

Cheshire East draft Minerals and Waste Plan Habitats Regulations Assessment Final Report

July 2022

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Revision History

Revision Ref/Date	Amendments	Issued to
V1/ January 2022	Draft Habitats Regulations Assessment Report for MWP	Allan Clarke, Cheshire East Council
V2/ June 2022	Updated in response to revised MWP document and NE Nutrient Neutrality guidance	Allan Clarke, Cheshire East Council
Final / July 2022	Updated following client review	Allan Clarke, Cheshire East Council

Contract

This report describes work commissioned by Allan Clarke, on behalf of Cheshire East Council. Laura Hodgkinson and Rachael Brady of JBA Consulting carried out this work.

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Purpose

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Executive summary

This report contributes to Cheshire East Council's legal obligation under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended by the Conservation of Habitats and Species (amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019) to carry out a Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) on its plans for effects on European sites.

Before a plan can be adopted, the 'competent authority' (Cheshire East Council) must be satisfied that it will not cause any likely significant effects on any European site; or, if such effects cannot be ruled out by applying the precautionary approach required by the Habitats Regulations, that following an Appropriate Assessment the plan would not cause adverse effects of the integrity of any European site, whether on its own or in combination with other plans or projects, again applying the precautionary approach

HRA has been undertaken throughout the development of the Cheshire East Local Plan and has informed key stages and assessment work. The Local Plan Strategy (Part 1) was adopted in July 2017 and was supported by a HRA. The second part of the Local Plan, the Site Allocations and Development Policies Document (SADPD) was submitted for examination in 2021 and this was also supported by a HRA.

This report details the HRA for the draft Cheshire East Local Plan Minerals and Waste Plan (MWP) and includes an assessment for the plan policies and site allocations.

The first step of the HRA process, was to screen the MWP to determine whether it could lead to a significant effect on European sites, either directly, or indirectly, alone, or in-combination with other plans.

European sites consist of Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) designated for habitats and animal species, and Special Protection Areas (SPA) designated for bird species. Ramsar sites designated under the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands 1971 are also included following Government policy.

The most likely effects of the draft MWP on European sites are related to the proposed mineral site allocations, which could result in habitat loss/physical damage, changes to water quality and quantity, disturbance (noise, visual) and air quality impacts.

The Screening Assessment determined that the draft MWP could potentially have significant adverse effects, both alone and in-combination with other plans, on the following sites:

- Midland Meres and Mosses Phase 1 Ramsar
- Midland Meres and Mosses Phase 2 Ramsar
- Rostherne Mere Ramsar

An Appropriate Assessment was then undertaken to assess whether Cheshire East Council's draft MWP has the potential to result in significant adverse effects on the integrity of identified European sites, either alone or in combination with a number of other plans and projects.

The Appropriate Assessment identified that the existing policies and provisions in the Cheshire East Council LPS, SADPD, MWP in relation to the development of mineral sites, and the protection of designated nature conservation sites and the wider environment, will ensure that the draft MWP will have no adverse effects on these European sites.

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Abbreviations

CJEU	Court of Justice of the EU
DCLG	Department for Communities and Local Government
HRA	Habitats Regulations Assessment
IROPI	Imperative Reasons of Overriding Public Interest
JNCC	Joint Nature Conservation Committee
LPS	Local Plan Strategy
MWP	Minerals and Waste Plan
NE	Natural England
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
NPPG	National Planning Practice Guidance
NRW	Natural Resources Wales
SAC	Special Area of Conservation
SADPD	Site Allocations and Development Policies Document
SPA	Special Protection Area
SSSI	Site of Special Scientific Interest

1 Introduction

1.1 The Cheshire East Local Plan

Cheshire East Council is in the process of developing its Local Plan, which comprises three key documents:

- 1 The Local Plan Strategy (LPS) (Part 1) sets out the vision and overall planning strategy for the Borough and contains planning policies intended to ensure that new development addresses the economic, environmental and social needs of the area. It also identifies the strategic sites and strategic locations that should accommodate most of the new development needed (Cheshire East Council, 2017a). JBA has undertaken the Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) for the LPS, which was adopted by the Council in July 2017.
- 2 The Site Allocations and Development Policies Document (SADPD) (Part 2) is the second part of the Local Plan that allocates sites for development (generally non-strategic sites). It also sets more detailed policies to guide planning application decisions in the Borough. JBA has undertaken the HRA for the draft SADPD which was submitted to the Secretary of State in April 2021 and is currently undergoing independent examination.
- 3 The Minerals and Waste Plan (MWP) (Part 3) sets out planning policies for minerals and waste, including the identification for specific sites for these uses where required.

The three documents that will comprise the Cheshire East Local Plan need to be read as a whole, as the LPS and emerging SADPD contain policies that may be relevant to the determination of mineral and waste planning applications. For example, the LPS contains strategic policies that promote sustainable development, preserve the Green Belt and protect the wider environment from inappropriate development. The emerging SADPD contains policies that address more detailed planning issues, particularly those relating to controlling the impacts of development on communities and the environment. The MWP supplements these policies by addressing issues that are specific to mineral and waste matters. The plan period for the MWP is 2021 – 2041, and therefore the MWP contains strategic policies that will supersede relevant LPS policies.

1.2 Purpose of this Report

This HRA focuses on the MWP. An initial consultation and associated call for sites exercise was undertaken by the Council in April 2017 to understand what the key issues were for minerals and waste in the Borough. The consultation responses and sites/areas submitted for consideration have been assessed by the Council, together with other sites that have been considered for allocation (as part of this process an initial HRA screening of the sites for consideration was undertaken), and the Council has now prepared a draft of the MWP for consultation.

This report details the findings of the shadow HRA Screening Assessment and Appropriate Assessment for the draft MWP (Cheshire East Council, 2022) and should be read in conjunction with that document.

1.3 Habitats Regulations Assessment

The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended by the Conservation of Habitats and Species (amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019), also known as the 'Habitats Regulations', provide legal protection to habitats and species of national importance. The regulations also secure an ecological network of protected sites, consisting of SACs and SPAs. Government guidance also requires that Ramsar sites (which support internationally important wetland habitats and are listed under the Convention on

Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Convention) are given the same level of protection as SACs and SPAs.

Prior to the UK's withdrawal from the EU, SACs were designated and protected under domestic legislation transposed from European Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and Wild Flora and Fauna (Habitats Directive), and SPAs under European Directive 2009/147/EC on the Conservation of Wild Birds (Birds Directive). Together these sites formed a European-wide Natura 2000 network of protected sites. Since 31 December 2020, SACs and SPAs within the UK no longer fall within the Natura 2000 network, and instead form a National Site Network. SPAs and SACs continue to be referred to collectively as 'European sites' within the context of the Habitats Regulations, reflecting their international importance for the conservation of biodiversity.

SACs and SPAs within the National Site Network are also still designated for habitats listed on Annex I and for species listed on Annex II of the Habitats Directive, and criteria listed under the Birds Directive, and it is these Annex I habitats, Annex II species and Birds Directive Criteria against which assessments under the Habitats Regulations are still made.

It is a requirement of Regulation 105 of the Habitats Regulations that where a plan is likely to have a significant effect on a European site, either alone or in-combination with other plans or projects, and where it is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site *"the plan-making authority for that plan must, before the plan is given effect, make an appropriate assessment of the implications for the site in view of that site's conservation objectives"*.

Therefore, for all plans that are not wholly directly connected with, or necessary to, the conservation management of the site's qualifying features, a formal Screening for any Likely Significant Effects (either alone or in-combination with other plans or projects) on a European site is required. This Screening Assessment is based on available ecological information on the designated site(s), other plans, projects and policies relevant to the area and details of the proposed development/policy.

If the Screening Assessment concludes that the plan is likely to have a significant effect on the conservation objectives of the site(s), or that such an effect cannot be ruled out (adopting a precautionary approach) an Appropriate Assessment must be carried out. An Appropriate Assessment involves an assessment of the potential effects of the plan on the conservation objectives of the site(s). If significant effects are identified, avoidance measures or mitigation to reduce impacts can be applied.

If it cannot be concluded that the plan will not adversely impact upon the integrity of the site(s), the development will not be able to proceed without further conditions and/or assessment. The plan will need to prove that there are imperative reasons of overriding public interest (IROPI) that outweigh the potentially damaging impacts that the plan may have before it can proceed and in this case compensatory measures will be required.

Planning documents, such as the Cheshire East MWP, are required to undergo HRA if there is the potential for significant impacts and they are not directly connected with or necessary to the management of a European site. As the Plan is not connected with or necessary to the management of SACs, SPAs or Ramsar sites, it is necessary to undertake a HRA of the Plan.

1.4 HRA of the Local Plan Part 3: draft Minerals and Waste Plan

This report details the HRA for the Minerals and Waste Plan (MWP). The HRA is written in relation to the first consultation draft of the MWP. The HRA is based on an examination of information on the sites within the National Site Network of relevance prepared by Natural England and the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) as well as other readily accessible internet resources concerning the nature and wildlife value of the designated sites. It also takes account of relevant Court of Justice of the EU (CJEU) caselaw (e.g.

People over Wind & Sweetman v Coillte Teoranta Case C-323/17 and *Holohan v An Bord Pleanala* case C-462/17).

1.4.1 Previous Assessment and Reporting

The HRA previously conducted for the LPS can be accessed at <https://cheshireeast-consult.limehouse.co.uk/portal/>. The final HRA report (examination document SD 004) consolidated all of the work undertaken for the LPS.

The emerging SADPD has also been supported by a HRA (SADPD examination document ED 04) https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/planning/spatial-planning/cheshire_east_local_plan/site-allocations-and-policies/sadpd-examination/examination-library.aspx

The conclusions of the HRA for the LPS and emerging SADPD are not considered further in this assessment, unless directly relevant to the considerations of the MWP.

2 HRA Methodology

2.1 Introduction

It is accepted best-practice for the HRA of strategic planning documents to be run as an iterative process alongside plan development, with the emerging policies, sites or options continually assessed for their possible effects on European sites and modified or abandoned (as necessary) to ensure that the subsequently adopted plan is not likely to result in significant effects on any European sites, either alone or 'in-combination' with other plans. This is undertaken in consultation with Natural England (NE) and/or Natural Resources Wales (NRW) and other appropriate consultees.

2.2 HRA Process

The HRA will follow a four-stage process, based on that detailed in the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) guidance *Planning for the Protection of European sites: Appropriate Assessment* (2006) and subsequent Government Guidance on the Use of Habitats Regulations Assessment (2019). These stages are described in Table 2-1.

Table 2-1: The HRA Process

Stage/Task	Description
HRA Stage 1: Screening	<p>This process identifies the likely impacts upon a European site of a project or plan, either alone or in-combination with other projects or plans, and determines whether these impacts are likely to be significant.</p> <p>If no likely significant effect is determined, the project or plan can proceed. If a likely significant effect is identified, stage 2 is commenced.</p> <p>Following the <i>People over Wind & Sweetman v Coillte Teoranta</i> Case C-323/17, the assessment does not consider protective, avoidance or mitigation measures for stage 1 Screening. These measures are carried forward and considered as part of the stage 2.</p> <p>However, any changes to early drafts of a plan, for example the removal of a policy with likely significant effects, are considered as pre-screening decisions. The HRA formal Screening is undertaken prior to the adoption of the Plan. Therefore, any changes on earlier iterations of the draft plan are in effect changes to the essential features or characteristics of the plan itself and are therefore (usually) not considered to be avoidance measures requiring consideration at Stage 2 (DTA, 2021).</p>
HRA Stage 2: Appropriate Assessment	<p>This assessment determines whether a project or plan would have an adverse impact on the integrity of a European site, either alone or in-combination with other projects or plans.</p> <p>This assessment is confined to the effects on the important habitats and species for which the site is designated (i.e. the qualifying interests of the site).</p> <p>Appropriate Assessments, in line with CJEU: Case C-461/17 <i>Holohan v An Bord Pleanála</i>, must also consider impacts upon habitats and species within or outside of a site boundary if they support a qualifying feature and could impact upon the conservation objectives of the site.</p> <p>If no adverse impact is determined, the project or plan can proceed. If an adverse impact is identified, Task 3 is commenced.</p>
HRA Stage 3: Assessment where no alternatives and adverse impacts remain (Mitigation and Alternatives)	<p>Where a plan or project has been found to have adverse impacts on the integrity of a European site, potential avoidance/mitigation measures or alternative options should be identified.</p> <p>If suitable avoidance/mitigation or alternative options are identified, that result in there being no adverse effects from the project or plan on European sites, the project or plan can proceed.</p> <p>If no suitable avoidance/mitigation or alternative options are identified, as a</p>

Stage/Task	Description
	rule the project or plan should not proceed. However, in exceptional circumstances, if there is an 'imperative reason of overriding public interest' for the implementation of the project or plan, consideration can be given to proceeding in the absence of alternative solutions. In this case, compensatory measures must have to be put in place to offset negative impacts (stage 4).
HRA Stage 4: Compensatory measures	Stage 4 comprises an assessment of the compensatory measures where, in light of an assessment of imperative reasons of overriding public interest, it is deemed that the project should proceed.

Other guidance documents have been used to help inform the methodology of this assessment, including:

- Assessment of Plans and Projects Significantly Affecting Natura 2000 Sites: Methodological Guidance on the Provisions of Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC (European Commission 2002)
- The Habitats Regulations Assessment Handbook. DTA Publications (2021)
- Managing Natura 2000 sites: The provisions of Article 6 of the 'Habitats' Directive 92/43/EEC (European Communities, 2018)
- Guidance document on Article 6(4) of the 'Habitats Directive' 92/43/EEC (European Communities, 2007)
- National Planning Policy Framework (2021) (NPPF) and Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG)
- The Planning Inspectorate PINS Note 05/ 2018: Consideration of avoidance and reduction measures in Habitats Regulations Assessment: People over Wind, Peter Sweetman, v Coillte Teoranta (The Planning Inspectorate, 2018)
- NEA001 Natural England's approach to advising competent authorities on the assessment of road traffic emissions under the Habitats Regulations (Natural England, 2018)
- UK Government Guidance on the use of Habitats Regulations Assessment (July 2019) [<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/appropriate-assessment>]
- Nutrient neutrality principles and use of Diffuse Water Pollution Plans and Nutrient Management Plans (Natural England, 2022^a)
- Nutrient Neutrality A Summary Guide (Natural England, 2022^b)
- Nutrient Neutrality Generic Methodology (Natural England 2022^c)

2.3 HRA Stage 1: Screening Methodology

The principles of 'Screening' are applied to a plan or its components (i.e. policies and site allocations) to allow the assessment stage to focus on those aspects that are most likely to have potentially significant effects on European sites, as well as shape the emerging strategy. Screening aims to determine whether the plan will have any 'likely significant effects' on any European site as a result of its implementation. It is intended to be a coarse filter for identifying effects (positive and negative) that may occur, to allow the assessment stage to focus on the most important aspects. A plan should be considered 'likely' to have an effect if it is not possible (on the basis of objective information) to exclude the likelihood that the plan could have significant effects on any European site, either alone or in-combination with other plans or projects; an effect will be 'significant' if it could undermine the site's conservation objectives.

Screening can be used to 'screen-out' European sites and plan components from further assessment, if it is possible to determine that significant effects are unlikely (e.g. if sites or

interest features are clearly not vulnerable (exposed and / or sensitive) to the outcomes of a plan due to the absence of any reasonable impact pathways).

In order to complete the Screening Assessment of the MWP it is necessary to:

- Identify the European sites within and outside the plan area likely to be affected, reasons for their designation and their conservation objectives.
- Describe the plan/strategy and its aims and objectives and also those of other projects or plans that in-combination have the potential to impact upon the European sites.
- Identify the potential effects on the European sites.
- Assess the significance of these potential effects on the European sites.

2.3.1 Precautionary Principle

The HRA process is underpinned by the precautionary principle, especially in the assessment of potential impacts and their resolution. If there is any uncertainty, and it is not possible, based on the information available, to confidently determine that there will be no significant effects on a site then the precautionary principle will be applied, and the plan will be subject to an Appropriate Assessment (HRA Stage 2).

2.3.2 Pre-screening Decisions

It should be noted that, for plan level HRA, the early stages of checking and testing the plan through an iterative process, in light of the People over Wind Judgement, are documented as pre-screening decisions (DTA, 2021).

When the plan is to be published, a single formal Screening decision is then taken, which excludes all mitigation measures to avoid or reduce impacts. Pre-screening changes to the plan in the early stages will then either become essential features or characteristics of the plan or will be considered as mitigation and carried forward to the Appropriate Assessment.

As noted in Table 2-1, the draft Screening report includes pre-screening decisions as an early record of the checking and testing of the plan. For this draft report, these decisions are therefore referred to as pre-screening decisions.

2.4 HRA Stage 2 & 3: Appropriate Assessment and Assessment of Alternatives

For those European sites screened in to the HRA, it is necessary to undertake an Appropriate Assessment to explore the potential adverse effects on their integrity and develop measures to avoid these effects entirely, or if not possible, to mitigate the impacts sufficiently that effects on the European sites are rendered effectively insignificant.

The stages involved in the Appropriate Assessment are to:

- Explore the reasons for the designation of the "screened in" European sites.
- Explore the environmental conditions required to maintain the integrity of the "scoped in" European sites and become familiar with the current trends in these environmental processes.
- Gain a full understanding of the policies and site allocations within the draft MWP and consider each within the context of the environmental processes – would the policies lead to an impact on any identified process?
- Decide whether the identified impact will lead to an adverse effect on the integrity of the European site.
- Identify other plans that might affect European sites in-combination with the policies and proposed site allocations within the draft MWP and decide whether there are any adverse effects that might not result from the strategy in isolation will do so in-combination.

- Develop measures to avoid the effect entirely, or if not possible, to mitigate the impact sufficiently such that its effect on the European site is rendered effectively insignificant.

In evaluating significance, JBA Consulting relies on its professional judgement, which will be further reinforced through consultation with NE/NRW, through the development of the MWP and its associated appraisal processes.

2.5 Consultation

This HRA will be subject to consultation with NE/NRW, alongside the draft MWP.

Following the release of the Ministerial Statement of Nutrient Levels in River Basin Catchments in March 2022 (Defra, 2022) and Natural England's Guidance for Nutrient Neutrality (Natural England, 2022^{a,b,c}).

This HRA considers Nutrient Neutrality for the European sites to which these principles apply, following the guidance from Natural England (refer to Section 2.2 for details of these guidance documents).

3 European Sites

3.1 Introduction

As discussed in section 1.3, European sites collectively form the National Site Network. The objectives of the National Site Network are to:

- a) maintain at, or where appropriate restore habitats and species listed in Annexes I and II of the Habitats Directive to a favourable conservation status in their natural range (so far as it lies in the United Kingdom's territory, and so far as is proportionate).
- b) contribute to ensuring, in their area of distribution, the survival and reproduction of wild birds listed in Annex I to the new Wild Birds Directive that naturally occur in the United Kingdom's territory and regularly occurring migratory species of birds not listed in that Annex that naturally occur in the United Kingdom's territory, and so securing compliance with the overarching aims of the Wild Birds Directive.

The National Site Network consists of:

- *Special Areas of Conservation (SACs)* - these are designated to protect those habitat types and species that are considered to be most in need of conservation (excluding birds).
- *Special Protection Areas (SPAs)* - these are designated to protect rare and vulnerable birds, and also regularly occurring migratory species.

Although not included in the legislation, as a matter of policy, Ramsar sites in England and Wales are protected in the same way as European sites, and therefore considered in the HRA process. The vast majority are also classified as SPAs and Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs). All SPAs and terrestrial SACs in England and Wales are also designated as SSSIs under the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) as amended.

For simplicity in this report, SACs, SPAs and Ramsar sites are collectively referred to as European sites.

3.2 European Sites in and around Cheshire East

Best practice guidance suggests that sites occurring within the plan area, along with a wider area of approximately 10km to 15km from the boundary of the area directly affected by a plan, should be identified and assessed as part of the HRA Screening process. However, it is important to consider the possibility of impacts for any European site that might be affected, whatever their location, given the activities included in the plan and their range of influence. This may extend some distance from the area within the immediate influence of a plan.

For assessment of the Cheshire East MWP, a 15km buffer has been applied¹. 15 European sites have been identified within the plan area and the 15km buffer. No sites beyond this 15km buffer are deemed relevant to the HRA as it is considered that no pathways, including hydrological connections, exist that would impact upon any European sites beyond this extent.

The 15 sites identified are summarised in Table 3-1 below and shown at Appendix A. It should be noted that several of these designations are overlapping and relate to the same geographical area, although there are some differences in site extent and boundaries.

¹Analysis of HRAs conducted in England by Therivel (2009) showed that the average buffer distance applied in relation to Local Plans is 15km.

Table 3-1: European Sites Summary

Designation	Within Cheshire East	Adjacent to Cheshire East and deemed to be within the influence of the MWP
SAC	West Midlands Mosses South Pennine Moors	West Midlands Mosses South Pennine Moors Rixton Clay Pits Brown Moss Manchester Mosses Oak Mere Fenn's, Whixall, Bettisfield, Wem and Cadney Mosses Peak District Dales River Dee and Bala Lake
SPA	Peak District Moors (South Pennine Moors Phase 1)	Peak District Moors (South Pennine Moors Phase 1) Mersey Estuary
Ramsar	Midland Meres and Mosses Phase 1 Midland Meres and Mosses Phase 2 Rostherne Mere	Midland Meres and Mosses Phase 1 Midland Meres and Mosses Phase 2 Mersey Estuary

Paragraph 181 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) states that sites identified, or required, as compensatory measures for adverse effects on European sites, potential SPAs, possible SACs, and proposed Ramsar sites should be given the same protection as European sites. The plan area and 15km buffer were screened for any such potential sites; there are currently none within the plan area and 15km buffer.

Detailed information on these sites, including their qualifying features and conservation objectives are provided in Appendix B. This includes information on qualifying features, conservation objectives and site vulnerabilities. Data on the European site interest features, their distribution, and their sensitivity to potential effects associated with the plan were obtained from various sources and reports, including the JNCC and Natural England websites (citations, boundaries, management plans, site improvement plans etc.).

4 Potential Impacts and Pathways

4.1 Introduction

Development associated with extraction of minerals and management of waste, promoted as part of a Local Plan or MWP, can potentially have adverse impacts on the habitats and species for which European sites are designated. These impacts can be direct such as habitat loss, fragmentation or degradation, or indirect such as disturbance or pollution.

This chapter identifies the potential impacts and their pathways to European sites within and adjacent to Cheshire East that may arise as a result of the draft MWP. It then goes on to identify the types of impact/pathway to which the qualifying features present upon the European sites are particularly sensitive.

4.1.1 Hazards to Sites

The European sites within and adjacent to Cheshire East are mostly comprised of river, estuary and other wetland sites (i.e. meres and mosses) and therefore the hazards identified in Table 4-1 are based on those identified in the Environment Agency's EU Habitats Directive Handbook, however local conditions have also been considered during the hazard identification process.

Table 4-1: Potential Hazards to European sites

Potential Hazard	Description
Habitat loss	This is a loss of habitat within the designated boundaries of a European site.
Habitat fragmentation	This is where activities result in the separation of available habitats or split extensive areas of suitable habitat. Most likely to affect species.
Changes in physical regime	These are changes to physical process that will alter the present characteristics of the European site e.g. fluvial and geomorphological processes, erosion processes, deposition.
Physical damage	This includes recreational pressures such as trampling and erosion, and where sites are close to urban areas, other damaging activities may occur such as rubbish tipping, vandalism, arson, and predation, particularly by cats.
Habitat/community simplification	Changes to environmental conditions, due to human activities, which result in a reduction and fragmentation of habitats that will reduce biodiversity.
Disturbance (noise, visual)	Activities which result in disturbance, causing sensitive birds and mammals to deviate from their normal, preferred behaviour, such as construction, recreational, traffic.
Competition from invasive non-native species	Activities may cause the introduction or spread of invasive non-native animals and plants, which could result in changes to community composition and even to the complete loss of native communities.
Changes in water levels or tables	Activities that may affect surface and groundwater levels, such as land drainage and abstraction, may have adverse impacts on water dependant habitats and species.
Changes in water quality	Activities that may impact upon water quality, such as accidental pollution spills, run-off from urban areas, nutrient enrichment from agriculture, and discharge from sewage works, may adversely affect wetland habitats and species.
Changes to surface water flooding	Activities that may result in a reduction or increase in the frequency and extent of surface water flooding, which may affect riverine and floodplain habitats.

Potential Hazard	Description
Turbidity and siltation	Increases in turbidity within water environments can impact upon aquatic plants, fish and wildfowl due to sedimentation and reduction in penetrable light.
Air quality impacts / pollution	Activities that may lead to the release of pollutants to the air such as oxides of nitrogen, oxides of sulphur or ammonia, or pollutants deposited on the ground through acidification or terrestrial eutrophication via soil (deposition of nitrogen).

4.1.2 Qualifying Features and Sensitivity to Hazards

Table 4-2 shows the qualifying features of the European sites within and adjacent to Cheshire East and identifies the hazards to which they are most sensitive. Their qualifying features have been grouped based on guidance from the Environment Agency (2013) to facilitate the sensitivity assessment.

It must be noted that during the assessment of the potential impacts of the MWP on a European site, all of the potential hazards will be considered.

Table 4-2: Sensitivity of Qualifying Features to Potential Hazards

	Potential Hazards											
	Habitat loss	Habitat fragmentation	Changes in physical regime	Physical damage	Habitat/ community simplification	Disturbance (noise/ visual)	Competition from invasive non-native species	Changes in water levels or table	Changes in water quality	Changes to surface water flooding	Turbidity and siltation	Pollution
SAC/Ramsar Habitat Groups												
Fens and wet habitats	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Bogs and wet habitats	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Riverine habitats and running water	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Standing waters (sensitive to acidification)	✓			✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Dry woodlands and scrub	✓			✓	✓		✓			✓		✓
Dry grassland	✓			✓	✓		✓			✓		✓
Dry heathland habitats	✓			✓	✓		✓			✓		✓
Upland	✓			✓	✓		✓	✓		✓		✓
Coastal habitats	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
Coastal habitats (sensitive to abstraction)	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
Estuarine and intertidal habitats	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
SAC/Ramsar Species Groups												
Vascular plants of aquatic habitats	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Vascular plants, lower plants and invertebrates of wet habitats	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Mosses and liverworts	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

	Potential Hazards											
	Habitat loss	Habitat fragmentation	Changes in physical regime	Physical damage	Habitat/ community simplification	Disturbance (noise/ visual)	Competition from invasive non-native species	Changes in water levels or table	Changes in water quality	Changes to surface water flooding	Turbidity and siltation	Pollution
Anadromous fish	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Non-migratory fish and invertebrates of rivers	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Mammals of riverine habitats	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Amphibia	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
SPA/Ramsar Bird Species Groups												
Birds of uplands	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓		✓
Birds of lowland wet grasslands	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Birds of lowland freshwaters and their margins	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Birds of farmland	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓		✓
Birds of coastal habitats	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Birds of estuarine habitats	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Birds of open and offshore rocks	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓		✓	✓

4.2 Potential Impacts and Pathways

The main potential pathways of impact likely to arise as a result of the draft MWP are described below, with local context provided where possible.

4.2.1 Habitat loss/physical damage

Some of the suggested mineral site allocations share, or even directly overlap, boundaries with Rostherne Mere Ramsar and Midland Meres and Mosses Phase 1 Ramsar. Any development of these proposed site allocations on land within the designated Ramsar boundary is likely to be considered damaging, both in terms of the direct physical harm to the site, and the loss of existing habitats. Types of physical damage could include trampling and compaction, pollution, changes to physical regime, and habitat fragmentation.

This damage could directly result in loss of existing habitats through development, or physical regime changes bringing about a shift in species community composition. Habitat fragmentation could result in further loss, if isolated fragments undergo succession or degradation when cut off from a wider ecological network. Habitat loss is to be avoided whenever possible on European sites to ensure that they can meet their conservation objectives, i.e., preservation of priority habitats, such as degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration on the Manchester Mosses SAC, or an endangered species, such as the Great Crested Newt population at Rixton Clay Pits SAC.

4.2.2 Disturbance (noise/visual)

The impacts of disturbances are complex and depend on the specific species and habitat tolerance levels. For example, certain bird species are more sensitive to noise and visual

disturbances than others. Some species can become habituated to some disturbance, such as noise, particularly if it is regular or continuous; it is often unpredictable disturbance that is most problematic.

Disturbance could occur both during construction and operation of new mineral resource sites. The noise of construction and extraction could push bird species in particular to alternative locations on a site or cause them to abandon a site altogether. Similarly, visual changes to their surroundings, especially any that would cause birds to feel more exposed, or increase visibility of human activities, may have a similar impact. These impacts would be most severe on SPAs, which are designated specifically for the support they offer bird populations, and on Ramsar sites where wetland bird species are a qualifying criterion. Disturbance could also impact on SACs designated for certain protected species.

4.2.3 Changes in physical regime

Mining and subsurface mineral extraction is known to cause instances of subsidence of land and subsequent structural instability. Subsidence has historically been associated with salt mines in Cheshire (Bell *et al.* 2000). Furthermore, depression of the water table to dewater (as in gravel extraction) can lead to subsidence 'as buoyant support is withdrawn' (Younger & Wolkersdorfer, 2004).

Likewise, landfills are capable of exerting negative geological effects, particularly on the topsoil. Traffic movements across the site compact the topsoil (the effects of which take a long time to reverse). Elsewhere, the topsoil is stripped, which alters the chemical and physical qualities of the soil, reducing its water holding capacity to the detriment of growing vegetation. Finally, displacement of oxygen in the soil (as a result of gas migration), can reduce the soil quality beyond the works footprint, lowering soil fauna and fertility (Danthurebandara, 2012).

4.2.4 Water quality/pollution/siltation and changes to hydrological regime

Development of sites for extraction and processing of mineral resources can result in hydrological effects to existing watercourses and groundwater resources. Such effects can include changes to surface and ground water flows, quality and levels; this can have subsequent effects on habitats and supported species. The main types of potential hydrological effects are as follows:

- Water abstraction – mineral resource operations are likely to increase the demand for water resulting in increased levels of water abstraction and subsequently affect surface and/or ground water flow, quality and levels. Any such effects would be more extreme during the summer as water demand will peak at this time. The assessment of potential effects of increased water demand will consider how the public water supply system operates and how it is regulated with other water-resource consents.
- Water discharges – mineral resource operations could result in an increase in discharges to water via foul and surface water/storm water drainage (flood risk). This could also occur during construction phases (e.g. oil spillage or other pollution incidents from construction plant and machinery) although this would be short-term and of reduced significance. Such discharges can impact on surface water and ground water quality, quantity and flows. The water quality effects of the plan are likely to be either controlled by existing consent regimes (which must undergo HRA) or have diffuse 'in-combination' effects that are difficult to quantify and therefore any assessment must focus on the development of suitable mitigating policy that will minimise the impacts of development on water quality

Natural England has identified that Rostherne Mere Ramsar, Oak Mere SAC and Wybunbury Moss and Abotts Moss component sites of the West Midlands Mosses SAC are in unfavourable condition due to excessive nutrients. Natural England issued advice to Local

Planning Authorities (LPAs) in March 2022 with regards to development proposals that have the potential to affect water quality in such a way that adverse nutrient impacts on European sites cannot be ruled out. LPAs are advised to carefully consider the nutrient impacts of any new plans and projects (including new development proposals) on European sites and whether those impacts may have an adverse effect on the integrity of a habitats site that requires mitigation, including through nutrient neutrality. Development plans can be considered 'nutrient neutral' where they can demonstrate that they will cause no overall increase in nutrient pollution affecting specified European sites (Natural England, 2022b).

The screening assessment will consider the potential for impacts on a European site due to changes in water levels and/or quality, including nutrient pollution, by taking into consideration the vulnerability of their interest features to such impacts, and the pathways i.e. the hydrological connectivity between the site and the areas proposed for development.

In line with the *People over Wind & Sweetman v Coillte Teoranta Case C-323/1*, policy or proposal-level protective and mitigation measures relating to water abstraction and/or water discharges will only be considered at the appropriate assessment stage of this HRA.

4.2.5 Air Quality Impacts

Development of new mineral extraction and/or waste sites, or extensions to existing sites, have the potential to result in localised, increased use of the road network by vehicles, which could have adverse effects on air quality. This could have subsequent effects on sites designated for habitats that are sensitive to air quality changes and higher deposits of nitrogen dioxide, particulates and sulphur dioxide such as the West Midlands Mosses SAC, and Midland Meres and Mosses Phase 1 and Phase 2 Ramsar sites. For example, there is the potential for effects on the health of Sphagnum, which is critical to the ability of the degraded raised bog to re-establish actively growing peat within the site. Air quality effects are therefore considered in the assessment of potential impacts on sites, even though air pollution is not always specifically listed as a threat to European sites.

It should be noted that the likelihood of this effect is greatly reduced as the distance increases between the deposit area (typically the road network) and the European site. Pollutant levels can be expected to fall substantially at a distance of less than 50m from the source and can be expected to fall to background levels at a distance of more than 200m (Design Manual for Roads and Bridges (DMRB) Volume 11).

This assessment will consider how the potential impact of new and/or extensions to existing mineral and waste sites and the associated increase in traffic have the potential to generate increases in atmospheric pollution. This will be considered in relation to the European sites identified, taking into account the vulnerability of their interest features, proximity to proposed mineral and waste sites and likely associated traffic increases.

This assessment takes into account the High Court judgment in *Wealden v SSCLG [2017]* ('the Wealden Judgment 2017') and Natural England's guidance on significance thresholds in relation to traffic emissions for roads within 200m of European Sites (Natural England, 2018).

5 Cheshire East MWP, Local Plan, and Other Relevant Plans

5.1 Introduction

This section gives a brief description of the Cheshire East MWP and outlines the objectives, policies and proposed site allocations detailed in the draft MWP.

The Habitat Regulations also require that the potential effects of the plan on European sites must be considered 'in-combination with other plans or projects'. The 'in-combination' assessment must also consider within-plan effects (i.e., between policies or strategic sites). Consideration of 'in-combination' effects is not a separate assessment but is integral to the Screening and Appropriate Assessment stages and development of avoidance/mitigation measures. There is limited guidance available on the scope of the 'in-combination' element, particularly which plans should be considered. However, the assessment should not necessarily be limited to plans at the same level in the planning hierarchy and there is consequently a wide range of plans that could have potential 'in-combination' effects with the Cheshire East MWP due to its regional scale. This section identifies the plans that it is considered could potentially act 'in-combination' with the Cheshire East MWP to have 'significant effects' on European sites.

5.2 Cheshire East Local Plan

5.2.1 Introduction

The Local Plan is the Statutory Development Plan for Cheshire East and is the basis for determining planning applications.

The first part of the Local Plan is the LPS, which sets out the overall vision and planning strategy for development in the Borough and contains planning policies to ensure that new development addresses the economic, environmental and social needs of the area. It also identifies strategic sites and strategic locations that will accommodate most of the new development needed.

The SADPD is the second part of the Local Plan and follows the strategic lead of the LPS. The SADPD allocates sites for development (generally non-strategic sites). It also sets more detailed policies to guide planning application decisions in the Borough. The vision for the future of Cheshire East is to deliver sustainable, jobs-led growth and sustainable, vibrant communities.

The third aspect of the Local Plan is the MWP which will:

- Set strategic and detailed planning policies to guide decisions on planning applications for minerals and waste development in the Borough
- Identify capacity gaps and needs for further mineral and waste provision
- Allocate sites and areas for minerals and waste uses where required
- Establish mineral safeguarding areas.

5.2.2 Current Status of the MWP

An initial consultation and associated call for sites exercise was undertaken by the Council in April 2017 to understand what the key issues were for minerals and waste in the Borough. The consultation responses and sites/areas submitted for consideration have been assessed by the Council, together with other sites that have been considered for allocation (as part of this process an initial HRA screening of the sites for consideration was undertaken), and the Council has now prepared a draft of the MWP for consultation.

The draft MWP contains 14 Objectives, which focus on key issues that the MWP needs to address. They provide a broad direction for the spatial strategy and policies that will be included in the MWP. Beneath these Objectives there are several Policies that set out a clear and co-ordinated approach to the local management, operation, planning and

decommissioning of mineral and waste resources in Cheshire East. The draft MWP also identifies those sites that are most appropriate to accommodate future minerals and waste resources, taking into account the need to minimise impacts on the environment and make the best use of existing or planned infrastructure.

5.2.3 The Next Steps

Once the responses from this draft consultation have been considered, the Council may consult on a second draft or will prepare a publication version of the MWP. This is currently anticipated to be published for consultation during the third quarter of 2023 and submitted for examination in Spring 2024.

Although the formal HRA is only completed on the final Plan prior to its adoption, pre-screening decisions are made through an iterative HRA process to inform the plan making process and to influence the final characteristics and features of the Plan.

5.3 Other Relevant Plans and Projects that Could Act In-combination

A series of individually modest effects may in-combination produce effects that are likely to adversely affect the integrity of one or more European sites. The Habitats Regulations try to address this by taking into account the combination of effects from other plans or projects. The Regulations do not explicitly define which other plans and projects are within the scope of the combination provision. In the EU, guidance has been produced on in-combination assessment under Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive. Guidance in section 4.5.3 of *'Managing Natura 2000 Sites: The provisions of Article 6 of the 'Habitats' Directive 92/43/EEC'*, published by the European Commission (2018), states:

'When determining likely significant effects, the combination of other plans and/or projects should also be considered to take account of cumulative impacts during the assessment of the plan or project in question. The in-combination provision concerns other plans or projects which have been already completed, approved but uncompleted or actually proposed'.

A number of potentially relevant plans and projects have been identified that could act in-combination. The review has focused on plans within the Borough, within the authorities adjacent to the Borough, and those with potential functional links with European Sites that could be affected by the draft MWP, as these are the ones most likely to give rise to in-combination effects. Table 5-1 lists the plans and projects that were considered, and Appendix C provides further detail, including an outline of the components of each that could have an impact on nearby European Sites, considering the findings of accompanying HRA work (where available).

The purpose of the review of other plans and projects is to identify any components that could have an impact on the European Sites that could also be affected by the Cheshire East draft MWP, e.g. proposals for development near to the European sites that could have implications in terms of increased traffic, water use and pollution. The potential for the effects of these plans to combine with the effects of the draft MWP has been considered in the screening assessment.

It should be noted that the Cheshire East LPS and emerging SADPD have been through the HRA process. Based on the mitigation measures in place for the LPS and SADPD, none of the policies and site allocations proposed within these documents will have a significant impact upon any European site. Parts 1, 2 and 3 of the Local Plan are designed to complement each other, and no in-combination likely significant effects will result from the three separate parts of the Local Plan.

Table 5-1: Other Plans and Projects

Other Relevant Plans and Projects
Cheshire East Local Transport Plans and Implementation Plans
Local Air Quality Strategy for Cheshire East Council and Action Plan
Saved Policies from the Congleton Borough Local Plan First Review, Borough of Crewe and Nantwich Replacement Local Plan, Macclesfield Borough Local Plan, Cheshire Replacement Minerals Local Plan 1999 and Cheshire Replacement Waste Local Plan 2007
Local Plans and Core Strategies of adjacent Authorities (Cheshire West and Chester; Peak District National Park; High Peak; Manchester; Newcastle-under-Lyme; Stockport; Shropshire; Peak District; Staffordshire Moorlands; Stoke-on-Trent; Trafford and Warrington Councils)
The United Utilities Final Water Resources Management Plan 2019
The Weaver and Dane Abstraction Licensing Strategy 2020
The Dee Catchment Abstraction Management Strategy (CAMS) 2015
Major infrastructure projects (including A500 Dualling, Middlewich Eastern Bypass, North West Crewe Package (road scheme), Poynton Relief Road)

6 Screening Assessment

6.1 Introduction

This section considers the objectives, policies and proposed site allocations in the draft Cheshire East MWP (Cheshire East Council, 2022) and identifies whether or not they are likely to have significant effects on the integrity of European sites, either alone or in-combination with other plans.

6.2 Draft MWP Objectives and Policies

The objectives and policies of the draft MWP have initially been screened following the methodology set out in DTA Publications Habitats Regulations Assessment Handbook (DTA, 2021). Each policy is allocated one or more screening category from the list shown in Table 6-1 below. The results of the initial Screening are shown in Table 6-2. Where a number of categories to screen out a policy are applicable, the most relevant categories are listed in the table. Any policies with likely significant effects and any in-combination effects are further discussed in Table 6-3, where appropriate.

Table 6-1: Pre-screening categories for the policies in the Cheshire East MWP Pre-Publication Draft (adapted from DTA, 2021)

Screening Category	Description	Screening Outcome
A	General statement of policy/general aspiration	Screen out
B	Policy listing general criteria for testing the acceptability/sustainability of proposals	Screen out
C	Proposal referred to but not proposed by the plan	Screen out
D	General plan-wide environmental protection/ site safeguarding/ threshold policies	Screen out
E	Policies or proposals which steer change in such a way as to protect European sites from adverse effects	Screen out
F	Policy that cannot lead to development or other change	Screen out
G	Policy or proposal that could not have any conceivable effect on a site	Screen out
H	Policy or proposal the (actual or theoretical) effects of which cannot undermine the conservation objectives (either alone or in-combination with other aspects of this or other plans or projects)	Screen out
I	Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant effect on a site alone	Screen in
J	Policy or proposal with an effect on a site but unlikely to be significant alone, so need to check for likely significant effects in combination	Dependant on in-combination test
K	Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination	Screened out after the in-combination test
L	Policy or proposal which might be likely to have significant effect in-combination	Screened in after the in-combination test
M	Bespoke area, site or case-specific policies or proposals intended to avoid or reduce harmful effects on a European site	Screened in

Table 6-2: Pre-screening table for objectives and policies in the Cheshire East Draft MWP

Policy No.	Policy Title	Policy Summary	Screening Category	Screening Outcome
Objectives for the Cheshire East Draft MWP				
OB1	Tackling Climate Change	To minimise the causes of climate change by taking appropriate mitigation measures to reduce greenhouse gas and carbon emissions through energy efficient design and operation, including minimising the use of non-renewable energy sources and vehicle movements, for example by using appropriate technology, co-locating waste facilities or by processing minerals at extraction sites. To minimise the impacts of climate change by taking mitigation measures such as avoiding inappropriate development in areas at high risk of flooding.	A – General statement of policy/general aspiration F – Policy that cannot lead to development or other change	Screen out
OB2	Reducing Transport Impacts	To explore realistic opportunities to minimise the transport impacts on climate change, local communities and the environment from the movement of minerals and waste by road, through the greater use of more sustainable transport alternatives (such as rail, waterways or pipelines) and the preferred use of non-minor roads for lorry movements.	A – General statement of policy/general aspiration F – Policy that cannot lead to development or other change	Screen out
OB3	Making Development Acceptable within its Wider Locality	To minimise the impacts and maximise the benefits of minerals and waste development on local communities and the environment, both natural and historic, by requiring appropriate measures of mitigation and enhancement to make development acceptable.	A – General statement of policy/general aspiration D – General plan-wide environmental protection/ site safeguarding/ threshold polices	Screen out
OB4	Maximising Biodiversity Net Gain	To maximise opportunities to deliver measurable improvements for biodiversity net gain by creating or enhancing habitats in association with proposed minerals and waste development. This will be achieved on site, off site or as a combination of measures.	A – General statement of policy/general aspiration D – General plan-wide environmental protection/ site safeguarding/ threshold polices	Screen out
OB5	Promoting the Prudent and	To promote the prudent and efficient use of the Borough’s mineral resources by encouraging the	A – General statement of policy/general aspiration	Screen out

Policy No.	Policy Title	Policy Summary	Screening Category	Screening Outcome
	Efficient Use of Mineral Resources	<p>maximum practical recovery of aggregate from secondary and recycled material in preference to the use of primary aggregates, as well as using substitute aggregates.</p> <p>To make sure that applications for new primary mineral reserves are considered appropriate and sustainable in resource use terms when compared with estimated unmet need requirements and the NPPF requirement to make "best use" of mineral resources to secure their long-term conservation.</p>	F – Policy that cannot lead to development or other change	
OB6	Ensuring an Adequate and Steady Mineral Supply	To seek to deliver an adequate and steady supply of aggregate sand and gravel, silica sand, salt, crushed rock and building stone to help meet the planned growth needs of Cheshire East and to make an appropriate contribution to meeting wider needs outside of the Borough, particularly for strategically important minerals such as silica sand and salt.	A – General statement of policy/general aspiration	Screen out
OB7	Enabling Appropriate Oil & Gas Development	To protect local communities and the environment within Cheshire East from any unacceptable impacts associated with potential oil and gas development, whilst acknowledging the important contribution that an acceptable proposal for such development can make to help achieve the national need for energy security.	<p>A – General statement of policy/general aspiration</p> <p>D – General plan-wide environmental protection/ site safeguarding/ threshold polices</p>	Screen out
OB8	Ensuring High Quality Restoration & Aftercare	To restore mineral sites at the earliest opportunity and to the highest possible standards with an appropriate after use that positively contributes to the area through a range of factors including landscape character, nature conservation, enhanced ecological networks, countryside access and recreation, local amenity and the local economy.	A – General statement of policy/general aspiration	Screen out
OB9	Safeguarding Mineral Resources, Facilities & Infrastructure	To safeguard important mineral resources from unnecessary sterilisation by non-mineral development so they remain available for potential future use, as well as safeguarding mineral facilities (including those used to process and recycle secondary aggregate) and infrastructure that support the supply of minerals in	<p>A – General statement of policy/general aspiration</p> <p>F – Policy that cannot lead to development or other change</p>	Screen out

Policy No.	Policy Title	Policy Summary	Screening Category	Screening Outcome
		the Borough.		
OB10	Achieving Net Self Sufficiency	To seek to achieve net self-sufficiency for managing waste generated within the Borough in the long term, through supporting appropriate proposals for waste management that help meet identified capacity gaps, move waste up the 'Waste Hierarchy' and minimise disposal to landfill.	A – General statement of policy/general aspiration	Screen out
OB11	Implementing the Proximity Principle	To seek to minimise the distance that mixed municipal waste generated in Cheshire East is moved by road through the development of a network of facilities, which deliver the Borough's identified waste management capacity requirements, in locations as close as possible to the main sources of waste or to the place where the output is to be used, such as the digestate from anaerobic digestion.	A – General statement of policy/general aspiration	Screen out
OB12	Prioritising Brownfield Land Use	To prioritise the use of previously developed land or allocated employment land over undeveloped land outside of settlement boundaries for providing sites for waste management purposes, while recognising that a rural location close to a farm, for example, may be preferable for amenity reasons in some limited instances such as the provision of compost sites or anaerobic digestion facilities where odour or bioaerosols may be an issue.	A – General statement of policy/general aspiration E – Policies or proposals which steer change in such a way as to protect European sites from adverse effects	Screen out
OB13	Reusing or Restoring Waste Sites	To restore to a high standard those waste management sites that are no longer required or acceptable in a particular location, so they can be sustainably reused for other appropriate purposes to the benefit of the local community.	A – General statement of policy/general aspiration	Screen out
OB14	Safeguarding Waste Management Capacity and Facilities	To safeguard waste management capacity in the Borough to meet identified needs, both current and proposed, from proposals for non-waste development. This includes the protection of permitted waste management facilities required to meet locational needs and the prevention of non-waste proposals close to waste management facilities that will prejudice their full operation.	A – General statement of policy/general aspiration	Screen out

Policy No.	Policy Title	Policy Summary	Screening Category	Screening Outcome
Policies for Sustainable Provision for Minerals				
MIN 1	Mineral Safeguarding Areas	Mineral resources located within the defined Mineral Safeguarding Area (MSA) boundaries will be protected from permanent sterilisation or potential constraint by non-mineral development occurring on or close to the resource. Development that is incompatible with the safeguarding of these mineral resources will only be granted planning permission if at least one of a number of criteria is satisfied.	<p>A – General statement of policy/general aspiration</p> <p>B – Policy listing general criteria for testing the acceptability/sustainability of proposals</p>	Screen out
MIN 2	Safeguarding Mineral Supply Sites and Infrastructure	In addition to safeguarding the mineral resource itself, the Council will safeguard existing, planned, and potential sites for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • mineral extraction; • the bulk transport, handling and processing of minerals; and • the handing, processing and distribution of substitute, recycled and secondary aggregate material; from proposed non-mineral development located at a distance (at least within 250m) that is likely to prevent or unduly restrict their operation for these purposes. Planning applications for non-mineral development that may impact on the protection of mineral sites and infrastructure should be accompanied by a Mineral Infrastructure Assessment that assesses, to the satisfaction of the Minerals Planning Authority, the potential impact it may have on mineral sites and infrastructure. This should include the details identified in the supporting information.	<p>A – General statement of policy/general aspiration</p> <p>B – Policy listing general criteria for testing the acceptability/sustainability of proposals</p>	Screen out
MIN 3	Managing the Sand Resource	Applications for new sand reserves will be permitted provided several criteria (as set out in this policy) are satisfied. See draft MWP documents for further detail. The sequential approach to prioritising new sand resource delivery detailed in Policy MIN3 is intended to prioritise extensions to existing quarries, rather	<p>A – General statement of policy/general aspiration</p> <p>B – Policy listing general criteria for testing the acceptability/sustainability of proposals</p>	Screen out

Policy No.	Policy Title	Policy Summary	Screening Category	Screening Outcome
		<p>than new quarries to deliver any additional non-aggregate sand provision over the remaining plan period. However, as the output of aggregate sand from existing quarries is unlikely to meet identified needs, the priority is to deliver a new aggregate sand site or sites to meet this requirement. Policy MIN 3 also acknowledges that there may be circumstances when sites located in areas not identified in the Plan (through an Area of Search designation) will be permitted where these secure significant material planning benefits that outweigh any material planning objections.</p>		
MIN 4	New Sand Resource Allocations and Areas of Search	<p>The Council will seek to increase its permitted sand resource to meet unmet identified needs through the following allocations:</p> <p>MIN4.1: Eaton Hall Quarry, Congleton (MSS4 in site assessment) Area of Preferred Extension, Non-Aggregate, 4 Mt</p> <p>MIN4.2: Astle Farm East, Chelford (MSS13 in site assessment), New Site, Aggregate, 5.23 Mt</p> <p>MIN4.3: Arclid, Sandbach (MSS18 in site assessment), Area of Preferred Extension, Non-Aggregate, 10 Mt</p> <p>Policy MIN4 also identifies a number of Areas of Search designations to meet unmet identified needs, provided this is in accordance with the resource delivery hierarchy identified in Policy MIN 3.</p>	<p>I - Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant effect on a site alone</p>	Screen in
MIN 5	Prioritising the use of Substitute, Secondary and Recycled Aggregates	<p>1. The Council will permit proposals for the production and supply of substitute, secondary and recycled aggregates where these comply with the other policies of the development plan, including the locational requirements identified in Policy WAS 3, and contribute to meeting its aggregate supply needs.</p> <p>2. All existing facilities permitted for the handling, processing and distribution of substitute, recycled and secondary aggregate will be safeguarded, in line with Policies MIN 2 and WAS 6, and there will be a presumption against any development that could</p>	<p>A – General statement of policy/general aspiration</p> <p>F – Policy that cannot lead to development or other change</p>	Screen out

Policy No.	Policy Title	Policy Summary	Screening Category	Screening Outcome
		prejudice the ongoing operation of such facilities.		
MIN 6	Aggregate Crushed Rock	The Council will permit proposals that increase the production of crushed rock from within the MPA area to provide greater self-sufficiency in meeting its needs and to reduce the current reliance on imported crushed rock. Applications for new or extended crushed rock quarrying capacity will be approved provided certain criteria are met.	B – Policy listing general criteria for testing the acceptability/sustainability of proposals	Screen out
MIN 7	Non-Aggregate Sandstone	The council will manage its non-aggregate sandstone (rock) resource to make sure that a steady and adequate supply of sandstone (rock) is provided over the Plan period (2021 to 2041) to meet identified needs based on average past sales of 0.001 Mt a year and a total forecast need of at least 0.02 Mt.	A – General statement of policy/general aspiration	Screen out
MIN 8	Provision for Salt Extraction	The Council will manage its salt resource to ensure that a steady, adequate and sustainable supply of salt and brine is delivered through controlled solution mining by continuing to prioritise extraction from the existing permitted reserves at the Warmingham and Holford Brinefields. Any applications for additional reserves shall be met firstly from allocated Preferred Area Extension near the Warmingham Brinefields (MIN 8.1 – Land West of Railway Line, Warmingham and MIN 8.2 – Extension to Warmingham Brinefield). Any applications for additional permitted reserves or ancillary developments must demonstrate that they are necessary to meet the required level of provision.	A – General statement of policy/general aspiration B – Policy listing general criteria for testing the acceptability/sustainability of proposals	Screen out
MIN 9	After use of Salt Cavities	The Council will permit the after use of salt cavities once mining operations have been completed provided it can be demonstrated that all the salt resource that can be safely and economically extracted has been removed and the creation and operation of the proposed after use will not compromise the stability of the salt cavity structure or lead to any potential unacceptable adverse impacts.	A – General statement of policy/general aspiration B – Policy listing general criteria for testing the acceptability/sustainability of proposals	Screen out
MIN 10	Conventional	Proposals for the exploration and appraisal of	A – General statement of policy/general	Screen out

Policy No.	Policy Title	Policy Summary	Screening Category	Screening Outcome
	and Unconventional Hydrocarbons (Oil and Gas)	hydrocarbons will only be permitted where it has been demonstrated that well sites and associated facilities, are sited in the least sensitive location from which the target reservoir can be accessed, and they accord with all relevant policies of the Local Plan. All applications for development associated with the exploration, appraisal and production of oil, gas and unconventional hydrocarbons will be expected to demonstrate they meet five key criteria, including these relating to prevention of adverse impacts on the environment and communities.	aspiration B – Policy listing general criteria for testing the acceptability/sustainability of proposals	
MIN 11	Peat	The development of new sites for peat extraction or extensions to existing sites will not be permitted. Applications for time extensions to existing peat extraction sites will be considered on a case-by-case basis and should demonstrate that the proposal is necessary to enable the proper restoration of the land or to secure biodiversity, climate change or other appropriate objectives of the Local Plan.	A – General statement of policy/general aspiration B – Policy listing general criteria for testing the acceptability/sustainability of proposals D – General plan-wide environmental protection/ site safeguarding/ threshold polices	Screen out
MIN 12	Borrow Pits	Proposals for borrow pits will be supported for construction projects where all of seven key criteria are met, including limitations on usage of materials won and restoration of the borrow pit site in a reasonable timescale.	A – General statement of policy/general aspiration B – Policy listing general criteria for testing the acceptability/sustainability of proposals	Screen out
MIN 13	Mineral Processing at Quarries and other Sites	A proposal for primary and/or secondary mineral processing will be supported at a quarry or rail depot provided that three criteria are all met.	A – General statement of policy/general aspiration B – Policy listing general criteria for testing the acceptability/sustainability of proposals	Screen out
MIN 14	Blasting	An application for the winning and working of minerals that necessitates blasting will normally only be permitted where it would satisfy all of six key criteria.	A – General statement of policy/general aspiration B – Policy listing general criteria for testing the acceptability/sustainability of proposals	Screen out

Policy No.	Policy Title	Policy Summary	Screening Category	Screening Outcome
Policies for Sustainable Management of Waste				
WAS 1	Waste Management Strategy	In seeking to implement the waste principles identified in national policy concerning the Circular Economy, the Waste Hierarchy, Self-Sufficiency and Proximity, the Council's Waste Management Strategy is to permit proposals for new facilities and the extension or enhancement of existing facilities related to the management of waste provided five key criteria are met. The Council will not permit non-waste related development proposals that unacceptably impact upon safeguarded waste management capacity, both current and proposed, in accordance with Policy WAS 6.	A – General statement of policy/general aspiration B – Policy listing general criteria for testing the acceptability/sustainability of proposals	Screen out
WAS 2	Waste Management Capacity and Needs	Planning permission for the development of new waste management facilities, and the extension or enhancement of existing facilities related to the management of waste, will be granted where it can be demonstrated that six key criteria can be met.	A – General statement of policy/general aspiration B – Policy listing general criteria for testing the acceptability/sustainability of proposals	Screen out
WAS 3	Spatial Strategy for Locating Waste Management Facilities	Planning permission for the development of new or extended waste management facilities will be granted where it can be demonstrated that it cannot be located in a settlement at a higher level in the Council's Settlement Hierarchy as identified by Local Plan Strategy Policy PG 2, cannot be met elsewhere on available land that provides better transport, operational and environmental benefits or on other more appropriate available land.	A – General statement of policy/general aspiration B – Policy listing general criteria for testing the acceptability/sustainability of proposals	Screen out
WAS 4	Waste Management Facilities in the Green Belt	Development of waste management facilities in the Green Belt will be permitted where it can be demonstrated that the development would not form inappropriate development and if it preserves the openness of and does not conflict with the purposes of including land in the Green Belt. Multiple criteria outline circumstances where waste development may be regarded as not inappropriate.	B – Policy listing general criteria for testing the acceptability/sustainability of proposals	Screen out

Policy No.	Policy Title	Policy Summary	Screening Category	Screening Outcome
WAS 5	Waste Management Facilities in the Open Countryside	Waste management proposals will be considered inappropriate development and not permitted in the open countryside unless three key criteria are met. Waste management proposals submitted as an exception under criteria 3i, ii and iv of LPS Policy PG 6 'Open Countryside' are expected to meet these key criteria.	<p>A – General statement of policy/general aspiration</p> <p>B – Policy listing general criteria for testing the acceptability/sustainability of proposals</p>	Screen out
WAS 6	Safeguarding of Waste Management Facilities	This policy details criteria for sites that may be required for waste development and are safeguarded for waste management uses. Development that would prevent or prejudice the use of existing waste management sites or infrastructure within Cheshire East will not normally be permitted.	<p>A – General statement of policy/general aspiration</p> <p>B – Policy listing general criteria for testing the acceptability/sustainability of proposals</p>	Screen out
WAS 7	Wastewater and Sewage Treatment Facilities	Proposals for the management of wastewater and sewage sludge will be permitted provided that new facilities or the extension to existing facilities are accommodated on land with an existing waste management use where transport, operational and environmental benefits can be demonstrated as a consequence of the co-location of waste management facilities. Where this is not feasible in operational terms, proposals for the management of wastewater and sewage sludge will be permitted provided that it is necessary to support new development or required to meet environmental standards or regulatory provisions.	<p>A – General statement of policy/general aspiration</p> <p>B – Policy listing general criteria for testing the acceptability/sustainability of proposals</p>	Screen out
WAS 8	On-Farm Anaerobic Digestion Plants	On-farm anaerobic digestion plants will be permitted where: 1. They are of an appropriate size/capacity to primarily accommodate inputs of material from the farm unit or from other linked farms in the vicinity; 2. The energy and other outputs from the plant are used primarily on the farm unit or the other linked farms in the vicinity; 3. Any additional inputs and outputs required to make the plant viable are from as local an area as possible to achieve the highest sustainable outcome;	<p>A – General statement of policy/general aspiration</p> <p>B – Policy listing general criteria for testing the acceptability/sustainability of proposals</p>	Screen out

Policy No.	Policy Title	Policy Summary	Screening Category	Screening Outcome
		4. Proposals are located to avoid the best and most versatile agricultural land.		
WAS 9	Sites for Energy Recovery	<p>Proposals for energy recovery on sites should demonstrate that they meet four key criteria, including those relating to prevention of harm to nearby receptors.</p> <p>Pre-sorting shall be carried out to make sure that residual waste is recovered, and value recovery from by-products of the process should be maximised.</p> <p>Applicants must demonstrate that any residue from the process will be satisfactorily managed and/or made use of.</p> <p>Proposals for biomass plants, anaerobic digesters and other facilities that use waste material to produce heat or CHP should, wherever possible, be located close to existing or potential users of heat.</p>	<p>A – General statement of policy/general aspiration</p> <p>B – Policy listing general criteria for testing the acceptability/sustainability of proposals</p>	Screen out
WAS 10	Ancillary Development at Landfill, Landraise, and Open Organic Waste Management Sites	Where it is proposed to locate ancillary development at a landfill site, landraise site or open organic waste site, this will be permitted where the environmental effects of the development are demonstrated to be acceptable and the development is removed on cessation of the waste management use unless material considerations support their longer term or permanent retention, and the impact of its retention accord with all other policies of the Local Plan.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration	Screen out
WAS 11	Deposit of Inert Waste to Land for Restoration and Land Improvement	<p>The use of inert waste material to restore mineral and landfill sites will be supported in principle where it is demonstrated that the proposed restoration profiles are required to achieve satisfactory after uses.</p> <p>Any other proposals for deposit of inert or organic waste to land will only be permitted where seven criteria are all met. Proposals for landraising that constitute a waste disposal activity, for its own sake, will not be permitted.</p>	<p>A – General statement of policy/general aspiration</p> <p>B – Policy listing general criteria for testing the acceptability/sustainability of proposals</p>	Screen out
Development Management Policies for Minerals and Waste				
DM 1	General	Applications must be accompanied by a thorough	A – General statement of policy/general	Screen out

Policy No.	Policy Title	Policy Summary	Screening Category	Screening Outcome
	Development Management Criteria	<p>evaluation of potential direct and indirect impacts of the proposal. Where unacceptable impacts are identified, measures should be proposed to avoid, reduce or mitigate those impacts. Where unacceptable impacts cannot be avoided satisfactorily then the proposal will not be permitted</p> <p>Enhancement of the environment will be sought. All proposals for new or relocated waste management capacity will be expected to provide sufficient information on the type and source of the waste being managed. In assessing proposals for waste management facilities, the Council will have regard to the desirability of managing waste close to its source.</p>	<p>aspiration</p> <p>B – Policy listing general criteria for testing the acceptability/sustainability of proposals</p> <p>D – General plan-wide environmental protection/ site safeguarding/ threshold polices</p>	
DM 2	Minimising Waste During Construction and Development	<p>Proposals for new development will only be permitted if they support the efficient use and recovery of resources throughout the life of the development through design principles and construction methods that minimise the use of primary minerals, that minimise waste production, and facilitates sustainable waste management by providing appropriate storage and segregation facilities.</p> <p>Proposals for major development should identify measures to support implementation of the Waste Hierarchy during construction and demolition and should include a soil survey and management plan.</p>	<p>A – General statement of policy/general aspiration</p> <p>F – Policy that cannot lead to development or other change</p>	Screen out
DM 3	Plant and Buildings	<p>An application for plant and machinery or other associated development will not be permitted unless the development would satisfy five criteria relating to appropriateness of design and usage being directly associated with the mineral extraction or waste management operation(s) being carried out at that site.</p>	<p>A – General statement of policy/general aspiration</p> <p>B - Policy listing general criteria for testing the acceptability/sustainability of proposals</p>	Screen out
DM 4	Restoration and Aftercare	<p>Minerals and waste development will be required to demonstrate that they have an appropriate phased sequence of working, restoration, after use and aftercare that will enable long-term enhancement of the environment. Proposals for restoration and aftercare of mineral and waste sites, including</p>	<p>A – General statement of policy/general aspiration</p> <p>B - Policy listing general criteria for testing the acceptability/sustainability of proposals</p>	Screen out

Policy No.	Policy Title	Policy Summary	Screening Category	Screening Outcome
		proposals for review of restoration strategies and plans, will be permitted where 12 key environmental and management criteria are met.		
DM 5	Transport	Proposals for minerals or waste development will be permitted where it is demonstrated that transport links are adequate, sustainable, minimise minor road usage, and will not have an unacceptable adverse impact on the highway network or the safety of other road users. A Transport Statement or Transport Assessment will be required if significant levels of traffic are proposed.	<p>A – General statement of policy/general aspiration</p> <p>B - Policy listing general criteria for testing the acceptability/sustainability of proposals</p>	Screen out
DM 6	Landscape and Visual Impacts	Proposals for minerals and waste development including restoration and after uses should be designed to conserve and enhance the landscape quality in accordance with LPS Policy SE 4 'The Landscape'. Minerals and waste development close to a settlement should take account of the character and setting of the settlement. A Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment may be required. In accordance with emerging SADPD Policy ENV 5 'Landscaping', a landscaping scheme will be required where appropriate.	<p>A – General statement of policy/general aspiration</p> <p>B – Policy listing general criteria for testing the acceptability/sustainability of proposals</p> <p>C – Proposal referred to but not proposed by the plan</p> <p>F – Policy that cannot lead to development or other change</p>	Screen out
DM 7	Water Resources and Flood Risk	Proposals for mineral and waste development will be permitted provided that, both during the operations and on cessation of the development, the development meets multiple criteria relating to quality, quantity, flow, and potential for other impacts on water resources. All proposals must include measures to ensure the achievement of both no deterioration and improved ecological status of all waterbodies within the site to meet the required ecological status under the relevant River Basin Management Plan.	<p>A – General statement of policy/general aspiration</p> <p>B – Policy listing general criteria for testing the acceptability/sustainability of proposals</p> <p>D – General plan-wide environmental protection/ site safeguarding/ threshold policies</p>	Screen out
DM 8	Noise and Vibration	All mineral and waste development will be expected to demonstrate (through the submission of a noise impact assessment) that all direct, indirect and	A – General statement of policy/general aspiration	Screen out

Policy No.	Policy Title	Policy Summary	Screening Category	Screening Outcome
		<p>cumulative noise and vibration impacts arising from the proposal would not result in unacceptable impacts on public health and amenity throughout the lifetime of the development.</p> <p>Noise attributable to minerals developments shall be subject to multiple criteria and limitations. Developments shall provide extensive noise mitigation measures and proactively seek to minimise noise.</p>	<p>B – Policy listing general criteria for testing the acceptability/sustainability of proposals</p> <p>D – General plan-wide environmental protection/ site safeguarding/ threshold polices</p> <p>F – Policy that cannot lead to development or other change</p>	
DM 9	Air Quality: Dust and Odour	<p>Proposals for new minerals and waste development, and for the expansion of existing operations, will only be permitted where the applicant can demonstrate that the proposed development will not have a demonstrable adverse impact on amenity, human health, air quality and the natural and historic environment, with regard to dust, odour, bioaerosols and other emissions. A site-specific impact assessment may be required.</p>	<p>A – General statement of policy/general aspiration</p> <p>D – General plan-wide environmental protection/ site safeguarding/ threshold polices</p>	Screen out
DM 10	Other Amenity Impacts	<p>Minerals and waste development will be permitted where it can be demonstrated that they are unlikely to generate unacceptable adverse impacts from illumination, litter and pests, or other harm to the qualities of life and wellbeing to communities and the environment. Planning applications should provide sufficient information to identify how these impacts will be minimised and managed throughout the lifetime of the development. Illumination levels and siting and design of lighting should be designed to make sure there are no significant adverse impacts on residential amenity, wildlife or highway safety, whilst allowing safe operation of activities on site.</p>	<p>A – General statement of policy/general aspiration</p> <p>B – Policy listing general criteria for testing the acceptability/sustainability of proposals</p> <p>D – General plan-wide environmental protection/ site safeguarding/ threshold polices</p>	Screen out
DM 11	Historic Environment	<p>Planning permission will be granted for minerals and waste development where it can be demonstrated that heritage assets will be conserved in a manner appropriate to their significance and (where possible) the historic environment is enhanced.</p> <p>All development proposals that would directly affect</p>	<p>A – General statement of policy/general aspiration</p> <p>B – Policy listing general criteria for testing the acceptability/sustainability of proposals</p>	Screen out

Policy No.	Policy Title	Policy Summary	Screening Category	Screening Outcome
		any heritage asset and/or its setting (designated or non-designated) must be accompanied by a Heritage Statement. Proposals located within the Jodrell Bank Observatory Consultation Zone may be required to submit sufficient information (such as electromagnetic interference attenuation calculations) to establish the interference levels that the proposal would have to comply with to protect the efficiency of the telescopes. An Electromagnetic Interference Management Scheme may be required to be implemented and maintained for the duration of the development.	D – General plan-wide environmental protection/ site safeguarding/ threshold polices	
DM 12	Protecting Land of Biodiversity or Geological Value	Planning permission will not be granted for minerals or waste development that would have a significant adverse effect on the character, appearance, ecological, geological, landscape or amenity value of land of biodiversity or geological value (including European Sites) unless it can be demonstrated that there is an overriding need for the development and any impacts can be satisfactorily mitigated or compensated for, such that there is a net gain or improvement to their condition.	A – General statement of policy/general aspiration B – Policy listing general criteria for testing the acceptability/sustainability of proposals D – General plan-wide environmental protection/ site safeguarding/ threshold polices	Screen out
DM 13	Land Stability and Subsidence	Proposals for mineral and waste development will be permitted if it can be demonstrated that they will not have an adverse effect on the stability or safety of surrounding land, buildings and watercourses during and following cessation of operations. Proposals for new or extended mineral extraction, or proposals for the placement of waste on the land will be required to contain an appraisal of the slope stability. This appraisal will need assess a range of criteria.	A – General statement of policy/general aspiration B – Policy listing general criteria for testing the acceptability/sustainability of proposals	Screen out
DM 14	Community Liaison	Proposals for minerals and waste development will be permitted provided that, where necessary, a site liaison group is established by the operator to address issues arising throughout the period of working and restoration of the site.	A – General statement of policy/general aspiration B – Policy listing general criteria for testing	Screen out

Policy No.	Policy Title	Policy Summary	Screening Category	Screening Outcome
			the acceptability/sustainability of proposals	
DM 15	Cumulative Impact	Proposals for minerals development will be permitted provided that a significant adverse level of disturbance to the environment and/or to residents, businesses and visitors will not result, either individually or as a cumulative effect (simultaneously and/or successively) alongside other development and allocations. Planning conditions may be used to co-ordinate working, thereby reducing the cumulative impact.	<p>A – General statement of policy/general aspiration</p> <p>B – Policy listing general criteria for testing the acceptability/sustainability of proposals</p> <p>D – General plan-wide environmental protection/ site safeguarding/ threshold polices</p>	Screen out
DM 16	Safeguarded Aerodromes	Minerals and waste development within safeguarded aerodromes will only be permitted where it can be clearly demonstrated that it will not result in any unacceptable adverse impacts on aviation safety, as follows: i. for waste development, during the construction, operation, and (where relevant) restoration and afteruse phases, and; ii. for mineral extraction, during the restoration and afteruse phases. Where bird strike is identified as a potential hazard, then the preparation and implementation of an approved Bird Management Plan may be required.	<p>A – General statement of policy/general aspiration</p> <p>B – Policy listing general criteria for testing the acceptability/sustainability of proposals</p>	Screen out
DM 17	Sustainable Use of Soils	Minerals and waste development that adversely affects agricultural land classified as 'best and most versatile' (Grades 1, 2 and 3a) will only be permitted where it can be shown that: 1. There is an overriding need for the facility; 2. There is no suitable alternative site of lower agricultural quality that provides the same benefits in terms of sustainability; and 3. In the case of temporary uses, the land could be restored to its previous agricultural quality or better, or another beneficial afteruse can be secured that outweighs any loss.	<p>A – General statement of policy/general aspiration</p> <p>B – Policy listing general criteria for testing the acceptability/sustainability of proposals</p>	Screen out
DM 18	Public Rights of	Planning permission will be granted for minerals and	A – General statement of policy/general	Screen out

Policy No.	Policy Title	Policy Summary	Screening Category	Screening Outcome
	Way	waste development where it is demonstrated that the proposal would not lead to the loss or degradation of a Public Right of Way (such as a footpath, cycleway or bridleway) or a permissive path (such as a canal towpath). Where disruption of a right of way is unavoidable, convenient and safe diversion or the creation of an alternative route (both during operations and following restoration of the site) will be required, which should provide clear and demonstrable benefits for the wider community. The opportunity should be taken, wherever possible, to make provision for appropriate, improved access to the Public Right of Way network.	aspiration B – Policy listing general criteria for testing the acceptability/sustainability of proposals	

6.3 Proposed Site Allocations

6.3.1 Waste

The Borough's residual waste and inert waste is envisaged to be managed outside of the Borough. The draft MWP recognises that a new waste needs assessment is required to be undertaken for the full plan period to 2041, that may result in the need to provide for greater waste management capacity, but currently no sites for waste allocations are proposed. A longlist of potential sites was previously established for waste and a HRA screening was undertaken. This is provided at Appendix D for information.

6.3.2 Minerals

Table 6-3 summarises the proposed mineral site allocations and provides a preliminary outline of the potential for each site to impact upon European sites. This is a high-level screening assessment, taking into account the location of the European sites in relation to the sites being considered for allocation. This information is used to support the overall screening assessment (Table 6-4).

As outlined in the draft MWP, ensuring an adequate and steady supply of minerals will be achieved by (in order of priority):

1. Designating Specific Sites – where viable resources are known to exist, landowners are supportive of minerals development and the proposal is likely to be acceptable in planning terms. Such sites may also include essential operations associated with mineral extraction;
2. Designating Preferred Areas, which are areas of known resources where planning permission might reasonably be anticipated. Such areas may also include essential operations associated with mineral extraction; and/or
3. Designating Areas of Search – areas where knowledge of mineral resources may be less certain but within which planning permission may be granted, particularly if there is a potential shortfall in supply.

Further details of the proposed site allocations can be found in the draft MWP, which should be read in conjunction with this HRA.

Taking into account the location of the European sites in relation to the sites being considered for allocation, the identified potential hazards and impact pathways associated with the sites, an assessment has been made as to whether the draft Cheshire East MWP either alone or in-combination with other plans, will have likely significant effects on any European sites. This assessment is detailed in Table 6-4. Any relevant policies or site allocations that are considered to require further assessment in Table 6-2 and Table 6-3 are identified and considered in this table. For European sites covering several locations, this table also indicates which component SSSI site is considered to potentially be impacted upon.

It should be noted that potential impacts from other plans and projects are only considered in the Screening Assessment where there is no likely significant effect on a designated site from the draft Cheshire East MWP alone.

Table 6-3: New Mineral Resource Allocations and Areas of Search Screening Assessment

Site Number and Option Ref	Site Name	Main Output and Allocation Type, or Area of Search Designation	Estimated Amount of New Reserve (Mt), or Area (ha)	Potential Impact	Screening Outcome
MIN 4.1 (MSS 4)	Eaton Hall Quarry, Congleton	Non-Aggregate Sand, Area of Preferred Extension	3Mt	This site lies outside of the Natural England SSSI Impact Risk Zones for the European sites identified in Table 4-2. Therefore, no impacts on European Sites are anticipated as a result of extension of the existing quarry.	Screen out
MIN 4.2 (MSS 13)	Astle Farm East, Chelford	Aggregate Sand, New Site	5.23Mt	MIN 4.2 is 8.3km south-east of Midlands Meres & Mosses – Phase 1. This falls within the Natural England SSSI Risk Zone for the site, where mining activities relating to oil and gas exploration/ extraction only are flagged as potential hazards. Therefore, no impacts are anticipated as a result of construction sand and gravel extraction.	Screen out
MIN 4.3 (MSS 18)	Arclid, Sandbach	Non-Aggregate Sand, Area of Preferred Extension	10Mt	MIN 4.3 is approximately 1.5km south of Midland Meres and Mosses – Phase 1 Ramsar: Bagmere SSSI. It is within the Natural England SSSI Impact Risk Zone that covers planning applications for quarries, including new proposals, Review of Minerals Permissions (ROMP), extensions, variations to conditions etc. In addition, MIN 4.3 is less than 5km from Midland Meres and Mosses – Phase 2 Ramsar: Oakhanger Moss SSSI, and any sand extraction at MIN 4.3 could potentially also impact this site.	Screen in
MIN 4.4 (MSS 3)	Land North of Mill Lane, Adlington	Area of Search for Sand	81ha	MIN 4.4 is approximately 8.5km northwest of the Peak District Moors (South Pennine Moors) SPA and the South Pennine Moors SAC. This falls within the Natural England SSSI Risk Zone for the site, but only where mining activities relating to oil and gas exploration/ extraction are flagged as potential hazards. Therefore, no impacts as anticipated as a result of sand extraction.	Screen out
MIN 4.5 (MSS 5)	Cheshire Gateway, Yarwood Heath	Area of Search for Sand	104ha	MIN 4.5 is approximately 350m north of Rostherne Mere Ramsar. The Natural England SSSI Risk Impact	Screen in

Site Number and Option Ref	Site Name	Main Output and Allocation Type, or Area of Search Designation	Estimated Amount of New Reserve (Mt), or Area (ha)	Potential Impact	Screening Outcome
	Farm and Spodegreen Farm, Little Bollington			<p>Zones indicate that planning applications for quarries, including new proposals, Review of Minerals Permissions (ROMP), extensions, and variations to conditions, etc., could have an impact on this European Site. Furthermore, any industrial development that could cause air pollution, or any development requiring its own water supply, could also impact this European site. This site is not, however, located within the catchment of Rostherne Mere, identified by Natural England, with regards to a risk of increased nutrients and the need for any development to demonstrate at least nutrient neutrality.</p> <p>In addition, MIN 4.5 is less than 3km from Midland Meres and Mosses – Phase 1 Ramsar: Tatton Meres SSSI and The Mere, Mere SSSI, and any sand extraction at MIN 4.5 could potentially also impact these sites.</p>	
MIN 4.6 (MSS 6)	Land West of A556, Near Altrincham	Area of Search for Sand	121ha	<p>MIN 4.6 is approximately 250m west of Rostherne Mere Ramsar. The Natural England SSSI Risk Impact Zones indicate that planning applications for quarries, including new proposals, Review of Minerals Permissions (ROMP), extensions, and variations to conditions, etc., could have an impact on this European Site. Furthermore, any industrial development that could cause air pollution, or any development requiring its own water supply, could also impact this European site. The site is also located within the catchment of Rostherne Mere and therefore there is a risk of increased nutrients entering the designated site.</p> <p>In addition, MIN 4.6 is less than 3km from Midland Meres and Mosses – Phase 1 Ramsar: Tatton Meres SSSI and The Mere, Mere SSSI, and any sand and gravel extraction at MIN 4.6 could potentially also impact these sites.</p>	Screen in

Site Number and Option Ref	Site Name	Main Output and Allocation Type, or Area of Search Designation	Estimated Amount of New Reserve (Mt), or Area (ha)	Potential Impact	Screening Outcome
MIN 4.7 (MSS 7)	Land South of A556, East of Bucklow Hill	Area of Search for Sand	192ha	MIN 4.7 is less than 50m from both Midland Meres and Mosses – Phase 1 Ramsar: The Mere, Mere SSSI and Rostherne Mere Ramsar, and 1km from the Midland Meres and Mosses – Phase 1 Ramsar: Tatton Meres SSSI. At this distance, any developments requiring a planning application are considered to have the potential to impact on these sites, this includes planning applications for quarries relating to new proposals, Review of Minerals Permissions (ROMP), extensions, variations to conditions, etc. Furthermore, any industrial development that could cause air pollution, or any development requiring its own water supply, could also impact these European sites. The site is also located within the catchment of Rostherne Mere and therefore there is a risk of increased nutrients entering the designated site.	Screen in
MIN 4.8 (MSS 8)	Land North of Knutsford Farm, North-West Knutsford	Area of Search for Sand	74ha	MIN 4.8 is approximately 200m to 300m from two separate areas designated as part of the Midland Meres and Mosses – Phase 1 Ramsar: Tatton Meres SSSI and The Mere, Mere SSSI and is also 2.5km south of Rostherne Mere Ramsar. At this distance, the Natural England SSSI Risk Impact Zones indicate that planning applications for quarries, including new proposals, Review of Minerals Permissions (ROMP), extensions, and variations to conditions, etc., could have an impact on these European Sites. Furthermore, any industrial development that could cause air pollution, or any development requiring its own water supply, could also impact these European sites. The site is also located within the catchment of Rostherne Mere and therefore there is a risk of increased nutrients entering the designated site.	Screen in
MIN 4.9 (MSS 9)	Land North of M56, Near Altrincham	Area of Search for Sand	269ha	MIN 4.9 is approximately 600m northeast of Rostherne Mere Ramsar. The Natural England SSSI Risk Impact	Screen in

Site Number and Option Ref	Site Name	Main Output and Allocation Type, or Area of Search Designation	Estimated Amount of New Reserve (Mt), or Area (ha)	Potential Impact	Screening Outcome
				<p>Zones indicate that planning applications for quarries, including new proposals, Review of Minerals Permissions (ROMP), extensions, and variations to conditions, etc., could have an impact on this European Site. Furthermore, any industrial development that could cause air pollution, or any development requiring its own water supply, could also impact this European site. This site is not, however, located within the catchment of Rostherne Mere, identified by Natural England, with regards to a risk of increased nutrients and the need for any development to demonstrate at least nutrient neutrality.</p> <p>In addition, MIN 4.9 is less than 3.5km from Midland Meres and Mosses – Phase 1 Ramsar: Tatton Meres SSSI and The Mere, Mere SSSI, and any sand and gravel extraction at MIN 4.9 could potentially also impact these sites.</p>	
MIN 4.10 (MSS 10)	Land South of M56, Near Altrincham	Area of Search for Sand	166ha	<p>MIN 4.10 is less than 10m north of Rostherne Mere Ramsar. At this distance, any developments requiring a planning application are considered to have the potential to impact on these sites, this includes planning applications for quarries relating to new proposals, Review of Minerals Permissions (ROMP), extensions, variations to conditions, etc. Furthermore, any industrial development that could cause air pollution, or any development requiring its own water supply, could also impact this European site.</p> <p>The site is also located within the catchment of Rostherne Mere and therefore there is a risk of increased nutrients entering the designated site.</p> <p>In addition, MIN 4.10 is less than 3km from Midland Meres and Mosses – Phase 1 Ramsar: Tatton Meres SSSI and The Mere, Mere SSSI, and any sand and gravel extraction at MIN 4.10 could potentially also</p>	Screen in

Site Number and Option Ref	Site Name	Main Output and Allocation Type, or Area of Search Designation	Estimated Amount of New Reserve (Mt), or Area (ha)	Potential Impact	Screening Outcome
				impact these sites.	
MIN 4.11 (MSS 11)	Land East of Tatton Park, Knutsford	Area of Search for Sand	213ha	<p>MIN 4.11 is located approximately 1km east of Rostherne Mere Ramsar. The Natural England SSSI Risk Impact Zones indicate that planning applications for quarries, including new proposals, Review of Minerals Permissions (ROMP), extensions, and variations to conditions, etc., could have an impact on this European Site. Furthermore, any industrial development that could cause air pollution, or any development requiring its own water supply, could also impact this European site. This site is not, however, located within the catchment of Rostherne Mere, identified by Natural England, with regards to a risk of increased nutrients and the need for any development to demonstrate at least nutrient neutrality.</p> <p>In addition, MIN 4.11 is less than 3km from Midland Meres and Mosses – Phase 1 Ramsar: Tatton Meres SSSI and The Mere, Mere SSSI, and any sand and gravel extraction at MIN 4.11 could potentially also impact these sites.</p>	Screen in
MIN 4.12 (MSS 12)	Land North of Eaton Hall Quarry and South of Cockmass Farm, Eaton, Congleton	Area of Search for Sand	30ha	<p>MIN 4.12 is located approximately 6km north-east of the nearest European site, Midland Meres and Mosses – Phase 1 Ramsar.</p> <p>At this distance, MIN 4.12 does not fall within the Natural England SSSI Risk Impacts Zones for this site. Therefore, no impacts are anticipated.</p>	Screen out
MIN 4.13 (MSS 14)	Land West of A50, Newcastle Road, Arclid, Sandbach	Area of Search for Sand	16ha	<p>MIN 4.13 is located approximately 2km south of Midland Meres and Mosses – Phase 1 Ramsar: Bagmere SSSI. It is within a Natural England SSSI Impact Risk Zone that covers planning applications for quarries, including new proposals, Review of Minerals Permissions (ROMP), extensions, variations to conditions etc.</p>	Screen in

Site Number and Option Ref	Site Name	Main Output and Allocation Type, or Area of Search Designation	Estimated Amount of New Reserve (Mt), or Area (ha)	Potential Impact	Screening Outcome
MIN 4.14 (MSS 15a)	Land South of Arclid Quarry, Sandbach and South-East of Sandbach (MSS15a Combined Area)	Area of Search for Sand	596ha	MIN 4.14 is approximately 3km south of Midland Meres and Mosses – Phase 1 Ramsar: Bagmere SSSI and Midland Meres and Mosses – Phase 2 Ramsar: Oakhanger Moss SSSI. It is within the Natural England SSSI Impact Risk Zone that covers planning applications for quarries, including new proposals, Review of Minerals Permissions (ROMP), extensions, variations to conditions etc.	Screen in
MIN 4.15 (MSS 20)	Land Between Holmes Chapel and Arclid	Area of Search for Sand	776ha	MIN 4.15 overlaps with the boundary of Midlands Meres and Mosses – Phase 1 Ramsar: Bagmere SSSI. Any development within the Ramsar could impact on the qualifying features of the site.	Screen in
MIN 4.16 (MSS 21a)	Land West and South-West of Congleton and Somerford New House, Holmes Chapel Road, Somerford, Congleton (MSS21a Combined Area)	Area of Search for Sand	794ha	MIN 4.16 is approximately 1km south-east of Midland Meres and Mosses – Phase 1 Ramsar: Bagmere SSSI. It is within the Natural England SSSI Impact Risk Zone that covers planning applications for quarries, including new proposals, Review of Minerals Permissions (ROMP), extensions, variations to conditions etc.	Screen in
MIN 4.17 (MSS 26)	Land Surrounding Smethwick Farm, Smethwick Green, South of Brereton Heath	Area of Search for Sand	76ha	MIN 4.17 overlaps with the boundary of Midlands Meres and Mosses – Phase 1 Ramsar: Bagmere SSSI. Any development within or adjacent to the site could impact on the qualifying features of the site.	Screen in
MIN 8.1 (MSS 1)	Land West of Railway Line, Warmingham	Preferred Area Extension for Salt (controlled solution brine mining)	21ha	MIN 8.1 is within 10km of Midlands Meres and Mosses Phase 2 Ramsar, and within 15km of Midlands Meres and Mosses Phase 1 Ramsar. The site is also within 15km of Oak Mere SAC and West Midlands Mosses SAC. At these distances, MIN 8.1 does not fall within the Natural England SSSI Risk Impacts Zones for any of	Screen out

Site Number and Option Ref	Site Name	Main Output and Allocation Type, or Area of Search Designation	Estimated Amount of New Reserve (Mt), or Area (ha)	Potential Impact	Screening Outcome
				these sites. Therefore, no impacts are anticipated.	
MIN 8.2 (MSS 2)	Extension to Warmingham Brinefield	Preferred Area Extension for Salt (controlled solution brine mining)	286ha	<p>MIN 8.2 is within 10km of Midlands Meres and Mosses Phase 2 Ramsar and Midlands Meres and Mosses Phase 1 Ramsar.</p> <p>The site is also within 10km of West Midlands Mosses SAC.</p> <p>At these distances, MIN 8.2 does not fall within the Natural England SSSI Risk Impacts Zones for any of these sites. Therefore, no impacts are anticipated.</p>	Screen out

Table 6-4: Screening Assessment

Designated Site	Potential Impacts	Relevant Policy / Site(s) being considered in the assessment	Potential Hazards Impact Pathways	Potential In-combination effects with other plans or projects (if applicable)	Screening Assessment
<p>West Midlands Mosses SAC</p> <p>Qualifying features: Annex I habitats that are a primary reason for selection of this site:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds [3160] - Transition mires and quaking bogs [7140] 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Water Quality/ changes to hydrological regime - Air quality 	None	<p>All proposed site allocations and areas of search are outside of the Natural England SSSI Risk Zones relating to mineral extraction for all constituent SSSIs; the nearest proposed site allocations/areas of search are approximately 9km from the West Midlands Mosses SAC.</p> <p>Some of the waterbodies making up the SAC are located near major roads including the A500 and A54, so large increases in traffic on these roads could result in increases in air pollution reaching the SAC. However, there are other major transport routes between the proposed allocations/areas of search and West Midlands Mosses SAC, making it unlikely that any increases in traffic associated with use of those sites would be focussed on the A500 or A54.</p> <p>No Likely Significant Effect.</p>	<p>The draft MWP is unlikely to have significant adverse effects on the West Midland Mosses SAC in-combination with any other relevant plans or projects.</p> <p>No Likely Significant Effect.</p>	No likely significant effect (alone or in-combination)
<p>South Pennine Moors SAC</p> <p>Qualifying features: Annex I habitats that are a primary reason for selection of this site:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - European dry heaths [4030] 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Water Quality/ changes to hydrological regime - Air quality 	None	<p>All proposed site allocations and areas of search are outside of the Natural England SSSI Risk Zones relating to mineral extraction for all constituent SSSIs; the nearest proposed site allocations are approximately 9km from the South Pennine Moors SAC.</p> <p>Some of the constituent SSSIs making up the SAC are located near major roads including the A537 and A6, so large</p>	<p>The draft MWP is unlikely to have significant adverse effects on the South Pennine Moors SAC in-combination with any other relevant plans or projects.</p> <p>No Likely Significant</p>	No likely significant effect (alone or in-combination)

Designated Site	Potential Impacts	Relevant Policy / Site(s) being considered in the assessment	Potential Hazards Impact Pathways	Potential In-combination effects with other plans or projects (if applicable)	Screening Assessment
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Blanket bogs [7130] - Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles [91A0] <p>Annex I habitats present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for selection of this site:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> [4010] - Transition mires and quaking bogs [7140] 			<p>increases in traffic on these roads could result in increases in air pollution reaching the SAC. However, there are other major transport routes between the proposed site allocations/areas of search and South Pennine Moors SAC, making it unlikely that any increases in traffic associated with the use of those sites would be focussed on the A537 or A6 in close proximity to the SAC.</p> <p>Although the South Pennine Moors are sensitive to changes in physical regime, the allocated sites would all be considered hydrologically downstream of this upland SAC, making it highly unlikely that any local impacts on the water table as a result of mineral extraction would have an impact on the South Pennine Moors SAC.</p> <p>No Likely Significant Effect.</p>	Effect.	
<p>Rixton Clay Pits SAC</p> <p>Qualifying features: Annex II species that are a primary reason for selection of this site:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Great crested newt <i>Triturus cristatus</i> [1166] 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Water Quality/ changes to hydrological regime - Air quality 	None	<p>Rixton Clay Pits SAC is located approximately 6km from the nearest proposed site allocations and areas of search. The SAC is located immediately adjacent to the A57. It is considered unlikely that development of any proposed site allocations/areas of search would increase traffic near the SAC, as the proposed site allocations are closer to other major roads, including several motorways. Several policies in the draft MWP would direct increased traffic to major roads wherever possible. The nearest proposed site allocations are</p>	<p>The draft MWP is unlikely to have significant adverse effects on Rixton Clay Pits SAC in-combination with any other relevant plans or projects.</p> <p>No Likely Significant Effect.</p>	No likely significant effect (alone or in-combination)

Designated Site	Potential Impacts	Relevant Policy / Site(s) being considered in the assessment	Potential Hazards Impact Pathways	Potential In-combination effects with other plans or projects (if applicable)	Screening Assessment
			<p>Areas of Search for Sand (MIN 4.6, MIN 4.7 and MIN 4.9). While some methods for sand extraction can result in changes to the water table, which could impact on an aquatic SAC, these proposed site allocations are outside of the Natural England SSSI Risk Zones for Rixton Clay Pits SAC. It is not expected that mineral extraction outside of the Risk Zones would influence the hydrology or habitats supporting the qualifying feature of Great Crested Newts at Rixton Clay Pits SAC.</p> <p>No Likely Significant Effect.</p>		
<p>Brown Moss SAC</p> <p>Qualifying features: Annex II species that are a primary reason for selection of this site:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Floating water-plantain <i>Luronium natans</i> [1831] 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Water Quality/ changes to hydrological regime - Air quality 	None	<p>Brown Moss SAC is located approximately 28km south-west of the nearest proposed site allocation/area of search, MIN 4.14. At this distance, Brown Moss SAC is considered to be outside of the zone of influence of any of the proposed site allocations.</p> <p>No Likely Significant Effect.</p>	<p>The draft MWP is unlikely to have significant adverse effects on Brown Moss SAC in-combination with any other relevant plans or projects.</p> <p>No Likely Significant Effect.</p>	<p>No likely significant effect (alone or in-combination)</p>
<p>Manchester Mosses SAC</p> <p>Qualifying features: Annex I habitats that are a primary reason for selection of this site:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Degraded raised bogs still capable 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Water Quality/ changes to hydrological regime - Air quality 	None	<p>Manchester Mosses SAC is located approximately 8km from the nearest proposed site allocations/areas of search. The SAC is made up of multiple constituent SSSIs, one of which is located immediately adjacent to the M62. It is considered unlikely that development of any proposed site allocations/areas of search would increase traffic near the SAC, as the proposed site allocations are closer to other major roads,</p>	<p>The draft MWP is unlikely to have significant adverse effects on the Manchester Mosses SAC in-combination with any other relevant plans or projects.</p> <p>No Likely Significant</p>	<p>No likely significant effect (alone or in-combination)</p>

Designated Site	Potential Impacts	Relevant Policy / Site(s) being considered in the assessment	Potential Hazards Impact Pathways	Potential In-combination effects with other plans or projects (if applicable)	Screening Assessment
of natural regeneration [7120]			<p>including other motorways.</p> <p>The nearest proposed site allocations are Areas of Search for Sand (MIN 4.6, MIN 4.7 and MIN 4.9). While some methods for sand extraction can result in changes to the water table, which could impact on an aquatic SAC, these allocated sites are outside of the Natural England SSSI Risk Zones for Manchester Mosses SAC. It is not expected that mineral extraction outside of the Risk Zones would influence the hydrology or the bog habitats that are the qualifying feature of Manchester Mosses SAC.</p> <p>No Likely Significant Effect.</p>	Effect.	
<p>Oak Mere SAC</p> <p>Qualifying features: Annex I habitats that are a primary reason for selection of this site:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (Littorelletalia uniflorae) [3110] - Transition mires and quaking bogs [7140] 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Water Quality/ changes to hydrological regime - Air quality 	None	<p>Oakmere SAC is located approximately 18km west of the closest proposed site allocations/area of search, MIN 4.15. At this distance, MIN 4.15 lies outside of the Natural England SSSI Risk Zone for all activities around Oak Mere SAC.</p> <p>Indirect impacts as a result of development of mineral sites could include increased air pollution if the roads around the site became significantly busier due to operation of the mineral site. Oak Mere SAC is immediately adjacent to both the A49 and A54 and is also close to the A556. However, as the nearest proposed site allocations/areas of search are some distance away, it is likely that traffic to and from those sites would be distributed around the wider road network, and so no</p>	<p>The draft MWP is unlikely to have significant adverse effects on Oak Mere SAC in-combination with any other relevant plans or projects.</p> <p>No Likely Significant Effect.</p>	No likely significant effect (alone or in-combination)

Designated Site	Potential Impacts	Relevant Policy / Site(s) being considered in the assessment	Potential Hazards Impact Pathways	Potential In-combination effects with other plans or projects (if applicable)	Screening Assessment
			<p>significant traffic increase on those specific roads is anticipated.</p> <p>No Likely Significant Effect.</p>		
<p>Fenn's, Whixall, Bettisfield, Wem and Cadney Mosses SAC</p> <p>Qualifying features: Annex I habitats that are a primary reason for selection of this site:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Active raised bogs [7110] <p>Annex I habitats present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for selection of this site:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Water Quality/ changes to hydrological regime - Air quality 	None	<p>Fenn's, Whixall, Bettisfield, Wem and Cadney Mosses SAC is located approximately 34km south-west of the nearest proposed site allocation/areas of search. At this distance, Fenn's, Whixall, Bettisfield, Wem and Cadney Mosses SAC is considered to be outside of the zone of influence of any of the proposed site allocations/areas of search.</p> <p>No Likely Significant Effect.</p>	<p>The draft MWP is unlikely to have significant adverse effects on Fenn's, Whixall, Bettisfield, Wem and Cadney Mosses SAC in-combination with any other relevant plans or projects.</p> <p>No Likely Significant Effect.</p>	<p>No likely significant effect (alone or in-combination)</p>

Designated Site	Potential Impacts	Relevant Policy / Site(s) being considered in the assessment	Potential Hazards Impact Pathways	Potential In-combination effects with other plans or projects (if applicable)	Screening Assessment
[7120]					
<p>Peak District Dales SAC</p> <p>Qualifying features: Annex I habitats that are a primary reason for selection of this site:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (Festuco-Brometalia) (* important orchid sites) [6210] - Tilio-Acerion forests of slopes, screes and ravines * Priority feature [9180] 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Water Quality/ changes to hydrological regime - Air quality 	None	<p>All proposed site allocations are outside of the Natural England SSSI Risk Zones relating to mineral extraction for all constituent SSSIs; the nearest proposed site allocations/areas of search are approximately 22km from the Peak District Dales SAC.</p> <p>Although the Peak District Dales are sensitive to changes in physical regime, the proposed site allocations would all be considered hydrologically downstream of this upland SAC, making it highly unlikely that any local impacts on the water table as a result of mineral extraction would have an impact on the Peak District Dales SAC.</p> <p>Given the distances between the Peak District Dales SAC and all proposed site allocations/areas of search, which are well in excess of the Natural England SSSI Risk Zones, it is considered that development of any of the proposed allocated sites/areas of search is not expected to impact on the SAC.</p>	<p>The draft MWP is unlikely to have significant adverse effects on the Peak District Dales SAC in-combination with any other relevant plans or projects.</p> <p>No Likely Significant Effect.</p>	<p>No likely significant effect (alone or in-combination)</p>

Designated Site	Potential Impacts	Relevant Policy / Site(s) being considered in the assessment	Potential Hazards Impact Pathways	Potential In-combination effects with other plans or projects (if applicable)	Screening Assessment
<p>Annex I habitats present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for selection of this site:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - European dry heaths [4030] - Calaminarian grasslands of the <i>Violetalia calaminariae</i> [6130] - Alkaline fens [7230] - Calcareous and calcshist screes of the montane to alpine levels (<i>Thlaspietea rotundifolii</i>) [8120] - Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [8210] <p>Annex II species that are a primary reason for selection of this site:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - White-clawed (or Atlantic stream) crayfish 			<p>No Likely Significant Effect.</p>		

Designated Site	Potential Impacts	Relevant Policy / Site(s) being considered in the assessment	Potential Hazards Impact Pathways	Potential In-combination effects with other plans or projects (if applicable)	Screening Assessment
<p><i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i> [1092]</p> <p>Annex II species present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for site selection:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Brook lamprey <i>Lampetra planeri</i> [1096] - Bullhead <i>Cottus gobio</i> [1163] 					
<p>River Dee and Bala Lake SAC</p> <p>Qualifying features: Annex I habitats that are a primary reason for selection of this site:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculion fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitricho-Batrachion</i> vegetation [3260] <p>Annex II species that are a primary reason for selection of this</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Water Quality/ changes to hydrological regime 	None	<p>River Dee and Bala Lake SAC is located approximately 35km west of the nearest proposed site allocations/areas of search. This distance is in excess of the Natural England SSSI Risk Zones for the SAC for all activities. As such, none of the proposed allocated sites/areas of search are expected to impact on the SAC.</p> <p>No Likely Significant Effect.</p>	<p>The draft MWP is unlikely to have significant adverse effects on the River Dee and Bala Lake SAC in-combination with any other relevant plans or projects.</p> <p>No Likely Significant Effect.</p>	<p>No likely significant effect (alone or in-combination)</p>

Designated Site	Potential Impacts	Relevant Policy / Site(s) being considered in the assessment	Potential Hazards Impact Pathways	Potential In-combination effects with other plans or projects (if applicable)	Screening Assessment
<p>site:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Atlantic salmon <i>Salmo salar</i> [1106] - Floating water-plantain <i>Luronium natans</i> [1831] <p>Annex II species present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for site selection:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sea lamprey <i>Petromyzon marinus</i> [1095] - Brook lamprey <i>Lampetra planeri</i> [1096] - River lamprey <i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i> [1099] - Bullhead <i>Cottus gobio</i> [1163] - Otter <i>Lutra lutra</i> [1355] 					
<p>Peak District Moors (South Pennine Moors Phase 1) SPA</p> <p>Qualifying features: Site qualifies under Article 4.1 by</p>	None	None	<p>Peak District Moors (South Pennine Moors Phase 1) SPA is located approximately 10km east of the closest proposed site allocation, MIN 4.1, when measuring from the nearest constituent SSSI.</p> <p>At distances exceeding 10km, none of the</p>	The draft MWP is unlikely to have significant adverse effects on the Peak District Moors (South Pennine Moors Phase 1) SPA in-combination with	No likely significant effect (alone or in-combination)

Designated Site	Potential Impacts	Relevant Policy / Site(s) being considered in the assessment	Potential Hazards Impact Pathways	Potential In-combination effects with other plans or projects (if applicable)	Screening Assessment
<p>supporting breeding populations of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Merlin <i>Falco columbarius</i> - European Golden Plover <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> - Short-eared Owl <i>Asio flammeus</i> 			<p>proposed site allocations/areas of search are within the Natural England SSSI Risk Zones for the Peak District Moors (South Pennine Moors Phase 1) SPA.</p> <p>While birds are highly mobile, it is also considered unlikely that development of any of the proposed site allocations/areas of search would have a foreseeable significant impact on the species that are qualifying features of the SPA, either at an individual or population level.</p> <p>No Likely Significant Effect.</p>	<p>any other relevant plans or projects.</p> <p>No Likely Significant Effect.</p>	
<p>Mersey Estuary SPA</p> <p>Qualifying features: Site qualifies under Article 4.1 by supporting populations of European importance of the following species listed on Annex I of the Directive:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Golden Plover <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> (breeding) <p>Site qualifies under article 4.2 as it is used regularly by 1%</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Water Quality/ changes to hydrological regime - Disturbance (noise, visual) 	None	<p>The Mersey Estuary SPA is situated almost 15km west of the Cheshire East boundary, and the vast majority of this European Site is situated outside of the 15km buffer considered within this HRA.</p> <p>The Mersey Estuary SPA lacks connectivity to the proposed site allocations/areas of search, and its distance from any proposed sites makes it highly unlikely that it would be impacted either directly or indirectly.</p> <p>No Likely Significant Effect.</p>	<p>The draft MWP is unlikely to have significant adverse effects on the Mersey Estuary SPA in-combination with any other relevant plans or projects.</p> <p>No Likely Significant Effect.</p>	<p>No likely significant effect (alone or in-combination)</p>

Designated Site	Potential Impacts	Relevant Policy / Site(s) being considered in the assessment	Potential Hazards Impact Pathways	Potential In-combination effects with other plans or projects (if applicable)	Screening Assessment
<p>or more of the biogeographical populations of the following regularly occurring migratory species in any season:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pintail Duck <i>Anas acuta</i> (wintering) - Teal <i>Anas crecca</i> (wintering) - Eurasian Wigeon <i>Anas penelope</i> (wintering) - Dunlin <i>Calidris alpina alpina</i> (wintering) - Black-tailed Godwit <i>Limosa limosa islandica</i> (breeding) - Curlew <i>Numenius arquata</i> (breeding) - Grey Plover <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i> (wintering) - Crested Grebe <i>Podiceps cristatus</i> (wintering) - Shelduck <i>Tadorna tadorna</i> 					

Designated Site	Potential Impacts	Relevant Policy / Site(s) being considered in the assessment	Potential Hazards Impact Pathways	Potential In-combination effects with other plans or projects (if applicable)	Screening Assessment
<p>(wintering)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Redshank <i>Tringa totanus</i> (wintering) - Lapwing <i>Vanellus vanellus</i> (breeding) <p>On passage the area regularly supports:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ringed Plover <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i> (wintering) - Redshank <i>Tringa totanus</i> (wintering) 					
<p>Mersey Estuary Ramsar</p> <p>Qualifying features: Criterion 5 – Supports assemblages of international importance.</p> <p>Criterion 6 – Supports species/ populations occurring at levels of international importance.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Disturbance (noise, visual) - Water Quality/ changes to hydrological regime 	<p>None</p>	<p>The Mersey Estuary Ramsar is situated almost 15km west of the Cheshire East boundary, and the vast majority of this European Site is situated outside of the 15km buffer considered within this HRA.</p> <p>The Mersey Estuary Ramsar lacks connectivity to the proposed site allocations/areas of search, and its distance from any proposed site allocations makes it highly unlikely that it would be impacted either directly or indirectly.</p> <p>No Likely Significant Effect.</p>	<p>The draft MWP is unlikely to have significant adverse effects on the Mersey Estuary Ramsar in-combination with any other relevant plans or projects.</p> <p>No Likely Significant Effect.</p>	<p>No likely significant effect (alone or in-combination)</p>

Designated Site	Potential Impacts	Relevant Policy / Site(s) being considered in the assessment	Potential Hazards Impact Pathways	Potential In-combination effects with other plans or projects (if applicable)	Screening Assessment
<p>Midland Meres and Mosses Phase 1 Ramsar</p> <p>Qualifying features: Criterion 2 – Supports rare species of plants associated with wetlands:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cowbane <i>Cicuta virosa</i> - Elongated Sedge <i>Carex elongata</i> - <i>Dicranum affine</i> - <i>Sphagnum pulchrum</i>. <p>Component sites potentially impacted upon: Bagmere SSSI Tatton Meres SSSI The Mere, Mere SSSI</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Habitat loss - Physical damage - Water Quality/ changes to hydrological regime - Air quality 	<p>Component sites: Bagmere SSSI: Policy MIN4 Non-Aggregate Sand, Area of Preferred Extension MIN 4.3</p> <p>Area of Search for Sand: MIN 4.13, MIN 4.14, MIN 4.15, MIN 4.16, MIN 4.17</p> <p>Tatton Meres SSSI and The Mere, Mere SSSI: Policy MIN 4 Area of Search for Sand: MIN 4.5, MIN 4.6, MIN 4.7, MIN 4.8, MIN 4.9, MIN 4.10,</p>	<p>Bagmere SSSI: One proposed site allocation (Area of Preferred Extension for sand extraction) is located within 3km of Bagmere SSSI and five proposed site allocations (Areas of Search for sand) are located within 4km, with two of these sites; MIN 4.15 and MIN 4.17, being located in very close proximity to the site boundary.</p> <p>Given the close proximity to this component SSSI, development and operation of mineral sites within these areas could impact directly by physically damaging habitats or causing changes in the hydrological regime of the sites; there is a potential impact to groundwater if extracting below the water table (requiring water extraction).</p> <p>Likely Significant Effect. The SSSI may be adversely impacted by pollution; this could be direct pollution from mineral operations or could be the result of increased levels of air pollution from mineral extraction processes and increased traffic in the local area.</p> <p>Likely Significant Effect.</p> <p>Tatton Meres SSSI and The Mere, Mere SSSI: Seven proposed site allocations (Areas of Search for sand) are located within 4km of Tatton Meres SSSI and 3km of The Mere, Mere SSSI, with sites MIN 4.7 and MIN 4.8 being in particularly close proximity to The</p>	<p>N/A – in combination assessment to be undertaken as part of the Appropriate Assessment due to likely significant effects alone.</p>	<p>Likely Significant Effect (alone)</p>

Designated Site	Potential Impacts	Relevant Policy / Site(s) being considered in the assessment	Potential Hazards Impact Pathways	Potential In-combination effects with other plans or projects (if applicable)	Screening Assessment
		MIN 4.11	<p>Mere, Mere SSSI (<50m). Given the close proximity to these component SSSIs development and operation of sites within these areas could impact directly by physically damaging habitats or causing changes in the hydrological regime of the sites; there is a potential impact to groundwater if extracting below the water table (requiring water extraction).</p> <p>Likely Significant Effect. The sites may be adversely impacted by pollution; this could be direct pollution from mineral operations or could be the result of increased levels of air pollution from mineral extraction processes and increased traffic in the local area.</p> <p>Likely Significant Effect.</p>		
<p>Midland Meres and Mosses Phase 2 Ramsar</p> <p>Qualifying features: Criterion 2 – Supports rare species of plants associated with wetlands:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cowbane <i>Cicuta virosa</i> - Elongated Sedge <i>Carex elongate</i> - <i>Dicranum affine</i> - <i>Sphagnum</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Water Quality/ changes to hydrological regime - Air quality 	<p>Component site: Oakhanger Moss SSSI: Policy MIN4</p> <p>Non-Aggregate Sand, Area of Preferred Extension MIN 4.3</p> <p>Area of Search for</p>	<p>Oakhanger Moss SSSI is located approximately 5km from Site MIN 4.3 which is proposed as a Area of Preferred Extension for sand extraction, and approximately 2km from site MIN 4.14 which is proposed as an Area of Search for sand extraction.</p> <p>There is the potential for groundwater impacts if extracting below the water table (requiring water extraction), which could have adverse impacts upon the plant and invertebrate communities for which the site is designated.</p> <p>Likely Significant Effect.</p>	N/A – in combination assessment to be undertaken as part of the Appropriate Assessment due to likely significant effects alone.	Likely Significant Effect (alone)

Designated Site	Potential Impacts	Relevant Policy / Site(s) being considered in the assessment	Potential Hazards Impact Pathways	Potential In-combination effects with other plans or projects (if applicable)	Screening Assessment
<p><i>pulchrum</i></p> <p>Also supports an assemblage of invertebrates including several rare species:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the moth <i>Glyphipteryx lathamella</i>, - the caddisfly <i>Hagenella clathrata</i> - the sawfly <i>Trichiosoma vitellinae</i> <p>Component site potentially impacted upon: Oakhanger Moss SSSI</p>		Sand: MIN 4.14	<p>The potential for adverse effects due to air quality changes as a result of mineral extraction processes and/or increased traffic in the local area is highly unlikely due to the distance of Oakhanger Moss from the sites being considered for allocation.</p> <p>No likely significant effect</p>		
<p>Rostherne Mere Ramsar</p> <p>Qualifying features: Criterion 1 – Supports a good representative example of the meres of the Shropshire-Cheshire Plain.</p> <p>Criterion 3 – Supports nationally important</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Habitat loss - Physical damage - Disturbance (noise, visual) - Water Quality/ changes to hydrological regime - Air quality 	<p>Area of Search for Sand: MIN 4.5, MIN 4.6, MIN 4.7, MIN 4.8, MIN 4.9, MIN 4.10, MIN 4.11</p>	<p>Seven sites proposed as Areas of Search for sand are located within 2.5km of Rostherne Mere Ramsar, with several of these located within 300m of the Ramsar, and one proposed site allocation, MIN 4.10, sharing a boundary with the Ramsar site.</p> <p>Given the close proximity to Rostherne Mere the development and operation of sites within these areas could impact directly by physically damaging habitats or causing changes in the hydrological regime of the site; there is a potential impact to</p>	<p>N/A – in combination assessment to be undertaken as part of the Appropriate Assessment due to likely significant effects alone.</p>	Likely Significant Effect (alone)

Designated Site	Potential Impacts	Relevant Policy / Site(s) being considered in the assessment	Potential Hazards Impact Pathways	Potential In-combination effects with other plans or projects (if applicable)	Screening Assessment
<p>numbers of Shoveler <i>Anas clypeata</i> (86 individuals) and Pochard <i>Athya ferina</i> (757 individuals).</p>			<p>groundwater if extracting below the water table (requiring water extraction). Likely Significant Effect.</p> <p>MIN 4.6, MIN 4.7, MIN 4.8 and MIN 4.10 are located within the catchment of Rostherne Mere and therefore any development within these proposed Areas of Search could result in increased nutrients entering the site. Likely Significant Effect.</p> <p>The species of waterfowl that the site supports could be impacted upon by noise and visual disturbance and the site may be adversely impacted by pollution; this could be direct from mineral operations, or could be the result of increased levels of air pollution from mineral extraction processes and increased traffic in the local area. Likely Significant Effect.</p>		

6.4 Screening Statement and Conclusions

The majority of policies within the draft Cheshire East MWP have been screened out alone and in combination with other plans or projects. The exception to this is MIN 4 - New Sand Resource Allocations and Area of Search, which proposes sites for sand extraction.

The following proposed site allocations are considered to have the potential to significantly impact on a European site if developed for mineral resources:

- MIN 4.3
- MIN 4.5
- MIN 4.6
- MIN 4.7
- MIN 4.8
- MIN 4.9
- MIN 4.10
- MIN 4.11
- MIN 4.13
- MIN 4.14
- MIN 4.15
- MIN 4.16
- MIN 4.17

The Screening Assessment has determined that the draft Cheshire East MWP is not likely to have significant effects, either alone or in-combination with other plans, on the following European sites:

- West Midlands Mosses SAC
- South Pennine Moors SAC
- Rixton Clay Pits SAC
- Brown Moss SAC
- Manchester Mosses SAC
- Oak Mere SAC
- Fenn's, Whixall, Bettisfield, Wem and Cadney Mosses SAC
- Peak District Dales SAC
- River Dee and Bala Lake SAC
- Peak District Moors (South Pennine Moors Phase 1) SPA
- Mersey Estuary SPA
- Mersey Estuary Ramsar

The draft Cheshire East MWP, including proposed site allocations, could potentially have significant adverse effects alone on the following sites:

- Midland Meres and Mosses Phase 1 Ramsar
- Midland Meres and Mosses Phase 2 Ramsar
- Rostherne Mere Ramsar

Therefore, an Appropriate Assessment is required to assess in more detail the likely nature of the effects on the integrity of these European sites.

7 Appropriate Assessment

7.1 Introduction

This section describes Tasks 2 and 3 of the HRA of the draft Cheshire East MWP, as outlined in Section 2.4.

Where the potential for significant effects has been identified, the nature and likely scale of effects on the integrity of the individual European sites are reported, excluding those aspects that have been screened out. Additional information and interpretation is provided to allow for a reasonable assessment of the effects, and to identify appropriate mitigation that can be included within the plan to ensure that adverse effects do not occur.

7.2 Screening Conclusion

The HRA Task 1 screening assessment identified that the draft MWP could potentially have significant adverse effects on the following sites:

- Midland Meres and Mosses Phase 1 Ramsar
- Midland Meres and Mosses Phase 2 Ramsar
- Rostherne Mere Ramsar

7.3 Assessment of Effects on Site Integrity

This section details the Appropriate Assessment of the potential effects of the MWP on the integrity of the identified European sites. This assessment lists and considers all qualifying species in the European sites. Any other typical habitats or species within or outside the boundaries of these protected sites that are necessary to the conservation qualifying features are also considered in the assessment.

7.3.1 Midland Meres and Mosses Phase 1 Ramsar

Qualifying Features

The Midland Meres and Mosses Phase 1 Ramsar is designated under the following criteria:

- Criterion 1 – The site comprises a diverse range of habitats from open water to raised bog.
- Criterion 2 – The site supports a number of rare species of plants associated with wetlands including five nationally scarce species, together with an assemblage of rare wetland invertebrate (three endangered insects and five other British Red Data Book species of invertebrates).
- Noteworthy flora:
 - Six-stamened Waterwort *Elatine hexandra*
 - Needle Spike-rush *Eleocharis acicularis*
 - Cowbane *Cicuta virosa*
 - Marsh Fern *Thelypteris palustris*
 - Elongated Sedge *Carex elongata*
- Noteworthy fauna:
 - Caddisfly *Hagenella clathrata*
 - Crane-fly *Limnophila fasciata*
 - Crane-fly *Prionocera pubescens*
 - Crane-fly *Gonomyia abbreviata*
 - Reed Beetle *Donacia aquatica*

- Rove Beetle *Lathrobium rufipenne*
- Spider *Carorita limnaea*
- Spider *Sitticus floricola*

Conservation Objectives

Natural England does not have specific conservation objectives for Ramsar sites; however, the same objectives as those for SACs and SPAs can also be applied to Ramsar sites.

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

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

Environmental Conditions Sustaining Integrity of Site

The Midland Meres and Mosses Phase 1 Ramsar comprises 16 component sites in the north-west midlands of England. The sites include open water bodies (meres), the majority of which are nutrient-rich with associated fringing habitats; reed swamps, fen, carr and damp pasture. Peat accumulation has resulted in nutrient poor peat bogs (mosses) forming in some sites in the fringes of meres or completely infilling basins. In a few cases the result is a floating quaking bog or schwingmoor. The wide range of resulting habitats support nationally important flora and fauna.

The screening assessment identified the potential for impacts upon three of the component sites of the Midland Meres and Mosses Phase 1 Ramsar: Bagmere SSSI, Tatton Meres SSSI and The Mere, Mere SSSI.

Bagmere SSSI is located between Holmes Chapel and Congleton, in east Cheshire. It is the bed of a formerly larger mere, which has now almost completely filled with peat. A small area of open water remains, surrounded by a range of habitats, particularly rich fen, marshy grassland and carr woodland.

The fen vegetation is dominated by a dense growth of lesser pond-sedge *Carex acutiformis*, common reed *Phragmites australis* and reed canary-grass *Phalaris arundinacea*. Notable species include purple small-reed *Calamagrostis canescens*, greater pond-sedge *Carex riparia* and greater tussock-sedge *C. paniculata*.

The carr woodland is dominated by grey willow *Salix cinerea*, alder *Alnus glutinosa* and downy birch *Betula pubescens*. This grades into botanically-rich marshy grassland with species such as meadowsweet *Filipendula ulmaria*, wild angelica *Angelica sylvestris*, ragged-robin *Lychnis flos-cuculi*, marsh cinquefoil *Potentilla palustris* and star sedge *Carex echinata*. The grassland includes great burnet *Sanguisorba officinalis* and the carr supports greater spearwort *Ranunculus lingua*, both of which are rare in Cheshire.

Tatton Meres SSSI consists of two meres; Tatton Mere and Melchett Mere. These meres are some of the best examples in the county of meres with moderate fertility and a rich and well developed aquatic flora. The site also includes a large area of fen, flushed acidic grassland and woodland.

Tatton Mere supports an extensive community of submerged macrophytes including autumnal pondweed *Callitriche hermaphroditica*, stiff-leaved water-crowfoot *Ranunculus circinatus*, spiked water-milfoil *Myriophyllum spicatum*, fennel pondweed *Potamogeton pectinatus* and horned pondweed *Zannichellia palustris*.

At the southern end of the mere is Knutsford Moor, one of the largest areas of fen and Reedswamp - dominated by common reed *Phragmites australis* - in the county. A number of notable species occur, including marsh fern *Thelypteris thelypteroides*, cowbane *Cicuta virosa* and cyperus sedge *Carex pseudocyperus*.

Melchett Mere contains a very rich flora similar to Tatton Mere with the addition of the notable slender spike-rush *Eleocharis acicularis*. Around the mere typical fen species occur with occasional areas of flushed pasture.

The Mere, Mere SSSI consists of two lakes, The Mere and Little Mere, separated by a spillway. They are moderately nutrient-rich and have been selected because of their very diverse aquatic flora.

Twelve species of submerged macrophytes are present, the highest number recorded for any of the Shropshire and Cheshire meres. The nationally rare autumnal water-starwort *Callitriche hermaphroditica* is locally abundant and the six-stamened waterwort *Elatine hexandra* occurs in a number of places. Slender spike-rush *Eleocharis acicularis* and shore weed *Littorella uniflora* are both unusually abundant at this site and both are rare in Cheshire. Other notable species include small pondweed *Potamogeton berchtoldii* and perfoliate pondweed *P. perfoliatus*.

Of the floating leaved species yellow water-lily *Nuphar lutea* forms dense stands and broad-leaved pondweed *Potamogeton natans* occurs in a number of places. Small emergent stands of common reed *Phragmites australis*, great reedmace *Typha latifolia* and lesser reedmace *T. angustifolia* occur, mainly on the east side.

The aquatic invertebrate fauna is diverse and includes the red-eyed damselfly *Erythromma najas* which has a restricted distribution in Britain.

These meres are vulnerable to changes in water levels and water quality (particularly increased nutrients from agricultural run-off and discharges). The sites also require appropriate vegetation management to prevent encroachment by scrub and invasive non-native species.

Assessment of Impacts Upon Site Integrity

Details for the Appropriate Assessment of the MWP, both alone and in-combination with other plans and projects on the integrity of the Midland Meres and Mosses Phase 1 Ramsar are described in Table 7-1.

Table 7-1: Test of adverse effects of integrity on the Midlands Meres and Mosses Phase 1 Ramsar

Qualifying Feature	Identified Hazard and Pathway	Adverse Effect of MWP Alone and In-combination	Avoidance/ Mitigation Measures for MWP impacts	Adverse impact upon Site Integrity
<p>Criteria 1 - The site comprises a diverse range of habitats from open water to raised bog.</p> <p>Criteria 2 - Supports a number of rare species of plants associated with wetlands including five nationally scarce species together with an assemblage of rare wetland invertebrates (three endangered insects and five other British Red Data Book species of invertebrates).</p> <p>Noteworthy flora:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Six-stamened Waterwort <i>Elatine hexandra</i> - Needle Spike-rush <i>Eleocharis acicularis</i> - Cowbane <i>Cicuta virosa</i> - Marsh Fern <i>Thelypteris palustris</i> - Elongated Sedge <i>Carex elongata</i> 	<p>Component Sites Potentially Impacted:</p> <p>Bagmere SSSI: Policy MIN4 Non-Aggregate Sand, Area of Preferred Extension MIN 4.3</p> <p>Areas of Search for Sand MIN 4.13, MIN 4.14, MIN 4.15, MIN 4.16, MIN 4.17</p> <p>Tatton Meres SSSI and The Mere, Mere SSSI: Policy MIN 4 Area of Search for Sand MIN 4.5, MIN 4.6, MIN 4.7, MIN 4.8, MIN 4.9, MIN 4.10, MIN 4.11</p>	<p>There is the potential for adverse effects on the Midland Meres and Mosses Phase 1 Ramsar component site Bagmere SSSI as a result of the development of the proposed mineral extraction sites MIN 4.3, MIN 4.13, MIN 4.14, MIN 4.15, MIN 4.16 and MIN 4.17</p> <p>Site MIN 4.3 is a proposed Area of Preferred Extension for sand extraction, which are areas of known resources where planning permission might reasonably be anticipated. The other sites are within proposed Areas of Search for sand. These are areas where knowledge of mineral resources may be less certain but within which planning permission may be granted, particularly if there is a potential shortfall in supply.</p> <p>There is also the potential for adverse effects on the Midland Meres and Mosses Phase 1 Ramsar component sites Tatton Meres SSSI and The Mere, Mere SSSI as a result of the development of the proposed mineral extraction sites MIN 4.5, MIN 4.6, MIN 4.7, MIN 4.8, MIN 4.9, MIN 4.10 and MIN 4.11. These proposed allocations are all within Areas of Search for sand. (see map at Appendix E for the location of the allocated sites in relation to the Ramsar).</p> <p><i>Habitat Loss / physical damage:</i></p> <p>Two of the sites allocated as Areas of Search are located immediately adjacent to the site boundary of Bagmere SSSI (MIN 4.15 and MIN 4.17) and MIN 4.7 is located within 20m of The Mere, Mere SSSI. Therefore, there is a potential risk of physical damage to and loss of habitats for which these sites are designated and the</p>	<p>It is unlikely that site works would encroach directly into the Ramsar due to the implementation of best practice working methods and policy safeguards already contained within the Cheshire East LPS (Policies SE3 and SE10), emerging SADPD (Policy ENV1) and proposed in the draft MWP (Policies DM 1 and DM 12).</p> <p>With regards to the proposed mineral allocation sites, the policies within the LPS, emerging SADPD and proposed in the draft MWP state that any applications put forward must demonstrate no unacceptable impacts on internationally designated sites (Policies SE3, ENV2, DM 1 and DM 12). Dependent upon the type of allocation proposed (e.g. existing site extension or new site), a project-level Habitats Regulations Assessment of the direct and indirect impacts of the proposed mineral site allocation and any in-combination effects on the qualifying features will be required, and will be expected to consider the water environment, having regard to impacts on the flow and quantity of surface and ground water, and water quality (Policies SE13, ENV17 and DM 7), air quality (Policies SE12, ENV12 and DM 9) and transport/traffic impacts (Policies SE10, INF6 and DM 5).</p>	<p>No adverse impact upon site integrity</p>

Qualifying Feature	Identified Hazard and Pathway	Adverse Effect of MWP Alone and In-combination	Avoidance/ Mitigation Measures for MWP impacts	Adverse impact upon Site Integrity
<p>Noteworthy fauna:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Caddisfly <i>Hagenella clathrata</i> - Cranefly <i>Limnophila fasciata</i> - Spider <i>Carorita limnaea</i> - Rove Beetle <i>Lathrobium rufipenne</i> - Reed Beetle <i>Donacia aquatica</i> - Cranefly <i>Prionocera pubescens</i> - Cranefly <i>Gonomyia abbreviata</i> - Spider <i>Sitticus floricola</i> 	<p>Hazards:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Habitat loss - Physical damage - Water Quality/ changes to hydrological regime - Air quality 	<p>species they support.</p> <p><i>Water quality / changes to hydrological regime:</i></p> <p>Given the number of sites that are proposed within close proximity to Bagmere SSSI, Tatton Meres SSSI and The Mere, Mere SSSI there is potential for changes in water quality and quantity that may adversely impact upon the wetland habitats for which these sites are designated and the species they support. For water quality, this relates to potential sediment discharge and surface water run off that may be associated with minerals sites. For water quantity, there is potential for dredging, dewatering and excavation below the water table in relation to sand extraction.</p> <p><i>Air quality:</i></p> <p>Bagmere SSSI, Tatton Meres SSSI and The Mere, Mere SSSI could experience air pollution effects due to an increase in vehicle traffic resulting from increases in Heavy Duty Vehicle movements to and from the proposed mineral sites, which could have adverse impacts upon the wetland habitats for which the sites are designated and the species they support. In addition, mineral extraction and/or transportation of minerals to and from sites may create dust and sediment that may be harmful to the qualifying features of the SSSIs. For example, through the smothering of habitats that may limit natural processes such as photosynthesis or affect the turbidity and temperature of water.</p> <p>In-combination:</p> <p>No other plans or projects have been identified which could act in combination with the identified hazards for the Midland Meres and Mosses Phase 1 Ramsar.</p>	<p>Where impacts cannot be avoided, appropriate mitigation measures will be required to ensure no adverse effects on the integrity of the site.</p> <p>All measures to avoid/reduce impacts upon this European site can be guaranteed because they are incorporated directly into the local plan, meaning that any planning decisions will be directly impacted upon.</p>	

7.3.2 Midland Meres and Mosses Phase 2 Ramsar

Qualifying Features

The Midland Meres and Mosses Phase 2 Ramsar is designated under the following criteria:

- Ramsar criterion 1 – The site comprises a diverse range of habitats from open water to raised bog.
- Ramsar criterion 2 – The site supports a number of rare species of plants associated with wetlands, including four nationally scarce plants and 16 species of British Red Data Book insects
- Noteworthy flora
 - Cowbane *Cicuta virosa*
 - Elongated sedge *Carex elongata*
 - *Dicranum affine*
 - *Sphagnum pulchrum*.
- Noteworthy fauna
 - Moth *Glyphipteryx lathamella*
 - Caddisfly *Hagenella clathrata*
 - Sawfly *Trichiosoma vitellinae*

Conservation Objectives

Natural England does not have specific conservation objectives for Ramsar sites; however, the same objectives as those for SACs and SPAs can also be applied to Ramsar sites.

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

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

Environmental Conditions Sustaining Integrity of Site

The Midland Meres and Mosses Phase 2 Ramsar comprises a series of 18 sites made up of nutrient-rich open water bodies (meres) with fringing habitats of reed swamp, fen, carr and damp pasture, and peatlands. The landscape features developed in depressions in the glacial drift left by receding ice sheets. These varied wetland habitats support nationally important flora and fauna.

The screening assessment identified the potential for impacts upon one component sites of the Midland Meres and Mosses Phase 2 Ramsar: Oakhanger Moss SSSI.

Oakhanger Moss is one of the shallowest of a cluster of depressions in glacial sands lying to the west of Alsager. It is of greatest importance for the range of mire vegetation communities it supports and the way that they, together with the sediment and peat deposit record, demonstrate the vegetation succession stages from open water to raised bog. Oakhanger was known to be a mere at least until the 1600s, sustained by a flow of

water from Alsager Mere to the east. Since that time the basin has become completely infilled, firstly with sedge and reedswamp peat, and latterly with peat derived from Sphagnum mosses.

Oakhanger Moss supports four different mire communities. Over much of the site, in the wettest, low-lying areas, there is a swamp vegetation dominated by lesser pond-sedge *Carex acutiformis*, over which willow carr, with goat willow *Salix caprea*, sallow *S. cinerea* and downy birch *Betula pubescens*, has developed. Where inundation from drains has less effect on water level and nutrient supply, sedges give way to purple moor-grass *Molinia caerulea* with broad buckler-fern *Dryopteris dilatata*, and birch displace willow from the shrub layer. More diverse are the areas of fen along the site's eastern edge, where surface water enters the basin, and nutrient levels are at their highest. Here alder *Alnus glutinosa* and willows dominate above mature greater tussock-sedge *Carex paniculata*, with cyperus sedge *C. pseudocyperus*, marsh pennywort *Hydrocotyle vulgaris*, marsh violet *Viola palustris*, purple-loosestrife *Lythrum salicaria* and marsh cinquefoil *Potentilla palustris*, all uncommon plants in Cheshire.

Similarly diverse botanically are the two distinct areas of vegetation dominated by bog moss *Sphagnum recurvum* in the centre of the site. The moss 'lawns' are noticeably higher than the surrounding communities and at times of high groundwater continue to remain free of its nutrient influence because of the buoyant properties of Sphagnum. This incipient raised bog community includes common cotton-grass *Eriophorum angustifolium*, cross-leaved heath *Erica tetralix*, and cranberry *Vaccinium oxycoccos*. Birch dominates the canopy which is comparatively open in character, and around the edges of the Sphagnum areas, in the transition to more nutrient-rich fen, alder buckthorn *Frangula alnus* becomes a common shrub with white sedge *Carex curta* and narrow buckler-fern *Dryopteris carthusiana* growing amongst the mosses.

Assessment of Impacts Upon Site Integrity

Details for the Appropriate Assessment of the MWP, both alone and in-combination with other plans and projects on the integrity of the Midland Meres and Mosses Phase 2 Ramsar are described in Table 7-2.

Table 7-2: Test of adverse effects of integrity on Midland Meres and Mosses Phase 2 Ramsar

Qualifying Feature	Identified Hazard and Pathway	Adverse Effect of MWP Alone and In-combination	Avoidance/ Mitigation Measures for MWP impacts	Adverse impact upon Site Integrity
<p>Ramsar criterion 1 – The site comprises a diverse range of habitats from open water to raised bog.</p> <p>Ramsar criterion 2 – The site supports a number of rare species of plants associated with wetlands, including four nationally scarce plants and 16 species of British Red Data Book insects</p> <p>Noteworthy flora</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cowbane <i>Cicuta virosa</i> - Elongated sedge <i>Carex elongata</i> - <i>Dicranum affine</i> - <i>Sphagnum pulchrum</i> <p>Noteworthy fauna</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Moth <i>Glyphipteryx lathamella</i> - Caddisfly <i>Hagenella clathrata</i> - Sawfly <i>Trichiosoma vitellinae</i> 	<p>Component sites potentially impacted:</p> <p>Oakhanger Moss SSSI: Policy MIN4</p> <p>Non-Aggregate Sand, Area of Preferred Extension MIN 4.3</p> <p>Area of Search for Sand: MIN 4.14</p> <p>Hazard:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Water Quality/ changes to hydrological regime 	<p>There is the potential for adverse effects on the Midland Meres and Mosses Phase 1 Ramsar component site Oakhanger Moss SSSI as a result of the development of the proposed mineral extraction sites Min 4.3 and MIN 4.14. (see map at Appendix E for the location of the proposed site allocations in relation to the Ramsar).</p> <p>MIN 4.3 is a proposed Area of Preferred Extension for sand extraction, which are areas of known resources where planning permission might reasonably be anticipated. Min 4.14 is a proposed Area of Search for sand. These are areas where knowledge of mineral resources may be less certain but within which planning permission may be granted, particularly if there is a potential shortfall in supply.</p> <p><i>Water quality / changes to hydrological regime:</i></p> <p>There is potential for changes in water quality and quantity that may adversely impact upon the wetland habitats for which the site is designated and the species they support. For water quality, this relates to potential sediment discharge and surface water run off that may be associated with minerals sites. For water quantity, there is potential for dredging, dewatering and</p>	<p>With regards to the proposed mineral allocation sites, the policies within the LPS, emerging SADPD and proposed in the draft MWP state that any applications put forward must demonstrate no unacceptable impacts on internationally designated sites (Policies SE3, ENV2, DM 1 and DM 12). Dependent upon the type of allocation proposed (e.g. existing site extension or new site), it is likely that a project-level Habitats Regulations Assessment of the direct and indirect impacts of the mineral site allocation and any in-combination effects on the qualifying features will be required, and will be expected to consider the water environment, having regard to impacts on the flow and quantity of surface and ground water, and water quality (SE13, ENV17 and DM 7).</p> <p>Where impacts cannot be avoided, appropriate mitigation measures will be required to ensure no adverse effects on the integrity of the site.</p> <p>All measures to avoid/reduce</p>	<p>No adverse impact upon site integrity</p>

Qualifying Feature	Identified Hazard and Pathway	Adverse Effect of MWP Alone and In-combination	Avoidance/ Mitigation Measures for MWP impacts	Adverse impact upon Site Integrity
		<p>excavation below the water table in relation to the sand extraction.</p> <p>In-combination: No other plans or projects have been identified that could act in-combination with the identified hazards for the Midland Meres and Mosses Phase 2 Ramsar.</p>	<p>impacts upon this European site can be guaranteed because they are incorporated directly into the local plan, meaning that any planning decisions will be directly impacted upon.</p>	

7.4 Rostherne Mere Ramsar

Qualifying Features

The Rostherne Mere Ramsar is designated under the following criteria:

- Criterion 1 - Rostherne Mere is one of the deepest and largest of the meres of the Shropshire-Cheshire Plain. Its shoreline is fringed with common reed *Phragmites australis*.
- Noteworthy Birds:
 - Great Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo carbo*
 - Great Bittern *Botaurus stellaris stellaris*
 - Water Rail *Rallus aquaticus*

Conservation Objectives

Natural England does not have specific conservation objectives for Ramsar sites; however, the same objectives as those for SACs and SPAs can also be applied to Ramsar sites.

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

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

Environmental Conditions Sustaining Integrity of Site

Rostherne Mere is the deepest and one of the largest meres of the Shropshire-Cheshire Plain. It is a natural lake of high fertility that over the years has been increased by the accumulation of nutrients received from the inflow streams and surrounding farmland.

Within the Mere there is little submerged vegetation, however it is fringed by a narrow band of reed swamp for over half its circumference. This consists mainly of common reed *Phragmites australis*. At the north-west end there is a small peat bog now overgrown with birch *Betula pendula*. However, a number of plant species associated with the peat bog remain.

The Mere is particularly important for its birds. It acts as a winter roost for large numbers of ducks and holds good numbers of all common species associated with freshwater. Over 10,000 gulls regularly roost on the water and up to 90 cormorants roost in the trees along the edge. Because of its size and depth it is the last freshwater body in the area to freeze in winter and is consequently an important refuge in severe weather.

Rostherne Mere is vulnerable to changes in water quality (particularly increased nutrients from agricultural run-off and discharges). The occurrence of excessive nutrients in the waterbody can impact on the competitive interactions between high plant species and between higher plant species and algae, which can result in a dominance in attached forms of algae, and a loss of characteristic plant species. Changes in plant growth and community composition can have implications for the wider food web, and the species present.

Increased nutrients and the occurrence of eutrophication can also impact on the dissolved oxygen levels in the waterbody, also impacting on biota within the mere.

Recent water quality measurements show Rostherne Mere to be exceeding the targets for Total Phosphorus and Total Nitrogen. Any nutrients entering the catchment upstream of the locations that are exceeding their nutrient targets, will make their way downstream and have the potential to further add to the current exceedance. Therefore, any development proposal located within the upstream catchment of Rostherne Mere can bring a risk of increased nutrients entering the designated site and consequently will be required to demonstrate at least nutrient neutrality.

Assessment of Impacts Upon Site Integrity

Details for the Appropriate Assessment of the Draft MWP, both alone and in-combination with other plans and projects on the integrity of Rostherne Mere Ramsar are described in Table 7-3.

Table 7-3: Test of adverse effects of integrity on Rostherne Mere Ramsar

Qualifying Feature	Identified Hazard and Pathway	Adverse Effect of MWP Alone and In-combination	Avoidance/ Mitigation Measures for MWP impacts	Adverse impact upon Site Integrity
<p>Criteria 1 - Rostherne Mere is one of the deepest and largest of the meres of the Shropshire-Cheshire Plain. Its shoreline is fringed with common reed <i>Phragmites australis</i>.</p> <p>Noteworthy Birds:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Great Cormorant <i>Phalacrocorax carbo carbo</i> - Great Bittern <i>Botaurus stellaris stellaris</i> - Water Rail <i>Rallus aquaticus</i> 	<p>Area of Search for Sand: MIN 4.5, MIN 4.6, MIN 4.7, MIN 4.8, MIN 4.9, MIN 4.10, MIN 4.11</p> <p>Hazards:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Habitat loss - Physical damage - Disturbance (noise, visual) - Water Quality/ changes to hydrological regime - Air quality 	<p>There is the potential for adverse effects on Rostherne Mere Ramsar as a result of the development of the proposed mineral site allocations MIN 4.5, MIN 4.6, MIN 4.7, MIN 4.8, MIN 4.9, MIN 4.10, MIN 4.11.</p> <p>These sites are all proposed Areas of Search for sand. These are areas where knowledge of mineral resources may be less certain but within which planning permission may be granted, particularly if there is a potential shortfall in supply.</p> <p>(see map at Appendix E for the location of the proposed site allocations in relation to the Ramsar).</p> <p><i>Habitat Loss / physical damage:</i></p> <p>Two of the sites proposed as Areas of Search are located immediately adjacent to the site boundary of Rostherne Mere Ramsar (MIN 4.7 and MIN 4.10) and therefore there is a potential risk of physical damage to and loss of habitats for which the site is designated and the species they support.</p> <p><i>Disturbance (noise, visual)</i></p> <p>Four sites proposed for allocation as Areas of Search are located within 500m of Rostherne Mere Ramsar (MIN 4.5, MIN 4.6, MIN 4.7 and MIN 4.10). Therefore, there is potential for noise and visual disturbance effects, e.g. during mineral extraction and/or transportation of materials to and from site, to disturb the wetland bird species for which</p>	<p>It is unlikely that site works would encroach directly into the Ramsar due to the implementation of best practice working methods and policy safeguards already contained within the Cheshire East LPS (Policies SE3 and SE10), emerging SADPD (Policy ENV1) and proposed in the draft MWP (Policies DM 1 and DM12).</p> <p>With regards to the proposed mineral allocation sites, the policies within the LPS, emerging SADPD and proposed in the draft MWP state that any applications put forward must demonstrate no unacceptable impacts on internationally designated sites (Policies SE3, ENV2, DM 1 and DM 12). Dependent upon the type of allocation proposed (e.g. existing site extension or new site), it is likely that a project-level Habitats Regulations Assessment of the direct and indirect impacts of the proposed mineral site allocation and any in-combination effects on the qualifying features will be required, and will be expected to consider the water environment,</p>	<p>No adverse impact upon site integrity</p>

Qualifying Feature	Identified Hazard and Pathway	Adverse Effect of MWP Alone and In-combination	Avoidance/ Mitigation Measures for MWP impacts	Adverse impact upon Site Integrity
		<p>the site is designated.</p> <p><i>Water quality / changes to hydrological regime:</i></p> <p>Given the number of proposed site allocations proposed within close proximity to Rostherne Mere Ramsar there is potential for changes in water quality and quantity which may adversely impact upon the wetland habitats for which the site is designated and the species they support. For water quality, this relates to potential sediment discharge and surface water run off that may be associated with minerals sites.</p> <p>MIN 4.6, MIN 4.7, MIN 4.8 and MIN 4.10 are located within the catchment of Rostherne Mere and therefore any development within these proposed Areas of Search could result in increased nutrients entering the site.</p> <p>For water quantity, there is potential for dredging, dewatering and excavation below the water table in relation to the sand extraction.</p> <p><i>Air quality:</i></p> <p>Rostherne Mere Ramsar could experience air pollution effects due to an increase in vehicle traffic resulting from increases in Heavy Duty Vehicle movements to and from the proposed mineral sites which could have adverse impacts upon the wetland habitats for which the site is designated and the species they support.</p>	<p>having regard to impacts on the flow and quantity of surface and ground water, and water quality (Policies SE13, ENV17 and DM7), air quality (Policies SE12, ENV12 and DM 9) and transport/traffic impacts (Policies SE10, INF6 and DM 5).</p> <p>Where impacts cannot be avoided, appropriate mitigation measures, including nutrient neutrality, will be required to ensure no adverse effects on the integrity of the site.</p> <p>All measures to avoid/reduce impacts upon this European site can be guaranteed because they are incorporated directly into the local plan, meaning that any planning decisions will be directly impacted upon.</p>	

Qualifying Feature	Identified Hazard and Pathway	Adverse Effect of MWP Alone and In-combination	Avoidance/ Mitigation Measures for MWP impacts	Adverse impact upon Site Integrity
		<p>In-combination: No other plans or projects have been identified that could act in combination with the identified hazards for Rostherne Mere Ramsar.</p>		

8 Conclusions

Regulation 105 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) (the 'Habitats Regulations') states that if a land-use plan is "(a) is likely to have a significant effect on a European site or a European offshore marine site (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects); and (b) is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site" then the plan-making authority must "...make an appropriate assessment of the implications for the site in view of that site's conservation objectives" before the plan is given effect. The process by which Regulation 105 is met is known as Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA).

It is accepted best-practice for the HRA of strategic planning documents to be run as an iterative process alongside the plan development, with the emerging policies and sites proposed for allocation continually assessed for their possible effects on European sites and modified or abandoned (as necessary) to ensure that the subsequently adopted plan is not likely to result in significant effects on any European sites, either alone or 'in combination' with other plans or projects.

HRA has been undertaken throughout the development of the Cheshire East Local Plan and has informed key stages and assessment work, including the selection of mineral and waste sites proposed for allocation where required. This report details the HRA for the draft Cheshire East MWP. The most likely effects of the MWP on European sites are related to the proposed site allocations which could result in habitat loss/physical damage, changes to water quality and quantity, disturbance (noise, visual) and air quality impacts.

The Screening Assessment determined that the draft MWP is not likely to have significant effects, either alone or in-combination with other plans or projects on the following European sites:

- West Midlands Mosses SAC
- South Pennine Moors SAC
- Rixton Clay Pits SAC
- Brown Moss SAC
- Manchester Mosses SAC
- Oak Mere SAC
- Fenn's, Whixall, Bettisfield, Wem and Cadney Mosses SAC
- Peak District Dales SAC
- River Dee and Lake Bala SAC
- Peak District Moors (South Pennine Moors Phase 1) SPA
- Mersey Estuary SPA and Ramsar

Potential likely significant effects were identified for the following sites:

- Midland Meres and Mosses Phase 1 Ramsar
- Midland Meres and Mosses Phase 2 Ramsar
- Rostherne Mere Ramsar

The Appropriate Assessment identified that the existing policies and provisions in the Cheshire East Council LPS, emerging SADPD, MWP in relation to the development of mineral sites, and the protection of designated nature conservation sites and the wider environment, will ensure that the draft MWP will have no adverse effects on these European sites.

Appendices

A Map showing distribution of European sites around Cheshire East

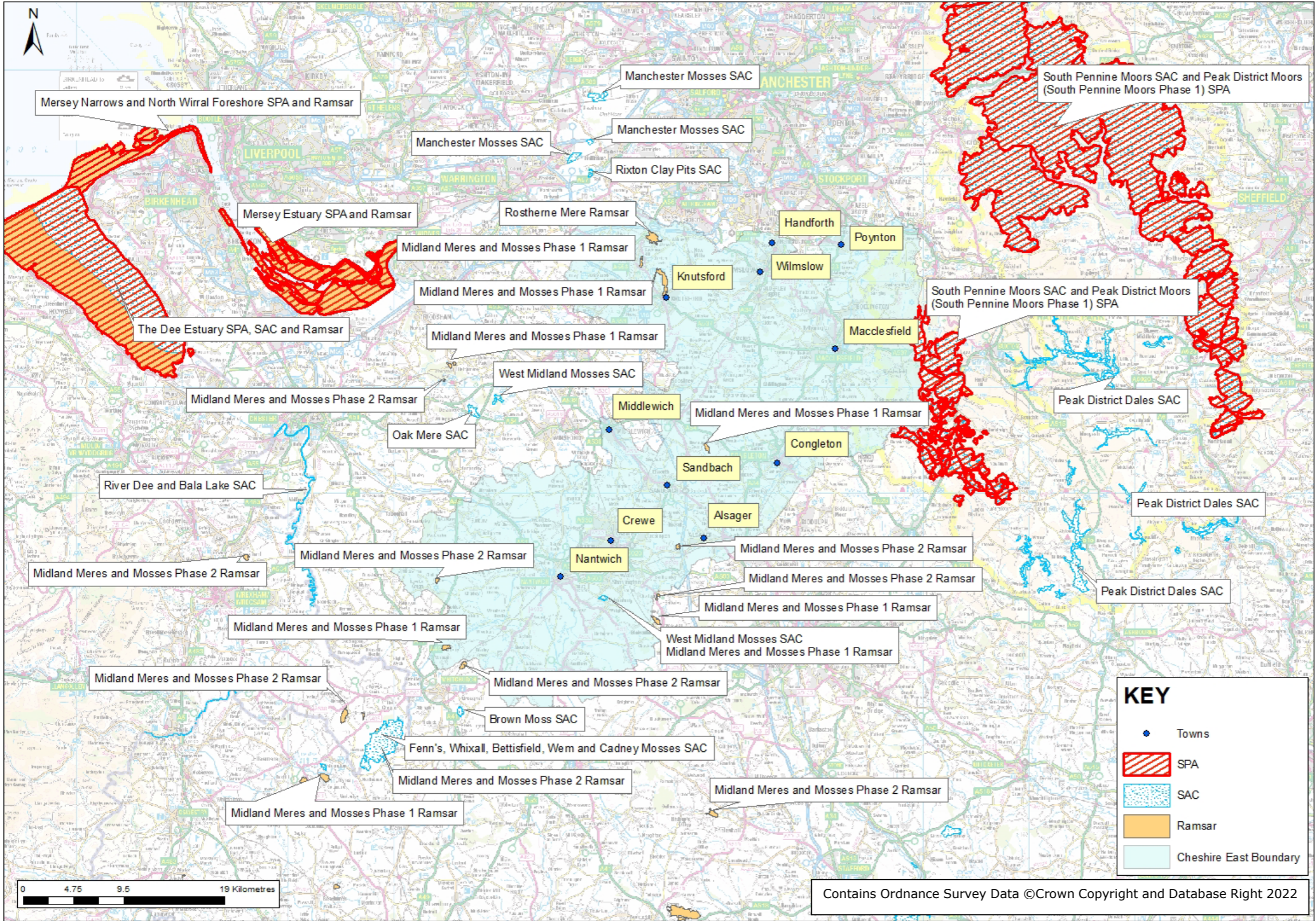


Figure A-1: Location of European sites within and Adjacent to Cheshire East

B Details of European sites within and adjacent to Cheshire East

Site	Qualifying Feature (Broad Habitat/Species Groupings)	Qualifying Features	Conservation Objectives	Site Vulnerability
West Midlands Mosses SAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Standing waters (not sensitive to acidification) - Bogs and wet habitats (sensitive to acidification) 	<p>Annex I habitats that are a primary reason for selection of this site</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds [3160] - Transition mires and quaking bogs [7140] 	<p>Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats - The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats, and - The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats rely 	<p>J02 – Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions</p> <p>K02 – Biocenotic evolution, succession</p> <p>H04 – Air pollution, air-borne pollutants</p> <p>H02 – Pollution to groundwater (point sources and diffuse sources)</p> <p>F03 - Hunting and collection of wild animals (terrestrial), including damage caused by game (excessive density), and taking/removal of terrestrial animals (including collection of insects, reptiles, amphibians, birds of prey, etc., trapping, poisoning, poaching, predator control, accidental capture (e.g. due to fishing gear), etc.).</p>
South Pennine Moors SAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bogs and wet habitats (sensitive to acidification) - Dry heathland habitats - Upland - Dry woodlands and scrub 	<p>Annex I habitats that are a primary reason for selection of this site</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - European dry heaths [4030] - Blanket bogs (* if active bog) * Priority feature [7130] - Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles [91A0] <p>Annex I habitats present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for selection of this site</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> [4010] - Transition mires and quaking bogs [7140] 	<p>Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The extent and distribution of the qualifying natural habitats - The structure and function (including typical species) of the qualifying natural habitats, and, - The supporting processes on which the qualifying natural habitats rely 	<p>H04 – Air pollution, air-borne pollutants</p> <p>A11 – Agriculture activities (not referred to above)</p> <p>J02 – Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions</p> <p>J01 – Fire and fire suppression</p> <p>G01 – Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities</p>
Rixton Clay Pits SAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Amphibia 	<p>Annex II species that are a primary reason for selection of this site</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Great crested newt <i>Triturus cristatus</i> [1166] 	<p>Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The extent and distribution of the habitats of qualifying species - The structure and function of the habitats of qualifying species - The supporting processes on which the habitats of qualifying species rely - The populations of qualifying species, and, - The distribution of qualifying species within the site. 	<p>G05 - Other human intrusions and disturbances</p>
Brown Moss SAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Vascular plants of aquatic habitats 	<p>Annex II species that are a primary reason for selection of this site</p> <p>Floating water-plantain <i>Luronium natans</i> [1831]</p>	<p>Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The extent and distribution of the habitats of qualifying species - The structure and function of the habitats of qualifying species - The supporting processes on which the habitats of qualifying species rely 	<p>H02 – Pollution to groundwater (point sources and diffuse sources)</p> <p>J02 – Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions</p> <p>I01 – Invasive non-native species</p>

Site	Qualifying Feature (Broad Habitat/Species Groupings)	Qualifying Features	Conservation Objectives	Site Vulnerability
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The populations of qualifying species, and, - The distribution of qualifying species within the site. 	
Manchester Mosses SAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bogs and wet habitats (sensitive to acidification) 	<p>Annex I habitats that are a primary reason for selection of this site</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120] 	<p>Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats - The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats, and, - The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats rely 	<p>H04 – Air pollution, air-borne pollutants J02 – Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions</p>
Oak Mere SAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Standing waters (sensitive to acidification) - Bogs and wet habitats 	<p>Annex I habitats that are a primary reason for selection of this site</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (<i>Littorelletalia uniflorae</i>) [3110] - Transition mires and quaking bogs [7140] 	<p>Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats - The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats, and - The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats rely 	<p>H02 – Pollution to groundwater (point sources and diffuse sources) H04 – Air pollution, air-borne pollutants J02 – Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions I01 – Invasive non-native species</p>
Fenn's, Whixall, Bettisfield, Wem and Cadney Mosses SAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bogs and wet habitats 	<p>Annex I habitats that are a primary reason for selection of this site</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Active raised bogs * Priority feature [7110] <p>Annex I habitats present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for selection of this site</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120] 	<p>Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats - The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats, and - The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats rely 	<p>H04 – Air pollution, air-borne pollutants A04 – Grazing K02 – Biocenotic evolution, succession H02 – Pollution to groundwater (point sources and diffuse sources) J02 – Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions</p>
Peak District Dales SAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dry grassland - Dry woodlands and scrub - Dry heathland habitats - Fens and wet habitats (not sensitive to acidification) - Upland - Non-migratory fish and invertebrates of rivers 	<p>Annex I habitats that are a primary reason for selection of this site</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (<i>Festuco-Brometalia</i>) (* important orchid sites) [6210] - Tilio-Acerion forests of slopes, screes and ravines * Priority feature [9180] <p>Annex I habitats present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for selection of this site</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - European dry heaths [4030] - Calaminarian grasslands of the <i>Violetalia calaminariae</i> [6130] - Alkaline fens [7230] - Calcareous and calcshist screes of the montane to alpine levels (<i>Thlaspietea rotundifolii</i>) [8120] - Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [8210] 	<p>Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species - The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats - The structure and function of the habitats of qualifying species - The supporting processes on which 	<p>J02 – Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions K02 – Biocenotic evolution, succession A04 – Grazing H02 – Pollution to groundwater (point sources and diffuse sources) A08 – Fertilisation</p>

Site	Qualifying Feature (Broad Habitat/Species Groupings)	Qualifying Features	Conservation Objectives	Site Vulnerability
		<p>Annex II species that are a primary reason for selection of this site</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - White-clawed (or Atlantic stream) crayfish <i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i> [1092] <p>Annex II species present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for site selection</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Brook lamprey <i>Lampetra planeri</i> [1096] - Bullhead <i>Cottus gobio</i> [1163] 	<p>qualifying natural habitats and the habitats of qualifying species rely</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The populations of qualifying species, and, - The distribution of qualifying species within the site. 	
River Dee and Bala Lake SAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Riverine habitats and running water - Vascular plants of aquatic habitats - Anadromous fish - Non-migratory fish and invertebrates of rivers - Mammals of riverine habitats 	<p>Annex I habitats that are a primary reason for selection of this site</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Water courses of plain to montane levels with the Ranunculion fluitantis and Callitriche-Batrachion vegetation [3260] <p>Annex II species that are a primary reason for selection of this site</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Atlantic salmon <i>Salmo salar</i> [1106] - Floating water-plantain <i>Luronium natans</i> [1831] <p>Annex II species present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for site selection</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sea lamprey <i>Petromyzon marinus</i> [1095] - Brook lamprey <i>Lampetra planeri</i> [1096] - River lamprey <i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i> [1099] - Bullhead <i>Cottus gobio</i> [1163] - Otter <i>Lutra lutra</i> [1355] 	<p>Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species - The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats - The structure and function of the habitats of qualifying species - The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats and the habitats of qualifying species rely - The populations of qualifying species, and, - The distribution of qualifying species within the site. 	None available
Peak District Moors (South Pennine Moors Phase 1) SPA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Birds of uplands - Birds of lowland wet grasslands - Birds of farmland - Birds of coastal habitats - Birds of estuarine habitats 	<p>A098 Merlin <i>Falco columbarius</i> (Breeding)</p> <p>A140 European Golden Plover <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> (Breeding)</p> <p>A222 Short-eared Owl <i>Asio flammeus</i> (Breeding)</p>	<p>Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the aims of the Wild Birds Directive, by maintaining or restoring;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The extent and distribution of the habitats of the qualifying features - The structure and function of the habitats of the qualifying features - The supporting processes on which the habitats of the qualifying features rely - The population of each of the qualifying features, and, - The distribution of the qualifying features within the site. 	<p>G01 – Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities</p> <p>J02 – Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions</p> <p>J01 – Fire and fire suppression</p> <p>F03 – Hunting and collection of wild animals (terrestrial), including damage caused by game (excessive density), and taking/removal of terrestrial animals (including collection of insects, reptiles, amphibians, birds of prey, etc., trapping, poisoning, poaching, predator control, accidental capture (e.g. due to fishing gear), etc.</p> <p>K05 – Reduced fecundity/ genetic depression</p>
Mersey Estuary SPA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Birds of uplands - Birds of lowland wet grasslands - Birds of lowland freshwaters and their margins - Birds of farmland - Birds of coastal habitats - Birds of estuarine habitats 	<p>ARTICLE 4.1 QUALIFICATION (79/409/EEC)</p> <p>Over winter the area regularly supports:</p> <p>Golden Plover <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> [North-western Europe - breeding]</p> <p>1.2% of the GB population 5-year peak mean, 1993/94-1997/98</p> <p>ARTICLE 4.2 QUALIFICATION (79/409/EEC)</p> <p>Over winter the area regularly supports:</p>	<p>Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the aims of the Wild Birds Directive, by maintaining or restoring;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The extent and distribution of the habitats of the qualifying features - The structure and function of the habitats of the qualifying features - The supporting processes on which the habitats of the qualifying features rely 	<p>M02 – Changes in biotic conditions</p> <p>I01 – Invasive non-native species</p> <p>G01 – Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities</p>

Site	Qualifying Feature (Broad Habitat/Species Groupings)	Qualifying Features	Conservation Objectives	Site Vulnerability
		<p>Pintail Duck <i>Anas acuta</i> (North-western Europe) 1.9% of the population; 5-year peak mean, 1993/94-1997/98</p> <p>Teal <i>Anas crecca</i> (North-western Europe) 2.9% of the population; 5-year peak mean, 1993/94-1997/98</p> <p>Eurasian Wigeon <i>Anas penelope</i> (Western Siberia/North-western/North-eastern Europe) 4.2% of the population in Great Britain; 5-year peak mean, 1993/94-1997/98</p> <p>Dunlin <i>Calidris alpina alpina</i> (Northern Siberia/Europe/Western Africa) 3.6% of the population; 5-year peak mean, 1993/94-1997/98</p> <p>Black-tailed Godwit <i>Limosa limosa islandica</i> (Iceland - breeding) 1.6% of the population; 5-year peak mean, 1993/94-1997/98</p> <p>Curlew <i>Numenius arquata</i> (Europe - breeding) 1.1% of the population in Great Britain; 5-year peak mean, 1993/94-1997/98</p> <p>Grey Plover <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i> (Eastern Atlantic - wintering) 2.3% of the population in Great Britain; 5-year peak mean, 1993/94-1997/98</p> <p>Crested Grebe <i>Podiceps cristatus</i> (North-western Europe - wintering) 1.4% of the population in Great Britain; 5-year peak mean, 1993/94-1997/98</p> <p>Shelduck <i>Tadorna tadorna</i> (North-western Europe) 2.2% of the population; 5-year peak mean, 1993/94-1997/98</p> <p>Redshank <i>Tringa totanus</i> (Eastern Atlantic - wintering) 2.8% of the population; 5-year peak mean, 1993/94-1997/98</p> <p>Lapwing <i>Vanellus vanellus</i> (Europe - breeding) 0.7% of the population in Great Britain; 5-year peak mean, 1993/94-1997/98</p> <p>On passage the area regularly supports:</p> <p>Ringed Plover <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i> (Europe/Northern Africa - wintering) 1.7% of the population in Great Britain; 5-year peak mean, 1993-1997</p> <p>Redshank <i>Tringa totanus</i> (Eastern Atlantic - wintering) 3.8% of the population; 5-year peak mean, 1993-1997</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The population of each of the qualifying features, and, - The distribution of the qualifying features within the site. 	
<p>Mersey Estuary Ramsar</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Birds of lowland wet grasslands - Birds of lowland freshwaters and their margins - Birds of coastal habitats - Birds of estuarine habitats 	<p>Ramsar criterion 5</p> <p>Assemblages of international importance:</p> <p>Species with peak counts in winter:</p> <p>89576 waterfowl (5 year peak mean 1998/99 - 2002/2003)</p> <p>Ramsar criterion 6 – species/populations occurring at levels of international importance.</p> <p>Qualifying Species/populations (as identified at designation):</p> <p>Species with peak counts in spring/autumn:</p> <p>Common Shelduck <i>Tadorna tadorna</i>, NW Europe 12676 individuals, representing an average of 4.2% of the population (5 year peak mean 1998/9 - 2002/3)</p> <p>Black-tailed Godwit, <i>Limosa limosa islandica</i>, Iceland/W Europe, 2011 individuals, representing an average of 5.7% of the population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3)</p> <p>Common Redshank <i>Tringa totanus totanus</i>, 6651 individuals, representing an average of 2.6% of the population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3)</p> <p>Species with peak counts in winter:</p> <p>Eurasian teal <i>Anas crecca</i>, NW Europe 10613 individuals, representing an average of 2.6% of the population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3)</p> <p>Northern pintail <i>Anas acuta</i>, NW Europe 565 individuals, representing an average of 2% of the GB population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3)</p> <p>Dunlin <i>Calidris alpina alpina</i>, W Siberia/W Europe 48364 individuals, representing an average of 3.6% of the population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3)</p>	<p>None available</p>	<p>No factors reported</p>

Site	Qualifying Feature (Broad Habitat/Species Groupings)	Qualifying Features	Conservation Objectives	Site Vulnerability
Midland Meres and Mosses Phase 1 Ramsar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fens and wet habitats (not sensitive to acidification) - Bogs and wet habitats - Standing waters (not sensitive to acidification) 	The qualifies under criterion 2 because it supports a number of rare species of plants associated with wetlands, including the nationally scarce Cowbane <i>Cicuta virosa</i> and Elongated Sedge <i>Carex elongata</i> . Also present are nationally scarce bryophytes <i>Dicranum affine</i> and <i>Sphagnum pulchrum</i> .	None available	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Vegetation succession - Drainage/ reclamation for agriculture - Eutrophication - Introduction/ invasion of exotic animal species - Introduction/ invasion of exotic plant species - Pollution – pesticides/ agricultural runoff
Midland Meres and Mosses Phase 2 Ramsar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fens and wet habitats (not sensitive to acidification) - Bogs and wet habitats - Standing waters (not sensitive to acidification) 	The qualifies under criterion 2 because it supports a number of rare species of plants associated with wetlands, including the nationally scarce Cowbane <i>Cicuta virosa</i> and, elongated sedge <i>Carex elongata</i> . Also present are the nationally scarce bryophytes <i>Dicranum affine</i> and <i>Sphagnum pulchrum</i> . Also supports an assemblage of invertebrates including several rare species. There are 16 species of British Red Data Book insect listed for this site including the following endangered species: the moth <i>Glyphipteryx lathamella</i> , the caddisfly <i>Hagenella clathrata</i> and the sawfly <i>Trichiosoma vitellinae</i> .	None available	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Eutrophication - Introduction/invasion of non-native plant species - Pollution – pesticides/agricultural runoff
Rostherne Mere Ramsar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Standing waters (not sensitive to acidification) - Birds of lowland heaths and brecks - Birds of lowland freshwaters and their margins - Birds of coastal habitats - Birds of estuarine habitats 	<p>The site qualifies under criterion 1 as it supports a good representative example of the meres of the Shropshire-Cheshire Plain. Rostherne Mere is one of the deepest and largest of the mere. Its shoreline is fringed with Common Reed <i>Phragmites australis</i> and a small area of peat bog has developed at the north-west end of the mere.</p> <p>The site qualifies under criterion 3 because over winter this site regularly supports nationally important numbers of Shoveler <i>Anas clypeata</i> (86 individuals) and Pochard <i>Athya ferina</i> (757 individuals).</p>	None available	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Eutrophication - Introduction/ invasion of exotic animal species

C Other Relevant Plans and Projects

Document	Summary of content, objectives and targets	Potential in-combination effects on European sites
Cheshire East Local Transport Plan and Implementation Plans	This Local Transport Plan is a strategic plan for the development of transport within Cheshire East over the period 2011 to 2026, outlining how transport will contribute to and support the longer-term aspirations of the Borough. The plan for implementation of the Transport Plan is set out in the Cheshire East Local Transport: Implementation Plan	Both the MWP and the Local Transport Plan aim to minimise transport impacts on climate change, local communities and the environment through the greater use of more sustainable transport alternatives and the preferred use of non-minor roads for lorry movements. No in-combination effects are anticipated.
Local Air Quality Strategy for Cheshire East Council and Action Plan	This strategy outlines high level, broad commitments across the Council aimed at improving air quality. The Action Plan outlines measures to make sure that air quality work undertaken within the Borough is coordinated at a strategic level. The current action plan addresses poor air quality in the following areas: M6 Cranage; West Road, Congleton; A34 to A54, Rood Lane, Congleton; A534 Hospital Street, Nantwich; A34 Lower Heath, Congleton; A5022/A534, Sandbach; and A556 Chester Road, Mere. The Action Plan focuses on these areas and the impact of nitrogen dioxide from transportation sources.	This Strategy and Action Plan aims to improve air quality across the Borough and identifies specific areas where poor air quality is to be addressed. The MWP is compatible with this Strategy and Action Plan as it requires proposals for new minerals and waste development, and for the expansion of existing operations, to address air quality issues including emissions to air of pollutants (such as oxides of nitrogen or particulates) arising from site preparation, operation, and where relevant, decommissioning and restoration, and from related traffic. Any assessment should identify the controls, mitigation measures and monitoring arrangements that would be applied to avoid adverse impacts. The potential for development to impact on designations including Air Quality Management Areas should also be addressed. No in-combination effects are anticipated.
Saved Policies from the Congleton Borough Local Plan First Review, Borough of Crewe and Nantwich Replacement Local Plan and Macclesfield Borough Local Plan, Cheshire Replacement Minerals Local Plan 1999 and Cheshire Replacement Waste Local Plan 2007	Saved policies are planning policies from plans that remain part of the statutory development plan for Cheshire East and can still be used in determining planning applications. Currently, these Plans have saved policies that apply within part of the Cheshire East area. Saved policies in these documents will continue to be used until they are replaced by new policies in the Cheshire East Local Plan, SADPD and MWP.	The saved policies of these Plans are compatible with those of the Local Plan Strategy, SADPD and MWP and are unlikely to result in in-combination effects.
The United Utilities Final Water Resources Management Plan 2019	This plan describes in detail United Utilities' assessment of the available water supplies and the demand for water by their customers over the 2015-2045 period. The plan also sets out their proposed strategy for water resources and demand management to ensure they have adequate water supplies to serve their customers.	United Utilities is the principal water provider for Cheshire East and such provision is covered by the Integrated Resource Zone which serves 6.7 million people in South Cumbria, Lancashire, Greater Manchester, Merseyside and most of Cheshire. Development of new housing, employment land and minerals sites within Cheshire East, as outlined in the LPS, SADPD and MWP, could lead to increased demand for water. Increased levels of abstraction could significantly affect the levels of flow in the River Dee and hence result in significant effects on qualifying features. The United Utilities Final Water Resources Management Plan 2019 provides a comprehensive statement of their water supply and water demand forecasts over the period to 2045. It also describes the resulting supply-demand balances and the actions they propose to take as part of their preferred strategy to achieve water supply

Document	Summary of content, objectives and targets	Potential in-combination effects on European sites
		<p>reliability standards for their customers. The Plan states that the baseline forecast of the amount of water available to meet the projected demand show a surplus over the 20 years from 2020 to 2040, with a very small deficit occurring from 2041 to 2045. These figures account for future economic and population growth, and climate change.</p> <p>The Habitats Regulations Assessment undertaken for the plan concluded that the plan will have no adverse effects, alone or in combination, on any European sites, that cannot be reliably avoided or mitigated using normal project-level controls. There is still the requirement for standard avoidance measures to be employed, including consideration at the planning stage of the potential for European sites to be affected, to ensure that potential adverse effects can be identified and avoided at the project stage.</p>
<p>The Weaver and Dane Abstraction Licensing Strategy 2020</p>	<p>This Strategy sets out how water resources are managed by the Environment Agency in the Weaver and Dane area. It provides information about where water is available for further abstraction and an indication of how reliable a new abstraction licence may be.</p>	<p>Development of new housing, employment land and mineral extraction sites within Cheshire East, as outlined in the Local Plan Strategy, emerging SADPD and MWP, could lead to increased demand for water abstractions.</p> <p>However, as stated in the strategy, the Environment Agency has assessed the effects of existing abstraction licences and will assess all new applications to make sure they are not impacting on internationally important nature conservation sites.</p>
<p>The Dee Catchment Abstraction Management Strategy (CAMS) 2015</p>	<p>This Strategy sets out how water resources are managed by Natural Resources Wales in the Dee catchment. It provides information about how much and where water is available for further abstraction.</p>	<p>Development of new housing, employment land and mineral extraction within Cheshire East, as outlined in the Local Plan Strategy, emerging SADPD, and MWP could lead to increased demand for water abstractions.</p> <p>The River Dee is an important resource for public water supply and used to supply the homes of more than two million people. Because of the over-riding need to protect this supply, more water is not available for abstraction from the River Dee (or its tributaries) upstream of Chester Weir, when the river is being regulated. Some additional water may be available during wetter periods, but abstractors would be required to stop taking water as soon as the river flow dropped again. Natural Resources Wales may also have to place special conditions on any new licences granted to safeguard the wildlife and conservation interest of the River Dee.</p>
<p>Local Plans and Core Strategies of adjacent Authorities (Cheshire West and Chester; Peak District National Park, High Peak; Manchester; Newcastle-under-Lyme; Stockport; Shropshire; Staffordshire Moorlands; Stoke-on-Trent; Trafford; and Warrington Council's)</p>	<p>These documents contain the development plan for the relevant adjacent area. They will specify a vision, objectives and policies for each area.</p>	<p>There is the potential for adverse in-combination effects, particularly in boundary areas. If projects (i.e. developments, infrastructure construction) proposed in the Local Plan Strategy are located in relatively to close proximity to those proposed by the Local Plans and Core Strategies of neighbouring authorities, adverse effects may arise if there are cross-boundary or nearby European sites.</p>
<p>Major infrastructure projects in Cheshire</p>	<p>There are a number of infrastructure projects that are close to construction including the A500</p>	<p>These projects have planning permission and were assessed as having no adverse impacts upon European sites. The construction of these</p>

Document	Summary of content, objectives and targets	Potential in-combination effects on European sites
East	dualling, Middlewich Eastern Bypass, North West Crewe Package, Poynton Relief Road.	schemes will help to transfer Heavy Goods Vehicles onto more appropriate roads on the wider network.

D Screening of Initially Proposed Waste Sites

The assessment is a screening for likely significant effects (LSE) on European sites in relation to the first call for waste sites in 2019. All European Sites within 15km of the potential waste sites have been considered. The HRA screening and appropriate assessment process requires sites to be considered alone and in combination with other plans or projects. No detailed in-combination assessment has been undertaken at this early stage, but some reference is made to in-combination effects, particularly in relation to air quality impacts from road traffic emissions.

The European sites or component SSSIs in bold text are those where potential likely significant effects have been identified.

Site Code	Site Name	Site Description and waste type	Recommended Allocation at draft MWP	SACs with 15km	SPAs within 15km	Ramsar Sites within 15km	Initial screening	Comments
WSS1	Leighton Grange, Crewe	In Vessel Composting Facility (New Site)	Site has planning permission for in vessel composting facility and site is removed from further consideration	Oak Mere SAC - Oak Mere SSSI (13.3 km) West Midlands Mosses SAC - Abbots Moss SSSI (13.1 km), Wynbunbury Moss SSSI (7.1 km)	None	Midland Meres and Mosses Phase 1 Ramsar - Bagmere SSSI (14.1 km), Betley Mere SSSI (11.3 km), Wynbunbury Moss SSSI (7.1 km) Midland Meres and Mosses Phase 2 Ramsar - Abbots Moss SSSI (13.1 km), Black Firs and Cranberry Bog SSSI (10.3 km), Chapel Mere SSSI (13.5 km), Oak Mere SSSI (13.3 km), Oakhanger Moss SSSI (9.7 km)	No LSE	
WSS2	Betchton Cottage Farm, Betchton, Sandbach	Extension of operational waste site. Waste transfer site, recycling, agricultural waste	No allocation proposed	West Midlands Mosses SAC - Wynbunbury Moss SSSI (12.2 km)	None	Midland Meres and Mosses Phase 1 Ramsar - Bagmere SSSI (5.3 km), Betley Mere SSSI (11.1 km), Wynbunbury Moss SSSI (12.2 km) Midland Meres and Mosses Phase 2 Ramsar - Black Firs and Cranberry Bog SSSI (9.0 km), Oakhanger Moss SSSI (3.9 km)	No LSE	Oakhanger SSSI Impact Risk Zone but not for any relevant operations.
WSS3	Five Acre Landfill Site, Lostock Hall Road, Poynton	New inert landfill site CD&E waste from Poynton Relief Road/nearby construction schemes	No allocation proposed	South Pennine Moors SAC - Dark Peak SSSI (14.3 km), Goyt Valley SSSI (10.6 km)	Peak District Moors (South Pennine Moors Phase 1) SPA - Dark Peak SSSI (14.3 km), Goyt Valley SSSI (10.6 km)	Midland Meres and Mosses Phase 1 Ramsar - Tatton Meres SSSI (14.8 km) Rostherne Mere Ramsar (15.0 km)	No LSE	
WSS4	Mere Farm Quarry, Chelford	New inert landfill site Inert landfill associated with quarry restoration	No allocation proposed	South Pennine Moors SAC - Goyt Valley SSSI (14.5 km)	Peak District Moors (South Pennine Moors Phase 1) SPA - Goyt Valley SSSI (14.5 km)	Midland Meres and Mosses Phase 1 Ramsar - Bagmere SSSI (10.3 km), Tatton Meres SSSI (7.9 km), The Mere, Mere SSSI (11.2 km) Rostherne Mere Ramsar (11.3 km)	No LSE	
WSS5	Bowdon View Farm, Yarwoodh eath Lane, Altrincham	New Site Inert/non-hazardous soils/green waste/organic waste.	No allocation proposed	Manchester Mosses SAC - Astley and Bedford Mosses SSSI (13.1 km), Holcroft Moss SSSI (10.1 km), Risley Moss SSSI (10.0 km) Rixton Clay Pits SAC (7.9 km)	None	Midland Meres and Mosses Phase 1 Ramsar - Tatton Meres SSSI (3.3 km), The Mere, Mere SSSI (2.5 km) Rostherne Mere Ramsar (<0.1 km)	LSE	Considerable work at the plan and project stage would be needed to ensure there was no adverse impact on the integrity of Rostherne Mere Ramsar.
WSS6	Ashley Hall & Showground, Ashley Road, Ashley	New Site Inert/non-hazardous soils/green waste/organic waste.	No allocation proposed	Manchester Mosses SAC - Astley and Bedford Mosses SSSI (13.5 km), Holcroft Moss SSSI (11.0 km), Risley Moss SSSI (11.2 km) Rixton Clay Pits SAC (9.1 km)	None	Midland Meres and Mosses Phase 1 Ramsar - Tatton Meres SSSI (3.9 km), The Mere, Mere SSSI (3.8 km) Rostherne Mere Ramsar (1.4 km)	LSE	Within Natural England Impact Risk Zone for Landfill sites including inert and non-hazardous landfill. Would also need to consider impacts of additional HGVs on A556, with potential

Site Code	Site Name	Site Description and waste type	Recommended Allocation at draft MWP	SACs with 15km	SPAs within 15km	Ramsar Sites within 15km	Initial screening	Comments
								requirement for in-combination effects traffic modelling (A556 is less than 200m from Rostherne Mere Ramsar).
WSS7	Birkin House, Birkinheat h Lane, Ashley, Nr. Altrincham	New Site Inert/non-hazardous soils/recycling of secondary aggregates	No allocation proposed	Manchester Mosses SAC - Astley and Bedford Mosses SSSI (14.0 km), Holcroft Moss SSSI (11.1 km), Risley Moss SSSI (11.1 km) Rixton Clay Pits SAC (8.9 km)	None	Midland Meres and Mosses Phase 1 Ramsar - Tatton Meres SSSI (3.0 km), The Mere, Mere SSSI (2.7 km) Rostherne Mere Ramsar (0.3 km)	LSE	Within Natural England Impact Risk Zone for Landfill sites including inert and non-hazardous landfill. Would also need to consider impacts of additional HGVs on A556 and Cherry Tree Lane/ Marsh Lane, with likely requirement for in-combination effects traffic modelling for Rostherne Mere.
WSS8	Yarwood Heath, Yarwood Heath Lane, Rostherne, Altrincham	New Site Inert/non-hazardous soils/recycling of secondary aggregates	Site withdrawn by site promoter	Manchester Mosses SAC - Astley and Bedford Mosses SSSI (12.2 km), Holcroft Moss SSSI (9.2 km), Risley Moss SSSI (9.2 km) Rixton Clay Pits SAC (7.1 km)	None	Midland Meres and Mosses Phase 1 Ramsar - Tatton Meres SSSI (4.1 km), The Mere, Mere SSSI (3.1 km) Rostherne Mere Ramsar (0.6 km)	LSE	Within Natural England Impact Risk Zone for Landfill sites including inert and non-hazardous landfill. Would also need to consider impacts of additional HGVs on A556, with potential requirement for in-combination effects traffic modelling (A556 is less than 200m from Rostherne Mere Ramsar).
WSS9	Waugh Brow Farm Shop, Smith Lane, Mobberley	New Site Inert/non-hazardous soils/recycling of secondary aggregates	No allocation proposed	Manchester Mosses SAC - Holcroft Moss SSSI (14.7 km), Risley Moss SSSI (14.6 km) Rixton Clay Pits SAC (12.5 km)	None	Midland Meres and Mosses Phase 1 Ramsar - Tatton Meres SSSI (2.3 km), The Mere, Mere SSSI (4.3 km) Rostherne Mere Ramsar (3.5 km)	No LSE	Within Impact Risk Zone for Tatton Mere SSSI but not for any relevant criteria
WSS10	Tabley Court, Moss Lane, Over Tabley, Knutsford	New Site Inert/non-hazardous soils/recycling of secondary aggregates/treatment and transfer.	No allocation proposed	Manchester Mosses SAC - Holcroft Moss SSSI (13.6 km), Risley Moss SSSI (12.8 km) Rixton Clay Pits SAC (10.8 km)	None	Midland Meres and Mosses Phase 1 Ramsar - Tatton Meres SSSI (1.5 km) , The Mere, Mere SSSI (2.3 km) Rostherne Mere Ramsar (4.0 km)	LSE if criteria for impact risk zone met	Potentially in. Within Impact Risk Zone for Tatton Mere SSSI in relation to: - Any composting proposal with more than 75000 tonnes maximum annual operational throughput. Incl: open windrow composting, in-vessel composting, anaerobic digestion, other waste management. - Landfill. Incl: inert landfill, non-hazardous landfill, hazardous landfill.

Site Code	Site Name	Site Description and waste type	Recommended Allocation at draft MWP	SACs within 15km	SPAs within 15km	Ramsar Sites within 15km	Initial screening	Comments
WSS11	Spode Green Farm Buildings, Spode Green Lane, Little Bollington, Altrincham	New Site Inert/non-hazardous soils/green waste/organic waste. recycling of secondary aggregates Transfer/Treatment/Disposal (restoration of mineral working). recycling of secondary aggregates Transfer/Treatment/Disposal (restoration of mineral working).	No allocation proposed	Manchester Mosses SAC - Astley and Bedford Mosses SSSI (12.0 km), Holcroft Moss SSSI (8.9 km), Risley Moss SSSI (8.8 km) Rixton Clay Pits SAC (6.6 km)	None	Midland Meres and Mosses Phase 1 Ramsar - Tatton Meres SSSI (4.6 km), The Mere, Mere SSSI (3.2 km) Rostherne Mere Ramsar (1.0 km)	LSE	Landfill sites including inert and non-hazardous landfill. Would also need to consider impacts of additional HGVs on A556, with potential requirement for in-combination effects traffic modelling (A556 is less than 200m from Rostherne Mere Ramsar). Also in Rostherne Mere SSSI Impact Risk Zone for: - Landfill (including inert) - Any composting proposal with more than 500 tonnes maximum annual operational throughput. Incl: open windrow composting, in-vessel composting, anaerobic digestion, other waste management.
WSS12	Spode Green Farm, Little Bollington, Altrincham	New Site Green Waste Composting/Anaerobic Digestion/Restoration through inert & non-hazardous wastes following mineral extraction/recycling of secondary aggregates	No allocation proposed	Manchester Mosses SAC - Astley and Bedford Mosses SSSI (11.6 km), Holcroft Moss SSSI (8.4 km), Risley Moss SSSI (8.4 km) Rixton Clay Pits SAC (6.2 km)	None	Midland Meres and Mosses Phase 1 Ramsar - Tatton Meres SSSI (4.1 km), The Mere, Mere SSSI (2.8 km) Rostherne Mere Ramsar (0.4 km)	LSE	Landfill sites including inert and non-hazardous landfill. Would also need to consider impacts of additional HGVs on A556, with potential requirement for in-combination effects traffic modelling (A556 is less than 200m from Rostherne Mere Ramsar). Also in Rostherne Mere SSSI Impact Risk Zone for: - Landfill (including inert waste) - Any composting proposal with more than 500 tonnes maximum annual operational throughput. Incl: open windrow composting, in-vessel composting, anaerobic digestion, other waste management.
WSS13	Rushford Cottage, Millington Hall Lane, Altrincham	Inert/non-hazardous soils. Recycling of secondary aggregates Treatment/Disposal (restoration of mineral working)	No allocation proposed	Manchester Mosses SAC - Astley and Bedford Mosses SSSI (13.5 km), Holcroft Moss SSSI (10.0 km), Risley Moss SSSI (9.5 km) Rixton Clay Pits SAC (7.4 km)	None	Midland Meres and Mosses Phase 1 Ramsar - Tatton Meres SSSI (3.3 km), The Mere, Mere SSSI (1.6 km) Rostherne Mere Ramsar (0.9 km)	LSE	Landfill sites including inert and non-hazardous landfill. Would also need to consider impacts of additional HGVs on A556, with potential requirement for in-

Site Code	Site Name	Site Description and waste type	Recommended Allocation at draft MWP	SACs with 15km	SPAs within 15km	Ramsar Sites within 15km	Initial screening	Comments
								<p>combination effects traffic modelling (A556 is less than 200m from Rostherne Mere Ramsar).</p> <p>Also in Rostherne Mere SSSI Impact Risk Zone for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Landfill (including inert waste) - Any composting proposal with more than 500 tonnes maximum annual operational throughput. <p>Incl: open windrow composting, in-vessel composting, anaerobic digestion, other waste management.</p>
WSS14	Millington Hall Farm, Millington Hall Lane, Altrincham	Green Waste Composting/Anaerobic Digestion/Restoration through inert & non-hazardous wastes following mineral extraction/recycling of secondary aggregates. Transfer/Treatment/Disposal(restoration of mineral working).	No allocation proposed	<p>Manchester Mosses SAC - Astley and Bedford Mosses SSSI (13.0 km), Holcroft Moss SSSI (9.4 km), Risley Moss SSSI (9.0 km)</p> <p>Rixton Clay Pits SAC (6.9 km)</p>	None	<p>Midland Meres and Mosses Phase 1 Ramsar - Tatton Meres SSSI (3.7 km), The Mere, Mere SSSI (2.1 km)</p> <p>Rostherne Mere Ramsar (0.8 km)</p>	LSE	<p>Landfill sites including inert and non-hazardous landfill. Would also need to consider impacts of additional HGVs on A556, with potential requirement for in-combination effects traffic modelling (A556 is less than 200m from Rostherne Mere Ramsar).</p> <p>Also in Rostherne Mere SSSI Impact Risk Zone for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Any composting proposal with more than 500 tonnes maximum annual operational throughput. <p>Incl: open windrow composting, in-vessel composting, anaerobic digestion, other waste management.</p>
WSS15	Lower House Farm, Lower House Lane, Altrincham	<p>New Site</p> <p>Green Waste Composting/Anaerobic Digestion/recycling of secondary aggregates. Transfer/Treatment</p>	No allocation proposed	<p>Manchester Mosses SAC - Holcroft Moss SSSI (13.5 km), Risley Moss SSSI (13.6 km)</p> <p>Rixton Clay Pits SAC (11.6 km)</p>	None	<p>Midland Meres and Mosses Phase 1 Ramsar - Tatton Meres SSSI (3.5 km), The Mere, Mere SSSI (4.6 km)</p> <p>Rostherne Mere Ramsar (2.7 km)</p>	No LSE	In Natural England Impact Risk Zone for Rostherne Mere but not for any relevant activities.
WSS16	Land at Broadoak Lane, Mobberley	<p>New Site</p> <p>Green Waste Composting/Anaerobic Digestion/energy from</p>	No allocation proposed	<p>Manchester Mosses SAC - Risley Moss SSSI (15.0 km)</p> <p>Rixton Clay Pits SAC (12.8 km)</p>	None	<p>Midland Meres and Mosses Phase 1 Ramsar - Tatton Meres SSSI (1.0 km), The Mere, Mere SSSI (3.7 km)</p> <p>Rostherne Mere Ramsar (3.9 km)</p>	LSE	Natural England Impact Risk Zone for Tatton Mere for any composting proposal with more than 75000 tonnes maximum

Site Code	Site Name	Site Description and waste type	Recommended Allocation at draft MWP	SACs with 15km	SPAs within 15km	Ramsar Sites within 15km	Initial screening	Comments
		waste/recycling of secondary aggregates						annual operational throughput. Incl: open windrow composting, in-vessel composting, anaerobic digestion, other waste management. Potential requirement for in-combination air quality assessment including traffic modelling along Mobberley Road if HGVs to pass Tatton Mere.
WSS17	Broadoak Farm and Buildings, Mobberley	New Site Green Waste Composting/Anaerobic Digestion/Restoration through inert & non-hazardous wastes following mineral extraction/recycling of secondary aggregates Transfer/Treatment/Disposal (restoration of mineral working).	No allocation proposed	Manchester Mosses SAC - Risley Moss SSSI (15.0 km) Rixton Clay Pits SAC (12.8 km)	None	Midland Meres and Mosses Phase 1 Ramsar - Tatton Meres SSSI (1.6 km) , The Mere, Mere SSSI (4.1 km) Rostherne Mere Ramsar (3.9 km)	LSE	Natural England Impact Risk Zone for Tatton Mere for any composting proposal with more than 75000 tonnes maximum annual operational throughput. Incl: open windrow composting, in-vessel composting, anaerobic digestion, other waste management. Potential requirement for in-combination air quality assessment including traffic modelling along Mobberley Road if HGVs to pass Tatton Mere.
WSS18	Adjacent to the River Dane, Land off Viking Way, Congleton	New Site Waste transfer, recycling facilities and in-vessel composting. Household waste, C&I and CDE Waste	No allocation proposed	South Pennine Moors SAC - Leek Moors SSSI (12.0 km)	Peak District Moors (South Pennine Moors Phase 1) SPA - Leek Moors SSSI (12.0 km)	Midland Mosses and Meres Phase 1 Ramsar - Bagmere SSSI (5.2 km) Midland Mosses and Meres Phase 2 Ramsar - Oakhanger Moss SSSI (11.6 km)	No LSE	
WSS19	Land off Barn Road, Congleton	New Site Waste transfer, recycling facilities and in-vessel composting. Household waste, C&I and CD&E waste.	No allocation proposed	South Pennine Moors SAC - Leek Moors SSSI (11.6 km)	Peak District Moors (South Pennine Moors Phase 1) SPA - Leek Moors SSSI (11.6 km)	Midland Mosses and Meres Phase 1 Ramsar - Bagmere SSSI (5.8 km) Midland Mosses and Meres Phase 2 Ramsar - Oakhanger Moss SSSI (12.0 km)	No LSE	
WSS20	Household Waste Recycling Centre, Junction of Viking Way and Barn	Existing HWRC Site Waste transfer, recycling facilities and in-vessel composting. Household waste, C&I and CD&E waste.	HWRC closed 09/2021	None	Peak District Moors (South Pennine Moors Phase 1) SPA - Leek Moors SSSI (11.6 km)	Midland Mosses and Meres Phase 1 Ramsar - Bagmere SSSI (5.4 km) Midland Mosses and Meres Phase 2 Ramsar - Oakhanger Moss SSSI (11.8 km)	No LSE	

Site Code	Site Name	Site Description and waste type	Recommended Allocation at draft MWP	SACs with 15km	SPAs within 15km	Ramsar Sites within 15km	Initial screening	Comments
	Road, Congleton							

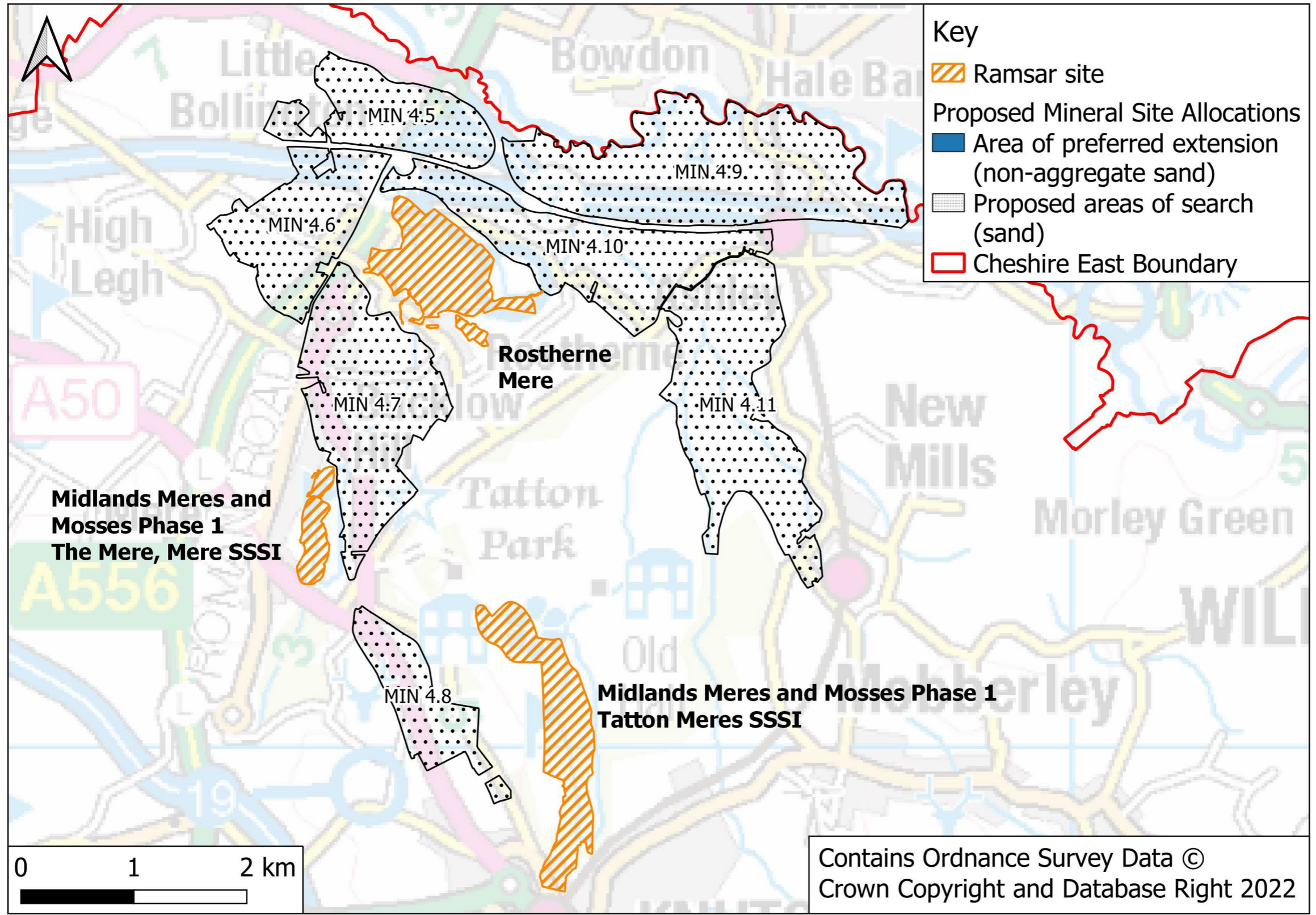


Figure E-1: Location of Tatton Meres SSSI, The Mere, Mere SSSI, and Rostherene Mere Ramsar and relevant proposed mineral site allocations

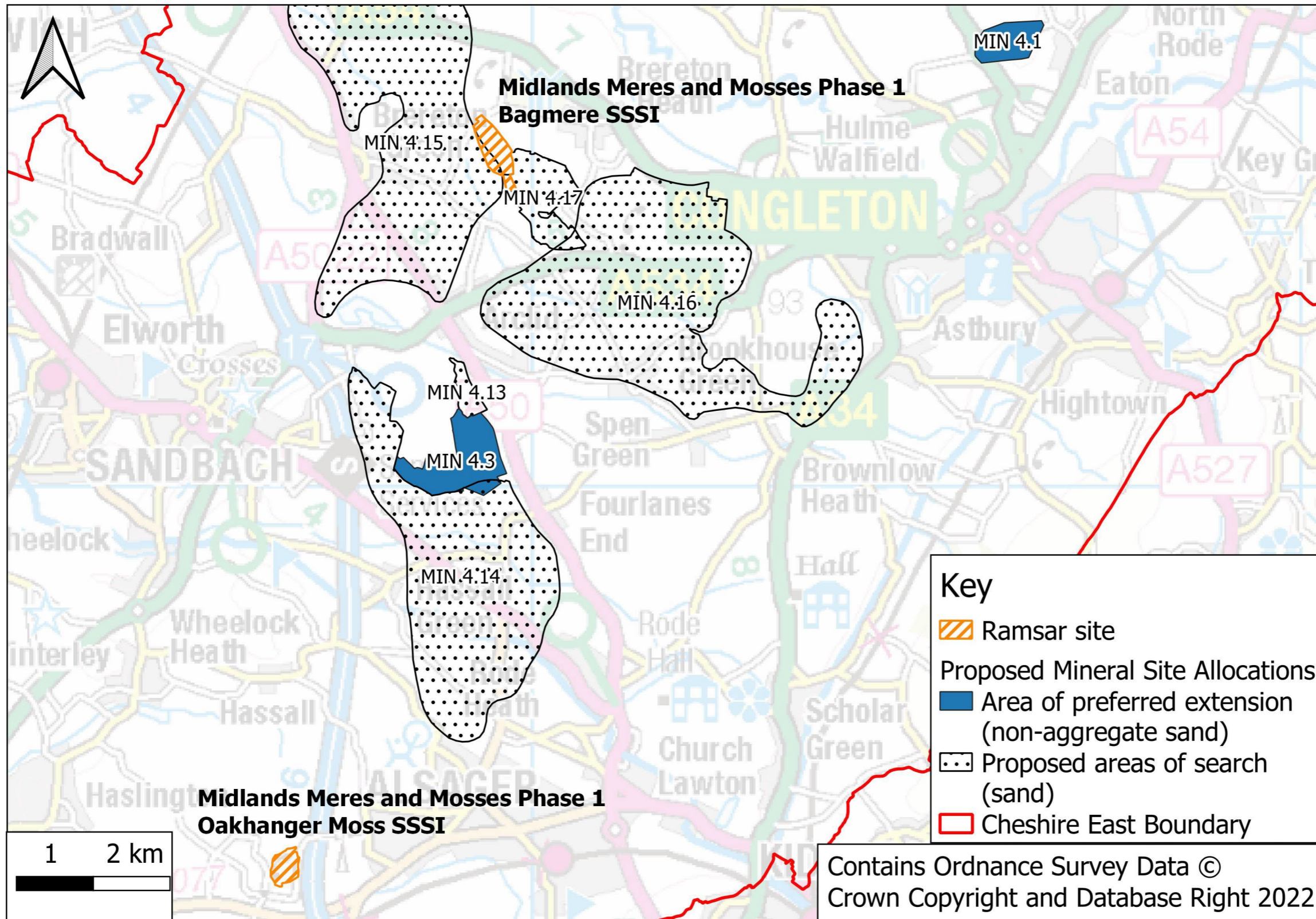


Figure E-2: Location of Oakhanger Moss SSSI and Bagmere SSSI and relevant proposed mineral site allocations

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