



HYNDBURN

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Appropriate Assessment under the
Conservation of Habitats and Species
Regulations 2010

Screening Report for the Development
Management DPD

September 2016

Contents

	Page
Executive Summary	3
1. Introduction	4
2. The Development Management DPD Screening Exercise	7
3. Conclusion	14

Executive Summary

1. Article 6 of the Habitats Directive sets out the procedure that should be taken when planning new developments that might affect a Natura 2000 site. Paragraphs 6(3) of the Directive require that: *“Any plan or project likely to have a significant effect on a Natura 2000 site, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, shall undergo an Appropriate Assessment to determine its implications on the site. The competent authorities can only agree to the plan or project after having ascertained that it will not adversely affect the integrity of the site concerned.”*
2. The policies within the Development Management DPD do not propose development or allocate land for development. The purpose of the policies within the Development Management DPD is to ensure that development proposals are well designed and do not have an unacceptable adverse impact on local amenity, the environment, the economy of centres and other factors of acknowledged importance.
3. There are 36 policies within the Development Management DPD, of which 23 will impact within the site boundary. The impacts associated with the remaining policies, when considered individually are considered to be local and none of the policies proposed would affect a Natura 2000 site. The policy framework proposed by the Development Management DPD complements that within the Hyndburn Core Strategy and should further reduce the impacts associated with development that is proposed or allocated by the Hyndburn Core Strategy.
4. Since the original screening exercise was undertaken, the policy framework (Policy DM18) has been amended to make specific reference to the Natura 2000 site network and the need to ensure that development does not have an adverse impact on the conservation objectives of individual sites that comprise the network.
5. The screening exercise that has been undertaken concludes that the policy framework proposed within the Development Management DPD does not present a risk to the conservation objectives of the Natura 2000 network. It is not therefore necessary to undertake the second stage of the process, i.e. an appropriate assessment.
6. The policies proposed within the Development Management DPD are consistent with national policy, as set out in the National Planning Policy Framework.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This document is the screening exercise for Appropriate Assessment of the Development Management DPD as required by the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010. It provides an assessment of the potential effects of the policy framework within the Development Management DPD on sites of international nature conservation value. The Council undertook an Appropriate Assessment in respect of the Hyndburn Core Strategy and it was agreed with Natural England that the quantum of development proposed, including a number of strategic allocations, would not affect the integrity of any Natura 2000 site. Although the Development Management DPD is wholly within the scope of the Core Strategy, and is not proposing new development but is seeking to establish the criteria against which development proposals will be assessed, Natural England believe that an Appropriate Assessment is nonetheless required.
- 1.2 Article 6 of the Habitats Directive sets out the procedure that should be taken when planning new developments that might affect a Natura 2000 site. Paragraphs 6(3) of the Directive require that: *“Any plan or project likely to have a significant effect on a Natura 2000 site, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, shall undergo an Appropriate Assessment to determine its implications on the site. The competent authorities can only agree to the plan or project after having ascertained that it will not adversely affect the integrity of the site concerned.”*
- 1.3 The approach taken is based on the approach recommended by the European Union. Stage 1 of the process requires a screening exercise to be undertaken. Assessment of the significance of effects is undertaken in relation to the designated interest features and conservation objectives of the European Site. Any effect arising from a policy within the Development Management DPD which would compromise the functioning and viability of a site and prevent it from sustaining those features in favourable condition is judged to create a significant effect. Where no significant effects are identified then no further actions need to be undertaken. In instances where significant effects seem likely, a more detailed Appropriate Assessment of the proposed plan or project is necessary.
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|---------|---|
| Stage 1 | Screening |
| Stage 2 | Appropriate Assessment. |
| Stage 3 | Assessment of Alternatives. |
| Stage 4 | Assessment where no alternatives are available. |
- This document comprises Stage 1.
- 1.4 Draft guidance prepared by Department for Communities and Local Government advises that “Appropriate Assessment (AA)” is simply taken to mean an assessment which must be appropriate to its purpose under the Habitats Directive and Regulations, neither of which specify how the stages of AA should be undertaken. The AA must be recorded and carried out with a

view to informing the decisions in the plan. Further advice from Natural England¹ clarifies the terms used. When considering whether a plan or policy would be likely to have a significant effect on any European Site:

“Likely” means “probably”, or “it might well happen”, not merely that it is a fanciful possibility.

“Significant” means not trivial or inconsequential but an effect that is noteworthy and which could potentially undermine the site’s conservation objectives.

Proportionate Approach

- 1.5 It is important that the comprehensiveness of the assessment is proportionate to the geographic scope of the policy or proposal that is being considered and the nature and extent of any effects identified. In line with the guidance, an Appropriate Assessment was produced for the Hyndburn Core Strategy and this was agreed with Natural England. No adverse effects on the integrity of European Sites were identified.

Development Management DPD

- 1.6 The Development Management DPD does not contain strategic policies but presents a more detailed policy framework that will be used for the determination of planning applications within Hyndburn. It will be read alongside the other documents – Hyndburn Core Strategy and Site Allocations Plan - that will form the Local Plan (or Local Development Framework) for Hyndburn.
- 1.7 The policies within the Development Management DPD will be applied to proposals that are seeking planning permission for the development of particular sites within Hyndburn. The policies within the Development Management DPD are seeking to ensure that new development is designed to a high standard and does not have an adverse impact on local amenity and the environment. The policies within the Development Management DPD should be consistent with the National Planning Policy Framework which require planning applications to be determined in accordance with the criteria set out in para 118 of the NPPF.
- 1.8 The Development Management DPD does not allocate sites for development or propose development and, in itself, it is not a plan or project that could have an adverse impact on a Natura 2000 site.

The Planning and Pollution Control Regimes

- 1.9 The National Planning Policy Framework advises² that the effects (including cumulative effects) of pollution on health, the natural environment or general amenity, and the potential sensitivity of the area or proposed development to adverse effects from pollution, should be taken into

¹ Letter from natural England dated 18th December 2015 to Hyndburn Borough Council in response to the consultation on the draft Habitats Regulations Screening Assessment.

² National Planning Policy Framework, para 120.

consideration. However, consistent with relevant case law, NPPF states³ that local planning authorities should focus on whether the development itself is an acceptable use of the land, and the impact of the use, rather than the control of processes or emissions which would be subject to control under the appropriate pollution control regime. Local planning authorities must assume that the pollution control regime operates effectively.

- 1.10 In recognition of the additional work involved in undertaking an assessment under the Habitats Regulations, “Habitats Grant” was distributed to all local planning authorities who have either a European site within its area or where the authority is within 5 kilometres of a European site. Authorities with a European site within its area will receive 100% of eligible grant and authorities with a European site within 5 kilometres of their area will receive 50% of the eligible grant. Hyndburn is not within 5km of a European Site and did not therefore receive Habitats Grant. This assessment has therefore been undertaken by the Borough Council in consultation with Natural England.

Hyndburn and the Core Strategy

- 1.11 Hyndburn is made up of:
- the large urban area of the main market town, Accrington,, and its townships;
 - the smaller market town of Great Harwood;
 - the separate settlement of Rishton;
 - the eastern fringe of Blackburn comprising the residential suburb of Knuzden and commercial development at Whitebirk; and,
 - the rural areas including small villages at Altham and Belthorn and scattered hamlets and individual developments .

The adopted Core Strategy aims to promote balanced communities where everyone has easy access to a range of services and facilities. The existing settlement pattern and hierarchy of centres will be maintained and supported by concentrating development within the urban areas and in centres of a scale and type appropriate to their role.

- 1.12 The Hyndburn Core Strategy, seeks to develop and support existing urban areas; focusing investment and improvement in key regeneration areas, principally within the Housing Market Renewal Areas; and attracting new development into the less densely developed and highly accessible settlement at Huncoat. A regional employment site is proposed on greenfield land at Whitebirk to provide higher value job opportunities and planning permission for this development has recently been granted. A strategic employment site is also proposed on land once occupied by Huncoat Power Station as well as some additional land that is needed to make a viable scheme. The majority of housing development will be on previously developed sites within the urban boundary with the exception of one large housing site in Huncoat which is a green field site but one that is within the urban boundary. In achieving this, the overall extent of the Green Belt will be maintained and development in other rural areas will be restricted. The importance of

³ National Planning Policy Framework, para 122.

protecting and enhancing green infrastructure is recognised in the policies of the Development Management DPD.

2. The Development Management DPD – Screening Exercise

- 2.1 The purpose of the Development Management DPD is to present a more detailed policy framework that will be used for the determination of planning applications in Hyndburn, read alongside the other documents that comprise the development plan. The policies of the Development Management DPD should sit within those set out in the Hyndburn Core Strategy (adopted 2012) and be consistent with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).
- 2.2 An Appropriate Assessment under the Habitats Regulations was undertaken prior to the examination of the Hyndburn Core Strategy and this concluded that there would be no impacts on Natura 2000 sites. Since the Development Management DPD will be used to assess site specific proposals, and will operate within the context of the Core Strategy, there are unlikely to be any policy impacts over and above those identified by the Core Strategy.
- 2.3 Notwithstanding this, each policy will be screened to ensure this is the case by considering the extent to which impacts may extend beyond the boundary of the site being developed (because the Development Management DPD is concerned with the assessment of planning applications) and if it does, whether the impacts will simply be local and are capable of being managed or whether they are likely to be more extensive and impact on Natura 2000 sites. In the light of earlier advice from Natural England, the screening has been re-evaluated to reflect the impact of the policy and some changes to the wording of policies has been made, Policy EM18 now making specific reference to the Natura 2000 network.
- 2.4 The Development Management DPD is set out as a number of discrete chapters. The impacts associated with the policy framework will be considered for each chapter. Initially the policy will be assessed on the extent to which any impacts could extend beyond the boundary of the site being developed. The degree of impact will be indicated through the use of the following colour scheme:

	Screening - Degree of Impact
	No impact beyond site boundary.
	Potential impact beyond site boundary but this would be localized and the proposed policy framework seeks to manage and mitigate impacts so that they are within acceptable tolerances.
	Potential impacts extending well beyond site boundary. Further assessment required.

2.4 **General Considerations.** This section of the Development Management DPD contains a number of general policies that are considered necessary to be consistent with the National Planning Policy Framework. The policies presented are consistent with national policy and seek to ensure that the approach advocated by Government is reflected in the Development Management DPD.

General Considerations			
Policy Ref	Policy Name	Policy Description	Potential Impacts beyond site boundary
GC1	Presumption in favour of sustainable development	Policy reflects the presumption in favour of sustainable development that is set out in National Planning Policy Framework. This requires the competing economic, social and environmental aspects of development to be considered when making decisions.	Not significant. Policy DM18 makes specific reference to the conservation objectives of the Natura 2000 network.
GC2	Infrastructure, Planning Obligations and CIL.	This policy is concerned with the provision of financial payments and potential infrastructure.	No, but if infrastructure is provided this would have a local positive impact.
GC3	Planning Enforcement	Policy regarding planning enforcement.	No, policy is concerned with the process of planning enforcement.

2.4 **Section 3 – Economy and Town Centres:** One of the key aims of the Development Management DPD is to ensure that there is a positive relationship between employment development and neighbouring land uses and that town centres remain vital and viable. Existing patterns of land use within Hyndburn have been strongly influenced by the industrial revolution and this is often characterized by the presence of terraced housing in close proximity to former mill buildings. It is important that new employment development is well sited and does not have an adverse impact on neighbouring land uses.

Economy Chapter			
Policy Ref	Policy Name	Policy Description	Potential Impacts beyond site boundary
DM1	Employment Development	Multi-part criteria based policy covering: - general criteria for new employment proposals - policy on managing the loss of employment sites - criteria specific to Office B1 proposals	Yes, but proposed employment development should not result in unacceptable adverse impacts that extend significantly beyond site boundary. Impacts can be controlled locally.
DM2	Employment Strategies	Policy expecting employment strategies to be submitted alongside major developments (to help the local community benefit)	No, policy concerned with recruitment of employees.
DM3	Town Centre Development	Multi-part criteria based retail policy setting out: - policy for promoting the vitality and viability of centres - criteria for edge or out-of-centre proposals	No, policy is concerned with site frontages and maintaining a healthy mix of uses in town and local centres.
DM4	Retail Frontages	Policy concerned with retail frontages in town centres.	No.
DM5	Hot Food Takeaways	General criteria based policy setting out where the Council will support HFT's	Yes, but impacts would be very local and subject to controls.

2.5 In cases where employment development may give rise to emissions to air, ground or water, the processes that give rise to these emissions would be subject to control under the appropriate pollution control body. It must be assumed that the appropriate pollution control body works effectively. Notwithstanding this, Policy EM18 Protection and Enhancement of the Natural Environment, makes specific reference to the conservation objectives of the Natura 2000 network. **The impacts arising from the policies proposed in respect of employment will be local and will not have a significant effect, individually or in combination with other plans or projects, on the Natura 2000 network.**

2.6 **Community Infrastructure.** The policy in this section seeks to support development at schools and colleges in Hyndburn subject to a number of criteria which are all concerned with managing and minimizing potential impacts associated with this type of development, presenting a positive framework for development.

Community Infrastructure Chapter			
Policy Ref	Policy Name	Policy Description	Potential Impacts beyond site boundary
DM6	Delivering Schools and Early Learning	Multi-part criteria based policy covering: - general criteria for development proposed at schools - scale of financial contributions expected towards education for new housing proposals - criteria for other school uses (e.g. adult education, nurseries etc.)	Yes, potentially some impacts (for example traffic) beyond site boundaries but these would be confined to the local area and would be subject to appropriate control measures.
DM7	Cultural and Community facilities	A policy concerned with the protection of existing community facilities and the development of new facilities.	No.
DM8	Public Houses	Proposals concerned with the protection of public houses.	No
DM9	Telecommunications	General criteria based policy setting out where the Council will support Telecoms proposals	Yes, some landscape and visual impacts but these would not have any impacts on Natura 200 sites.

2.7 **The impacts arising from the policies proposed in respect of community infrastructure will be local and will not therefore have a significant effect, individually or in combination with other plans or projects, on the Natura 2000 network.**

2.8 **Housing.** Recognising that planning applications for new housing development comprise a large proportion of the applications submitted, it is important that the Development Management DPD sets out clear criteria for development that will seek to ensure that it is designed to a high standard and does not result in unacceptable adverse impacts on the area in which it is located.

Housing Chapter			
Policy Ref	Policy Name	Policy Description	Potential Impacts beyond site boundary
DM10	New Residential Development	General criteria based policy setting out when the Council will support new housing schemes (including residential extensions).	Yes, but the policy aims to manage these so they are not unacceptable. Impacts will be local.
DM11	Open Space Provision in New Residential Development	General policy setting out the principles against which open space contributions or provision will be sought.	No, this is a positive policy that seeks to ensure sufficient open space is provided either on site or elsewhere.
DM12	Affordable Housing	General policy setting when and how affordable housing should be provided.	No, this policy is concerned with the provision of affordable housing.
DM13	Development of Housing within Residential Gardens	General criteria based policy setting out when new housing in the curtilage of existing dwellings will be permitted	No, this policy is concerned with the protection of residential gardens. Policy seeks to protect character and appearance of the area.
DM14	Housing with Care for older people and people with disabilities.	General criteria based policy setting out where and how housing with care will be supported.	Yes, but policy seeks to manage potential impacts. Impacts limited to local area.
DM15	Gypsy and Traveller Sites	General criteria based policy setting out where and how Gypsy and Traveller provision will be supported	No, impacts managed by policy.
DM16	Housing standards	Policy setting out standards to be applied locally	No, this policy is concerned with the space standards applied to individual dwellings.

2.9 **The impacts arising from the policies proposed in respect of housing will be local and will not therefore have a significant effect, individually or in combination with other plans or projects, on the Natura 2000 network.**

2.10 **Environment (Natural and Built).** There is a wide range of policies in the environment section of the Development Management DPD and these seek to manage and / or mitigate the potential impacts of new development on environmental assets (both natural and man-made) and on local amenity.

Environment (Natural and Built)Chapter			
Policy Ref	Policy Name	Policy Description	Potential Impacts beyond site boundary
DM17	Trees, Woodland and Hedgerows	Multi-part criteria based policy for trees, woodland and hedgerows. Corresponding Guidance Note 10.	No, the policy is concerned with the potential loss of these features within the site boundary, although mitigation could be elsewhere.
DM18	Protection and Enhancement of the Natural Environment	Policy structured around the hierarchy of designations (international, national, regional, county and local) setting out criteria for granting permissions. Also covers mitigation measures. Since the DM DPD was first drafted, this policy has been strengthened to make specific reference to	Yes, but this policy is concerned with the protection of environmental assets and seeks to prevent harm to these features in a manner consistent with national policy.

		Natura 2000 sites. Part 2a of the policy states that “development proposals likely to have an adverse effect on.....the conservation objectives of a site that forms part of the Natura 2000 network will not be supported unless it can be demonstrated that there are no alternative solutions and the proposed development must be carried out for imperative reasons of over-riding importance.”	Wording of Policy has been amended to make specific reference to the Natura 2000 network.
DM19	Protected Species	General criteria based policy setting out when the council will not support development in relation to adverse impacts on protected species or habitats.	Yes, but this policy is concerned with the protection of environmental assets and seeks to prevent harm to these features. Consistent with National Policy.
DM20	Flood Risk Management and Water Resources	Policy setting out requirements for flood risk assessments, use of SUDS in development schemes, and water efficiency measures.	Yes, but one of the aims of the policy framework is to reduce the risks of flooding from development in a manner consistent with national policy.
DM21	Protection of open Space	Policy setting out circumstances under which the Council will permit the loss of designated areas of open space.	Yes, this policy could result in the loss of existing open space, but this loss would be local in nature.
DM22	Heritage Assets	Multi-part policy covering all aspects of the historic environment: listed buildings; conservation areas; scheduled monuments and archaeology ; non-designated heritage assets; and locally listed buildings	No, this policy is concerned with the protection of known heritage assets. Impacts will relate to the site and / or its immediate setting.
DM23	Demolition of Buildings in Conservation Areas	General criteria based policy setting out when the council will support demolition in conservation areas	No, this policy is concerned with the demolition of listed buildings. Impacts will relate to the site of the building and / or its immediate setting.
DM24	Contaminated Land & Storage of Hazardous Substances	General policy covering requirements of site investigations and remediation (where necessary), development involving hazardous substances or proximity to hazardous installations, and/or mineral/mine workings.	Yes, there is potential for contaminated sites or sites with a hazardous substance consent to pollute beyond the site boundary through airbourne pollutants or through the ground and watercourses. Water-borne pollutants have the potential to reach Natura 2000 sites, in particular the Ribble Estuary, via local watercourses. There are statutory bodies and procedures in place which aim to manage sites of this type so the risks of pollution are minimized and properly managed.
DM25	Pollution Control	Restrictive policy on polluting industrial and waste developments.	Yes, there is potential for potentially polluting sites to pollute beyond the site boundary through airbourne pollutants or through the ground and watercourses. Water-borne pollutants have the potential to reach Natura 2000 sites, in particular the Ribble Estuary, via local watercourses. There are statutory bodies and

			<p>procedures in place which aim to manage sites of this type so the risks of pollution are minimized and properly managed.</p> <p>There is potential to improve the wording this policy so that it also affords greater protection to local environmental assets.</p>
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2.11 **The impacts arising from the majority of policies proposed in respect of environment will be local and will not therefore have a significant effect, individually or in combination with other plans or projects, on the Natura 2000 network. However, Policies DM24 and DM25 are concerned with contaminated land, the storage of hazardous substances and pollution control and whilst the effects of development of this type could extend beyond the Borough Boundary the policy framework proposed seeks to ensure potential impacts are properly controlled and do not have an adverse impact on the environment. Developments of this type will also be subject to control under the pollution control regime and it is not the role of the planning system to duplicate or replace these controls.**

2.12 **Environment (Design and Quality).** This group of policies seek to ensure that new development is well designed and does not have an unacceptable impact on the appearance and amenity of the area in which it is sited. The impact of the policies is local, although it is recognized that wind turbine development can have an impact on landscapes and biodiversity and the policy framework proposed seeks to manage these impact in line with national policy and best practice.

Environment (Design and Quality) Chapter			
Policy Ref	Policy Name	Policy Description	Potential Impacts beyond site boundary
DM26	High Quality Urban Design	Dual-part policy covering all aspects of design, principally - the key characteristics considered in 'place making' in Hyndburn; and - design criteria that new developments will be expected to meet <i>(Corresponding Guidance Note 3)</i>	No, this policy is concerned with the design of the built environment and is largely site specific.
DM27	The Control of Advertisements	General criteria based policy setting out where the Council will support Advertisement applications <i>(Corresponding Guidance Note 4)</i>	No, the control of advertisements will relate to the site itself.
DM28	Shop Fronts and Security Shutters	General guidance on shop fronts and security shutters <i>(Corresponding Guidance Note 5)</i>	No, this will relate to the site.
DM29	Environmental Amenity	General criteria based policy setting out distance thresholds / design elements etc. relating to environmental amenity of existing and future residents.	Yes, the purpose of this policy is to ensure that the impact of development on local amenity is properly considered and controlled. No significant impacts beyond the immediate locality.
DM30	Wind Energy	General criteria based policy setting out where/how wind energy proposals will be supported.	Yes, wind energy developments have the potential to have a landscape and visual impact that could extend over significant

		Corresponding Guidance Note 6.	distances. This policy would help to ensure that the environmental impact of wind energy development is properly assessed. Whilst wind turbine developments can be seen from a long distance, it is considered that wind energy development would not impact on the integrity of any of the Natura 2000 sites identified.
DM31	Waste Management within Residential Development	General criteria based policy dealing with waste management issues for residential developments. <i>(Corresponding Guidance Note 7)</i>	No, the policy is mainly concerned with the provision of adequate waste collection facilities at new developments.

2.13 The policy framework proposed will not have an adverse impact on the integrity or conservation objectives of Natura 200 sites.

2.12 **Accessibility and Transport.** The policies in the Development Management DPD seek to encourage more sustainable travel patterns and mitigate the impact of increased traffic arising from new development.

Accessibility Chapter			
Policy Ref	Policy Name	Policy Description	Potential Impacts beyond site boundary
DM32	Traffic and Highway Safety	General transport policy dealing with encouraging sustainable travel and parking standards, along with a criteria based section dealing with transport related design features of new development <i>(Corresponding Guidance Note 6)</i>	Yes, but the aim of the policy is to manage and mitigate transport impacts so that they fall within acceptable tolerances and encourage use of more sustainable modes of transport.
DM33	Transport Infrastructure	Planning obligations policy dealing with contributions required towards transport infrastructure	Yes, but the policy aims to reduce impacts associated with transport through the provision of off-site improvements.

2.13 **The impacts arising from the policies proposed in respect of accessibility and transport will be local and will not therefore have a significant effect, individually or in combination with other plans or projects, on the Natura 2000 network.**

2.14 **Rural Areas.** There are extensive rural areas within Hyndburn and a large proportion of the rural area is designated Green Belt. Small scale scattered development within the rural area has limited accessibility and infrastructure to support further development. This will be limited to that required to meet an identified local need or to support farm diversification. Development within Green Belt is controlled largely through National Planning Policy Framework and would not be of a scale to give rise to impacts that would extend to Natura 2000 sites. The policies within the Development Management DPD are concerned with particular categories of development that arise in rural areas.

Rural Areas			
Policy Ref	Policy Name	Policy Description	Potential Impacts beyond site boundary
DM35	New Building & Conversion in the Green Belt and Countryside	Multi-part criteria based policy providing further guidance over the NPPF on green belt, and also setting policy context for the Borough's non green-belt rural areas <i>(Corresponding Guidance Note 9)</i>	Very limited potential impacts beyond site boundary. Policy is generally concerned with small scale developments and the impacts would only be local.
DM36	Farm Diversification	Criteria based policy setting out where/when the Council will support farm diversification.	Yes, but limited in scale and would only impact on vicinity of site. Potential impacts would be managed and mitigated.
DM37	Equestrian Development	Detailed criteria based policy setting out all criteria considered in proposals for equestrian development.	Yes, but the policy seeks to manage the impacts associated with development so they are acceptable.

2.15 **The impacts arising from the policies proposed in respect of rural areas will be local and will not therefore have a significant effect, individually or in combination with other plans or projects, on the Natura 2000 network.**

3. Conclusion

3.1 The policies within the Development Management DPD do not propose development or allocate land for development. The purpose of the policies within the Development Management DPD is to ensure that development proposals are well designed and do not have an unacceptable adverse impact on local amenity, the environment, the economy of centres and other factors of acknowledged importance.

3.2 There are 36 policies within the Development Management DPD, of which 23 will impact within the site boundary. The impacts associated with the remaining policies are considered to be local and none of the policies proposed would affect a Natura 2000 site.

3.3 Since the original screening exercise was undertaken, the policy framework (Policy DM18) has been amended to make specific reference to the Natura 2000 site network and the need to ensure that development does not have an adverse impact on the conservation objectives of individual sites that comprise the network. The policy framework proposed by the Development Management DPD complements that within the Hyndburn Core Strategy and should further reduce the impacts associated with development that is proposed or allocated by the Hyndburn Core Strategy.

3.4 The screening exercise that has been undertaken concludes that the policy framework proposed within the Development Management DPD does not present a risk to the conservation objectives of the Natura 2000 network. It is not therefore necessary to undertake the second stage of the process, i.e. an appropriate assessment.

3.5 The policies proposed within the Development Management DPD are consistent with national policy, as set out in the National Planning Policy Framework.