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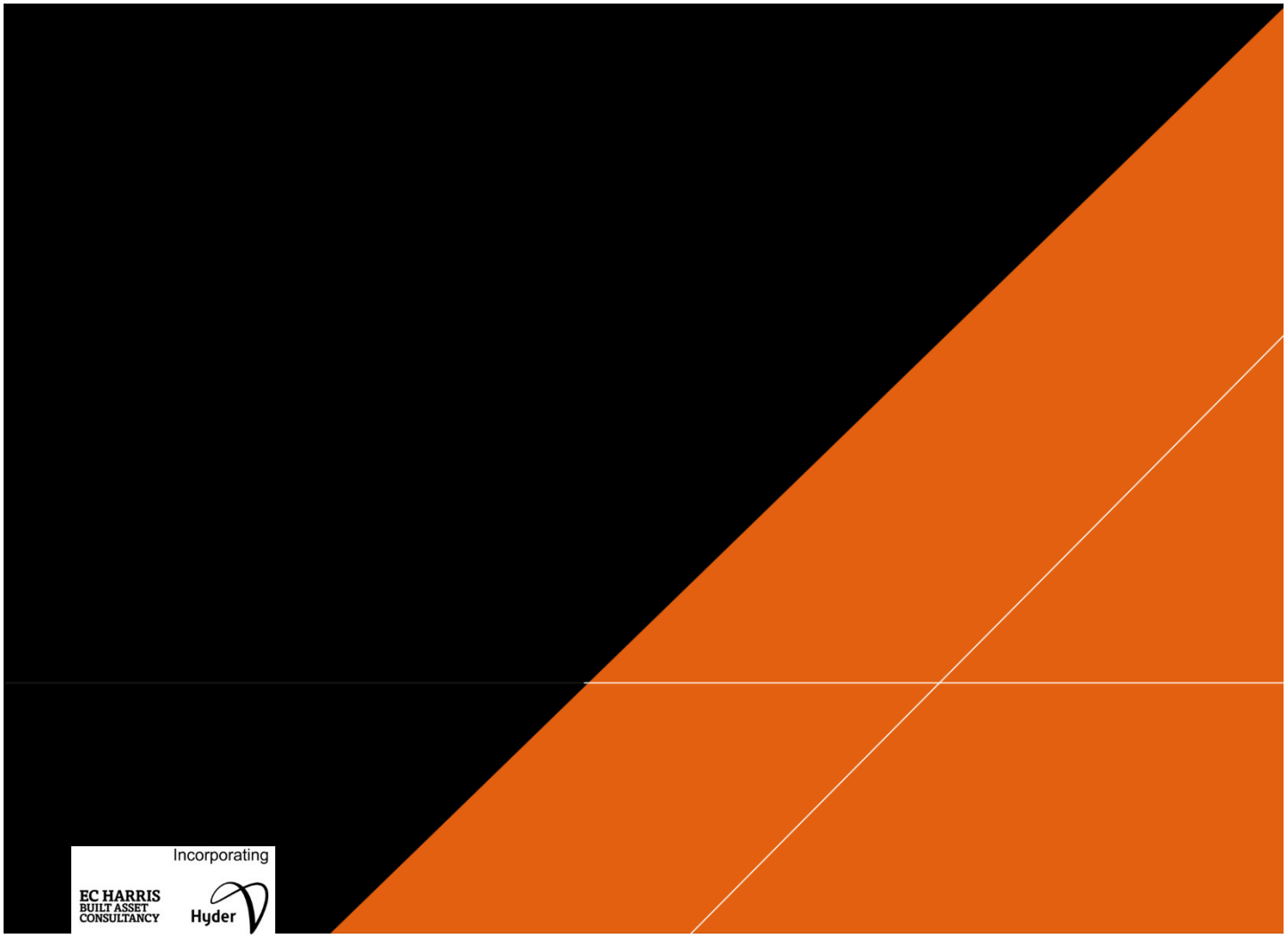
HABITATS REGULATIONS ASSESSMENT

Blackpool Local Plan Part 2: Site Allocations and Development Management Policies

Screening Report



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Blackpool Local Plan Part 2: Site Allocations and Development Management Policies

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01	September 2019	LT & JE	First issue
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03	November 2020	AE	Final amendments following HDP review
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CONTENTS

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Purpose

1.1.1 This Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) Report has been prepared by Arcadis Consulting UK (Ltd) on behalf of Blackpool Council for the new Local Plan Part 2: Site Allocations and Development Management Policies. This Report comprises Stage 1 (the initial screening and detailed screening of the Local Plan) of the HRA process. Further details of the HRA stages are provided in Section 3.

1.2 The Plan

1.2.1 The Blackpool Local Plan (2012 – 2027) comprises two parts. The Part 1 Core Strategy was adopted in January 2016. The HRA Screening of the Part One Core Strategy concluded no likely significant effects on designated sites and therefore no further Appropriate Assessment was deemed necessary.

1.2.2 This HRA Report relates to the Part 2 (Site Allocations and Development Management Policies) which is currently being prepared. Part 2 of the Local Plan allocates sites for development, safeguarding or protecting and sets out a suite of development management policies to guide appropriate development. These development management policies will replace the current 'saved policies' in the Blackpool Local Plan (2006) once Part 2 is adopted.

1.3 Local Plan Policies and Sites

1.3.1 There are 42 development management policies contained within the Local Plan, presented in Table 1 and there are 41 allocation sites, presented within Table 2. The allocations are shown on the policies map which accompanies the Local Plan.

Table 1: Policies within the Local Plan

Overarching Policy Areas	Policies
Housing	Policy DM1: Design Requirements for New Build Housing Developments Policy DM2: Residential Annexes Policy DM3: Supported Accommodation and Housing for Older People Policy DM4: Student Accommodation Policy DM5: Residential Conversions and Sub-divisions Policy DM6: Residential uses in the Town Centre
Economy	Policy DM7: Provision of Employment Land and Existing Employment Sites Policy DM8: Blackpool Airport Enterprise Zone Policy DM9: Blackpool Zoo Policy DM10: Promenade and Seafront Policy DM11: Primary Frontages Policy DM12: Secondary Frontages Policy DM13: Betting Shops, Adult Gaming Centres and Pawnbrokers in the Town Centre Policy DM14: District and Local Centres Policy DM15: Threshold for Impact Assessment Policy DM16: Hot Food Takeaways
Design	Policy DM17: Design Principles Policy DM18: High Speed Broadband for New Developments

Overarching Policy Areas	Policies
	Policy DM19: Strategic Views Policy DM20: Extensions and Alterations Policy DM21: Landscaping Policy DM22: Shopfronts Policy DM23: Security Shutters Policy DM24: Advertisements Policy DM25: Public Art
Heritage	Policy DM26 Listed Buildings Policy DM27: Conservation Areas Policy DM28: Non-Designated Heritage Assets Policy DM29: Stanley Park Policy DM30: Archaeology
Environment	Policy DM31: Surface Water Management Policy DM32: Wind Energy Policy DM33: Coast and Foreshore Policy DM34: Development in the Countryside Policy DM35: Biodiversity Policy DM36: Controlling Pollution and Contamination
Community	Policy DM37: Community Facilities Policy DM38: Allotments and Community Gardens Policy DM39: Blackpool Victoria Hospital Policy DM40: Blackpool and the Fylde College – Bispham Campus
Transport	Policy DM41: Transport requirements for new development Policy DM42: Aerodrome Safeguarding

Table 2: Allocations within the Local Plan

Residential site allocations
HSA1.1 Former Mariners Public House, Norbeck Road
HSA1.2 Former Bispham High School & land off Regency Gardens
HSA1.3 Land at Bromley Close
HSA 1.4 Land rear of 307-339 Warley Road
HSA1.5 Land at Chepstow Road/Gateside Drive and land at Dinmore Avenue/Bathurst Avenue, Grange Park
HSA1.6 Land at Coleridge Road/George Street
HSA1.7 190-194 Promenade
HSA1.8 South King Street
HSA1.9 Bethesda Road Car Park
HSA1.10 Whitegate Manor, Whitegate Drive
HSA1.11 Land off Kipling Drive
HSA1.12 Land at Rough Heys Lane
HSA1.13 Land at Enterprise Zone, Jepson Way
HSA1.14 Site B, Former NS & I Site, Preston New Road
HSA1.15 Land at Warren Drive
HSA1.16 Land at Ryscar Way
HSA1.17 Land at 50 Bispham Road
HSA1.18 41 Bispham Road and land to the rear of 39-41 Bispham Road
HSA1.19 Kings Christian Centre, Warley Road
HSA1.20 Land off Coopers Way
HSA1.21 Land at Coleridge Road/ Talbot Road
HSA1.22 7-11 Alfred Street
HSA1.23 Foxhall Village Phases 2(S), 3 & 4
HSA1.24 Site A, Former NS & I Site, Preston New Road
HSA1.25 Site of Co-operative Sports and Social Club, Preston New Road
HSA1.26 9-15 Brun Grove (Blackpool Trim Shops)
HSA1.27 Waterloo Road Methodist Church, Waterloo Road
HSA1.28 Land at 200-210 Watson Road
HSA1.29 585-593 New South Promenade and 1 Wimbourne Place
Employment site allocations
Blackpool Airport Enterprise Zone
Vicarage Lane
Clifton Road
Preston New Road
Chiswick Grove
Mowbray Drive
Devonshire Rd / Mansfield Rd
Moor Park
North Blackpool Technology Park
Warbreck Hill
Mixed use site allocations
MUSA1 Land at Church Street (former Syndicate site)
Allotment site allocation
ASA1 Allotment Site, Norbreck

2 THE HABITAT REGULATIONS ASSESSMENT PROCESS

2.1 Legislation and Guidance

2.1.1 This HRA is being made in accordance with the requirements of the following legislation and guidance:

- The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017, as amended. In 2012, these Regulations were amended to transpose more clearly certain aspects of the Habitats Directive. In 2017, the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (the "Habitats Regulations 2017") consolidated and updated the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (the "Habitats Regulations 2010"). These were subsequently amended by The Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019.
- European Commission, Managing Natura 2000 sites: The provisions of Article 6 of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC.
- European Commission, Guidance document on Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC.
- Department for Communities and Local Government (2006) Planning for the Protection of European Sites: Appropriate Assessment. Guidance for Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Documents.
- DTA Publications Limited (June 2016), The Habitats Regulations Assessment Handbook.

2.2 Background to Habitats Regulations Assessment

2.2.1 Under Article 6 of the Habitats Directive (and Regulation 102 of the Habitats Regulations), an assessment is required where a land use plan may give rise to significant effects upon a Natura 2000 site (also known as a 'European site'). These designated sites form part of the Natura 2000 network, which is a network of areas designated to conserve natural habitats and species that are rare, endangered, vulnerable or endemic within the European Community. This includes Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), designated under the Habitats Directive for their habitats and/or species of European importance, and Special Protection Areas (SPAs), classified under Directive 2009/147/EC on the Conservation of Wild Birds (the codified version of Directive 79/409/EEC as amended) for rare, vulnerable and regularly occurring migratory bird species and internationally important wetlands.

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

2.2.3 The requirements of the Habitats Directive are transposed into English and Welsh law by means of the Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) Regulations 2017, as amended[1].

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

2.2.8 It should be noted that following the People Over Wind EU judgement, where the need for mitigation is identified to reduce a likely significant effect, then such measures cannot be included at the Screening Stage and the potential effects must be considered at within an Appropriate Assessment (Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU) judgement (People over Wind & Sweetman v Coillte Teoranta Case C-323/17)).

2.3 Stages in HRA

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

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

2.4 In combination Effects

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

2.4.2 Where an aspect of a project could have some effect on the qualifying feature(s) of a European site, but the effects of that aspect of the project alone would not be significant, the effects will need to be

checked in combination, firstly with other effects of the same project, and then with the effects of any other plans and projects.

2.4.3 If the prospect of cumulative effects cannot be eliminated, it is necessary to consider how the addition of effects from other projects or plans may produce a combined adverse effect on a European site that would be significant. Taking the effects which would not be likely to be significant alone, it is necessary to make a judgement as to whether these effects would be made more likely or more significant if the effects of other projects or plans are added to them. Most cumulative effects can be identified by way of the following characteristics. Could additional effects be cumulative because they would:

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

2.4.4 In accordance with David Tyldesley Associates (DTA) Publications Limited, *The Habitats Regulations Assessment Handbook* (DTA Publications Limited, 2016), it will be necessary to look for projects and plans at the following stages:

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

2.4.5 Plans under consideration may range from neighbouring authorities' planning documents down to sector-specific strategic plans on such topics as flood risk.

2.4.6 A review has been undertaken of projects and plans with the potential for an in-combination effect with the proposed development.

2.5 Definition of Significant Effects

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

'*…likely means readily foreseeable not merely a fanciful possibility; significant means not trivial or inconsequential but an effect that is potentially relevant to the site's conservation objectives'* (Welsh Assembly Government, 2006).

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

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

2.6 Approach to the HRA Report

2.6.1 This HRA Report takes into account the requirements of the Habitats Regulations and relevant guidance produced by DTA Publications Limited, 2016.

2.6.2 The following stages have been completed:

- Identification of all European sites potentially affected;
- A review of each European site, including the features for which the site is designated, the Conservation Objectives, and an understanding of the current conservation status and the vulnerability of the individual features to threats;
- A review of the policies and allocation sites within the Local Plan to determine which have the potential to affect the European sites, and whether the sites are vulnerable to these effects; and
- A consideration of any potential impacts in combination with other projects, or plans.

3 IDENTIFYING THE EUROPEAN SITES

3.1 Approach to Identifying Sites

3.1.1 All European sites which may be affected by development allocated within the Local Plan (through an identifiable impact pathway) have been considered from within 20km of the Blackpool Borough boundary.

3.2 European Sites identified

3.2.1 Ten European sites have been identified. A list of the sites together with their status and location is presented in Table 3. Figure 1, Appendix B also shows the locations of the European sites identified within and adjacent to the Blackpool boundary.

Table 3: Summary of European Sites

Name of Site	Identification Number	Status	Distance from Blackpool boundary (approximate km)
Liverpool Bay	UK9020294	SPA (Marine)	Within borough boundary
Ribble and Alt Estuaries	UK11057	Ramsar site	Adjacent to southern borough boundary
Ribble and Alt Estuaries	UK9005103	SPA	Adjacent to southern borough boundary
Shell Flat and Lune Deep	UK0030376	SAC (Marine)	4.2 from western boundary
Morecambe Bay	UK11045	Ramsar site	2.6 from northern boundary
Morecambe Bay	UK0013027	SAC	4.7 from northern boundary
Morecambe Bay and Duddon Estuary	UK9020326	SPA	4.8 from northern boundary
Sefton Coast	UK0013076	SAC	12.7 from southern boundary
Marton Mere	UK9005111	SPA	18.3 from southern boundary
Marton Mere	UK11039	Ramsar site	18.3 from southern boundary

4 INITIAL SCREENING

4.1 Screening Approach

4.1.1 The screening process has been split into two stages, initial screening and detailed screening.

4.1.2 The initial screening stage has provided a high-level screening assessment to determine if the Local Plan could possibly lead to likely significant effects on European sites identified in Section 3. The purpose of this was to eliminate those policies and sites from the assessment which very clearly would not affect European sites in order to focus on those policies and sites where there was potential for effects or uncertainty about potential effects.

4.1.3 When identifying the elements of the Local Plan that could potentially affect European sites, it was important to focus upon those elements that would have the greatest likelihood of impacting the sites. The definition of significance identified in Section 2.5 was very important for the detailed screening.

4.1.4 The Local Plan is intended to be read as a single document rather than a series of separate policies and has been assessed as such. Proposals in one area of the Local Plan may mitigate potentially damaging activities promoted in another area and should be understood in the wider context of the Plan's aims and purposes. The plan has also been considered in the context of the adopted Local Plan Part One.

4.1.5 The sections below outline the initial and detailed screening of the Local Plan.

4.2 European sites

4.2.1 European sites screened out in the initial screening comprised those European sites where there was no clear link, or conceivable impact pathway between the European sites and the policies/sites set out within the Local Plan. Further details of this are provided in Table 9 below. Those European sites with the potential for Likely Significant Effects (LSE) as a result of implementation of the Local Plan, or those European sites for which impacts were uncertain, were carried forward into the more detailed screening assessment. Further explanation of this is provided below.

European sites screened in

4.2.2 Four European sites have been screened in for further assessment. These are listed in Table 4, and are shown on Figure 1, Appendix B. Details of the qualifying features of each of these European sites are shown below.

Table 4: Summary of European Sites screened in

Name of Site
Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA
Ribble and Alt Estuaries Ramsar site
Morecambe Bay and Duddon Estuary SPA
Morecambe Bay Ramsar site

Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA

4.2.3 The site citation (JNCC, 2001) provides the species and numbers of birds which form qualifying features of the SPA, these are provided in Table 5, below. The citation specifies these species in their non-breeding, over-wintering state. The known vulnerabilities of the site have been sourced from the threats and pressures identified in the site's Site Improvement Plan (SIP)[2].

[2] http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/4868920422957056

Table 5: Qualifying Features of the Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA

Species - Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA	Count
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: 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:	
During the breeding season;	
Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*	182 pairs representing at least 1.5% of the breeding population in Great Britain (Count, as at 1996)
Ruff *Philomachus pugnax*,	1 pair representing at least 9.1% of the breeding population in Great Britain (Count as at late 1980s)
On passage;	
Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*	18,958 individuals representing at least 35.8% of the wintering population in Great Britain (5 year peak mean 1991/2 - 1995/6)
Bewick's Swan *Cygnus columbianus bewickii*	229 individuals representing at least 3.3% of the wintering population in Great Britain (5 year peak mean 1991/2 - 1995/6)
Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria*	4,277 individuals representing at least 1.7% of the wintering population in Great Britain (5 year peak mean 1991/2 - 1995/6)
Whooper Swan *Cygnus*	159 individuals representing at least 2.9% of the wintering population in Great Britain (5 year peak mean 1991/2 - 1995/6)
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:	
During the breeding season;	
Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus*	1,800 pairs representing at least 1.5% of the breeding Western Europe/Mediterranean/Western Africa population (Count, as at 1993)
On passage;	
Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*	995 individuals representing at least 2.0% of the Europe/Northern Africa - wintering population (5 year peak mean 1991/2 - 1995/6)
Sanderling *Calidris alba*	6,172 individuals representing at least 6.2% of the Eastern Atlantic/Western & Southern Africa - wintering population (3 year mean May 1993 - 1995)
Over winter;	
Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa islandica*	819 individuals representing at least 1.2% of the wintering Iceland - breeding population (5 year peak mean 1991/2 - 1995/6)
Dunlin *Calidris alpina alpina*	39,952 individuals representing at least 2.9% of the wintering Northern Siberia/Europe/Western Africa population (5 year peak mean 1991/2 - 1995/6)

Species - Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA	Count
Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*	6,073 individuals representing at least 4.0% of the wintering Eastern Atlantic - wintering population (5 year peak mean 1991/2 - 1995/6)
Knot *Calidris canutus*	57,865 individuals representing at least 16.5% of the wintering Northeastern Canada/Greenland/Iceland/Northwestern Europe population (5 year peak mean 1991/2 - 1995/6)
Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*	16,159 individuals representing at least 1.8% of the wintering Europe& Northern/Western Africa population (5 year peak mean 1991/2 - 1995/6)
Pink-footed Goose *Anser brachyrhynchus*	23,860 individuals representing at least 10.6% of the wintering Eastern Greenland/Iceland/UK population (5 year peak mean 1991/2 - 1995/6)
Pintail *Anas acuta*	3,333 individuals representing at least 5.6% of the wintering Northwestern Europe population (5 year peak mean 1991/2 - 1995/6)
Redshank *Tringa totanus*	2,708 individuals representing at least 1.8% of the wintering Eastern Atlantic - wintering population (5 year peak mean 1991/2 - 1995/6)
Sanderling *Calidris alba*	2,859 individuals representing at least 2.9% of the wintering Eastern Atlantic/Western & Southern Africa - wintering population (5 year peak mean 1991/2 - 1995/6)
Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*	4,103 individuals representing at least 1.4% of the wintering Northwestern Europe population (5 year peak mean 1991/2 - 1995/6)
Teal *Anas crecca*	7,641 individuals representing at least 1.9% of the wintering Northwestern Europe population (5 year peak mean 1991/2 - 1995/6)
Wigeon *Anas penelope*	84,699 individuals representing at least 6.8% of the wintering Western Siberia/Northwestern/Northeastern Europe population (5 year peak mean 1991/2 - 1995/6)

Assemblage qualification: A wetland of international importance.

The area qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by regularly supporting at least 20,000 seabirds

During the breeding season, the area regularly supports 29,236 individual seabirds including: Black-headed Gull *Larus ridibundus*, Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus*, Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*

Assemblage qualification: A wetland of international importance.

The area qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by regularly supporting at least 20,000 waterfowl

Over winter, the area regularly supports 301,449 individual waterfowl (5 year peak mean 1991/2 - 1995/6) including: Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*, Whooper Swan *Cygnus cygnus,* Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria*, Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*, Pink-footed Goose *Anser brachyrhynchus*, Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*, Wigeon *Anas penelope*, Teal *Anas crecca*, Bewick's Swan *Cygnus columbianus bewickii*, Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*, Curlew *Numenius arquata*, Knot *Calidris canutus*, Sanderling *Calidris alba*, Dunlin *Calidris alpina alpina*, Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa islandica*, Redshank *Tringa totanus*, Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*, Common Scoter *Melanitta nigra*, Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*, Pintail *Anas acuta*.

Priorities & Issues – Threats & Pressures

Coastal squeeze; Air Pollution: risk of atmospheric nitrogen deposition; Inappropriate scrub control; Invasive species; Hydrological changes; Public Access/Disturbance; Inappropriate coastal management; Fisheries; Change to site conditions; Inappropriate coastal Pressure Sefton Coast Partnership management; Shooting/ scaring

Ribble and Alt Estuaries Ramsar Site

4.2.4 The site citation (JNCC, 2008(a)) provides the species and numbers of birds which form qualifying features of the Ramsar site, these are provided in Table 6.

Table 6: Qualifying Features of the Ribble and Alt Estuaries Ramsar site

Species - Ribble and Alt Estuaries Ramsar Site	Count
Ramsar criterion 5	
Assemblages of international importance:	
Species with peak counts in winter:	
222038 waterfowl (5 year peak mean 1998/99-2002/2003)	
Ramsar criterion 6	
species/populations occurring at levels of international importance.	
Qualifying Species/populations (as identified at designation):	
Species regularly supported during the breeding season:	
Lesser black-backed gull, *Larus fuscus graellsii*, W Europe/Mediterranean/W Africa	4108 apparently occupied nests, representing an average of 2.7% of the breeding population (Seabird 2000 Census)
Species with peak counts in spring/autumn:	
Ringed plover, *Charadrius hiaticula*, Europe/Northwest Africa	3761 individuals, representing an average of 5.1% of the population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3 - spring peak)
Grey plover, *Pluvialis squatarola*, E Atlantic/W Africa -wintering	11021 individuals, representing an average of 4.4% of the population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3 - spring peak)
Red knot, *Calidris canutus islandica*, W & Southern Africa (wintering)	42692 individuals, representing an average of 9.4% of the population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3)
Sanderling, *Calidris alba*, Eastern Atlantic	7401 individuals, representing an average of 6% of the population (5 year peak mean 1998/9- 2002/3 - spring peak)
Dunlin, *Calidris alpina alpina*, W Siberia/W Europe	38196 individuals, representing an average of 2.8% of the population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3 - spring peak)
Black-tailed godwit, *Limosa limosa islandica*, Iceland/W Europe	3323 individuals, representing an average of 9.4% of the population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3)
Common redshank, *Tringa totanus totanus*	4465 individuals, representing an average of 1.7% of the population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3)
Lesser black-backed gull, *Larus fuscus graellsii*	1747 individuals, representing an average of 2.8% of the GB population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3)
Species with peak counts in winter:	
Tundra swan, Cygnus *columbianus bewickii,* NW Europe	230 individuals, representing an average of 2.8% of the GB population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3)
Whooper swan, *Cygnus cygnus,* Iceland/UK/Ireland	211 individuals, representing an average of 1% of the population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3)

Species - Ribble and Alt Estuaries Ramsar Site	Count
Pink-footed goose, *Anser brachyrhynchus*, Greenland, Iceland/UK	6552 individuals, representing an average of 2.7% of the population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3)
Common shelduck, *Tadorna tadorna*, NW Europe	2944 individuals, representing an average of 3.7% of the GB
Eurasian wigeon, *Anas penelope*, NW Europe	69841 individuals, representing an average of 4.6% of the population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3)
Eurasian teal, *Anas crecca*, NW Europe	5107 individuals, representing an average of 1.2% of the population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3)
Northern pintail, *Anas acuta*, NW Europe	1497 individuals, representing an average of 2.4% of the population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3)
Eurasian oystercatcher, *Haematopus ostralegus ostralegus*, Europe & NW Africa - wintering	18926 individuals, representing an average of 1.8% of the population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3)
Bar-tailed godwit, *Limosa lapponica lapponica*, W Palearctic	13935 individuals, representing an average of 11.6% of the population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3)

Morecambe Bay and Duddon Estuary SPA

4.2.5 The site citation (JNCC, 2015) provides the habitats and species which form qualifying features of the SAC, these are provided in Table 7, below. The known vulnerabilities of the site have been sourced from the threats and pressures identified in the site's Site Improvement Plan (SIP)[3].

Table 7: Qualifying Features of the Morecambe Bay and Duddon Estuary SAC

Qualifying habitats and species	
The site qualifies under article 4.1 of the Directive (2009/147/EC) as it is used regularly by 1% or more of the Great Britain populations of the following species listed in Annex I in any season:	
Non-breeding:	
Whooper swan *Cygnus Cygnus*	113 individuals (2009/10 – 2013/14), 1.0% of GB population
Little egret *Egretta garzetta*	134 individuals (2009/10 – 2013/14), 3.0% of GB population
European golden plover *Pluviali apricaria*	1,900 individuals (Morecambe Bay SPA citation value 1991), 1.0% of GB population (1991)
Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*	3,046 individuals (2009/10 – 2013/14), 8.0% of GB population
Ruff *Calidris pugnax*	8 individuals (2009/10 – 2013/14), 1.0% of GB population
Mediterranean gull *Larus melancephalus*	18 individuals (2009/10 – 2013/14), 1.0% of GB population
Breeding:	
Little tern *Sternula albifrons*	84 individuals (2010 – 2014), 2.2% of GB population
Sandwich tern Sterna *sandvicensis*	1,608 individuals (1988 - 1992), 5.7% of GB population (1992)

[3] http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/6708495835463680

Qualifying habitats and species	
Common tern Sterna *hirundo*	570 individuals (Morecambe Bay SPA citation value 1991), 2.0% of GB population (1991)
The site qualifies under **article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) as it is used regularly by 1% or more of the biogeographical populations of the following regularly occurring migratory species (other than those listed in Annex I) in any season:	
Non-breeding:	
Pink-footed goose *Anser brachyrhynchus*	15,648 individuals (2009/10 – 2013/14), 4.5% of biogeographic population
Common shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*	5,878 individuals (2009/10 – 2013/14), 2.0% of biogeographic population
Northern Pintail *Anas acuta*	2,498 individuals (2009/10 – 2013/14), 4.2% of biogeographic population
Eurasian oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*	55,888 individuals (2009/10 – 2013/14), 6.8% of biogeographic population
Grey plover *Pluvialis squatarola*	2,000 individuals (Morecambe Bay SPA citation value 1991), 1.0% of biogeographic population (1991)
Assemblage qualification:	
The site qualifies under **article 4.2** of the Directive (2009/147/EC) as it used regularly by over 20,000 seabirds in any season: At time of the 1997 citation of Morecambe Bay SPA, the area supported 40,672 individual seabirds including: herring gulls, lesser black-backed gulls, sandwich terns, common terns, and little terns.	
The site qualifies under article 4.2 of the Directive (2009/147/EC) as it used regularly by over 20,000 waterbirds in any season: During the period 2009/10 – 2013/14, the site held a five year peak mean value of 266,751 individual birds. The main components of the assemblage include all of the qualifying features listed above, as well as an additional 19 species present in numbers exceeding 1% of the GB total and / or exceeding 2,000 individuals: great white egret, Eurasian spoonbill, light-bellied Brent goose (Nearctic origin), Eurasian wigeon, Eurasian teal, green-winged teal, mallard, ring-necked duck, common eider (non-breeding), common goldeneye, red-breasted merganser, great cormorant, northern lapwing, little stint, spotted redshank, common greenshank, black-headed gull, common (mew) gull and European herring gull (non-breeding).	
Priorities & Issues – Threats & Pressures Public Threat Access/Disturbance; Air Pollution: risk of atmospheric nitrogen deposition; Water Pollution; Inappropriate pest control; Invasive species; Fisheries; Biological Resource Use; Change in land management; Hydrological changes; Invasive species; Physical modification; Energy production; Changes in species distributions; Direct impact from 3rd party	

Morecambe Bay Ramsar Site

4.2.6 The site citation (JNCC, 2008(b)) provides the habitats and species which form qualifying features of the Site, these are provided in Table 8, below.

Table 8: Qualifying Features of the Morecambe Bay Ramsar Site

Qualifying habitats and species
Ramsar criterion 4:

Qualifying habitats and species

The site is a staging area for migratory waterfowl including internationally important numbers of passage ringed plover *Charadrius hiaticula*.

Ramsar criterion 5:

Assemblages of international importance:

Species with peak counts in winter:

223709 waterfowl (5-year peak mean 1998/99-2002/2003)

Ramsar criterion 6:

species/populations occurring at levels of international importance.

Qualifying Species/populations (as identified at designation):

Species regularly supported during the breeding season:

Lesser black-backed gull, *Larus fuscus graellsii*, W Europe/Mediterranean/W Africa	19666 apparently occupied nests, representing an average of 13.3% of the breeding population (Seabird 2000 Census)
Herring gull, *Larus argentatus argentatus*, NW Europe and Iceland/W Europe)	10431 apparently occupied nests, representing an average of 2.8% of the breeding population (Seabird 2000 Census)
Sandwich tern, *Sterna* (*Thalasseus*) *sandvicensis sandvicensis*, W Europe	290 pairs, representing an average of 2.8% of the GB population (5 year mean for 1992 to 1996)
Species with peak counts in spring/autumn:	
Great cormorant, *Phalacrocorax carbo carbo*, NW Europe	967 individuals, representing an average of 4.2% of the GB population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3)
Common shelduck, *Tadorna tadorna*, NW Europe	7032 individuals, representing an average of 2.3% of the population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3)
Northern pintail, *Anas acuta*, NW Europe	3743 individuals, representing an average of 6.2% of the population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3)
Common eider, *Somateria mollissima mollissima*, NW Europe	5657 individuals, representing an average of 7.7% of the GB population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3)
Eurasian oystercatcher, *Haematopus ostralegus* *ostralegus*, Europe & NW Africa -wintering	66577 individuals, representing an average of 6.5% of the population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3)
Ringed plover, *Charadrius hiaticula*, Europe/Northwest Africa	1041 individuals, representing an average of 1.4% of the population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3)
Grey plover, *Pluvialis squatarola*, E Atlantic/W Africa -wintering	1655 individuals, representing an average of 3.1% of the GB population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3)
Sanderling, *Calidris alba*, Eastern Atlantic	703 individuals, representing an average of 3.4% of the GB population (5 year peak mean 1998/9- 2002/3 - spring peak)
Eurasian curlew, Numenius *arquata arquata*, *N. a. arquata* Europe (breeding)	20018 individuals, representing an average of 4.7% of the population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3)

Qualifying habitats and species	
Common redshank, *Tringa totanus totanus*	8816 individuals, representing an average of 3.5% of the population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3)
Ruddy turnstone, *Arenaria interpres interpres*, NE Canada, Greenland/W Europe & NW Africa	1371 individuals, representing an average of 1.4% of the population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3)
Lesser black-backed gull, *Larus fuscus graellsii*	40393 individuals, representing an average of 7.6% of the population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3)
Species with peak counts in winter:	
Great crested grebe, *Podiceps cristatus cristatus*, NW Europe	217 individuals, representing an average of 1.3% of the GB population (5 year peak mean 1998/9- 2002/3)
Pink-footed goose, *Anser brachyrhynchus*, Greenland, Iceland/UK	3665 individuals, representing an average of 1.5% of the population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3)
Eurasian wigeon, *Anas penelope*, NW Europe	6133 individuals, representing an average of 1.5% of the GB population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3)
Common goldeneye, *Bucephala clangula clangula*, NW & C Europe	285 individuals, representing an average of 1.1% of the GB population (5 year peak mean 1998/9- 2002/3)
Red-breasted merganser, *Mergus serrator*, NW & C Europe	327 individuals, representing an average of 3.3% of the GB population (5 year peak mean 1998/9- 2002/3)
European golden plover, *Pluvialis apricaria apricaria*, *P. a. altifrons* Iceland & Faroes/E Atlantic	4073 individuals, representing an average of 1.6% of the GB population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3)
Northern lapwing, *Vanellus vanellus*, Europe - breeding	16492 individuals, representing an average of 1% of the GB population (5 year peak mean 1998/9- 2002/3)
Red knot, *Calidris canutus islandica*, W & Southern Africa (wintering)	66335 individuals, representing an average of 14.7% of the population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3)
Dunlin, *Calidris alpina alpina*, W Siberia/W Europe	26416 individuals, representing an average of 1.9% of the population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3)
Bar-tailed godwit, *Limosa lapponica lapponica*, W Palearctic	4579 individuals, representing an average of 3.8% of the population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3)

Conservation Objectives of the European Sites screened in

4.2.7 Under Regulation 35(3) of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) the appropriate statutory nature conservation body (in this case NRW) has a duty to communicate the conservation objectives for a European site to the relevant/competent authority responsible for that site. The information provided under Regulation 35 must also include advice on any operations which may cause deterioration of the features for which the site is designated.

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

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

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

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

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

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

European sites screened out

4.2.10 European sites screened out comprised those European sites where there was no realistic link, or conceivable impact pathway between the European sites and the policies/sites set out within the Local Plan. Background information on the European sites that have been screened out, and a justification for the conclusion of screening them out, is provided in Table 9. Table 9 also provides an overview of the known priority issues affecting each European site (i.e. the key potential impact pathways).

4.2.11 The Conservation Objectives for each of the European sites screened out are as follows:

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

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

Table 9: Summary of European Sites screened out

Name of Site	Qualifying features	Priorities & Issues	Justification for screening out
Liverpool Bay SPA (Marine)	This site is designated for the protection of red-throated diver, common scoter, and little gull in the non-breeding season; common tern and little tern in the breeding season, and an internationally important waterbird assemblage.	Fisheries; Transportation and Threat service corridors; Extraction: non-living resources; Siltation; Water Pollution	Although a small area of this site lies within the borough boundary, the site itself does not include any land mass and as such no allocations proposed within the Local Plan would fall within it. All the qualifying birds of the SPA are exclusively marine species and would not generally be present along the shoreline and, therefore, would not be affected by the proposals of the Local Plan. Furthermore, no allocation comprises habitat suitable (either of type or size) to support these species. While there are a number of allocations along the edge of the coast, they are all set within an urban context and none are hydrologically linked with the SPA.
Shell Flat and Lune Deep SAC (Marine)	The qualifying features of Shell Flat and Lune Deep SAC comprise sandbanks – of which all are slightly covered by seawater all of the time - and reefs.	Fisheries; Transportation and Threat service corridors; Extraction: non-living resources; Siltation; Water Pollution	Given the distance of the SAC from the borough boundary (approximately 5.1km), and the extent of the bay itself, no elements of the Local Plan could conceivably exacerbate the known priority issues at this SAC and could not have an LSE on this SAC.
Morecambe Bay SAC	The qualifying features of this SAC comprise estuarine and coastal dune habitats, and great crested newt.	Public Access/Disturbance; Air Pollution: risk of atmospheric nitrogen deposition; Water Pollution; Inappropriate pest control; Invasive species; Fisheries; Biological Resource Use; Change in land management; Hydrological changes; Invasive species; Physical modification; Energy production; Changes in species distributions; Direct impact from 3rd party	Given the distance of the SAC from the borough boundary (4.7km), and from the nearest site allocated in the Plan (5.8km), no elements of the Local Plan would have an LSE on its qualifying features.
Sefton Coast SAC	The qualifying features of this site comprise dune habitats	Coastal squeeze; Air Pollution: risk of atmospheric nitrogen deposition; Inappropriate scrub control; Invasive	This SAC is 12.7km south of the Borough boundary, and 13km south of the nearest site allocation in the Plan. The Plan would therefore not exacerbate any known priority issues at the SAC. These distances are as

Name of Site	Qualifying features	Priorities & Issues	Justification for screening out
	supporting petalwort and great crested newt.	species; Hydrological changes; Public Access/Disturbance; Inappropriate coastal management; Fisheries; Change to site conditions; Inappropriate coastal Pressure Sefton Coast Partnership management; Shooting/ scaring	the crow flies but, in practice, residents in Blackpool would need to drive east towards Preston and then back west via the A59 towards the SAC in order to access it. This is because the River Ribble runs between Blackpool and the SAC. For residents of the nearest site allocation in the Plan to the SAC, their journey to access to the SAC would be in the region of at least 38km. Recreational impacts can therefore be screened out on this basis and, overall, no elements of the Local Plan would have an LSE on the SAC.
Marton Mere SPA/ Ramsar Site	This SPA/ Ramsar Site is designated for over-wintering Bewick's swan, whooper swan, pink-footed goose, pintail, tundra swan and Eurasian wigeon, and an assemblage of wetland birds of international importance.	Hydrological changes; Invasive species; Water Pollution	Although birds associated with the site could use habitats within Blackpool, given its distance from the borough boundary (over 18km) it is considered more likely that birds within Blackpool are associated with the closer European sites (the Ribble and Alt/ Morecambe Bay). It is considered that increased visitor pressure will not adversely affect Marton Mere SPA/Ramsar site as this site is effectively managed by the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust (and is a visitor attraction in its own right and visitor numbers are closely monitored to prevent adverse effects on the SPA/Ramsar site). Given the distance from the SAC to Blackpool, the Plan would clearly not exacerbate the known priorities and issues at the SAC.

4.3 Initial screening of policies and allocations within the Local Plan

4.3.1 Policies screened out in the initial screening were generally those that could not lead to 'direct development' or could have no impact pathway to any European sites. This included policies which directly seek to protect the local historic and natural environment, or those which support the implementation of other policies and therefore could not directly affect European sites. All of the policies screened out of the detailed assessment are not directly linked to allocation sites.

4.3.2 As set out with the DTA HRA Guidance (Part F), each of the policies within the Local Plan have been reviewed against the following list of screening categories.

Table 10: Screening Assessment Categories

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

Category	Description
Category H:	Policies or proposals the (actual or theoretical) effects of which cannot undermine the conservation objectives (either alone or in combination with other aspects of this or other plans or projects). Policies or proposals which make provision for change, but which could have no significant effect on a European site, either alone or in combination with other aspects of the same plan, or in combination with other plans or projects, can be screened out. These may include cases where there are some potential effects which (and theoretically even in combination) would plainly be insignificant and could not undermine the conservation objectives.
Category I:	Policies or proposals with a likely significant effect on a site alone. Policies or proposals which are likely to have a significant effect on a European site alone, should be screened in.
Category J:	Policies or proposals not likely to have a significant effect alone. These aspects of the plan would have some effect on a site, but the effect would not be likely to be a significant effect; so they must be checked for in combination (cumulative) effects. They will then be re-categorised as either Category K (no significant effect in combination) or Category L (likely to have a significant effect in combination), as explained below.
Categories K and L:	Policies or proposals not likely to have a significant effect either alone or in combination (K) or likely to have a significant effect in combination (L) after the in combination test. Where an aspect of a plan could have some effect on the qualifying feature(s) or a European site, but the effects of that aspect of the plan alone would not be significant, the effects of that aspect of the plan will need to be checked in combination firstly, with other effects of the same plan, and then with the effects of other plans and projects. i.e., policies or proposals which will have no likely significant effect alone or in combination are classified as Category K. Policies or proposals which are likely to have a significant effect in combination are classified as Category L. Category L policies or proposals will require further consideration in terms of potential in combination effects. Firstly, this will be with regard to other aspects of the Plan itself, and subsequently with other separate plans or projects, for example neighbouring Local Plans.

4.3.3 Based on the categories set out within Table 10, 38 policies have been screened out of further assessment. Table 11 provides a summary of the screening exercise. Justification for the conclusions is included within Table 11. The remaining four policies have been carried forward into the detailed screening. All allocations listed within the Local Plan have been carried through to detailed screening.

Table 11: Screening of Local Plan policies

Policies	Justification	Conclusion
Policy DM2: Residential Annexes	This policy sets out the criteria which residential annexes must adhere to. This policy will not lead directly to development. Implementing this policy will not affect European sites.	**Category B (Screened out)**
Policy DM4: Student Accommodation	This policy sets out the criteria which development must adhere to when developing new student accommodation. This policy will not lead directly to development. Implementing this policy will not affect European sites.	
Policy DM5: Residential Conversions and Sub-divisions	This policy lists the criteria which developers must adhere to when converting or changing the use of existing buildings. This policy will not lead directly to development. Implementing this policy will not affect European sites.	
Policy DM15: Threshold for Impact Assessment	This policy sets out the requirement for developers to undertake an Impact Assessment where a proposal is not located within a defined centre. This policy will not lead directly to development. Implementing this policy will not affect European sites.	
Policy DM16: Hot Food Takeaways	This policy promotes healthy living and restricts the location of hot food takeaway establishments. Implementing this policy will not affect European sites.	
DM20: Extensions and Alterations	This policy sets the criteria for altering or making extensions to existing buildings to ensure that they are sympathetic to their surroundings. Implementing this policy will not affect European sites.	
Policy DM24: Advertisements	This policy relates to the type, size, design and position of advertising. Implementing this policy will not affect European sites.	
Policy DM37: Community Facilities	This policy relates to the protection of community facilities. Implementing this policy will not affect European sites	
Policy DM40: Blackpool and the Fylde College – Bispham Campus	This policy relates to safeguarding this site for future use as a college. Implementing this policy will not affect European sites.	
Policy DM41: Transport requirements for new development	This policy sets out the transport requirements for new development but will not itself lead to development. Implementing this policy will not affect European sites.	
Policy DM42: Aerodrome Safeguarding	This policy relates to safeguarding this site for future uses associated with the airport. Implementing this policy will not affect European sites.	
Policy DM27: Conservation Areas Policy DM35: Biodiversity Policy DM38: Allotments and Community Gardens	These policies aim to protect conservation areas and green infrastructure. The implementation of these policies would have no adverse impacts and potentially some beneficial effects on European sites.	**Category D (Screened out)**

Policies	Justification	Conclusion
Policy DM33: Coast and Foreshore	This policy is in place to steer development away from the coast/ foreshore. Development will be resisted '*that would adversely affect the appearance, integrity or environmental quality of the beach and foreshore'*. The implementation of this policy is considered to have no adverse impacts and potentially some beneficial effects on European sites.	**Category E (Screened out)**
Policy DM36: Controlling Pollution and Contamination	This policy sets out the health and safety considerations which must be taken into account prior to development. The implementation of this policy is considered to have no adverse impacts, and potentially some beneficial effects on European sites through the protection of air quality, water quality, light pollution and noise pollution.	**Category F (Screened out)**
Policy DM31: Surface Water Management	This policy sets out the detailed requirements in relation to surface water management and development sites. Implementing this policy will have no effect on European sites.	
Policy DM3: Supported Accommodation and Housing for Older People	This policy sets out the proportion of new dwellings which must include adaptable and accessible features for older people. Implementing this policy will have no effect on European sites.	
Policy DM1: Design Requirements for New Build Housing Developments	This policy sets out the design requirements in order to meet the Nationally Described Space Standard. Implementing this policy will have no effect on European sites.	
Policy DM9: Blackpool Zoo	This policy details the requirements for any future changes to the grounds within Blackpool Zoo. Implementing this policy will have no effect on European sites.	
Policy DM11: Primary Frontages DM12: Secondary Frontages	These policies outline the type of frontages which will be permitted in Blackpool. Implementing these policies will have no effect on European sites.	
Policy DM13: Betting Shops, Adult Gaming Centres and Pawnbrokers in the Town Centre	This policy outlines where Amusement Centres, Betting Shops and Pawnbrokers can be located in Blackpool. Implementing this policy will have no effect on European sites.	
Policy DM17: Design Principles	This policy sets out further detailed design requirements in all new development. Implementing this policy will have no effect on European sites.	
Policy DM18: High Speed Broadband for New Developments	This policy sets out the parameters for the internet connectivity of new developments. Implementing this policy will have no effect on European sites.	
Policy DM19: Strategic Views	This policy sets the parameters for the height of new buildings. Implementing this policy will have no effect on European sites.	

Policies	Justification	Conclusion
Policy DM21: Landscaping	This policy identifies the types of landscaping designs which should be incorporated into developments in order to contribute towards green and blue infrastructure and planning applications. Implementing this policy will have no effect on European sites. This policy would be likely to lead to an increase in the quality of open greenspaces in Blackpool, which would provide residents with opportunities for outdoor recreation that further reduces the potential for recreational impacts on European sites.	
Policy DM22: Shopfronts Policy DM23: Security Shutters	This policy sets out how existing shop fronts can be altered, and the type of shutters which will be permitted. Implementing these policies will have no effect on European sites.	
Policy DM25: Public Art	This policy relates to ensuring the cultural well-being of Blackpool is considered in the process of development. Implementing these policies will have no effect on European sites.	
Policy DM26 Listed Buildings Policy DM28: Non-Designated Heritage Assets Policy DM29: Stanley Park Policy DM30: Archaeology	These policies relate to protection of listed buildings (DM26) and the protection of other heritage assets (DM28, DM29 and DM30). Implementing these policies will have no effect on European sites.	
Policy DM34: Development in the Countryside	This policy relates to development within the countryside. Although the policy could lead to development, given the small-scale nature of any such potential developments (as determined by the criteria set out within the individual polices), no likely significant effects on European sites is anticipated.	
Policy DM10: Promenade and Seafront	This policy relates to development proposals which further improve the appearance and economic function of the Promenade and Seafront east of the tram tracks, between the Pleasure Beach and North Pier. This policy only promotes the redevelopment of existing sites and so it would only lead to the redevelopment of existing buildings and frontages, and as such there would be no likely significant effects of this type of development on European sites.	**Category G** **(Screened out)**
Policy DM6: Residential uses in the Town Centre	This policy promotes the reuse and redevelopment of existing buildings and land-uses in the town centre, and does not propose new development at new sites. As such there would be no likely significant effects of this type of development on European sites.	
Policy DM14: District and Local Centres	This policy outlines the areas where development within district and local centres will be directed. New development within urban locations will be directed towards the district and local centres shown on the policies map (which accompanies the Local Plan). There would be no likely significant effects of this type of development on European sites.	**Category H** (**Screened out**)

Policies	Justification	Conclusion
DM7 Provision of Employment Land and Existing Employment Sites DM8 Blackpool Airport Enterprise Zone Policy DM32: Wind Energy Policy DM39: Blackpool Victoria Hospital	**Further screening required of these policies, refer to Table 15**	

5 Detailed screening

5.1.1 The detailed screening of the Local Plan policies and allocation sites in relation to the screened in European sites is presented in this section and is based on the findings of the initial screening exercise.

5.1.2 The detailed screening of the Local Plan policies and sites contains details of the potential impacts, the European sites potentially affected, and whether further Appropriate Assessment would be required.

5.1.3 The allocations listed within the Local Plan are shown on the policies map which accompanies the Local Plan.

5.2 Potential impacts

5.2.1 The following potential impacts have been identified through a review of the Conservation Objectives (and associated Supplementary Advice, where available), as well as the current pressures/threats to the European sites screened in for further assessment.

5.2.2 Note that none of the allocation sites within the Local Plan are located within a European site, and none of the policies would lead to development within a European site. Therefore, there would be no direct habitat or species loss of any European sites as a result of implementation of the Local Plan, and this potential impact pathway has been **screened out** of further assessment (alone and in combination).

5.2.3 Table 12 shows the potential impacts which have been identified for the assessment and the European sites which could be subject to effects as a result of each different impact.

Table 12: Potential impacts

Potential impact	European site
Air quality	Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA/ Ramsar site Morecambe Bay and Duddon Estuary SPA Morecambe Bay Ramsar site
Disturbance/displacement	Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA/ Ramsar site Morecambe Bay and Duddon Estuary SPA Morecambe Bay Ramsar site
Loss of foraging/ roosting habitat functionally linked to a European site	Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA/ Ramsar site Morecambe Bay and Duddon Estuary SPA Morecambe Bay Ramsar site
Water quality effects	Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA/ Ramsar site
Fragmentation	Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA/ Ramsar site Morecambe Bay and Duddon Estuary SPA Morecambe Bay Ramsar site
Habitat loss	Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA/ Ramsar site Morecambe Bay and Duddon Estuary SPA Morecambe Bay Ramsar site
Recreational disturbance	Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA/ Ramsar site Morecambe Bay and Duddon Estuary SPA Morecambe Bay Ramsar site

5.2.4 Each potential impact pathway is described in more detail below. The description includes an explanation as to why each of the potential impact pathways has been screened in or out of the further assessment. A review of available ecological information (as detailed below) has also been undertaken to inform the screening exercise to determine if a potential impact pathway could be present.

Ecological Information

5.2.5 The following data sources have been considered during the screening exercise to determine the presence of impact pathways to the European sites:

- British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) Bird Track Website – to obtain SPA/ Ramsar site species records in close proximity to the Local Plan allocations.
- Natural England pink-footed goose and swan functionally linked land Impact Risk Zone (IRZ) buffer – to identify areas of land outside of designated sites that have the potential to support habitats suitable for wintering geese and swans.
- OS mapping/MAGIC website – to identify the presence of water courses that could provide a link between an allocation and the designated sites.
- Designated site citations, management plans, operations requiring consent, site improvement plans, views about management and condition assessments.

Air quality

5.2.6 Changes in air quality from increased traffic and development could have impacts on European sites through an increase in nitrogen deposition which could occur as a result of the following:

- Construction activities in the vicinity of European sites.
- Increase in nitrogen deposition as a result of new employment sites.
- Increased population and road traffic may increase nitrogen deposition on sensitive habitats where these lie in close proximity to major commuting routes.

Construction phase

5.2.7 In relation to construction activities near to the European sites, current air quality guidance suggests that any construction sites or routes used by construction vehicles within 50 m of a designated site[4]; and the presence of any European site within 200 m of the main access roads used by Heavy Goods Vehicles accessing the site[5] could lead to likely significant effects on the European site during the construction phases of new development.

5.2.8 There are no allocation sites within 200m of Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA/ Ramsar site, Morecambe Bay and Duddon Estuary SPA, or Morecambe Bay Ramsar site. Potential impacts associated with air quality and the construction phases of new development within Blackpool have been **screened out** of further assessment.

Operational phase

Employment sites

5.2.9 In relation to operational phase impacts associated with new development within Blackpool, the Plan sets out the types of employment sites which will be permitted. Employment allocations within the Plan are allocated for B and E Use Classes. This includes Use Class B2, B8 and E(g) only. B and E use classes are defined as follows: B2 - general Industry (for the use of carrying out an industrial process other than one falling within class B1); B8 - storage and distribution (applies to properties and land which are used for storage or as a distribution centre), and E(g) - commercial, business and service.

5.2.10 Although it is not possible, at this strategic level, to confirm exactly which businesses would be developed on the employment allocations within the LP, given that the B2, B8 and E(g) use classes do not include the types of businesses which are likely to cause significant increases in air pollution, any increase in industrial air pollution as a result of new B or E Class employment sites within Blackpool would be negligible, and not significant.

5.2.11 In terms of potential increases in traffic associated with commuting to employment sites, none of the main access routes would be within 200m of a European site. In addition, any new developments would be required to accord with relevant legislation ensuring any emissions meet appropriate

[4] Institute of Air Quality Management (IAQM), Guidance on the assessment of dust from demolition and construction (2014)
[5] Design Manual for Roads and Bridges, Volume 11, Section 3, Part 1, HA 207/07 – Air Quality, Highways Agency, 2007.

guidelines and comply with all relevant policies within the Plan before they can be consented. Therefore, any potential impacts associated with air pollution from new employment allocations are considered unlikely. This potential impact pathway has been **screened out** of further assessment.

Housing Developments

5.2.12 The construction of up to 3,237 new homes over the remainder of the plan period within Blackpool has the potential to increase traffic (and as a consequence air pollution) within the new housing estates themselves, as well as along existing roads used by new home owners (such as commuter routes) in the vicinity of sensitive habitats/species. IAQM/ EPUK and DMRB guidance consider designated sites that falls within 200m of a new road/development when undertaking air quality assessments.

5.2.13 In terms of new housing developments themselves, there are no allocation sites within 200m of any sensitive habitats/species associated with the Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA/ Ramsar site, Morecambe Bay and Duddon Estuary SPA, or Morecambe Bay Ramsar site. This potential impact pathway has been **screened out** of further assessment.

Conclusion

5.2.14 No air quality impacts on European Sites have been identified as a result of implementing the Local Plan alone. Any potential residual air quality effects are considered to be *de minimis* (i.e. the risk of the Local Plan contributing to an LSE, in combination with other plans/ projects, is hypothetical rather than conceivable). Consequently, no in-combination effects in terms of air pollution are anticipated (as per the Wealden District Council v. Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, Lewes District Council and South Downs National Park Authority [2017] EWHC 351). Potential air quality effects have been **screened out** of further assessment alone and in combination.

Water quality

5.2.15 Changes in water quality as a result of new development could have impacts on European sites as a result of the following:

- Increased risk of potential pollution incidents from construction activities in the vicinity of European sites.
- Potential increases in suspended sediments resulting in ecological effects, such as the direct loss of habitats caused by re-deposition of suspended sediment, and the consequential health or mortality effects on prey species, particularly invertebrates associated with the intertidal mudflats.

5.2.16 There are no allocations sites hydrologically linked to watercourses which flow into European sites.

Conclusion

5.2.17 There would be no water quality impacts associated with the Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA/ Ramsar site, Morecambe Bay and Duddon Estuary SPA, or Morecambe Bay Ramsar site as a result of implementing the Local Plan, and therefore this impact has been **screened out** of further assessment alone and in combination.

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

5.2.18 Functionally linked land is considered to be any land outside of a European site, which is regularly used by species that are a qualifying interest features of that European site. When assessing use of land by SPA/Ramsar site bird species, such areas would be considered functionally linked only where significant numbers of qualifying species are regularly present.

5.2.19 In relation to this HRA Report, this includes land (comprising farmland, or other wetland habitat and brown field sites) that is regularly used by qualifying bird species associated with the Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA/ Ramsar site or the Morecambe Bay Ramsar site/ Morecambe and Duddon Estuary SPA during the winter and on passage for foraging or roosting. The Site Improvement Plans for the Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA/ Ramsar site or the Morecambe Bay Ramsar site/ Morecambe and Duddon Estuary SPA do not include loss of functionally linked land as a potential threat to the

European sites. However, there are a number of allocation sites located within, or adjacent to land which could potentially constitute functionally linked land for SPA/ Ramsar site bird species.

5.2.20 Loss of functionally linked land would only be related to those qualifying species which are known to regularly use habitats outside of the European sites for foraging or roosting. Guidance produced by Natural England (Appendix C) indicates the distance from the designated sites over which different species would generally disperse to forage/roost. For the qualifying wintering waders and wildfowl associated with the Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA/ Ramsar site or the Morecambe Bay Ramsar site/ Morecambe and Duddon Estuary SPA (which could utilise functionally linked land) the maximum distance these species would generally travel away from the European sites would be 15-20km.

5.2.21 Although there are six allocations (without planning permission) located on greenfield sites, none are considered to be located on functionally linked land, as detailed in Table 13. Loss of functionally linked land in relation to SPA/ Ramsar site birds is therefore **screened out** of further assessment alone and in combination.

Table 13: Greenfield allocations within 15-20km of the Ribble and Alt Estuary SPA/ Ramsar site

Allocation	Description
Former Bispham High School & land off Regency Gardens Ref: HSA1.2 Size: 9.1ha	The allocation comprises a mix of brownfield and greenfield land within the site. The areas of greenfield are small. The allocation is surrounded by existing development and is not considered to constitute functionally linked land.
Land at Chepstow Road/Gateside Drive and land at Dinmore Avenue/Bathurst Avenue, Grange Park Ref: HSA1.5 Size: 4.17ha	The allocation comprises a mix of brownfield and greenfield land within the site. The areas of greenfield are surrounded by existing development as well as the B5258 along the site's northern perimeter, and it appears to be well used by the public. The site is not considered to constitute functionally linked land.
Land off Kipling Drive Ref: HSA1.11 Size: 0.27ha	The site comprises a single small area of scrub and grassland. The site is surrounded by existing development to the south and east. The grassland and scrub to the north is enclosed and well used by the public. The site is not considered to constitute functionally linked land.
Land at Rough Heys Lane Ref: HSA1.12 Size: 0.67ha	This greenfield site comprises scrub and grassland within an urban setting. The site is small (0.67ha) and surrounded by existing development and scrub. The site is not considered to constitute functionally linked land.
Land at Enterprise Zone, Jepson Way Ref: HSA1.13 Size: 1.42ha	Although the allocation comprises greenfield areas, the site is currently utilised as football pitches and as such would not constitute functionally linked land.
Blackpool Airport Enterprise Zone Ref: DM8	Although the allocation comprises greenfield areas, the site is currently utilised as football pitches and as such would not constitute functionally linked land.

Conclusion

5.2.22 There would be no loss of functionally linked land associated with the Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA/ Ramsar site or the Morecambe Bay Ramsar site/ Morecambe and Duddon Estuary SPA as a result of

implementing the Local Plan, and therefore this impact has been **screened out** of further assessment alone and in combination.

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

5.2.23 There is the potential to disturb qualifying species within European sites, in particular birds, during the construction and operational phases of new developments. Disturbance/displacement could occur as a result of noise, visual, vibration and lighting disturbance during both the construction and operational phase of new developments. This could be associated with development near to the European sites themselves, or disturbance/ displacement of birds using functionally linked land adjacent to new development sites.

5.2.24 There are no allocations adjacent to the Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA/ Ramsar site or the Morecambe Bay Ramsar site/ Morecambe and Duddon Estuary SPA, and therefore direct disturbance/ displacement of qualifying species using the European sites can be **screened out** of further assessment. There are also no allocations which adjacent to land which could constitute functionally linked land.

5.2.25 Allocation HSA1.11 (Land off Kipling Drive) is located south of the Marton Mere SSSI (which is utilised by waterfowl and waders that could be associated with the Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA/ Ramsar site). From a review of aerial photography, there appear to be unofficial footpaths crossing through the allocation which may link to the SSSI to the north (there are no official footpaths linking the allocation directly to the SSSI).

5.2.26 However, Marton Mere is also a Local Nature Reserve that is promoted as an educational centre (it is for example advertised on VisitBlackpool) for the natural environment. While "recreation likely to damage the features of interest" are included in the operations requiring Natural England consent, recreation is heavily managed to avoid habitat disturbance with visitors being managed by wardens and information leaflets are provided, this maintains the site in favourable condition which is monitored.

5.2.27 There are distinct pathways throughout the site and any birds using the site would be acclimatised to the disturbance, there are also extensive alternative habitat to the east. Given the small size of the allocation (14 dwellings) and proximity of the SSSI to the existing holiday village, any use of the unofficial footpaths by new residents of any future development at the site would be negligible and not significant. This potential impact can be **screened out** of further assessment alone and in combination.

Conclusion

5.2.28 There would be no disturbance/ displacement of qualifying species associated with the Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA/ Ramsar site or the Morecambe Bay Ramsar site/ Morecambe and Duddon Estuary SPA, and therefore this impact has been **screened out** of further assessment alone and in combination.

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

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

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

5.2.30 The Recreational Disturbance Study (Lily *et al*, 2015) for the Morecambe Bay Partnership identified that visitors to the Morecambe Bay coast who were on a day-trip/short visit from home typically travelled no more than 4km to get to the Bay, with a median distance of 3.45km travelled. There are no sites allocated in the Plan within 3.5km of the coastal area of Morecambe Bay, the nearest being HS1.15 (Land at Warren Drive) just over 6km south. There is one site allocated within the Plan that is

within 3.5km of the section of the Morecambe Bay SPA/Ramsar Site that extends down into the River Wyre. This is HSA1.16 (Land at Ryscar Way), which has been allocated for 47 new homes, and is approximately 2.8km west of the SPA/Ramsar at its nearest point. Residents at this site would have much better access to local greenspaces, as well as the coastline 1.5km to the west, than they would to the SPA. The site allocations in the Plan would therefore not discernibly increase recreational disturbances at the SPA/Ramsar. An LSE caused by recreational activities, caused by the Plan on Morecambe Bay, has been **screened out** of further assessment alone and in combination.

5.2.31 There are 12 allocations within 3.5km of the Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA/ Ramsar site, and therefore increased disturbance to birds (as a result of recreational pressure) at this European site could occur. This potential impact has been **screened in** for further assessment.

5.2.32 There are no employment sites within 1.5km of any European sites, recreational travel within working hours is therefore extremely unlikely and therefore potential recreational pressure from future employees of these allocations has been **screened out** alone and in combination.

5.2.33 There is also the potential for increased recreational use of land outside of the European site, but which is functionally linked to the European site, as a result of new housing developments within Blackpool. However, the presence of functionally linked land adjacent to allocations has been **screened out** of the assessment (refer to Paragraph 5.2.24). Therefore, potential recreational pressure on such land can also be **screened out** of further assessment alone and in combination.

5.3 Detailed Screening of the Local Plan policies and allocations

5.3.1 The screened in Local Plan policies/allocation sites were examined in detail to determine the need for further Appropriate Assessment.

5.3.2 Table 14 summarises the potential impacts that have been screened in/out of further assessment (refer to Section 5.2). Table 15 provides the screening of the policies. The detailed assessment of each of the 29 housing allocations, ten employment sites, one mixed use site and one allotment site associated with these policies is provided in Table 16.

5.3.3 Based on the initial screening exercise, the following potential impacts have been screened in/ out of the detailed screening.

Table 14: Potential impacts screened in/out of the detailed assessment

Potential impact	European site	Screened in/ out of assessment alone?	Screened in/ out of assessment in combination
Air quality	Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA/ Ramsar site Morecambe Bay Ramsar site/SAC Morecambe and Duddon Estuary SPA	Screened out	Screened out
Water quality	Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA/ Ramsar site	Screened out	Screened out
Loss of foraging/ roosting habitat functionally linked to a European site	Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA/ Ramsar site Morecambe Bay Ramsar site Morecambe and Duddon Estuary SPA	Screened out	Screened out
Disturbance/displacement	Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA/ Ramsar site Morecambe Bay Ramsar site Morecambe and Duddon Estuary SPA	Screened out	Screened out

Potential impact	European site	Screened in/ out of assessment alone?	Screened in/ out of assessment in combination
Recreational disturbance	Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA/ Ramsar site	**Screened in**	**Screened in**
	Morecambe Bay Ramsar site/SAC Morecambe and Duddon Estuary SPA	Screened out	Screened out

Table 15: Detailed Screening of the Screened In Policies within the Local Plan

Policy	European site Potentially Affected	Potential Effects	Detailed Assessment	Conclusion
DM7 Provision of Employment Land and Existing Employment Sites	Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA/ Ramsar site	This policy sets out the locations for employment land within Blackpool. There is one new allocation and 12 existing sites associated with this policy, and therefore there is the potential to impact on European sites.	Detailed screening of the allocations associated with this policy is provided in Table 16. The detailed screening confirmed no LSE on the European sites considered in this assessment and no further assessment of these allocations alone or in combination, is required.	**No LSE alone or in combination**
DM8 Blackpool Airport Enterprise Zone	Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA/ Ramsar site (2.1km)	This policy details the potential new development associated with the Enterprise Zone. This policy could lead to development, and potential impacts on European sites.	Detailed screening of the Blackpool Airport Enterprise Zone is provided in Table 16. The detailed screening confirmed no LSE on the European sites considered in this assessment and no further assessment of the Enterprise Zone alone or in combination, is required.	**No LSE alone or in combination**
DM32 Wind Energy	Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA/ Ramsar site	Policy DM20 states that '*The whole Borough is designated as an area of search suitable for small scale wind turbine development*.' There are no allocation sites associated with this policy, however, the policy has the potential to impact on European sites.	The policy includes wording which would aim to protect European sites. The policy states: *Proposals for such development must meet the requirements of Core Strategy and Development Management policies and demonstrate that: … c. the impact on the natural environment including designated sites and the countryside area has been assessed and where necessary appropriate mitigation or enhancement provided*'. This along with compliance with Policy DM35 (which protects the natural environment), would ensure no LSE associated with future wind farm developments within Blackpool.	**No LSE alone or in combination**
DM39 Blackpool Victoria Hospital	Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA/ Ramsar site	This policy relates to future development of the Hospital site. This policy could lead to development, and potential impacts on European sites.	Any potential future extension at the hospital site would be within the estate boundary, and as such would represent redevelopment of the existing site rather than new development. The hospital is surrounded by existing development and Blackpool Zoo. Given its location, and the	**No LSE alone or in combination**

Policy	European site Potentially Affected	Potential Effects	Detailed Assessment	Conclusion
			nature of any future redevelopment works at the site, no LSE are considered likely as a result of future development at the hospital site.	

Table 16: Detailed Screening of site allocations within the Local Plan (distances provided where the receptor is within 3.5 km from the allocation)

Local Plan Sites	European Site to which impact pathway identified	Area (ha)	Planning Status (as of May 2021)	Site description	Conclusion
Former Mariners Public House, Norbreck Road Ref: HSA1.1	No impact pathways to European sites identified	0.2	Application 19/0720 Planning permission for 34 flats approved.	Brownfield site. Former public house, now cleared. Site surrounded by development and roads.	**No LSE alone or in combination**
Former Bispham High School & Land off Regency Gardens Ref: HSA1.2	No impact pathways to European sites identified	9.10	Application 19/0241. Land owned by LA. Secured permission for 176 new homes on a 22-acre site which includes the former Bispham High School off Bispham Road in Blackpool.	Site comprises the old school buildings, air cadets buildings and hard standing to the north. The remainder of the site is composed of open space (6 fields) to the south and west which have public access. Part of the site is currently used as an overspill car park for the neighbouring Department of Work and Pensions offices. Site surrounded by existing development.	**No LSE alone or in combination**
Land at Bromley Close Ref: HSA1.3	No impact pathways to European sites identified	0.22	Planning permission granted in 2007, and renewed in 2012 for 12 dwellings.	Site comprises a single area of scrub and grassland. Site surrounded by existing development and a railway line	**No LSE alone or in combination**
Land rear of 307-339 Warley Road Ref: HSA1.4	No impact pathways to European sites identified	0.33	Planning permission for eight houses and six flats granted, but has since expired. No current planning applications	Site comprises a single area of scrub and grassland. Site surrounded by existing development and a railway line	**No LSE alone or in combination**
Land at Grange Park Ref: HSA1.5	No impact pathways to European sites identified	5.62	Land owned by LA. No planning permissions are in place but a masterplan is currently under preparation. Site has capacity for 160 dwellings. Consultation on the masterplan ended in April 2021	This allocation consists of two sites comprising a cleared site at Chepstow Road and a vacant former school site and open space (two fields) at Dinmore Avenue/Bathurst Avenue. The site is surrounded by existing development	**No LSE alone or in combination**
Land at Coleridge	No impact pathways to	0.14	No current planning applications. Site has capacity for 14 dwellings	Brownfield site. Site cleared, comprises hard standing. Site surrounded by development and roads	**No LSE alone or in combination**

Local Plan Sites	European Site to which impact pathway identified	Area (ha)	Planning Status (as of May 2021)	Site description	Conclusion
Road/George Street Ref: HSA1.6	European sites identified				
190 – 194 Promenade Ref: HSA1.7	No impact pathways to European sites identified	0.12	The site was granted planning permission for the continued use as a temporary car park for a further 3 years in October 2018. The site was subject to a planning application for 15 flats which was recommended for approval, but was withdrawn in 2017. Site has capacity for 15 dwellings	Brownfield site currently used as a car park. Site surrounded by development and roads	**No LSE alone or in combination**
South King Street Ref: HSA1.8	No impact pathways to European sites identified	0.59	Land owned by LA. No current planning applications. Site has capacity for 47 dwellings.	Brownfield site. Currently offices and associated parking. Site surrounded by development and roads.	**No LSE alone or in combination**
Bethesda Road Car Park Ref: HSA1.9	No impact pathways to European sites identified	0.13	Land owned by LA. No current planning applications. Site has capacity for 13 dwellings	Brownfield site. Site currently used as a car park. Site surrounded by development and roads.	**No LSE alone or in combination**
Whitegate Manor, Whitegate Drive Ref: HSA1.10	No impact pathways to European sites identified	0.31	Land owned by LA. No current planning applications. Site has capacity for 16 dwellings	Brownfield site. Existing buildings are currently being used by Blackpool Council	**No LSE alone or in combination**
Land off Kipling Drive Ref: HSA1.11	No impact pathways to European sites identified	0.27	Land owned by LA. No current planning applications. Site has capacity for 14 dwellings	Site comprises a single area of scrub and grassland. Site surrounded by existing development to the south and east. Greenfields to the southwest and north. Site has informal footpaths into Marton Mere Local Nature Reserve and SSSI which is considered to be functionally linked with the Ribble and Alt Estuary SPA/ Ramsar site.	**No LSE alone or in combination**

Local Plan Sites	European Site to which impact pathway identified	Area (ha)	Planning Status (as of May 2021)	Site description	Conclusion
				However, Marton Mere is managed as a visitor attraction, while recreation likely to damage the features of interest are included in the operations requiring consent, recreation is heavily managed to maintain the favourable condition of the site. An additional 14 units will not therefore affect this site.	
Land at Rough Heys Lane Ref: HSA1.12	Ribble and Alt Estuary SPA/ Ramsar site (3.3km)	0.67	Land owned by LA. No current planning applications. Site has capacity for 27 dwellings	Site comprises a single area of scrub and grassland. Site surrounded by existing development to the south, north and west. Greenfields to the east. NE published report (Liley et al, 2017) that suggests a zone of influence for the Ribble Estuary as 1.3km.	**No LSE alone** **Further In combination assessment required**
Land at Enterprise Zone, Jepson Way Ref: HSA1.13	Ribble and Alt Estuary SPA/ Ramsar site (2.4km)	1.42	Land owned by LA. No current planning applications. Site has capacity for 57 dwellings	The site forms part of the Blackpool Airport Enterprise Zone and is included in the illustrative masterplan as a parcel for residential development. The site is currently home to a number of football pitches, associated changing facilities and car parking. NE published report (Liley et al, 2017) that suggests a zone of influence for the Ribble Estuary as 1.3km.	**No LSE alone** **Further In combination assessment required**
Site B, Former NS & I Site, Preston New Road Ref: HSA1.14	No impact pathways to European sites identified	3.31	Outline permission (Application 15/0420) was granted in October 2016 for commercial uses on this land as part of a hybrid application that also included 90 dwellings to the north west that were subject to a full application. These dwellings are now under construction.	Brownfield site. Former National Savings & Investment (NS & I) site, and is temporarily in use as a site compound for the residential development	**No LSE alone or in combination**
Land at Warren Drive Ref: HSA1.15	No impact pathways to European sites identified	3.12	Site has capacity for 86 dwellings	Site comprises an area of scrub and grassland. Site surrounded by existing residential development to the north, west and east. Greenfields to the south	**No LSE alone or in combination**
Land at Ryscar Way	No impact pathways to	2.06	Site has capacity for 47 dwellings	Site comprises an area of scrub, hedgerows and grassland. Site surrounded by existing residential	**No LSE alone or in combination**

Local Plan Sites	European Site to which impact pathway identified	Area (ha)	Planning Status (as of May 2021)	Site description	Conclusion
Ref: HSA1.16	European sites identified			development to the south, north and west. Greenfields to the east	
Land at 50 Bispham Road Ref: HSA1.17	No impact pathways to European sites identified	0.09	Application no. 17/0439 Full permission granted (31.08.2017) for 12 dwellings.	Very small enclosed area of open grassland and scrub, bound by busy roads.	**No LSE alone or in combination**
41 Bispham Road and land to the rear of 39-41 Bispham Road Ref: HSA1.18	No impact pathways to European sites identified	0.35	Application no. 05-0185 Full permission granted (15.12.2005) for 16 dwellings	Small enclosed area of secondary woodland scrub adjacent to the railway.	**No LSE alone or in combination**
Kings Christian Centre, Warley Road Ref: HSA1.19	No impact pathways to European sites identified	0.12	Application no. 15/0362 Full permission granted (04.11.2015) for 15 dwellings	Very small enclosed area of hard standing surrounded by roads and residential areas.	**No LSE alone or in combination**
Land off Coopers Way Ref: HSA1.20	No impact pathways to European sites identified	1.22	Application no. 05-0705 Full permission granted (09.09.2005) for 45 dwellings	Under construction.	**No LSE alone or in combination**
Land at Coleridge Road/ Talbot Road Ref: HSA1.21	No impact pathways to European sites identified	0.29	Planning under consideration for a 25 dwellings. A mix of affordable 1 bedroom apartments and 2 and 3 bedroom houses.	Brownfield site. Former employment site, now cleared. Site surrounded by development and roads	**No LSE alone or in combination**
7-11 Alfred Street Ref: HSA1.22	No impact pathways to European sites identified	0.04	Application no. 16/0664 Full permission granted (24.02.2017) for 14 dwellings	Large building of industrial/commercial use surrounded by roads and buildings.	**No LSE alone or in combination**

Local Plan Sites	European Site to which impact pathway identified	Area (ha)	Planning Status (as of May 2021)	Site description	Conclusion
Foxhall Village Phases 2(S), 3 & 4 Ref: HSA1.23	Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA/ Ramsar Site (3.5 km)	2.97	Application no. 12/0803 Outline permission granted (14.03.2013) for 192 dwellings	Under construction. NE published report (Liley et al, 2017) that suggests a zone of influence for the Ribble Estuary as 1.3km.	**No LSE alone** **Further In combination assessment required (allocation within 3.5km of Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA/ Ramsar site)**
Site A, Former NS & I Site, Preston New Road Ref: HSA1.24	No impact pathways to European sites identified	5.11	Application no. 15/0420 Hybrid application. Full and outline permission granted (28.10.2016) for 83 dwellings	Under construction.	**No LSE alone or in combination**
Site of Co-operative Sports and Social Club, Preston New Road Ref: HSA1.25	No impact pathways to European sites identified	1.57	Application no. 17/0361 Full permission granted (23.08.2017) for 45 dwellings	Under construction.	**No LSE alone or in combination**
9-15 Brun Grove (Blackpool Trim Shops) Ref: HSA1.26	Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA/ Ramsar Site (3.5 km)	0.18	Application no. 17/0573 Full permission granted for 10 houses (06.12.2017)	Small area of industrial/commercial use and associated adjacent areas of hardstanding. Bound by urban areas of mixed use. NE published report (Liley et al, 2017) that suggests a zone of influence for the Ribble Estuary as 1.3km.	**No LSE alone** **Further In combination assessment required (allocation within 3.5km of Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA/ Ramsar site)**

Local Plan Sites	European Site to which impact pathway identified	Area (ha)	Planning Status (as of May 2021)	Site description	Conclusion
Waterloo Road Methodist Church, Waterloo Road Ref: HSA1.27	No impact pathways to European sites identified	0.14	Site has capacity for 12 dwellings	Brownfield site. Site of the former Methodist church. Site surrounded by development and roads	**No LSE alone or in combination**
Land at 200-210 Watson Road Ref: HSA1.28	Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA/ Ramsar Site (3.5 km)	0.89	Application no. 17/0873 Full permission granted for 39 dwellings (21.03.2018)	Under construction. NE published report (Liley et al, 2017) that suggests a zone of influence for the Ribble Estuary as 1.3km.	**No LSE alone** **Further In combination assessment required (allocation within 3.5km of Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA/ Ramsar site)**
585-593 New South Promenade and 1 Wimbourne Place Ref: HSA1.29	Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA/ Ramsar Site (3.5 km)	0.40	Application no. 17/0193 Full permission granted for 88 self-contained flats (10.05.2017)	Small area of commercial/industrial use adjacent to the coastal Promenade and otherwise surrounded by other urban development. NE published report (Liley et al, 2017) that suggests a zone of influence for the Ribble Estuary as 1.3km.	**No LSE alone** **Further In combination assessment required (allocation within 3.5km of Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA/ Ramsar site)**
Blackpool Airport Enterprise Zone Ref: DM8	Ribble and Alt Estuary SPA/ Ramsar site (2.1km)	16.1	No current planning applications	The site includes in the illustrative masterplan a new parcel of land for employment development. The site is currently home to a number of football pitches, associated buildings and car parking. NE published report (Liley et al, 2017) that suggests a zone of influence for the Ribble Estuary as 1.3km.	**No LSE alone or in combination**

Local Plan Sites	European Site to which impact pathway identified	Area (ha)	Planning Status (as of May 2021)	Site description	Conclusion
Vicarage Lane	No impact pathways to European sites identified	0.9	No current planning applications	The site is within an existing industrial area, surrounded by development.	**No LSE alone or in combination**
Clifton Road	No impact pathways to European sites identified	2.1	No current planning applications	The site is located within Clifton Industrial Estate, surrounded by existing development and roads.	**No LSE alone or in combination**
Preston New Road	No impact pathways to European sites identified	0	No current planning applications	The site is located within an urban area, surrounded by existing development.	**No LSE alone or in combination**
Chiswick Grove	No impact pathways to European sites identified	0	No current planning applications	The site is located within an urban area, surrounded by existing development.	**No LSE alone or in combination**
Mowbray Drive	No impact pathways to European sites identified	0.3	No current planning applications	The site is located within an urban area, surrounded by existing development.	**No LSE alone or in combination**
Devonshire Rd / Mansfield Rd	No impact pathways to European sites identified	0	No current planning applications	The site is located within an urban area, surrounded by existing development.	**No LSE alone or in combination**
Moor Park	No impact pathways to European sites identified	0	No current planning applications	The site is located within an urban area, surrounded by existing development.	**No LSE alone or in combination**

Local Plan Sites	European Site to which impact pathway identified	Area (ha)	Planning Status (as of May 2021)	Site description	Conclusion
North Blackpool Technology Park	No impact pathways to European sites identified	2	No current planning applications	The site is located within North Blackpool Technology Park, surrounded by existing development.	**No LSE alone or in combination**
Warbreck Hill	No impact pathways to European sites identified	8.3	No current planning applications	The site is located within an urban area, surrounded by existing development.	**No LSE alone or in combination**
Land at Church Street (former Syndicate site)	No impact pathways to European sites identified	0.24	No current planning applications, but space for discount food retailer and multi storey car park	The site is located within Blackpool Town Centre, surrounded by existing development.	**No LSE alone or in combination**
Allotment site, Norbreck Ref: ASA1	No impact pathways to European sites identified	1.4	No current planning applications	The allocation is located within a recreational area, surrounded by a golf course and sports ground.	**No LSE alone or in combination**

6 In combination Effects

6.1.1 The HRA needs to consider those elements of the Plan that may have a significant impact in combination either with other policies or sites within the Local Plan itself or with other plans and projects within the local area (or both). This Section looks at the potential in combination effects associated with allocations (and their associated policies) within the Local Plan itself. In combination effects associated with other plans or projects is set out within Section 6, below.

6.2 Policies and allocation sites within the Local Plan itself

6.2.1 The policies set out within the Local Plan Part One and Part Two have been designed to work together (and should be read as such), there are no policies within the Local Plan Part One or Two which would act in combination with other policies with the Local Plan to have an LSE on European sites either alone, or in combination.

6.2.2 The screening of the allocation sites set out within Table 16 identified the potential for in combination effects on the Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA/ Ramsar site in relation to an increase in recreational pressure on these European sites. All other potential in combination effects (within the Local Plan itself) have been screened out of further assessment.

6.2.3 The potential exists for a rise in visitor numbers to have a significant effect on the Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA/ Ramsar site as the housing developments are progressively completed across Blackpool. The screening (refer to Table 16) identified six residential allocation sites within 3.5km of the Estuary. These are shown in Table 17 below. The table also shows the number of dwellings and the current planning status of each allocation site.

Table 17: New housing developments within 3.5km of the Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA/ Ramsar site

Allocation site	Number of Dwellings	Planning Status (Allocation (A) or Planning Permission Granted (PP))
HSA1.23: Foxhall Village Phases 2(S), 3 & 4 Application no. 12/0803	192	A and PP
HSA1.29: 585-593 New South Promenade and 1 Wimbourne Place Application no. 17/0193	88 flats	A and PP
HSA1.26: Blackpool Trim Shops Ltd, Brun Grove, Blackpool, FY1 6PG Application no. 17/0573	10	A and PP
HSA1.28: Land At 200-210 Watson Road Application no. 17/0873	39	A and PP
Land at Rough Heys Lane Ref: HSA1.12	27	A
Land at Enterprise Zone, Jepson Way Ref: HSA1.13	57	A
TOTAL	**413**	

6.2.4 With respect to the housing site allocations, six sites (413 dwellings) are within 3.5km of the Ribble and Alt Estuary SPA/ Ramsar site. The majority of the new homes within these six sites (329 dwellings) have planning permission and therefore environmental impacts have been assessed through the planning application process (this did not identify recreational pressure as a potential impact on the Ribble and Alt Estuary SPA/ Ramsar site alone or in combination). For the remaining new dwellings, these allocations are located in, or on the edge of urban areas with existing local amenities and recreational areas. In addition, provision of public open space will be incorporated into new housing developments, which would further encourage residents to stay local, rather than travel to more distant European sites. Therefore, although the potential exists for an increase in visitors to the coast as the housing developments are progressively completed in Blackpool, it is not considered that there would be an increase which would be large enough such that it could have a significant effect alone on the European sites. NE published report (Liley et al, 2017) that suggests a zone of influence for the Ribble Estuary as 1.3km. This potential impact has therefore been **screened out** of further assessment.

6.3 Conclusion

6.3.1 The in combination assessment of policies and allocations within the Local Plan itself concludes that there are no likely significant in combination effects of implementing the Local Plan.

6.4 In combination Effects (with other plans or projects)

6.4.1 In addition to in combination effects of sites within the Local Plan itself, there is the potential for effects to occur upon European sites in combination with other plans or projects. Only the effects of other plans or projects which would not be likely to be significant alone, need to be included in the in-combination assessment. If the effects of other plans or projects will already be significant on their own, they are not added to those associated with the Local Plan as they already have their own measures in place to mitigate for those effects.

6.4.2 The only potential in combination effect identified was in relation to recreational pressure on the adjacent Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA/ Ramsar site. All other potential impacts have been screened out of further assessment alone or in combination.

6.4.3 Although the potential exists for increased disturbance through a rise in visitor pressure as the housing developments are progressively completed within and surrounding Blackpool, the risk is low that significant numbers of residents from Blackpool, Wyre and Fylde will choose to visit the Ribble and Alt Estuary in the same location, at the same time. The Recreational Disturbance Study carried out by Footprint Ecology for the Morecambe Bay Partnership (Liley *et al*, 2015) identified that visitors to Morecambe Bay who were on a day-trip/short visit from home travelled a median distance of 3.454km to get to the designated site. Only a small part of the southern end of Blackpool falls within 3.5km of the European sites, and Wyre is more than 6.5 km from the Ribble and Alt Estuary SPA/ Ramsar site. The HRA of the Wyre local Plan ruled out likely significant effects associated with recreational pressure due to the distance of the allocations within the plan from the SPA/ Ramsar site (Arcadis, 2018). Fylde lies to the south of the Blackpool, and the southern boundary of the borough lies within 3.5km of the SPA/ Ramsar site. However, the HRA of the Fylde Local Plan did not identify any likely significant effects associated with recreational pressure. NE published report (Liley et al, 2017) that suggests a zone of influence for the Ribble Estuary as 1.3km.

6.4.4 The provision of public open space will be incorporated into the majority of new housing developments, which would encourage residents to stay local, rather than travel to more distant designated sites on a regular basis.

6.4.5 Therefore, although there may be a slight increase in visitor numbers as a result of development within Blackpool and Fylde, it is not considered that there would be an increase which would be large enough such that it could have a likely significant effect on the European sites. Therefore, in-combination effects in relation to an increase in recreational pressure have been ruled out.

6.5 Conclusion

6.5.1 The in combination assessment with other plans or projects itself concludes that there are no likely significant in combination effects of implementing Local Plan.

7 Overall Conclusion

7.1.1 This HRA Screening of the Blackpool Local Plan Part Two has considered the potential implications of the Plan for the European sites in the vicinity of the Borough.

7.1.2 The Screening exercise concluded that none of the policies or associated allocation sites were considered to have a likely significant effect on any of the European sites alone, or in combination.

8 References

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APPENDIX A

European Sites

Site Name	Qualifying Features	Pressures/ Threats
Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA	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: During the breeding season; Common Tern *Sterna hirundo* Ruff *Philomachus pugnax*, **Over winter:** Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica* Bewick's Swan *Cygnus columbianus bewickii* Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria*, Whooper Swan *Cygnus,* 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: **During the breeding season:** Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus* **On passage:** Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula* Sanderling *Calidris alba* **Over winter:** Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa islandica* Dunlin *Calidris alpina* Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola* Knot *Calidris canutus* Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*, Pink-footed Goose *Anser brachyrhynchus* Pintail *Anas acuta* Redshank *Tringa totanus* Sanderling *Calidris alba* Shelduck *Tadorna* Teal *Anas crecca* Wigeon *Anas penelope* Assemblage qualification: A seabird assemblage of international importance	Coastal squeeze; Air pollution: risk of atmospheric nitrogen deposition; Inappropriate scrub control; Invasive species; Hydrological changes; Public assess/ disturbance; Inappropriate coastal management; Fisheries: Commercial marine and estuarine; Change to site conditions; Inappropriate coastal management; Shooting/ scaring; Invasive species; and Feature location/ extent/ pressure condition unknown.

Site Name	Qualifying Features	Pressures/ Threats
	The area qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by regularly supporting at least 20,000 seabirds During the breeding season, the area regularly supports 29,236 individual seabirds. Assemblage qualification: A wetland of international importance. The area qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by regularly supporting at least 20,000 waterfowl	
Ribble and Alt Estuaries Ramsar site	**Ramsar criterion 2:** This site supports up to 40% of the Great Britain population of natterjack toads *Bufo calamita*. **Ramsar criterion 5:** Assemblages of international importance: Species with peak counts in winter: 222,038 waterfowl **Ramsar criterion 6:** Species/populations occurring at levels of international importance. Qualifying Species/populations (as identified at designation): Species regularly supported during the breeding season: Lesser black-backed gull, *Larus fuscus graellsii*, Species with peak counts in spring/autumn: Ringed plover, *Charadrius hiaticula,* Grey plover, *Pluvialis squatarola* Red knot, *Calidris canutus islandica* Sanderling, *Calidris alba* Dunlin, *Calidris alpina* Black-tailed godwit, *Limosa islandica* Common redshank, *Tringa totanus,* Lesser black-backed gull, *Larus fuscus graellsii,* Species with peak counts in winter: Tundra swan, *Cygnus columbianus bewickii* Whooper swan, *Cygnus* Pink-footed goose, *Anser brachyrhynchus* Common shelduck, *Tadorna* Eurasian wigeon, *Anas penelope* Eurasian teal, *Anas crecca* Northern pintail, *Anas acuta* Eurasian oystercatcher, *Haematopus ostralegus* Bar-tailed godwit, *Limosa lapponica*	Coastal erosion is a factor at Formby Point with an estimated loss of 4 m per year. It is a concern because pine woodland on the sand dunes is causing coastal squeeze and therefore preventing sand dune habitats from rolling back; as such dune slack habitats for natterjack toad are declining/ being lost.

Site Name	Qualifying Features	Pressures/ Threats
Morecambe Bay and Duddon Estuary SPA	The site qualifies under **article 4.1** of the Directive (2009/147/EC) as it is used regularly by 1% or more of the Great Britain populations of the following species listed in Annex I in any season: Whooper swan Little egret Golden plover Bar-tailed godwit Ruff Mediterranean gull Little tern Sandwich tern Common tern The site qualifies under **article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) as it is used regularly by 1% or more of the biogeographical populations of the following regularly occurring migratory species (other than those listed in Annex I) in any season: Pink-footed goose Common shelduck Northern pintail Eurasian oystercatcher Grey plover Ringed plover Eurasian Curlew Black-tailed godwit Ruddy turnstone Red Knot Sanderling Dunlin Common redshank Lesser black-backed gull European herring gull **Assemblage qualification:** The site qualifies under **article 4.2** of the Directive (2009/147/EC) as it used regularly by over 20,000 seabirds in any season: At time of the 1997 citation of Morecambe Bay SPA, the area supported 40,672 individual seabirds including: herring gulls, lesser black-backed gulls, sandwich terns, common terns, and little terns.	Public access/ disturbance; Air pollution: risk of atmospheric nitrogen deposition; Water pollution; Inappropriate pest control; Invasive species; Fisheries: Commercial marine and estuarine; Fisheries: Aquaculture; Biological resource use; Change in land management; Hydrological changes; Invasive species; Physical modification; Energy production; Changes in species distributions; and Direct impact from third party.

Site Name	Qualifying Features	Pressures/ Threats
	The site qualifies under article 4.2 of the Directive (2009/147/EC) as it used regularly by over 20,000 waterbirds in any season: During the period 2009/10 – 2013/14, the site held a five year peak mean value of 266,751 individual birds. The main components of the assemblage include all of the qualifying features listed above, as well as an additional 19 species present in numbers exceeding 1% of the GB total and / or exceeding 2,000 individuals: great white egret, Eurasian spoonbill, light-bellied Brent goose (Nearctic origin), Eurasian wigeon, Eurasian teal, green-winged teal, mallard, ring-necked duck, common eider (non-breeding), common goldeneye, red-breasted merganser, great cormorant, northern lapwing, little stint, spotted redshank, common greenshank, black-headed gull, common (mew) gull and European herring gull (non-breeding).	
Morecambe Bay Ramsar site	**Ramsar criterion 4:** The site is a staging area for migratory waterfowl including internationally important numbers of passage ringed plover *Charadrius hiaticula*. **Ramsar criterion 5:** Assemblages of international importance with peak counts in the winter: 223709 waterfowl **Ramsar criterion 6:** Species/populations occurring at levels of international importance during the breeding season: Lesser black-backed gull, *Larus fuscus graellsii* Herring gull, *Larus argentatus* Sandwich tern, *Sterna (Thalasseus) sandvicensis* Species with peak counts in spring/autumn: Great cormorant, *Phalacrocorax carbo* Common shelduck, *Tadorna tadorna* Northern pintail, *Anas acuta* Common eider, *Somateria mollissima* Eurasian oystercatcher, *Haematopus ostralegus* Ringed plover, *Charadrius hiaticula* Grey plover, *Pluvialis squatarola* Sanderling, *Calidris alba* Eurasian curlew, *Numenius arquata* Common redshank, *Tringa totanus tetanus* Ruddy turnstone, *Arenaria interpres* Lesser black-backed gull, *Larus fuscus graellsii* Species with peak counts in winter:	No factors reported adversely affecting the Ramsar Site's ecological character (past, present or potential).

Site Name	Qualifying Features	Pressures/ Threats
	Great crested grebe, *Podiceps cristatus* Pink-footed goose, *Anser brachyrhynchus* Eurasian wigeon, *Anas penelope* Common goldeneye, *Bucephala clangula* Red-breasted merganser, *Mergus serrator* European golden plover, *Pluvialis apricaria* Northern lapwing, *Vanellus vanellus* Red knot, *Calidris canutus islandica* Dunlin, *Calidris alpina alpine* Bar-tailed godwit, *Limosa lapponica*	

APPENDIX B

Figure

Figure 1: Designated sites

APPENDIX C

Information from NE - Buffer distances in relation to European sites

Bird Group	Birds	Extent of Functional Habitat from site	Note
Birds 1	All breeding bird assemblages (excluding ground- nesting heathland species, stone-curlew, marsh harrier & nightjar)	**500m**	Breeding SSSI birds of prey (peregrine, merlin, hen harrier & honey buzzard) can also forage up to 4km. It is not thought likely, however, that these species would make significant use of farmland habitat beyond semi-natural areas encompassed by protected site boundaries.
Birds 2	All wintering birds (except wintering waders and grazing wildfowl; wigeon and geese)1,2	**500m**	Home ranges of dabbling ducks such as teal, mallard and gadwall could extend beyond site boundaries at coastal sites, but less likely to do so at inland water bodies. Where functional habitat of dabbling ducks does extend beyond site boundaries then this is likely to be accommodated by presence of wigeon, geese or waders. Wintering marsh harrier and hen harrier can forage 10s of km and are likely to make significant use of farmland habitat beyond semi-natural areas encompassed by site boundaries. Owing to extensive presence of farmland within 10s of km and low densities of birds, the standard distance of 500m relating to all wintering birds is deemed acceptable.
Birds 3	Wintering waders (except golden plover and lapwing), brent goose & wigeon1,3 marsh harrier[4,5]	**2km**	Breeding marsh harrier can also forage up to 4km and are likely to make significant use of farmland habitat beyond semi-natural areas encompassed by site boundaries. Owing to extensive presence of farmland and low densities of birds, a reduced distance of 2km is deemed acceptable.
Birds 4	Ground nesting heathland species, breeding nightjar & stone curlew	**2km**	Many sites (e.g. TBH/ Dorset Heaths) have issues of recreational disturbance. Buffers need to take into account travel to sites from proposed residential developments. Nightjar - up to 4km foraging distance for nightjars but unlikely to be >2km beyond site boundary. Likely to need site specific assessment as depending on adjacent land use there may be extensive or no functional habitat beyond the site boundary e.g. discrete heathland SSSI amongst grassland and woodland in comparison to discrete heathland site surrounded by development
Birds 5	Wintering lapwing and golden plover	**15-20km**	Golden plover can forage up to 15km from a roost site within a protected site. Lapwing can also forage similar distances. Both species use lowland farmland in winter, so difficult to distinguish between European populations and those present within the wider environment unconnected to a European site. Reduced sensitivity beyond 10km
Birds 6	Wintering white-fronted goose, greylag goose, Bewick's swan, whooper swan & wintering bean goose.	**10km**	No information
Birds 7	Wintering pink-footed goose, barnacle goose	**15-20km**	No information

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