

Habitats Regulations Assessment of the Places for Everyone Joint Development Plan

Main Modifications Addendum Report

September 2023



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For:

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Quality Management

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1 Introduction

- 1.1 Following the Examination of the Places for Everyone (PfE) Plan, the Inspectors have recommended a series of Main Modifications to be made to make the Plan sound and legally compliant. To comply with the terms of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Amendment (EU Exit) Regulations 2019 it is necessary for these Modifications to be Screened and, if necessary, Assessed in order to confirm that they will not cause any Likely Significant Effects on European sites.
- 1.2 The purpose of this Report is to Screen and, if necessary, Assess, the Main Modifications proposed for Places for Everyone. The Report needs to be considered with full reference to the HRA of the PfE and associated Appendices, submitted to the Examination in November 2022 (Examination document ref: [OD7.1](#)).
- 1.3 Table 1 in Section 2 of this report summarises the Screening of the Main Modifications and the remainder of Section 2 explains how the modifications will not have a Likely Significant Effect on European sites.
- 1.4 Natural England has signed a Position Statement, a copy of which is in the Appendix, which confirms that Natural England considers that the Screening Assessment of the PfE proposed main modifications, together with the presenting of the results as an addendum report to the PfE HRA, is a reasonable approach. The Position Statement also confirms that Natural England agrees with the outcome of the Screening Assessment that there are no “Likely Significant Effects” on European sites, other than those identified in the HRA of the PfE. Therefore, Natural England agrees that it is not necessary to amend the PfE Appropriate Assessment as a result of the proposed main modifications.

2. HRA Screening of Main Modifications

2.1 The Places for Everyone Main Modifications have been Screened for Likely Significant Effects (LSE) on relevant designated sites. The summary table screens only the LSE of the Modifications. Screening of the LSE of the Publication Plan policies and allocations remains relevant, as does the proposed Assessment and Mitigation of LSE where these have been identified as part of the Screening of the Publication Plan in the HRA of the PfE ([OD7.1](#)).

Table 1: Summary of Test of Likely Significant Effects for the Main Modifications of the Places for Everyone Plan, September 2023

Main Mod Schedule Refs	Modifications to PfE Chapter	Likely Significant Effects?
MM1.1 – M1.12	1. Introduction	No Likely Significant Effects
MM2.1	2. Context	No Likely Significant Effects
MM3.1	3. Vision	No Likely Significant Effects
MM4.1 – MM4.32	4. Strategy	No Likely Significant Effects
MM5.1 – MM5.13	5. Sustainable and Resilient Places	No Likely Significant Effects
MM6.1 – MM6.15	6. Places for Jobs	No Likely Significant Effects
MM7.1 – MM7.9	7. Places for Homes	No Likely Significant Effects
MM8.1 – MM8.22	8. Greener Places	No Likely Significant Effects
MM9.1 – MM9.10	9. Places for People	No Likely Significant Effects
MM10.1 – MM10.14	10. Connect Places	No Likely Significant Effects
MM11.1 – MMW9	11. Allocations	No Likely Significant Effects
MM12.1 – MM12.5	12. Delivering the Plan	No Likely Significant Effects
MMApxA.1 – MMApxA.10	Appendix A – Replaced Local District Plan Policies	No Likely Significant Effects
MMApxB.1 – MMApxB.5	Appendix B – Additions to the Green Belt	No Likely Significant Effects
MMApxC.1	Appendix C – Places for Everyone Policies Map	No Likely Significant Effects

Main Mod Schedule Refs	Modifications to PfE Chapter	Likely Significant Effects?
MMApxD.1	New Appendix	No Likely Significant Effects
MM12.5	Annex 1 of the PfE Main Modifications Schedule – Proposed Main Modifications to Table 12.1 (MM12.5)	No Likely Significant Effects
MMApxA.2 – MMApxA.10	Annex 2 of the PfE Main Modifications Schedule – Proposed Main Modifications to Appendix A (Replaced Local District Local Plan Policies of the PfE Plan)	No Likely Significant Effects
MM2.1 – MMApxC.1	Annex 3 - Proposed main modifications to the illustrative maps, pictures and diagrams compared to the PfE Plan SD1	No Likely Significant Effects
MMApxB.3	Annex 4 of the PfE Main Modifications Schedule - Green Belt Additions	No Likely Significant Effects
MMApxD.1	Annex 5 of the Main Modifications Schedule – Proposed Main Modifications to Introduce a New Appendix D into the PfE Plan	No Likely Significant Effects

Explanation

- 2.2 The outcome of the screening assessment is that none of the Main Modifications to the PfE would have a Likely Significant Effect on European designated sites. The Main Modifications will not change the findings of the HRA of the PfE, November 2022 (OD7.1), in terms of the outcome of the Screening Assessment of Likely Significant Effects of the Plan or the further assessment and mitigation measures recommended in the Appropriate Assessment. Further explanation is provided below.
- 2.3 The Main Modifications would not raise traffic levels in and around the plan area such it would create an adverse air quality impact on the Holcroft Moss compartment of the Manchester Mosses SAC over and above the adverse impact that was identified, assessed and mitigated for in the HRA of the PfE, November 2022. Consequently, the proposed air quality mitigation in the HRA of the PfE, November 2022 for the Holcroft Moss site in the form of a developer contribution towards a Habitat Mitigation Plan and the provision of measures to reduce reliance of cars, reduce trip generation and promote ultra-low vehicle emissions remain a suitable mitigation package.

- 2.4 The Main Modifications would not increase recreation pressure on the South Pennine Moors SAC/SPAs over and above the adverse impact that was identified, assessed and mitigated for in the HRA of the PfE, November 2022. Consequently, the proposed recreation disturbance mitigation in the HRA of the PfE, November 2022 in the form of a development exclusion zone within 400m of the Moors, a requirement to assess and mitigate land for functionally linked habitats within 2.5km of the Moors and a requirement for development to provide or contribute towards the provision of Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace and a Strategic Access, Monitoring and Management Strategy within 7km of the Moors remains a suitable mitigation package.
- 2.5 None of the Main Modifications would have an adverse impact on the Rochdale Canal SAC, such that they would change the findings of the HRA of the PfE, November 2022. Consequently, the proposed mitigation in the HRA to assess and potentially mitigate boat movement, water pollution, and light spillage and shading impacts on the Rochdale Canal SAC remains a suitable mitigation package.
- 2.6 None of the Main Modifications will have a Likely Significant Effect on or change the findings of the HRA of the PfE, November 2022 in relation to diffuse water pollution on the Mersey Estuary Ramsar/SPA, air quality impacts on the South Pennine Moors SAC/SPAs and Rochdale Canal SAC and functionally linked habitats of PfE allocations to the South Pennine Moors SAC/SPAs, nor would there be any impact on any other European designated site.

3. Conclusions

- 3.1 Following Screening of the proposed Main Modifications to the Places for Everyone Plan it can be concluded that the proposed Modifications will not lead to any Likely Significant Effects on European sites, alone or in combination with other plans and projects, other than those identified in the HRA of the PfE, November 2022, and adequately mitigated in the Appropriate Assessment in the HRA of the PfE. The Position Statement from Natural England in the Appendix confirms that Natural England agrees with this conclusion.

Notes

- 1 Certain Modifications to Thematic Policies and Allocations have been made in order to facilitate the implementation of the mitigation measures that were recommended in the Appropriate Assessment of the HRA, November 2022 in order to avoid Adverse Effects on Integrity on European designated sites.
- 2 Certain Modifications to Thematic Policies and Allocations have been made in order to strengthen the protection offered to designated sites, and therefore the Modifications have strengthened the overall conclusions of the HRA.

APPENDIX

Places for Everyone Main Modifications – HRA

Natural England position statement

Natural England considers that the screening assessment of the Places for Everyone (PfE) proposed main modifications, together with the presenting of the results as an addendum report to the PfE HRA, is a reasonable approach.

Natural England agree with the outcome of the screening assessment that there are no “Likely Significant Effects” on European sites, other than those identified in the HRA of the PfE, November 2022 ([OD7.1](#)). Therefore, Natural England agree that it is not necessary to amend the PfE Appropriate Assessment as a result of the proposed main modifications.

Signed for Natural England

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Position: Area Manager – Cheshire to Lancashire Team

Date: 31/08/23

Signature: 