



Local Development Framework

Central Lancashire Core Strategy

Revised Habitat Regulations Screening Assessment Report

November 2011



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1. INTRODUCTION

Background

- 1.1 The Central Lancashire Core Strategy is a Development Plan Document (DPD) which will set out the vision, strategic objectives, general principles and the strategy for development and protection of land within Central Lancashire, until 2026. The Core Strategy forms part of the statutory development plan for Central Lancashire which includes the Districts of Chorley, South Ribble and Preston and once adopted will become the main DPD within the wider suite of planning policy documents; the Local Development Framework (LDF).
- 1.2 The LDF is a portfolio of documents that together comprise the spatial planning strategy for the local area. The LDF is made up of a range of DPD's, Supplementary Planning Documents (SPD's) and other Local Development Documents (LDD's). Alongside the production of DPD's there is a requirement to undertake a Sustainability Appraisal and a Habitat Regulations Screening Assessment to ensure the economic, environmental and social sustainability effects of the plan and the potential impact a plan may have on European designated habitats.
- 1.3 In accordance with The Conservation Natural Habitats, and c.) (Amendment) Regulations 2007 and European Communities (1992) Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild flora and fauna, the Central Lancashire authorities are required to undertake a screening exercise of the likely significant effects of their plan: the Central Lancashire Core Strategy.
- 1.4 *** Please note this is a revised version of the HRA that was submitted to the Planning Inspectorate on 31 March 2011 and was part of the evidence base for the Central Lancashire Core Strategy at the Examination Hearing June/ July 2011. This revised version (November 2011) takes account of the proposed changes to Policy 1: Locating Growth and Policy 4: Housing Delivery. Full explanations can be found throughout the document and within Appendix 2a and Appendix 3a which were not included within the earlier revised version (March 2011).

Habitat Regulations Assessment Process

- 1.5 The regulations require an assessment to be undertaken of the 'likely significant effects' of a plan or project, in this case the Core Strategy DPD, on sites of international nature conservation importance. The Core Strategy can only be approved where it has been satisfied that there will be no adverse effect on the integrity of the international nature conservation sites.
- 1.6 Stage one of the Habitat Regulations Assessment process is to undertake a screening exercise of the proposed project, or in this case the policies within a plan; Core Strategy and to assess whether any likely significant effects will arise as a result of the project or plan.
- 1.7 Assessment of the significance of effects is undertaken by assessing the policies in relation to the designated European and International nature conservation sites and whether any effect would compromise the favourable condition of the site in an adverse way.
- 1.8 Where no likely significant effects are identified then there is no need for further work at this stage, not discounting the potential need for future Habitat Regulations

Assessments. If significant effects are identified it may be necessary to undertake a full Appropriate Assessment of the plan; Central Lancashire Core Strategy.

1.9 Notably, the Habitat Regulations Assessment is one of a number of tools that shapes the policies and direction of the Core Strategy, including the Sustainability Appraisal, local evidence base and national and regional policies and legislation.

Natura 2000 Sites

1.10 Natura 2000 is the collective term for the various European designated sites that are of exceptional importance due to the type of habitat and in particular their rare, endangered or vulnerable state.

1.11 These sites include:

- Special Protection Areas (SPA's) designated under the EU 'Wild' Bird's Directive;
- Special Conservation Areas (SAC's) designated under the EU 'Habitats Directive' and Offshore Marine Sites (OMS);
- Ramsar Sites designated as wetland sites of international importance at the Iranian International Wetland's Convention at Ramsar. Planning Policy Statement 9 indicates that Ramsar sites should also be considered as part of the Natura 2000 network (Para 6, PPS 9, 2005).

Report Structure

1.12 This report provides the Habitat Regulations screening assessment by describing the plan and key objectives and policies, assessing the role of the policies, highlighting the Natura 2000 sites relevant for inclusion within the screening assessment report of the Central Lancashire Core Strategy, undertaking an assessment of the likely significant effects both of the Core Strategy and in-combination with other plans and drawing satisfactory conclusions.

2. DESCRIPTION OF PLAN

2.1 The Habitat Regulations Screening process is specifically concerned with screening the policies of the plan - Central Lancashire Core Strategy and assessing any likely significant effects that the Core Strategy may have on the Natura 2000 sites, identified within this report. However, the North West Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS); a strategic planning framework for the North West remains part of the Development Plan for the local area. As such it is referred to below due to its current status.

North West Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) to 2021

2.2 The North West RSS provides a regional strategy for the North West of England, for development, protection, investment, regeneration etc. up until 2021. It sets predicted levels of growth, specifically housing and employment targets for each of the local areas in the North West region and considers a wide range of cross boundary issues such as transport, retail, renewable energy etc. Each LDF Core Strategy must be in general conformity with the policies in the RSS, unless local circumstances dictate otherwise. The RSS has undergone a full Habitat Regulations Assessment and concluded it has no likely significant effects on the Natura 2000 network in the North West region.

2.3 It is also worth noting the Government's intention to revoke regional strategies through the Localism Bill that is currently going through Parliament.

The Plan - Central Lancashire Core Strategy

2.4 The Central Lancashire Core Strategy covers the local authority areas of Chorley, South Ribble and Preston and is the spatial planning strategy for the area up until 2026. The document has recently been the subject of representations at its publication stage and is due to be submitted to the Secretary of State by the end of March 2011, followed by an examination hearing in June 2011 and if found sound, adoption in November 2011.

2.5 The overall vision of the Core Strategy is that Central Lancashire will be a highly sought after place to live, work and visit in the North West. A unique location encouraging sustainable development whilst remaining a place with 'Room to Breathe'.

Strategic Objectives

2.6 In order to achieve the aims and vision set out in the Core Strategy a number of Strategic Objectives were set to help focus the strategy.

Core Strategy Strategic Objectives

SO 1 To foster growth and investment in Central Lancashire in a manner that:

- Makes the best use of infrastructure and land by focussing on the Preston/ South Ribble Urban Area, and the Key Service Centres of Leyland and Chorley.
- Marries opportunity and need by focussing investment in Preston City Centre and other Strategic Sites and Locations, and Leyland and Chorley town centres.
- Supports service provision in rural areas, particularly in the Rural Local Service Centres.

SO 2 To ensure there is sufficient and appropriate infrastructure to meet future needs, funded where necessary by developer contributions.

SO 3 To reduce the need to travel, manage car use, promote more sustainable modes of transport and improve the road network to the north and south of Preston.

Core Strategy Strategic Objectives

SO 4 To enable easier journeys into and out of Preston City Centre and east/west trips across South Ribble, improve movement around Chorley, as well as safeguard rural accessibility, especially for mobility impaired people.
SO 5 To help make available and maintain within Central Lancashire a ready supply of residential development land over the plan period so as to help deliver sufficient new housing of appropriate types to meet future requirements. This should also be based on infrastructure provision, as well as ensuring that delivery does not compromise existing communities.
SO 6 To achieve densities for new housing that respect the local character of surrounding areas, whilst making efficient use of land.
SO 7 To improve the quality of existing housing, especially in Inner East Preston and pockets of poor stock in South Ribble and Chorley Boroughs, and to bring empty properties back into use.
SO 8 To significantly increase the supply of affordable and special needs housing particularly in places of greatest need such as in more rural areas.
SO 9 To guide the provision of pitches for Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople in appropriate locations if genuine needs arise.
SO 10 To ensure there is a sufficient range of locations available for employment purposes.
SO 11 To secure major retail and leisure investment in Preston City Centre to enable it to function as an alternative shopping and commercial destination to Manchester and Liverpool. To achieve the retail and leisure potential of Chorley and Leyland town centres and ensure the district and local centres provide for local needs.
SO 12 To create, enhance and expand tourist attractions and visitor facilities in the City, town centres and appropriate rural locations.
SO 13 To sustain and encourage appropriate growth of rural businesses, taking into account the characteristics of the urban fringe and wider countryside.
SO 14 To ensure appropriate education facilities are available and skills deficiencies are addressed.
SO 15 To foster 'place shaping' to enhance the character and local distinctiveness of the built environment in Central Lancashire by encouraging high quality design of new buildings.
SO 16 To protect, conserve and enhance Central Lancashire's places of architectural and archaeological value and the distinctive character of its landscapes.
SO 17 To maintain and improve the quality of Central Lancashire's built and natural environmental assets so that it remains a place with 'room to breathe'.
SO 18 To improve the health and wellbeing of all Central Lancashire's residents and reduce the health inequalities that affect the more deprived urban* areas, particularly Inner East Preston.
SO 19 To improve access to health care, sport and recreation, open green spaces, culture, entertainment, and community facilities and services, including healthy food.
SO 20 To create environments in Central Lancashire that help to reduce crime, disorder and the fear of crime, especially in the more deprived areas which often experience higher levels of crime.
SO 21 To reduce energy use and carbon dioxide emissions in new Development.
SO 22 To encourage the generation and use of energy from renewable and low carbon sources.
SO 23 To manage flood risk and the impacts of flooding especially adjoining the river Ribble and at Croston.
SO 24 To reduce water usage, protect and enhance Central Lancashire's water resources and minimise pollution of water, air and soil.

* Proposed Minor Change MC40

Core Strategy Policies - Summaries

2.7 There are 31 policies within the Core Strategy, which relate to the Strategic Objectives set out above. The policies are contained under the following thematic headings:

- **Spatial Strategy – Managing and Locating Growth**

- **Delivering Infrastructure**
- **Catering for Sustainable Travel**
- **Homes for All**
- **Delivering Economic Prosperity**
- **Achieving Good Design**
- **Health and Wellbeing**
- **Tackling Climate Change**

Policy 1: Locating Growth

- 2.8 Policy 1 is the Spatial Strategy for expected growth over the plan period in Central Lancashire. Growth and investment is to be concentrated in the Preston/South Ribble Urban Area. Growth and investment is also to be concentrated in the Key Service Centres of Leyland/Farington, Chorley Town and Longridge. Although Longridge is within Ribble Valley, land adjoining the town to the west is within Preston District.
- 2.9 Four Strategic Sites are now proposed at BAE Systems, Samlesbury (employment), Cuerden (employment) and Buckshaw Village (mixed use) together with Cottam (mixed use). The latter was proposed as a Strategic Location in the Core Strategy submitted in March 2011. The November 2011 proposed changes elevate Cottam to Strategic Site status in recognition of the advanced plans to complete this part-built development on a clearly definable site. However, this proposed new status merely confirms the intended development here, it does not add to it. Other Strategic Locations are proposed at Central Preston and now through the November 2011 proposed changes at North West Preston and south of Penwortham/north of Farington. Some growth and investment is encouraged at the Urban Local Service Centres of Adlington, Clayton Brook/Green, Clayton-le-Woods (Lancaster Lane), Coppull, Euxton and Whittle-le-Woods. Limited growth and investment will be encouraged at the Rural Local Service Centres of Brinscall/ Withnell, Eccleston and Longton.
- 2.10 In other places (e.g. smaller villages, built-up frontages and Major Developed Sites) development will typically be small-scale, unless there are exceptional reasons for larger scale redevelopment schemes.
- 2.11 Maps overleaf highlight the location and extent of the three Strategic Sites.

Figure 1 BAE Systems Samlesbury Strategic Site

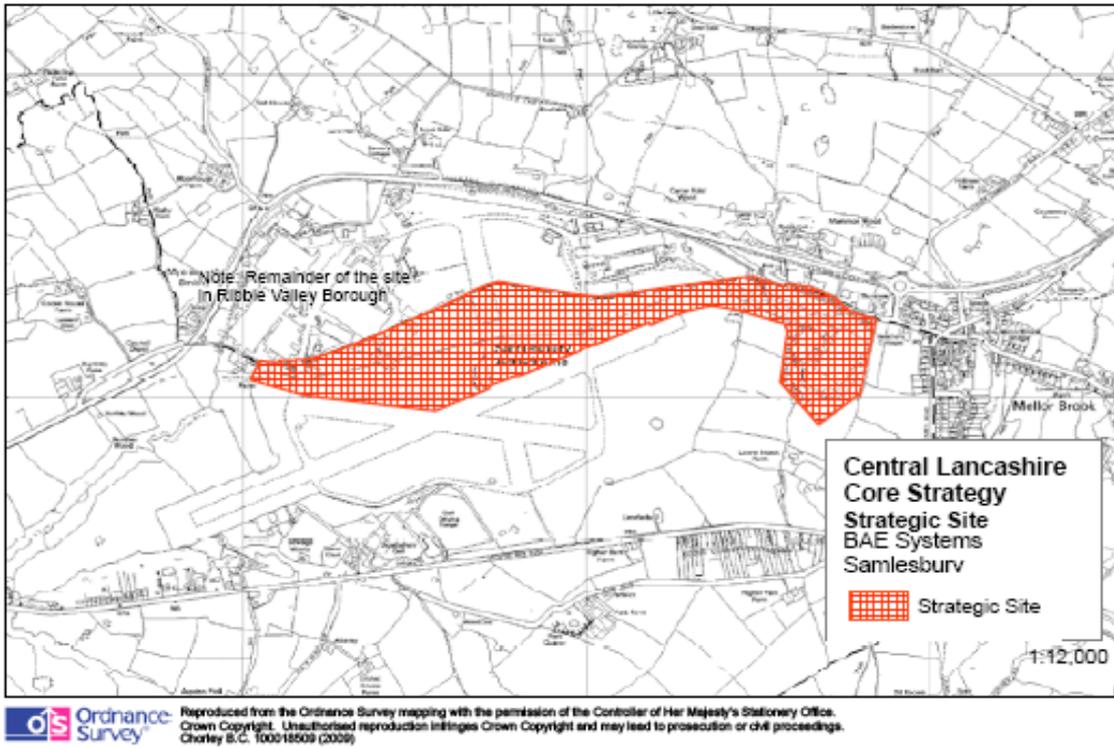


Figure 2 Cuerden Strategic Site

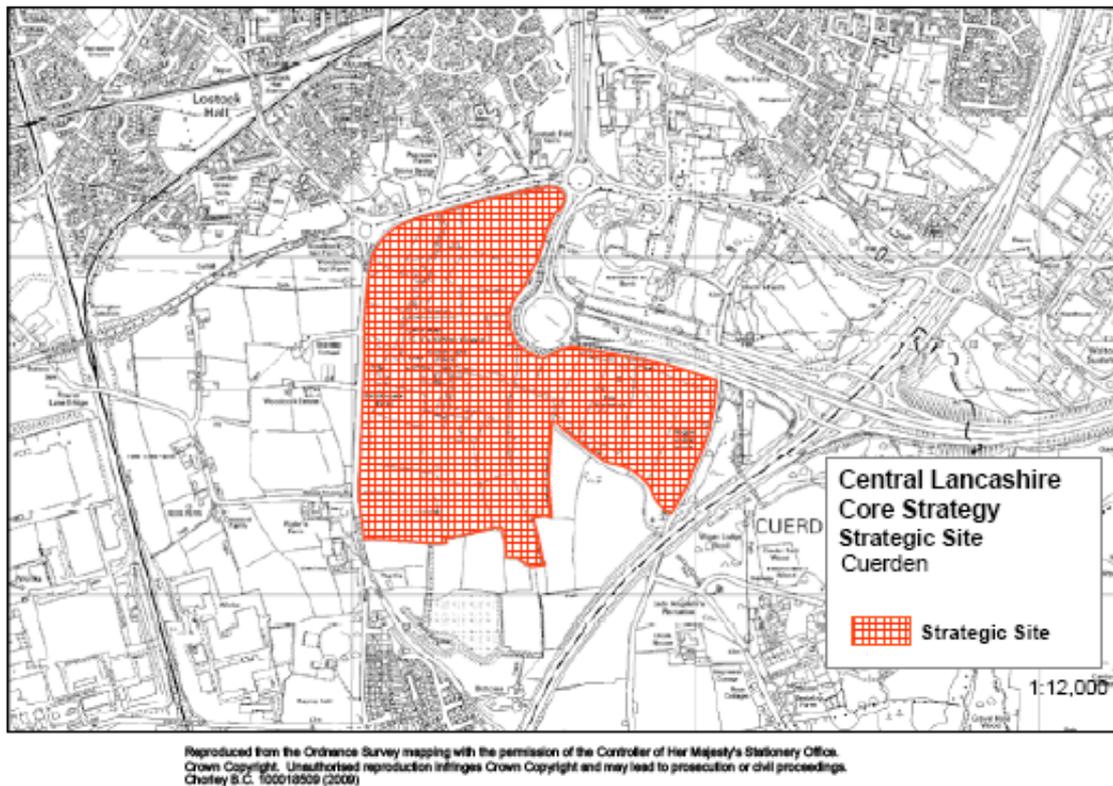


Figure 3 Buckshaw Village Strategic Site

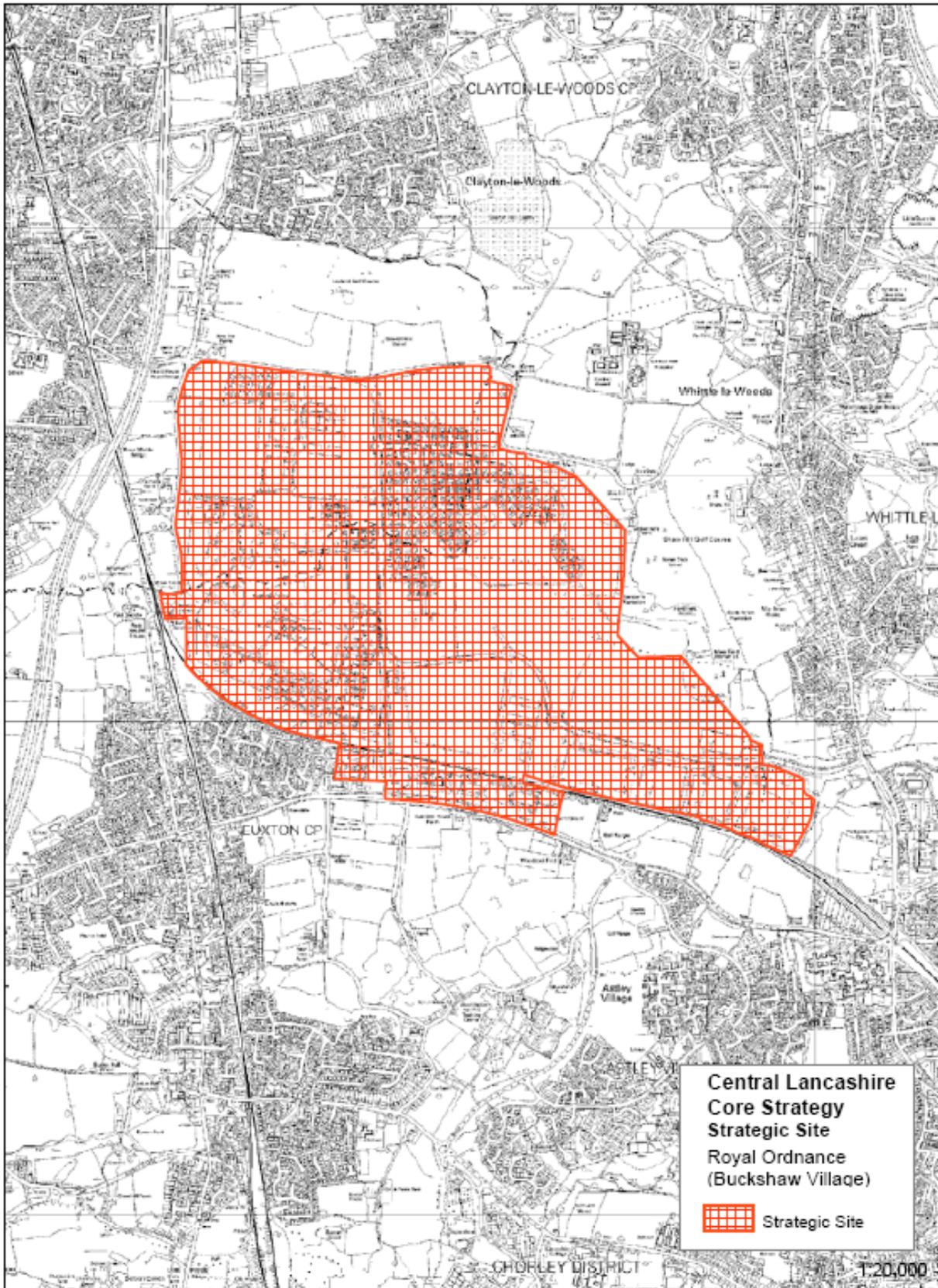
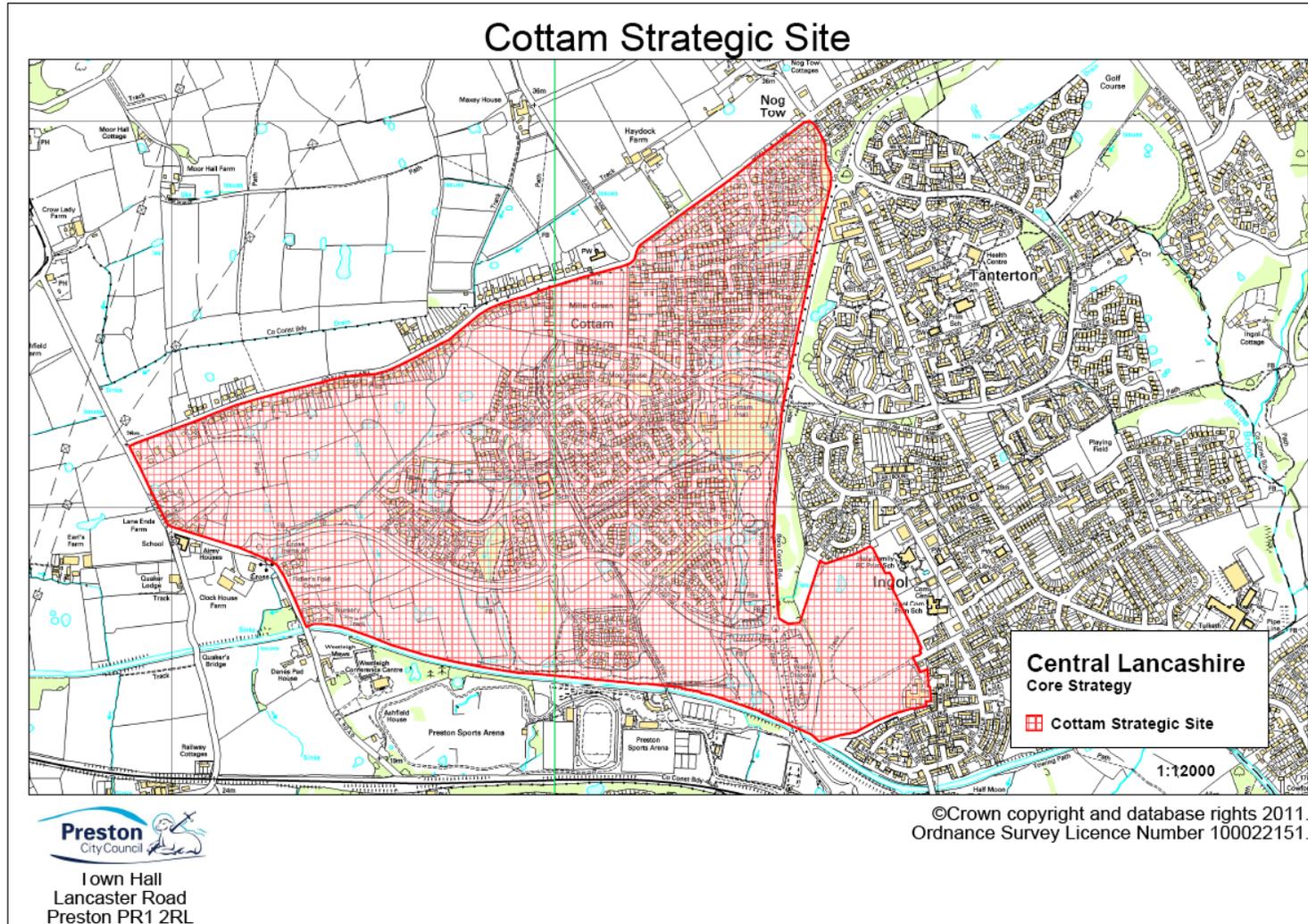


Figure 4 Cottam Strategic Site



Policy 2: Infrastructure

2.12 The policy sets the parameters for infrastructure delivery. It emphasises the importance of working together with infrastructure providers and outlines approaches to funding.

Policy 3: Travel

2.13 Increasing accessibility and promoting sustainable travel are key themes of the policy. A series of measures are proposed grouped under various themes including reducing the need to travel, improving pedestrian facilities, and improving opportunities for cycling, improving public transport, enabling greater travel choices, encouraging car sharing, managing car use and improving the road network.

Policy 4: Housing Delivery

2.14 This relates to the provision of housing in the short term, medium and long term. The policy proposed a 20% reduction on the RSS housing requirement in the short term. The November 2011 proposed changes replace this reduction with the full RSS housing requirement over whole plan period. This would lead to an annual average of 507 houses (up from 406) in Preston and 417 (up from 334 for South Ribble and Chorley). The other main alteration was the change from a maximum housing target to a minimum housing target meaning that the figures set out could be exceeded, hence there is a possibility of more housing over the plan period. Additionally, there is now a need within the policy to provide for the shortfall from 2003 to 2010 that was not delivered (702 dwellings), throughout the plan period.

Policy 5: Housing Density

2.15 This policy deals with housing densities and seeks to ensure that densities are in keeping with local areas.

Policy 6: Housing Quality

2.16 The policy aims to improve the quality of housing particularly targeting Inner East Preston, Leyland Town Centre, encouraging the re-use of empty properties, facilitating greater provision of accessible housing and higher construction standards.

Policy 7: Affordable Housing

2.17 This seeks to ensure a sufficient provision of affordable housing in line with needs and viability. An SPD with further details will be produced.

Policy 8: Gypsy and Traveller and Travelling Show People Accommodation

2.18 This outlines criteria for assessing Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople accommodation.

Policy 9: Economic Growth and Employment

2.19 The policy outlines the need for 501 hectares of employment land and directs sub-regional office developments to Preston City Centre and more local schemes to Chorley and Leyland town centres. Other major employment development is to be located in the Preston/South Ribble Urban Area, Leyland and Farington and Chorley Town, with regionally significant schemes at Samlesbury, Cuerden, Buckshaw Village and Central Preston. Sub regionally significant developments are to be located at Botany/Great Knowley (Chorley), Preston East/Millennium City Park and

Riversway (Preston). Mixed use developments are considered appropriate at Moss Side Test Track and Lostock Hall Gasworks, which are both in South Ribble.

Policy 10: Employment Premises and Sites

2.20 This sets out the approach to protecting existing employment premises and sites. Outlines criteria which sites will need to be assessed against before re-use or redevelopment will be an option.

Policy 11: Retail and Town Centre Uses and Business Based Tourism

2.21 This highlights the approach to retail, town centre uses and business based tourism through a retail hierarchy focussing on Preston, then the principal town centres of Chorley and Leyland and District Centres in Bamber Bridge, Clayton Green, Longton, Penwortham, Tardy Gate and proposed at Buckshaw Village and Cottam. As well as criteria for the delivery of retail and town centre uses.

Policy 12: Culture and Entertainment Facilities

2.22 This plans for culture and entertainment through a series of points; promoting Preston and Chorley and Leyland, protecting existing cultural assets, promoting public art and public realm works and encouraging cultural and heritage based tourism and leisure facilities.

Policy 13: Rural Economy

2.23 The policy relates to sustaining the rural economy and encouraging the appropriate growth of rural businesses, but it is not locationally specific.

Policy 14: Education

2.24 This relates to planning for education and improving and building new educational facilities where needed. Seeking developer contributions, partnership working, supporting growth of higher and further education.

Policy 15: Skills and Economic Inclusion

2.25 The policy aims to improve skills and economic inclusion through a series of measures including: working with existing and incoming employers to identify skills shortages, liaising with educational training establishments, encouraging knowledge based businesses and creative industries.

Policy 16: Heritage Assets

2.26 This seeks to protect and enhance heritage assets through a series of measures including safeguarding heritage assets from inappropriate development, supporting development/initiatives where they protect and enhance the heritage assets and producing a local list of heritage assets.

Policy 17: Design of New Buildings

2.27 This provides criteria seeking to encourage good design of new buildings.

Policy 18: Green Infrastructure

2.28 The policy seeks to enhance, protect, invest and secure mitigation to the green infrastructure network through a series of measures.

Policy 19: Areas of Separation and Major Open Space

2.29 The policy aims to protect the identity and local distinctiveness of certain settlements and neighbourhoods through the designation of Areas of Separation and Major Open Space.

Policy 20: Countryside Management and Access

2.30 This promotes countryside management and access at Ribble Coast and Wetlands Regional Park, Beacon Fell Country Park and the Moorland Gateway to the West Pennine Moors.

Policy 21: Landscape Character Areas

2.31 This requires new development to be well integrated into existing settlement patterns, appropriate to the landscape character type and designation and contribute positively to conservation, enhancement, restoration or creation.

Policy 22: Biodiversity and Geodiversity

2.32 The policy aims to conserve, protect and seek opportunities to enhance and manage the biological and geological assets of the area.

Policy 23: Health

2.33 The policy seeks to integrate public health principles and planning and help to reduce health inequalities through a series of measures.

Policy 24: Sport and Recreation

2.34 The policy aims to ensure that everyone has the opportunity to access good sport, physical activity and recreational facilities and a series of measures to achieve this.

Policy 25: Community Facilities

2.35 This seeks to ensure that local communities have sufficient community facilities provision by establishing need, working to provide new or enhanced facilities, resisting the loss of existing facilities and assessing all new housing development proposals in terms of their contribution.

Policy 26: Crime and Community Safety

2.36 Planning for reduced levels of crime and improved community safety is the aim of this policy.

Policy 27: Sustainable Resources and New Developments

2.37 The policy seeks to secure the incorporation of sustainable resources into new development through a range of measures. It requires all new dwellings to meet Level 3 (or where economically viable, level 4) of the Code for Sustainable Homes, with this level increasing in 2013 and 2016. The policy also contains further criteria

that need to be satisfied, including a requirement to install appropriate decentralised, renewable or low carbon energy sources to reduce carbon emissions by at least 15% for schemes of 5 or more dwellings or non-residential units of 500 sq metres.

Policy 28: Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Schemes

2.38 This relates to renewable and low carbon energy schemes. These are supported provided they meet a range of criteria relating to landscape character and visual appearance, sites with statutory protection, impacts on local amenity, and harm to local nature, ecology and biodiversity and the wider environmental, social and economic benefits.

Policy 29: Water Management

2.39 The policy aims to improve water quality, water management and reduce the risk of flooding through various measures.

Policy 30: Air Quality

2.40 This seeks to improve air quality through Green Infrastructure initiatives and through taking account of air quality when prioritising measures to reduce road traffic congestion.

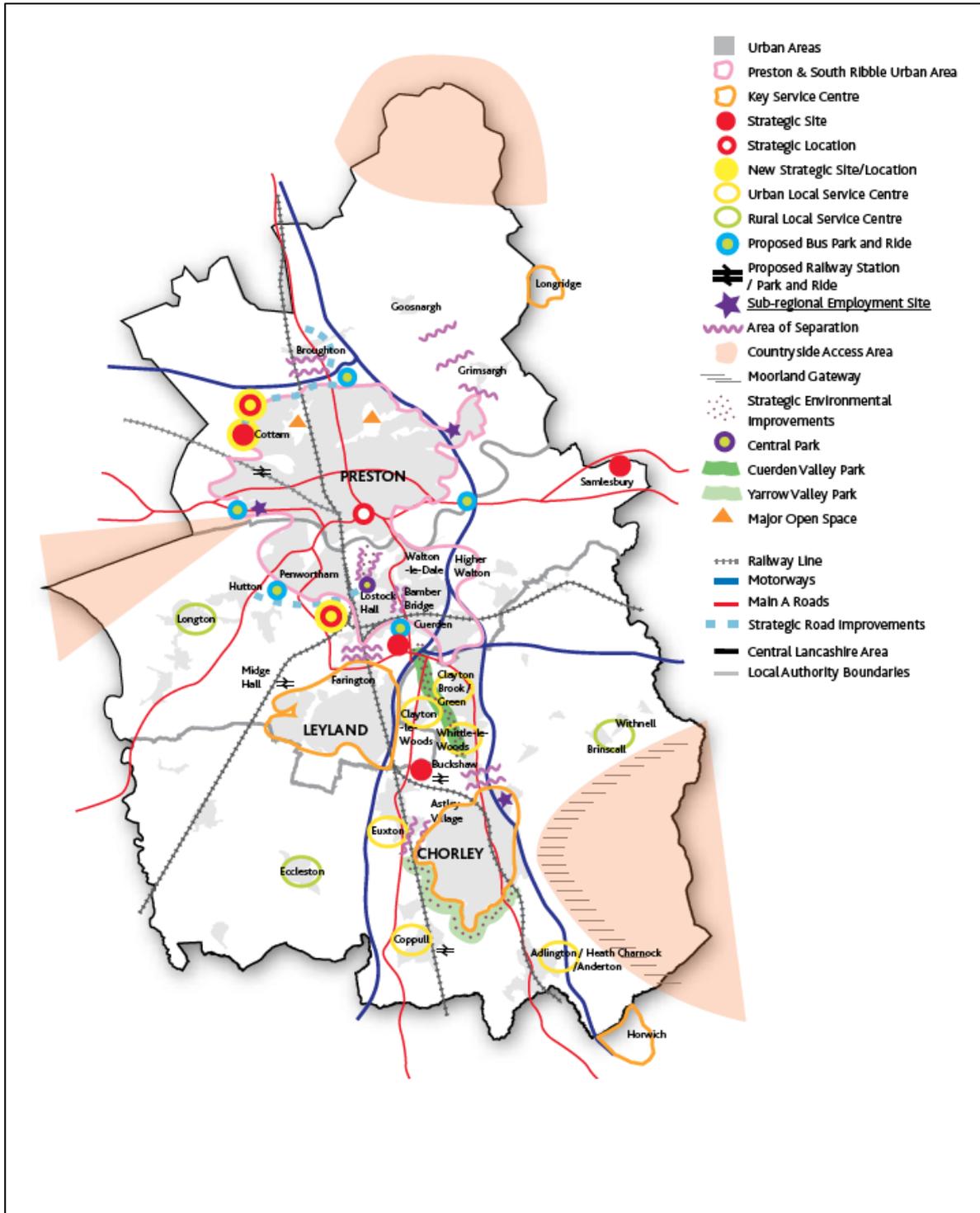
Policy 31: Agricultural Land

2.41 The policy deals with protecting the best and most versatile agricultural land.

Key Diagram

2.42 The Key Diagram (Figure 5 overleaf) illustrates the spatial strategy for Central Lancashire, including amendments proposed during November 2011.

Figure 5 Key Diagram – with November 2011 amendments



3. IDENTIFICATION AND DESCRIPTION OF SITES

Introduction

- 3.1 When assessing the potential likely significant effects the Core Strategy may have on Natura 2000 sites it is important to not only consider the impact on Natura 2000 sites within the plan's boundary but also those sites that are adjacent to or in proximity to Central Lancashire and could potentially be affected by the plan's policies.
- 3.2 Within the guidance there is no defined distance within which the Natura 2000 sites could be affected, and as a result it is possible that impacts could occur when a site is a considerable distance away.
- 3.3 There is one Natura 2000 site partly within Central Lancashire which is the Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site in South Ribble (at Hutton and Longton Marsh) extending out to the West of the boundary. For the purpose of this report a 15km buffer zone is also being applied for sites outside of Central Lancashire. This is considered a reasonable distance to consider any potential likely significant effects.

Methodology

- 3.4 A methodology has been developed to assess whether likely significant effects on the Natura 2000 sites are likely to occur as a result of development proposed in the Core Strategy, by identifying a series of potential impacts and a number of Natura 2000 sites both Central Lancashire and up to 15km away.
- 3.5 Firstly, the Core Strategy policies will be screened to assess whether they lead directly to some form of development that may have a potential impact (**Direct Development**). If no Direct Development can occur as a result of the Core Strategy policy then it can be screened out at this stage. If the policy itself does/ could lead to Direct Development then it will need to undergo an assessment to see if any of the potential impacts listed below are likely and if there are any pathways for the potential impacts to reach the Natura 2000 sites identified. See Appendix 2 for the full assessment details.
- 3.6 The following potential impacts will be assessed – see Paragraph 4.3 for further details. Firstly, 'Direct Development' and if this is likely then the other potential impacts, will be assessed listed below:

- ❖ **Air Quality**
- ❖ **Water Quality**
- ❖ **Hydrology**
- ❖ **Water Supply**
- ❖ **Habitat Species/ Disturbance**
- ❖ **Recreational/ Visitor Pressure**

- 3.7 If any potential impacts are likely or uncertain, then the policies need to be assessed against any potential pathways between the Natura 2000 sites and the potential impacts (e.g. the potential impact could be 'water quality' and the pathways could be the 'river network' and the site could be the 'Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA and Ramsar'. Only where no pathways exist for the potential impacts to reach the Natura 2000 sites can these policies be ruled out at this stage.
- 3.8 If any policies remain likely to have an effect on a Natura 2000 site and a pathway connects the impact to the site then a further assessment will be required. This will assess whether any avoidance measures such as including policy wording or

mitigation such as criteria within another Core Strategy policy, can be used to negate the potential impact. All policies where the impacts can be neutralised by some form of avoidance or mitigation can then be screened out (See full analysis in Appendix 3). Any policies left in will then need to be subject to a further assessment.

- 3.9 Full screening assessment will be undertaken via a matrix format that is displayed in the appendices. The matrices in Appendix 2 and in Appendix 3 will incorporate a traffic light system to display the screening process. All policies that are highlighted in 'green' in the screening conclusion in Appendix 2 will be screened out of this assessment as having no likely significant effects. All policies that are highlighted in 'yellow' will be screened in to the next stage, in Appendix 3. There will then be a further assessment in Appendix 3 and all policies that can be avoided against or mitigated against will be highlighted in 'green' and can be screened out at this stage of the assessment as having no likely significant effects. Any policies highlighted in 'yellow' will need to undergo further assessment work. If any policies are highlighted in 'red' this means that a significant likely effect could arise and a full Appropriate Assessment will be required.
- 3.10 Once the above assessment has been undertaken of the plan – Central Lancashire Core Strategy, a further assessment will be required to ascertain whether any 'in-combination' effects are likely as a result of cumulative development, commonly assessed through neighbouring authorities plans. See Appendix 4 for this assessment.

Identified Natura 2000 Sites

3.11 Within the boundary of Central Lancashire is:

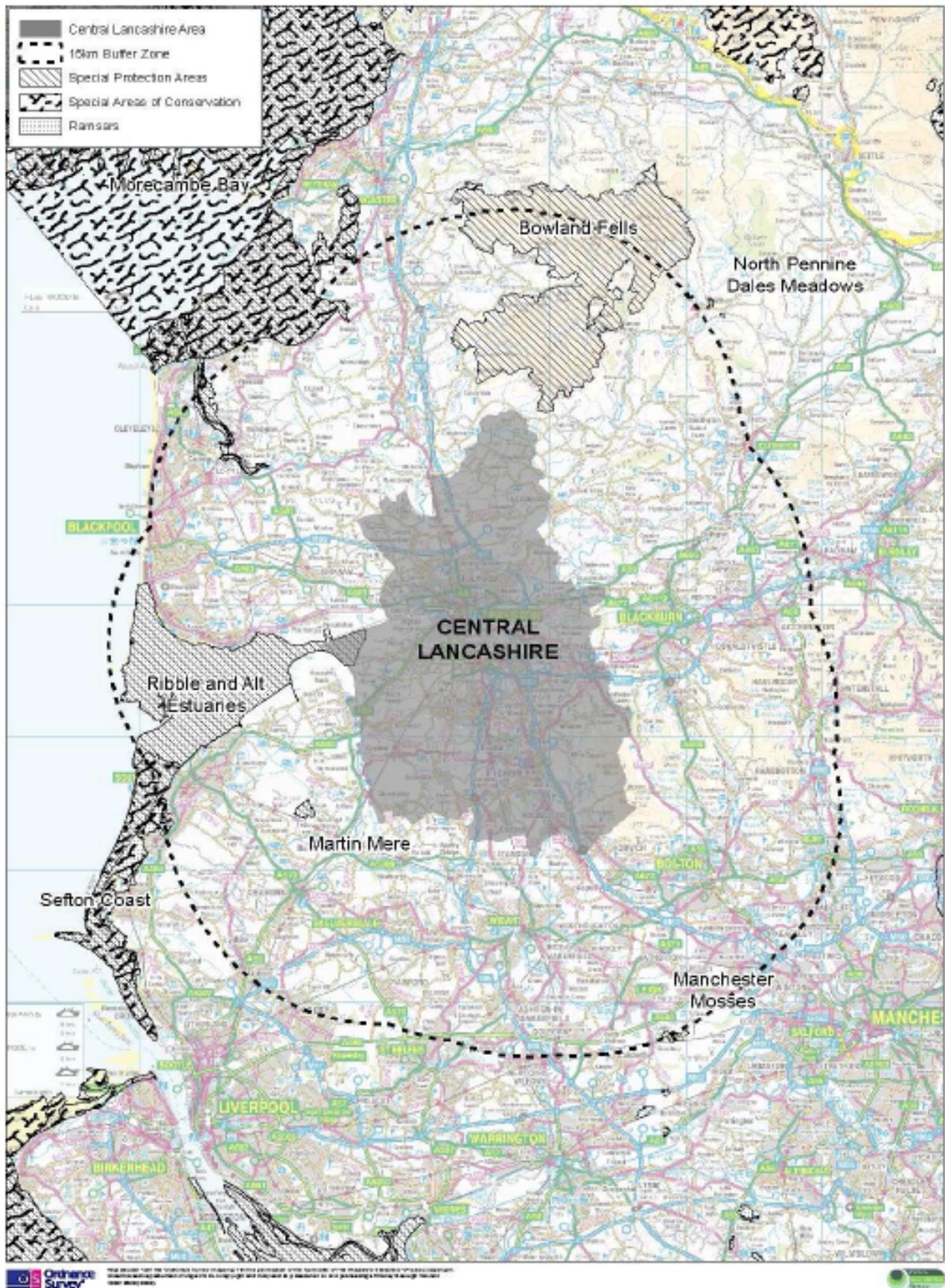
- ❖ **Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site:** a small proportion of its eastern area lies within South Ribble, the rest of the site lies immediately downstream of Preston, as well as being in close proximity to Chorley Borough.

3.12 Within the 15km buffer Zone:

- ❖ **Martin Mere SPA and Ramsar:** this site is not located within Central Lancashire. It has been selected as it lies in close proximity to both Chorley Borough (approximately 4km away) and South Ribble (approximately 7km away).
- ❖ **Sefton Coast SAC:** this site is not located within Central Lancashire. It has been selected as it lies in relatively close proximity to Chorley Borough (approximately 13km away).
- ❖ **Bowland Fells SPA:** this site is not located within Central Lancashire. It has been selected as it lies in very close proximity to the rural northern boundary of Preston (just over 1km away).
- ❖ **Morecambe Bay SPA & Ramsar Site:** this site is not located within Central Lancashire. It has been selected as it lies within relatively close proximity to the rural north-western boundary of Preston (approximately 8km away).
- ❖ **Morecambe Bay SAC:** this site is not located within Central Lancashire. It has been selected as it lies within relatively close proximity to the rural north-western boundary of Preston (approximately 13km away).

- 3.13 Sections of the North Pennine Dales Meadow SAC are just over 15km from the rural northern boundary of Preston and the Manchester Mosses SAC is approximately 15km from the rural south-eastern boundary of Chorley Borough. However, the Core Strategy should have no impact upon these sites due to their distance from Central Lancashire and the lack of clear pathways connecting them to Central Lancashire. Therefore, they have been screened out of this exercise.
- 3.14 Figure 6 (overleaf) shows the location of the identified Natura 2000 sites for the purpose of this Habitat Regulations Screening Assessment.
- 3.15 Appendix 1 provides further details on the identified Natura 2000 sites including habitat and species specifics and site vulnerabilities.

Figure 6 Location of European Sites in relation to Central Lancashire



4. ANALYSIS OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS/ PATHWAYS

4.1 In order to assess whether any likely significant effects will impact upon the Natura 2000 sites, as a result of the Central Lancashire Core Strategy, or in-combination with 'other plans', it is necessary firstly to identify potential impacts that could cause a likely significant effect on a Natura 2000 site.

4.2 The following potential impacts have been identified as:

- ❖ **Direct Development** – Firstly, the Core Strategy policies will be screened to assess whether they lead directly to some form of development that may have a potential impact on the Natura 2000 sites. (If there is no Direct Development the policies will be screened out straight away).
- ❖ **Air Quality** – Changes in the composition of air quality as a result of development or an increase in number of trips near the vicinity of a Natura 2000 site that could damage vegetation and harm species living in these habitats.
- ❖ **Water Quality** – Changes in the quality of water composition in the watershed as a result of development in or near to the Natura 2000 site, and increased pollution that could alter the water quality entering the water network and could damage vegetation and habitats/ species at these sites.
- ❖ **Hydrology** – Changes in the hydrological cycle affected by heat, surface run off, loss of permeable surfaces etc. and can result in drought or flooding of Natura 2000 sites that could damage vegetation or harm species living in these habitats.
- ❖ **Water Supply** – Changes in the levels of demand for water supply in Central Lancashire as a result of new development, for example housing and employment sites, may increase levels of water abstraction, potentially affecting Natura 2000 sites which are hydrologically connected to the source of water supply.
- ❖ **Habitat Species/ Disturbance** – Disturbance both to habitats and to species travelling to Natura 2000 sites through ecological isolation and fragmentation if development restricts migratory routes to Natura 2000 sites and/or that impacts on food resources or breeding grounds en route.
- ❖ **Recreational/ Visitor Pressure** – Disturbance both to habitats and to species as a result of development, if it significantly increases the number of people visiting Natura 2000 sites and added pollution and contamination of sites because of a larger footfall.

4.3 There is also a need to establish a set of particular pathways where potential impacts may be able to find a path to a Natura 2000 site. Where no pathways exist to the Natura 2000 site, the potential impacts can be ruled out as they will not have a likely significant effect on the site.

4.4 Potential pathways include:

- **Wind** – an assessment of whether the potential impacts outlined above, specifically air quality can reach the Natura 2000 sites via the prevailing wind.
- **River Network** – as assessment of whether potential impacts, specifically water quality, and hydrology are connected via the river network to the Natura 2000 sites.
- **Water Supply** – an assessment of the connectivity of the water supply in Central Lancashire i.e. reservoirs and the Natura 2000 sites.
- **Roads** – Distance to Natura 2000 sites in relation to the road network and the feasibility of air, noise and light pollution from increased traffic on the roads, due to a higher population or greater accessibility across Central Lancashire.
- **Species movement** – distance between Central Lancashire and the Natura 2000 sites and the location of other important habitats within the boundary of the plan such as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), Country Parks, Biological Heritage Sites and Local Nature Reserves.

5. ASSESSMENT OF LIKELY SIGNIFICANT EFFECTS

Core Strategy Policies Initial Assessment Screening Matrix (Appendix 2)

- 5.1 The 'Core Strategy Policies Initial Assessment Screening Matrix' assesses which of the Core Strategy policies are likely to have a significant effect on the Natura 2000 sites. Policies have been 'screened out' straight away if the policy itself will not lead directly to development (18 of the following policies) and the policy attempts to protect, conserve, enhance the natural environment or sets criteria through which to assess future planning applications.
- 5.2 The following 18 Core Strategy policies have been 'screened out' at this initial stage as requiring no further assessment:
- Policy 5: Housing Density
 - Policy 6: Housing Quality
 - Policy 7: Affordable Housing
 - Policy 8: Gypsy and Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Accommodation
 - Policy 10: Employment Premises and Sites
 - Policy 15: Skills and Economic Inclusion
 - Policy 16: Heritage Assets
 - Policy 17: Design of New Buildings
 - Policy 18: Green Infrastructure
 - Policy 19: Areas of Separation and Major Open Space
 - Policy 20: Countryside Management and Access
 - Policy 21: Landscape Character Areas
 - Policy 22: Biodiversity and Geodiversity
 - Policy 26: Crime and Community Safety
 - Policy 27: Sustainable Resources and New Developments
 - Policy 29: Water Management
 - Policy 30: Air Quality
 - Policy 31: Agricultural Land
- 5.3 The above policies are screened out and highlighted in 'green' within the matrix in Appendix 2 as per the methodology outlined in paragraph 3.9. The conclusion for these policies is that they will not have any likely significant effects on the Natura 2000 sites.
- 5.4 The further 13 policies have been 'screened in' (highlighted in 'yellow' as they do directly lead to development of some description, whether it is Policy 1: Locating Growth and outlining the overall growth strategy for Central Lancashire or a smaller scale development potential such as Policy 14: Education which details small scale potential educational developments only. All policies that directly lead to development have to be screened in to assess their potential impact upon the identified Natura 2000 sites.
- 5.5 Where a potential impact was unclear or uncertain the 'precautionary principle' has been applied throughout the screening assessment. These policies have been screened in to the next stage of assessment (Appendix 3) to ascertain whether avoidance or mitigation measures can screen out the policy at a further assessment stage. Note that whilst some potential impacts were unclear or uncertain, there were also other potential impacts that could be more easily identified and as such no policy was taken through to the further assessment stage in Appendix 3 solely because of the applied precautionary principle.

5.6 Policies 2, 3 and 28 highlighted below in 'blue' as all directly lead to development as a result of the policy, however it was considered that either potential impacts or pathways did not exist or the policy itself could offer mitigation for the potential impacts it may cause and as such these three policies have also been screened out at this initial stage.

- Policy 2: Infrastructure
- Policy 3: Travel
- Policy 28: Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Schemes

5.7 Policy 2 was screened out at this initial stage because whilst some form of development would be encouraged as a result of this policy the impacts such as water quality would be mitigated within the policy itself due to improvements by the policy to funding for improvements to water/utility infrastructure. Policy 3: Travel was screened out at this initial assessment because whilst there is some form of development encouraged through the policy that could for example increase the number of trips, the policy itself mitigates against this through a sustainable travel hierarchy and the promotion of walking, cycling, public transport and managing car use to reduce the number of trips. Policy 28 was screened out at this stage because the policy offers considerable mitigation, adaptation and compensatory mitigation for any adverse impacts it may cause and development will not be permitted unless this has occurred.

Potential Impacts identified -

5.8 Ten policies were highlighted as 'yellow' (see overleaf) for a variety of issues:

- Water quality issues for the Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA and Ramsar (Policies 1, 4, 9, 11, 12, 14, 23, 24, 25).
- Air quality issues for the Bowland Fells SPA (Policies 1, 4, 9, 13, 14, 23, 24 and 25).
- One water supply issue for the Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA and Ramsar (Policy 13).
- Hydrological issues for the Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA and Ramsar through the potential loss of permeable surfaces (Policies 1, 4, 9, 13, 14, 25).
- Recreational/ visitor pressure due to an increased population potentially affecting sites except for Martin Mere SPA and Ramsar as it is managed by the Wetland and Wildfowl Trust (Policies 1 and 4).
- Habitat/ Disturbance issues potentially for all sites, usually as a result of the precautionary principle (Policies 1, 4, 9, 11, 12, 13).

5.9 The most significant policies were Policy 1: Locating Growth, Policy 4: Housing Delivery and Policy 9: Economic Growth and Employment due to the scale and location of anticipated development. No policies were highlighted in 'red' during this stage.

5.10 Due to the amendments identified (post Examination in Public June/ July 2011) for Policy 1: Locating Growth and Policy 4: Housing Delivery it was deemed that there was potential for likely effects as a result of air quality and water quality and hydrology issues, the same as were identified on the original assessment of Policy 1 and Policy 4. Therefore, they have continued to be screened in to the next stage. See Appendix 2a for full details.

Core Strategy Policies Potential Impacts Avoidance/ Mitigation Matrix (Appendix 3)

5.11 The Ten yellow highlighted policies from Appendix 2 were screened in to the further assessment stage in Appendix 3 to assess whether the potential impacts identified could be avoided or mitigated either through other Core Strategy policies or additional wording included within the policies to enable the policies to be screened out at this stage as having no likely significant effects on the Natura 2000 sites identified within this report.

5.12 The ten policies are:

- Policy 1: Locating Growth
- Policy 4: Housing Delivery
- Policy 9: Economic Growth and Employment
- Policy 11: Retail and Town Centre Uses and Business Based Tourism
- Policy 12: Culture and Entertainment Facilities
- Policy 13: Rural Economy
- Policy 14: Education
- Policy 23: Health
- Policy 24: Sport and Recreation
- Policy 25: Community Facilities

5.13 For a full analysis of the assessment and avoidance/ mitigation measures see Appendix 3. The analysis revealed that there were a number of significant environmental policies within the Core Strategy that could mitigate against the potential impacts and enable all of the policies to be screened out.

5.14 As a result of this further stage of assessment all of the policies that had been screened in after the initial assessment and highlighted in 'yellow', have now been screened out and highlighted in 'green' indicating that these policies will lead to no likely significant effects on the identified Natura 2000 sites. No policies were highlighted in 'red' during this stage of the assessment.

5.15 Main issues which led to these conclusions:

- Policy 2: Infrastructure was able to mitigate against some of the infrastructure issues such as water quality due to the potential for funding to help deliver mitigation and to gain funding for the delivery of green infrastructure (used to mitigate policies 4, 14, 23, 24 and 25).
- Policy 3: Travel was able to mitigate against some policies that had potential air quality implications as a result of increased number of trips and traffic pollution because of the policy's emphasis on sustainable travel and promoting walking, cycling, public transport use and managing car use (used to mitigate policies 1, 4, 13, 14, 25).
- Policy 17: Design of New Buildings assisted mitigating issues such as hydrology through the need to include landscape features (permeable surfaces) within developments and climate change mitigation and adaptation – assisting in habitat/species disturbance impacts (used to mitigate policies 1, 4, 9, 13).
- Policy 18: Green Infrastructure mitigates against air quality issues through the provision and enhancement of green infrastructure and open spaces, improves hydrological outcome through the retention of permeable surfaces, provides recreational facilities and takes potential pressure away from the Natura 2000 sites,

prevents habitat/ species disturbance through the protection of open spaces and the link to ecological frameworks and enhances water quality through the protection of 'blue' green infrastructure and important elements of the river network (used to mitigate policies 1, 4, 9, 11, 13, 14, 23, 24, 25).

- Policy 19: Areas of Separation and Major Open Spaces mitigates against air quality pressures, hydrological concerns through additional permeable services, habitat/ species disturbance by protecting open spaces and recreational opportunities minimising the need to visit the Natura 2000 sites for recreational purposes (used to mitigate policies 1, 4, 9, 23, 24, 25).
- Policy 20: Countryside Management and Access mitigates against recreational pressures as encourages recreational access within Central Lancashire (used to mitigate policies 1 and 4).
- Policy 22: Biodiversity and Geodiversity mitigates potential concerns for habitat/ species disturbance through protection of existing biological assets including local nature reserves and biological heritage sites of which there are several hundred within Central Lancashire. The policy also seeks to enhance and expand ecological networks preventing ecological isolation and fragmentation and protecting the most valuable habitat/ species sites that act as stepping stones to locally or European designated sites (used to mitigate policies 1, 4, 9, 11, 12, 13).
- Policy 29: Water Management this policy has been instrumental in alleviating potential impacts as a result of water quality and hydrology issues. The sewer infrastructure in some areas of Central Lancashire is in need of assessment and as such this is an issue that if further development is permitted there may be implications to water quality as a result of inadequate sewer infrastructure. Policy 29 however mitigates against this potential impact by a number of clauses set to rectify water quality issues and provide funding, partnership working and a management of development alongside water infrastructure. Additionally, water quality can be impacted upon by agricultural pesticides and the policy seeks to mitigate this. Hydrologically, the policy seeks to avoid allowing development in high flood risk areas in line with national policies in Planning Policy Statement 25 (used to mitigate policies 1, 4, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14, 23, 24 and 25).
- Policy 30: Air Quality this policy aims to mitigate against air quality impacts through greater use of green infrastructure and reducing priority areas of road traffic congestion (used to mitigate policies 1, 4, 9, 13, 24, 25).

5.16 Policy 1: Locating Growth and Policy 4: Housing Delivery have been subject to proposed changes post the Examination Hearing June/ July 2011. The two policies were originally screened in to this stage and have been again as a result of the proposed amendments. A further appraisal has been undertaken and it is considered that the amendments can be mitigated against and the policies screened out at this stage. See Appendix 3a for full details.

5.17 In conclusion, after a full assessment of the policies within the plan - Central Lancashire Core Strategy – it has been ruled that in isolation there **are no significant likely effects for identified Natura 2000 sites.**

Assessment 'in-combination' with 'Other Plans'

5.18 As well as assessing the plan: Central Lancashire Core Strategy, for any likely significant effects, an assessment also needs to be undertaken 'in combination' with

other plans to assess whether the 'in combination' effects will create a likely significant effect.

5.19 For the purpose of this assessment 'other plans' include the North West RSS, other Core Strategies from authorities that border onto Central Lancashire and therefore may have effects on the same Natura 2000 sites or similar pathways. Blackpool Core Strategy has also been included due to link with Growth Point in Central Lancashire and Sefton's Core Strategy due to the 15km buffer zone and inclusion of the Sefton coast SAC in this report.

5.20 The Table in Appendix 4 highlights the list of 'other plans' and assesses the 'description of the plan', 'likely effect' and the 'in-combination' effect.

5.21 The results indicate the following:

- North West RSS 'uncertain' effect, however the Core Strategy does not propose additional levels of growth over and beyond those identified within the North West RSS.
- Fylde Core Strategy 'uncertain' due to lack of available data.
- West Lancashire Core Strategy 'uncertain' due to lack of available data.
- Ribble Valley Core Strategy 'uncertain' due to lack of available data.
- Blackburn with Darwen 'no likely significant effects' due to the outcome of their HRA Screening Assessment found no likely significant effects in isolation.
- Wyre Core Strategy 'uncertain' due to lack of available data.
- Wigan Core Strategy 'no likely significant effects' as their HRA Screening Assessment found only one effect on the Manchester Mosses SAC and there is no clear pathway between this site and Central Lancashire.
- Bolton Core Strategy 'no likely significant effects' due to the outcome of their HRA Screening Assessment found no likely significant effects in isolation.
- Blackpool Core Strategy 'uncertain' due to lack of available data.
- Sefton Core Strategy 'uncertain' due to lack of available data.

5.22 However, in conclusion whilst 'in combination' effects have been difficult to assess because of a lack of information from neighbouring authorities on their potential levels and distribution of development (as they are at an early stage in preparing their plans), it is still possible to screen the Central Lancashire Core Strategy as having no likely significant effects. This is because the policies within the Central Lancashire Core Strategy have all been mitigated against and a final conclusion has been drawn that there are no likely significant effects of the plan on the identified Natura 2000 sites. The Central Lancashire authorities can only influence the impacts of their own plan and cannot alter plans outside of their own boundaries.

6. CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1 The Central Lancashire Core Strategy has undergone a full Habitat Regulations Screening Assessment (HRA) in line with the guidance and legislation. This report documents a comprehensive and logical account of this screening process through the complete series of assessment steps.
- 6.2 First, six Natura 2000 sites were screened in to the process, either due to their location within the Central Lancashire boundary or within a 15 km buffer zone. Potential impacts were identified and possible pathways to the Natura 2000 sites were highlighted.
- 6.3 The Central Lancashire Core Strategy policies were summarised and those that did not directly lead to development were screened out at the initial stage – 18 policies. Those policies that were deemed to lead directly to development were assessed against potential impacts, whether pathways existed to the Natura sites and a screening conclusion was formed. At this stage a further 3 policies were screened out.
- 6.4 The final 10 policies were assessed to see whether any avoidance or mitigation measures could be applied to mitigate against the potential impacts identified within the initial assessment. At this stage all 10 policies were screened out as a result of adequate mitigation or avoidance measures. Note no policies within the Central Lancashire Core Strategy were screened as 'red' referring to 'significant' likely effects, at any time during the assessment.
- 6.5 The amendments outlined as a result of the Planning Inspector's comments post the Examination in Public in June/ July 2011 re Policy 1: Locating Growth and the need for additional Strategic Locations which have been identified at North West Preston and south of Penwortham/ north of Farington and Policy 4: Housing Delivery and the need for 20% more houses to align with the North West Regional Spatial Strategy, have been mitigated. Effects were identified as possible for air quality issues at the Bowland Fells SPA and water quality and hydrology issues for the Ribble and Alt Estuary SPA and Ramsar, however other Core Strategy policies are able to mitigate any potential effects and the phased delivery of development over a 15 year period means that the effects would be lesser than if development occurred at one point in time.
- 6.6 The conclusion for the plan alone is that there are no likely significant effects for any of the identified Natura 2000 sites.
- 6.7 A further assessment was then undertaken to assess whether 'in combination' any effects may exist, however in the most part these effects were uncertain due to the lack of information on other Core Strategies within the vicinity of Central Lancashire. However, as the Central Lancashire Core Strategy mitigated against all of its own potential impacts, then it can be concluded that there are no likely significant effects because the Central Lancashire authorities can only influence their own plan and cannot have an impact on those plans outside of their own area.
- 6.8 In conclusion, this HRA finds the Central Lancashire Core Strategy to have **no likely significant effects on the identified Natura 2000 sites** and no further assessment work is required at this stage.

APPENDIX 1 Description of Natura 2000 Sites

1. Ribble and Alt Estuaries	Status: SPA/ Ramsar Site	Area: 12,412 hectares (A small proportion of the Ribble and Alt Estuaries Ramsar lies within the Central Lancashire Boundary in South Ribble, it is also immediately downstream from Preston and in close proximity to Chorley)	
Unitary Authorities: Lancashire, Merseyside			
SPA	Ramsar	Vulnerability	
<p>This site comprises two estuaries, together with an extensive area of sandy foreshore along the Sefton Coast. The site consists of extensive sand and mud flats and in the Ribble Estuary, large areas of saltmarsh. There are also areas of coastal grazing marsh located behind the sea embankments. The intertidal flats are rich in invertebrates, on which waders and wildfowl feed. This site qualifies under Article 4.1 of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of Common Tern (<i>Sterna hirundo</i>) and Ruff (<i>Philomachus pugnax</i>), which are species listed on Annex 1 of the Directive. Over winter the site supports populations of European importance of Bar-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>), Bewick's Swan (<i>Cygnus columbianus bewickii</i>), Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) and Whooper Swan (<i>Cygnus Cygnus</i>), which are species listed on Annex 1 of the Directive. The site qualifies under Article 4.2 of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of Lesser Black-backed Gull (<i>Larus fuscus</i>) during the breeding season. On passage it also supports populations of European importance of Ringed Plover (<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>) and Sanderling (<i>Calidris alba</i>). Over winter it supports populations of European importance of Black-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa limosa islandi</i>), Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina alpina</i>), Grey Plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>), Knot (<i>Calidris canutus</i>), Oystercatcher (<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>), Pink-footed Goose (<i>Anser brachyrhynchus</i>), Pintail (<i>Anasacuta</i>), Redshank (<i>Tringa tetanus</i>), Sanderling (<i>Calidris alba</i>), Shelduck (<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>), Teal (<i>Anas crecca</i>) and Wigeon (<i>Anas Penelope</i>).</p>	<p>The Ribble and Alt Estuaries site is a designated Ramsar site. Its sand dunes support up to 40% of the Great Britain population of Natterjack Toads (Ramsar criterion 2). It has waterfowl assemblages of international importance (Ramsar criterion 5) and In winter 222,038 waterfowl have been recorded (5 year peak mean 1998/99-2002/2003). It also has waterfowl species /populations occurring at levels of international importance (Ramsar criterion 6). Petalwort (<i>Petalophyllum ralfsii</i>) is noteworthy flora present at the site.</p>	<p>Overall, the dunes, intertidal flats and saltmarsh are relatively robust and in a favourable condition. In places the site is subject to pressure from recreation, built development (including coastal defence), wildfowling and industry, including sand-winning. However, wildfowling is not considered to have a significant impact and recreation is informal and of relatively low intensity. Sand-winning was addressed during a Public Inquiry in August 2001, with the result that detailed environmental monitoring will now be undertaken. Much of the site attracts beneficial land management via implementation of agreed plans, which are addressing a number of these pressures, whilst other pressures will be addressed following procedures under the Habitat Regulations. Although there is little evidence of sea-level rise so far, the extent and distribution of habitats remains vulnerable to changes in the physical environment, either natural or human induced. The Ribble estuary is evolving as sediment patterns are changing and saltmarsh continues to accrete following past land-claim and the closure of Preston Docks. The intertidal habitats are vulnerable to accidental pollution from the Mersey Estuary and the Irish Sea oil and gas fields.</p>	
Source: Joint Nature Conservation Committee			

2. Martin Mere	Status: SPA/ Ramsar	Area: 120 hectares (The site is not within the Central Lancashire boundary, however, lies within close proximity – 4km to Chorley and 7km to South Ribble)	
Unitary Authorities: Greater Manchester			
SPA	Ramsar	Vulnerability	
<p>This site comprises occupies part of a former lake and mire that extended extensively over the Lancashire Coastal Plain during the 17th century. It comprises open water, seasonally flooded marsh and damp, neutral hay meadows overlying deep peat. This site qualifies under Article 4.1 of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of Bewick's Swan (<i>Cygnus columbianus bewickii</i>), and Whooper Swan (<i>Cygnus Cygnus</i>), which are species listed on Annex 1 of the Directive. The site qualifies under Article 4.2 of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of Pink-footed Goose (<i>Anser brachyrhynchus</i>) and Pintail (<i>Anas acuta</i>).</p>	<p>Martin Mere is a designated Ramsar Site. It has waterfowl assemblages of international importance (Ramsar criterion 5) and in winter 25,306 waterfowl have been recorded (5 year peak mean 1998/99-2002/2003). It also has waterfowl species/populations occurring at levels of international importance (Ramsar criterion 6). Noteworthy flora present on the site includes <i>Carum verticillatum</i>, <i>Rumex maritimus</i>, <i>Oenanthe fistulosa</i>, <i>Oenanthe aquatica</i>, <i>Lemna gibba</i> and <i>Leucagaricus serenus</i>.</p>	<p>The refuge is currently vulnerable to water levels being adversely affected by water abstraction for agriculture and is vulnerable to changes in farming practice. Water levels are controlled to maintain optimum levels throughout the winter period, and then lowered in summer to expose marginal mud and damp pastures and maintain a mosaic of shallow pools. Nutrients brought in with the water supply from the surrounding arable farmland and inadequate sewage treatment adds considerably to the large deposits of guano from waterfowl. This results in extremely poor water quality conditions, which create a possible risk of water borne diseases, which could affect waterfowl. Water quality issues have started to be addressed with the creation of reedbed water filtration systems and a series of settlement lagoons to help to reduce suspended solids of effluent water arising from waterfowl areas.</p>	
Source: Joint Nature Conservation Committee			

3. Sefton Coast	Status: SAC	Area: 4564 hectares (None in Central Lancashire Boundary – site lies approximately 13km from Chorley's boundary).
Unitary Authorities: Merseyside		
Brief Description: SAC	Vulnerability	
<p>It has some overlap with the Ribble & Alt Estuaries SPA & Ramsar Sites, but does not extend as far into the Ribble Estuary. Annex I habitats that are a primary reason for selection of this site include embryonic shifting dunes of the northern, lyme-grass (<i>Leymus arenarius</i>) type. A substantial stretch of the dune system (about 163 hectares) is fronted by shifting dunes with Marram (<i>Ammophila arenaria</i>) usually dominating. There are also large areas of semi-fixed and fixed dunes with herbaceous vegetation exhibiting considerable variation from calcareous to acidic. There are extensive dune slacks dominated by creeping willow (<i>Salix repens</i> ssp. <i>argentea</i>) and it is estimated that 99 hectares or 43% of the total English resource of the main dune slack community dominated by creeping willow occur here. Extensive areas representative of humid dune slacks also occur. Atlantic decalcified fixed dunes are Annex I habitats present as a qualifying feature, but are not a primary reason for selection of this site. Petalwort (<i>Petalophyllum ralfsii</i>) is an Annex II Species that is a primary reason for selection of this site, which is the only site chosen for this species in north-west England. Great crested newts (<i>Triturus cristatus</i>) are Annex II species that are present as a qualifying feature, but are not a primary reason for site selection.</p> <p>This site in Sefton is composed of tidal rivers/estuaries/mud flats/sand flats/lagoons (50%), coastal sand dunes/sand beaches/machair (30%), heath/scrub/maquis/garrigue/phygrana (10%) and coniferous woodland (10%).</p>	<p>Sefton Coast is primarily owned and managed by Sefton Council, with some other major landowners. The extensive sand dunes and intertidal areas attract large number of summer tourists. This impact is addressed in Sefton Council's Beach Management Plan. Co-ordinated management of the coast is achieved through the long-standing Sefton Coast Management Scheme (now the Sefton Coast Partnership), in which all key landowners play a part. Concerns have been raised regarding water abstraction on the coast. This is being addressed through detailed modelling of the dune aquifer by the Environment Agency. The coniferous plantations are also a source of debate, with a balance needed between restoration of dune habitats and public enjoyment of the woodlands. Work on this is being carried out on Ainsdale Sand Dunes National Nature Reserve, which holds a significant proportion of these woodlands.</p>	
Source: Joint Nature Conservation Committee		

4. Bowland Fells	Status: SPA	Area: 16,000 hectares (Not in the Central Lancashire Boundary, however, close to the northern boundary of Preston approximately 1km away).
Unitary Authorities: Lancashire		
Brief Description: SPA		Vulnerability
<p>This site is predominantly comprised of heath & scrub, bogs & marshes and dry grassland, with a small coverage of broad-leaved deciduous woodland. This site qualifies under Article 4.1 of the Directive (79/409/EEC) as during the breeding season it regularly supports populations of European importance of hen harriers (<i>Circus cyaneus</i>) and merlins (<i>Falco columbarius</i>). The site qualifies under Article 4.2 of the Directive (79/409/EEC) as during the breeding season it supports populations of European importance of the lesser black backed gull.</p>		<p>The blanket bog and heather dominated moorland provides suitable habitat for a diverse range of upland breeding birds. Favourable nature conservation status of the site depends on appropriate levels of sheep grazing, sympathetic moorland burning practice, sensitive water catchment land management practices and on going species protection. Since designation as an SPA, many localised problems of over-grazing have been controlled through management agreements or the Countryside Stewardship Scheme. To date approximately 20% of the SPA is under Section 15 management agreements and Countryside Stewardship to stimulate heather regeneration in order to produce better moorland for grouse and raptors. Burning plans and stocking levels have been agreed for all other areas of the SPA through Site Management Statements, whilst problems of raptor persecution continues to be addressed by the RSPB in conjunction with other bodies.</p>
Source: Source: Joint Nature Conservation Committee		

5. Morecambe Bay	Status: SPA/ Ramsar	Area: 37,404 hectares (This site is not located within the Central Lancashire boundary, however, it has been included due to its close proximity to Preston's boundary, 8km North West.	
Unitary Authorities: Lancashire			
SPA	Ramsar	Vulnerability	
<p>This site is predominantly comprised of tidal rivers, estuary, mud flats, sand flats and lagoons. There are also areas of salt marshes/pastures, sand dunes/sand beaches and shingle. This site qualifies under Article 4.1 of the Directive (79/409/EEC) as during the breeding season the area regularly supports populations of European importance of <i>Sterna sandvicensis</i>. The site qualifies under Article 4.2 of the Directive (79/409/EEC) as over winter the area regularly supports populations of European importance of <i>Anas acuta</i>, <i>Anser brachyrhynchus</i>, <i>Arenaria interpres</i>, <i>Calidris alpina alpina</i>, <i>Calidris canutus</i>, <i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>, <i>Limosa lapponica</i>, <i>Numenius arquata</i>, <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>, <i>Tadorna tadorna</i> and <i>Tringa tetanus</i>. On passage the area regularly supports significant populations of <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>. The site also qualifies under Article 4.2 of the Directive (79/409/EEC) as having an internationally important assemblage of birds. During the breeding season the area regularly supports 61,858 seabirds and over winter the area regularly supports 210,668 waterfowl.</p>	<p>Morecambe Bay is a designated Ramsar Site. It is a staging area for migratory waterfowl including internationally important numbers of passage ringed plover <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i> (Ramsar criterion 4). It has waterfowl assemblages of international importance (Ramsar criterion 5) and in winter 223,709 waterfowl have been recorded (5 year peak mean 1998/99-2002/2003). It also has waterfowl species/populations occurring at levels of international importance (Ramsar criterion 6). Notably flora present on the site includes the following birds: Black-headed gull (<i>Larus ridibundus</i>), Ruff (<i>Philomachus pugnax</i>), Whimbrel (<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>), Spotted redshank (<i>Tringa erythropus</i>), Common Greenshank (<i>Tringa nebularia</i>), Black-headed gull (<i>Larus ridibundus</i>), Eurasian teal (<i>Anas crecca</i>) and Black-tailed godwit (<i>Limosa limosa islandica</i>).</p>	<p>The site is subject to a wide range of pressures such as land-claim for agriculture, overgrazing, dredging, over fishing, industrial uses and unspecified pollution. However, overall the site is relatively robust and many of those pressures have only slight to local effects and are being addressed through Management Plans. The breeding tern interest is very vulnerable and the colony has recently moved to the adjacent Duddon Estuary. Positive management is being secured through management plans for non-governmental organisation reserves, English Nature Site Management Statements, European Marine Site Management Scheme and the Morecambe Bay Partnership.</p>	
Source: Joint Nature Conservation Committee			

6. Morecambe Bay	Status: SAC	Area: 61,506 hectares (The site is not within the Central Lancashire boundary, however lies approximately 13km to the North West of Preston's boundary.
Unitary Authority: Lancashire		
Brief Description: SAC	Vulnerability	
<p>This site is comprised of marine areas/sea inlets (99.1%), Coastal sand dunes/sand beaches (0.8%) and shingle (0.1%).</p> <p>Annex I habitats include estuaries, mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide, large shallow inlets and bays, perennial vegetation of stony banks, salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand, Atlantic salt meadows, shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i>, fixed dunes with herbaceous vegetation, and humid dune slacks. These habitats are all considered to represent one of the best areas of their type in the United Kingdom. Other Annex I habitats include sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all of the time, coastal lagoons, reefs, embryonic shifting dunes, Atlantic decalcified fixed dunes and dunes with <i>Salix repens</i> ssp. <i>argentea</i>. The area is considered to support a significant presence of all of these habitat types. Annex II species that are present are <i>Petromyzon marinus</i>, <i>Alosa fallx</i>, <i>Triturus cristatus</i> and <i>Halichoerus grypus</i>.</p>	<p>There are a wide range of pressures on Morecambe Bay but the site is relatively robust and many of these pressures have only slight or local effects on its interests. The interests depend largely upon the coastal processes operating within the Bay, which have been affected historically by human activities including coastal protection and flood defence works. Opportunities to reverse coastal squeeze are being explored. The saltmarsh is traditionally grazed and is generally in favourable condition for its bird interest. It is utilised by breeding, wintering and migrating birds for feeding, roosting and nesting purposes. Positive management is being secured through NGO reserve management plans, English Nature's Site Management Statements and Coastal Wildlife Enhancement Scheme, the European Marine Site Management Schemes for the Duddon Estuary and Morecambe Bay, and the Duddon Estuary and Morecambe Bay Partnerships. These aim for sustainable use of the site, taking account of other potential threats including commercial fisheries, aggregate extraction, gas exploration, recreation and other activities.</p>	
Source: Joint Nature Conservation Committee		

APPENDIX 2 Core Strategy Policies Initial Assessment Screening Matrix

Policy	Potential Impacts	Pathways	Sites likely to be affected	Screening Conclusion
<p>Policy 1: Locating Growth* The Spatial Strategy for expected growth over the plan period in Central Lancashire. * see Appendix 2a for an updated initial assessment of this Policy following proposed changes to it.</p>	<p>The policy steers development away from Natura 2000 sites by distributing growth in the core urban area of Central Lancashire, in line with the sustainable development agenda, located close to existing settlements and services. However, there are potential impacts that need to be assessed.</p> <p>Direct Development – this policy will lead directly to development within Central Lancashire. Although development will be phased over a 15 year period up to 2026.</p> <p>Air Quality – air quality composition could be negatively affected through construction of development and increased traffic pollution through a potential increase in trips.</p> <p>Water Quality – water quality could be affected through increased population using the water infrastructure i.e. having an impact on the sewer network and/ or could influence the quality of surface run off entering the river network and potentially affecting the chemical and biological quality of the water.</p> <p>Hydrology – changes in the hydrological cycle may be affected if development is permitted on or near to high flood risk areas or fewer permeable surfaces are available due to development.</p>	<p>Wind pathway is coming from a prevailing South Westerly direction across Central Lancashire which would direct the wind away from the Natura 2000 sites across towards Blackburn and Ribble Valley.</p> <p>However, there is a small potential that development proposed in North Preston e.g. around the Cottam Strategic Location could negatively impact upon the air quality composition with a wind pathway directed towards the Bowland Fells SPA. Although, given the level of development anticipated at this location and the fact that any development will be phased it is highly unlikely that any adverse impacts will be detected at the Bowland Fells SPA.</p> <p>The river network runs in a westerly direction across Central Lancashire including the River Yarrow and River Lostock from Chorley, the River Douglas coming down through Chorley and South Ribble and the River Ribble across Preston and feeding into the Ribble and Alt Estuaries. The river network flows away from all of the Natura 2000 sites except the Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site.</p>	<p>Bowland Fells SPA - air quality issues.</p> <p>Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA and Ramsar - water quality issues.</p> <p>Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA and Ramsar - hydrological issues.</p> <p>Habitat/ species disturbance – all sites.</p> <p>Recreational/ visitor pressure may impact on all of the Natura 2000 sites except the Martin Mere SPA and Ramsar.</p>	<p>Policy 1 needs to be screened in at this stage because the proposed development strategy identifies a series of potential impacts that are likely, unlikely or uncertain at this stage.</p> <p>All sites have been screened in for a variety of reasons and some sites have been highlighted as there are specific issues to specific sites.</p> <p>Further assessment will be undertaken in Appendix 3 to ascertain whether avoidance/ mitigation measures can negate any likely significant effects.</p>

	<p>Water Supply – no impact from developments within Policy 1 as all of the water for Central Lancashire is sourced outside of the boundaries, in the Lake District where there is no direct pathway to the Natura 2000 sites identified within this screening report.</p> <p>Habitat/ Species Disturbance – Development is being focussed on the existing urban core and all existing country parks, local nature reserves, biological heritage sites etc. are going to be protected from development. However, without having all of the data available it is uncertain as to whether proposed development will have a negative impact on habitats/ species disturbance migrating to Natura 2000 sites.</p> <p>Recreational/ Visitor Pressure – An increase in population may lead to increased pressure on the Natura 2000 sites through increased trips and the potential for increased litter and disturbance to habitats and species at the Natura 2000 sites.</p>	<p>Areas at flood risk in Central Lancashire are localised to the Walton-le-Dale, Croston and Euxton areas. These areas are away from the Natura 2000 sites and impacts are likely to be experienced in their locality. The loss of permeable surfaces however, through development could have an impact, particularly on the River Ribble which flows through the urban core of Central Lancashire.</p> <p>It is uncertain whether pathways exist between Natura 2000 sites and impacts on habitats and species disturbance and as such adopting the precautionary principle this must be included.</p> <p>Recreational/ visitor pressure will not affect the Martin Mere wetland site as this site is well managed by the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust (WWT) and can be screened out. There are potential recreational pressures on the other sites, however considering their distance away and the expanse of recreational areas within Central Lancashire it is unlikely that these sites will be affected. The close proximity of the Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA and Ramsar to the urban core of Central Lancashire makes this site the likeliest to have an increased recreational/visitor pressure, however due to its wild nature and lack of access this is also unlikely.</p>		
Policy 2: Infrastructure	Infrastructure will be concentrated in the urban core of Central Lancashire alongside the	Wind pathway is coming from a prevailing South Westerly direction which would	Bowland Fells SPA – air quality	Screen out Policy.

<p>Sets the parameters for infrastructure delivery. It emphasises the importance of working together with infrastructure providers and outlines approaches to funding.</p>	<p>predicted development and near to existing services in line with sustainable development principles.</p> <p>Due to the nature of the policy having a direct development effect it is possible that some impacts may arise. It is important to note that infrastructure also covers green infrastructure which will help alleviate the impacts of other types of infrastructure development such as transport infrastructure.</p> <p>Direct Development – this policy will lead directly to development within Central Lancashire.</p> <p>Air Quality – may be an issue through the construction of infrastructure and an increase in the number of trips through road improvements. However, the policy covers a wide range of infrastructure of which only some will lead to development such as transport – road improvements or social infrastructure such as health care facilities.</p> <p>Within this policy it also covers green infrastructure improvements which would mitigate against any air quality issues resulting from other types of infrastructure development and promote protection for habitats and species through the conservation/ enhancement of green infrastructure.</p> <p>The policy also aims to support utility infrastructure alongside new development and as such would provide developer contributions towards such infrastructure as sewer</p>	<p>direct air composition away from the Natura 2000 sites across towards Blackburn and Ribble Valley. There is no specific locational information provided within Policy 2, however the Infrastructure Delivery Schedule supports infrastructure provision within the sustainable urban core.</p>	<p>Whilst there are potential air quality impacts that may arise through construction of some forms of infrastructure and ongoing use, there are also a wider range of infrastructure types that can also help to mitigate against issues of air quality such as the provision of green infrastructure.</p> <p>Also, water quality issues may be affected through some forms of infrastructure development, however the same policy provides for development contributions to enhance utility infrastructure which will reduce the problem and mitigate against the potential impacts.</p> <p>Therefore, it is reasoned that the policy provides its own mitigation through the variety of infrastructure types and should be screened out.</p>
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	improvements to cope with the additional increase in population and would alleviate the potential water quality impacts.			
<p>Policy 3: Travel Increasing accessibility and promoting sustainable travel are key themes of the policy.</p>	<p>The policy encourages sustainable travel patterns and in the first part of the policy emphasises walking, cycling and an increased use of public transport. The majority of the policy sets out criteria to achieve this as well as managing car use to reduce the number of trips and traffic congestion and pollution.</p> <p>Direct Development – this policy will lead directly to development within Central Lancashire.</p> <p>Air Quality – may be affected by construction of new railway stations and improvements to bus routes, however in the longer term this will reduce reliance on the car and decrease air quality issues. Small improvements will be made to the road network which may increase the number of trips and potentially traffic congestion, however the aim of the policy is to reduce congestion through these road improvements.</p> <p>Recreational/ visitor pressure – through increased accessibility it is possible that more trips could be generated which if to the Natura 2000 sites could lead to potential impacts.</p>	<p>Wind pathway is coming from a prevailing South Westerly direction which would direct air composition away from the Natura 2000 sites across towards Blackburn and Ribble Valley. There is some chance of air quality issues in the short term through construction of transport infrastructure, specifically the Cottam railway station and improvements between Cottam and Eastway, however in the longer term the policy itself mitigates against air quality issues.</p> <p>Whilst recreational/ visitor pressure may be impacted the policy does not support increased accessibility to the Natura 2000 sites but instead into, around and across Central Lancashire creating improved accessibility to other recreational/ visitor sites and taking away the pressure from the Natura 2000 sites. No impact as no identifiable pathway from development within this policy to the Natura 2000 sites.</p>	<p>Bowland Fells SPA – air quality</p>	<p>Screen out Policy.</p> <p>Whilst there are some small scale potential air quality issues arising only from any transport development within the northern area of Preston due to the prevailing wind direction, this impact is unlikely due to the distance between any potential development and the Natura 2000 site.</p> <p>Additionally, the only impact would be from the development of the Cottam railway station and improvements between Cottam and Eastway which will occur over the 15 year plan period.</p> <p>The policy also provides its own mitigation through encouraging fewer trips, improving pedestrian and cycling opportunities, promoting public transport use and</p>

				managing car use thus reducing the number of trips. Overall it is considered that the policy mitigates itself and can therefore be screened out.
<p>Policy 4: Housing Delivery* Relates to the provision of housing in the short term, medium and long term. Proposes a 20% reduction on the RSS housing requirement in the short term. * see Appendix 2a for an updated initial assessment of this Policy following proposed changes to it.</p>	<p>This policy sets a housing requirement and as such will lead directly to development across Central Lancashire. However, development is directed to the core of Central Lancashire away from the Natura 2000 sites.</p> <p>Air Quality – air quality may be an issue through the construction of new housing and longer term through the additional population catered for and the number of trips from these houses.</p> <p>Water Quality – this may be affected due to increased pressure of water infrastructure due to an increased population that may have a negative effect on the quality of watercourses near to new development. In Central Lancashire the particular concern is to the sewage infrastructure which if overloaded may have implications on the quality of water entering the river network and is a key issue.</p> <p>Hydrology – additional take up of land and less permeable surface run off may impact on the hydrological quality of sites.</p> <p>Water Supply – no impact as water is not supplied from within Central Lancashire but from the Lake District.</p>	<p>Wind pathway is coming from a prevailing South Westerly direction which would direct air composition away from the Natura 2000 sites across towards Blackburn and Ribble Valley. However, housing development within northern Preston may impact upon the Bowland Fells SPA due to its citing.</p> <p>The river network runs in a westerly direction across Central Lancashire including the River Yarrow and River Lostock from Chorley, the River Douglas coming down through Chorley and South Ribble and the River Ribble across Preston and feeding into the Ribble and Alt Estuaries. The river network flows away from the other Natura 2000 sites.</p> <p>Areas at flood risk in Central Lancashire are localised to the Walton-le-Dale, Euxton and Croston areas. These areas are away from the Natura 2000 sites and impacts are likely to be experienced in their locality. The loss of permeable surfaces however, through development could have an impact, particularly on the River Ribble which flows through the urban core of Central Lancashire.</p>	<p>Bowland Fells SPA – air quality</p> <p>Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA and Ramsar - water quality issues.</p> <p>Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA and Ramsar - hydrological issues.</p> <p>All sites except Martin Mere SPA and Ramsar may experience recreational/ visitor pressure.</p> <p>All sites – habitat disturbance.</p>	<p>Screen in this policy as there are potential impacts have been identified and some pathways either do exist or are uncertain if they exist.</p> <p>As such further assessment is required in Appendix 3 and to look at whether avoidance or mitigation measures can be included to screen out this policy at the next stage.</p>

	<p>Habitat/ Species Disturbance – it is possible through land take up that there will be some habitat/ species disturbance.</p> <p>Recreational/ Visitor Pressure – there will be an increased population as a direct result of new housing development so there may be an impact upon the Natura 2000 sites.</p>	<p>No protected sites of habitat importance will be developed on – i.e. country parks, local nature reserves and biological heritage sites. However as there is a 70% brownfield target it is possible that some habitats in this environment may be disturbed. Uncertain if housing development will impact or if there is a specific pathway between the employment sites and the Natura 2000 sites. Apply precautionary principle.</p> <p>An increase in population may lead to an increase in recreational pressure on the Natura 2000 sites. Due to their distance it is unlikely to create a significant issue however; all sites are accessible via road pathways. The Martin Mere SPA and Ramsar can be ruled out as it is managed by the WWT.</p>		
<p>Policy 5: Housing Density Deals with housing densities and seeks to ensure that densities are in keeping with local areas.</p>	<p>No impact. This policy looks at securing densities for housing development that are in keeping with the local character of the area/ efficient use of land and as such do not in isolation lead directly to any form of development.</p>	N/A	N/A	Screen Policy out.
<p>Policy 6: Housing Quality Aims to improve the quality of housing.</p>	<p>No impact. This policy sets out three broad criteria to improve the quality of the existing housing stock and does not in itself lead to direct development.</p>	N/A	N/A	Screen Policy out.

<p>Policy 7: Affordable Housing Seeks to ensure a sufficient provision of affordable housing in line with needs and viability.</p>	<p>No impact. This policy sets out targets for affordable housing and specific criteria for affordable housing and special needs housing. The policy in itself does not directly lead to development but focuses on the type of development and to some extent locational characteristics.</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>Screen Policy out.</p>
<p>Policy 8: Gypsy and Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Accommodation Outlines criteria for assessing gypsy, traveller and travelling Showpeople accommodation.</p>	<p>No impact. This policy focuses on criteria for the type of pitches for gypsy, traveller and travelling Showpeople if a need arises. However, on its own it will not directly lead to development.</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>Screen Policy out.</p>
<p>Policy 9: Economic Growth and Employment Sets out to provide for economic growth and employment. The policy outlines the need for 501</p>	<p>This policy will lead directly to development and is therefore screened in at this stage. 501 hectares of land has been identified for economic development. Development will be directed to the urban core and away from the Natura 2000 sites.</p> <p>Air Quality – may be an issue through construction of development as well as longer term depending on the type of employment premises that are permitted. The key sites identified are all within the Central urban core or</p>	<p>Wind pathway is coming from a prevailing South Westerly direction which would direct air composition away from the Natura 2000 sites across towards Blackburn and Ribble Valley. There may be a small possibility that development in the Central Preston and East Preston area may impact upon the Bowland Fells SPA.</p> <p>The river network flows in a Westerly direction towards the Ribble and Alt</p>	<p>Bowland Fells SPA – air quality.</p> <p>Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA and Ramsar – water quality.</p> <p>Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA and Ramsar – hydrological.</p>	<p>Screen in this policy to the next stage as there are potential impacts and there are identified pathways to the Natura 2000 sites.</p> <p>Air quality may be a minimal impact due to the level of development expected in north Preston and the rural</p>

<p>hectares of employment land.</p>	<p>on the outskirts such as BAE systems at Samlesbury but away from the Natura 2000 sites.</p> <p>Water Quality – it is possible that the increase in the number of employment premises/ sites may have an impact on the run off entering the river network.</p> <p>Hydrology - additional take up of land and less surface run off areas/ permeable surfaces could potentially impact on Natura 2000 sites if pathways exist from the development areas to the Natura sites.</p> <p>Water Supply – no impact as water for Central Lancashire is supplied from the Lake District.</p> <p>Habitat/ Species Disturbance - it is possible through land take up that there will be some habitat/ species disturbance, however due to the locational specifics of the employment sites and premises cited, within the urban core and on existing employment sites this impact is thought to be unlikely.</p>	<p>Estuaries and away from the other Natura 2000 sites.</p> <p>There is the potential that as the river network is connected to the Ribble and Alt Estuary that increased development will affect the hydrological cycle of this site. However, PPS 25 sets out a sequential approach to developing on sites in high flood risk areas which means there will be a minimal impact.</p> <p>No protected sites of habitat importance will be developed on – i.e. country parks, local nature reserves and biological heritage sites. Uncertain if economic development will impact or if there is a specific pathway between the employment sites and the Natura 2000 sites. Apply precautionary principle.</p>	<p>All sites – habitat disturbance.</p>	<p>nature of the majority of north Preston where this type of development would be unacceptable.</p> <p>Water and hydrological issues are uncertain as is habitat/ species disturbance and as such this policy will need further assessment at the next stage and to see whether avoidance/ mitigation can negate any potential impacts.</p> <p>See further detail in Appendix 3.</p>
<p>Policy 10: Employment Premises and Sites Sets out the approach to protecting existing employment premises and sites. Outlines criteria which</p>	<p>No impact. This policy seeks to protect existing employment premises and sites from other uses and sets criteria for assessing the value of existing employment sites and premises.</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>Screen Policy out.</p>

sites will need to be assessed against before re-use or redevelopment will be an option.				
<p>Policy 11: Retail and Town Centre Uses and Business Based Tourism Highlights the approach to retail, town centre uses and business based tourism through outlining a retail hierarchy.</p>	<p>This policy does directly lead to development and therefore has been screened in at this stage.</p> <p>Air Quality – some air quality issues through construction and increased trips into the town, district and local centres for retail pursuits. The policy directs development to the core and away from the Natura 2000 sites and as there are clearly defined retail boundaries this can be assessed with greater accuracy.</p> <p>Water Quality – potential issues through an increase of retail units connecting to the water infrastructure, specifically the sewer network and impacting upon the quality of water entering the river network.</p> <p>Hydrology – development may create fewer permeable surfaces which could potentially have an impact on the river network. However, there will be limited development within the retail sector as there are defined retail boundaries of where development must be in accordance with.</p> <p>Habitat/ Species disturbance – some habitat and species disturbance may occur due the development potential and take up of land.</p>	<p>No pathway exists as the retail provision is concentrated in the city, town, district and local centres within retail boundaries and the prevailing South Westerly wind directs away from the Natura 2000 sites.</p> <p>A pathway only exists to the Ribble and Alt Estuary. Uncertain of impacts so will adopt the precautionary principle in this case.</p> <p>Due to the location of the retail centres and the tight boundaries that are drawn around these retail centres, which are not near to any of the Natura 2000 sites, this potential impact can be ruled out because no clear pathway exists.</p> <p>Uncertain pathway because unlikely habitat/ species disturbance could occur as a result of this policy, which directs retail development to the city, town, district and local centres and away from the Natura 2000 sites.</p>	<p>Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA and Ramsar – water quality.</p> <p>All sites – habitat/ species disturbance.</p>	<p>Screen in as there is a potential for water quality to be affected through future retail development over the plan period.</p> <p>See Appendix 3 for a further assessment and to see if avoidance/ mitigation measures can negate the potential impacts.</p>
<p>Policy 12: Culture and Entertainment</p>	<p>This policy does lead directly to some form of development, located away from the Natura 2000 sites and concentrated in the urban core of</p>	<p>No pathway as cultural and leisure facilities will be directed towards city and town centre locations near to existing</p>	<p>Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA and Ramsar – water</p>	<p>Screen in this policy as it is possible that there will be potential impacts</p>

<p>Facilities Plans for culture and entertainment through a series of ways.</p>	<p>Central Lancashire, near to existing settlements, specifically focussing on Preston city centre and Leyland and Chorley town centres.</p> <p>Air quality – potential during construction of new cultural and leisure facilities and traffic pollution through increased number of trips to cultural and leisure facilities.</p> <p>Water Quality - potential impact on water quality due to small scale development. The cultural and leisure facilities will need to connect to the existing water infrastructure and there is a concern that additional pressures could arise, having a negative impact on the quality of water entering the river network.</p> <p>Habitat/ Species disturbance – some habitat and species disturbance may occur due the development potential and take up of land.</p>	<p>services and due to the prevailing South Westerly wind there are no pathways connecting these areas with the Natura 2000 sites.</p> <p>A pathway only exists to the Ribble and Alt Estuaries. Uncertain of impacts on water quality due to the unknown level of anticipated development and uncertainty over potential pathways so will adopt the precautionary principle in this case.</p> <p>Uncertain pathway because unlikely habitat/ species disturbance could occur as a result of this policy, which directs cultural and entertainment facilities to the city and town centres and away from the Natura 2000 sites.</p>	<p>quality.</p> <p>All sites – habitat/ species disturbance.</p>	<p>on the water quality through development and specifically through connecting to the sewer infrastructure in built up areas.</p> <p>Further assessment is required through Appendix 3.</p>
<p>Policy 13: Rural Economy Relates to sustaining the rural economy and encouraging the appropriate growth of rural businesses, but it is not locationally specific.</p>	<p>This policy does directly lead to development and as such has been screened in, however it is worth noting that any development acceptable within a rural area will be small scale. .</p> <p>Air quality – development will be of a small scale nature and therefore unlikely to cause any significant effects, however construction and operational impacts from new development may occur. Limited development supported in rural areas could cause an increase in car usage.</p> <p>Water Quality – limited development may have a limited effect on the quality of water entering the river network.</p>	<p>The majority of sites can be ruled out due to lack of clear pathways as a result of the prevailing South Westerly wind. However, small scale rural development in northern Preston may impact upon the Bowland Fells SPA.</p> <p>The majority of sites can be ruled out due to lack of clear pathways and location of the rural areas. However, some rural areas within western South Ribble and western Chorley may impact on the river network feeding into the Ribble and Alt Estuary.</p> <p>Most sites can be ruled out in terms of</p>	<p>Bowland Fells SPA – air quality</p> <p>Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA and Ramsar – water quality</p> <p>Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA and Ramsar – water supply.</p> <p>Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA and Ramsar – hydrology.</p>	<p>This policy should be screened in to the next stage because although limited development will be acceptable in rural areas it is possible that some impacts may have an effect on Natura 2000 sites.</p> <p>Further assessment is required in Appendix 3 to ascertain whether avoidance/ mitigation measures can be put in place to negate the</p>

	<p>Water Supply – whilst water supply comes from the Lake District there is small scale water abstraction from some local farmers, future development in rural areas may continue or increase this potential of small scale water abstraction and as such adverse impacts could occur.</p> <p>Hydrology – development may create fewer permeable surfaces which could potentially have an impact on the river network. Limited development will be allowed in rural areas and there is an emphasis on the reuse of existing buildings or businesses and again this will limit the effect. However, some small scale impacts may occur.</p> <p>Habitat/ Species Disturbance – small scale rural development may impact upon species disturbance.</p> <p>Recreational/ Visitor Pressure – an increase in population to the rural areas through additional recreational facilities is likely to draw people away from the Natura 2000 sites rather than towards them.</p>	<p>water supply due to no clear pathways, however, the majority of agricultural land is to the west of the urban core of Central Lancashire and any water abstraction issues in this area could impact upon the Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA and Ramsar. Uncertain which Natura 2000 sites would be impacted through habitat disturbance from small scale rural development. Adopt the precautionary principle.</p> <p>Unclear whether potential impacts, however, due to water flow the only pathway identified would be the Ribble and Alt Estuary which may experience an effect.</p> <p>No pathway exists between anticipated rural development and the Natura 2000 sites; instead development in these areas is more likely to take people away from Natura 2000 sites.</p>	<p>All sites – habitat disturbance.</p>	<p>potential impacts identified.</p>
<p>Policy 14: Education Relates to planning for education and improving and building new educational facilities where</p>	<p>This policy may lead directly to some small scale development. Specific locations are unknown, however some indication has been provided through the Infrastructure Delivery Schedule which directs new educational provision near to the built up urban core and away from the Natura 2000 sites.</p> <p>Note the co-location clause of the policy further</p>	<p>No direct pathways exist between the anticipated new education facilities and the Natura 2000 sites, however as exact locations have not been confirmed it is possible that an impact may be experienced. Due to the prevailing south westerly wind the Bowland Fells SPA may be affected.</p>	<p>Bowland Fells SPA – air quality.</p> <p>Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA and Ramsar – water quality.</p> <p>Ribble and Alt</p>	<p>Screen in this policy as there are some potential impacts even though they are anticipated to be limited.</p> <p>Further assessment is required through Appendix 3 to ascertain</p>

<p>needed. Seeking developer contributions, partnership working, supporting growth of higher and further education.</p>	<p>minimises the potential impacts as the policy aims to prevent additional facilities where they are not required and co-locate services in existing buildings thus reducing impacts of air quality, water quality and hydrology.</p> <p>Air Quality – it is possible that there may be some small scale construction air quality issues as a result of educational facility development. The Infrastructure Delivery Schedule highlights the need for new schools in the Leyland/ Farington area and Penwortham area, away from the Natura 2000 sites.</p> <p>Water Quality - potential impact on water quality due to small scale development. The educational facilities will need to connect to the existing water infrastructure and the quality of water entering the river network may be adversely affected.</p> <p>Hydrology – education sites will not be located on high flood risk areas and as the development potential is very small scale it is unlikely to have an impact on the hydrological cycle of the Natura 2000 sites. The loss of permeable surfaces may have a limited impact.</p>	<p>A river network pathway only exists to the Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA and Ramsar.</p> <p>Uncertain as to whether any hydrological issues as a result of this policy. Lack of clear pathways to other Natura 2000 sites except the Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA and Ramsar.</p>	<p>Estuaries SPA and Ramsar – hydrological.</p>	<p>whether avoidance/ mitigation can negate any adverse potential impacts.</p>
<p>Policy 15: Skills and Economic Inclusion Aims to improve skills and economic inclusion through a series of measures.</p>	<p>No impact. This policy sets out to improve skills and wider the parameters of economic inclusion. The policy sets out criteria in how to achieve this and does not directly relate to development.</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>Screen Policy out.</p>

<p>Policy 16: Heritage Assets Seeks to protect and enhance heritage assets through a series of measures.</p>	<p>No impact. This policy is included within the Core Strategy to protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment. Criteria are highlighted to support this and in isolation this policy does not directly encourage development.</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>Screen Policy out.</p>
<p>Policy 17: Design of New Buildings Provides criteria seeking to encourage good design of new buildings.</p>	<p>No impact. This policy aims to improve the design of new development and protect and conserve the built, historic and natural development. The policy actively seeks mitigation measures such as Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS), landscaping, protection of existing features and natural assets.</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>Screen Policy out.</p>
<p>Policy 18: Green Infrastructure Seeks to enhance, protect, invest and secure mitigation to the green infrastructure network in a series of measures.</p>	<p>No impact. The policy aims to conserve, maintain and enhance the green infrastructure network across Central Lancashire and does not directly lead to any development.</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>Screen Policy out.</p>
<p>Policy 19: Areas of Separation and Major Open Space The policy aims</p>	<p>No impact. The policy aims to provide areas of separation between built up areas to prevent settlements merging and to create recreational space as well as areas of major open space. The policy does not lead to development but protection of the natural environment.</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>Screen Policy out.</p>

to protect the identity and local distinctiveness of certain settlements and neighbourhoods through the designation of Areas of Separation and Major Open Space.				
Policy 20: Countryside Management and Access Promotes countryside management and access.	No impact. The policy aims to support plans for the improvement of countryside access and management plans. The policy is intended to protect the natural environment and does not lead directly to any development.	N/A	N/A	Screen Policy out.
Policy 21: Landscape Character Areas Conserves and enhances Landscape Character.	No impact. The policy aims to protect and conserve landscape character within Central Lancashire in a number of ways. The policy does not lead to development but sets out criteria that new development proposals should be considered against when it comes to landscape.	N/A	N/A	Screen Policy out.
Policy 22: Biodiversity and Geodiversity Aims to conserve, protect and seek	No impact. The policy is intended to protect, conserve and enhance the biodiversity and geodiversity across Central Lancashire. The policy itself does not lead directly to development.	N/A	N/A	Screen Policy out.

<p>opportunities to enhance and manage the biological and geological assets of the area.</p>				
<p>Policy 23: Health Tries to integrate public health principles and planning and help to reduce health inequalities through a series of measures.</p>	<p>This policy may directly lead to some development of health care facilities and health care infrastructure. Note the policy also encourage the use of allotments and garden plots for healthy living which will reduce air quality impacts and hydrological impacts by promoting permeable surfaces.</p> <p>Air Quality – small scale development may lead to some air quality issues. Health care services will be provided within existing built up settlements and away from the Natura 2000 sites and allotments, garden plots will alleviate some of the air quality issues.</p> <p>Water Quality – potential impact on water quality due to small scale development. The health care facilities will need to connect to the existing water infrastructure and the quality of the water entering the river network may be affected.</p> <p>Hydrology – health care sites will not be located on high flood risk areas and as the development potential is very small scale it is unlikely to have an impact on the hydrological cycle of the Natura 2000 sites. Also, the policy supports provision of allotments and garden plots protecting permeable surfaces and thus reducing the hydrological risk, thereby mitigating the potential impact within the</p>	<p>Prevailing south westerly wind will potentially lead to an impact for the Bowland Fells SPA. All other sites can be ruled out due to lack of pathways.</p> <p>A pathway only exists to the Ribble and Alt Estuaries in terms of water quality issues. Uncertain of impacts so will adopt the precautionary principle in this case.</p>	<p>Bowland Fells SPA – air quality.</p> <p>Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA and Ramsar – water quality.</p>	<p>Screen policy in due to some identified impacts and pathways in terms of air and water quality.</p> <p>See Appendix 3 for the next stage of assessment and avoidance/ mitigation measures.</p>

<p>Policy 24: Sport and Recreation Aims to ensure that everyone has the opportunity to access good sport, physical activity and recreational facilities and a series of measures to achieve this.</p>	<p>policy.</p> <p>This policy may lead directly to some form of development. No locational specifics have been identified within the policy; however, sustainable development requires facilities to be in sustainable locations near to the existing core.</p> <p>As well as direct development the policy also seeks to identify standards for sports provision which also includes outdoor sports facilities which are open air and protecting existing facilities, reducing the need for significant development.</p> <p>Air Quality – some air quality issues may arise, however sport and recreational facilities will also include outdoor pitch provision which is open air and will have no impact. Major new facilities will require development and as such construction and operational impacts may occur.</p> <p>Water Quality - potential impact on water quality due to small scale development. The sport and leisure facilities will need to connect to the existing water infrastructure and there is the potential that run off into the river network may be affected, particularly during periods of construction.</p> <p>Hydrology – development may lead to loss of permeable surfaces, however the policy also assesses the need for outdoor facilities such as football pitches which are permeable surfaces and as such the potential impacts of this having an effect on a Natural 2000 site are unlikely.</p>	<p>Lack of clear wind pathways to the sites, except the Bowland Fells due to the wind direction.</p> <p>A pathway only exists to the Ribble and Alt Estuaries in terms of water quality issues. Uncertain of impacts so will adopt the precautionary principle in this case.</p>	<p>Bowland Fells SPA – air quality.</p> <p>Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA and Ramsar – water quality.</p>	<p>Screen policy in due to some identified impacts and pathways.</p> <p>See Appendix 3 for the next stage of assessment.</p>
<p>Policy 25: Community</p>	<p>This policy may lead directly to some form of development. Sustainable development requires</p>	<p>Lack of clear wind pathways to the sites, except the Bowland Fells due to the wind</p>	<p>Bowland Fells SPA – air quality.</p>	<p>Screen policy in due to some identified impacts</p>

<p>Facilities Seeks to ensure that local communities have sufficient community facilities.</p>	<p>development to be situated in the most sustainable locations. As this policy is concerned with community facilities this will be located within existing settlement areas – urban and rural and away from the Natura 2000 sites. The policy also restricts the loss of existing facilities and co-location/ location of facilities near to existing transport infrastructure.</p> <p>Air Quality – small scale development across the plan period may impact upon air quality, however as the facilities will be required close to existing services the number of trips required will be reduced and there will be lower car usage potential.</p> <p>Water Quality - potential impact on water quality due to small scale development. Any new community facilities will need to connect to the existing water infrastructure and the run off may impact on the water quality entering the river network.</p> <p>Hydrology – development may lead to loss of permeable surfaces and as such should be further assessed.</p>	<p>direction.</p> <p>A pathway only exists to the Ribble and Alt Estuaries in terms of water quality issues. Uncertain of impacts so will adopt the precautionary principle in this case.</p> <p>The only pathway that exists in terms of hydrological impacts is the Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA and Ramsar.</p>	<p>Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA and Ramsar – water quality.</p> <p>Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA and Ramsar – hydrology.</p>	<p>and pathways. See Appendix 3 for the next stage of assessment.</p>
<p>Policy 26: Crime and Community Safety Planning for reduced levels of crime and improved community safety.</p>	<p>No impact. This policy sets out a series of criteria for reducing the levels of crime and community safety through design management, partnership working etc. and does not directly lead to any development.</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>Screen Policy out.</p>

<p>Policy 27: Sustainable Resources and New Developments Seeks to secure the incorporation of sustainable resources into new development through a range of measures.</p>	<p>No impact. This policy does not directly lead to development but sets out a range of criteria that new development needs to meet in terms of sustainable resources and renewable/ low carbon energy.</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>Screen Policy out.</p>
<p>Policy 28: Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Schemes Relates to renewable and low carbon energy schemes.</p>	<p>This policy does lead directly to development, however development of a renewable or low carbon nature only. No locational specifics identified.</p> <p>Direct Development – yes initially screen in due to the potential for direct development as a result of this policy.</p> <p>Air Quality – whilst the policy leads to some form of development it mitigates against any noise, odour, traffic and other impact and as a result any development permitted will have to offset any impacts. Therefore, no impact.</p> <p>Water Quality – development may need to connect to the existing water network however due to the renewable and low carbon nature of the development impacts are unlikely.</p> <p>Hydrology – there could be impacts as a result of hydro energy and potential impacts that this could cause the hydrological cycle of Natura 2000 sites.</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>Screen out Policy.</p> <p>This policy has been screened out at this stage because the policy itself offers mitigation potential for noise, odour, traffic and other impacts as well as mitigation and adaptation or compensatory provisions through its applications where any significant adverse effects may be experienced.</p> <p>As such any application permitted as a result of this policy will have to screen for potential impacts and will need to</p>

	<p>However, the policy itself enables the opportunity for mitigation and adaptation.</p> <p>Habitat/ Species Disturbance – there is potential for habitat/ species disturbance through for example wind energy. However, the policy aims to mitigate against potential impacts itself including any mitigation or adaptation required to offset other impacts – no impact.</p>			mitigate or provide adaptation or compensatory provision before any permissions can be granted.
<p>Policy 29: Water Management Aims to improve water quality, water management and reduce the risk of flooding through various measures.</p>	No impact. The policy aims to protect the natural environment through water management such as directing development away from high flood risk areas which could impact on the hydrological cycle and working with farmers to reduce run-off polluted with agricultural residues.	N/A	N/A	Screen Policy out.
<p>Policy 30: Air Quality Seeks to improve air quality.</p>	No impact. The policy specifically aims to reduce air quality issues through providing green infrastructure and reducing road traffic congestion. The policy does not directly lead to development.	N/A	N/A	Screen Policy out.
<p>Policy 31: Agricultural Land Deals with protecting the best and most versatile agricultural land.</p>	No impact. The policy aims to protect the natural environment by protecting the best and most versatile agricultural land. The policy does not directly lead to development.	N/A	N/A	Screen Policy out.

Appendix 2a Core Strategy Policies Initial Assessment Screening Matrix (proposed changes post Examination Hearing June/ July 2011)

Policy	Potential Impacts	Pathways	Sites likely to be affected	Screening Conclusion
<p>Policy 1: Locating Growth Spatial Strategy for Central Lancashire including the addition of two strategic locations, one in Preston and one in South Ribble</p>	<p>The potential impacts outlined within Appendix 2 for this policy remain the same. The additional appraisal concerns only the two additional Strategic Locations.</p>	<p>The pathways outlined within Appendix 2 remain the same. However, through the identification of two additional Strategic Locations it is possible further pathways exist. The North West Preston Strategic Location, to the northern area of the Cottam Strategic Site (formerly Location) already highlighted could have potential pathways through air quality due to the prevailing wind direction.</p> <p>The south of Penwortham/ north of Farington Strategic Location could have a potential pathway for hydrology and water quality issues due to its proximity to the Ribble and Alt Estuary and the direction of the water flow.</p>	<p>Bowland Fells SPA.</p> <p>Ribble and Alt Estuary SPA and Ramsar.</p>	<p>Screen in this policy as the overall judgement made in Appendix 2 remains.</p> <p>Policy 1 needs to be screened in at this stage because the proposed development strategy identifies a series of potential impacts that are likely, unlikely or uncertain at this stage.</p> <p>There are potential and/ or uncertain effects to the Bowland Fells SPA and the Ribble and Alt Estuary SPA and Ramsar that will require additional assessment.</p> <p>Further assessment will be undertaken in Appendix 3a to ascertain whether avoidance/ mitigation measures can negate any likely significant effects.</p>

<p>Policy 4: Housing Delivery Sets out the housing targets for Central Lancashire. 20% uplift in short term housing targets from the Publication Policy 4.</p>	<p>The potential impacts outlined within Appendix 2 for this policy remain. The additional appraisal only concerns the potential impacts an additional 20% of housing development may have on the Natura 2000 sites.</p>	<p>The potential pathways outlined within Appendix 2 remain the same as the exact location of the additional 20% of housing remains in consistency with the Spatial Strategy in Policy 1: Locating Growth. Therefore, the same issues are likely to exist with the additional 20% and the same pathways are likely to exist yet at a greater level.</p>	<p>Bowland Fells SPA – air quality</p> <p>Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA and Ramsar - water quality issues.</p> <p>Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA and Ramsar - hydrological issues.</p> <p>All sites except Martin Mere SPA and Ramsar may experience recreational/ visitor pressure.</p> <p>All sites – habitat disturbance.</p>	<p>Screen in this policy as there are potential impacts that have been identified and some pathways either do exist or are uncertain if they exist.</p> <p>As such further assessment is required in Appendix 3 and to look at whether avoidance or mitigation measures can be included to screen out this policy at the next stage.</p>
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APPENDIX 3 Core Strategy Policies Potential Impacts Avoidance/ Mitigation Matrix

Policy Details	Avoidance	Mitigation	Screening Conclusion
<p>Policy 1: Locating Growth * see Appendix 3a for an updated potential impacts avoidance/ mitigation matrix of this Policy following proposed changes to it.</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>Potential issues for water quality and hydrology were highlighted. Policy 29: Water Management aims to work with the regional water company and partners to promote investment in sewage infrastructure and reduce the risk of river pollution from sewage discharges, aims to pursue opportunities that are particularly susceptible to sewer flooding such as Walton-le-Dale identified above, encourage the use of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) and manage infrastructure timing alongside new development to prevent any potential issues of adverse water quality affecting the river network. The policy also seeks to work with farmers to reduce run – off polluted with agricultural residues.</p> <p>Hydrologically, Policy 29 seeks to maximise the potential for green infrastructure to contribute to flood relief and preserve permeable surfaces, particularly in areas of greatest need and to appraise, manage and reduce flood risk in new developments by avoiding development in vulnerable areas that through a loss of permeable surfaces could have a hydrological impact.</p> <p>Policy 18 further seeks to mitigate against water quality issues and hydrology impacts by specifically investing in green infrastructure along the river network, clause b) which will take development pressure away from this area.</p> <p>The potential impact of air quality is unlikely to be significant due to the phasing of the development sites over a 15 year period and also the prevailing South Westerly wind direction that is away from all sites except potentially the Bowland Fells SPA. Policy 30: Air Quality aims to further mitigate against any adverse impacts through the delivery of green infrastructure and reducing traffic congestion.</p> <p>Policy 18 on Green Infrastructure seeks to invest in green infrastructure across the borough. Policy 19 on Areas of Separation and Major Open Space designates areas around the Cottam Strategic Location in northern Preston. This is the area of development that could potentially affect the Bowland Fells SPA, however with this mitigation in the locality of the development site it is unlikely that any significant impacts could occur.</p>	<p>Screen Policy out.</p> <p>In conclusion Policy 1 has been screened out because although in Appendix 2 there were a series of potential impacts and potential pathways to the Natura 2000 sites, when assessing the policy in the context of other Core Strategy policies there are a number of policy tools that mitigate against any potential impacts.</p> <p>The Core Strategy is a strategic plan both for the development of Central Lancashire and for the protection of Central Lancashire – aiming to fulfil its economic potential and remaining as a place with 'room to breathe' which is identified in the Core Strategy vision.</p> <p>The policies are intended to be read together and</p>

		<p>Policy 3: Travel and the commitment to a sustainable travel hierarchy also aims to reduce the number of trips and car usage which will also alleviate any increase in potential traffic pollution as a result of new development.</p> <p>Policy 17 Design of New Buildings sets out a wide range of criteria that will mitigate the above effects, including the adoptions of SuDS, being sympathetic to surrounding land uses, providing landscape as an integral part of design and promoting designs that are adaptable to climate change.</p> <p>Without having access to data that states specific pathways for species migrating towards Natura 2000 sites it was difficult to assess whether there could be habitat/ species disturbance. Due to the distance to the Natura 2000 sites and the location of development to the existing core of Central Lancashire and away from the Natura 2000 sites habitat and species disturbance at the sites was ruled out. However, there could be impacts for habitats and species within Central Lancashire.</p> <p>This can be mitigated through the application of Policy 22: Biodiversity and Geodiversity which seeks to conserve, protect and seek opportunities to enhance and manage biological and geological assets within Central Lancashire, therefore protecting important assets across the area from development. The introduction of an ecological framework across Central Lancashire will safeguard the most important ecological stepping stones throughout the area therefore allowing species movement in appropriate locations and not preventing movement or creating disturbance at important sites, which will mitigate any potential impacts of this policy.</p> <p>A series of measures will mitigate against potential recreational/ visitor pressures by providing a series of open spaces and facilities within Central Lancashire to detract recreational pressure away from the Natura 2000 sites. Policies 18 Green Infrastructure protects existing open spaces and seeks further enhancement or extensions, Policy 19 Areas of Separation and Major Open Space provides informal recreational opportunities within the built up areas of Preston and beyond, Policy 20 encourages countryside management and access within Central Lancashire itself and Policy 22 Biodiversity and Geodiversity protect existing biological assets such as biological heritage sites and local nature reserves which will offer people alternatives to the Natura 2000 sites, some of which are a considerable distance away from Central Lancashire.</p>	<p>used to inform planning decisions so it is reasonable to assume that the policies identified as mitigating the impacts of Policy 1: Locating Growth will have the assumed impact.</p> <p>Overall, it is considered that Policy 1: Locating Growth can now be screened out as no longer likely to have a potential impact or significant effect on any of the Natura 2000 sites identified within this report.</p>
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		<p>There are also a number of urban parks and country parks across Central Lancashire and the proposal for the creation of a Central Park in South Ribble.</p>	
<p>Policy 4: Housing Delivery * see Appendix 3a for an updated potential impacts avoidance/mitigation matrix of this Policy following proposed changes to it.</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>The policy on housing delivery did raise some concerns due to the construction of new housing, impacts on water quality and hydrology due to take up of land/ fewer permeable surfaces and an additional population creating additional recreational pressures and habitat disturbance.</p> <p>Policy 30: Air Quality aims to mitigate against potential air quality implications through green infrastructure and reducing traffic congestion. The only site potentially affected was the Bowland Fells SPA, however due to the rural nature of northern Preston and limited development in rural areas it is unlikely that impacts will reach this site. The Strategic Location at Cottam may impact the site however; this can be mitigated against because of Policy 30.</p> <p>Also, Policy 17: Design of New Buildings seeks to provide landscape as an integral feature of the design and Policy 19: Areas of Separation and Major Open Space seeks to identify areas around the Cottam Strategic Location which would further mitigate against any air quality concerns.</p> <p>Policy 3: Travel and the commitment to a sustainable travel hierarchy also aims to reduce the number of trips and car usage which will also alleviate any increase in potential traffic pollution as a result of new development.</p> <p>Policy 29: Water Management aims to work with the regional water company and partners to promote investment in sewage infrastructure and reduce the risk of river pollution from sewage discharges, aims to pursue opportunities that are particularly susceptible to sewer flooding such as Walton-le-Dale identified above, encourage the use of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) and manage infrastructure timing alongside new development to prevent any potential issues of adverse water quality affecting the river network. The policy also seeks to work with farmers to reduce run – off polluted with agricultural residues. This is particularly important as the sewage network is the major contributing factor of concern due to new housing development and these criteria avoid the impacts.</p> <p>Policy 2: Infrastructure further seeks to provide developer contributions for such infrastructure which will enable the delivery of Policy 29.</p>	<p>Screen Policy out.</p> <p>The Core Strategy is a strategic plan both for the development of Central Lancashire and for the protection of Central Lancashire – aiming to fulfil its economic potential and remaining as a place with 'room to breathe' which is identified in the Core Strategy vision.</p> <p>In conclusion whilst it is considered that in isolation Policy 4 could cause some potential impacts to the Natura 2000 sites, when applied in conjunction with other Core Strategy policies, specifically the environment policies, these impacts are mitigated against.</p> <p>The Core Strategy is intended to be a document where the policies are read together and therefore, the Policy 4</p>

		<p>Hydrologically, Policy 29 seeks to maximise the potential for green infrastructure to contribute to flood relief and preserve permeable surfaces, particularly in areas of greatest need and to appraise, manage and reduce flood risk in new developments by avoiding development in vulnerable areas that through a loss of permeable surfaces could have a hydrological impact. New housing is controlled by PPS 25 and a sequential approach is applied to land with flood risk potential. National guidance means that land at the highest flood risk is not suitable for housing development and the core strategy is in accordance with this.</p> <p>The application of Policy 18: Green Infrastructure and specifically clause b) further alleviate any impacts on the river network.</p> <p>A series of measures will mitigate against potential recreational/ visitor pressures by providing a series of open spaces and facilities within Central Lancashire to detract recreational pressure away from the Natura 2000 sites. Policies 18 Green Infrastructure protects existing open spaces and seeks further enhancement or extensions, Policy 19 Areas of Separation and Major Open Space provides informal recreational opportunities across Central Lancashire, Policy 20 encourages countryside management and access within Central Lancashire itself and Policy 22 Biodiversity and Geodiversity protect existing biological assets such as biological heritage sites and local nature reserves which will offer people alternatives to the Natura 2000 sites, some of which are a considerable distance away from Central Lancashire. Whilst housing delivery will lead to an increased population it is also necessary to be aware that housing need is also for people living within Central Lancashire and as such the increased population will be lower than may appear.</p> <p>It is also important to comment that new housing development is being concentrated near to existing services and provision and within these areas there are extensive opportunities for recreation, including sport, leisure and recreational facilities and many urban parks and country parks.</p> <p>Without having access to data that states specific pathways for species migrating towards Natura 2000 sites it was difficult to assess whether there could be habitat/ species disturbance. Due to the distance to the Natura 2000 sites and the location of development to the existing core of Central Lancashire and away from the Natura 2000 sites habitat and species disturbance at the sites was ruled out. However, there could be impacts for habitats and species within Central Lancashire. This can be mitigated through the</p>	<p>will not be applied in isolation of other policies. As a result of this and the evidence supplied it can be concluded that there will be no potential impacts or significant likely effects to Natura 2000 sites and this policy can be screened out.</p>
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		<p>application of Policy 22: Biodiversity and Geodiversity which seeks to conserve, protect and seek opportunities to enhance and manage biological and geological assets within Central Lancashire, therefore protecting important assets across the area from development. The introduction of an ecological framework across Central Lancashire will safeguard the most important ecological stepping stones throughout the area therefore allowing species movement in appropriate locations and not preventing movement or creating disturbance at important sites, which will mitigate any potential impacts of this policy.</p>	
<p>Policy 9: Economic Growth and Employment</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>Potential issues for water quality and hydrology were highlighted. The location of strategic employment sites within the urban core is away from the Natura 2000 sites but may still impact on the river network that feeds into the Ribble and Alt Estuary SPA and Ramsar.</p> <p>Policy 29: Water Management aims to work with the regional water company and partners to promote investment in sewage infrastructure and reduce the risk of river pollution from sewage discharges, aims to pursue opportunities that are particularly susceptible to sewer flooding, encourage the use of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) and manage infrastructure timing alongside new development to prevent any potential issues of adverse water quality affecting the river network. The policy also seeks to work with farmers to reduce run – off polluted with agricultural residues, which is a particular concern for the rural economy.</p> <p>Hydrologically, Policy 29 seeks to maximise the potential for green infrastructure to contribute to flood relief and preserve permeable surfaces, particularly in areas of greatest need and to appraise, manage and reduce flood risk in new developments by avoiding development in vulnerable areas that through a loss of permeable surfaces could have a hydrological impact. PPS 25 requires a sequential approach to be applied to land of high flood risk and flood risk assessments to be provided where potential concerns may arise. The Core Strategy is in accordance with this guidance.</p> <p>Policy 18 further seeks to mitigate against water quality issues and hydrology impacts by specifically investing in green infrastructure along the river network, clause b) which will take development pressure away from this area.</p> <p>Policy 17 is also intended to be applied to all new buildings, including employment sites and requires application of SuDS, incorporating landscape features and minimising detrimental impact to the local amenity.</p>	<p>Screen Policy out.</p> <p>The Core Strategy is a strategic plan both for the development of Central Lancashire and for the protection of Central Lancashire – aiming to fulfil its economic potential and remaining as a place with 'room to breathe' which is identified in the Core Strategy vision.</p> <p>The policy sets out specific locational criteria and as such enables a more accurate screening to take place because the sub-regionally significant employment sites are located away from the Natura 2000 sites and mostly out of the pathway leading to any Natura 2000 sites.</p> <p>The Core Strategy policies</p>

		<p>The potential impact of air quality is unlikely to be significant due to the phasing of the development sites over a 15 year period and also the south westerly wind direction that is away from all sites except potentially the Bowland Fells SPA. Policy 30: Air Quality aims to further mitigate against any adverse impacts through the delivery of green infrastructure and reducing traffic congestion. Policy 18 on Green Infrastructure seeks to invest in green infrastructure across the borough. Policy 19 on Areas of Separation and Major Open Space designates areas around/ near to Central Preston and Preston East which is in the pathway of the Bowland Fells SPA. However, as the majority of employment development will be located away from this area the initial impact was minimal.</p> <p>Without having access to data that states specific pathways for species migrating towards Natura 2000 sites it was difficult to assess whether there could be habitat/ species disturbance. Due to the distance to the Natura 2000 sites and the location of employment development in the existing core of Central Lancashire and away from the Natura 2000 sites habitat and species disturbance at the sites was ruled out. However, there could be impacts for habitats and species within Central Lancashire.</p> <p>This can be mitigated through the application of Policy 22: Biodiversity and Geodiversity which seeks to conserve, protect and seek opportunities to enhance and manage biological and geological assets within Central Lancashire, therefore protecting important assets across the area from development. The introduction of an ecological framework across Central Lancashire will safeguard the most important ecological stepping stones throughout the area therefore allowing species movement in appropriate locations and not preventing movement or creating disturbance at important sites, which will mitigate any potential impacts of this policy.</p>	<p>must be applied together and as such Policy 9 will not be applied in isolation.</p> <p>There are a number of factors to consider when potential planning applications are assessed and the environment policies will be utilised to minimise the potential impacts of this policy.</p> <p>As a result it is considered that Policy 9: Economic Growth and Employment can now be screened out as having no potential impacts and no likely significant effects on Natura 2000 sites due to the identified mitigation measures that exist within the Core Strategy document.</p>
<p>Policy 11: Retail and Town Centre Uses and Business Based Tourism</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>As with other types of development there is a potential that either during construction or operation that additional pressure on the water infrastructure may cause issues for water quality. In Central Lancashire this issue is related to the sewer network.</p> <p>Policy 29: Water Management has been included within the Core Strategy as a result of the known issues surrounding the sewer network and issues of flood risk potential across Central Lancashire. The policy aims to work with the regional water company and partners to promote investment in sewage infrastructure and reduce the risk of river pollution from sewage discharges, aims to pursue opportunities that are particularly susceptible to sewer flooding, encourage the use of sustainable urban drainage systems and manage</p>	<p>Screen Policy out.</p> <p>This policy can now be screened out because the potential impacts can be mitigated through the application of Policy 29: Water Management, Policy 18: Green Infrastructure and Policy</p>

		<p>infrastructure timing alongside new development to prevent any potential issues of adverse water quality affecting the river network.</p> <p>Due to the scale of retail development, as it is restricted to certain locations, the impact was deemed to be minimal in the assessment in Appendix 2, however Policy 29: Water Management fully mitigates against any potential future impacts before they could affect the water quality that may lead into the Ribble and Alt Estuary SPA and Ramsar.</p> <p>Policy 18: Green Infrastructure, specifically clause b) aims to invest and protect the river network which will further alleviate potential water quality issues.</p> <p>Without having access to data that states specific pathways for species migrating towards Natura 2000 sites it was difficult to assess whether there could be habitat/ species disturbance. Due to the distance to the Natura 2000 sites and the location of retail development within the retail boundaries and away from the Natura 2000 sites habitat and species disturbance at the sites was highly unlikely. However, there could be impacts for habitats and species within Central Lancashire.</p> <p>This can be mitigated through the application of Policy 22: Biodiversity and Geodiversity which seeks to conserve, protect and seek opportunities to enhance and manage biological and geological assets within Central Lancashire, therefore protecting important assets across the area from development. The introduction of an ecological framework across Central Lancashire will safeguard the most important ecological stepping stones throughout the area therefore allowing species movement in appropriate locations and not preventing movement or creating disturbance at important sites, which will mitigate any potential impacts of this policy.</p>	<p>22: Biodiversity and Geodiversity.</p> <p>As the Core Strategy is a strategic document for the development and protection of Central Lancashire it can be assumed that these policies will be applied together and all impacts and effects to Natura 2000 sites can be ruled out.</p>
<p>Policy 12: Culture and Entertainment Facilities</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>Again there could be potential for water quality issues but mainly through the additional pressures placed on the sewer network and potential adverse quality run off into the river network. However, Policy 29: Water Management aims to work with the regional water company and partners to promote investment in sewage infrastructure and reduce the risk of river pollution from sewage discharges, aims to pursue opportunities that are particularly susceptible to sewer flooding, encourage the use of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) and manage infrastructure timing alongside new development to prevent any potential issues of adverse water quality affecting the river network.</p> <p>Policy 18: Green Infrastructure, specifically clause b) aims to invest and protect the river network which will further alleviate potential water quality issues.</p>	<p>Screen Policy out.</p> <p>This policy can now be screened out because the potential impacts can be mitigated through the application of Policy 29: Water Management, Policy 18: Green Infrastructure and Policy 22: Biodiversity and</p>

		<p>Without having access to data that states specific pathways for species migrating towards Natura 2000 sites it was difficult to assess whether there could be habitat/ species disturbance. Due to the distance to the Natura 2000 sites and the location of cultural and entertainment development to Preston City and Chorley and Leyland town centres and away from the Natura 2000 sites habitat and species disturbance at the sites was highly unlikely. However, there could be impacts for habitats and species within Central Lancashire.</p> <p>This can be mitigated through the application of Policy 22: Biodiversity and Geodiversity which seeks to conserve, protect and seek opportunities to enhance and manage biological and geological assets within Central Lancashire, therefore protecting important assets across the area from development. The introduction of an ecological framework across Central Lancashire will safeguard the most important ecological stepping stones throughout the area therefore allowing species movement in appropriate locations and not preventing movement or creating disturbance at important sites, which will mitigate any potential impacts of this policy.</p>	<p>Geodiversity.</p> <p>As the policies are intended to be applied together it can be assumed that the three policies outlined to mitigate against any potential impacts will be able to realise this aim.</p> <p>In conclusion, this policy can now be screened out due to appropriate mitigation.</p>
<p>Policy 13: Rural Economy</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>It is worth noting that only limited, small scale development will be appropriate in the rural areas and as such the potential impacts caused by this policy are lesser because the levels of direct development will be lower.</p> <p>Air quality may be a potential impact in the northern Preston area; however the majority of rural settlements here are not within the pathway that could impact upon the Bowland Fells SPA. Policy 30: Air Quality and Policy 18: Green Infrastructure in combination can mitigate against any potential small scale air quality concerns in this area. The phasing of development and Policy 17: Design of New Buildings will additionally help to alleviate the potential impacts through design, climate change mitigation and adaptation and landscape features within new development.</p> <p>Policy 3: Travel and the commitment to a sustainable travel hierarchy also aims to reduce the number of trips and car usage which will also alleviate any increase in potential traffic pollution as a result of new development.</p> <p>Potential issues for water quality and hydrology were highlighted for Policy 13: Rural Economy. Policy 29: Water Management aims to work with the regional water company and partners to promote investment in sewage infrastructure and reduce the risk of river pollution from sewage discharges, aims to pursue opportunities that are particularly</p>	<p>Screen Policy out.</p> <p>The policy for rural areas permits limited development and seeks to maintain rural areas through sustainable and appropriate growth. It is clear that there are potential impacts, although the likelihood of these affecting the Natura 2000 sites is considered minimal.</p> <p>Especially when taken together with a wide range of environmental policies specifically included to protect the most important</p>

		<p>susceptible to sewer flooding, encourage the use of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) and manage infrastructure timing alongside new development to prevent any potential issues of adverse water quality affecting the river network. The policy also seeks to work with farmers to reduce run – off polluted with agricultural residues which is a particular concern in rural areas and particularly to the west of Chorley town and Leyland where there is the highest proportion of best and most versatile agricultural land.</p> <p>Hydrologically, Policy 29 seeks to maximise the potential for green infrastructure to contribute to flood relief and preserve permeable surfaces, particularly in areas of greatest need and to appraise, manage and reduce flood risk in new developments by avoiding development in vulnerable areas that through a loss of permeable surfaces could have a hydrological impact.</p> <p>Water supply issues, in particular small scale water abstraction from farming can be mitigated through Policy 29, specifically clause a) minimising the use of potable mains water in new developments and clause c) working with farmers to reduce run-off polluted with agricultural residues into water courses.</p> <p>Policy 18 further seeks to mitigate against water quality issues and hydrology impacts by specifically investing in green infrastructure along the river network, clause b) which will take development pressure away from this area.</p> <p>Without having access to data that states specific pathways for species migrating towards Natura 2000 sites it was difficult to assess whether there could be habitat/ species disturbance. Due to the distance to the Natura 2000 sites and the limited development permitted in rural areas and away from the Natura 2000 sites habitat and species disturbance at the sites was ruled out. However, there could be impacts for habitats and species within Central Lancashire. This can be mitigated through the application of Policy 22: Biodiversity and Geodiversity which seeks to conserve, protect and seek opportunities to enhance and manage biological and geological assets within Central Lancashire, therefore protecting important assets across the area from development. The introduction of an ecological framework across Central Lancashire will safeguard the most important ecological stepping stones throughout the area therefore allowing species movement in appropriate locations and not preventing movement or creating disturbance at important sites, which will mitigate any potential impacts of this policy. Due to the continued openness of the rural area and the protection of the strategic Green Belt, potential impacts</p>	<p>environmental assets within Central Lancashire and reach its vision as a place 'with room to breathe'.</p> <p>The maintenance of the strategic extent of the Green Belt is a useful policy tool in this instance as it means there is very limited development potential within rural areas as green belt boundaries were very tightly drawn in pervious Local Plans. As such the impacts were minimal and now can be ruled out when the aforementioned environmental policies are appropriately applied.</p> <p>This policy can now be screened out due to no likely significant effects for the Natura 2000 sites when utilising the avoidance and mitigation measures.</p>
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		are considered to be minimal.	
Policy 14: Education	N/A	<p>Policy 30: Air Quality aims to mitigate against potential air quality implications through green infrastructure and reducing traffic congestion. The only site potentially affected was the Bowland Fells SPA, however due to the limited scale of educational development and the location of services close to existing settlements, specifically Leyland/ Farington and Penwortham and away from the Natura 2000 sites risks were minimal. The anticipated educational developments are outside of the pathway for the Bowland Fells SPA; however this list is not exclusive.</p> <p>Also, Policy 17: Design of New Buildings seeks to provide landscape as an integral feature of the design and Policy 18: Green Infrastructure further aims to provide mitigation possibilities for air quality impacts through the enhancement and protection on the green infrastructure network across Central Lancashire.</p> <p>Policy 3: Travel and the commitment to a sustainable travel hierarchy also aims to reduce the number of trips and car usage which will also alleviate any increase in potential traffic pollution as a result of new development.</p> <p>As with other types of development there is a potential that either during construction or operation that additional pressure on the water infrastructure may cause issues for water quality. In Central Lancashire this issue is particularly related to the sewer network.</p> <p>Policy 29: Water Management has been included within the Core Strategy as a result of the known issues surrounding the sewer network and issues of flood risk potential across Central Lancashire. The policy aims to work with the regional water company and partners to promote investment in sewage infrastructure and reduce the risk of river pollution from sewage discharges, aims to pursue opportunities that are particularly susceptible to sewer flooding, encourage the use of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) and manage infrastructure timing alongside new development to prevent any potential issues of adverse water quality affecting the river network. 'New Development' would also include educational facilities and this mechanism is considered to be appropriate mitigation for the potential impact. Policy 2: Infrastructure through the collection of developer contributions will both help to fund social infrastructure but also associated infrastructure such as</p>	<p>Screen Policy out.</p> <p>Due to the highlighted mitigation measures it is now considered that this policy can be screened out as any potential impacts have been mitigated by the analysis of other environmental policies within the Core Strategy.</p>

		<p>improvements to the water infrastructure which will further alleviate the issue.</p> <p>Policy 18: Green Infrastructure, specifically clause b) aims to invest and protect the river network which will further alleviate potential water quality issues.</p>	
<p>Policy 23: Health</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>Due to need within Central Lancashire, the Infrastructure Delivery Schedule shows that there will be limited health care development within Central Lancashire. Whilst some will be required to update service provision and some will be required to cope with additional population the level of development is not considered significant.</p> <p>However, there were some potential impacts identified and it is considered that the following policies can help to mitigate against any issues the policy leads to. Also worth noting that the policy itself offers some mitigation through the promotion of allotments and garden plots which offers additional permeable surfaces and helps to maintain a consistent hydrological cycle.</p> <p>Policy 29: Water Management aims to work with the regional water company and partners to promote investment in sewage infrastructure and reduce the risk of river pollution from sewage discharges, aims to pursue opportunities that are particularly susceptible to sewer flooding, encourage the use of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) and manage infrastructure timing alongside new development to prevent any potential issues of adverse water quality affecting the river network. 'New Development' would also include healthcare facilities and this mechanism is considered to be appropriate mitigation for the potential impact. Policy 2: Infrastructure through the collection of developer contributions will both help to fund social infrastructure but also associated infrastructure such as improvements to the water infrastructure which will further alleviate the issue.</p> <p>Policy 18 further seeks to mitigate against water quality issues and hydrology impacts by specifically investing in green infrastructure along the river network, clause b) which will take development pressure away from this area.</p> <p>Healthcare facilities will be located within existing settlements in line with sustainable development principles and likely away from Natura 2000 sites; however without any locational specifics the impact is uncertain. Policy 30: Air Quality, Policy 18: Green Infrastructure and Policy 19: Areas of Separation and Major Open Space further aid the reduction of negative air quality composition through the protection of green infrastructure throughout Central Lancashire and specific areas identified where minimal open space</p>	<p>Screen Policy out.</p> <p>This policy can be screened out because it offers some mitigation within the policy itself to alleviate some of the potential impacts but when applied in combination with the other policies identified it is considered that the potential impacts can reasonably be mitigated against.</p> <p>As such screen this policy out as no likely significant effects to the Natura 2000 sites.</p>

		<p>exists currently, to counter this issue. Policy 3: Travel and the commitment to a sustainable travel hierarchy also aims to reduce the number of trips and car usage which will also alleviate any increase in potential traffic pollution as a result of new development.</p>	
<p>Policy 24: Sport and Recreation</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>The open space, sport and recreation needs research which has informed the production of Policy 24 states that there will be limited need for new facilities but accessibility and enhancement of existing facilities will be more appropriate. However, the policy outlines that there may be scope for some major new facilities of which potential impacts have been identified.</p> <p>Policy 29: Water Management aims to work with the regional water company and partners to promote investment in sewage infrastructure and reduce the risk of river pollution from sewage discharges, aims to pursue opportunities that are particularly susceptible to sewer flooding, encourage the use of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) and manage infrastructure timing alongside new development to prevent any potential issues of adverse water quality affecting the river network. 'New Development' would also include sport and recreation facilities and this mechanism is considered to be appropriate mitigation for the potential impact. Policy 2: Infrastructure through the collection of developer contributions will both help to fund social infrastructure but also associated infrastructure such as improvements to the water infrastructure which will further alleviate the issue.</p> <p>Policy 18 further seeks to mitigate against water quality issues and hydrology impacts by specifically investing in green infrastructure along the river network, clause b) which will take development pressure away from this area.</p> <p>Sport and recreation facilities will be located within existing settlements in line with sustainable development principles and likely away from Natura 2000 sites; however without any locational specifics the impact is uncertain. Policy 30: Air Quality, Policy 18: Green Infrastructure and Policy 19: Areas of Separation and Major Open Space further aid the reduction of negative air quality composition through the protection of green infrastructure throughout Central Lancashire and specific areas identified where minimal open space exists currently, to counter this issue. Policy 3: Travel and the commitment to a sustainable travel hierarchy also aims to reduce the number of trips and car usage which will also alleviate any increase in potential traffic pollution as a result of new development.</p> <p>The policy also partially mitigates itself as sport and recreation facilities also include facilities such as outdoor playing pitches, including grass football pitches, tennis courts</p>	<p>Screen Policy out.</p> <p>This policy can now be screened out as the appropriate mitigation measures identified alleviate against the potential impacts outlined within Appendix 2.</p> <p>The series of policies will be applied together when the Core Strategy is used to inform planning decisions and as such it can be reasonably assumed that these policies will mitigate against the identified impacts.</p> <p>No likely significant impacts on Natura 2000 sites therefore screen out policy.</p>

		<p>etc... which have limited or no development and maintain their permeable status thus having a lesser impact on hydrology/ water quality.</p>	
<p>Policy 25: Community Facilities</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>Due to need within Central Lancashire, the Infrastructure Delivery Schedule shows that there will be limited need for new community facilities within Central Lancashire. The focus will be on maintaining and enhancing existing service provision, however the policy will allow for some direct development.</p> <p>Policy 29: Water Management aims to work with the regional water company and partners to promote investment in sewage infrastructure and reduce the risk of river pollution from sewage discharges, aims to pursue opportunities that are particularly susceptible to sewer flooding, encourage the use of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) and manage infrastructure timing alongside new development to prevent any potential issues of adverse water quality affecting the river network. 'New Development' would also include community facilities and this mechanism is considered to be appropriate mitigation for the potential impact. Policy 2: Infrastructure through the collection of developer contributions will both help to fund social infrastructure but also associated infrastructure such as improvements to water infrastructure which will further alleviate the issue.</p> <p>Policy 18 further seeks to mitigate against water quality issues and hydrology impacts by specifically investing in green infrastructure along the river network, clause b) which will take development pressure away from this area.</p> <p>Community facilities will be located within existing settlements, near to communities in line with sustainable development principles and likely away from Natura 2000 sites; however without any locational specifics the impact is uncertain. Policy 30: Air Quality, Policy 18: Green Infrastructure and Policy 19: Areas of Separation and Major Open Space further aid the reduction of negative air quality composition through the protection of green infrastructure throughout Central Lancashire and specific areas identified where minimal open space exists currently, to counter this issue.</p> <p>Policy 3: Travel and the commitment to a sustainable travel hierarchy also aims to reduce the number of trips and car usage which will also alleviate any increase in potential traffic pollution as a result of new development.</p>	<p>Screen Policy out.</p> <p>Taking into consideration the proposed mitigation measures it is considered that it is appropriate to now screen out this policy as having no likely significant effects on Natura 2000 sites.</p> <p>When applied in combination with other Core Strategy policies it is reasonable to assume that no impacts will arise.</p> <p>Due to the likely location of community facilities in line with sustainable development principles and away from Natura 2000 sites, the potential impacts were likely minimal and now can be ruled out.</p>

APPENDIX 3a Core Strategy Policies Potential Impacts Avoidance/ Mitigation Matrix (proposed changes post Examination Hearing June/ July 2011)

Policy Details	Avoidance	Mitigation	Screening Conclusion
<p>Policy 1: Locating Growth</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>Potential issues for water quality and hydrology were highlighted. Policy 29: Water Management aims to work with the regional water company and partners to promote investment in sewage infrastructure and reduce the risk of river pollution from sewage discharges, aims to pursue opportunities that are particularly susceptible to sewer flooding such as Walton-le-Dale identified above, encourage the use of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) and manage infrastructure timing alongside new development to prevent any potential issues of adverse water quality affecting the river network. The policy also seeks to work with farmers to reduce run – off polluted with agricultural residues.</p> <p>Hydrologically, Policy 29 seeks to maximise the potential for green infrastructure to contribute to flood relief and preserve permeable surfaces, particularly in areas of greatest need and to appraise, manage and reduce flood risk in new developments by avoiding development in vulnerable areas that through a loss of permeable surfaces could have a hydrological impact.</p> <p>Policy 18 further seeks to mitigate against water quality issues and hydrology impacts by specifically investing in green infrastructure along the river network, clause b) which will take development pressure away from this area.</p> <p>The potential impact of air quality is unlikely to be significant due to the phasing of the development sites over a 15 year period and also the prevailing South Westerly wind direction that is away from all sites except potentially the Bowland Fells SPA. Policy 30: Air Quality aims to further mitigate against any adverse impacts through the delivery of green infrastructure and reducing traffic congestion.</p> <p>Policy 18 on Green Infrastructure seeks to invest in green infrastructure across the borough. Policy 19 on Areas of Separation and Major Open Space designates areas east and north east of the Cottam Strategic Site (formerly Location) and the North West Preston Strategic Location in northern Preston. This is the area of development that</p>	<p>Screen Policy Out.</p>

	<p>could potentially affect the Bowland Fells SPA, however with this mitigation in the locality of the development site it is unlikely that any significant impacts could occur.</p> <p>Policy 3: Travel and the commitment to a sustainable travel hierarchy also aims to reduce the number of trips and car usage which will also alleviate any increase in potential traffic pollution as a result of new development.</p> <p>Policy 17 Design of New Buildings sets out a wide range of criteria that will mitigate the above effects, including the adoptions of SuDS, being sympathetic to surrounding land uses, providing landscape as an integral part of design and promoting designs that are adaptable to climate change.</p> <p>Without having access to data that states specific pathways for species migrating towards Natura 2000 sites it was difficult to assess whether there could be habitat/ species disturbance. Due to the distance to the Natura 2000 sites and the location of development to the existing core of Central Lancashire and away from the Natura 2000 sites habitat and species disturbance at the sites was ruled out. However, there could be impacts for habitats and species within Central Lancashire.</p> <p>This can be mitigated through the application of Policy 22: Biodiversity and Geodiversity which seeks to conserve, protect and seek opportunities to enhance and manage biological and geological assets within Central Lancashire, therefore protecting important assets across the area from development. The introduction of an ecological framework across Central Lancashire will safeguard the most important ecological stepping stones throughout the area therefore allowing species movement in appropriate locations and not preventing movement or creating disturbance at important sites, which will mitigate any potential impacts of this policy.</p> <p>A series of measures will mitigate against potential recreational/ visitor pressures by providing a series of open spaces and facilities within Central Lancashire to detract recreational pressure away from the Natura 2000 sites. Policies 18 Green Infrastructure protects existing open spaces and seeks further enhancement or extensions, Policy 19 Areas of Separation and Major Open Space provides informal recreational opportunities within the built up areas of Preston and beyond, Policy 20 encourages countryside management and access within Central Lancashire itself and Policy 22 Biodiversity and Geodiversity protect existing biological assets such as biological heritage sites and local</p>	
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		<p>nature reserves which will offer people alternatives to the Natura 2000 sites, some of which are a considerable distance away from Central Lancashire.</p> <p>There are also a number of urban parks and country parks across Central Lancashire and the proposal for the creation of a Central Park in South Ribble.</p> <p>The above reasoning remains valid for the addition of two new Strategic Locations as the air quality issues at Bowland Fells SPA will be mitigated through the application of Policy 30: Air Quality and Policy 18: Green Infrastructure. The potential water quality and hydrological issues that could affect the Ribble and Alt Estuaries would be mitigated through the application of Policy 29: Water Management. In addition the phased approach to new development over the plan period will minimise the potential effects as any issues will be spread over a 15 year period.</p>	
<p>Policy 4: Housing Delivery</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>The policy on housing delivery did raise some concerns due to the construction of new housing, impacts on water quality and hydrology due to take up of land/ fewer permeable surfaces and an additional population creating additional recreational pressures and habitat disturbance.</p> <p>Policy 30: Air Quality aims to mitigate against potential air quality implications through green infrastructure and reducing traffic congestion. The only site potentially affected was the Bowland Fells SPA, however due to the rural nature of northern Preston and limited development in rural areas it is unlikely that impacts will reach this site. The Strategic Site (formerly) Location at Cottam may impact the site however; this can be mitigated against because of Policy 30. Additionally, the newly proposed North West Preston Strategic Location may impact on this site; however Policy 30 will be further mitigation for this site. There will also be a phased approach to the delivery of Strategic Sites and Locations which are anticipated to be delivered throughout the plan period and so the impacts will be less intense.</p> <p>Also, Policy 17: Design of New Buildings seeks to provide landscape as an integral feature of the design and Policy 19: Areas of Separation and Major Open Space seeks to identify areas around the Cottam Strategic Site which would further mitigate against any air quality concerns.</p> <p>Policy 3: Travel and the commitment to a sustainable travel hierarchy also aims to reduce the number of trips and car usage which will also alleviate any increase in</p>	<p>Screen Policy Out.</p>

	<p>potential traffic pollution as a result of new development.</p> <p>Policy 29: Water Management aims to work with the regional water company and partners to promote investment in sewage infrastructure and reduce the risk of river pollution from sewage discharges, aims to pursue opportunities that are particularly susceptible to sewer flooding such as Walton-le-Dale identified above, encourage the use of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) and manage infrastructure timing alongside new development to prevent any potential issues of adverse water quality affecting the river network. The policy also seeks to work with farmers to reduce run – off polluted with agricultural residues. This is particularly important as the sewage network is the major contributing factor of concern due to new housing development and these criteria avoid the impacts. Policy 2: Infrastructure further seeks to provide developer contributions for such infrastructure which will enable the delivery of Policy 29. Hydrologically, Policy 29 seeks to maximise the potential for green infrastructure to contribute to flood relief and preserve permeable surfaces, particularly in areas of greatest need and to appraise, manage and reduce flood risk in new developments by avoiding development in vulnerable areas that through a loss of permeable surfaces could have a hydrological impact. New housing is controlled by PPS 25 and a sequential approach is applied to land with flood risk potential. National guidance means that land at the highest flood risk is not suitable for housing development and the core strategy is in accordance with this.</p> <p>The application of Policy 18: Green Infrastructure and specifically clause b) further alleviate any impacts on the river network.</p> <p>A series of measures will mitigate against potential recreational/ visitor pressures by providing a series of open spaces and facilities within Central Lancashire to detract recreational pressure away from the Natura 2000 sites. Policies 18 Green Infrastructure protects existing open spaces and seeks further enhancement or extensions, Policy 19 Areas of Separation and Major Open Space provides informal recreational opportunities across Central Lancashire, Policy 20 encourages countryside management and access within Central Lancashire itself and Policy 22 Biodiversity and Geodiversity protect existing biological assets such as biological heritage sites and local nature reserves which will offer people alternatives to the Natura 2000 sites, some of which are a considerable distance away from Central Lancashire. Whilst housing delivery will lead to an increased population it is also necessary to be aware that housing need is also for</p>	
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	<p>people living within Central Lancashire and as such the increased population will be lower than may appear.</p> <p>It is also important to comment that new housing development is being concentrated near to existing services and provision and within these areas there are extensive opportunities for recreation, including sport, leisure and recreational facilities and many urban parks and country parks.</p> <p>Without having access to data that states specific pathways for species migrating towards Natura 2000 sites it was difficult to assess whether there could be habitat/species disturbance. Due to the distance to the Natura 2000 sites and the location of development to the existing core of Central Lancashire and away from the Natura 2000 sites habitat and species disturbance at the sites was ruled out. However, there could be impacts for habitats and species within Central Lancashire. This can be mitigated through the application of Policy 22: Biodiversity and Geodiversity which seeks to conserve, protect and seek opportunities to enhance and manage biological and geological assets within Central Lancashire, therefore protecting important assets across the area from development. The introduction of an ecological framework across Central Lancashire will safeguard the most important ecological stepping stones throughout the area therefore allowing species movement in appropriate locations and not preventing movement or creating disturbance at important sites, which will mitigate any potential impacts of this policy.</p> <p>Although greater housing will occur over the plan period, the above reasoning applied to the Publication Policy 4 remains the same as the environment policies within the Central Lancashire Core Strategy used to mitigate the previous Policy 4 will be able to mitigate the effects of the amendments to the policy in the same way, albeit 20% greater housing is likely to come forward over the plan period. The phased approach to development that will be taken through the LDF will prevent significant effects occurring through too much development all at once.</p>	
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APPENDIX 4 'Other Plans'

Name of Plan	Description of Plan	Likely effect?	Screening 'in-combination' Conclusion
North West Wide			
North West Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) (Part of the Development Plan)	The Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) for North West England provides a framework for development and investment in the region over the next fifteen to twenty years. It establishes a broad vision for the region and its sub-regions, priorities for growth and regeneration, and policies to achieve sustainable development across a wide range of topics – from jobs, housing and transport to climate change, waste and energy.	<p>The RSS has already undertaken a full Appropriate Assessment. However, policies that have been directly informed by the RSS have also been appraised during this screening assessment report.</p> <p>The levels of growth for the North West are significant, however, they were deemed unlikely to have a significant effect on the Natura 2000 sites within the North West region.</p>	<p>'In combination' with this plan the outcome is uncertain. However, as the Core Strategy does not propose levels of growth beyond those set out in the RSS (as it is not additional growth over and above RSS levels) it is unlikely that significant effects will occur, unless caused through locational distribution of the growth/ development.</p> <p>However, all policies within the Central Lancashire Core Strategy have now been screened out due to appropriate mitigation and avoidance or because they did not lead directly to development. Whilst the effect remains uncertain Central Lancashire can only control/ affect the potential impacts and effects caused either within their own boundary or through their own plan and does not have the ability to influence plan's outside of their area.</p> <p>In conclusion, whilst the 'in combination' effect remains uncertain, Central Lancashire has mitigated against their part of the North West growth and can conclude that their Core Strategy has been appropriately mitigated.</p>

Lancashire Wide			
Fylde Core Strategy (Borders)	Fylde Core Strategy has recently undergone their Issues and Options stage of the Core Strategy. At this stage the Core Strategy does not identify any specific locations for development or overall amounts of growth as a variety of issues and options are currently being considered and no decisions have been made.	There is currently no available HRA assessment and as such the potential impacts of the plan remain uncertain.	<p>Due to a lack of information about the level and distribution of growth and no accompanying HRA, the effect of the plan 'in combination' is uncertain.</p> <p>However, all policies within the Central Lancashire Core Strategy have now been screened out due to appropriate mitigation and avoidance or because they did not lead directly to development. Whilst the effect remains uncertain Central Lancashire can only control/ affect the potential impacts and effects caused either within their own boundary or through their own plan and does not have the ability to influence plan's outside of their area.</p> <p>In conclusion, whilst the 'in combination' effect remains uncertain, Central Lancashire has mitigated against their own impacts/ effects on Natura 2000 sites and can conclude that their Core Strategy has been appropriately mitigated.</p>
West Lancashire Core Strategy (Borders)	West Lancashire Council have recently compiled their Preferred Core Strategy which sets out the preferred levels of growth and overall strategy for the next 15 years for the borough. However, the Council have not yet undergone public consultation and the preferred Core Strategy is not	There is currently no available HRA assessment to view and as such the potential impacts of the plan remain uncertain.	<p>Due to a lack of information about the level and distribution of growth and no accompanying HRA, the effect of the plan 'in combination' is uncertain.</p> <p>However, all policies within the Central Lancashire Core Strategy have now been screened out due to appropriate mitigation and avoidance or because they did not lead</p>

	available to view.		<p>directly to development. Whilst the effect remains uncertain Central Lancashire can only control/ affect the potential impacts and effects caused either within their own boundary or through their own plan and does not have the ability to influence plan's outside of their area.</p> <p>In conclusion, whilst the 'in combination' effect remains uncertain, Central Lancashire has mitigated against their own impacts/ effects on Natura 2000 sites and can conclude that their Core Strategy has been appropriately mitigated.</p>
Ribble Valley Core Strategy (Borders)	Ribble Valley Council has undergone a consultation on the preferred options stage of the Core Strategy. They are soon to go out to public consultation with the Publication version which will set out anticipated levels of growth and locational distribution of sites across the borough. However, this document is due early 2011 but is still unavailable to view.	As such the effect is uncertain as levels of growth and locational specifics are not confirmed and there is no accompanying HRA to consider potential issues and impacts. The effect remains unlikely.	<p>Due to a lack of information about the level and distribution of growth and no accompanying HRA, the effect of the plan 'in combination' is uncertain.</p> <p>However, all policies within the Central Lancashire Core Strategy have now been screened out due to appropriate mitigation and avoidance or because they did not lead directly to development. Whilst the effect remains uncertain Central Lancashire can only control/ affect the potential impacts and effects caused either within their own boundary or through their own plan and does not have the ability to influence plan's outside of their area.</p> <p>In conclusion, whilst the 'in combination' effect remains uncertain, Central Lancashire has mitigated against their own impacts/</p>

			effects on Natura 2000 sites and can conclude that their Core Strategy has been appropriately mitigated.
Blackburn with Darwen Core Strategy (Borders)	Blackburn with Darwen Council has an adopted Core Strategy 2011 that sets out a strategic plan for the borough detailing anticipated levels of growth and protection of environmental assets over the forthcoming 15 year period.	There is an associated HRA assessment which concludes there are no significant adverse effects on the Natura 2000 sites within a 20km boundary of Blackburn with Darwen.	<p>A reasonable assessment can be undertaken as the Blackburn with Darwen Core Strategy ruled out any likely significant effects on Natura 2000 sites within a 20km buffer of their boundary.</p> <p>The only site that could be affected in combination with the Central Lancashire Core Strategy and the Blackburn with Darwen Core Strategy is through water quality impacts on the Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site. However, Blackburn with Darwen have screened out all of their policies and mitigated the impacts they may have on this and other Natura 2000 sites.</p> <p>Additionally, all policies within the Central Lancashire Core Strategy have now been screened out due to appropriate mitigation and avoidance or because they did not lead directly to development. Whilst the effect remains uncertain Central Lancashire can only control/ affect the potential impacts and effects caused either within their own boundary or through their own plan and does not have the ability to influence plan's outside of their area.</p> <p>In conclusion, as both plans effectively mitigate against any potential impacts or likely significant effects the 'in combination'</p>

			effects can be screened out.
Wyre Core Strategy (Borders)	Have undergone their Issues and Options stage of their Core Strategy which is the strategic plan for the borough. At this stage no decisions have been made and as such it is unclear to ascertain potential levels of growth and anticipated locational specifics.	There is currently no available HRA assessment and as such the potential impacts of the plan remain uncertain.	<p>Due to a lack of information about the level and distribution of growth and no accompanying HRA, the effect of the plan 'in combination' is uncertain.</p> <p>However, all policies within the Central Lancashire Core Strategy have now been screened out due to appropriate mitigation and avoidance or because they did not lead directly to development. Whilst the effect remains uncertain Central Lancashire can only control/ affect the potential impacts and effects caused either within their own boundary or through their own plan and does not have the ability to influence plan's outside of their area.</p> <p>In conclusion, whilst the 'in combination' effect remains uncertain, Central Lancashire has mitigated against their own impacts/ effects on Natura 2000 sites and can conclude that their Core Strategy has been appropriately mitigated.</p>
Wigan Core Strategy (Borders)	Draft Core Strategy proposed submission version (publication) sets out the strategic vision for Wigan until 2026 and highlights the overall growth strategy as well as protection measures for the Borough.	There is an associated HRA assessment which concludes that the Manchester Mosses SAC may be potentially impacted due to their broad locations for growth (January 2011).	<p>A reasonable assessment can be undertaken as the Wigan Core Strategy ruled no likely significant effects to Natura 2000 sites, except the potential for the Manchester Mosses SAC to be negatively effected through their identification of broad locations for growth.</p> <p>However, all policies within the Central</p>

			<p>Lancashire Core Strategy have now been screened out due to appropriate mitigation and avoidance or because they did not lead directly to development. Whilst the effect remains uncertain Central Lancashire can only control/ affect the potential impacts and effects caused either within their own boundary or through their own plan and does not have the ability to influence plan's outside of their area.</p> <p>Additionally, due to the location of the Manchester Mosses SAC to Central Lancashire and the lack of clear pathways to this site, it has not been included within this HRA Screening Assessment Report.</p> <p>In conclusion, as both plans effectively mitigate against any potential impacts or likely significant effects (except the Manchester Mosses SAC) which the Central Lancashire Core Strategy does not impact upon and therefore the 'in combination' effects can be screened out.</p>
Bolton Core Strategy (Borders)	Bolton now has an adopted Core Strategy 2011 which sets out the anticipated levels of growth and strategic locations over the next 15 years.	There is an associated HRA assessment that concludes there are no likely significant effects as a result of the proposals in the Bolton Core Strategy.	<p>A reasonable assessment can be undertaken as the Bolton Core Strategy ruled out any likely significant effects on Natura 2000 sites.</p> <p>Additionally, all policies within the Central Lancashire Core Strategy have now been screened out due to appropriate mitigation and avoidance or because they did not lead directly to development. Whilst the effect remains uncertain Central Lancashire can</p>

			<p>only control/ affect the potential impacts and effects caused either within their own boundary or through their own plan and does not have the ability to influence plan's outside of their area.</p> <p>In conclusion, as both plans effectively mitigate against any potential impacts or likely significant effects the 'in combination' effects can be screened out.</p>
Blackpool Core Strategy (linked due to Growth Point)	Blackpool have approved their preferred options core strategy which will set out the council's preferred levels of growth and distribution of development as well as protection and environmental measures. However, this document is not publicly available at this time.	As such the effect is uncertain as levels of growth and locational specifics are not confirmed and there is no accompanying HRA to consider potential issues and impacts. The effect remains uncertain.	<p>Due to a lack of information about the level and distribution of growth and no accompanying HRA, the effect of the plan 'in combination' is uncertain.</p> <p>However, all policies within the Central Lancashire Core Strategy have now been screened out due to appropriate mitigation and avoidance or because they did not lead directly to development. Whilst the effect remains uncertain Central Lancashire can only control/ affect the potential impacts and effects caused either within their own boundary or through their own plan and does not have the ability to influence plan's outside of their area.</p> <p>In conclusion, whilst the 'in combination' effect remains uncertain, Central Lancashire has mitigated against their own impacts/ effects on Natura 2000 sites and can conclude that their Core Strategy has been appropriately mitigated.</p>

Outside of Lancashire			
Sefton Core Strategy (Authority responsible for the Sefton SAC)	The Issues paper was consulted on in summer 2009 and no formal levels of growth have yet been agreed as the issues and options for delivery in Sefton have yet to be confirmed.	There is no accompanying HRA at this stage and as such it is uncertain whether levels of growth or distribution of growth within Sefton will impact 'in-combination'.	<p>Due to a lack of information about the level and distribution of growth and no accompanying HRA, the effect of the plan 'in combination' is uncertain.</p> <p>However, all policies within the Central Lancashire Core Strategy have now been screened out due to appropriate mitigation and avoidance or because they did not lead directly to development. Whilst the effect remains uncertain Central Lancashire can only control/ affect the potential impacts and effects caused either within their own boundary or through their own plan and does not have the ability to influence plan's outside of their area.</p> <p>In conclusion, whilst the 'in combination' effect remains uncertain, Central Lancashire has mitigated against their own impacts/ effects on Natura 2000 sites and can conclude that their Core Strategy has been appropriately mitigated.</p>