14, also takes into consideration consultation with NE (refer to Section 2.2). Additional bird data, and planning/project-level HRA information from Fylde Council has been obtained to provide a more robust assessment. A detailed methodology of how the bird data has been interpreted is presented within Section 6.4.

6.2 Potential Impacts

- 6.2.1 The following potential impacts have been considered:
- Direct habitat and species loss associated with European sites.
 - Habitat degradation as a result of increased air pollution.
 - Loss of habitat functionally linked to a European site (i.e. used by overwintering birds for foraging).
 - Disturbance to habitats and species through increased recreational activity, during operational stage.
 - Changes in water quality where sites are hydrologically linked to European sites.
 - Disturbance to species as a result of construction activities/ operational stage.
- 6.2.2 Each potential impact pathway is described in more detail below. The description includes an explanation as to why each of the potential impact pathways has been scoped in or out of the detailed assessment. The potential impact pathways carried through into the detailed screening assessment comprise the following:
- Loss of habitat functionally linked to a European site (i.e. used by overwintering birds for foraging).
 - Disturbance to habitats and species through increased recreational activity, during operational stage.
 - Disturbance to species as a result of construction activities/ operational stage.

Direct habitat and species loss associated with European sites

- 6.2.3 Construction work could result in the direct destruction of habitats, leading to a net loss in the extent of habitat area. The southern extent of Morecambe Bay and Duddon Estuary SPA/Morecambe Bay Ramsar site is situated on the northern boundary of the Borough, and the Ribble and Alt SPA/Ramsar site is located on the southern boundary of the Borough. None of the proposed strategic and non-strategic sites are within a designated site so direct habitat loss is not anticipated with new housing and employment sites. This potential impact pathway has been scoped out of the detailed screening assessment.

Habitat degradation as a result of increased air pollution

- 6.2.4 Changes in air quality from increased traffic and development 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. In addition, as the prevailing winds are from a south westerly direction, there is a risk that any increases in air pollution could eventually deposit on the Bowland Fells SPA (more than 15 km from the closest allocation). However, this is considered to be negligible given the distances involved, and has been scoped out of the detailed screening assessment.
- 6.2.5 Any construction sites or routes used by construction vehicles within 50 m of a European site⁷; and any European site within 200 m of the main access roads used by HGVs accessing the site⁸ could lead to significant effects on European sites. There is only one small (<1 Ha) proposed employment site (ES2) within 50 m of the Ribble and Alt SPA / Ramsar site. Given the small size and that the site is currently used as a scrap yard within an area of industrial units, construction activity associated with the redevelopment of this site is considered unlikely to give rise to any significant effects as a result of increased air pollution. One other site (ES3) lies within 200 m, however, this is again a proposed employment site of <1 Ha in size and any impacts as a result of construction traffic would be minimal and not significant. All other allocation sites are beyond 200 m from any European site. This potential impact pathway has, therefore, been scoped out of the detailed screening assessment.

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

- 6.2.6 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 HRA Report, this includes land used by qualifying bird species during the winter and on passage for foraging or roosting, such as pink-footed geese. A number of the sites are located within, or adjacent to land which could potentially constitute functionally linked land. This impact pathway will therefore be considered in the detailed screening assessment within Section 6.4 below.

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

- 6.2.7 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. A Recreational Disturbance Study carried out by Footprint Ecology for the Morecambe Bay Partnership⁹ identified that visitors to Morecambe Bay who were on a day-trip/short visit from home travelled a median distance of 3.454 km to get to the designated site.
- 6.2.8 The southern extent of Morecambe Bay and Duddon Estuary SPA/Morecambe Bay Ramsar site is situated on the northern boundary of the Borough and Sefton Coast SAC is located approximately 9.3 km to the south. 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 significant numbers of residents in Fylde will choose to visit Morecambe Bay SAC (approximately 7 km from Fylde), Sefton Coast SAC (approximately 9 km from Fylde) and/or the Bowland Fells SPA (approximately 15 km from Fylde) in preference to more local destinations. Similarly, it is considered that increased visitor pressure will not adversely affect Martin Mere SPA/Ramsar site as this site is effectively managed by the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust (and is a visitor attraction in its own right and visitor numbers are closely monitored to prevent adverse effects on the SPA/Ramsar site). However,

⁷ Institute of Air Quality Management (IAQM), Guidance on the assessment of dust from demolition and construction (2014)

⁸ Design Manual for Roads and Bridges, Volume 11, Section 3, Part 1, HA 207/07 – Air Quality, Highways Agency, 2007.

⁹ 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

the Morecambe Bay and Duddon Estuary SPA/Morecambe Bay Ramsar site and Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA/Ramsar site are within close proximity for residents of Fylde. Therefore, increased disturbance to birds (as a result of recreational pressure) at these European sites could occur. This impact pathway will therefore be considered in the detailed screening assessment within Section 6.4 below.

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

- 6.2.9 Changes in water quality as a result of new development could have impacts on European sites. For example, increased risk of potential pollution incidents, and potential increases in suspended sediments resulting in ecological effects, such as the direct loss of habitats caused by re-deposition of suspended sediment, and the consequential health or mortality effects on prey species, particularly invertebrates associated with the intertidal mudflats.
- 6.2.10 Although Sefton Coast SAC, Morecambe Bay SAC/Ramsar site, Morecambe Bay and Duddon Estuary SPA and Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA/ Ramsar site have all been identified as being hydrologically linked to watercourses within Fylde; adverse impacts on water quality are considered to be unlikely as all new developments would follow strict water quality/pollution prevention measures, such as the Environment Agency Pollution Prevention Guidelines (PPG).
- 6.2.11 A review of aquifers has also been undertaken. Much of Fylde is underlain by a Secondary B Aquifer; however, the east of the Borough is underlain by a Principal Aquifer. These are permeable layers capable of supporting water supplies at a local rather than strategic scale, in some cases forming an important source of base flow to rivers or otherwise yielding limited groundwater. Martin Mere SPA/Ramsar site is underlain by the same broad aquifer. However, the likelihood is that there will be no adverse impacts on groundwater links between Fylde and European Sites (Martin Mere SPA/Ramsar site) as a result of increased abstraction for drinking water as all drinking water is sourced from outside the Borough, in the Lake District, with no impact pathway to the European sites.
- 6.2.12 This potential impact pathway has been scoped out of the detailed screening assessment.

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

- 6.2.13 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, 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.
- 6.2.14 In addition, a number of the strategic and non-strategic sites are located adjacent to land which could potentially constitute functionally-linked land. These developments could lead to significant effects, in terms of noise and visual disturbance (during both the construction and operational phase of new developments). This could affect foraging birds, associated with Morecambe Bay SPA/ Ramsar site, the Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA/Ramsar site and Martin Mere SPA/Ramsar site.
- 6.2.15 This impact pathway will be considered in the detailed screening assessment within Section 6.4 below.

6.3 Further Assessment of Fylde Local Plan Policies

- 6.3.1 The Fylde Local Plan policies were examined in detail to determine the need for further Appropriate Assessment (Table 10, below).

Table 10: Detailed Screening of Fylde Local Plan Policies in relation to European Sites Within and Outside of Fylde

Local Plan Policy	Potential Impacts on European Sites	European Sites Potentially Affected	Potential Impacts on functionally-linked land associated with the European Sites	Further Assessment	Assessment Category	Conclusion
Policy DLF1 – Development locations in Fylde	<p>This policy is implemented through other policies in the Local Plan, in this case the Strategic Locations for Development policies. The assessment category (refer to Table 2) for this policy is therefore classified in accordance with the classification for the Strategic Locations for Development (as set out in Table 11 to Table 14, below).</p> <p>Impacts on the European sites through increased recreational and other disturbance pressure leading to degradation of habitats and disturbance of species could occur as a result of implementation of this policy (and those through which is it implemented).</p>	<p>Morecambe Bay and Duddon Estuary SPA/ Morecambe Bay Ramsar site</p> <p>Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA/Ramsar site</p>	<p>The main focus of the development strategy is concentrating development at the four strategic locations for development, with a small amount (less than 10%) of development at non-strategic sites. Fylde has very little brownfield land therefore most development will be on greenfield sites adjacent to the main settlements. As a number of the development sites at the Strategic Locations for Development are located on agricultural land, impacts on species using land which could potentially constitute functionally linked land associated with European sites are possible.</p>	<p>Detailed screening of the strategic sites associated with all of the Strategic Locations for development is provided in Tables 11 and 13. Detailed screening of all of the non-strategic sites are presented in Tables 12, and 14. Appropriate Assessment of allocation sites which could not be screened out of the assessment is provided in Tables 17 and 18.</p> <p>No significant effects on European sites were considered likely as a result of the development of the strategic and non-strategic sites (with planning permission granted/in-progress) within the Local Plan (refer to Table 11, and 14), with the exception of three strategic sites (HSS1, HSS4, and MUS2) and two non-strategic sites (HS60 and HS61). Further AA of these five allocations is required (refer to Section 8).</p> <p>For sites within the plan which do not yet have planning permission (Tables 13 and 14), the detailed screening assessment confirmed no likely significant effects on the European sites alone (refer to Tables 13 and 14). In addition, no significant in-combination effects with other allocation sites within the Plan have been identified (refer to Section 9).</p>	<p>I for HSS1, HSS4, MUS2, HS60 and HS61 (refer to Section 8)</p> <p>K for remainder of allocation sites (refer to Section 9)</p>	<p>Further AA required for HSS1, HSS4, MUS2, HS60 and HS61</p> <p>No likely significant effect for remainder of allocation sites.</p>
Policy SL1	<p>Policy SL1 relates to development allocations within Lytham and St Annes. The assessment category (refer to Table 2) for this policy is classified in accordance with the classification for the Strategic Locations for Development listed in SL1 (as set out in Table 11 and Table 13 below).</p> <p>Impacts on the European sites through increased recreational and other disturbance pressure leading to degradation of habitats and disturbance of species could occur as a result of development allocations outlined within this policy.</p>	<p>Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA/Ramsar site</p>	<p>This policy identifies sites which are proposed for development. Whilst other policies within the Plan provide for safeguarding biodiversity and protected sites (ENV2 and M1), there are no specific references within the policies themselves and therefore developments located on agricultural land which could constitute functionally linked land could lead to impacts upon species associated with European sites.</p>	<p>Detailed screening of the strategic sites associated with Policy SL1 are outlined below in Table 11 (HSS1, HSS3 and MUS4).</p> <p>No significant effects on European sites were considered likely as a result of the development of MUS4 and HSS3 (refer to Table 11).</p> <p>Potential for likely significant effect could not be ruled out for HSS1. Further AA of this allocation is required (refer to Section 8),</p>	<p>I for HSS1 (refer to Section 8)</p> <p>K for MUS4 and HSS3 (refer to Section 9)</p>	<p>Further AA required for HSS1</p> <p>No likely significant effect for MUS4 and HSS3</p>
Policy SL2	<p>Policy SL2 relates to development allocations within Blackpool Periphery. The assessment category (refer to Table 2) for this policy is classified in accordance with the classification for the Strategic Locations for Development listed in SL2 (as set out in Table 11 and Table 13 below).</p> <p>Impacts on the European sites through increased recreational and other disturbance pressure leading to degradation of habitats and disturbance of species could occur as a result of development allocations outlined within this policy.</p>	<p>Morecambe Bay and Duddon Estuary SPA/ Morecambe Bay Ramsar site</p> <p>Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA/Ramsar site</p>	<p>This policy identifies sites which are proposed for development. Whilst other policies within the Plan provide for safeguarding biodiversity and protected sites (ENV2 and M1), there are no specific references within the policies themselves and therefore developments located on agricultural land which could constitute functionally linked land could lead to impacts upon species associated with European sites.</p>	<p>Detailed screening of the strategic sites associated with Policy SL2 are outlined below in Tables 11 (HSS4, HSS6 and MUS2) and 13 (MUS1, HSS5, HS21, HS22, ES4, ES5, ES6 and ES7)</p> <p>For sites with planning permission granted/in-progress (Table 11), no significant effects on European sites was considered likely as a result of the development of HSS6 (refer to Table 11).</p> <p>Potential for likely significant effect could not be ruled out for HSS4 and MUS2. Further AA of these allocations is required (refer to Section 8).</p> <p>For the sites which do not yet have planning permission (MUS1, HSS5, HS21, HS22, ES4, ES5, ES6 and ES7), the detailed screening assessment confirmed no likely significant effects on the European sites (refer to Table 13). In addition, no significant in-combination effects with other allocation sites within the Plan have been identified for these sites (refer to Section 9).</p>	<p>I for HSS4 and MUS2 (refer to Section 8)</p> <p>K for remainder of allocation sites (refer to Section 9)</p>	<p>Further AA required for HSS4 and MUS2</p> <p>No likely significant effect for remainder of allocation sites</p>
Policies SL3, SL4 and SL5	<p>Policy SL3 relates to development allocations within Warton, Policy SL4 to development allocations within Kirkham and Wesham and Policy SL5 relates to development outside the strategic locations. The assessment category (refer to Table 2) for these policies are classified in accordance with the classification for the Strategic Locations for Development (as set out in Table 11 and Table 13 below)</p>	<p>Morecambe Bay and Duddon Estuary SPA/ Morecambe Bay Ramsar site</p> <p>Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA/Ramsar site</p>	<p>The policies identify sites which are proposed for development. Whilst other policies within the Plan provide for safeguarding biodiversity and protected sites (ENV2 and M1) there are no specific references within the policies themselves, and therefore developments located on agricultural land which could constitute functionally linked land could lead to impacts upon species associated with European sites.</p>	<p>Detailed screening of the strategic sites associated with Policies SL3 and SL4 are provided in Tables 11 and 13 and the non-strategic locations related to SL5 are provided in Tables 12 and 14.</p> <p>For sites with planning permission granted/in-progress (Table 11) no significant effects on European sites were considered likely as a result of development at these allocation sites. Although not all non-strategic sites listed within Table 12 have received comment from NE, given their small size, type (redevelopment/brownfield, or conversion), and lack of SPA/Ramsar site bird species recorded on, or near to the</p>	<p>K (refer to Section 9)</p>	<p>No likely significant effect.</p>

Local Plan Policy	Potential Impacts on European Sites	European Sites Potentially Affected	Potential Impacts on functionally-linked land associated with the European Sites	Further Assessment	Assessment Category	Conclusion
	Impacts on the European sites through increased recreational and other disturbance pressure leading to degradation of habitats and disturbance of species could occur as a result of development allocations outlined within these policies.			<p>sites, no significant effects are considered likely for these sites (alone, or in-combination).</p> <p>For sites within the plan which do not yet have planning permission, the detailed screening assessment confirmed no likely significant effects on the European sites (refer to Tables 13 and 14). In addition, no significant in-combination effects with other allocation sites within the Plan have been identified (refer to Section 9).</p> <p>The potential for likely significant effects as a result of this overarching policy can therefore be ruled out.</p>		
<p>General Development Policies:</p> <p>GD3 Areas of Separation</p> <p>GD4 Development in the Countryside</p> <p>GD5 Large Developed Sites in the Countryside and the Green Belt</p>	<p>Policy GD3 relates to Areas of Separation. It allows for small scale developments and provides limitations that development proposals will be required to meet. Policy GD4 concerns restrictions on development in the countryside (all strategic and non-strategic allocated sites are within settlement boundaries). Policy GD5 allows complete or partial redevelopment of certain sites, outside of settlement boundaries, under certain criteria. Impacts on European sites outside Fylde are unlikely to be significant, given the small-scale nature of such development. There should not be any additional road building or major infrastructure expenditure as a result of any proposals to redevelop these areas.</p> <p>However, potential impacts on the Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA/Ramsar relate to potential disturbance to bird species. There is also the potential to be an increase in recreational pressure on the Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA/Ramsar associated with development on these sites.</p>	<p>Morecambe Bay and Duddon Estuary SPA/ Morecambe Bay Ramsar site</p> <p>Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA/Ramsar site</p>	<p>Given that there could be loss of agricultural land associated with these policies, significant effects on land which could potentially constitute functionally linked land associated with European sites, could occur.</p>	<p>All of the strategic and non-strategic site allocations detailed within the Local Plan are located within the settlement boundaries and therefore do not sit within countryside areas.</p> <p>The Local Plan does not identify any specific developments under Policies GD3, GD4 or GD5; however, all of them could lead to potential development within rural areas which could lead to effects upon European site. Although any such developments are likely to be small scale, the potential for likely significant effects cannot be ruled out and further AA is required.</p>	I	Further AA required
<p>The Fylde Economy:</p> <p>EC1: Overall Provision of Employment Land and existing employment sites</p>	<p>This policy sets out the overall provision of employment land and existing employment sites within Fylde. These sites (as set out in Table 13 below) have the potential for significant effects on European sites and this policy is therefore classified in accordance with the classification for the Strategic Locations.</p>	<p>Morecambe Bay and Duddon Estuary SPA/ Morecambe Bay Ramsar site</p> <p>Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA/Ramsar site</p>	<p>Given that there could be loss of agricultural land associated with these policies, significant effects on land which could potentially constitute functionally linked land associated with European sites, could occur.</p>	<p>Detailed screening of the employment sites associated with Policy EC1 are outlined below in Table 13 (MUS1, MUS2, ES1, ES2, ES3, ES4, ES5, ES6, ES7) and Table 14 (ES8).</p> <p>For the sites associated with EC1 (MUS1, MUS2, ES1, ES2, ES3, ES4, ES5, ES6, ES7 and ES8) which do not yet have planning permission, the detailed screening assessment confirmed no likely significant effects on the European sites for all allocations except MUS2 (refer to Table 13 and 14). Potential for likely significant effect could not be ruled out for MUS2 therefore, further AA of this allocation is required (refer to Section 8).</p> <p>The potential for likely significant effects (either alone or in-combination with other sites within the plan) as a result of this overarching policy can therefore be ruled out for all allocation sites with the exception of MUS2, which will require further AA.</p>	<p>I for MUS2 (refer to Section 8)</p> <p>K for the remainder of sites (refer to Section 9)</p>	<p>Further AA required for MUS2</p> <p>No likely significant effect for remainder of the sites</p>
<p>The Fylde Economy</p> <p>EC4: Blackpool Enterprise Zone</p>	<p>This policy sets out the details of the Enterprise Zone.</p> <p>Development of the Enterprise Zone has the potential for significant effects on European sites through disturbance/increase in recreation pressure on the Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA/Ramsar site.</p> <p>In addition, any changes to the use of the airport, has the potential to increase disturbance to the European sites in close proximity (Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA/Ramsar site).</p>	<p>Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA/Ramsar site</p>	<p>Policy EC4 relates to the Blackpool Enterprise Zone. The zone comprises a proportion of the airport and adjacent industrial area and therefore is not considered to be functionally linked to the European sites.</p> <p>Given the close proximity of the airport to the Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA/Ramsar, development within this area has the potential to impact the European sites through increased disturbance.</p>	<p>The only site listed within the plan associated with Blackpool Enterprise Zone was ES5. ES5 has been assessed Table 13.</p> <p>The Enterprise Zone (including ES5) is in close proximity to the Ribble and Alt SPA/Ramsar site, however, the locality is already heavily developed, and the majority of the new development would comprise re-development, or development on existing brownfields sites. Therefore, there would be no significant effects in terms of disturbance and no loss of functionally linked land (detailed screening of ES5 confirmed that there are no bird records for the site or within 300m). In addition, the majority of the new development in the Enterprise Zone is likely to comprise employment rather than residential development, therefore significant effects in relation to recreational pressure are also considered unlikely.</p>	<p>K (refer to Section 9)</p>	<p>No likely significant effect</p>

Local Plan Policy	Potential Impacts on European Sites	European Sites Potentially Affected	Potential Impacts on functionally-linked land associated with the European Sites	Further Assessment	Assessment Category	Conclusion
				<p>Any potential development at Blackpool Airport would be considered separately (refer to Policy T3 below).</p> <p>The potential for likely significant effects as a result of this policy can therefore be ruled out.</p>		
<p>Infrastructure, Service Provision and Transport:</p> <p>T3 Blackpool International Airport</p>	<p>This policy provides information on the Blackpool Airport Masterplan, including the potential 'to explore the potential to develop commercial aeronautical activity'.</p> <p>The proximity of Blackpool International Airport to the Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA/ Ramsar means that any further development at this location has the potential to increase disturbance of birds using the designated habitats adjacent to the site, particularly if the proposals result in increased air traffic.</p>	<p>Morecambe Bay and Duddon Estuary SPA/ Morecambe Bay Ramsar site</p> <p>Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA/Ramsar site</p>	<p>The site is currently developed with existing industrial units, hardstanding and a small amount of amenity grassland. The land within the boundaries of Blackpool Airport Masterplan is therefore not considered to be functionally linked to the European sites.</p> <p>Given the close proximity of the airport to the Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA/Ramsar, development within this area has the potential to impact the European sites through increased disturbance.</p>	<p>As a point of safety, airports include provisions to deter birds from utilising their land to avoid collision with aircraft (a review of the Fylde Bird Club data confirmed one record of a single herring gull within the boundary of the Airport, there were no other records of SPA species associated with the Airport). Blackpool Airport is currently a working airport, and is therefore not considered suitable for use by birds associated with the adjacent European site.</p> <p>Due to the nature of any potential development at Blackpool Airport (for example, increasing the number of flights), such development would be considered separately with its own feasibility studies and HRA. Due to the timeframes involved with conducting the feasibility studies, it is unlikely that commercial flights would commence in the plan period, and as such the potential for likely significant effects as a result of this policy can be ruled out.</p>	H	<p>No likely significant effect</p>

6.4 Further Assessment of Fylde Local Plan Sites

- 6.4.1 The Fylde Local Plan sites were examined in detail to determine the need for further assessment (Tables 11 to 15, below). The sites have been split into those with planning permission in progress/granted and those with no current planning permission (allocations). Tables 11 and 13 provide details of the strategic sites and Tables 12 and 14 provides details of the non-strategic sites. The HRA Screening of the Local Plan (dated May 2017) previously considered all sites allocated in the Publication Version Local Plan. During Examination 18 additional sites have been added to the Local Plan, through Main Modifications. Fylde Council have requested that these sites be considered in the HRA for completeness. The additional sites have been added to Tables 11 and 12. The 18 allocation sites are listed in the Schedule of Proposed Main Modifications for Consultation and are shown on the Schedule of Proposed Policies Map Modifications (Documents EL10.002 and EL10.005 on the Fylde Local Plan Examination webpage: <http://www.fylde.gov.uk/council/planning-policy--local-plan-/www-fylde-gov-uk-examination/>).
- 6.4.2 When assessing non-strategic sites, which are already within the planning system (Table 12), the sites have been grouped into one of four categories (based on their type, size or location), in order to avoid unnecessary repetition in the table. A number of non-strategic sites have already been completed or have been withdrawn from the plan, these sites are included for completeness but have not been assessed further within this HRA Report.
- 6.4.3 As outlined within Section 1, the detailed screening of strategic and non-strategic sites (and 18 additional allocation sites from the Modifications Addendum (April 2018)) also takes into consideration consultation with NE (refer to Section 2.2). Additional ecological information has been obtained to provide a more robust assessment. Further details of how the ecological information has been interpreted is presented below.
- 6.4.4 Following the review of the potential impact, and the additional information available to inform the assessment, 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.

Ecological Information

- 6.4.5 The detailed screening takes into consideration consultation with NE (refer to Section 2.2). As advised by NE, additional ecological information has been obtained to provide a more robust assessment.
- 6.4.6 The following data sources have been used during the detailed screening exercise:
- Fylde Bird Club Records.
 - NE pink-footed goose distribution squares, and functionally-linked land Impact Risk Zone (IRZ) buffer.
 - WeBS data.
 - Local Records Centre.
 - Morecambe Bay Wader Roost Study.
 - Additional ecological information from reports provided by Fylde Council.
- 6.4.7 Each of these data sources is described in further detail below.

Fylde Bird Club Records

- 6.4.8 Fylde Bird Club provided data comprising almost 50,000 bird records from the most recent five years available (January 2010 to January 2015). The records included a combination of individual sightings (i.e. location specific) and tetrad data (i.e. records within a 2x2km grid square).
- 6.4.9 All of the records were plotted onto GIS by the Ordnance Survey (OS) grid reference, or by the tetrad location. Where records related to a tetrad, further interrogation of the data was carried out, as required, to determine if additional location information was available. Where additional location information was available, a review of aerial photographs was undertaken to provide further context to the records and therefore establish whether the records related to areas within strategic and non-strategic sites or other areas nearby.

Natural England pink-footed geese distribution

- 6.4.10 A five-point scale has been devised by NE to reflect the relative abundance of geese recorded in a 1km square, called the 'Goose Index'. The 'Goose Index' covers a large proportion of the north-east around Morecambe Bay, including Fylde. Each square, where geese have been recorded feeding, has been weighted according to how many times they have been recorded, as well as how many birds were counted. NE have used the Goose Index squares to produce an Impact Risk Zone (IRZ) buffer. The buffer comprises a 2km area around each of the Goose Index squares. The agricultural land within the buffer is considered likely to form functionally-linked land to adjacent SPAs/Ramsar sites.

WeBS data

- 6.4.11 The location of WeBS core count areas was assessed against the Fylde Local Plan strategic and non-strategic sites. There are seven core count zones within, or on the boundary of Fylde. None of the inland core count areas (comprising Stanley Park Lakes (57019), Marton Mere (57021), Ream Hills Lake (57210), Freckleton Marsh (57454)), were in the vicinity of any of the strategic or non-strategic sites (i.e. not within 500m of the nearest site). Obtaining additional WeBS data for these inland was not necessary.
- 6.4.12 There are three core count zones associated with the Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA/Ramsar site on the southern boundary of the district (comprising St Anne's Beach (57456), Lytham Beach (57455), Warton Marsh (57460)). Although these were within 500m of a number of the strategic and non-strategic sites associated with Lytham St Anne's; given that the data obtained from the Fylde Bird Club coincided with these WeBS core count zones, it was not deemed necessary to obtain any additional WeBS data. Sufficient information could be determined from the Fylde Bird Club data such that obtaining the WeBS data would not change, or add to the conclusions of the assessment.

Local Records Centre

- 6.4.13 Given the extent of bird records received from the local bird club, data held by the local records centre was considered unlikely to provide additional information. The Local Records Centre was therefore not contacted.

Morecambe Bay Wader Roost Study

- 6.4.14 The Morecambe Bay Wader Roost Study has been reviewed in relation to the Fylde Local Plan strategic and non-strategic sites. No roost sites identified within the Morecambe Bay Wader Roost Study fall within Fylde District. It is acknowledged within the Roost Study that the Ribble and Alt Estuaries also support significant wader roost sites, however, details of the locations of these sites are not included in the Morecambe Bay Wader Roost Study. The data obtained from the Fylde Bird Club confirmed that the Ribble and Alt Estuaries are used by large number of waterfowl and waders during the winter period. A review of this data was used to determine if there were any large aggregations of birds (which could indicate a wader roost site) present in the vicinity of any of the strategic and non-strategic sites.

Additional ecological information from reports provided by Fylde Council

- 6.4.15 For sites where planning applications have been submitted, ecological information (including project-level-HRAs and ecological survey information) have been reviewed (where available) to identify potential impacts that were identified for individual projects to enable a more robust assessment of the Fylde Local Plan.

Interpretation of ecological information

- 6.4.16 The assessment of the additional bird data was split into a two-stage process, as agreed with NE (email correspondence dated 10th June 2016). The two stages comprised a rapid review of the existing sites which already have planning permission, excluding those which are already completed (presented in Tables 11, and 12), and a more comprehensive assessment of sites which do not currently hold planning permission (presented in Tables 13 and 14). These two stages are described in more detail below.

Strategic and non-strategic sites which already have planning permission (but are not yet complete)

- 6.4.17 Sites which already have planning permission (but are not yet complete) have been assessed to determine whether there are any previously unassessed impacts from these permissions by looking at the existing data/ evidence for the sites (i.e. a review of project-level HRA, planning applications and associated documentation). This assessment is presented in Tables 11 and 12.
- 6.4.18 If SPA/ Ramsar site birds are present but in low numbers (i.e. the developments had no LSE alone) then these are considered for in-combination impacts to determine whether the impact is significant when combined with the plan allocations which do not yet have planning permission (i.e. whether a significant effect is triggered by adding the allocations in the plan to the existing impact). The evidence gathering above has informed this assessment. The in-combination assessment is presented in Section 9.
- 6.4.19 If SPA/ Ramsar site birds were present in significant numbers alone or in-combination at the time of the project-level assessment, then mitigation has been provided at a project-level. For the cases where mitigation has been provided at the project-level, these allocations have been screened in for further assessment and are presented in the Appropriate Assessment, refer to Section 8 of this Report.

Strategic and non-strategic sites which do not have planning permission

- 6.4.20 For sites with no planning permission within the Local Plan (allocations) a more detailed review of the available data sources (as set out above) has been undertaken. This is presented in Tables 13 and 14. The format of these tables was agreed in consultation with NE (February 2017), refer to Section 2.2.
- 6.4.21 The tables comprise: details of the European sites potentially affected; the type of development (including a site description); details of the bird data review (including a summary of the relevant Fylde Bird Club information, whether the site is within a pink-footed goose square, and a detailed description of whether the site constitutes functionally linked land); a description of additional information provided by Fylde Borough Council; the Assessment Category (based on Table 2); potential impacts; and finally whether the site is likely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination.
- 6.4.22 To aid interpretation, the three bird data review columns are colour-coded amber or green. Where the column is green, detailed interpretation of the bird data has concluded no potential impact has been identified (and a justification for this provided, where appropriate). Where the column is amber, a potential impact has been highlighted, and the potential impact associated with that information is presented in the 'potential impacts' column. Due to the large number of records, and the nature of the data, the bird data has not been provided as Figures/Maps within this Report. The data comprises a combination of individual records and tetrad data, which has been uploaded into a searchable GIS format, of which the secondary information associated with the records is not easily reproducible in paper format. However, all relevant bird records to inform the assessment has been included within Tables 11 to 14.
- 6.4.23 Where the detailed screening has identified the potential for in-combination effects, further assessment of relevant information has been undertaken to determine if such effects would be considered to be significant, or not. Such sites were identified as 'Category K' in Tables 13, 14 and 15. The in-combination assessment for 'Category K' sites is presented in Section 9. A reference to Section 9 has been included in the Tables to signpost where the assessment has been discussed.

Table 11: Detailed screening with respect to Fylde local plan strategic sites on European sites within and outside Fylde (planning permission in progress/granted)

Local Plan Strategic Site (*site added as Main Modification)	European Sites Potentially Affected	Planning status (Fylde Borough Council, February 2017)	Project Level planning/ HRA information (Fylde Borough Council, July 2016 and updated February 2017)	Additional bird data review summary	Assessment Category	Potential for significant effect alone?	Potential for in-combination effects with other sites where planning permission has not yet been granted?
Sites associated with Policy SL1 Lytham and St Annes Strategic Location for Development							
HSS1 - Queensway, St Annes	Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA/Ramsar site	Planning permission granted. Work to start imminently.	This development is located on a greenfield site. Project level HRA has been undertaken for this development, including a shadow Appropriate Assessment (AA).	PFG, whooper swan and Bewick's swan records present within and adjacent to the site boundary. Potential impacts addressed within project-level HRA.	K	Yes, further AA required	Yes, further AA required.
MUS4 - Heyhouses Lane, St Anne's	Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA/Ramsar site	Phase 1 under construction. Phase 2 no current activity on site.	This development is located within the centre of St. Anne's. The site is surrounded by development on all sides. Ecological assessment at the planning stage did not identify any potential impact pathways to the Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA/Ramsar site. NE were in agreement with this conclusion. No likely significant effects on the integrity of the Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA/Ramsar site are anticipated as a result of this development (either alone or in-combination).	No records of SPA bird species associated with this site.	H	No	No.
HSS3 - Lytham Quays, Lytham	Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA/Ramsar site	Under construction – near completion	This development is located within an industrial area adjacent to the Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA/Ramsar site. Project-level HRA was not undertaken for this development. NE raised an objection to the planning application on the grounds of insufficient detail to rule out potential for likely significant effects. The objection was with regard to discharge into the Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA/Ramsar site. The planning application was subsequently amended to ensure discharge into the Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA/Ramsar was avoided. No further comments from NE were received. No likely significant effects on the integrity of the Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA/Ramsar are anticipated as a result of this development (either alone or in-combination).	No records of SPA bird species associated with this site. Records to the south, however, these were related to the habitat within the wider estuary.	H	No	No. No potential impact pathways have been identified for this development in relation to effects on bird species associated with the Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA/Ramsar site.
Sites associated with Policy SL2 Blackpool Periphery Strategic Location for Development							
HSS4 - Coastal Dunes, Clifton Drive North, Blackpool Airport Corridor	Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA/Ramsar site	Phase 1 Under construction. Phase 2 no activity on site	This development is located on the former Pontins site, Lytham St. Anne's. Project-level HRA has been undertaken for this development, including a HRA Screening Report, shadow Appropriate Assessment (AA), and Addendums to the shadow HRA.	No records of SPA bird species associated with this site. Records to the west, related to the adjacent estuarine habitats. Potential impacts on these birds addressed within project-level.	K	Yes, further AA required	Yes, further AA required
HSS6-Land at Lytham St Annes Way, Whitehills	Morecambe Bay and Duddon Estuary SPA/ Morecambe Bay Ramsar site Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA/Ramsar site	Under construction – near completion	This development is located on a greenfield site. No potential impacts on European sites identified at the planning stage. Planning permission has been granted, no objection from NE. No likely significant effects on the integrity of the Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA/Ramsar site or Morecambe Bay and Duddon Estuary SPA/ Morecambe Bay Ramsar site are anticipated as a result of this development.	No records of SPA bird species associated with this site.	H	No	No
MUS2 - Whyndyke Farm, Preston New Road, Whitehills	Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA/Ramsar site	No activity on site as yet	This development is located on a greenfield site. Project-level HRA has been undertaken for this development	One record of 3,000 pink-footed geese (from 2013), as well as other SPA records north of Mythop Road. Potential impacts on these birds addressed within project-level HRA.	K	No	Yes, further AA required in relation to recreational pressure

Local Plan Strategic Site (*site added as Main Modification)	European Sites Potentially Affected	Planning status (Fylde Borough Council, February 2017)	Project Level planning/ HRA information (Fylde Borough Council, July 2016 and updated February 2017)	Additional bird data review summary	Assessment Category	Potential for significant effect alone?	Potential for in-combination effects with other sites where planning permission has not yet been granted?
Sites associated with Policy SL3 Warton Strategic Location for Development							
HSS2- Blackfield End Farm, Church Road, Warton	Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA/Ramsar site	No activity on site as yet	This development is located on a greenfield site. Consultation with NE by the applicant confirmed no likely significant effect on any European Sites as a result of the proposed development. No likely significant effects on the integrity of the Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA/Ramsar site are anticipated as a result of this development (either alone or in-combination).	No records of SPA bird species associated with this site.	H	No	No Loss of functionally linked land would be the only potential impact pathway which could trigger in-combination effects associated with this site. However, none of the sites which have yet to receive planning permission are located on functionally linked land (refer to Table 13). Therefore, no in-combination effects would occur.
HSS7 - Highgate Park, Lytham Road, Warton	Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA/Ramsar site	Under construction	This development is located on a brownfield site which is surrounded by development on all sides. Project-level HRA, and ecological surveys have been carried out at the site. The HRA concluded no likely significant effect. This conclusion has been agreed with NE. No likely significant effects on the integrity of the Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA/Ramsar site are anticipated as a result of this development (either alone or in-combination).	No records of SPA bird species associated with this site.	H	No	No. The project-level HRA confirmed that there are no residual effects as a result of the development. Therefore, no in-combination effects would occur.
HSS12* Land north of Freckleton Bypass	Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA/ Ramsar site	Planning permission granted. Construction timeframe 2020-2021	14/0410 Outline application approved for 375 dwellings at appeal 13/2/2017. NE consultation (letter dated: 4 th May 2016) confirmed that the proposed development would not result in Likely Significant Effect (LSE), alone or in combination, on the Ribble and Alt Estuary SPA/ Ramsar site.	No Fylde Bird Club records within the allocation, or within 300m. Allocation site not within a goose index square, however the site lies partially within NE swan and goose IRZ. The project-specific wintering bird surveys of the allocation site determined that the Scheme would 'Not have a significant effect on the designated sites and their autumn passage and wintering bird features of special interest' (ERAP, April 2016).	H	No	No
HSS13* Clifton House Farm	Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA/ Ramsar site	Planning permission granted. Construction timeframe 2020-2021	15/0562 Outline application approved for 115 dwellings at appeal 13/2/2017. NE consultation (letter dated: 23rd September 2015) advises the Council that the proposal is unlikely to affect any statutorily protected sites or landscapes.	No Fylde Bird Club records within the allocation, or within 300m. Allocation site not within a goose index square, however it is located at the edge of the swan and goose IRZ. The site is surrounded on 3-sides by existing development and the project-specific ecological surveys (Solum Environmental, July 2015), and consultation with GMEU (letter dated 6 th October 2015) did	H	No	No

Local Plan Strategic Site (*site added as Main Modification)	European Sites Potentially Affected	Planning status (Fylde Borough Council, February 2017)	Project Level planning/ HRA information (Fylde Borough Council, July 2016 and updated February 2017)	Additional bird data review summary	Assessment Category	Potential for significant effect alone?	Potential for in-combination effects with other sites where planning permission has not yet been granted?
				not identify any likely significant effects on European sites.			
Sites associated with Policy SL4 Kirkham and Wesham Strategic Location for Development							
HSS8 - The Pastures, Fleetwood Road, Wesham	Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA/Ramsar site	Under construction	This development is located on a greenfield site. Consultation with NE by the applicant confirmed no likely significant effect on any European Sites as a result of the proposed development. No likely significant effects on the integrity of the Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA/Ramsar site are anticipated as a result of this development (either alone or in-combination).	No records of SPA bird species associated with this site.	K	No	No Loss of functionally linked land would be the only potential impact pathway which could trigger in-combination effects associated with this site. However, none of the sites which have yet to receive planning permission are located on functionally linked land (refer to Table 13). Therefore, no in-combination effects would occur.
HSS9 - Land North of Blackpool Road, Kirkham	Morecambe Bay and Duddon Estuary SPA/ Morecambe Bay Ramsar site Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA/Ramsar site	Under construction	This development is located on a greenfield site. Consultation with NE by the applicant confirmed no likely significant effect on any European Sites as a result of the proposed development. No likely significant effects on the integrity of the Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA/Ramsar site are anticipated as a result of this development (either alone or in-combination).	Records for 600 black-headed gull, 200 lesser black-backed gull and 100 herring gull within the site. However, all recorded from one single date (in 2013).	K	No	No Loss of functionally linked land would be the only potential impact pathway which could trigger in-combination effects associated with this site. However, none of the sites which have yet to receive planning permission are located on functionally linked land (refer to Table 13). Therefore, no in-combination effects would occur.
HSS10 - Willowfields, Derby Road, Wesham	Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA/Ramsar site	Under construction – near completion	This re-development site is located at the former Wesham Hospital site. The site is surrounded by development on all sides. Fylde Council confirms no outstanding issues relating to ecology for this development. No objection raised by NE at the time of the planning application. No likely significant effects on the integrity of the Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA/Ramsar site are anticipated as a result of this development (either alone or in-combination).	No records of SPA bird species associated with this site.	H	No	No.

Local Plan Strategic Site (*site added as Main Modification)	European Sites Potentially Affected	Planning status (Fylde Borough Council, February 2017)	Project Level planning/ HRA information (Fylde Borough Council, July 2016 and updated February 2017)	Additional bird data review summary	Assessment Category	Potential for significant effect alone?	Potential for in-combination effects with other sites where planning permission has not yet been granted?
MUS3 - Mill Farm Sports Village, Fleetwood Road, Wesham	Morecambe Bay and Duddon Estuary SPA/ Morecambe Bay Ramsar site Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA/Ramsar site	Under construction	This development is located on a greenfield site. Fylde Council confirms no outstanding issues relating to ecology for this development. No objection raised by NE at the time of the planning application. No likely significant effects on the integrity of the Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA/Ramsar site are anticipated as a result of this development (either alone or in-combination).	No records of SPA bird species associated with this site.	K	No	No Loss of functionally linked land would be the only potential impact pathway which could trigger in-combination effects associated with this site. However, none of the sites which have yet to receive planning permission are located on functionally linked land (refer to Table 13). Therefore, no in-combination effects would occur.
HS57* Brook Farm Dowbridge	Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA/ Ramsar site	Planning permission granted. Construction timeframe 2018-2019	15/0547 Outline application approved on appeal 23/1/2017. Project-level shadow HRA (ERAP, 2016) did not identify any likely significant effects alone or in-combination. NE consultation from May 2016 confirmed agreement with conclusion of no likely significant effects.	No Fylde Bird Club records within the allocation, or within 300m. The tetrad containing the site identified wintering bird records for mallard, black-headed gull, lesser-black-backed gull and mallard. Allocation site not within a goose index square or swan and goose IRZ.	H	No	No

Table 12 Detailed Screening of Fylde Local Plan Non-Strategic Sites in relation to European Sites within and outside of Fylde (planning permission in progress/granted)

Additional information for each of these sites is provided in Appendix C.

Local Plan Non-Strategic Sites (*site added as Main Modification)	European Sites Potentially Affected	Project level planning/HRA information (Fylde Borough Council, July 2016 and updated February 2017)	Assessment Category	Additional bird data review summary	Potential significant effect alone?	Potential for in- combination effects with new allocations?
Greenfield sites close to functionally linked land						
HS60* Valentine Kennels	Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA/ Ramsar site	16/0903 Outline permission for up to 53 dwellings granted 21/03/2017. NE consultation (letter dated 8 th December 2016) advised that there is not enough information to determine whether the likelihood of significant effects can be ruled out and therefore further information is required. Updated shadow HRA produced in January 2017 (REC, 2017), NE satisfied amendments subject to mitigation measures being secured and implemented. Construction timeframe 2018-2019	I	No Fylde Bird Club records within the allocation. The site is located to the south of Lytham Moss which supports wintering SPA birds and records for a range of species were present within the fields to the east (adjacent) and north (100m from the allocation). Allocation lies on the edge of a goose index square and within the swan and goose IRZ. Project level HRA (REC, 2017) identified potential for LSE associated with disturbance during construction and recreational pressure (once the new homes were occupied) upon adjacent functionally linked land at Lytham Moss.	Yes, further AA required	Yes, further AA required
HS61* Roseacre, Wildings Lane	Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA/ Ramsar site	16/0061 Full permission granted 2/11/2017. Project level HRA carried out (Atmos Consulting, 2016). Mitigation measures to avoid disturbance to whooper swan and curlew during construction proposed. Mitigation for recreational pressure during operation also included in HRA (e.g. fencing, home owners' packs, and signage). NE consultation (email dated: 23 rd June 2016) in agreement with mitigation proposed and had no further comments. Construction timeframe 2018-2019	I	No Fylde Bird Club records within the allocation. The site is located to the south of Lytham Moss which supports wintering SPA birds and records for a range of species were present within the fields to the east (adjacent) and north (over 250m from the allocation). Allocation lies on the edge of a goose index square and within the swan and goose IRZ. Project level HRA (Atmos Consulting, 2016) identified potential for LSE upon whooper swan and curlew associated with disturbance during construction and recreational pressure (once the new homes were occupied).	Yes, further AA required	Yes, further AA required
Re-development, brown field sites or conversions adjacent to coastal areas						
HS2, HS9, HS21, HS23	Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA/Ramsar site	These sites are located adjacent to coastal areas and include conversions of existing buildings, demolition of existing building, or are located on hardstanding within an urban setting (i.e. surrounded by existing development). No likely significant effects on European sites have been identified during the planning stages for any of these developments. NE have concluded no objection, or no likely significant effect in relation to H23. The remaining applications have had no comment from NE.	H	No SPA/Ramsar site bird records associated with these sites	No. Although not all sites have received comment from NE, given their small size, type (redevelopment/brownfield, or conversion), and lack of SPA bird species recorded on, or near to the sites, no significant effects are considered likely.	No
Re-development, brown field sites or conversions away from coastal areas						
HS3, HS7, HS10, HS11, HS12, HS13, HS14, HS22, HS26, HS28, HS30, HS37, HS56, HS58*, HS66*, HS67*, HS68*, HS69*	Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA/Ramsar site	These sites are located away from coastal areas and include conversions, re-development of brownfield sites, sub-division of existing properties or re-development of former urban areas (i.e. surrounded by existing development). No likely significant effects on European sites have been identified during the planning stages for any of	H	No SPA/Ramsar site bird records associated with these sites.	No. Although not all sites have received comment from NE, given their small size, locations (away from coastal areas), type (redevelopment/brownfield, or conversion), and lack of SPA bird	No

		these developments. NE have concluded no objection, or no likely significant effect in relation to HS14. The remaining applications have had no comment from NE.			species recorded on, or near to the sites, no significant effects are considered likely.	
Small pastoral/greenfield and caravan sites away from coastal areas						
HS15, HS27, HS32, HS38, HS41, HS45, HS49, HS50, HS63*, HS64*, HS70*, HS71*, HS72*, HS73*	Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA/Ramsar site	These sites are located away from coastal areas and include small pastoral/ greenfield sites and caravan sites. NE have concluded no objection, or no likely significant effect in relation to HS27, HS45, HS49, HS50 and HS70*. The remaining applications have had no comment from NE, or are awaiting further response.	H	No SPA/Ramsar site bird records associated with these sites	No. Although not all sites have received comment from NE, given their small size, locations (away from coastal areas) and lack of SPA bird species recorded on, or near to the sites, no significant effects are considered likely.	No
Sites that have been completed/near completion, or have been withdrawn						
HS1, HS4, HS5, HS6, HS8, HS16, HS17, HS18, HS19, HS20, HS24, HS25, HS29, HS31, HS33, HS34, HS35, HS36, HS39, HS40, HS42, HS43, HS44, HS46, HS47, HS48, HS53, HS54, HS55, HS59*, HS62*						

Table 13 Detailed screening of Fylde local plan strategic locations for development sites in relation to European sites within and outside Fylde (allocations with no planning permission)

				Bird Data Review								
Local Plan Sites with no planning permission	European Sites Potentially Affected	Site location description	Type	Fylde Bird Club Data	Pink-footed Goose (PFG) Square?	Functionally Linked Land (FLL)	Further planning information received from Fylde Council (Fylde Borough Council, July 2016 and updated February 2017)	Assessment Category	Potential Impacts	Potential for significant effect alone?	Potential for significant in-combination effects with other sites in the Plan?	Conclusion
Strategic Locations for Development:												
Sites associated with Policy SL2 Blackpool Periphery Strategic Location for Development												
MUS1 - Cropper Road East, Whitehills.	Morecambe Bay and Duddon Estuary SPA/ Morecambe Bay Ramsar site Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA/Ramsar site	Series of small fields close to existing industrial estate with scattered development to east, north and west, and a road to the south and west.	Mixed Use: Homes - 451 Employment - 5.7 Ha	There are no bird records for the site, but there are two single records of pink-footed geese (PFG) within 300 m. Both records (of 1500 and 3000 birds) were recorded in 2013. The next nearest records (176 records of 8 species) related to the tetrad containing the site. Most of the records were from Sandham's Way, Mereside, to the north of the site. A small number of PFG and whooper swan records identified within the tetrad data were associated with larger fields to the south east of the site near Peel (separated from the site by a road). There are several PFG records every year between 2010 and 2014 for these fields to the south east.	N	Given the lack of bird records for the site in the past five years, and that the site is bounded by roads on two sides with existing developed areas to the north and east, it is considered unlikely that the site constitutes FLL. In addition, construction has already commenced on the southern part of the site. The closest area considered to be FLL is located approximately 130m to the south east, beyond a road and screened by hedgerows.	Part of the site has consent under 15/0472, however the other part of the site, still has no planning permission. Planning information received for the Queensway & M55 link road ecological assessment included swan and goose monitoring for winter 2014/2015. The results provide additional evidence that wintering waterfowl are distributed to the south east of the MUS1 site. Current outline application 15/0114 has no HRA info, no NE response. Approved outline 12/0717 (western part of site) ecological assessment includes no HRA info, no NE or ecology response. 13/0753 Moss Farm site (small): no HRA info in ecology assessment, no NE response. 15/0472 no ecology/HRA at all but area covered by 12/0717.	K (refer to Section 9)	Disturbance to birds using adjacent land which could be functionally linked to Morecambe Bay and Duddon Estuary SPA/ Morecambe Bay Ramsar site The sites are separated from the FLL to the south east by a road, traffic island and hedgerows providing a natural noise and visual buffer. In addition, the southern part of MUS1 closest to the FLL is already under construction therefore further development of the northern part of the site for which planning permission has not yet been granted would not lead to increased disturbance due the increased distance from the FLL and the presence of existing development screening any further construction works. Given that MUS1 is already under construction, there would be no cumulative effects of disturbance from both MUS1 and HSS5 being under construction in parallel.	No	No (refer to Section 9)	No likely significant effect
HSS5 - Cropper Road West, Whitehills (SL2).	Morecambe Bay and Duddon Estuary SPA/ Morecambe Bay Ramsar site Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA/Ramsar site	Series of small fields and existing industrial buildings close to existing industrial estate with scattered development to east, north and west and a road to the south and east.	Homes - 442	There are no bird records for the site, but there are two single records of PFG within 300 m. Both records (of 1500 and 3000 birds) were recorded in 2013. The next nearest records (176 records of 8 species) related to the tetrad containing the site. Most of the records related to Sandham's Way, Mereside, to the north of the site. A small number of PFG and whooper swan records identified within the tetrad data were associated with larger fields to the south east of the site near Peel (separated from the site by a road). There are several PFG records every year between 2010 and 2014 for these fields to the south east.	N	Given the lack of bird records for the site in the past five years, and that the site comprises a series of small fields with existing industrial buildings, it is considered unlikely that the site constitutes FLL. The closest area considered to be FLL is located approximately 130 m to the south, beyond a road and hedgerows.	Currently no planning permission, however, part of the site has now got a planning application in the system for 23 affordable dwellings (Ref: 17/0044). Planning information received for the Queensway & M55 link road ecological assessment included swan and goose monitoring for winter 2014/2015. The results provide additional evidence that wintering waterfowl are distributed to the south east of the HSS5 site.	K (refer to Section 9)	Recreational disturbance There are currently no footpaths linking the sites to the FLL to the south east and the area considered to be FLL is also separated from the sites by a large drain which would prevent unauthorised access by new home owners (in particular dog walkers). LSE on foraging PFG, as a result of increased recreational pressure (in particular from dog walkers) is therefore not considered likely.	No	No (refer to Section 9)	No likely significant effect
Strategic Locations for Development:												
Sites associated with Policy SL4 Kirkham and Wesham Strategic Location for Development												

				Bird Data Review								
Local Plan Sites with no planning permission	European Sites Potentially Affected	Site location description	Type	Fylde Bird Club Data	Pink-footed Goose (PFG) Square?	Functionally Linked Land (FLL)	Further planning information received from Fylde Council (Fylde Borough Council, July 2016 and updated February 2017)	Assessment Category	Potential Impacts	Potential for significant effect alone?	Potential for significant in-combination effects with other sites in the Plan?	Conclusion
HS28- Sunnybank Mill, Kirkham (SL4).	Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA/Ramsar site.	Town centre location, redevelopment of existing employment site.	Homes - 31	There are no bird records for the site. Two records relating to three curlew from 2013 and one herring gull from 2014 were present within 300 m. The data relating to the tetrad containing the site identified 14 records of eight species. All but one of the records related to Wesham to the north of the site, with a single record of 60 PFG in flight associated with Kirkham.	N	The allocation relates to the redevelopment of an existing building, surrounded by existing housing and a cricket pitch. The site is therefore not considered to be FLL. The closest open farmland to the allocation site that could constitute FLL is located over 500 m beyond existing development.	Planning application submitted for 23 affordable homes (17/0044)	H	None anticipated.	No	No	No likely significant effect.
Strategic Locations for Development:												
Sites associated with Policy SL5 Development sites outside the strategic locations for development												
HS11 – Land off Willow Drive (SL5)	Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA/Ramsar site.	Development of an improved grassland field adjacent to existing dwellings. Open farmland to south and east.	Homes - 100	There are no bird records for the site or within 300 m. Data for the tetrad containing the site identified 20 records of nine species. All of the records related to Ribby Hall, over 600 m to the east of the site.	N	Given the lack of bird records for the past five years and that the site comprises a field in close proximity to existing development the site is not considered to constitute FLL. It is likely that open farmland to the south and east of the site could constitute FLL although bird records did not identify any large aggregations of birds in these areas.	Currently no planning permission. Ecological Survey and Assessment was undertaken at this site by ERAP in February 2014, no SPA/Ramsar site species recorded on the site at this time and within the report it was not highlighted that the site could be FLL for such species. The desk study data did highlight that records for redshank, shelduck and oystercatcher were present within 2 km, however, no date is associated with these records. The main ecological restrictions on this site were detailed to be the potential for a bat roost in a nearby building and the presence of ponds that could support great crested newts, according to a letter from Lancaster County Council dated 22/08/14.	H	None anticipated.	No	No	No likely significant effect.
Employment sites												
ES1 - Queensway Industrial Estate, Snowden Road, St Annes.	Morecambe Bay and Duddon Estuary SPA/ Morecambe Bay Ramsar site Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA/Ramsar site	Extension of existing industrial estate adjacent to airport and major road.	Employment - 3.8 Ha	There are no bird records within the site. There is one record of 125 whooper swan from 2011 within 300 m of the site. Further records of whooper swan and Bewick's swan from 2011 and 2013 were present within the open farmland to the east of the site. Data for the tetrad containing the site identified 54 records of 10 species. Most of the records related to Lytham Moss to the east of the site, beyond a road. No secondary location data indicated the records related to the site.	N	Given the lack of bird records for the site in the past five years and the location of the site adjacent to an existing industrial area and main road, the site itself is considered unlikely to be an important area of FLL. Data from the Bird Club and from the Queensway study identify large numbers of pink-footed geese, whooper swan and Bewick's swan within the fields immediately to the east and south, beyond the B5261 road. This area is considered to constitute FLL.	Currently no planning permission. Planning information received for the adjacent Queensway & M55 link road ecological assessment included swan and goose monitoring, winter 2014/2015 – The results provide additional evidence that wintering waterfowl are distributed to the south east of the ES1 site.	H	Disturbance to birds using adjacent land which could be functionally linked to Ribble and Alt SPA/Ramsar site The site is an extension to an existing development with a major road between it and the closest area of FLL. Given existing levels of disturbance and the small scale of the development, no significant impacts upon the adjacent FLL are anticipated. In addition, the Queensway Development will lead to the loss of part of the FLL to the east of the site and as such use of the adjacent fields by SPA birds is expected to alter as the Queensway development progresses, further reducing any minor effects which could occur. Mitigation in place for the Queensway development will provide managed habitats for SPA species further to the east and north and therefore birds are likely to be directed away from the ES1 site.	No	No	No likely significant effect

				Bird Data Review								
Local Plan Sites with no planning permission	European Sites Potentially Affected	Site location description	Type	Fylde Bird Club Data	Pink-footed Goose (PFG) Square?	Functionally Linked Land (FLL)	Further planning information received from Fylde Council (Fylde Borough Council, July 2016 and updated February 2017)	Assessment Category	Potential Impacts	Potential for significant effect alone?	Potential for significant in-combination effects with other sites in the Plan?	Conclusion
ES2 - Dock Road, Lytham.	Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA/Ramsar site.	Extension of existing industrial estate utilising brownfield site.	Employment - 0.9 Ha	There are no bird records within the site or within 300 m. Data for the tetrad containing the site identified 410 records of 29 species. The tetrad incorporates a large area of saltmarsh and mud-flats on the banks of the Ribble Estuary, providing a large area of foraging resource for SPA species.	Medium goose index area.	This site is currently in use as a scrap yard, and therefore does not constitute FLL. The area of saltmarsh 30m to the east of the site is considered to constitute FLL.	Currently no planning permission.	H	Disturbance to birds using adjacent land within or which could be functionally linked to Ribble and Alt SPA/Ramsar site	No	No	No likely significant effect.
ES3 - Boundary Road, Lytham.	Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA/Ramsar site.	Brownfield site surrounded on all sides by existing industrial area and a main road.	Employment - 0.7 Ha	There are no bird records within the site. One record of two whooper swan in 2010 was identified within 300 m. Data for the tetrad containing the site identified 59 records of seven species, with most records relating to whooper and Bewick's swan, with one record of 1000 PFG. All of the records related to an area of farmland adjacent to Lodge Lane 500 m to the east of the site. A number of other records were present within the farmland to the north of Lodge Lane (to the north east of the site) and this area is considered to constitute FLL.	Medium goose index area.	This site is currently a small area of wasteland and hardstanding surrounded by existing development and therefore does not constitute FLL. The area of farmland 80m to the north east of the site (at its closest point) is considered to constitute FLL. The site is screened from the area of FLL by existing industrial buildings, a road and carpark.	Currently no planning permission.	H	Whilst these sites are located in close proximity to the SPA, they are within an existing industrial area which is already subject to disturbance from its current use. Converting these small sites into an alternative form of employment land is considered unlikely to give rise to significant effects upon the European sites. There is the potential for a cumulative disturbance effect to occur if both sites are developed at the same time; however, given the very small size of both sites such effects are expected to be negligible.	No	No	No likely significant effect.
ES4 - Blackpool & Fylde Industrial Estate, Whitehills.	Morecambe Bay and Duddon Estuary SPA/ Morecambe Bay Ramsar site Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA/Ramsar site	Infilling within an existing industrial estate.	Employment - 2.4 Ha	There are no bird records for the site or within 300 m. Data for the tetrad containing the site identified 176 records of eight species. Most of the records related to Sandham's Way, Mereside, over 300m to the north of the site. A small number of PFG and whooper swan records identified within the tetrad data were associated with larger fields to the south east of the site near Peel (approximately 1 km from the site). There are several PFG records every year between 2010 and 2014 for these fields to the south east.	N	Given the lack of bird records for the past five years and that the site comprises a small field adjacent to existing industrial development, the site is not considered to constitute FLL. The closest areas considered to constitute important areas of FLL are located approximately 1 km to the south east and 900 m to the north east.	Currently no planning permission. Planning information received for the Queensway & M55 link road ecological assessment included swan and goose monitoring for winter 2014/2015. The results provide additional evidence that wintering waterfowl are distributed to the south east of the ES4 site.	H	None anticipated.	No	No	No likely significant effect.

				Bird Data Review								
Local Plan Sites with no planning permission	European Sites Potentially Affected	Site location description	Type	Fylde Bird Club Data	Pink-footed Goose (PFG) Square?	Functionally Linked Land (FLL)	Further planning information received from Fylde Council (Fylde Borough Council, July 2016 and updated February 2017)	Assessment Category	Potential Impacts	Potential for significant effect alone?	Potential for significant in-combination effects with other sites in the Plan?	Conclusion
ES5 - Blackpool Airport, Squires Gate Lane, Blackpool Airport Corridor.	Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA/Ramsar site.	Infilling within an existing industrial estate adjacent to Blackpool Airport and the southern edge of Blackpool town.	Employment - 14.5 Ha	There are no bird records for the site or within 300 m. Data for the tetrad containing the site identified over 2,000 records of several species. Given the location of the tetrad along the coastal strip incorporating off-shore mudflats/sandflats and coastal dunes, the records are considered most likely to relate to these areas.	N	The site is largely redevelopment of existing industrial units, hardstanding and a small amount of amenity grassland at the edge of the airfield and therefore does not constitute FLL. The site is surrounded by an active airport to the south and existing development on the west, north and east. The closest FLL is located at Lytham Moss approximately 2 km to the south east. The boundary of the Ribble and Alt SPA/Ramsar site is located 800 m to the west.	Currently no planning permission.	H	None anticipated.	No	No	No likely significant effect.
ES6 - ITSA, Brunel Way, Whitehills.	Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA/Ramsar site.	In-filling open areas within an employment area.	Employment - 4.9 Ha	There are no bird records for the site or within 300 m. Data for the tetrad containing the site identified 176 records of eight species. Most of the records related to Sandham's Way, Mereside, 100 m to the north of the site (beyond the M55). A small number of PFG and whooper swan records identified within the tetrad data were associated with larger fields to the south east of the site near Peel (approximately 1 km from the site). There are several PFG records every year between 2010 and 2014 for these fields to the south east.	N	Given the lack of bird records for the past five years and that the site comprises a small area surrounded by a road and existing development and a carpark with the M55 immediately to the north, the site is not considered to constitute FLL. The closest areas considered to constitute important areas of FLL are located approximately 1 km to the south east and 900 m to the north east.	Currently no planning permission. Planning information received for the Queensway & M55 link road ecological assessment included swan and goose monitoring, winter 2014/2015 – The results provide additional evidence that wintering waterfowl are distributed to the south of the ES6 site.	H	None anticipated.	No	No	No likely significant effect.

				Bird Data Review								
Local Plan Sites with no planning permission	European Sites Potentially Affected	Site location description	Type	Fylde Bird Club Data	Pink-footed Goose (PFG) Square?	Functionally Linked Land (FLL)	Further planning information received from Fylde Council (Fylde Borough Council, July 2016 and updated February 2017)	Assessment Category	Potential Impacts	Potential for significant effect alone?	Potential for significant in-combination effects with other sites in the Plan?	Conclusion
ES7 - Whitehills Business Park, Whitehills.	Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA/Ramsar site.	In-filling open areas within industrial estate.	Employment - 5.6 Ha	There are no bird records for the site or within 300 m. The next nearest records (176 records of eight species) related to the tetrad containing the site. Most of the records related to Sandham's Way, Mereside, over 200 m to the north of the site (beyond the M55). A small number of PFG and whooper swan records identified within the tetrad data were associated with larger fields to the south east of the site near Peel (approximately 1 km from the site). There are several PFG records every year between 2010 and 2014 for these fields to the south east.	N	The site is made up several small parcels of land all within the existing business park. The sites are a mixture of rough grassland, wasteland and bare ground and given the lack of bird records for the past five years and their location within a developed area, the site is not considered to constitute FLL. The closest FLL is located over 400 m to the south of the closest of the development sites with a road, caravan park and farm between the development site and the FLL.	Currently no planning permission. Planning information received for the Queensway & M55 link road ecological assessment included swan and goose monitoring for winter 2014/2015. The results provide additional evidence that wintering waterfowl are distributed to the south of the ES7 site.	H	None anticipated.	No	No	No likely significant effect.

Table 14 Detailed Screening of Fylde Local Plan Non-Strategic Sites (outside the Strategic Locations for Development) with respect to European Sites within and outside of Fylde (allocations with no planning permission)

				Bird Data								
Local Plan Sites with no planning permission	European Sites Potentially Affected	Site location description	Type	Fylde Bird Club Data	Pink-footed Goose Square?	Functionally Linked Land (FLL)	Further planning information received from Fylde Council (Fylde Borough Council, July 2016 and updated February 2017)	Assessment Category	Potential Impacts	Potential for significant effect alone?	Potential for significant in-combination effects with other sites in the Plan?	Conclusion
Non-strategic sites												
HS38 - Lower Lane, Freckleton.	Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA/Ramsar site.	Development of small improved grassland field adjacent to existing dwellings. Open farmland to south.	Homes - 13	There are no bird records for the site or within 300 m. Data for the tetrad containing the site identified seven records of five species. All of the records related to Dow Brook, over 800 m to the east of the site.	N	Given the lack of bird records for the past five years and that the site comprises a small field surrounded on three sides by existing development the site is not considered to constitute FLL. It is likely that open farmland to the south and east of the site could constitute FLL although bird records did not identify any large aggregations of birds in these areas.	Currently no planning permission.	H	None anticipated.	No	No	No likely significant effect.
HS41 - Thornfield Caravan Park, Staining.	Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA/Ramsar site.	Redevelopment of an existing caravan park surrounded on all sides by development.	Homes - 28	There are no bird records for the site or within 300 m. Data for the tetrad containing the site identified 40 records of 14 species. PFG records of flocks up to 2500 for every year from 2011 to 2015 were identified in fields to the east of Staining (over 500 m from the site).	N	This site comprises an existing caravan park and is surrounded by housing on all sides and therefore does not constitute FLL. The closest area considered to constitute FLL is located approximately 500 m to the east and therefore separated from the site by extensive existing development.	Currently no planning permission.	H	None anticipated.	No	No	No likely significant effect.

				Bird Data								
Local Plan Sites with no planning permission	European Sites Potentially Affected	Site location description	Type	Fylde Bird Club Data	Pink-footed Goose Square?	Functionally Linked Land (FLL)	Further planning information received from Fylde Council (Fylde Borough Council, July 2016 and updated February 2017)	Assessment Category	Potential Impacts	Potential for significant effect alone?	Potential for significant in-combination effects with other sites in the Plan?	Conclusion
HS51 - Newton Hall, School Lane, Newton.	Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA/Ramsar site.	Southern edge of Newton-with-Scales.	Homes - 86	There are no bird records for the site or within 300 m. Data for the tetrad containing the site identified 29 records of 12 species. There was no additional location information associated with the records however the fields to the south provide suitable foraging habitat for the species identified. One flock of 310 PFG was identified within this tetrad data from 2014.	N	Given the lack of bird records for the site and that the site is surrounded by a road with the existing settlement of Newton-with Scales to the north and west, the site is not considered to constitute FLL. Fields south of the development location, beyond the road are considered to represent suitable foraging habitat and would be considered to constitute FLL.	Currently no planning permission.	K (refer to Section 9)	Disturbance to birds using adjacent land which could be functionally linked to Ribble and Alt SPA/Ramsar site The development sites are located adjacent to an area considered likely to constitute FLL, as such, there is the potential for disturbance as a result of construction activities. Given the bird records do not show significant accumulations of SPA species utilising the fields in this location and that any construction disturbance would be temporary in nature any effects as a result of this impact are unlikely to be significant. There is the potential for a cumulative disturbance effect should both sites be developed at the same time, however, such effects are expected to be negligible.	No	No (refer to Section 9)	No likely significant effect.
HS52 - Cobweb Barn, Oak Lane, Newton.	Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA/Ramsar site.	Western edge of Newton-with-Scales.	Homes - 29	There are no bird records for the site or within 300 m. Data for the tetrad containing the site identified 29 records of 12 species. There was no additional location information associated with the records however the fields to the south provide suitable foraging habitat for the species identified. One flock of 310 PFG was identified within this tetrad data from 2014.	N	Given the lack of bird records for the site and that the site is surrounded by a road with the existing settlement of Newton-with Scales to the north and west, the site is not considered to constitute FLL. Fields south of the development location, beyond the road are considered to represent suitable foraging habitat and would be considered to constitute FLL.	Currently no planning permission.	K (refer to Section 9)	Recreational disturbance There is the potential for increased disturbance to species through increased recreational pressure as a result of increased use of public footpaths (in particular by dog walkers) close to FLL to the south of the site. Given that the bird records do not show regular large accumulations of SPA species utilising the fields (only one flock of 310 PFG was recorded over five years) in this location and that the footpaths will already be used by existing residents, any effects as a result of an additional 115 homes in Newton is considered unlikely to be significant.	No	No (refer to Section 9)	No likely significant effect.

				Bird Data								
Local Plan Sites with no planning permission	European Sites Potentially Affected	Site location description	Type	Fylde Bird Club Data	Pink-footed Goose Square?	Functionally Linked Land (FLL)	Further planning information received from Fylde Council (Fylde Borough Council, July 2016 and updated February 2017)	Assessment Category	Potential Impacts	Potential for significant effect alone?	Potential for significant in-combination effects with other sites in the Plan?	Conclusion
ES8 - Naze Lane, Freckleton.	Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA/Ramsar site.	Small extension to existing employment site.	Employment - 2.4 Ha	There are no bird records for the site or within 300 m. Data for the tetrad containing the site identified 481 records of 31 species. Given the majority of the habitat within the tetrad comprises saltmarsh, estuarine mudflats and marshy grassland, the records are considered unlikely to relate to the small area of rough grassland within the boundary of the site.	N	Given the lack of bird records over the last five years and that the site comprises a small area of rough grassland with well-defined paths immediately adjacent to existing industrial units, the site is not considered to constitute FLL. The habitats adjacent to the south of the site are considered to be FLL.	Currently no planning permission.	H	Disturbance to birds using adjacent land which could be functionally linked to Ribble and Alt SPA/Ramsar site Disturbance to species utilising adjacent functionally linked land as a result of construction activities could occur. However, given the small size of the allocation and its location adjacent to existing development it is considered unlikely that these impacts would be of sufficient magnitude to lead to a significant effect upon the adjacent European site. No other sites would affect the same functionally linked land, therefore no in-combination would occur.	No	No	No likely significant effect.

7 Screening Summary

7.1 Initial Screening

- 7.1.1 Following the initial screening of the Fylde Local Plan, policies contained within three of the sub-headings in the Local Plan were screened out completely from further assessment. This was on the basis either of no identifiable impact pathway linking the policies with the European Sites, or that there will be no foreseeable adverse impact on European sites through Policy implementation. Several further policies under each of the sub-headings were also screened out of further assessment on the basis of a similar justification (refer to Table 8).
- 7.1.2 Policy T1 has also been screened out of the detailed assessment because the projects associated with this policy would constitute NSIPs. NSIPs fall within Category C of the plan-level HRA methodology set out in *The Habitats Regulations Assessment Handbook* (DTA Publications Limited; Refer to Table 2); projects such as this, which are identified in higher policy frameworks (e.g. Highways projects), are assessed separately by the Secretary of State, and can therefore be screened out of the detailed assessment stage.
- 7.1.3 All of the policies with associated strategic and non-strategic sites (with and without planning permission) listed within the Local Plan were carried forward into the detailed screening assessment (this comprised policies DLF1, SL1, SL2, SL3, SL4, SL5, GD4, GD5, EC1, EC4 and T3, refer to Table 9).
- 7.1.4 The potential impacts identified on the European sites within and outside of the borough boundary (outlined in Section 4) comprised the following (only the three highlighted in bold text were considered in the detailed screening assessment; refer to Section 6.2 for further details):
- Direct habitat and species loss within European sites.
 - Habitat degradation as a result of increased air pollution.
 - **Loss of habitat functionally linked to a European site (i.e. used by overwintering birds for foraging, in particular pink-footed geese).**
 - **Disturbance to habitats and species through increased recreational activity, during the operational stage.**
 - Changes in water quality where sites are hydrologically linked to European sites.
 - **Disturbance to species as a result of construction activities/ operational stage.**

7.2 Detailed Screening

Local Plan policies

- 7.2.1 The 11 policies were selected for further detailed screening on the basis that there may be potential impacts on European Sites if they were to be implemented without any mitigation or avoidance measures. Where a policy is implemented through another policy within the Fylde Local Plan (which specifies particular strategic sites), the potential for significant effects on European sites has been categorised in accordance with the classification for the other policy. In this instance, policies DLF1 and EC1 are implemented through the Strategic Locations for Development policies SL1 to SL5 (refer to Table 10).
- 7.2.2 The outcome of the detailed assessment for the strategic sites and the non-strategic sites with planning permission granted proposed within each of the Policies SL3, SL4 and SL5 concluded no likely significant effects on European Sites. This was because these sites have already gone through the planning process and the conclusions for these sites have already been agreed in consultation with NE. Although some additional bird records have been identified for HSS9 (refer to Table 11), the ecological assessment and/or project-level HRA for this site has taken these additional species into consideration, and therefore no previously unassessed impacts have been identified and the conclusion of no likely significant effects on European Sites is considered appropriate for this site.

- 7.2.3 Potential for likely significant effects with five allocations associated with Policies DLF1, SL1, SL2, and EC1 could not be ruled out at the detailed screening stage (three strategic sites - HSS1, HSS4, and MUS2, and two non-strategic sites - HS60 and HS61). These policies have therefore been taken through to Appropriate Assessment in relation to those five specific allocations. Potential for likely significant effect has been ruled out for all other allocation sites associated with these policies, and have therefore been screened out of further assessment, as detailed in Table 10. The potential for likely significant effects associated with three other policies, GD3, GD4 and GD5, also could not be ruled out on a precautionary basis as no specific allocations are identified
- 7.2.4 Policies EC4 (Blackpool Enterprise Zone) and T3 (Blackpool Airport) relate to development in and around Blackpool Airport (refer to Table 10 and 13). The only site listed within the plan associated with Blackpool Enterprise Zone was ES5. Given that ES5 is largely redevelopment of existing industrial units and hardstanding, and that the site is surrounded by an active airport to the south and existing development on the west, north and east, potential effects in terms of increased disturbance to birds associated with the Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA/Ramsar site are considered unlikely. Blackpool Airport is currently a working airport, and as such is not suitable for use by birds associated with the adjacent European site. Due to the nature of any potential development at Blackpool Airport (for example, increasing the number of flights), such development would be considered separately with its own feasibility studies and HRA. Due to the timeframes involved with conducting the feasibility studies, it is unlikely that commercial flights would commence in the plan period. No significant effects on European sites are therefore considered likely for policies EC4 and T3.

Strategic and non-strategic sites with planning permission granted/in-progress

- 7.2.5 No likely significant effects on European sites were considered likely as a result of the development of the strategic and non-strategic sites (with planning permission granted/in-progress) within the Local Plan (refer to Table 11, and 12), with the exception of three strategic sites (HSS1, HSS4, and MUS2) and two non-strategic sites (HS60 and HS61). This is on the basis that sites with planning permission have already gone through the planning process and no likely significant effect was identified at that stage. The strategic sites HSS1, HSS4, and MUS2 and non-strategic sites HS60 and HS61 will require further Appropriate Assessment as no likely significant effect could not be ruled out when project-level HRA for these allocation sites was carried out.
- 7.2.6 The conclusion of no likely significant effects has been agreed with NE for all sites listed within Table 11. Although not all non-strategic sites listed within Table 12 have received comment from NE, given their small size, type (redevelopment/brownfield, or conversion), and the lack of SPA/Ramsar site bird species recorded on or near to the sites, no significant effects are considered likely for these sites.
- 7.2.7 In addition, the review of planning applications and associated documentation (provided by Fylde Council), as well as additional bird data, did not identify any previously unassessed impacts for the strategic and non-strategic sites with planning permission granted/in-progress considered in the detailed screening assessment.

Strategic and non-strategic sites with no planning permission (allocations)

- 7.2.8 Although these sites have not yet gone through the planning system (unlike those described above), and have therefore not yet been subjected to project-level HRA, the detailed screening (presented within Table 13 and Table 14) has provided a robust assessment of available data sources (as recommended by NE) to reach a conclusion.
- 7.2.9 The detailed screening assessment identified that the sites were generally small-scale and located in areas which are currently subject to existing levels of noise and visual disturbance (i.e. are on the edge of existing urban settings, and/or are adjacent to the existing road network). Coupled with this, the review of bird data collated to inform the assessment did not indicate that any of these sites were within areas considered likely to represent functionally-linked land for SPA bird species (refer to Tables 13 and 14). Therefore, there would be no direct loss of functionally-linked land associated with development at these sites. Finally, where the bird data indicated that functionally-linked land was

located in close proximity to the site these areas were largely screened from the sites by existing development, roads and hedgerows.

- 7.2.10 The detailed screening of the Fylde Local Plan strategic and non-strategic sites with no planning permission has concluded no likely significant effects on European sites.

7.3 Screening Conclusion

- 7.3.1 The initial and detailed screening assessments identified seven Policies (DLF1, SL1, SL2, EC1, GD3, GD4 and GD5), five allocation sites comprising three strategic sites (HSS1, HSS4, and MUS2) and two non-strategic sites (HS60 and HS61) for which the potential for likely significant effects cannot be ruled out and further Appropriate Assessment is required. All other sites and policies have been screened out of further assessment.
- 7.3.2 The potential impacts associated with the Screened-In sites comprise: loss of functionally linked land used by SPA species, disturbance to SPA birds during the construction and increased recreational pressure on the SPA or land functionally linked to it as a result of new housing developments. All other potential impacts arising from the Local Plan allocations have been screened out.

8 Appropriate Assessment

8.1 Overview

- 8.1.1 This Section comprises the Appropriate Assessment (Stage 2) of the policies and allocation sites which could not be screened out at the initial or detailed screening stage of the HRA process (Stage 1). The following section assesses the potential effects of implementation of the screened in policies and allocation sites on European sites. This section also includes a summary of the embedded policy wording within Fylde Local Plan to help avoid and/ or minimise potential impacts on European sites.
- 8.1.2 Table 15 summarises the policies and allocation sites which have been screened into the Appropriate Assessment (refer to Section 7 above).

Table 15: Policies and allocation sites screened in for further Appropriate Assessment

Policy/ allocation site	Policy/allocation site reference
Polices	<p>Policies:</p> <p>DLF1 - Development locations in Fylde</p> <p>SL1 - Lytham and St Annes Strategic location for development</p> <p>SL2 - The Fylde-Blackpool periphery strategic location for development</p> <p>GD3 – Areas of Separation</p> <p>GD4 - Development in the Countryside</p> <p>GD5 - Large Developed Sites in the Countryside and the Green Belt</p> <p>EC1 – Overall Provision of Employment Land and existing employment sites</p>
Allocation sites	<p>Strategic sites with planning permission:</p> <p>HSS1- Queensway St. Anne’s</p> <p>HSS4 - Coastal Dunes, Clifton Drive North, Blackpool Airport Corridor</p> <p>MUS2 - Whyndyke Farm, Preston New Road, Whitehills</p> <p>Non-strategic site with planning permission:</p> <p>HS60 - Valentine Kennels</p> <p>HS61 - Roseacre, Wildings Lane</p>

8.2 Appropriate Assessment of policies and allocation sites

- 8.2.1 The Appropriate Assessment of the Local Plan policies and allocation sites screened into the assessment is shown in Tables 15, 16 and 17.
- 8.2.2 The screened in policies are shown in Table 17. This table sets out the potential impacts on the European sites; identifies which European sites could be affected; provides a summary of the assessment of the allocation sites associated with the policy; and finally provides an overall conclusion.
- 8.2.3 Tables 16 and 17 provide the Appropriate Assessment of the strategic (Table 15) and non-strategic (Table 16) allocation sites screened into the assessment. These tables identify the European sites which could be affected by the allocation; provides a status for any planning applications which may be relevant to the site (information provided by Fylde Borough Council, correct as at June 2018); gives a summary of the existing information for the site (comprising: project-level HRA documentation, ecological or other survey information for the allocation, any correspondence with Natural England, or

other statutory agencies, and any additional bird records for the site from Fylde Bird Club, or pink-footed goose square information); provides a summary of the mitigation measures agreed with Natural England for the site; and finally gives an overall conclusion.

Table 16: Appropriate Assessment of policies within Fylde Local Plan

Local Plan Policy	Potential Impacts on European Sites	European Sites Potentially Affected	Potential Impacts on functionally-linked land associated with the European Sites	Appropriate Assessment	Conclusion
Policy DLF1 – Development locations in Fylde	This policy is implemented through other policies in the Local Plan, in this case the Strategic Locations for Development policies. The assessment category (refer to Table 2) for this policy is therefore classified in accordance with the classification for the Strategic Locations for Development (as set out in Table 11 to Table 14).	Morecambe Bay and Duddon Estuary SPA / Morecambe Bay Ramsar site Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA/Ramsar	The main focus of the development strategy is concentrating development at the four strategic locations for development, with a small amount (less than 10%) of development at non-strategic sites. Fylde has very little brownfield land therefore most development will be on greenfield sites adjacent to the main settlements. As a number of the development sites at the Strategic Locations for Development are located on agricultural land, impacts on species using land which could potentially constitute functionally linked land associated with European sites are possible.	For those five sites (Table 11), where likely significant effect had been identified (HSS1, HSS4, MUS2, HS60 and HS61) project-level HRA has been carried out and measures put in place to mitigate for those potential impacts. No residual effects have been identified for these sites, and the conclusions of the project-level HRA (alone, or in-combination) have been agreed with NE.	No adverse effect on integrity
Policy SL1	Policy SL1 relates to development allocations within Lytham and St Annes. The assessment category (refer to Table 2) for this policy is classified in accordance with the classification for the Strategic Locations for Development listed in SL1 (as set out in Table 11 and Table 13).	Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA/Ramsar site	The policies identify sites which are proposed for development. Whilst other policies within the Plan provide for safeguarding biodiversity and protected sites (ENV2 and M1) there are no specific references within the policies themselves, and therefore developments located on agricultural land which could constitute functionally linked land could lead to impacts upon species associated with European sites.	For the allocation site within this policy (Table 11), where likely significant effect had been identified (HSS1) project-level HRA has been carried out and measures put in place to mitigate for those potential impacts. No residual effects have been identified for this site, and the conclusions of the project-level (alone, or in-combination) have been agreed with NE.	No adverse effect on integrity
Policy SL2	Policy SL2 relates to development allocations within Blackpool Periphery. The assessment category (refer to Table 2) for this policy is classified in accordance with the classification for the Strategic Locations for Development listed in SL2 (as set out in Table 11 and Table 13).	Morecambe Bay and Duddon Estuary SPA / Morecambe Bay Ramsar site Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA/Ramsar	This policy identifies sites which are proposed for development. Whilst other policies within the Plan provide for safeguarding biodiversity and protected sites (ENV2 and M1), there are no specific references within the policies themselves and therefore developments located on agricultural land which could constitute functionally linked land could lead to impacts upon species associated with European sites.	For those allocation sites within this policy (Table 11), where likely significant effect had been identified (HSS4 and MUS2) project-level HRA has been carried out and measures put in place to mitigate for those potential impacts. No residual effects have been identified for these sites, and the conclusions of the project-level (alone, or in-combination) have been agreed with NE.	No adverse effect on integrity
General Development Policies: GD3 Areas of Separation GD4 Development in the Countryside GD5 Large Developed Sites in the Countryside and the Green Belt	Policy GD3 sets out criteria for development within Areas of Separation, Policy GD4 sets restrictions the types of development that could occur in the countryside. Policy GD5 allows complete or partial redevelopment of certain sites, outside of settlement boundaries, under certain criteria. Impacts on European sites outside Fylde are unlikely to be significant, given the small-scale nature of such development. There should not be any additional road building or major infrastructure expenditure as a result of any proposals to redevelop these areas. However, potential impacts on the Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA/Ramsar site relate to potential disturbance to bird species. There is also the potential to be an increase in recreational pressure on the Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA/Ramsar site associated with development on these sites.	Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA/Ramsar site	Given that there could be loss of agricultural land associated with these policies, significant effects on land which could potentially constitute functionally linked land associated with European sites, could occur.	It is possible that small scale developments or re-development of existing rural sites can be brought forwards under these policies. Given the nature of such development/ re-development is considered unlikely that any potential effects would affect the integrity of the European sites. In order to ensure inappropriate developments are avoided, all planning applications would be required to adhere to Policy ENV2 which ensures the potential for impacts upon European sites are properly assessed prior to planning permission being granted and therefore, prevents unsuitable developments from being permitted.	No adverse effect on integrity

Local Plan Policy	Potential Impacts on European Sites	European Sites Potentially Affected	Potential Impacts on functionally-linked land associated with the European Sites	Appropriate Assessment	Conclusion
<p>EC1 - Overall Provision of Employment Land and existing employment sites</p>	<p>This policy sets out the overall provision of employment land and existing employment sites within Fylde. These sites (as set out in Table 13 below) have the potential for significant effects on European sites and this policy is therefore classified in accordance with the classification for the Strategic Locations.</p>	<p>Morecambe Bay and Duddon Estuary SPA/ Morecambe Bay Ramsar site Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA/Ramsar site Martin Mere SPA/ Ramsar site</p>	<p>Given that there could be loss of agricultural land associated with these policies, significant effects on land which could potentially constitute functionally linked land associated with European sites, could occur.</p>	<p>For the allocation site within this policy (Table 13), where likely significant effect had been identified (MUS2) project-level HRA has been carried out and measures put in place to mitigate for those potential impacts. No residual effects have been identified for this site, and the conclusions of the project-level (alone, or in-combination) have been agreed with NE.</p>	<p>No adverse effect on integrity</p>

Table 17: Appropriate Assessment of strategic sites with planning permission granted/in-progress within Fylde Local Plan

Allocation	European site	Status (June 2018)	Summary of existing planning/ecological information	Summary of mitigation measures	Potential for adverse effect on the integrity of a European site(s)	Potential for in-combination effects?
Sites associated with Policy SL1 Lytham and St Annes Strategic Location for Development						
HSS1 – Queensway St. Anne’s	Ribble and Alt SPA/Ramsar site	Planning permission granted, development has commenced, with Farmland Conservation Area and wildfowl refuge mitigation implemented	<p>This development is located on a large greenfield site on the north-eastern edge of St Annes.</p> <p>Bird records obtained for the HRA Report identified pink-footed goose, whooper swan and Bewick’s swan records present within and adjacent to the site boundary. Project level HRA has been undertaken for this development, including a shadow Appropriate Assessment.</p> <p>The Project level AA concluded that there was the potential for likely significant effects on functionally linked land used by pink-footed geese (PFG) as a result of the project alone. The AA also concluded that there was the potential for likely significant effects in-combination with the construction the M55 Link Road.</p>	<p>Mitigation measures were agreed in consultation with NE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision of 91.5 ha of land to be managed as a Farmland Conservation Area and wildfowl refuge to be provided prior to commencement of development. • Provision of a Construction Environmental Management Plan to include measures to ensure avoidance of disturbance to SPA bird feeding areas and timing of works to avoid adverse effects. • Supplementary feeding if required following bird count surveys. <p>Residual effects following implementation of mitigation were also assessed as not significant (and this was agreed with NE at the time (letter dated July 2015).</p> <p>The in combination assessment did not identify any additional mitigation requirements.</p>	No (mitigation in place)	No (mitigation in place)
Sites associated with Policy SL2 Blackpool Periphery Strategic Location for Development						
HSS4 Coastal Dunes, Clifton Drive North, Blackpool Airport Corridor	Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA/Ramsar site	Phase 1 complete. Phase 2 under construction, mitigation measures implemented	<p>This development is located on the former Pontins site, Lytham St. Anne’s</p> <p>Bird records obtained for the HRA Report did not identify any SPA bird species associated with this site. Records to the west, related to the adjacent estuarine habitats which are not present within the site.</p> <p>Project-level HRA has been undertaken for this development, including a HRA Screening Report, shadow Appropriate Assessment, and Addendums to the shadow HRA.</p> <p>The AA concluded that there was potential for likely significant effects as a result of increased human disturbance/recreational pressure either alone or in-combination.</p> <p>In-combination effects with the Coast Protection Scheme at Lytham St. Anne’s were also considered in an Addendum to the shadow HRA. This concluded no likely significant in-combination effects as a result of the development of the two schemes.</p> <p>In a letter dated February 2017, NE confirmed that they were in agreement with the conclusions of the shadow AA and associated Addendums.</p>	<p>Mitigation measures were agreed in consultation with NE and secured through a S106 agreement which stated the following:</p> <p>‘Prior to the commencement of development, a fully detailed Ecological Mitigation and Management Plan (EMMP) shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority. This EMMP shall include full details of the following mitigation measures, their timetable for implementation, their ongoing management, or other measures as appropriate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Measures to restrict access to identified sensitive areas of the SPA.</i> • <i>Provision of a dedicated and fenced dog exercise area;</i> • <i>Management of car parking;</i> • <i>Path design and management;</i> • <i>Interpretation signs and leaflets;</i> • <i>Codes of Conduct Guidance;</i> • <i>Coastal Ranger;</i> • <i>Appropriate monitoring of the site;</i> • <i>Erection of fencing between the site and the adjacent nature conservation area;</i> • <i>Designation of an Ecological Clerk of Works during the construction period.’</i> 	No (mitigation in place)	No (mitigation in place)
MUS2 - Whyndyke Farm, Preston New Road, Whitehills	Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA/Ramsar site	No activity on site as yet	<p>This development is located on a greenfield site.</p> <p>Bird records obtained for the HRA Report identified one record of 3,000 pink-footed geese (from 2013), as well as other SPA records north of Mythop Road which lies along the northern boundary of the site.</p> <p>Project-level HRA has been undertaken for this development within which the potential impacts on SPA birds was addressed and appropriate mitigation provided. The HRA concluded no likely significant effect which was agreed with NE. NE’s response included recommendations for incorporating mitigation into the development to reduce the potential impacts of recreational pressures upon the Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA/Ramsar site.</p>	<p>Ecological design measures included retention of the woodland belt along the eastern boundary to avoid visual disturbance to the adjacent land and use of noise barriers, primarily to minimise disturbance on surrounding properties, which would minimise noise disturbance experienced by foraging SPA birds.</p> <p>Furthermore, the requirement for a mitigation plan including monitoring during construction to enable additional measures to be implemented in the event that disturbance events are recorded was also included.</p>	No (mitigation in place)	No

Allocation	European site	Status (June 2018)	Summary of existing planning/ecological information	Summary of mitigation measures	Potential for adverse effect on the integrity of a European site(s)	Potential for in-combination effects?
				Additional mitigation to reduce the potential impacts of recreational pressures upon the Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA/Ramsar site will be incorporated as a planning conditions for the site.		

Table 18: Appropriate Assessment of non-strategic sites with planning permission granted/in-progress within Fylde Local Plan

Allocation	European site	Status (June 2018)	Summary of existing planning/ecological information	Summary of mitigation measures	Potential for adverse effect on the integrity of a European site(s)	Potential for in-combination effects?
HS60 - Valentine Kennels	Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA/Ramsar site	No change - 16/0903 Outline permission for up to 53 dwellings granted 21/03/2017.	<p>This development is located on the site of a former kennels development, to the south of Lytham Moss.</p> <p>No Fylde Bird Club records were identified within the allocation. Lytham Moss which supports wintering SPA birds and records for a range of species were present within the fields to the east (adjacent) and north (100m from the allocation). The allocation also lies on the edge of a goose index square and within NEs swan and goose IRZ.</p> <p>Outline permission (reference 16/0903) for up to 53 dwellings was granted 21/03/2017. NE consultation (letter dated 8th December 2016) advised that there was not enough information to determine whether the likelihood of significant effects could be ruled out and therefore further information was required.</p> <p>An updated shadow HRA was produced in January 2017 which identified the potential for LSE associated with disturbance during construction and recreational pressure (once the new homes were occupied) upon adjacent functionally linked land at Lytham Moss. NE were satisfied that there would be no adverse effects on the integrity of the SPA subject to mitigation measures being secured and implemented.</p>	<p>Mitigation measures during the construction phase were provided in the form of three options, each of which would ensure no significant effects on the SPA would occur. These were agreed in consultation with NE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Option 1: Phase construction activities with restriction of prolonged periods of work likely to cause high levels of noise/vibration during the winter period • Option 2: Allow prolonged periods of works likely to cause high levels of noise/vibration during the winter provided that no SPA birds are present within 200 m of the site, to be achieved by undertaking weekly checks for the presence of SPA birds. • Option 3: postpone works until implementation of the Queensway / M55 Link Road Farmland Conservation Area has commenced. <p>During operation, mitigation measures to minimise the potential for recreational disturbance include screening of Lytham Moss with hedgerows and trees, providing information boards to inform residents of the importance of staying on designated paths etc, and providing homeowner information packs. The potential impact as a result of increased recreational pressure was assessed as not significant.</p>	No (mitigation in place)	No (mitigation in place)
HS61- Roseacre, Wildings Lane	Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA/Ramsar site	No change - 16/0061 Full permission granted 2/11/2017.	<p>No Fylde Bird Club records within the allocation. The site is located to the south of Lytham Moss which supports wintering SPA birds and records for a range of species were present within the fields to the east (adjacent) and north (over 250m from the allocation). Allocation lies on the edge of a goose index square and within the swan and goose IRZ.</p> <p>Project level HRA identified potential for LSE upon whooper swan associated with disturbance during construction and recreational pressure (once the new homes were occupied).</p>	<p>Mitigation to avoid disturbance to whooper swan during construction was agreed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction works within parts of the site that are within 200 m of known whooper swan feeding area would be restricted between October and January when the birds are most likely to be present. <p>Mitigation for recreational pressure during operation was also agreed through further consultation with NE and included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Signage on appropriate boundaries to highlight the importance and sensitivity of the surrounding areas; • A homeowner's pack to be made available to new and future homeowners, which would highlight and explain the sensitivity of the surrounding areas, the importance of keeping dogs on a lead and identifying other suitable recreational areas locally; and • Boundary fence lines which would be dog proof to prevent dogs accessing adjacent land independently 	No (mitigation in place)	No (mitigation in place)

8.3 Appropriate Assessment Summary

Allocation sites

- 8.3.1 The detailed screening identified three strategic sites and two non-strategic sites with the potential for likely significant effects. For each of these allocations, project-level HRA has been carried out to identify the potential impacts on the European sites. The project-level HRAs identified the need for mitigation for all of the allocations. In all cases, the details of the mitigation measures have been agreed in consultation with Natural England during the planning process. For each of the five allocations, the project-level HRAs concluded that there was no potential for adverse effects on the integrity of the European sites as a result of future development at these allocation sites (with mitigation measures in place). There would also be no adverse effect on the ability of the European sites to achieve their Conservation Objectives (refer to Appendix B). These conclusions have been agreed in consultation with Natural England.

Local Plan Policies

- 8.3.2 Seven policies were selected for further Appropriate Assessment on the basis that likely significant effects could not be ruled out at the detailed screening stage. The outcome of the Appropriate Assessment concludes that, with mitigation measures in place for the five allocations associated with the policies four of the policies (as described above and within Tables 17 and 18), and with appropriate embedded mitigation within the Local Plan (see below), there would be no adverse effects on the integrity of the European sites as a result of implementing these overarching policies.

Embedded mitigation

- 8.3.3 Fylde Local Plan has also included policy wording within the Local Plan in order to further avoid and/or minimise potential impacts on European sites.
- 8.3.4 Policy ENV2 outlines the hierarchy of nature conservation sites and details the requirement to ensure there is no net loss of biodiversity within the district. The policy also states that any proposals with the potential to adversely affect designated sites will be required to provide adequate mitigation measures or compensatory measures and that “*where significant harm cannot be avoided, mitigated or as a last resort replaced or compensated then planning permission will be refused*”. Any development proposed through other Policies within the Plan will therefore be required to adhere to the requirements of Policy ENV2, ensuring significant effects upon European sites would be avoided. Specific reference to the requirement for project-level HRA to be undertaken is also included within Policies EC6, ENV1 and CL3.
- 8.3.5 Policy M1 includes the requirement for adequate green spaces for recreation to be incorporated into development proposals. The provision of green spaces within new residential developments will help to reduce the potential impacts associated with increased recreational pressures on nearby designated sites.
- 8.3.6 This policy wording will provide assurance that projects proposed under any of the policies within Fylde Local Plan, are adequately assessed to ensure no likely significant effects, or adverse effects on the integrity of European Sites within and adjacent to the district.

Conclusion

- 8.3.7 The Appropriate Assessment concludes that there would be no adverse effects on the integrity of the European sites or on their ability to achieve their Conservation Objectives (with mitigation measures in place) as a result of policy implementation or future development at the five allocation sites considered in the Appropriate Assessment.

9 In-Combination Effects

9.1 Overview

- 9.1.1 The HRA needs to consider not only the 'screened in' policies and sites (strategic and non-strategic) within the Fylde Local Plan 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 plans and projects within the local area.
- 9.1.2 In addition, it is also necessary to consider in-combination effects between the various elements of the Fylde Local Plan itself.

9.2 Fylde Local Plan

Strategic and non-strategic sites with planning permission granted/in-progress

- 9.2.1 No significant in-combination effects (which have not already been assessed through project-level HRA) have been identified for the strategic and non-strategic sites with planning permission granted/in-progress (refer to Tables 11, 12, 17 and 18).
- 9.2.2 Further detailed assessments, including consultation with NE, and HRA at the project-level, have been undertaken of the strategic sites set out in Table 11 in the detailed screening and Tables 17 and 18 within the Appropriate Assessment. In all instances where HRA has been undertaken, it was determined that there would be no likely significant effects, or adverse effects on the integrity of any European sites either alone or in-combination with other plans or projects inside or outside of Fylde. Although not all non-strategic sites listed within Table 12 have had ecological assessment at the planning stage, or received comment from NE, given their small size, type (redevelopment/brownfield, or conversion), and lack of SPA/Ramsar site bird species recorded on, or near to the sites, no significant in-combination effects are considered likely for these sites.

Strategic and non-strategic sites with no planning permission

- 9.2.3 No in-combination effects have been identified for the strategic and non-strategic site allocations which do not yet have planning permission.
- 9.2.4 The 16 allocation sites were assessed in-combination with each other, and with sites within the Plan which are already under construction/have planning permission in place. For sites identified in and Table 14 where initial screening identified the potential for in-combination effects, further assessment of relevant information has been undertaken to ensure that such effects would not be considered to be significant when considered together. Such sites were identified as Category K (refer to Table 13 and Table 14).
- 9.2.5 None of the sites were considered to be located on functionally-linked land, and therefore no in-combination effects in terms of loss of functionally-linked land would occur.
- 9.2.6 Where sites were in close proximity to each other (i.e. MUS1 and HSS5; HS51 and HS52; and ES2 and ES3), the potential for increased disturbance as a result of construction of sites concurrently has been considered. ES2 and ES3 are both very small-scale (<1 ha) and therefore no significant in-combination effects during construction are anticipated. HS51 and HS52 could lead to cumulative disturbance effects upon adjacent functionally-linked land; however, the agricultural land around Newton-with-Scales did not support regular large accumulations of SPA/Ramsar site species, so any temporary disturbance during construction would not lead to a significant effect upon species associated with the Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA/Ramsar site. MUS1 and HSS5 are larger developments with greater potential for cumulative construction disturbance effects. However, these are infilling small greenfield sites adjacent to existing development, and are screened from the functionally-linked land to the south in part by existing development, but also by roads and hedgerows. As such, no significant in-combination effects are considered likely.

- 9.2.7 None of the sites without planning permission in place were sufficiently close to sites where planning permission has been granted (but not yet constructed) to lead to a cumulative disturbance effect and therefore again there would be no additional in-combination effects.
- 9.2.8 There is also the potential for increased recreational pressure on areas of functionally-linked land where housing developments are located in close proximity to each other, leading to a cumulative effect of greater numbers of people utilising public rights of way. Only two sites (HS51 and HS52) were considered to be connected to functionally-linked land by public rights of way. Combined, these two allocations would allow for the construction of 115 new homes. It is not likely that this number of new homes would lead to a significantly higher number of people utilising the footpaths in the local area. In addition, the functionally-linked land adjacent to these sites is considered to be less important than other areas within the Borough, given the limited number and range of species recorded in this vicinity. Therefore, there would be no likely significant in-combination effects.

9.3 Other Plans and projects

- 9.3.1 Only the effects of other plans or projects which (like those of the plan under consideration here) would not be likely to be significant alone, need to be included in the in-combination assessment. If the effects of other plans or projects will already be significant on their own, they are not added to those associated with the Fylde Local Plan.

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

- 9.3.2 From those listed in Table 1, the plans and projects scoped out of the in-combination assessment would comprise: Sefton Council Local Plan, The Minerals and Waste Local Plan for Lancashire, the new off-shore developments at Walney, and the North West Coastal Connections project.

Sefton Council Local Plan

- 9.3.3 Plan-level HRA¹⁰ was carried out for Sefton Council Local Plan¹¹ in 2015 (and updated in 2016), and the plan was adopted in April 2017. The plan-level HRA identified potential effects on the qualifying features of the Ribble and Alt SPA/Ramsar site in relation to the loss of functionally-linked land. The Local Plan for Sefton therefore includes measures to mitigate for the loss of functionally-linked land associated with development within the borough. As set out in paragraph 7.3.1, given that this Plan would already be significant on its own, it will not be considered further in the in-combination assessment.

Off-shore developments at Walney and the Northwest Coast Connections project

- 9.3.4 The North West Coastal Connections project and the large scale-project by Dong Energy at Walney are both NSIPs and would fall within Category C in accordance with DTA Publications Limited The Habitats Regulations Assessment Handbook (Refer to Table 2). Separate project-level HRAs have been carried out for these projects, and appropriate mitigation and compensation will be put in place to off-set any potential impacts on European sites. As set out in paragraph 7.3.1, given that these projects would already be significant on their own, they will not be considered further in the in-combination assessment.

Minerals and Waste Local Plan for Lancashire

- 9.3.5 The Minerals and Waste Local Plan¹² for Lancashire is an over-arching plan which covers all of the other Local Plans listed in Table 1. The allocations shown on the Policies Map coincide with developments already considered within the individual Local Plans. Therefore, to avoid repetition, the sites shown on the policies map will be assessed when considering the individual Local Plans below.

¹⁰ Sefton Council Plan-level HRA: [https://www.sefton.gov.uk/planning-building-control/planning-policy-including-local-plan-and-modifications-and-neighbourhood-planning/evidence-and-studies/environmental-\(local-plan\).aspx](https://www.sefton.gov.uk/planning-building-control/planning-policy-including-local-plan-and-modifications-and-neighbourhood-planning/evidence-and-studies/environmental-(local-plan).aspx)

¹¹ Sefton Council Local Plan: <https://www.sefton.gov.uk/localplan>

¹² Minerals and Waste Local Plan for Lancashire: <http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/council/planning/local-planning-policy-for-minerals-and-waste.aspx>

Other plans and projects scoped into the in-combination assessment

- 9.3.6 To be relevant to the in-combination assessment, the residual effects of other plans or projects will need to be sufficient either to make the unlikely effects of the Fylde Local Plan likely, or insignificant effects of the plan significant, or both. An assessment has therefore been made of the other plans listed in Table 1 (excluding those scoped out in the previous section) with a view to determining whether or not they would result in impacts which, in-combination with the policies set out in the Fylde Local Plan, could have likely significant effects on European sites. This includes an assessment of whether any of the sites near the boundary of Fylde would have any significant in-combination effects with individual sites on the boundary of neighbouring boroughs.
- 9.3.7 Of the plans reviewed, the main potential impacts which could lead to significant effects comprise: disturbance, loss of functionally linked land for the birds associated with European sites, and increased recreational pressure.
- 9.3.8 The local plans for Blackpool, Wyre, Lancaster City and West Lancashire are currently under review, or are being updated. As it is not possible to review all of the information about the emerging Local Plans, the in-combination assessment will instead look at the information currently available in the public domain (including draft local plans, draft HRA documents and draft policy mapping). In contrast, Plan-level HRAs have been completed for the Local Plans which have been adopted by Preston Council and South Ribble Council. . These HRA assessments (and associated documentation) have been reviewed as part of the in-combination assessment.
- 9.3.9 In-combination assessment with all of these plans (whether based on new or soon-to-be-replaced plans, as appropriate) is presented in the following paragraphs.

Blackpool Local Plan

- 9.3.10 Blackpool borders Fylde to the northwest of the borough. A new Local Plan for Blackpool is currently being developed. From the information currently available online (including the draft Local Plan¹³ and the HRA Screening Report¹⁴), the majority of new development within Blackpool is located within urban settings (i.e. within Blackpool itself). Therefore, potential for significant effects on European sites either alone, or in-combination are not anticipated. The only potential in-combination effect could arise from the development around the Blackpool Enterprise Zone (at the border between the Fylde and Blackpool). The Enterprise Zone is in close proximity to the Ribble and Alt SPA/Ramsar site, however, the locality is already heavily developed, and the majority of the new development would comprise re-development, or development on existing brownfields sites. Therefore, significant in-combination effects in terms of disturbance and loss of functionally linked land would not occur. In addition, as the majority of the new development in the Enterprise Zone would comprise employment rather than residential development, significant in-combination effects in relation to recreational pressure are considered unlikely.

Wyre Local Plan

- 9.3.11 Wyre lies directly to the north of Fylde. A new Local Plan for Wyre is currently being developed and has been submitted for examination in May 2018. From the information currently available online (including a publication stage HRA Report produced in 2017¹⁵), new development in Wyre would be located on the edge of existing urban developments within the borough. The HRA identified two allocations with the potential for likely significant effects and were taken through to Appropriate Assessment. The AA concluded that, with appropriate mitigation in place, there would be no adverse impact on the integrity of the Morecambe Bay SPA/ Ramsar site/ Morecambe Bay and Duddon Estuary SPA as a result of implementation of the Local Plan. There are a number of potential new allocations within Wyre on the border between Wyre and Fylde (in the vicinity of Poulton-le-Fylde and Great Eccleston). However, there are no allocation sites in Fylde which would be adjacent to those in Wyre,

¹³ Blackpool emerging Local Plan: <https://www.blackpool.gov.uk/Residents/Planning-environment-and-community/Planning/Planning-policy/Blackpool-local-plan/New-Blackpool-local-plan/New-Blackpool-local-plan.aspx>

¹⁴ Blackpool emerging Local Plan HRA: 1/3/17 Habitat Regulations Screening Assessment Blackpool Core Strategy Proposed Submission incorporating Proposed Main Modifications 2015 Bowland Ecology

¹⁵ HRA Report, 2017 http://www.wyre.gov.uk/info/200317/planning_policy/1168/publication_draft_wyre_local_plan_september_2017

therefore, no significant in-combination effects in respect of concurrent development at the border would occur. The potential in-combination effects identified between the Fylde and Wyre Local Plans would be through loss of functionally linked land, disturbance to species using functionally linked land and recreational pressure (this is discussed further in paragraphs 9.3.16 to 9.3.20 below).

West Lancashire Local Plan

- 9.3.12 West Lancashire is located directly to the south of Fylde, south of the Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA/Ramsar site. The Local Plan, which was adopted in 2013, is currently being reviewed and updated¹⁶. From information currently available online (including the existing Local Plan), development in West Lancashire would be focused in and around the larger settlements of Skelmersdale including Up Holland, Ormskirk including Aughton and Burscough. Given their more urban settings, development in these areas are less likely to be suitable for birds associated with the Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA/Ramsar site. There are no allocation sites at the Fylde boundary which would be adjacent to those in West Lancashire, the nearest potential sites being more than 15km away; therefore, no significant in-combination effects in respect of concurrent development at the border would occur. The potential in-combination effects identified between the Fylde and West Lancashire Local Plans would be through loss of functionally linked land, disturbance to species using functionally linked land and recreational pressure (this is discussed further in paragraphs 9.3.16 to 9.3.20 below).

Preston Local Plan

- 9.3.13 Preston lies to east of Fylde. The current Plan was adopted in 2015. Plan-level HRA of the current Preston Local Plan have been undertaken¹⁷. The HRA concluded no likely significant effects on European sites. Additional HRA work (at the request of NE), including further in-combination assessment, has also been carried out in relation to large-scale proposals such as the Morecambe Bay Area Action Plan. The further assessment also concluded no likely significant effects on European sites alone or in-combination. However, at the time of publication of the HRA for Preston Local Plan, there was not sufficient information about the Fylde Local Plan to carry out an in-combination effects assessment. From the information available online, the majority of allocations are located within urban settings of Preston and its suburbs, and as such no potential for significant effects on European sites either alone, or in-combination would be likely. The only potential in-combination effect could arise from the development of the housing sites at MD1, MD2 and H1¹⁸. These are located on greenfield sites and therefore potential for in-combination effects with greenfield developments in Fylde (in relation to loss of functionally-linked land) are considered possible (this is discussed further in paragraphs 9.3.16 to 9.3.20 below).

South Ribble Council Local Plan

- 9.3.14 South Ribble is located to the south of Fylde. The current Plan was adopted in 2015. Plan-level HRA¹⁹ of the current South Ribble Local Plan have been undertaken. The HRA concluded no likely significant effects on European sites alone or in-combination. However, at the time of publication of the HRA for the South Ribble Local Plan, there was not sufficient information about the Fylde Local Plan to carry out an in-combination effects assessment. From the information currently available online, the majority of allocations are located within, or adjacent to the urban settings of Walton-Le-Dale, Bamber Bridge and Leyland, and as such no potential for significant effects on European sites either alone, or in-combination would be likely. The only potential in-combination effect could arise from the development of the new housing sites associated with residential areas C1, C2 and C3, and employment areas C4 and C5²⁰. These are located on greenfield sites and therefore potential for in-combination effects with

¹⁶ West Lancashire Local Plan: <http://www.westlancs.gov.uk/local-plan>

¹⁷ Preston HRA: <http://www.preston.gov.uk/yourservices/planning/planning-policy/preston-local-plan/examination-local-plan>

¹⁸ Preston Local Plan Policies Map 2015: <http://www.preston.gov.uk/yourservices/planning/planning-policy/preston-local-plan/>

¹⁹ South Ribble Plan level HRA: <http://www.southribble.gov.uk/sites/default/files/South%20Ribble%20Main%20Map%20-%20FINAL%20VERSION%20-%20Adopted%20July%202015.pdf>

²⁰ South Ribble Local Plan: <http://www.southribble.gov.uk/sites/default/files/South%20Ribble%20Main%20Map%20-%20FINAL%20VERSION%20-%20Adopted%20July%202015.pdf>

greenfield developments in Fylde (in relation to loss of functionally-linked land) are considered possible (this is discussed further in paragraphs 9.3.16 to 9.3.20 below).

Lancaster City Local Plan

- 9.3.15 Lancaster is located to the north of Fylde. The Lancaster City Council Local Plan (adopted in 2013) is currently under review. From the information currently available online (including the Sustainability Report, publication stage local plan documents, and publication stage HRA reports for Part One and Part Two of the Local Plan²¹), new development around Lancaster will be largely focussed on redevelopment in Lancaster City Centre, Heysham and Carnforth, although, allocations within greenfield locations are also proposed within the Part One Land Allocations DPD. The Local Plan is currently undergoing a period of consultation prior to examination and as such the HRAs may be subject to further updates prior to adoption. The HRAs currently include mitigation measures for allocations where likely significant effects cannot be ruled out and these will be incorporated into the plan to ensure no adverse impacts on the European sites considered in the assessments. Lancaster City Council does not share any boundaries with Fylde; therefore, no significant in-combination effects in respect of concurrent development at the border would occur. The potential in-combination effects identified between the Fylde and Lancaster Local Plans would be through loss of functionally linked land, disturbance to species using functionally linked land and recreational pressure associated with any greenfield development sites outside of main urban focus of redevelopment (this is discussed further in paragraphs 9.3.16 to 9.3.20 below).

Conclusion of in-combination effects assessment with other plans and projects

- 9.3.16 The review of Local Plan information (outlined in the previous paragraphs) showed that there was the potential for in-combination effects between Fylde and the neighbouring Local Plans in relation to loss of functionally-linked land, disturbance to bird populations associated with European sites, and increases in recreational pressure on European sites.
- 9.3.17 The majority of allocation sites within the Local Plans surrounding Fylde are located within urban settings, with only a small proportion of these on greenfield sites, and only a smaller proportion of these with the potential to affect functionally-linked land, or cause disturbance to birds using adjacent functionally-linked land. As the final locations of the new allocations for the emerging local plans (Wyre, West Lancashire and Lancaster City) are currently being determined, this amount of land is difficult to quantify. However, given that the majority of new development locations are largely situated adjacent to existing development, this makes the sites unlikely to be used by SPA/Ramsar site bird species; and thus, the potential for allocations within all of the Local Plans to affect functionally-linked land, or to cause disturbance to birds associated with the European sites is significantly reduced.
- 9.3.18 Where large-scale projects on greenfield sites are included within a Local Plan, such as those associated with MD1 and MD2 within the Preston Local Plan and C1 to C5 within the South Ribble Local Plan, project-level HRA would be carried out and potential for significant effects adequately mitigated for. Therefore, the only sites where potential for in-combination effects could occur between the neighbouring Local Plans and Fylde would be for those smaller sites on or adjacent to functionally-linked land which are not significant alone. As only a small proportion of the developments within the adjacent Local Plans will ever likely to be located on or adjacent to functionally-linked land, the minor losses of all of these small parcels of agricultural land across Lancashire are considered to be de minimis i.e. these small effects would never combine to create a significant effect on the integrity of the bird populations associated with the Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA/Ramsar site or Morecambe Bay and Duddon Estuary SPA/ Morecambe Bay Ramsar site. Therefore, in-combination effects in relation to loss of functionally-linked land and disturbance to birds using adjacent functionally-linked land are unlikely.
- 9.3.19 In relation to recreational pressure, although the potential exists for increased disturbance through a rise in visitor pressure as the housing developments are progressively completed in the districts within and surrounding Fylde, the risk is low that significant numbers of residents from all of these areas will

²¹ Lancaster City Council: <https://www.lancaster.gov.uk/planning/planning-policy/sustainability-appraisal-and-appropriate-assessment>

choose to visit the Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA/Ramsar site and/or Morecambe Bay and Duddon Estuary SPA/ Morecambe Bay Ramsar site. The Recreational Disturbance Study carried out by Footprint Ecology for the Morecambe Bay Partnership²² identified that visitors to Morecambe Bay who were on a day-trip/short visit from home travelled a median distance of 3.454 km to get to the designated site. Given the distances that residents in neighbouring districts would have to travel to visit the European sites (over 10km in most cases), it is likely that new residents would generally not travel to European sites in preference to using more local amenities. In addition, provision of public open space is incorporated into many new housing developments, which would further encourage residents to stay local, rather than travel to more distant designated sites. Therefore, although there may be a slight increase in visitor numbers as a result of all of the new development with Fylde and adjacent boroughs; it is not considered that there would be an increase which would be large enough such that it could significantly affect the integrity of the European sites. Therefore, in-combination effects in relation to an increase in recreational pressure are unlikely.

- 9.3.20 This assessment is based on an understanding of the policies and allocations within the various Plans, as described above. This is combined with an experienced and scientific understanding of the habitat requirements and population trends of the species for which the European sites have been designated, as well as their conservation objectives. On this basis, the final, objective conclusion of the assessment is that significant in-combination effects are not likely to occur if the Fylde Plan is adopted.

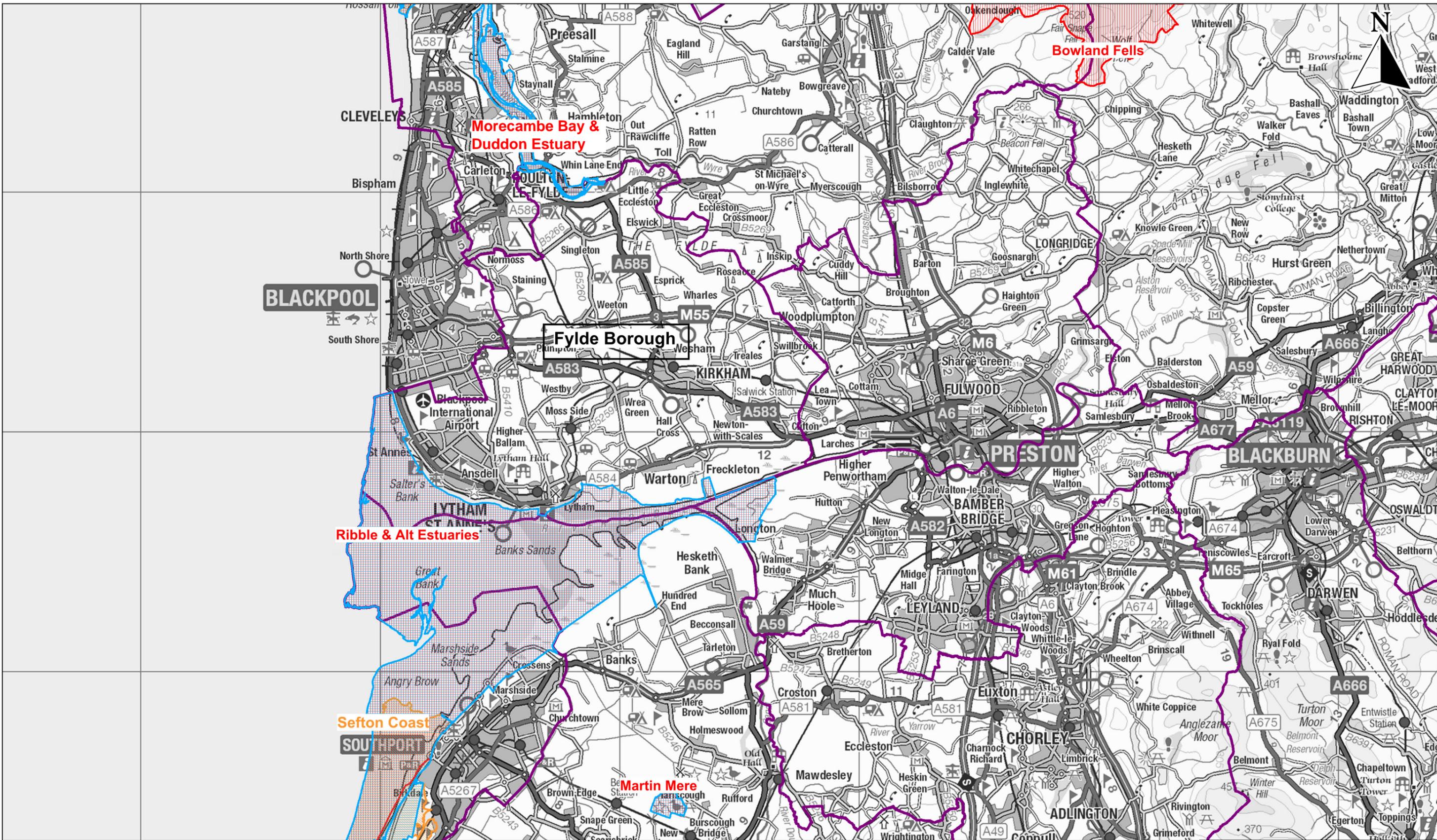
10 Overall conclusion

- 10.1.1 This HRA Report of the Local Plan for Fylde Borough has considered the potential implications of the plan for European Sites within and near to the Borough boundary.
- 10.1.2 Many of the sites within the Local Plan have already been granted planning permission and have assessed the likelihood of a significant effect upon the European sites. Three of the strategic and two non-strategic sites (and four associated policies, DLF1, SL1, SL2 and EC1) were considered to have the potential for likely significant effects at the Screening Stage. Three further policies, GD3, GD4 and GD5, could not be screened out on a precautionary basis. All of the other allocation sites and policies were screened out. Where the potential for significant effects were considered likely, the policies and allocation sites (HSS1, HSS4, MUS2, HS60 and HS61), were taken through to Appropriate Assessment in this HRA Report. For all five of the allocation sites, project-level HRA has been undertaken. All of the project-level HRAs have concluded no adverse effects on the integrity of the designated sites (with agreed mitigation measures in place) and therefore the four policies associated with them would also have no adverse effects on integrity or in enabling the European sites to achieve their conservation objectives. The Local Plan includes policies designed to protect European sites in order to ensure that any developments that are brought forwards under policies GD3, GD4 or GD5 would be subject to appropriate ecological survey and assessment to prevent unsuitable developments that could harm European sites from being granted planning consent.
- 10.1.3 The assessment of in-combination effects of the Fylde Local Plan itself, and the various plans and policies revealed that, it is not considered that the Fylde Local Plan would contribute to significant in-combination effects (with agreed mitigation measures in place).
- 10.1.4 It has, therefore, been concluded that, for the Fylde Local Plan whilst screening identified a small number of sites with the potential for a likely significant effect, subsequent Appropriate Assessment showed that there would be no adverse effects on the integrity of the European sites identified within this HRA Report, either alone or in-combination with other plans or projects.
- 10.1.5 We seek NE's opinion and agreement or otherwise with this conclusion.

²² 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.

APPENDIX A

European Sites within and surrounding Fylde



-  Ramsar Site
-  Special Area of Conservation
-  Special Protection Area
-  District Boundary



Figure 4-1
European Designated Sites

Table A1: European Sites that could be adversely affected by the Local Plan

Site Name	Qualifying Features		Current Condition and Vulnerability ²³	Site Condition Assessment March 2013
	Habitats	Species		
Morecambe Bay SAC	<p>Annex I habitats that are a primary reason for selection of this site</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Estuaries ▪ Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide ▪ Large shallow inlets and bays ▪ Perennial vegetation of stony banks ▪ Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand ▪ Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glaucopuccinellietalia maritimae</i>) ▪ Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> ('white dunes') ▪ Fixed dunes with herbaceous vegetation ('grey dunes') * Priority feature ▪ Humid dune slacks <p>Annex I habitats present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for selection of this site</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time ▪ Coastal lagoons * Priority feature ▪ Reefs ▪ Embryonic shifting dunes 	<p>Annex II species that are a primary reason for selection of this site</p> <p>Great crested newt <i>Triturus cristatus</i></p>	<p>There are a wide range of pressures on Morecambe Bay, but the site is relatively robust and many of these pressures have only slight or local effects on its interests. Positive management is being secured through NGO reserve management plans, Natural England's Site Management Statements and Coastal Wildlife Enhancement Scheme, the European Marine Site Management Schemes for the Duddon Estuary and Morecambe Bay, and the Duddon Estuary and Morecambe Bay Partnerships. These aim for sustainable use of the site, taking account of the potential threats including commercial fisheries, aggregate extraction, gas exploration, recreation and other activities.</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>

²³ Taken from Natura 2000 Standard Data Forms (SAC and SPA) and Ramsar Information Sheets.

Site Name	Qualifying Features		Current Condition and Vulnerability ²³	Site Condition Assessment March 2013
	Habitats	Species		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Atlantic decalcified fixed dunes (<i>Calluno-Ulicetea</i>) * Priority feature ▪ Dunes with <i>Salix repens</i> ssp. <i>argentea</i> (<i>Salicion arenariae</i>) 			
Morecambe Bay and Duddon Estuary 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>Common tern <i>Sterna hirundo</i></p> <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"> ▪ Whooper swan <i>Cygnus</i> ▪ Curlew <i>Numenius arquata</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 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>	See above.

Site Name	Qualifying Features		Current Condition and Vulnerability ²³	Site Condition Assessment March 2013
	Habitats	Species		
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Dunlin <i>Calidris alpina</i> ▪ Grey Plover <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i> ▪ Black-tailed godwit <i>Limosa</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> ▪ Shelduck <i>Tadorna</i> ▪ Turnstone <i>Arenaria interpres</i> ▪ Little egret <i>Egretta garzetta</i> ▪ Ruff <i>Calidris pugnax</i> ▪ Mediterranean Gull <i>Larus melancephalus</i> ▪ Lesser Black-backed Gull <i>Larus fuscus</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>		

Site Name	Qualifying Features		Current Condition and Vulnerability ²³	Site Condition Assessment March 2013
	Habitats	Species		
		<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 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> 	N/A	See above.

Site Name	Qualifying Features		Current Condition and Vulnerability ²³	Site Condition Assessment March 2013
	Habitats	Species		
		<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>, ▪ 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</i>, ▪ Red knot, <i>Calidris canutus islandica</i>, ▪ Dunlin, <i>Calidris alpina</i>, ▪ Bar-tailed godwit, <i>Limosa lapponica</i>, 		

Site Name	Qualifying Features		Current Condition and Vulnerability ²³	Site Condition Assessment March 2013
	Habitats	Species		
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 bewickii</i> ▪ Golden Plover <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>, ▪ Whooper Swan <i>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 islandica</i> ▪ Dunlin <i>Calidris alpina</i> ▪ Grey Plover <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i> ▪ Knot <i>Calidris canutus</i> ▪ Oystercatcher <i>Haematopus ostralegus</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 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</p>	<p>Area favourable 99.10%</p> <p>Area unfavourable but recovering 0%</p> <p>Area unfavourable no change 0.90%</p> <p>Area unfavourable declining 0%</p> <p>Area destroyed / part destroyed 0%</p>

Site Name	Qualifying Features		Current Condition and Vulnerability ²³	Site Condition Assessment March 2013
	Habitats	Species		
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 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</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 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>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 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</p>	

Site Name	Qualifying Features		Current Condition and Vulnerability ²³	Site Condition Assessment March 2013
	Habitats	Species		
			likely sources of pollution that may have caused this.	
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 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 islandica</i> ▪ Common redshank, <i>Tringa totanus</i>, ▪ Lesser black-backed gull, <i>Larus fuscus graellsii</i>, 	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.	See above.

Site Name	Qualifying Features		Current Condition and Vulnerability ²³	Site Condition Assessment March 2013
	Habitats	Species		
		<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</i> ▪ Pink-footed goose, <i>Anser brachyrhynchus</i> ▪ Common shelduck, <i>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> 		
Sefton Coast SAC	<p>Annex I habitats that are a primary reason for selection of this site</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Embryonic shifting dunes ▪ Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> ('white dunes') ▪ Fixed dunes with herbaceous vegetation ('grey dunes') * Priority feature ▪ Dunes with <i>Salix repens</i> ssp. <i>argentea</i> (<i>Salicion arenariae</i>) ▪ Humid dune slacks <p>Annex I habitats present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for selection of this site</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Atlantic decalcified fixed dunes (<i>Calluno-Ulicetea</i>) * Priority feature 	<p>Annex II species that are a primary reason for selection of this site</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Petalwort</i> <i>Petalophyllum ralfsii</i> <p><i>Annex II species present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for site selection</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Great crested newt</i> <i>Triturus cristatus</i> 	<p>The extensive sand dunes and intertidal areas attract large numbers of summer tourists. This impact is addressed in Sefton Metropolitan Borough Council's Beach Management Plan. Co-ordinated management of the coast is achieved through the long-standing Sefton Coast Management Scheme (now the Sefton Coast Partnership), in which all key landowners play a part. Golf course management achieves a positive balance between play areas and important habitats. Concerns have been raised regarding water abstraction on the coast. This is being addressed through detailed modelling of the dune aquifer by the Environment Agency. The coniferous plantations are also a source of debate, with a balance needed between restoration of</p>	<p>Area favourable 67.2%</p> <p>Area unfavourable but recovering 21.66%</p> <p>Area unfavourable no change 7.99%</p> <p>Area unfavourable declining 3.15%</p> <p>Area destroyed / part destroyed 0%</p>

Site Name	Qualifying Features		Current Condition and Vulnerability ²³	Site Condition Assessment March 2013
	Habitats	Species		
			dune habitats and public enjoyment of the woodlands.	
Bowland Fells SPA	N/A	<p>This site qualifies under Article 4.1 of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following species listed on Annex I of the Directive:</p> <p>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>The expansive blanket bog and heather dominated moorland provides suitable habitat for a diverse range of upland breeding birds. Favourable nature conservation status of the site depends on appropriate levels of sheep grazing, sympathetic moorland burning practice, sensitive water catchment land management practices and 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>Area favourable 5.28%</p> <p>Area unfavourable but 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>
Martin Mere 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</p>	<p>Since the sites designation as a Wetland of International Importance under the Ramsar Convention and as an SPA in 1985 there has been a gradual increase in the usage of the</p>	<p>Area favourable 100.0%</p> <p>Area unfavourable but recovering 0%</p>

Site Name	Qualifying Features		Current Condition and Vulnerability ²³	Site Condition Assessment March 2013
	Habitats	Species		
		<p>following species listed on Annex I of the Directive:</p> <p>Over winter;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Bewick's Swan <i>Cygnus columbianus bewickii</i> ▪ Whooper Swan <i>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>Over winter;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Pink-footed Goose <i>Anser brachyrhynchus</i> ▪ Pintail <i>Anas acuta</i> <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 46,196 individual waterfowl.</p>	<p>mere by certain species of wildfowl and wading birds as a direct consequence of positive management. The refuge is vulnerable to water levels being adversely affected water abstraction for agriculture, but this is closely monitored /controlled by the Environment Agency in consultation with Natural England. Similarly, the refuge is vulnerable to changes in farming practice. Grazing management is largely dependent upon cattle from surrounding farms. Water levels on the Mere are controlled to maintain optimum levels throughout the winter period, then lowered progressively in summer to expose marginal mud and the underlying damp pastures and maintain a mosaic of shallow pools. Ditches are regularly cut and dredged and all areas of pasture are positively managed under a Countryside Stewardship Scheme. Nutrients brought in with the water supply from the surrounding arable farmland and inadequate sewage treatment adds considerably to the large deposits of guano from wintering waterfowl. This results in the refuge being highly eutrophic with extremely poor water quality conditions and creates the possible risk of water borne diseases which could affect waterfowl, although no such outbreaks have been recorded. Water quality issues have started to be addressed by WWT with the creation of reedbed water filtration systems</p>	<p>Area unfavourable no change 0%</p> <p>Area unfavourable declining 0%</p> <p>Area destroyed / part destroyed 0%</p>

Site Name	Qualifying Features		Current Condition and Vulnerability ²³	Site Condition Assessment March 2013
	Habitats	Species		
			and a series of settlement lagoons helps to reduce suspended solids of effluent water arising from waterfowl areas. Regular herbicide control of trifid burr marigold is necessary in order to prevent this plant from invading lake/scape margins to the detriment of bird populations.	
Martin Mere Ramsar Site	N/A	<p>Ramsar criterion 5 Assemblages of international importance: Species with peak counts in winter: 25,306 waterfowl</p> <p>Ramsar criterion 6 – species/populations occurring at levels of international importance.</p> <p>Qualifying Species/populations (as identified at designation): Species with peak counts in spring/autumn:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Pink-footed goose, <i>Anser brachyrhynchus</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</i>, ▪ Eurasian wigeon, <i>Anas penelope</i>, ▪ Northern pintail, <i>Anas acuta</i>, 	N/A	See above.

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 Ribbie 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 Area of Conservation Site Code: UK0013027

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

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

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

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

Qualifying Features:

- H1110. Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time; Subtidal sandbanks
- H1130. Estuaries
- H1140. Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide; Intertidal mudflats and sandflats
- H1150. Coastal lagoons*
- H1160. Large shallow inlets and bays
- H1170. Reefs
- H1220. Perennial vegetation of stony banks; Coastal shingle vegetation outside the reach of waves
- H1310. *Salicornia* and other annuals colonising mud and sand; Glasswort and other annuals colonising mud and sand
- H1330. Atlantic salt meadows (*Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae*)
- H2110. Embryonic shifting dunes

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

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

This is a European Marine Site

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

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

*** Priority natural habitats or species**

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

Explanatory Notes: European Site Conservation Objectives

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

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

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

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



European Site Conservation Objectives for Morecambe Bay & Duddon Estuary Special Protection Area Site Code: UK9020326

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

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

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

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

Qualifying Features

- A026 *Egretta garzetta*; Little egret (Non-breeding)
- A038 *Cygnus cygnus*; Whooper swan (Non-breeding)
- 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)
- 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)

Contd/

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- A151 *Philomachus pugnax*; Ruff (Non-breeding)
- A156 *Limosa limosa islandica*; Black-tailed godwit (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)
- A176 *Larus melanocephalus*; Mediterranean gull (Non-breeding)
- A183 *Larus fuscus*; Lesser black-backed gull (Non-breeding)
- A183 *Larus fuscus*; Lesser black-backed gull (Breeding)
- A184 *Larus argentatus*; Herring gull (Breeding)
- A191 *Sterna sandvicensis*; Sandwich tern (Breeding)
- A193 *Sterna hirundo*; Common tern (Breeding)
- A195 *Sterna albifrons*; Little 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 current Conservation Advice document for the EMS. For further details about this please visit the Natural England website at <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/conservation-advice-packages-for-marine-protected-areas> or contact Natural England's enquiry service at enquiries@naturalengland.org.uk or by phone on 0845 600 3078.

This is a new combined site

This SPA replaces two individual sites – Morecambe Bay SPA (UK9005081) and Duddon Estuary SPA (UK9005031).

Explanatory Notes: European Site Conservation Objectives

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

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

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

Publication date: 13 September 2017 (version 5). This document updates and replaces an earlier version dated 29 January 2016 following the classification of the SPA. It replaces similar documents previously published for Morecambe Bay SPA (UK9005081) and Duddon Estuary SPA (UK9005031)



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 Martin Mere Special Protection Area Site Code: UK9005111

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)

A052 *Anas crecca*; Eurasian teal (Non-breeding)

A054 *Anas acuta*; Northern pintail (Non-breeding)

Waterbird assemblage

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 Sefton Coast Special Area of Conservation Site Code: UK0013076

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

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

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

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

Qualifying Features:

H2110. Embryonic shifting dunes

H2120. Shifting dunes along the shoreline with *Ammophila arenaria* ("white dunes"); Shifting dunes with marram

H2130. Fixed dunes with herbaceous vegetation ("grey dunes"); Dune grassland*

H2150. Atlantic decalcified fixed dunes (*Calluno-Ullicetea*); Coastal dune heathland*

H2170. Dunes with *Salix repens* ssp. *argentea* (*Salicion arenariae*); Dunes with creeping willow

H2190. Humid dune slacks

S1166. *Triturus cristatus*; Great crested newt

S1395. *Petalophyllum ralfsii*; Petalwort

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

APPENDIX C

Additional Information for non-strategic sites with planning permission granted/in-progress and sites included as Main Modifications

The Table below provides a review of the additional information for non-strategic sites where planning permission has been granted/ in-progress.

Local plan site	European Sites Potentially Affected	Bird Club records within site Y/N	Bird Club records SPA species detail	Site potentially constitutes functionally linked land (Y/N)	Further planning information received from Fylde Council (July 2016, updated June 2018)
Non-strategic re-development, brown field sites or conversions adjacent to coastal areas					
HS2	Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA/Ramsar	N	N/A	N	No current activity on site. Conversion of existing building. No response from NE.
HS21	Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA/Ramsar	N	N/A	N	Revised application for 25 dwellings permitted: development commenced. Application approved for retail development on remainder of site: development completed. No ecological assessment carried out or consultation. No response from NE.
Non-strategic re-development, brown field sites or conversions away from coastal areas					
HS3	Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA/Ramsar	N	N/A	N	No current activity on site. Brownfield site (former garden centre). No response from NE.
HS10	Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA/Ramsar	N	N/A	N	No current activity on site. Demolition of traditional three-storey building, construction of 14 apartments. No response from NE.
HS11	Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA/Ramsar	N	N/A	N	No current activity on site. Conversion and extension of existing building. No response from NE.
HS12	Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA/Ramsar	N	N/A	N	No current activity on site. Redevelopment of garage/retail site in urban area for 20 dwellings. No response from NE.
HS13	Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA/Ramsar	N	N/A	N	No current activity on site. Redevelopment of garage in urban area for 30 extra-care apartments (not decided). No response from NE.
HS14	Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA/Ramsar	N	N/A	N	Redevelopment of large purpose-built office building and construction of 45 dwellings. LCC ecology said HRA required, but NE said, " <i>The proposal is unlikely to affect any statutorily protected sites or landscapes</i> " Only ecology information supplied related to bats. New application for 65 extra care apartments approved; site now cleared.
HS22	Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA/Ramsar	N	N/A	N	No current activity on site. Open land part of former garage site for 14 homes. Current reserved matters (15/0891) Ecology report makes no reference to European sites, no HRA information, and no record of SPA birds on site. Previous ecology report for outline (11/0847) similar. No response from NE
HS26	Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA/Ramsar	N	N/A	N	No current activity on site. Redevelopment of brownfield garage site for 16 homes. No ecological information or consultation. site approved. No response from NE.
HS28	Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA/Ramsar	N	N/A	N	No current activity on site.

Local plan site	European Sites Potentially Affected	Bird Club records within site Y/N	Bird Club records SPA species detail	Site potentially constitutes functionally linked land (Y/N)	Further planning information received from Fylde Council (July 2016, updated June 2018)
HS30	Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA/Ramsar	N	N/A	N	Site now cleared. Brownfield site. Redevelopment of horticultural buildings and bungalow for 12 apartments, No ecological information. No response from NE.
HS37	Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA/Ramsar	N	N/A	N	No current activity on site. Subdivision of existing house and 11 homes to rear on site of former horticultural buildings in centre of Freckleton. Ecological information for site confirmed no SPA species. No response from NE.
HS56	Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA/Ramsar	N	N/A	N	No current activity on site. Ecology report states no SPA bird species recorded during surveys. No response from NE.
Non-strategic small pastoral/greenfield and caravan sites away from coastal areas					
HS15	Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA/Ramsar	N	N/A	N	No current activity on site. Greenfield site for 12 homes. Ecology report concludes not functionally-linked land, but area to west of development site could potentially constitute functionally linked land. No response from NE. Under construction.
HS27	Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA/Ramsar	N	N/A	N	No current activity on site. NE response stated no LSE (ecological survey did not include HRA).
HS32	Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA/Ramsar	N	N/A	N	No current activity on site. Minded to approve subject to s106 (12/0376). Only great crested newt mitigation included, no HRA information. No response from NE in relation to HRA.
HS38	Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA/Ramsar	N	N/A	N	No current activity on site.
HS41	Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA/Ramsar	N	N/A	N	No current activity on site.
HS45	Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA/Ramsar	N	N/A	N	No current activity on site. Greenfield site with some horticultural buildings, for 25 homes. No HRA information provided or required in NE consultee response.
HS49	Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA/Ramsar	N	N/A	N	No current activity on site. Shadow HRA supplied following NE request. NE in agreement with shadow HRA conclusion of no LSE alone, or in-combination.
HS50	Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA/Ramsar	N	N/A	N	No current activity on site. Construction of 30 homes on greenfield site. (15/0165) NE and GM ecology unit say no LSE. No HRA information in ecological survey.
Non-strategic sites that have been completed/near completion or where applications have been withdrawn					
HS4					<i>Under construction. Redevelopment of hotel site in centre of urban area. No response from NE.</i>
HS6					<i>Under construction, almost complete. Demolition of two dwellings and construction of 14 apartments, within urban area. No response from NE.</i>
HS8					<i>Under construction, almost complete. Redevelopment of former hotel site. NE response says no LSE.</i>
HS24					<i>Under construction. Construction of 83 dwellings, mostly greenfield. NE response confirmed said that it was unlikely there would be significant effects. However, in same consultation required a HRA to be produced, but then said no objection. Site approved for development.</i>
HS39					<i>Under construction. Construction of 42 dwellings, greenfield site: NE states 'the proposal is unlikely to affect any statutorily protected sites or landscapes'.</i>
HS40					<i>Under construction. Greenfield site. HRA Screening concluded no LSE. NE required further information in relation to PFG. Additional information supplied to</i>

Local plan site	European Sites Potentially Affected	Bird Club records within site Y/N	Bird Club records SPA species detail	Site potentially constitutes functionally linked land (Y/N)	Further planning information received from Fylde Council (July 2016, updated June 2018)
					support HRA Screening. NE confirmed that they were in agreement with the HRA conclusion of no LSE on PFG.
HS46					Under construction. Mostly greenfield site with a few buildings. Ecological survey confirmed no SPA species, no HRA, not raised in LCC ecology response. No response from NE.
HS47					Under construction. Greenfield site. No HRA information. No response from NE.
HS53					Withdrawn.
HS54					Mostly complete. Greenfield site in grounds of village hall. No HRA information in ecological survey or consultee responses.
HS55					Mostly complete; ecology report concluded no potential effects on designated sites.
HS62					Mostly complete; ecology report only identified potential effects for bars. No
HS1, HS5, HS7, HS9, HS16, HS17, HS18, HS19, HS20, HS23, HS25, HS29, HS31, HS33, HS34, HS35, HS36, HS42, HS43, HS44, HS48, HS59					Complete.

The Table below provides a review of the additional non-strategic sites added to the Local Plan as part of the Main Modifications where planning permission has been granted/ in-progress.

Allocation site	European sites potentially affected	Type	Construction timeframe	Project level planning/HRA information (Fylde Borough Council, June 2018)	Assessment Category	Additional bird data review summary	Potential significant effect alone?	Potential for in-combination effects?
Planning permission granted/ minded to approve/ allocated, not yet constructed								
HS58 Westmoreland House	Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA/ Ramsar site	Housing (25 dwellings)	2017-2018	16/0285 (prior notification for COU from B1). Approved 15/6/2016. No ecology report or NE consultation due to status of change of use.	H	No Fylde Bird Club records within the allocation, or within 300m. Allocation site not within a goose index square or swan and goose IRZ. The allocation site is located in an urban location on previously developed land.	No	No
HS63 Campbells Caravans	Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA/ Ramsar site	Housing (30 dwellings)	2019-2020	16/0112 Outline application minded to approve. Previously developed site with existing building. Ecology report (only in relation to bats). No NE consultation due to its urban location.	H	No Fylde Bird Club records within the allocation. Three records, one each for black-headed gull, herring gull and lesser black-backed gull were present approximately 100m to the north. Allocation site not within a goose index square or swan and goose IRZ. The allocation site is located in an urban location on previously developed land.	No	No
HS64 Land West of Church Road, Weeton	Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA/ Ramsar site	Housing (25 dwellings)	2019-2020	16/0811 Outline application for 25 dwellings approved 1/6/2017. NE consultation (letter dated: 31 st October 2016) advises the Council that the proposal is unlikely to affect any statutorily protected sites or landscapes.	H	No Fylde Bird Club records within the allocation, or within 300m. Allocation site not within a goose index square but lies of the edge of the swan and goose IRZ. The allocation site has the potential support SPA birds. However, the site is located adjacent to development to the north and roads to the east	No	No

Allocation site	European sites potentially affected	Type	Construction timeframe	Project level planning/HRA information (Fylde Borough Council, June 2018)	Assessment Category	Additional bird data review summary	Potential significant effect alone?	Potential for in-combination effects?
						(B5260) and south (M55) and the project-specific ecological surveys (Rachel Hacking Ecology, 2016) and consultation with GMEU (email dated 3 rd November 2016) did not identify any likely significant effects on European sites.		
HS66 Quernmore Trading Estate Freckleton	Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA/Ramsar site	Housing (9 dwellings)	2021-2022	16/1026 Refused on design grounds, but principle of development is acceptable. Previously developed site within urban area. Ecology report (Envirotech, 2016) and GMEU records did not identify any SPA/Ramsar site species, or suitable habitat for such species. No NE consultation due to its urban location.	H	No Fylde Bird Club records within the allocation, or within 300m. The allocation site is not within a goose index square although is within the swan and goose IRZ. The allocation site is located in an urban location on previously developed land.	No	No
HS67 St. Leonards Bridge Garage	Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA/Ramsar site	Housing (38 dwellings)	2019-2020	17/0299 Outline application, council resolved to approve subject to S106. Previously developed site within urban area. No ecology report (existing buildings still largely in use). No NE consultation due to its urban location.	H	No Fylde Bird Club records within the allocation, or within 300m. Allocation site not within a goose index square or swan and goose IRZ. The allocation site is located in an urban location on previously developed land.	No	No
HS68 Church Road Methodist Church	Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA/Ramsar site	Housing (10 dwellings)	2018-2019	17/0665 Full application approved 8/11/2017. Ecology report (only in relation to bats). No NE consultation due to its urban location (previously developed site).	H	No Fylde Bird Club records within the allocation, or within 300m. Allocation site not within a goose index square or swan and goose IRZ. The allocation site is located in an urban location on previously developed land.	No	No
HS69 Naze Court, Naze Lane, Freckleton	Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA/Ramsar site	Housing (12 dwellings (minus 10 net of demolitions))	2019-2020	This is a previously developed site where 22 apartments have been demolished earlier in the plan period. Application 14/0801 was withdrawn in 2015. No ecology report (previously developed land). No NE consultation due to its urban location.	H	No Fylde Bird Club records within the allocation, or within 300m. Allocation site not within a goose index square although does fall within the NE swan and goose IRZ. The allocation site is located in an urban location on previously developed land.	No	No
HS70 Land West of Woodlands Close, Newton	Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA/Ramsar site	Housing (50 dwellings)	2018-2019	16/0554 Outline application approved at appeal 18/8/2017. NE consultation (letter dated: 16 th November 2016) advised the council that the proposal is unlikely to affect any statutorily protected sites or landscapes. Ecological survey report (ERAP, August 2016) did not identify SPA/Ramsar site species, or suitable habitat for such species.	H	No Fylde Bird Club records within the allocation, or within 300m. Allocation site not within a goose index square, however it lies partially within the NE swan and goose IRZ. The allocation site comprises an intensively managed, narrow field adjacent to the western edge of Newton with the A583 to the north and screened from adjacent fields by hedgerows. As such, the project-specific ecology survey identified the site as being ' <i>considered unsuitable for use by overwintering wildfowl and wading bird species</i> ' (ERAP, August 2016).	No	No
HS71 North of High Gate and East of Copp Lane, Elswick	Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA/Ramsar site	Housing (24 dwellings)	2020-2021	16/0846 Outline application approved 22/12/2017; NE consultation (email dated 10 th November 2016) made no comments on the application. The lack of comment from Natural England does not imply that there are no impacts on the natural environment, but only that the application is not	H	No Fylde Bird Club records within the allocation, or within 300m. Allocation site not within a goose index square although does lie with the swan and goose IRZ.	No	No

Allocation site	European sites potentially affected	Type	Construction timeframe	Project level planning/HRA information (Fylde Borough Council, June 2018)	Assessment Category	Additional bird data review summary	Potential significant effect alone?	Potential for in-combination effects?
	Morecambe Bay and Duddon Estuary SPA Morecambe Bay Ramsar site.			likely to result in significant impacts on statutory designated nature conservation sites or landscapes.		The allocation site is small and enclosed, with existing development to the north, south and west. The project-specific ecological survey (Haycock and Jay Associates, 2016) did not identify any likely significant effects on European sites.		
HS72 Land North of Mill Lane, Elswick	Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA/Ramsar site Morecambe Bay and Duddon Estuary SPA Morecambe Bay Ramsar site.	Housing (50 dwellings)	2019-2020	17/0247 Outline application allowed for 50 dwellings at appeal 28/11/2017. Ecological Appraisal (TEP, November 2015) did not identify SPA/Ramsar site species, or suitable habitat for such species. NE consultation (letter dated: 6th April 2017) advises the council that the proposal is unlikely to affect any statutorily protected sites or landscapes.	H	No Fylde Bird Club records within the allocation, or within 300m. Allocation site not within a goose index square, although does lie with the swan and goose IRZ. The allocation site comprises green fields which could support SPA birds. However, the project-specific ecological appraisal did not identify the potential for any likely significant effects on European sites (TEP, 2015).	No	No
HS73 Land North of Beech Road, Elswick	Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA/Ramsar site Morecambe Bay and Duddon Estuary SPA Morecambe Bay Ramsar site.	Housing (50 dwellings)	2018-2019	16/0645 Full application allowed at appeal 28/11/2017. Ecological survey report (ERAP, August 2016 ²) did not identify SPA/Ramsar site species, or suitable habitat for such species. NE consultation (email dated: 13 th September 2016) made no comments on the application indicating that the application is not likely to result in significant impacts on statutory designated nature conservation sites or landscapes.	H	No Fylde Bird Club records within the allocation, or within 300m. Allocation site not within a goose index square, although does lie with the NE swan and goose IRZ. The allocation site comprises green fields which could support SPA birds. However, the project-specific ecological appraisal did not identify the potential for any likely significant effects on European sites (ERAP, August 2016 ²).	No	No

APPENDIX D

Natural England Consultation

The Local Plan: Part 1 Preferred Option was prepared for consultation for an eight-week period running from June to August 2013. The Preferred Option informed a Revised Preferred Option which was consulted upon in October – December 2015. This informed the Publication version of the Fylde Local Plan, which included both strategic and non-strategic sites for new homes and employment land, sites for gypsies, travellers and travelling show people, leisure, retail, tourism and community use, or a mixture of such uses. The Fylde Local Plan also contains Development Management policies, which will inform decisions on planning applications and appeals; together with policies to protect the natural and built environment and heritage assets.

A draft HRA Screening Report (based on the Revised Preferred Option of the Fylde Local Plan) was sent to Fylde Council and Natural England (NE) for comment in November 2015.

Fylde Council incorporated a number of recommendations set out within the draft HRA Screening Report (November 2015) into the submission version of the Fylde Local Plan (dated June 2016). In particular, strengthening policies to include reference to the need for project-level HRA, and the need for developers to consider potential impacts on European Sites through Policy ENV2. The 2016 HRA Screening Report assessed the Policies and Plans set out within the submission version of the Fylde Local Plan.

A consultation response was also received from NE on 1st April 2016 (a copy of which is presented below). NE advised that there was currently not sufficient information in the draft HRA Screening Report to conclude no Likely Significant Effect (LSE) on all site allocations, and further assessment would be required. The HRA Screening Report was then amended to address these issues and set out a more detailed assessment for the submission version HRA of the Local Plan (dated May 2017).

To validate the screening process and make it more robust, NE advised that that the following additional sources of information be reviewed to inform the submission version of the HRA Screening:

- *Wetland Bird Surveys (WeBS) records;*
- *Natural England's Impact Risk Zones (which now includes a new Impact Risk Zone (IRZ) for pink-footed geese;*
- *Local bird/ ornithological groups/clubs records to assist in the screening in/out of allocations;*
- *Local Record Centres;*
- *Relevant survey information from current and recent planning applications; and*
- *Morecambe Bay Wader Roost Study (acknowledging that this is primarily for Morecambe Bay but provides context and reference to the Ribble).*

Further email correspondence with NE confirmed that the additional assessment, in relation to bird data, would only need to be carried out on sites which do not currently have planning permission. All other sites would only need to be included as part of the in-combination effects assessment (if required). The publication version of the HRA (dated May 2017) provided details of the additional screening assessment which has been undertaken for the publication version of the Local Plan (February 2017).

NE also provided three further comments which were addressed within the publication version of the HRA (dated May 2017). These comprised:

A series of recommendations in Table 10 that the wording of certain policies should be strengthened to avoid potential impacts from future development on functionally linked land [i.e. land outside of the European site, but used by qualifying species associated with the European site]. This includes reference to the need for project level assessment at the development management stage.

The draft HRA Screening Report (November 2015) recommended that project-specific HRAs should be included within the following policies: EC5, EC6, INF1, T1, T2, and CL3. The Fylde Local Plan

(dated June 2016), included additional recommendations for project-specific HRAs to be included within Policies M1 and ENV2.

Where Appropriate Assessment identifies potential adverse effects, the Plan should be clear where there are potential constraints and that further assessment will be needed at the project stage.

Table 11 to Table 14 of the May 2017 HRA Report provided further information on the assessment of each strategic and non-strategic site. For sites which do not currently have planning permission, further assessment of the bird data was undertaken to determine the potential for likely significant effects on the European sites considered in the Screening Report. Sites where further project-level HRA has been carried out were detailed in Table 11 and Table 12. Table 12 Detailed Screening of Fylde Local Plan Non-Strategic Sites in relation to European Sites within and outside of Fylde (planning permission in progress/granted) *Strategic mitigation will need to be built in to the Plan to deal with effects arising from proposed allocations as well as any future development. The scope of the mitigation needs to be presented in the Plan along with an identified mechanism to deliver it. There should also be clear evidence that all alternative sites for the allocations have been explored. In assessing avoidance and mitigation there may be opportunities for cross-boundary solutions with neighbouring authorities.*

Based on the outcome of the detailed screening assessments within Table 11 to Table 14 of the May 2017 HRA Screening Report, no LSE was identified (assuming mitigation measures at the project-level have been implemented), therefore strategic mitigation measures at the Local Plan level were not required. A number of alternative sites for development have been considered throughout the Plan process, details of which are provided within the Sustainability Appraisal (SA). In terms of the HRA, consideration of alternatives is not considered at the Screening stage. This does not come into consideration until Stage 3 of the assessment i.e. if significant effects cannot be mitigated/compensated for at the Appropriate Assessment stage.

A further consultation response was received from NE on 6th September 2016 (a copy of which is presented below). NE advised that additional information was required to inform the screening assessment, and additional clarity was required to link the site references to the site plan.

The updated submission publication version of the HRA Screening Report (May 2017) included additional information to inform the detailed screening. In particular, in relation to sites with existing project-level HRA. The outcome of the publication version of the HRA concluded that with mitigation in place there would be no likely significant effects upon European sites as a result of the Local Plan and this was agreed with NE. Table 11 of the May 2017 Screening Report provided additional details of the mitigation measures which have been implemented at the project-level for those sites with planning permission in place/ granted. In relation to the site plan, Fylde Council provided a revised Policies Map to NE in January 2017. All sites included within May 2017 HRA Screening Report were shown on the revised Policies Map sent to NE (January 2017). Tables 13 and 14 were also updated in line with comments provided by NE (via email February 2017) in relation to the revised HRA screening tables for the Lancaster, Wyre and Fylde Local Plans.

Finally, consultation was also undertaken with NE in June 2018 (a copy of which is presented below) in relation to the HRA CJEU judgement (April 2018). This document (HRA Report, dated June 2018), provides an update to the submission version HRA Screening Report to take the ruling into consideration. The report has been amended to move allocations and policies where mitigation has been incorporated in order to reduce or avoid impacts on European sites from the Screening Stage into the Appropriate Assessment Stage, as required. These recent changes included within this HRA Report do not affect the outcome of the May 2017 HRA Screening Report, but ensures that the document is legally compliant.

Date: 01 April 2016

Reference:



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BY EMAIL ONLY

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Dear [REDACTED]

Fylde Local Plan to 2032: Revised Preferred Option

Thank you for your email dated 1 March 2016 on the above.

Natural England is a non-departmental public body. Our statutory purpose is to ensure that the natural environment is conserved, enhanced, and managed for the benefit of present and future generations, thereby contributing to sustainable development.

Thank you for your recent letter regarding Fylde Local Plan to 2032: Revised Preferred Option. As requested I am writing to summarise our advice regarding the Fylde Preferred Options consultation, specifically in relation to functionally linked.

Having reviewed the HRA, we note the series of recommendations in Table 10 that the wording of certain policies should be strengthened to avoid potential impacts from future development on functionally linked land. This includes reference to the need for project level assessment at the development management stage. We would like to see the revised wording before commenting further. As the Local Plan is to run to 2032 there is a need to future proof the plan, as additional allocations will come forward during this plan period, which may have reoccurring issues regarding functionally linked land.

We also note that the HRA concludes no likely significant effect (LSE) from any of the strategic and non-strategic allocations. For LSE to be ruled out at the Plan stage, you will need to be certain that this is the case. We advise that there is currently not enough information to conclude no LSE on all the site allocations and further assessment is required.

To validate the screening process and make it more robust we advise you use the following additional sources of information to further improve your screening assessment:

- WeBS records;
- Natural England's Impact Risk Zones (which now includes a new IRZ for pink footed geese);
- Local bird/ ornithological groups/clubs records to assist in the screening in/out of allocations
- Local Record Centres

Relevant survey information from current and recent planning applications
Morecambe Bay Wader Roost Study (acknowledging that this is primarily for Morecambe Bay but provides context and reference to the Ribble)

Where no LSE can be concluded, those sites can go forward. Where it cannot be concluded that there is no LSE, those sites will require Appropriate Assessment. However, we recognise that the Local Plan is behind and planning applications continue to come forward. We are also aware that many of the allocations have existing planning permission and that the remaining sites are relatively few. With this in mind, we would support a proportionate approach whereby the level of Appropriate Assessment is sufficient to determine the scale of impacts and an appropriate scale of mitigation.

Where Appropriate Assessment identifies potential adverse effects, the Plan should be clear where there are potential constraints and that further assessment will be needed at the project stage.

Strategic mitigation will need to be built in to the Plan to deal with effects arising from proposed allocations as well as any future development. The scope of the mitigation needs to be presented in the Plan along with an identified mechanism to deliver it. There should also be clear evidence that all alternative sites for the allocations have been explored. In assessing avoidance and mitigation there may be opportunities for cross-boundary solutions with neighbouring authorities.

Natural England would be happy to meet to clarify any points or to discuss further.

For any queries relating to the specific advice in this letter only please contact Kate Wheeler on 07769 918711. For any new consultations, or to provide further information on this consultation please send your correspondences to consultations@naturalengland.org.uk.

Yours sincerely



Manchester, Merseyside and Lancashire Area

Date: 30th November 2016
Our ref: 200333

[REDACTED]
Planning Policy Officer
Fylde Borough Council



[REDACTED]

BY EMAIL ONLY

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Dear [REDACTED]

St. Anne's on the Sea **NDP - HRA** Addendum to Screening Opinion

Thank you for your consultation on the above, which was received by Natural England on 2nd November 2016.

Overall we cannot agree with the conclusions reached at 4.1.3: *Consequently, it is considered that, whilst likely significant effects cannot be ruled out; there is little value in subjecting the Neighbourhood Development Plan to Appropriate Assessment at this stage.*

It is not acceptable to refer the issue to the project stage as uncertainty has to resolved and in any case proposals leading to a likely significant effect (or where there is uncertainty) cannot progress in a Neighbourhood Plan.

The field shown in the extension boundary was considered in the HRA for the Queensway development and added to the habitat loss calculations so that the mitigation area could be established. This area of land was originally ear-marked for development in the Fylde allocations of the Fylde Local Plan but ultimately taken out. In the HRA for Queensway Fylde LPA did take into account the original proposal for housing and concluded that the mitigation was sufficient to offset this field and that there would be no overlap in the construction periods.

It is recommended that this detail is included in the St Anne's HRA Addendum to Screening Opinion to explain that this area has been assessed as part of the Queensway development.

For any queries relating to the specific advice in this letter only please contact Kate Wheeler. For any new consultations, or to provide further information on this consultation please send your correspondences to consultations@naturalengland.org.uk.

We really value your feedback to help us improve the service we offer. We have attached a feedback form to this letter and welcome any comments you might have about our service.

Yours sincerely

A solid black rectangular box used to redact the signature of the sender.

Lead Advisor
Cheshire, Greater Manchester, Merseyside & Lancashire Area Team

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]@naturalengland.org.uk>
Sent: 11 June 2018 14:22
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: HRA issue re local plans

Hi all

We can confirm our advice in relation to the Sweetman II judgement and your local plan HRA as follows;

As competent authority, we advise that the Local Planning Authority are best placed to lead this issue. We would be happy to comment on additional HRA work before the Examination (in light of Sweetman II) and offer a written response to clarify our advice. However, we cannot offer a legal interpretation on what the case means for the local plan and advise that the LPA seeks their own legal opinion if this is necessary, after work on the amended HRA is complete.

When carrying out the analysis of the existing HRA it will be necessary to consider whether any measures at the screening stage are being relied upon to avoid or reduce the effects of the plan. This is as a result of the outcome of the Sweetman II judgement which concludes that that mitigation measures cannot be taken into account when deciding whether a plan or project is likely to have a significant effect on a European site. Rather, a competent authority must take account of measures intended to avoid or reduce the harmful effects of a plan or project as part of the appropriate assessment. Only then can a conclusion be drawn as to whether the plan or project will have an adverse effect on the integrity of the European site. This overrules the approach under English law that incorporated mitigation and avoidance measures could be taken into account at the screening stage when judging the risk of significant effect. We advise that where there is doubt over whether measures are classed as 'mitigation' then appropriate assessment should be undertaken. If Appropriate Assessment is required, an addendum may not be the best approach and advise instead that a more detailed redraft of the HRA may be necessary. We can offer further advice should this be the case.

We are happy to discuss the matter with your consultants and provide a formal written response to the amended HRA or Addendum once completed.

We trust the above clarifies our position, however should you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact us.

[REDACTED]
Lead Advisor, Planning Casework
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www.gov.uk/natural-england

We are here to secure a healthy natural environment for people to enjoy, where wildlife is protected and England's traditional landscapes are safeguarded for future generations.

In an effort to reduce Natural England's carbon footprint, I will, wherever possible, avoid travelling to meetings and attend via audio, video or web conferencing.

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