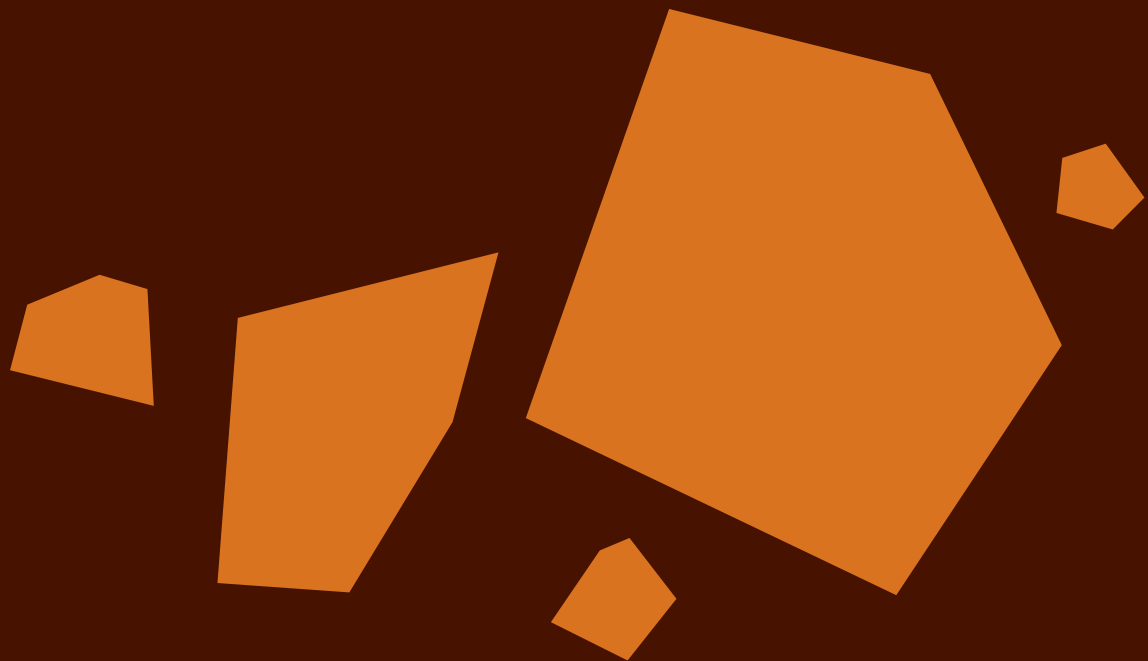




Additional Sites Habitat Regulations Screening Report



Background

The Conservation of Natural Habitats, and c.)(Amendment) Regulations 2007 and European Communities (1992) Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild flora and fauna, require the County Council to undertake a screening exercise of the 'likely significant effects' of the Site Allocations and Development Management Development Plan Document (DPD), on sites of international nature conservation importance. The DPD can only be approved where it has been satisfied that there will be no adverse effect on the integrity of the international nature conservation sites.

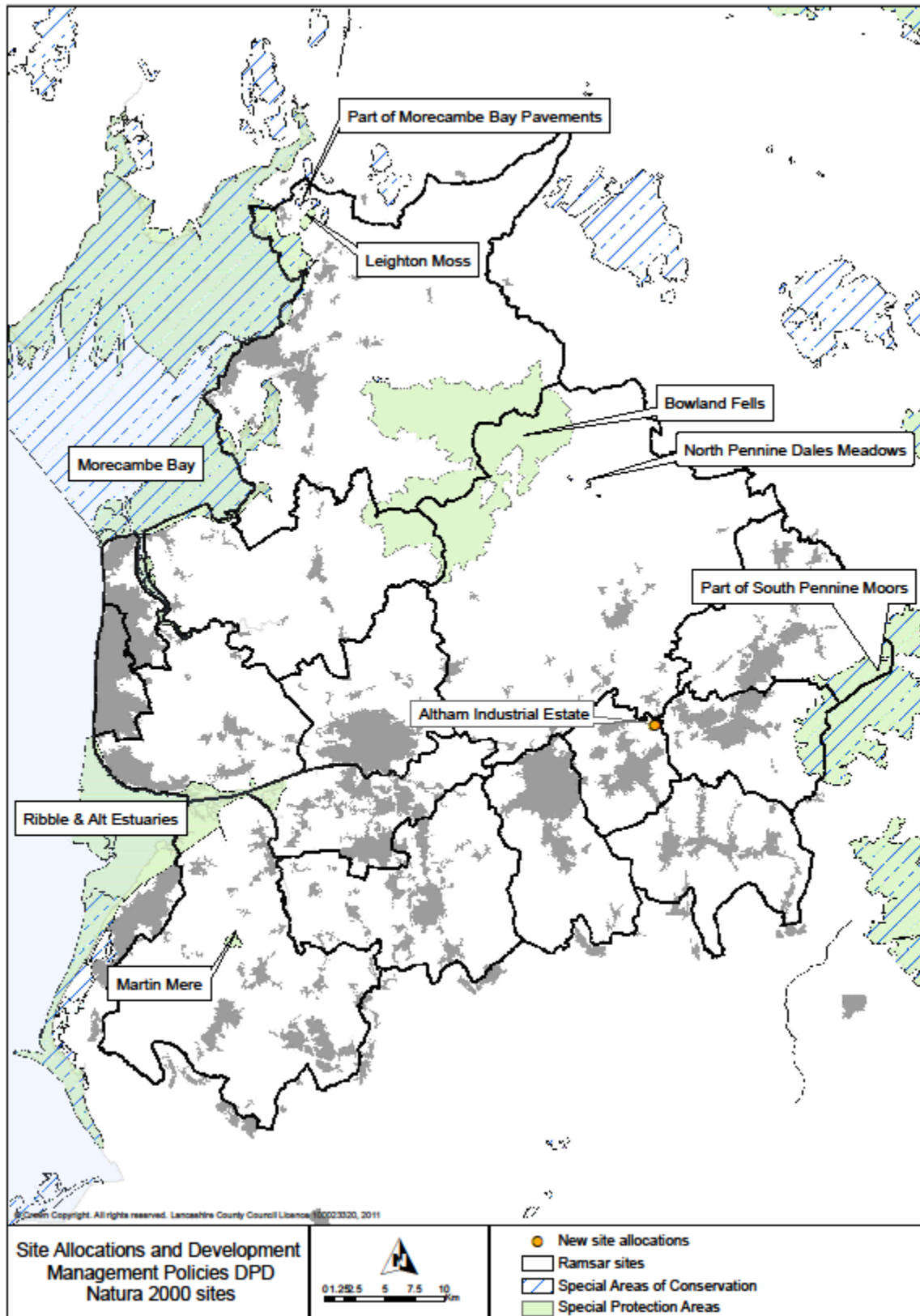
The DPD was submitted to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government in May 2011. The revised Habitats Regulations Screening Report was subsequently submitted which concluded that, subject to certain requirements; the plan would not have any adverse effect on the protected sites. The Report was endorsed by Natural England.

A Planning Inspector was appointed by the SoS and hearing sessions took place from September to October 2011. The hearing sessions have been adjourned to allow for further consultation on some major changes to the DPD. These changes will be subject to consultation in January 2012.

Under Policy WM2 of the DPD, these major changes have resulted in the removal of Heysham Port and Huncoat/Whinney Hill as Large Scale Built Waste Management Facilities in the Lancaster/Morecambe and East Lancashire catchment areas respectively. Where possible, sites identified under Policy WM3 are being promoted as large scale sites under Policy WM2. In the Lancaster/Morecambe area, the Lancaster West Business Park is now being considered as the large scale site, and in East Lancashire, Lomeshaye Industrial Estate along with an additional site is being considered. (The additional site, as with other sites within the DPD, is an existing industrial estate).

Map 1 identifies the additional sites as Altham Industrial Estate, Hyndburn. The map shows the relationship to the Natura 2000 sites.

Map1: Additional Site Allocation in East Lancashire Catchment Area and Natura 2000 Sites



Potential Effects Likely to Cause Harm to Natura 2000 Sites

The potential effects and pathways on the Natura 2000 sites are considered within Section 5 of the main screening Report. Lancaster West Business Park and Lomeshaye Industrial Estate have already been subject to assessment as sites for Local Waste facilities under Policy WM3 of the DPD and were screened out at an early stage of the assessment. The implications of being promoted to large scale sites are twofold. Firstly the potential capacity for waste facilities increases and secondly, the type of facility is not restricted and allows for the technologies specified in Appendix B of the DPD Part 1. Most notably, this includes energy from waste facilities. The potential effects could theoretically increase and the two sites are therefore reconsidered in this assessment.

Methodology

The methodology is set out in Sections 4-6 of the 'Revised Habitats Regulations Screening Report' (July 2011).

The site falls within Policy WM2 and in accordance with the methodology set out in Section 4, they need to be subject to further screening for any likely significant effects. They have therefore been subject to the Initial Assessment Screening Matrix set out in Appendix C of the report (see Section 5 of the report).

Policy	Additional Strategic Site Allocations	Impacts	Pathways	Natura 2000 sites likely to be effected	Screening Result
WM2 Large Scale Built Waste Facilities	Lancaster West Business Park	Disturbance arising from the construction of new development Disturbance arising from the operation of the site. The risk of pollution (either air borne toxic contamination, organic enrichment or sediment releases).	The nearest wildlife site is Morecambe Bay SPA & SAC, 1km to the west. The Business Park is in a low lying position facing onto open farming, but assessments and surveys accompanying previous developments have not shown any significant physical or ecological link to Morecambe Bay. Any direct source emissions would be stringently limited under pollution control mechanisms administered by the Environment Agency.	Morecambe Bay SPA and SAC	Screen Policy Out
	Lomeshaye Industrial Estate	The risk of air-borne pollution.	The nearest wildlife site is the South Pennine Moors (SPA & SAC) 6km southeast of the industrial estate. The moors are susceptible to atmospheric pollution, which may travel significant distances. Any direct source emissions would be stringently limited under pollution control mechanisms administered by the Environment Agency.	South Pennines SAC/SPA	Screen Policy Out
	Altham Road Industrial Estate	Disturbance arising from the construction of new development. The risk of air borne pollution.	The nearest Natura 2000 site is the South Pennine Moors, which lies approximately 12 kms to the east. It is susceptible to atmospheric pollution which may travel significant distances. Any direct source emissions would be stringently limited under Environment Agency pollution	South Pennines SAC/SPA	Screen Policy Out

			controls. Altham Clough Wood BHS lies adjacent to Altham Industrial Estate. It is safeguarded for its woodland habitat and provides no significant pathway to the Natura 2000 site.the		
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In Combination Effects

Further to the assessment carried out in Appendix E of the Screening Report. Given the relatively close proximity of these sites and their relationship to the South Pennines protected area, there may be implications in terms of in combination effects. However, under Policy WM2, the total capacity for each catchment area will remain the same regardless of the number of sites taken forward. The overall effect would therefore not be any greater than that already considered previously. The in combination effects of the additional sites being taken forward are not therefore considered to have a likely significant effect.

Conclusion

Although the Lancaster West Business Park is relatively close to the Morecambe Bay Natura 2000 site no potential pathways were identified. The four remaining sites are a considerable distance from the nearest Natura 2000 site (South Pennines SPA/SAC) but could be subject to a potential pathway ie windblown pollution. This was due to the sites location and the moorlands susceptibility to air borne pollution. However, the potential pathway was not considered to have any significant impact given legislative controls and/or the distances between the source and receptor.

In conclusion, the three sites will have no likely significant effects on the identified Natura 2000 site and no further assessment work is required at this stage.

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