

Rossendale Borough Council

**Core Strategy Development Plan Document:
Publication Version (September 2010)**

**Habitats Regulations Assessment:
Stage 1 - Screening**

November 2010

Rossendale Borough Council

Core Strategy Development Plan Document: Publication Version (September 2010)

Habitats Regulations Assessment:

Stage 1 – Screening

Record of Assessment of Likely Significant Effect on a European Site Required by Regulation 21 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010

November 2010

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Document History

JOB NUMBER: 5094442			DOCUMENT REF: 22.10.10 Tracked changes AVS 15.09.10 Rossendale HRA Screening Report - FINAL[CES]			
02	Final Report following Client Comments	C Sellars	-	J Box	C West	05/11/10
01	Draft Report for Client Approval	C Sellars	-	J Box (06/09/10)	A Grove	10/09/10
Revision	Purpose Description	Originated	Checked	Reviewed	Authorised	Date
			ATKINS			

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1. Introduction and Background

1.1 Background to this Assessment

Scott Wilson Limited produced a *Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) Screening (Stage 1) of the Rossendale Core Strategy* in September 2009. This assessment was based on Rossendale Borough Council's *Core Strategy Development Plan Document: The Proposed Way Forward* (2009). The Scott Wilson Limited report concluded that the Core Strategy may lead to likely significant effects on international sites and, as such, it was necessary to proceed to Stage 2 of the HRA process (Appropriate Assessment).

Since this time the Core Strategy has been updated: *Core Strategy Development Plan Document: Publication Version* (September 2010). This has involved updating the contents of the policies and the supporting text. Following these revisions to the Core Strategy, advice has been taken from Natural England and it has been agreed that it is prudent to repeat Stage 1 of the HRA process (Screening) on the revised Core Strategy.

Atkins Limited (Atkins) has been commissioned by Rossendale Borough Council (RBC) to undertake Stage 1 of the HRA process (Screening) on the *Core Strategy Development Plan Document: Publication Version* (September 2010). The information in this report has been gathered on behalf of the Competent Authority (in this case Rossendale Borough Council) to allow them to make a decision on whether there will be any likely significant effects on internationally important sites as a result of the Core Strategy.

The *Core Strategy Development Plan Document (DPD): Publication Draft* is hereafter referred to as 'the Plan'. The Plan covers the whole borough of Rossendale and is a high-level strategic document that sets out a vision of what Rossendale will be like by 2027. The Plan has six Area Visions and Policies and 24 Topic Planning Policies (a total of 30 policies).

The findings of this HRA will contribute to the Sustainability Appraisal of the Core Strategy.

1.2 Background to Habitat Regulations Assessment

In the UK, the European Habitats Directive (Directive 92/42/EEC) has been transposed into national legislation in the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (the Habitat Regulations)¹. Regulation 21 implements the requirements of Article 6.3 of the Directive for Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) of a project or plan. Such an assessment is required where a plan or project under consideration is likely to have a significant effect on a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) or Special Protection Area (SPA). In such assessments, *Planning Policy Statement 9: Biodiversity and Geological Conservation* (PPS9) states that consideration is also given to sites designated as Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar sites), potential SPAs and candidate SACs. Hereafter, these sites are collectively referred to as 'international sites'.

¹ On 6th April 2010, the Conservation (Natural Habitats &c.) Regulations 1994 and its amendments were consolidated into the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 in respect of European protected species, Habitats Regulations Assessment and other issues. The 2010 Regulations replace the 1994 Regulations.

The stages of the HRA process are:

- **Stage 1 – Screening:** To test whether a plan or project either alone or in combination with other plans and projects is likely to have a significant effect on an international site;
- **Stage 2 – Appropriate Assessment:** To determine whether, in view of an international site's conservation objectives, the plan (either alone or in combination with other projects and plans) would have an adverse effect (or risk of this) on the integrity of the site with respect to the site structure, function and conservation objectives. If adverse impacts are anticipated, potential mitigation measures to alleviate impacts should be proposed and assessed;
- **Stage 3 – Assessment of alternative solutions:** Where a plan is assessed as having an adverse impact (or risk of this) on the integrity of an international site, there should be an examination of alternatives (e.g. alternative locations and designs of development); and
- **Stage 4 – Assessment where no alternative solutions remain and where adverse impacts remain:** In exceptional circumstance (e.g. where there are imperative reasons of overriding public interest), compensatory measures to be put in place to offset negative impacts.

Stage 1 of the HRA process has been carried out in this report.

1.3 Outline of this Report

Following this introduction:

- Section 2 outlines the methodology used for this HRA;
- Section 3 provides details relating to international sites included in this HRA (including Conservation Objectives and vulnerabilities and sensitivities of each site);
- Section 4 outlines details of the Plan;
- Section 5 details the results of the HRA Stage 1 Assessment; and
- Section 6 provides the conclusions of the HRA.

2. Methodology

2.1 The Plan

The first step of the HRA process is to gather all available information regarding the Plan. This information is pivotal for the analysis of the Plan and its impact on the international sites. A summary of the Plan and its contents is given in Section 4.

2.2 Determination of the International Sites included in the HRA

The next step is to determine which international sites should be included in the HRA. An initial review of the Plan in light of the Habitats Regulations has been undertaken by Atkins as part of the HRA process. This initial review looked at the geographic extent or zone of influence of any impacts that could arise as a result of the Plan and considered which international sites should be included within the assessment. The findings of the Scott Wilson Limited *Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) Screening (Stage 1) of the Rossendale Core Strategy* (September 2009) was also undertaken to help determine which international sites should be included in the assessment.

As a starting point, all sites within Rossendale and up to 20 km from the Borough boundary were identified². There are no international sites within Rossendale. However, there are four international sites within 20 km of the Borough boundary. These are:

- Rochdale Canal SAC: Located approximately 3.1 km south-east of the Borough boundary;
- South Pennine Moors SAC: Located approximately 3.1 km north-east of the Borough boundary;
- South Pennine Moors Phase 2 SPA: Located approximately 3.1 km north-east of the Borough boundary; and,
- Peak District Moors (South Pennine Moors Phase 1) SPA: Located approximately 13 km south-east of the Borough boundary;

All of these international sites have been included in this HRA.

In addition, Bowland Fells SPA has also been included in this assessment. This international site is located approximately 24.7 km north-west of the Borough boundary. The bird assemblage at this site is similar to the two SPAs listed above (both supporting breeding populations of merlin). It is possible birds from Bowland Fells SPA may move between this site and the Peak District Moors (South Pennine Moors Phase 1) and South Pennine Moors Phase 2 SPAs. One of the policies within the Plan relates to the provision of wind farms within the Borough. As such, Bowland Fells SPA has been included in this HRA to allow an assessment of any likely significant effects on any birds moving between these international sites.

² The Environment Agency Integrated Pollution Control (IPC) and Pollution Prevention and Control (PPC) guidance notes that a proposal to construct a coal or oil fired power station should consider impacts on international sites up to 15 km away (Page 4 of the *Habitats Directive – Work Instruction: Appendix 7 Technical and Procedural Issues Specific to IPC and PPC* produced by the Environment Agency in July 2004). The most recent England Leisure Visits report states that people will travel up to 17.3 km to a countryside destination (*England Leisure Visits: Summary of the 2005 Leisure Visits Survey*, Natural England, 2005).

Therefore this HRA is a record of the assessment of 'likely significant effects' from the Plan on five international sites: Rochdale Canal SAC, South Pennine Moors SAC, South Pennine Moors Phase 2 SPA, Peak District Moors (South Pennine Moors Phase 1) SPA and Bowland Fells SPA. Further details of the international sites including their location, designation details and conservation objectives are provided in Section 3.

2.3 Obtaining Information on International Sites with the Potential to be Affected

The next step is to gather the information on the international sites to be included in the HRA. This includes contacting Natural England for the Conservation Objectives and Favourable Conditions Tables for each international site.

The Conservation Objectives and Favourable Conditions Tables for the five international sites included in the HRA have been obtained from Natural England for the purpose of this assessment (see Section 3).

2.4 Other Projects and Plans

In accordance with the Habitat Regulations there is a need to consider the potential for likely significant effects of the Plan 'in combination' with other projects and plans. This has been considered as part of this assessment (see Section 5 below).

2.5 Assessing the Impacts of the Plan

Following the gathering of information on the Plan and the international sites, an assessment was undertaken to predict the likely significant effects of the Plan on the international sites 'alone'. In order to inform this process, all parts of the Core Strategy were assessed to see if they could result in likely significant effects on the five international sites including an assessment of all Area Vision Policies and all Topic Planning Policies.

The findings of this assessment for each policy are given in Tables A-1 and A-2 in Appendix A. Where possible, policies that have been found to have no likely significant effect on an international site have been categorised into one of five different types. This has been based on *The Habitats Regulations Assessment of Local Development Documents (Revised Draft Guidance)* produced by Natural England in February 2009:

- **Policy Type A1:** Policies that will not themselves lead to development (e.g. because they relate to design or other qualitative criteria for development, or they are not a land use planning policy);
- **Policy Type A2:** Policies intended to protect the natural environment, including biodiversity;
- **Policy Type A3:** Policies intended to conserve or enhance the natural, built or historic environment, where enhancement measures will not be likely to have any negative effect on an international site;
- **Policy Type A4:** Policies that positively steer development away from international sites and associated sensitive areas; and,
- **Policy Type A5:** Policies that would have no effect because no development could occur through the policy itself, the development being implemented through later policies in the

same plan that are more specific and therefore more appropriate to assess for their effects in international sites and associated sensitive areas.

Section 5 summarises the findings of the HRA Stage 1 Screening in relation to the five international sites.

The assessment of likely significant effects is largely based on the qualifying features (interest features) of the international site. If any plan or project causes the cited interest features of a site to fall into unfavourable condition they can be considered to have a likely significant effect on the site.

Plans or projects can lead to significant effects on an international site by:

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

Stage 1 of the HRA process does not assess effects on integrity of international sites (this forms Stage 2 of the HRA process). However the definition of integrity provided below has been taken into account during the assessment of likely significant effects:

“...the coherence of its ecological structure and function, across its whole area, that enables it to sustain the habitat, complex of habitats and/or the levels of populations of the species for which it was classified.”³

HRA is an iterative process. Where necessary, suggestions can be made of how to amend the Plan to avoid likely significant effects on an international site. This iterative approach has been adopted as part of this assessment and changes to the publication version of the Core Strategy have been made as part of the Screening assessment process.

The precautionary principle (as enshrined in the Habitats Regulations) has been taken into account during this HRA. The precautionary principle is used when an HRA cannot objectively demonstrate that there will be no likely significant effects on the international sites. If this occurs, the subsequent stages of HRA must be completed for the project or plan.

³ Part I, Section B, Paragraph 20 of ODPM Circular 06/2005 accompanying Planning Policy Statement 9: Biodiversity and Geological Conservation

3. The International Sites

This section includes information about the five international sites included in this HRA, including information relating to each site's designation status, location, features and conservation objectives.

Table 3.1 - Information about Rochdale Canal SAC

Site Designation Status	Rochdale Canal SAC
Location of International Site	The site is located approximately 3.1 km south-east of the plan boundary, in the centre of Rochdale.
Brief Description of the International Site	<p>Rochdale Canal qualifies for European protection due to the site supporting a significant population of floating water-plantain (<i>Luronium natans</i>), an Annex II species which is a primary qualifying feature of the site. The site also supports a botanically diverse waterplant community which holds a wide range of pondweeds (<i>Potamogeton</i> spp.).</p> <p>This population of floating water plantain is representative of the formerly more widespread canal populations of north-west England.</p>
Conservation Objectives of the International Site	<p>The Conservation Objective for Rochdale Canal is (subject to natural change) to maintain* in favourable condition, the habitats for the population of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Floating water-plantain (<i>Luronium natans</i>) <p>* maintenance implies restoration if the feature is not currently in favourable condition⁴.</p>
Vulnerabilities and Pressures on the International Site ⁵	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The canal contains important habitats for submerged aquatic plants and emergent vegetation, including extensive colonies of floating water plantain. As such this site is likely to be sensitive to changes in water quality; The site has recently been restored as an active working canal and whilst much work has been carried out by British Waterways to maintain the ecology of the site before and after the restoration, Natural England believe that the Canal is still recovering from the dredging and plant translocation undertaken during the restoration. There are concerns about future boat movement and the effects of this on the floating water plantain⁶.

⁴ Taken from English Nature's *Rochdale Canal SSSI* v2 29/03/01

⁵ Natura 2000 Standard Data Form for Rochdale Canal SAC (produced by JNCC, Version 2.1, 23/05/02)

⁶ Page 20 of the *Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) Screening (Stage 1) of the Rossendale Borough Council Core Strategy – Appendices* (produced by Scott Wilson Limited in September 2009)

Table 3.2 - Information about South Pennine Moors SAC

Site Designation Status	South Pennine Moors SAC
Location of International Site	The site is located approximately 3.1 km north-east of the plan boundary, near Holme Chapel in Burnley.
Brief Description of the International Site	<p>The South Pennine Moors SAC qualifies for European protection due to the site supporting the following Annex I habitats which are primary qualifying features of the site:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • European dry heaths; • Blanket bogs; and, • Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> (holly) and <i>Blechnum</i> (ferns). <p>The site also supports the following Annex II habitats which are a qualifying feature of the site but not the primary reason for selection:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> (cross-leaved heath); and • Transition mires and quaking bogs. <p>This is a large site which is split into a number of separate component parts.</p>
Conservation Objectives of the International Site	<p>The Conservation Objectives for this site are (subject to natural change) to maintain* in favourable condition, the habitats of European importance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • European dry heaths; • blanket bog (active only); • old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i>; • Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i>; and, • transition mires and quaking bogs. <p>* maintenance implies restoration if the feature is not currently in favourable condition⁷.</p>
Vulnerabilities and Pressures on the International Site ⁸	<p>The site is sensitive to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • management techniques (including grazing and burning). There are a number of key pressures upon the site; these include overgrazing by sheep, burning as a tool for grouse moor management and inappropriate drainage through moor-gripping; • decreases in air quality. Atmospheric pollution over the last few hundred years has depleted the lichen and bryophyte flora at the site and be affecting dwarf-shrubs; • impacts associated with access and recreation (e.g. trampling and accidental fires); and, • In some parts of the site, rhododendron, an invasive plant species listed on Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended), has become established and is choking out native flora.

⁷ Taken from English Nature's *Leek Moors SSSI* v4 26/03/02, *Goyt Valley SSSI* v3 26/03/01 and *Dark Peak SSSI* v3 26/03/01 and Natural England's *Conservation Objectives: South Pennine Moors SSSI (Consultation Draft)* 02/10/07, Format Version 2.

⁸ Natura 2000 Standard Data Form for South Pennine Moors SAC (produced by JNCC, Version 2.1, 23/05/02)

Table 3.3 - Information about South Pennine Moors Phase 2 SPA

Site Designation Status	South Pennine Moors Phase 2 SPA
Location of International Site	The site is located approximately 3.1 km north-east of the plan boundary, near Holme Chapel in Burnley.
Brief Description of the International Site	<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"> • Golden plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>): 752 pairs representing at least 3.3% of the breeding population in Great Britain; • Merlin (<i>Falco columbarius</i>): 77 pairs representing at least 5.9% of the breeding population in Great Britain; • Peregrine (<i>Falco peregrinus</i>): 16 pairs representing at least 1.4% of the breeding population in Great Britain; and, • Short-eared owl (<i>Asio flammeus</i>): 25 pairs representing at least 2.5% of the breeding population in Great Britain. <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"> • Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina schinzii</i>): 140 pairs representing at least 1.3% of the breeding Baltic/UK/Ireland population
Conservation Objectives of the International Site	<p>The Conservation Objectives for this site are (subject to natural change) to maintain the following habitats and geological features in favourable condition(*), with particular reference to any dependent component special interest features (habitats, vegetation types, species, species assemblages etc.) for which the land is designated (SSSI, SAC, SPA, Ramsar)+:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dwarf shrub heath (upland) • Bogs • Fen, marsh and swamp • Acid grassland (upland) • Broadleaved, mixed and yew woodland • Neutral grassland (upland) • Upland mosaic <p>* maintenance implies restoration if the feature is not currently in favourable condition⁹.</p> <p>+ Including merlin, peregrine, red grouse, golden plover, little ringed plover, dunlin, snipe, curlew, redshank, common sandpiper, short-eared owl, grey wagtail, dipper, whinchat, wheatear, ring ouzel and twite.</p>

⁹ Taken from Natural England's *Conservation Objectives: South Pennine Moors SSSI (Consultation Draft)* 02/10/07, Format Version 2.

Vulnerabilities and Pressures on the International Site ¹⁰	<p>The site is sensitive to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visitor pressure with the site being flanked on two sides by industrial urban areas; • Habitat degradation and damage through physical erosion, fire and air pollution; • Agricultural improvement of surrounding areas which are used by some bird species for some of their habitat requirements (e.g. golden plovers); and, • Management techniques (including grazing and burning).
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Table 3.4 - Information about Peak District Moors (South Pennine Moors Phase 1) SPA

Site Designation Status	Peak District Moors (South Pennine Moors Phase 1) SPA
Location of International Site	The site is located approximately 13 km south-east of the plan boundary, near Marsden in West Yorkshire.
Brief Description of the International Site	<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"> • Golden plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>): 752 pairs representing at least 3.3% of the breeding population in Great Britain; • Merlin (<i>Falco columbarius</i>): 77 pairs representing at least 5.9% of the breeding population in Great Britain; • Peregrine (<i>Falco peregrinus</i>): 16 pairs representing at least 1.4% of the breeding population in Great Britain; and, • Short-eared Owl (<i>Asio flammeus</i>): 25 pairs representing at least 2.5% of the breeding population in Great Britain. <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"> • Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina schinzii</i>): 140 pairs representing at least 1.3% of the breeding Baltic/UK/Ireland population
Conservation Objectives of the International Site	<p>The Conservation Objectives for this site, are (subject to natural change) to maintain* in favourable condition, the habitats for the population of Annex 1 species + of European importance with particular reference to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • blanket mire • dwarf shrub heath • acid grassland • gritstone edges

¹⁰ Natura 2000 Standard Data Form for South Pennine Moors Phase 1 SPA (produced by JNCC, Version 1.1, 05/05/06)

		<p>* maintenance implies restoration if the feature is not currently in favourable condition¹¹.</p> <p>+ golden plover, merlin, short-eared owl</p>
Vulnerabilities and Pressures on the International Site ¹²	and the	<p>The site is sensitive to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visitor pressure with over two thirds of the site being open to public access; • Habitat degradation and damage through physical erosion, fire and air pollution; • Agricultural improvement of surrounding areas which are used by some bird species for some of their habitat requirements (e.g. golden plovers); and, <p>Management techniques (including grazing and burning).</p>

Table 3.5 - Information about Bowland Fells SPA

Site Designation Status	Bowland Fells SPA
Location of International Site	The site is located approximately 24.7 km north-west of the plan boundary, near Whitewell in Ribble Valley.
Brief Description of the International Site	<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>), 13 pairs representing up to 2.6% of the breeding population in Great Britain (Three year mean 1995-1997); and, • Merlin (<i>Falco columbarius</i>), 20 pairs representing up to 1.5% of the breeding population in Great Britain (Three year mean, 1994-1996) <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>), 13,900 pairs representing up to 11.2% of the breeding Western Europe/Mediterranean/Western Africa population.
Conservation Objectives of the International Site	The Conservation Objectives for this site are (subject to natural change) to maintain* in favourable condition, the following habitats and geological features in favourable condition (*), with particular reference to any dependent component special interest features (habitats, vegetation types,

¹¹ Taken from English Nature's Leek Moors SSSI v4 26/03/02, Goyt Valley SSSI v3 26/03/01 and Dark Peak SSSI v3 26/03/01 and Natural England's *Conservation Objectives: South Pennine Moors SSSI (Consultation Draft)* 02/10/07, Format Version 2.

¹² Natura 2000 Standard Data Form for Peak District Moors (South Pennine Moors Phase 1) SPA (produced by JNCC, Version 1.1, 05/05/06)

		<p>species, species assemblages etc.) for which the land is designated:</p> <p>Habitat Types represented (Biodiversity Action Plan categories):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blanket Bog; • Upland Heathland; • Upland Flushes, Fens and Swamps; and, • Broadleaved, Mixed and Yew Woodland. <p>Geological features (Geological Site Types):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fluvial Geomorphology of NW England. <p>* maintenance implies restoration if the feature is not currently in favourable condition¹³.</p>
Vulnerabilities Pressures on International Site ¹⁴	and the	<p>The site is sensitive to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • over grazing, • burning; • water catchment and land management practices; and • raptor persecution.

¹³ Taken from Natural England's *Conservation Objectives: Bowland Fells* (Draft, Format Version 1, 18/3/2009)
English Nature *pSAC: Rochdale Canal/Component SSSI: Rochdale Canal* (Rochdale Canal SSSI v2 29/03/01)

¹⁴ Natura 2000 Standard Data Form for Bowland Fells SPA (produced by JNCC, Version 1.1, 05/05/06)

4. Plan Details

4.1 Proposed Plan

The publication version of the Rossendale Core Strategy (the Plan) is an overarching document that sets the main direction and amount of development for the Borough over the next 15 years. It provides the strategic context that will guide the preparation of subsequent Development Plan Documents (DPDs) identified in the Local Development Framework (LDF).

None of the proposals within the Plan are directly connected with, or necessary to the nature conservation management of the five international sites.

4.2 Brief Description of Plan

The Plan includes an overall vision that sets out what Rossendale will be like after the Plan has been successfully implemented. There are eight objectives in the Plan that cover the main issues for Rossendale and set out how the planning process for the next 15 years will address, improve and deliver them.

The Plan has six Area Visions and Policies that act as a guide for future development in the area (but do not allocate land for specific uses). The Plan also has 24 Topic Planning Policies that cover the different types of development planned to occur in Rossendale by 2027 and set out the Council's approach to managing new development at the same time as protecting and enhancing the natural and manmade assets in the Borough.

4.3 Provisions within the Plan that protect the Environment

When planning applications are determined, all of the relevant policies and supporting text in the Plan are taken into account and used as the basis for decision-making.

Within the Plan there are a number of provisions that seek to protect the environment. These include:

- **HRA text in Section 1 of the Core Strategy:** Section 1 of the Plan has text relating to international sites and HRA process. This text explains the HRA process and how this process has been dealt with in relation to the Core Strategy (see Inset 1 below);
- **Strategic Objective 7:** This objective states that Rossendale's natural environment and landscapes will be enhanced and protected;
- **Policy 1 – General Development Locations and Principles:** This policy states that the Council will seek to enhance and protect the countryside and biodiversity resources including habitats and species;
- **Policy 14 – Tourism:** This policy states that key biodiversity sites will be conserved and, where possible, enhanced alongside the development of the local tourist industry (in particular within the designated moorland of the South Pennines);
- **Policy 17 – Rossendale's Green Infrastructure:** This policy seeks to promote the protection, enhancement and, where appropriate, the expansion of the Green Infrastructure network within the Borough. It also seeks to protect the environment in response to climate

change by requiring all new developments to utilise flood risk management (such as Sustainable Drainage Systems) and reduce air and water pollution; and commits to pursuing the implementation of Natural England's Access to Natural Greenspace Standards (ANGSt) over the lifetime of the Core Strategy.

- **Policy 18 - Biodiversity, Geodiversity and Landscape Conservation:** This policy states that development that would have adverse impacts on a habitat or species protected by law (including international sites) will not be permitted. It also seeks to protect water quality, ground water flows and air quality; and,
- **Policy 20 – Wind Energy:** This policy seeks to protect internationally important sites designated for their bird populations and states that any proposals must prove that they do not adversely impact upon areas of ecological value or fragment the migration routes of protected bird species and, where necessary, demonstrate how negative impacts will be mitigated.

Inset 1: HRA text included in Section 1 of the Core Strategy

Habitats Regulations Assessment

Under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (the Habitats Regulations) the first stage of the Habitat Regulations Assessment process (Stage 1 - Screening) has been undertaken of the Core Strategy in order to see whether its proposals could result in likely significant effects upon international sites. International sites are those that have been designated for their international nature conservation interests and include:

- Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) designated under European Council Directive 92/43/EEC(a) on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora (the Habitats Directive);
- Special Protection Areas (SPA) designated under the European Council Directive 79/409/EEC on the Conservation of Wild Birds (the Birds Directive); and,
- The UK Government in the Circular accompanying Planning Policy Statement 9 Biodiversity and Geological Conservation has as a matter of policy chosen to apply the Habitats Regulations Assessment procedures in respect of Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar sites), candidate SACs (cSACs) and potential SPAs (pSPAs) even though these are not European sites as a matter of law.

There are no international sites within Rossendale. However there are five international sites within 25 km of the Core Strategy boundary including: Rochdale Canal SAC, South Pennine Moors SAC, Peak District Moors (South Pennine Moors Phase 1) SPA, South Pennine Moors SPA and Bowland Fells SPA.

The HRA of the Core Strategy has found that there are no likely significant effects on these five international sites. A copy of this assessment is available on request from Rossendale Borough Council.

HRA Process Going Forward

Lower Tier Plans

In addition to the Core Strategy, all of Rossendale Borough Council's Local Development Documents (LDDs) will be subject to the HRA process. This will include the following plans:

- Site Allocations Development Plan Document (DPD); and,
- Adopted Proposals Map DPD.

The need to carry out the HRA process on Supplementary Planning Documents (SPD) will be reviewed and agreed with Natural England when they are produced.

Should the HRA process of lower tier plans (such as the Site Allocations DPD) determine that there are proposals that might lead to likely significant effects on international sites, the Council will work with Natural

England to agree suitable mitigation measures. However, should it not be possible to adequately mitigate the effects the proposal will not be included in the Plan. Where there are reasons of overriding public interest and the HRA is unable to conclude no significant effects on the international site(s), the Secretary of State will be notified to allow them to call in the Plan for determination. In these situations compensatory measures to protect the international site(s) must be put in place.

Development Control

Any development proposals that arise from the policies within the Core Strategy that may have a likely significant effect on an international site will be subject to further consideration and assessment through the HRA process. Developers will be required to provide the Competent Authority (in this case Rossendale Borough Council) with a thorough ecological assessment of the likely effects of the proposed development on the relevant international site (or sites) so as to allow the Competent Authority the ability to carry out the relevant stage(s) of the HRA process.

Any development that, through the relevant stages of the HRA process, cannot demonstrate to the Competent Authority and Natural England that it would not have a significant effect on an international site (or that the effects can be adequately mitigated) will be refused. This is in accordance with the precautionary principle enshrined within the Habitats Regulations.

Where there are reasons of overriding public interest and the Competent Authority is unable to conclude no significant effects on the international site(s), the authority will notify the Secretary of State and allow them to call in the application for determination. In these situations compensatory measures to protect the international site(s) must be put in place.

5. HRA Stage 1 Screening Results

Site Designation Status	<p>Rochdale Canal SAC</p> <p>South Pennine Moors SAC</p> <p>Peak District Moors (South Pennine Moors Phase 1) SPA</p> <p>South Pennine Moors Phase 2 SPA</p> <p>Bowland Fells SPA</p>
Describe the individual elements of the Plan likely to give rise to impacts on the international sites	<p>None of the 30 policies (or the proposals therein) present in the RBCs <i>Core Strategy Development Plan Document – Publication Version</i> will lead to likely effects on the five international sites.</p> <p>A number of policies in the Plan may lead to development in the long term. However, the policies refer to development within Rossendale in general terms only. There is no mention of specific locations of development and, for example, no details of housing numbers or locations of windfarms are provided. The location of development will be determined in lower tier plans (such as the Site Allocations DPD) or on a case by case basis when planning applications come forward.</p> <p>The HRA text in Section 1 of the Plan states that any planning applications that arise on a case by case basis arise from the policies within the Core Strategy that may have a likely significant effect on an international site will be subject to further consideration and assessment through the HRA process. Developers will be required to provide the Competent Authority (in this case RBC) with a thorough ecological assessment of the likely effects of the proposed development on the relevant international site (or sites) so as to allow the Competent Authority the ability to carry out the relevant stage(s) of the HRA process. It also states that any development that, through the relevant stages of the HRA process, cannot demonstrate to the Competent Authority and Natural England that it would not have a significant effect on an international site (or that the effects can be adequately mitigated) will be refused. This is in accordance with the precautionary principle enshrined within the Habitats Regulations.</p> <p>Furthermore, the HRA text in Section 1 of the Plan commits to all of RBC's Local Development Documents (LDDs) being subject to the HRA process. Should the HRA process of lower tier plans (such as the Site Allocations DPD) determine that there are proposals that might lead to likely significant effects on international sites, the Council will work with Natural England to agree suitable mitigation measures. However, should it not be possible to adequately mitigate the effects, the proposal will not be included in the Plan.</p> <p>Policy 18 – Biodiversity, Geodiversity and Landscape Conservation</p>

	<p>states that development that would affect a species or habitat protected by law (which includes international sites) will not be permitted unless there are no adverse impacts on habitats and/or species or that alternative provisions are effective in maintaining affected species and/or habitats.</p> <p>As no specific locations or quanta for development are provided within the policies in the Plan, this approach to the HRA process will not affect the deliverability of the Core Strategy.</p> <p>Given these protection measures contained within the Plan, it is considered that there will be no likely significant effects on the qualifying features of these five international sites from these policies.</p> <p>The justifications of findings for each of the 30 policies are provided in Tables A-1 and A-2 in Appendix A below.</p>
<p>Describe any likely direct, indirect or secondary impacts of the Plan on the international sites by virtue of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Size and scale; • Land take; • Resource requirements (i.e. water extraction etc); • Emissions (disposal to land, water or air); • Excavation requirements; • Duration of construction, operation, decommissioning etc.; and • Other. 	<p>Due to the measures present within the Plan to protect the international sites, there are no likely direct, indirect or secondary impacts on the qualifying features of these five international sites from any of the policies in the Core Strategy (see Tables A-1 and A-2 in Appendix A below).</p>
<p>Describe any likely changes to the international sites arising as a result of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduction of habitat area; • Disturbance to key species; • Habitat or species fragmentation; • Reduction in species density; • Changes in key indicators of conservation value (e.g. water quality); and • Climate change 	<p>Due to the measures present within the Plan to protect the international sites, there are no likely changes to the qualifying features of these five international sites from any of the policies in the Core Strategy (see Tables A-1 and A-2 in Appendix A below).</p>

<p>Describe from the above those elements of the project, or combination of elements, where the above impacts are likely to be significant or where the scale or magnitude of impacts is not known</p>	<p>An assessment of in combination effects was completed by Scott Wilson Limited as part of the Screening assessment of the <i>Core Strategy Development Plan Document: The Proposed Way Forward</i> Core Strategy (2009) completed in September 2009.</p> <p>The data collected by Scott Wilson in relation to other projects and plans (to allow an assessment of the 'in combination' impacts) has not been updated as part of this Stage 1 Screening assessment of the publication version of the Core Strategy. This is because the current assessment of the publication version of the Core Strategy has concluded that there are no likely significant effects on the qualifying features of these five international sites from the policies within the Plan 'alone'.</p> <p>Information on other projects and plans will not alter the conclusion of no likely significant effects found from this Screening and, as such, this has not been included as part of this assessment (i.e. as the Plan will have no likely significant effects alone it will have no likely significant effects in combination).</p>
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6. Conclusions

Is the Publication Version of the Core Strategy likely to have a significant effect on the Rochdale Canal SAC, South Pennine Moors SAC, Peak District Moors (South Pennine Moors Phase 1) SPA, South Pennine Moors Phase 2 SPA or Bowland Fells SPA?

Atkins has completed Stage 1 of the Habitats Regulations Assessment process for the RBC *Core Strategy Development Plan Document: Publication Version* (September 2010).

HRA is required by Regulation 21 of the Conservation Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 for all plans and projects that may have adverse effects on international sites.

Five international sites have been considered in this HRA:

- Rochdale Canal SAC: Located approximately 3.1 km south-east of the Borough boundary;
- South Pennine Moors SAC: Located approximately 3.1 km north-east of the Borough boundary;
- South Pennine Moors Phase 2 SPA: Located approximately 3.1 km north-east of the Borough boundary;
- Peak District Moors (South Pennine Moors Phase 1) SPA: Located approximately 13 km south-east of the Borough boundary; and,
- Bowland Fells SPA: Located approximately 24.7 km north-west of the Borough boundary.

This HRA has assessed whether the 30 policies within the Plan are likely to lead to significant effects on these international sites and what these likely impacts are.

None of the 30 policies (or the proposals therein) present in the Rossendale Borough Council's *Core Strategy Development Plan Document – Publication Version* will lead to likely significant effects on the five international sites.

A number of policies in the Plan may lead to development in the long term. However, the policies refer to development within Rossendale in general terms only. There is no mention of specific locations of development and, for example, no details of housing numbers or wind farm locations are provided. The location of development will be determined in lower tier plans (such as the Site Allocations DPD) or on a case by case basis when planning applications come forward.

The HRA text in Section 1 of the Plan states that any planning applications that arise on a case by case basis from the policies within the Core Strategy that may have a likely significant effect on an international site will be subject to further consideration and assessment through the HRA process. Developers will be required to provide the Competent Authority (in this case RBC) with a thorough ecological assessment of the likely effects of the proposed development on the relevant international site (or sites) so as to allow the Competent Authority the ability to carry out the relevant stage(s) of the HRA process. It also states that any development that, through the relevant stages of the HRA process, cannot demonstrate to the Competent Authority and Natural England that it would not have a significant effect on an international site (or that the effects can be adequately mitigated) will be refused. This is in accordance with the precautionary principle enshrined within the Habitats Regulations.

Furthermore, the HRA text in Section 1 of the Plan commits to all of Rossendale Borough Council's Local Development Documents (LDDs) being subject to the HRA process. Should the HRA process of lower tier plans (such as the Site Allocations DPD) determine that there are

proposals that might lead to likely significant effects on international sites, the Council will work with Natural England to agree suitable mitigation measures. However, should it not be possible to adequately mitigate the effects the proposal will not be included in the Plan.

Policy 18 – Biodiversity, Geodiversity and Landscape Conservation states that development that would affect a species or habitat protected by law (which includes international sites) will not be permitted unless there are no adverse impacts on habitats and/or species or that alternative provisions are effective in maintaining affected species and/or habitats.

As no specific locations or quanta for development are provided within the policies in the Plan, this approach to the HRA process will not affect the deliverability of the Core Strategy.

In conclusion, for the reasons outlined above, it is considered that the publication version of the Core Strategy and its policies will not (alone or in combination) lead to likely significant effects on the qualifying features of the five international sites that have been considered.

Appendix A

Results of the HRA Stage 1 (Screening) on the Publication Version of the Core Strategy

A.1 HRA Results Tables

This appendix contains Table A-1 and Table A-2 (see below).

Table A-1 summarises whether each of the Topic Planning Policies are considered to have a likely significant effect on the five international sites.

Table A-2 summarises whether each of the Area Vision Policies are considered to have a likely significant effect on the five international sites.

Where possible, policies that have been found to have no likely significant effect on an international site have been categorised into one of five different types. This has been taken from *The Habitats Regulations Assessment of Local Development Documents (Revised Draft Guidance)* produced by Natural England in February 2009:

- **Policy Type A1:** Policies that will not themselves lead to development (e.g. because they relate to design or other qualitative criteria for development, or they are not a land use planning policy);
- **Policy Type A2:** Policies intended to protect the natural environment, including biodiversity;
- **Policy Type A3:** Policies intended to conserve or enhance the natural, built or historic environment, where enhancement measures will not be likely to have any negative effect on an international site;
- **Policy Type A4:** Policies that positively steer development away from international sites and associated sensitive areas; and,
- **Policy Type A5:** Policies that would have no effect because no development could occur through the policy itself, the development being implemented through later policies in the same plan, which are more specific and therefore more appropriate to assess for their effects in international sites and associated sensitive areas.

The assessment of likely significant effects for each policy takes into account the measures within the Plan which seek to protect the international sites.

Table A-1: Results of assessment of likely significant effects of all Topic Planning Policies

Policy Number	Policy Title	Likely Significant Effects?	Justification of Finding
Policy 1	General Development Locations and Principles	No	<p>This policy will lead to development in the long term. However, the policy refers to development within Rossendale in general terms only. There is no mention of specific locations of development and no details of housing numbers are provided. The location of development will be determined in lower tier plans (such as the Site Allocations DPD).</p> <p>The policy states that an overall development principle for the Plan is to enhance and protect biodiversity resources (which include international sites). In addition, the HRA text in Section 1 and Section 6 of the Plan states that any planning applications that arise on a case by case basis arise from the policies within the Core Strategy that may have a likely significant effect on an international site will be subject to further consideration and assessment through the HRA process. Developers will be required to provide the Competent Authority (in this case RBC) with a thorough ecological assessment of the likely effects of the proposed development on the relevant international site (or sites) so as to allow the Competent Authority the ability to carry out the relevant stage(s) of the HRA process. It also states that any development that, through the relevant stages of the HRA process, cannot demonstrate to the Competent Authority and Natural England that it would not have a significant effect on an international site (or that the effects can be adequately mitigated) will be refused. This is in accordance with the precautionary principle enshrined within the Habitats Regulations.</p> <p>Furthermore, the HRA text commits to all of RBC’s Local Development Documents (LDDs) being subject to the HRA process, where agreed appropriate by Natural England. Should the HRA process of lower tier plans (such as the Site Allocations DPD) determine that there are proposals that might lead to likely significant effects on international sites, the Council will work with Natural England to agree suitable mitigation measures. However, should it not be possible to adequately mitigate the effects the proposal will not be included in the Plan.</p> <p>Policy 18 – Biodiversity, Geodiversity and Landscape Conservation states that development that would affect a species or habitat protected by law (which includes international sites) will not be permitted unless there are no adverse impacts on habitats and/or species or that alternative provisions are effective in maintaining affected species and/or habitats.</p> <p>As no specific locations or quanta for development are provided within the policy, this approach to the HRA process will not affect the deliverability of the plan.</p> <p>Given these protection measures contained within the Plan it is considered that there will be no likely significant effects on the qualifying features of the five international sites from this policy.</p>
Policy 2	Meeting Rossendale’s Housing Requirement	No	<p>This policy states that 3,330 houses will be provided between 2003 and 2026. The following effects on the international sites have been screened out:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Loss of land: No land will be lost within or adjacent to the international sites. Land outside of SPAs, although not part of the designation boundary, if used by populations of qualifying bird species of a SPA (e.g. for roosting or foraging) can form important functional parts of the international site. The types of habitats to be affected by the provision of housing are unlikely to cause the loss of functional parts of the South Pennine Moors Phase 2 SPA, the Peak District Moors (South Pennine Moors Phase 1) SPA and the Bowland Fells SPA. This is, in part, because this policy states that 65% of new dwellings must be provided on previously developed land. Previously developed land does not provide suitable habitat for the qualifying species of these SPAs (with species such as short-eared owls preferring wetland habitat and the majority of other qualifying species such as merlin preferring upland moorland habitats). <p>Golden plover will use lowland fields in winter (a qualifying feature of the South Pennine Moors Phase 2 SPA and the Peak District Moors (South Pennine Moors Phase 1) SPA). Lapwing (a qualifying feature of the Peak District Moors (South Pennine Moors Phase 1) SPA) will also use agricultural land. However, the closest areas of potential development to the: South Pennine Moors Phase 2 SPA are approximately 3.8 km south-west of the site (in Weir) and the Peak District Moors (South Pennine Moors Phase 1) SPA are approximately 15 km north-west of the site (in Whitworth). Given these distances, it is considered unlikely that birds from these SPAs would be using the habitats within Rossendale (or, if populations are present, they will not form functional parts of the SPA);</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Air quality: Two of the international sites are vulnerable to changes in air quality: Rochdale Canal SAC and South Pennine Moors SAC. <p>Rossendale Borough Council has been regularly monitoring air quality throughout the Borough. Although there are concerns about some air quality monitoring sites in the west of the Borough, for which further monitoring is being undertaken, the east of the Borough has relatively good air quality. The 2010 Air Quality Progress Report (Rossendale Borough Council, May 2010) lists the air quality results and concluded that the levels recorded at both Whitworth and Bacup were well below the limit and as a result ,monitoring will cease at these sites for this year.</p> <p>Furthermore, Lancashire County Council does not expect the increase in traffic generated by the additional new homes identified by the Core Strategy to significantly exceed what they had already forecast. The Core Strategy is proposing 222 new homes to be built each year of the plan period (totalling 3,330), with the distribution of housing for Rawtenstall being 30%, for Haslingden, Whitworth and Bacup 48%, small settlements 20%, and elsewhere 2%. This equates to fewer than 100 houses likely to be built each year in the east of the Borough and it is not expected that all the vehicle movements generated by development in the east will travel to Rochdale (some is likely to travel north to Burnley and west towards Rawtenstall and on to the M65 or M66 motorways).</p> <p>Policies are included in the Core Strategy to reduce travel, and particularly car travel. These include home working, sustainable communities and creation of a commuter rail link from Rawtenstall to Manchester.</p> <p>It is not considered likely that development within Rossendale will have a detrimental impact on internationally designated sites. However, monitoring will take place at sites in Bacup and Whitworth every three years to check that air quality levels are not deteriorating and action will be taken to ensure development will not have a deleterious effect on the two SACs, revising the Core Strategy policies if necessary. An HRA will be undertaken for the Site Allocations Development Plan Document and sites that could have a significant impact on any of the international sites will not be put forward.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Water abstraction: The Habitats Regulations Assessment of the North West Regional Spatial Strategy¹⁵ did not identify any likely significant effects from the provision of the housing in the region on the five international sites. As such it is concluded that there will be no effects on the qualifying features of the five international sites as a result of the 3,330 houses to be provided in Rossendale. Furthermore, Policy RLDF18 states that developers will need to ensure that groundwater flows are protected;

¹⁵ *Habitats Regulations Assessment of the North West Regional Spatial Strategy - Consolidated Report* (produced by Scott Wilson, Levett-Therivel and Treweek Environmental Consultants in September 2008)

Policy Number	Policy Title	Likely Significant Effects?	Justification of Finding
			<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Recreation: There is a large amount of green space and recreation features within Rossendale. It is likely that people from this area will use these facilities over and above any other facilities elsewhere. Furthermore, Policy 17 states that the Natural England’s Access to Natural Greenspace Standards will be pursued in the Borough (ensuring green space is provided within all new developments) and Policy 14 states that the tourist facilities in Rossendale will be promoted (encouraging more people from the area to visit). These commitments in the Plan will help to retain people in the local area for recreation purposes (rather than travelling to areas outside the Borough including the international sites). As such, the qualifying features of the international sites will not be subject to likely significant effects from this policy¹⁶;• Water quality: Policy 18 states that developers will have to ensure that there will be no encroachment and adverse impacts on watercourses, and that water quality is maintained or improved (including during the construction process). As such, any development that arises from this policy will be required to protect the water quality of adjacent rivers and watercourses, ensuring that water quality within the five international sites does not decrease and lead to a degradation of the qualifying habitats present. <p>For these reasons, it is considered that there will be no likely significant effects on the qualifying features of the five international sites from this policy.</p>
Policy 3	Distribution of Additional Housing	No	<p>This policy outlines the percentage of housing to be provided in different areas of Rossendale (e.g. 30% of overall housing requirement to be provided in the Rawtenstall area and 48% to be provided between Bacup, Haslingden and Whitworth. The following effects on international sites have been screened out:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Loss of land: As outlined for Policy 2 above;• Air quality: As outlined for Policy 2 above;• Water abstraction: As outlined for Policy 2 above;• Recreation: As outlined for Policy 2 above; and,• Water quality: As outlined for Policy RLDF2 above. <p>As such it is considered that there will be no likely significant effects on the qualifying features of the five international sites from this policy.</p>
Policy 4	Affordable and Supported Housing	No	<p>This policy will lead to development in the long term (e.g. the delivery of Rural Exceptions sites). However, there is no mention of specific locations of development and no details of housing numbers are provided. The location of development will be determined in lower tier plans (such as the Site Allocations DPD).</p> <p>For the reasons outlined for Policy 1 it is considered that there will be no likely significant effects on the qualifying features of the five international sites from this policy.</p>
Policy 5	Meeting the Needs of Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople	No	<p>This policy may lead to development (i.e. permanent and transit pitches for Gypsies and Travellers). However, the policy does not state exact details of development nor when it may take place. Development is likely to come forward on a case by case basis.</p> <p>For the reasons outlined for Policy 1 it is considered that there will be no likely significant effects on the qualifying features of the five international sites from this policy.</p>
Policy 6	Training and Skills	No	<p>This policy may lead to development (e.g. construction of training facilities). However, the policy does not state exact details of development nor when it may take place. Development is likely to come forward on a case by case basis and will be allocated in any lower tier planning documents.</p> <p>For the reasons outlined for Policy 1 it is considered that there will be no likely significant effects on the qualifying features of the five international sites from this policy.</p>
Policy 7	Social Infrastructure	No	<p>This policy may lead to development (e.g. new community facilities). However, the policy does not state exact details of development nor when it may take place. Development is likely to come forward on a case by case basis and will not be allocated in any lower tier planning documents.</p> <p>Furthermore, the provision of community facilities will be beneficial to international sites as it will help to retain people in the local area for recreation purposes (rather than travelling to areas outside the Borough). In addition, the use of private cars may decrease (as people are not travelling as far to access community facilities) meaning that there may be an improvement in air quality in the local area.</p> <p>For the reasons outlined here and for Policy 1 it is considered that there will be no likely significant effects on the qualifying features of the five international sites from this policy.</p>
Policy 8	Transport Proposals Including Rawtenstall-Manchester Railway Link	No	<p>This policy states that the Rawtenstall-Manchester Railway will be safeguarded for combined use as a commuter and heritage railway operation. This railway is already in operation but operates as a tourist facility only. In order to improve sustainability within the Borough, and to decrease car usage, this railway line will be promoted as a commuter route. As such it is not considered that this proposal will lead to likely significant effects on any of the international sites.</p> <p>The policy also states that a park and ride facility may be provided in the vicinity of Ewood Bridge, with other park and ride facilities to be provided in Rawtenstall. There is no mention of specific locations of development and no details of the facilities to be provided. The location of development will be determined on a case by case basis and also in lower tier plans (such as the Site Allocations DPD).</p> <p>The policy states that an overall development principle for the Plan is to enhance and protect biodiversity resources (which include international sites). In addition, the HRA text of the Plan states that any planning applications that arise on a case by case basis arise from the policies within the Core Strategy that may have a likely significant effect on an international site will be subject to further consideration and assessment through the HRA process. Developers will be required to provide the Competent Authority (in this case RBC) with a thorough ecological assessment of the likely effects of the proposed development on the relevant international site (or sites) so as to allow the Competent Authority the ability to carry out the relevant stage(s) of the HRA process. It also states that any development that, through the relevant stages of the HRA process, cannot demonstrate to the Competent Authority and Natural England that it would not have a significant effect on an international site (or that the effects can be adequately mitigated) will be refused. This is in accordance with the precautionary principle enshrined within the</p>

¹⁶ Conclusion agreed with Ruth Critchley (Natural England) at a meeting with Catherine Sellars (Atkins Limited) on the 13th July 2010.

Policy Number	Policy Title	Likely Significant Effects?	Justification of Finding
			<p>Habitats Regulations.</p> <p>Furthermore, the HRA text commits to all of RBC’s Local Development Documents (LDDs) being subject to the HRA process, where agreed appropriate by Natural England. Should the HRA process of lower tier plans (such as the Site Allocations DPD) determine that there are proposals that might lead to likely significant effects on international sites, the Council will work with Natural England to agree suitable mitigation measures. However, should it not be possible to adequately mitigate the effects the proposal will not be included in the Plan.</p> <p>Policy 18 – Biodiversity, Geodiversity and Landscape Conservation states that development that would affect a species or habitat protected by law (which includes international sites) will not be permitted unless there are no adverse impacts on habitats and/or species or that alternative provisions are effective in maintaining affected species and/or habitats.</p> <p>As no specific locations or quanta for development are provided within the policy, this approach to the HRA process will not affect the deliverability of the plan.</p> <p>Given these protection measures contained within the Plan, it is considered that there will be no likely significant effects on the qualifying features of the five international sites from this policy.</p>
Policy 9	Accessibility	No	<p>The focus of this policy is to provide more sustainable access across the Borough. This includes the development and enhancement of footpaths and cycleways and providing enhanced links to key services and employment opportunities within the Borough. The policy also states that enhanced links to adjacent boroughs will also be pursued and specifically refers to the Kingsway in Rochdale. Kingsway is a transport route that crosses the Rochdale Canal SAC. However, this policy seeks to provide sustainable links to adjacent boroughs (e.g. increased bus services), which will help to reduce the number of private cars from Rossendale using this road. Thus, there should be no decrease in air quality in the vicinity of the Rochdale Canal SAC and as such there are considered to be no effects on this international site as a result of this policy.</p> <p>Furthermore, for the reasons outlined for Policy 1 and Policy 2, it is considered that there will be no likely significant effects on the qualifying features of all five international sites from this policy.</p>
Policy 10	Provision for Employment	No	<p>This policy will lead to development in the long term. However, the policy refers to the provision of employment land within Rossendale in general terms only. There is no mention of specific locations of development but does state that 20.84 ha of employment land is needed. The location of development will be determined in lower tier plans (such as the Site Allocations DPD).</p> <p>The HRA text in Section 1 of the Plan commits to all of RBC’s Local Development Documents (LDDs) being subject to the HRA process, where agreed appropriate by Natural England. Should the HRA process of lower tier plans (such as the Site Allocations DPD) determine that there are proposals that might lead to likely significant effects on international sites, the Council will work with Natural England to agree suitable mitigation measures. However, should it not be possible to adequately mitigate the effects the proposal will not be included in the Plan.</p> <p>Policy 18 – Biodiversity, Geodiversity and Landscape Conservation states that development that would affect a species or habitat protected by law (which includes international sites) will not be permitted unless there are no adverse impacts on habitats and/or species or that alternative provisions are effective in maintaining affected species and/or habitats.</p> <p>Furthermore, the policy itself states that no adverse impacts will be permitted on sites of international nature conservation value.</p> <p>As no specific locations for development are provided within the policy, this approach to the HRA process will not affect the deliverability of the plan.</p> <p>Given these protection measures contained within the Plan, it is considered that there will be no likely significant effects on the qualifying features of the five international sites from this policy.</p>
Policy 11	Retail and Other Town Centre Uses	No	<p>This policy may lead to development (e.g. retail development in town centres). However, the policy does not state exact details of development nor when it may take place. Development is likely to come forward on a case by case basis.</p> <p>For the reasons outlined for Policy 1, it is considered that there will be no likely significant effects on the qualifying features of the five international sites from this policy.</p>
Policy 12	The Valley Centre, Rawtenstall	No	<p>This policy specifically relates to the regeneration of the Valley Centre, a shopping arcade in Rawtenstall, located in the centre of Rossendale. The regeneration of this area in the town centre of Rawtenstall will help to attract visitors from within the Borough and will help to stop them travelling to areas outside of Rossendale for shopping purposes (e.g. to Rochdale).</p> <p>As such, this policy may help to reduce air quality decreases on habitats outside of the borough (particularly at the Rochdale Canal SAC and South Pennine Moors SAC). As such it is considered that this policy will not lead to any likely significant effects on the qualifying features of the five international sites.</p>
Policy 13	Protecting Key Local Retail and Other Services	No	<p>Policy Type A1: This policy will not lead to development as it relates to design or other qualitative criteria for development.</p>
Policy 14	Tourism	No	<p>This policy outlines how the tourism within Rossendale will be enhanced and promoted. Tourism is important and is successful within the Borough, particularly the active sports industry (such as the Adrenaline Gateway, Irwell Sculpture Trail and Cowm Reservoir).</p> <p>The enhancement of tourism outlined in the policy will help to decrease recreational pressure on the sensitive qualifying habitats and species of the South Pennine Moors SAC and the South Pennine Moors Phase 2 SPA. This is because people are likely to visit the key attractions in Rossendale on occasion when they would have perhaps visited the international sites. This is particularly the case for people from within the Borough as they will be able to visit an attraction closer to home.</p> <p>The policy states that there will be the development, extension and upgrading of footpaths, cycleways and bridleways within the Borough (including the Mary Towneley Loop, part of the Pennine Bridleway that passes through the South Pennine Moors SAC and South Pennine Moors Phase 2 SPA to the east of Rossendale). These improvements will be supported by appropriate signage, interpretation and public art. The Mary Towneley Loop is a 75 km long public right of way, part of which falls within Rossendale. The closest location of the Mary Towneley Loop to the international sites in Rossendale is Whitworth (which is adjacent to the Borough boundary). It is approximately 9.4 km from the boundary of Rossendale to the international sites. Improvements to this bridleway will only be made within Rossendale and thus they will fall outside of the international sites themselves (and only 600 m of this bridleway leads east from Whitworth towards these international sites).</p> <p>It is recognised that improvements to the bridleway when combined with an increase in housing may encourage people to use the route for recreation purposes. However, given the distance between the Borough boundary and the international sites, the excellent recreation facilities within the Borough and the large areas of greenspace adjacent to settlements within the Borough, it</p>

Policy Number	Policy Title	Likely Significant Effects?	Justification of Finding
			<p>is considered that the improvements to this bridleway will not lead to an increase in recreation on the South Pennine Moors SAC or the South Pennine Moors Phase 2 SPA.</p> <p>Given the distance of the Peak District Moors (South Pennine Moors Phase 1) SPA and Bowland Fells SPA from Rossendale, it is considered that this policy will not lead to an increase in recreation these sites. Given the location of the Rochdale Canal SAC, and the content of the proposals in this policy, it is considered that this policy will not lead to an increase in recreation at this site.</p> <p>Furthermore, this policy states the development of new facilities and activities, will be considered favourably, unless there are unacceptable impacts on nature conservation assets and that it will conserve and, where possible enhance, key biodiversity sites alongside the development of the local tourist industry. This policy therefore seeks to protect the international sites.</p> <p>Policy 17 also commits to pursuing the Natural England Access to Natural Greenspace Standards (ANGSt) (see below), meaning that any new development will have greenspace provided within it for recreation purposes. This will help to relieve any recreational pressure on these international sites.</p> <p>For the reasons outlined above, it is considered that there will be no likely significant effects on the qualifying features of the five international sites from this policy.</p>
Policy 15	Overnight Accommodation Visitor	No	<p>This policy may lead to development (i.e. hotel proposals). However, the policy does not state exact details of development nor when it may take place. Development is likely to come forward on a case by case basis and will not be allocated in any lower tier planning documents.</p> <p>For the reasons outlined for Policy 1, it is considered that there will be no likely significant effects on the qualifying features of the five international sites from this policy.</p>
Policy 16	Preserving and Enhancing Rossendale's Built Environment	No	<p>Policy Type A3: The purpose of this policy is to protect the historic built environment within the Borough. As such there will be no likely significant effects on the qualifying features of these international sites as a result of this policy.</p>
Policy 17	Rossendale's Infrastructure Green	No	<p>This policy seeks to promote the protection, enhancement and where appropriate the expansion of the Green Infrastructure network within the Borough. It also seeks to protect the environment in response to climate change by requiring all new developments to utilise flood risk management (such as Sustainable Drainage Systems) and reducing air and water pollution.</p> <p>The policy also commits to pursuing the implementation of Natural England's Access to Natural Greenspace Standards (ANGSt) over the lifetime of the Core Strategy.</p> <p>The development of the green infrastructure network and the implementation of ANGSt will help to steer people away from the international sites as they will help to retain people in the local area for recreation purposes (rather than travelling to areas outside the Borough). In addition, the use of private cars may decrease (as people are not travelling as far to access community facilities) meaning that there may be an improvement in air quality in the local area.</p> <p>Point 7 in the policy states that the Council will support the improvement of and access to the Public Rights of Way network including the Pennine Bridleway. For the reasons outlined for Policy 14 above it is not considered that this will lead to an increase in recreational pressure on the international sites.</p> <p>It is considered that this policy will have no likely significant effects on the qualifying features of the five international sites.</p>
Policy 18	Biodiversity, Geodiversity and Landscape Conservation	No	<p>Policy Type A2: This policy clearly states that development will not be permitted unless it cannot be demonstrated that there will be no adverse impacts on species or habitats protected by law. This includes the internationally important sites. The purpose of this policy is to protect the natural environment within the Borough. As such there will be no likely significant effects on the qualifying features of the five international sites as a result of this policy.</p>
Policy 19	Climate Change and Renewable Energy	No	<p>This policy may lead to development (i.e. renewable energy schemes). However, the policy does not state exact details of development nor when it may take place. Development is likely to come forward on a case by case basis and will not be allocated in any lower tier planning documents.</p> <p>Furthermore, this policy seeks to protect the natural environment within the Borough and specifically states that renewable energy proposals will only be considered providing that they do not adversely impact Rossendale's areas of ecological value (which includes the international sites).</p> <p>For the reasons outlined here and for Policy 1, it is considered that this policy will not lead to any likely significant effects on the qualifying features of the five international sites.</p>
Policy 20	Wind Energy	No	<p>This policy may lead to development (i.e. wind energy proposals). However, the policy does not state exact details of development nor when it may take place. The effects of this policy on the South Pennine Moors Phase 2 SPA, the Peak District Moors (South Pennine Moors Phase 1) SPA and the Bowland Fells SPA have been considered as part of this assessment (due to the possible effects of wind farms on the qualifying bird populations and assemblages for each of these international sites).</p> <p>However, this policy seeks to protect internationally important sites designated for their bird populations and states that any proposals must prove that they do not adversely impact areas of ecological value or fragment the migration routes of protected bird species and, where necessary, how negative impacts will be mitigated.</p> <p>For the reasons outlined here and for Policy 1, it is considered that this policy will not lead to any likely significant effects on the qualifying features of the five international sites.</p>
Policy 21	Supporting the Rural Economy and its Communities	No	<p>This policy may lead to development (i.e. proposals for development in the rural areas of Rossendale). However, the policy does not state exact details of development nor when it may take place. Development is likely to come forward on a case by case basis and will not be allocated in any lower tier planning documents.</p> <p>For the reasons outlined for Policy 1, it is considered that there will be no likely significant effects on the qualifying features of the five international sites from this policy.</p>
Policy 22	Planning Contributions	No	<p>Policy Type A1: This policy will not lead to development as it relates to design or other qualitative criteria for development.</p>
Policy 23	Promoting High Quality Design and Spaces	No	<p>Policy Type A1: This policy will not lead to development as it relates to design or other qualitative criteria for development.</p>
Policy 24	Planning Application	No	<p>Policy Type A1: This policy will not lead to development as it relates to design or other qualitative criteria for development.</p>

Policy Number	Policy Title	Likely Significant Effects?	Justification of Finding
	Considerations		

Table A-2: Results of assessment of likely significant effects of all Area Vision Policies

Policy Number	Policy Title	Likely Significant Effects?	Justification of Finding
AVP1	Area Vision and Policy for Whitworth, Facit and Shawforth	No	<p>This policy may lead to development in the long term (e.g. provision of housing sites). However, the policy refers to development within Whitworth, Facit and Shawforth in general terms only. There is no mention of specific locations of development and no details of housing numbers and/or employment sites are provided. The location of development will be determined in lower tier plans (such as the Site Allocations DPD) and also as planning applications that arise on a case by case basis.</p> <p>Policy 3 outlines the potential number of houses to be provided in this area (and the other AVP policies). Policy 3 will lead to this development being implemented (rather than any of the AVP policies) and is more specific about the provision of housing. It is therefore more appropriate to assess for the effects of housing provision on the international sites and associated sensitive areas as part of Policy 3 (see above in Table A-1).</p> <p>The HRA text in the Plan states that any planning applications that arise on a case by case basis arise from the policies within the Core Strategy that may have a likely significant effect on an international site will be subject to further consideration and assessment through the HRA process. Developers will be required to provide the Competent Authority (in this case Rossendale Borough Council) with a thorough ecological assessment of the likely effects of the proposed development on the relevant international site (or sites) so as to allow the Competent Authority the ability to carry out the relevant stage(s) of the HRA process. It also states that any development that, through the relevant stages of the HRA process, cannot demonstrate to the Competent Authority and Natural England that it would not have a significant effect on an international site (or that the effects can be adequately mitigated) will be refused. This is in accordance with the precautionary principle enshrined within the Habitats Regulations.</p> <p>Furthermore, the HRA text commits to all of Rossendale Borough Council's Local Development Documents (LDDs) being subject to the HRA process, where agreed appropriate by Natural England. Should the HRA process of lower tier plans (such as the Site Allocations DPD) determine that there are proposals that might lead to likely significant effects on international sites, the Council will work with Natural England to agree suitable mitigation measures. However, should it not be possible to adequately mitigate the effects the proposal will not be included in the Plan.</p> <p>Policy 18 – Biodiversity, Geodiversity and Landscape Conservation states that development that would affect a species or habitat protected by law (which includes international sites) will not be permitted unless there are no adverse impacts on habitats and/or species or that alternative provisions are effective in maintaining affected species and/or habitats.</p> <p>The policy also seeks to encourage access, connections and improvements to recreation including the Pennine Bridleway. For the reasons outlined in Policy 14 above it is not considered to have any likely significant effects on the international sites.</p> <p>As no specific locations or quanta for development are provided within the policy, this approach to the HRA process will not affect the deliverability of the plan.</p> <p>Given these protection measures contained within the Plan, it is considered that there will be no likely significant effects on the qualifying features of the five international sites from this policy.</p>
AVP2	Area Vision and Policy for Bacup, Stacksteads, Britannia and Weir	No	<p>This policy may lead to development in the long term (e.g. retail development and provision of housing). However, the policy refers to development within Bacup, Stacksteads, Britannia and Weir in general terms only. There is no mention of specific locations of development and no details of housing numbers and/or retail sites are provided. The location of development will be determined in lower tier plans (such as the Site Allocations DPD) and also as planning applications that arise on a case by case basis.</p> <p>The policy also seeks to improve pedestrian and cycle connections to visitor attractions in these towns (including the Adrenaline Gateway and the Irwell Sculpture Trail). Improved access to these attractions will help to retain people in the local area for recreation purposes (rather than travelling to areas outside the Borough including the international sites). In addition, the use of private cars may decrease (as people are not travelling as far to access community facilities) meaning that there may be an improvement in air quality in the local area.</p> <p>For the reasons outlined above and for Policy AVP1, it is considered that there will be no likely significant effects on the qualifying features of the five international sites from this policy.</p>
AVP3	Area Vision and Policy for Waterfoot, Cowpe, Lumb and Water	No	<p>This policy may lead to development in the long term (e.g. additional leisure and recreation provision and provision of housing). However, the policy refers to development within Waterfoot, Cowpe, Lumb and Water in general terms only. There is no mention of specific locations of development and no details of housing numbers and/or leisure facilities are provided. The location of development will be determined in lower tier plans (such as the Site Allocations DPD) and also as planning applications that arise on a case by case basis.</p> <p>This policy seeks to improve tourism in these settlements (through the provision of leisure and recreation sites and visitor accommodation). Additional attractions in this area in the centre of Rossendale will help to steer people away from the international sites as they will help to retain people in the local area for recreation purposes (rather than travelling to areas outside the Borough). In addition, the use of private cars may decrease (as people are not travelling as far to access community facilities) meaning that there may be an improvement in</p>

			<p>air quality in the local area.</p> <p>For the reasons outlined above and for Policy AVP1, it is considered that there will be no likely significant effects on the qualifying features of the five international sites from this policy.</p>
AVP4	Area Vision and Policy for Rawtenstall, Goodshaw, Loveclough and Crawshawbooth	No	<p>This policy may lead to development in the long term (e.g. retail development in Rawtenstall). However, the policy refers to development within Rawtenstall, Crawshawbooth, Goodshaw and Loveclough in general terms only. There is no mention of specific locations of development and no details of any future development are provided. The location of development will be determined in lower tier plans (such as the Site Allocations DPD) and also as planning applications that arise on a case by case basis.</p> <p>This policy states that the natural environment will be protected in line with Policy RLDF18 (which seeks to protect international sites).</p> <p>For the reasons outlined above and for Policy AVP1, it is considered that there will be no likely significant effects on the qualifying features of the five international sites from this policy.</p>
AVP5	Area Vision and Policy for South-West Rossendale	No	<p>This policy may lead to development in the long term (e.g. a Park and Ride site in the vicinity of Ewood Bridge). However, the policy refers to development within South-West Rossendale in general terms only. There is no mention of specific locations of development and no details of development are provided. The location of development will be determined in lower tier plans (such as the Site Allocations DPD) and also as planning applications that arise on a case by case basis.</p> <p>This policy seeks to promote outdoor recreation in these areas (including the Irwell Sculpture Trail). Promotion of these recreation areas will help to steer people away from the international sites as they will help to retain people in the local area for recreation purposes (rather than travelling to areas outside the Borough). In addition, the use of private cars may decrease (as people are not travelling as far to access community facilities) meaning that there may be an improvement in air quality in the local area.</p> <p>For the reasons outlined above and for Policy AVP1, it is considered that there will be no likely significant effects on the qualifying features of the five international sites from this policy.</p>
AVP6	Area Vision and Policy for Haslingden and Rising Bridge	No	<p>This policy may lead to development in the long term (e.g. provision of housing). However, the policy refers to development within Haslingden and Rising Bridge in general terms only. There is no mention of specific locations of development and no details of development are provided. The location of development will be determined in lower tier plans (such as the Site Allocations DPD) and also as planning applications that arise on a case by case basis.</p> <p>This policy seeks to support tourism proposals in these areas. The additional of any tourism facilities will help to steer people away from the international sites as they will help to retain people in the local area for recreation purposes (rather than travelling to areas outside the Borough). In addition, the use of private cars may decrease (as people are not travelling as far to access community facilities) meaning that there may be an improvement in air quality in the local area.</p> <p>For the reasons outlined above and for Policy AVP1, it is considered that there will be no likely significant effects on the qualifying features of the five international sites from this policy.</p>

Habitat Regulations Assessment

Similarly to the SA it has been necessary to consider if and how the Schedule of Proposed Changes (May 2011) impact on internationally designated sites. Consequently the Council has produced this Update to the Habitat Regulations Assessment which had been produced by Atkins to consider the effect of the proposed changes.

An HRA is required where a plan or project under consideration is likely to have a significant effect on a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) or Special Protection Area (SPA). In such assessments, Planning Policy Statement 9: Biodiversity and Geological Conservation (PPS9) states that consideration is also given to sites designated as Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar sites), potential SPAs and candidate SACs. Hereafter, these sites are collectively referred to as 'international sites'.

There are no international sites within Rossendale. However, there are four international sites within 20 km of the Borough boundary. These include:

- Rochdale Canal SAC: Located approximately 3.1 km south-east of the Borough boundary;
- South Pennine Moors SAC: Located approximately 3.1 km north-east of the Borough boundary;
- South Pennine Moors Phase 2 SPA: Located approximately 3.1 km north-east of the Borough boundary;
- Peak District Moors (South Pennine Moors Phase 1) SPA: Located approximately 13 km south-east of the Borough boundary;

All of these international sites have been included in the HRA. In addition, Bowland Fells SPA has also been including in this assessment. This international site is located approximately 24.7 km north-west of the Borough boundary.

The changes being proposed to the Core Strategy have not been shown to have significant impacts or made major changes to the Report undertaken by Atkins for the Submission version of the Core Strategy.

The increased levels of housing development included in Policy 2 of the Core Strategy are likely to have a slight impact on air quality. The closest designated European site to Rossendale is the Rochdale Canal, with Whitworth being the closest settlement within Rossendale. An increase in house building in Whitworth is likely to have a marginal effect on air quality, which will be monitored by the Council. However it is not anticipated that this will have any significant impacts on the Rochdale Canal European site.

It should be noted that a separate Habitat Regulations Assessment was carried out earlier in the production of the Core Strategy (at Proposed Way Forward Stage, Scott Wilson, September 2009), which included the higher levels of housing development, and no significant adverse effects were identified.

For more information on the HRA please refer to Habitat Regulations Assessment: Stage 1 – Screening (Atkins, November 2010)

SA Objective	Policy																													
	AVP1 Strategy for Whithworth, Falcit and Shawforth	AVP2 Strategy for Bacup, Stacksteads, Britannia and Shawforth	AVP3 Strategy for Waterfoot, Cowpe, Lumb and Water	AVP4 Strategy for Rawtenstall, Crawshawbooth, Goodshaw and Lovecough	AVP5 Strategy for South West Rossendale	AVP6 Strategy for Haslingden and Rising Bridge	Policy 1 - General Development Locations and Principles	Policy 2 - Meeting Rossendale's Housing Requirement	Policy 3 - Distribution of Additional Housing	Policy 4 - Affordable and Supported Housing	Policy 5 - Meeting the Needs of Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople	Policy 6 - Training and Skills	Policy 7 - Social Infrastructure	Policy 8 - Transport	Policy 9 - Accessibility	Policy 10 - Employment Provision	Policy 11 - Retail and Other Town Centre Uses	Policy 12 - The Valley Centre	Policy 13 - Protecting Key Local Retail	Policy 14 - Tourism	Policy 15 - Overnight Visitor Accommodation	Policy 16 - Preserving and Enhancing the Built Environment	Policy 17 - Rossendale's Green Infrastructure	Policy 18 - Biodiversity, Geodiversity and Landscape Conservation	Policy 19 - Climate Change and Low and Zero Carbon Sources of Energy	Policy 20 - Wind Energy	Policy 21 - Supporting the Rural Economy and its Communities	Policy 22 - Planning Contributions	Policy 23 - Promoting High Quality Design and Spaces	Policy 24 - Planning Application Requirements
1 To protect, enhance and manage places, landscapes and buildings of historic, cultural and archaeological value	++	++	+++	+++	+	++	++	++	++	++	+	0	+	+	+	++	++	+++	++	+++	+++	+++	++	++	++	++	++	+++	+++	+++
2 To protect, enhance and manage biodiversity and geodiversity in Rossendale	+	++	+	++	++	++	+++	+	+	+	+	0	+	++	++	++	+	++	+	++	++	++	+++	+++	++	++	++	++	++	+++
3 To protect and improve the quality of Rossendale's waterways and to sustainably manage water resources	++	+	+	+	+	+	+++	+	+	+	+	0	+	++	++	-	-	+	-	+	+	+	+++	+++	++	++	-	+	+	+++
4 To promote adaptation to Rossendale's changing climate	+	+	+	+	++	+	++	+	+	+	++	+	++	++	++	+	+	+	+	++	++	+	+++	++	+++	0	+	++	++	++
5 To reduce flood risk in Rossendale from rivers	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	+	+	+	+/-	0	++	++	++	+/-	+/-	++	+/-	++	++	+	+++	+	+++	0	+/-	++	++	++
6 To minimise the requirement for energy use, promote efficient energy use and increase the use of energy from renewable resources	++	+	+	++	+	+	++	+	+	+	0	0	+++	+++	+++	++	-	++	-	+	+	+	++	0	+++	+++	++	+++	++	++
7 To protect and improve land quality in Rossendale	+	++	++	++	++	++	+++	++	++	+++	+	+	++	+	+	++	++	++	++	+	+	++	++	+	+	0	++	++	++	+++
8 To protect and improve air quality and minimise noise and light pollution in Rossendale	-	-	-	-	-	-	++	-	-	-	0	+	+	+	+	-	++	-	++	-	-	+	++	++	++	-	0	+	+	++
9 To ensure the efficient use of natural resources and sustainable management of waste, minimise its production and increase re-use, recycling and recovery rates	++	++	++	+	+	+	+++	0	0	0	-	+	++	+	+	+/-	-	+	-	++	++	+	0	0	++	0	+/-	++	++	+++
10 To improve access to a range of good quality affordable and resource efficient housing that meets the needs of the community of Rossendale	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	+	0	+	0	0	0	0	++	0	0	0	0	0	0	++	0	0	++	++	++
11 To improve access to basic goods, services and amenities and equality of opportunity in Rossendale	++	+++	+++	+++	+++	++	+	+	+	+	++	+++	++	++	++	++	++	+++	++	++	++	++	++	0	++	0	++	++	++	+
12 To improve physical and mental health and well-being of people and reduce health inequalities in Rossendale	++	++	++	++	++	++	+++	+	+	+	++	++	++	+++	+++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	+++	++	+++	0	++	++	++	+++
13 To improve education, skills and qualifications in the Borough and provide opportunities for lifelong learning	+	++	++	++	++	++	+	0	0	0	++	+++	++	++	++	+++	++	++	++	++	++	++	+	0	++	+	+++	++	++	+
14 To support a strong, diverse, vibrant and sustainable local economy to foster balanced economic growth	++	++	++	++	++	++	+	+	+	+	+	+++	++	+++	+++	+++	++	++	++	++	+++	+++	++	+	++	0	+++	++	++	+
15 Support the development of the sustainable leisure, cultural and tourism industry	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+	0	0	0	0	+++	++	++	++	++	++	+++	++	+++	+++	+++	++	++	+	+	++	++	++	+
16 To maintain and enhance the vitality and viability of town and village centres in the Borough	++	++	+++	+++	++	++	+	++	++	++	+	+	++	+++	+++	++	+++	+++	++	++	++	++	++	+	++	0	++	++	++	+
17 To improve the choice and use of sustainable transport in Rossendale and reduce the need to travel	++	++	+++	+++	++	+++	++	++	++	++	++	0	++	++	++	++	++	+++	++	++	++	+	+++	0	++	0	++	++	++	++
Comments on any changes in significance of direct effects on Core Strategy policies (affected categories are highlighted with a yellow border in the table).	Performance of policy against SA Objectives 2 and 7 reduced following removal of wording on maintaining current Green Belt and Urban Boundaries.		Performance of policy against SA Objective 17 increased following addition of wording on developing new and linking existing cycleways, mountain bike routes, bridleways and walking routes.		Performance of policy against SA Objective 1 reduced following removal of wording on maintaining current Green Belt boundaries. Performance against SA Objective 2 remains the same as the removal of Green Belt wording is balanced by addition of protection or enhancement of SSSSs.	Performance of policy against SA Objectives 15 and 17 increased following addition of wording on completion of the national cycle route from Helmshore to Rising Bridge.	Performance against SA Objective 1 reduced following alteration of policy wording to reflect the intention to carry out a limited review of Green Belt boundaries.	Performance of policy against a number of SA Objectives has changed due to the Sustainability Appraisal previously assessing it as part of a group (Housing). Changes in the table are due to the policy now being assessed on its own. However, due to the increased housing numbers in the latest policy, performance against SA Objective 7 has reduced.	Performance of policy against a number of SA Objectives has changed due to the Sustainability Appraisal previously assessing it as part of a group (Housing). Changes in the table are due to the policy now being assessed on its own.	Performance of the policy against SA Objectives 10 and 11 reduced following the alteration of policy text regarding 'loading sites within 600m rather than 400m of a bus route.	Performance of policy against the majority of SA Objectives has changed due to the Sustainability Appraisal previously assessing it as part of a group (Skills, Employment and Economy). Changes in table are due to the policy now being assessed on its own.	Performance of policy against the majority of SA Objectives has changed due to the Sustainability Appraisal previously assessing it as part of a group (Sustainable Communities). Changes in table are due to the policy now being assessed on its own.				Performance of policy against SA Objective 16 increased following addition of wording on the requirement for proposals for new convenience retail floorspace (>200 sq.m) outside PSA to demonstrate adherence to a more comprehensive suite of criteria.						Performance of policy against the majority of SA Objectives has changed due to the Sustainability Appraisal previously assessing it as part of a group (Sustainable Communities). Changes in table are due to the policy now being assessed on its own.	Performance of policy against SA Objectives 2 and 3 increased following addition of wording to support the management and enhancement of river corridors.			Performance of policy against SA Objective 8 increased, as the Sustainability Appraisal previously assessed the policy as part of a group (Skills, Employment and Economy). When assessed alone, it is not considered that the policy will have any significant negative effects on air quality, noise and light pollution, as included in SA Objective 8.				

Key:

+++

Strongly positive effect

++

Moderately positive effect

+

Slightly positive effect

0

No effect

-

Slightly negative effect

--

Moderately negative effect

Strongly negative effect

+/-

Combination of positive and negative effects / neutral effect

Positive change in significance of effect(s) since September 2010 Sustainability Appraisal (Atkins)

Negative change in significance of effect(s) since September 2010 Sustainability Appraisal (Atkins)

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Please telephone 01706 217777 or Contact Communications Section, Town Centre Offices, Rawtenstall, BB4 7LZ

اگر آپ کو ان معلومات کا خلاصہ بڑے حروف میں، آڈیو کیسٹ پر، یا انگریزی کے علاوہ کسی اور زبان میں درکار ہے تو برائے مہربانی ہمیں بتائیں، ہم بخوشی آپ کے لیے اس کا انتظام کریں گے۔

برائے مہربانی 01706 217777 پر ٹیلیفون کریں یا پھر کمیونٹی کیشن سیکشن سے اس پتہ پر رابطہ قائم کریں:

Communications Section, Town Centres, Rawtenstall, BB4 7LZ

আপনি যদি এসব তথ্যের সার সংক্ষেপ বড় হরফের ছাপায়, অডিও ক্যাসেটে অথবা ইংরেজী ছাড়া অন্য কোন ভাষায় পেতে চান তাহলে অনুগ্রহ করে আমাদেরকে জানালে আমরা অত্যন্ত খুশী মনে তার ব্যবস্থা করব।

অনুগ্রহ করে ০১৭০৬ ২১৭৭৭৭ এই নাম্বারে অথবা কমিউনিকেশন সেকশন, টাউন সেন্টার অফিস, রটেনস্টল বি.বি.৪ ৭এল.জেড. এই ঠিকানায় যোগাযোগ করুন।





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