

Hyndburn Local Development Plan HRA Screening Report 2022

a report for
Hyndburn Borough Council



by

Graeme Skelcher
Ecological Consultant

8 Coach Road, Warton, Carnforth, Lancashire LA5 9PP
graeme.skelcher@gmail.com

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1 Introduction

This report was commissioned by Hyndburn Borough Council in 2021 to undertake the first 'screening' stage of a Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA) for the Hyndburn Local Plan that is currently in development. The screening stage considers whether there is any risk to sites recognised as being of European importance for their ecological value, to determine whether a full HRA is required to address or ameliorate the impacts of any potential risks.

European sites are protected under the *Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017* as amended (the *Habitats Regulations*). Proposals potentially affecting any of the following sites would, therefore, require HRA consideration:

- Special Areas of Conservation (SACs)
- Special Protection Areas (SPAs)
- proposed SACs
- potential SPAs
- Ramsar sites - wetlands of international importance (both listed and proposed)
- areas secured as sites compensating for damage to a European site

Potential impacts upon European sites could occur:

- on the site
- near the site
- some distance away, for example by causing air, water or noise pollution or affecting a feeding area used by one of the site's designated species

Screening is required to check if the proposal is likely to have a significant effect that could undermine any of the European sites' conservation objectives (see Appendix). If there is no likely significant effect, then it is not necessary to go through the subsequent Appropriate Assessment or derogation stages.

2 European sites within 25 km of Hyndburn Borough

Seven European sites have been identified that at least partially occur within 25 km of Hyndburn Borough. These are listed in Table 1 below, together with very brief details of each site's interest features, and are mapped on Map1 overleaf.

Table 1: List of European sites within 25 km of Hyndburn Borough, their main interest features and their distance to the Borough between their nearest points

Site Name	Main interests	Distance from Hyndburn Borough
South Pennine Moors SAC	upland heath, bog and oak woodland habitats	10 km
South Pennine Moors SPA	upland breeding bird assemblage including merlin, golden plover and short-eared owl	10 km
Bowland Fells SPA	breeding populations of the birds hen harrier, merlin and lesser black-backed gull	15 km
North Pennine Dales Meadows SAC	upland hay meadows and purple moor-grass meadows	16 km
Rochdale Canal SAC	population of the aquatic plant floating water-plantain	18 km
Ribble & Alt Estuaries SPA	seabird and waterbird assemblages including internationally important numbers of several wintering and passage wildfowl and waders plus breeding ruff, lesser black-backed gull and common tern	23 km
Ribble & Alt Estuaries Ramsar Site	coastal habitats, populations of natterjack toad and the liverwort <i>Petalophyllum ralfsii</i> , seabird and waterbird assemblages including internationally important numbers of several wintering and passage wildfowl and waders plus breeding black-headed gull and common tern	23 km

Further information on the interest features of each of these European sites can be found in the Appendix to this report and at the following websites:

South Pennine Moors SAC:

- <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/4973604919836672>

South Pennine Moors SPA:

- <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/4885083764817920>

Bowland Fells SPA:

- <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/5922368258048000>

North Pennine Dales Meadows SAC:

- <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/6605909522382848>

Rochdale Canal SAC:

- <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/6015060228964352>

Ribble & Alt Estuaries SPA:

- <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/4868920422957056>

Ribble & Alt Estuaries Ramsar Site:

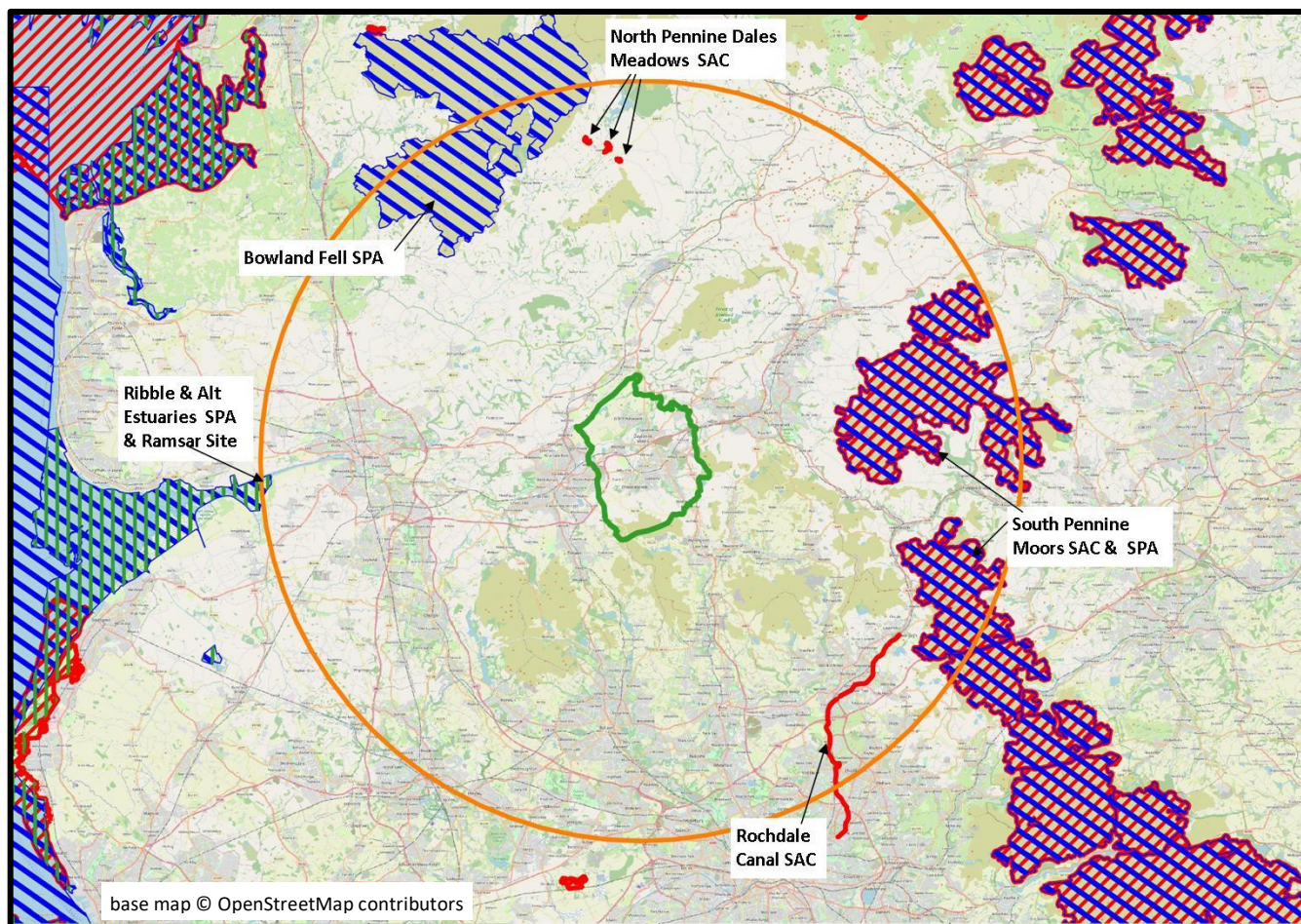
- <https://rsis.ramsar.org/ris/325>

Map 1: European sites within 25 km of Hyndburn Borough

Hyndburn Borough boundary marked by green line; 25 km radius shown by orange circle (28.5 km radius from approximate Borough centre shown, to allow for width of Borough, thus showing approximately 25 km beyond Borough)

SAC (Red hatch), SPA (blue hatch) and Ramsar (green hatch) data downloaded as open data from UK Gov website:

- <https://data.gov.uk/dataset/a85e64d9-d0f1-4500-9080-b0e29b81fbc8/special-areas-of-conservation-england>;
- <https://data.gov.uk/dataset/174f4e23-acb6-4305-9365-1e33c8d0e455/special-protection-areas-england>;
- <https://data.gov.uk/dataset/67b4ef48-d0b2-4b6f-b659-4efa33469889/ramsar-england>



3 Local Development Proposals

Table 2: List of Local Plan potential development sites, together with their proposed use and key habitats and key species identified at each site during the 2019 Hyndburn Habitat Survey (Skelcher 2019)

Site Ref.	Site name	District	Proposed use	Principal habitats present 2019	Principal & protected species 2019
2	The Steel Works, Charter Street, Accrington	Accrington (Central)	Housing	none	potential for bats
5	Land off Brookside Lane/Nook Lane, Oswaldtwistle	Oswaldtwistle (incl Knuzden)	Housing	lowland meadow, open mosaic habitats on previously developed ground	cinnabar moth, dunnock
24	Land north of Sandy Lane	Accrington (Central)	Housing	hedgerow	house sparrow
29	Union Works and Union St Garage	Accrington (Central)	Housing	none	cinnabar moth
48	Ringstonhalgh Farm	Clayton-le-Moors (incl Altham)	Housing	<i>none (lengths of hedgerow identified at this site in 2019 are excluded from the land proposed for development in the Local Plan)</i>	house sparrow, house martin, dunnock, cinnabar moth, bluebell
49	Houghton Barn Farm	Clayton-le-Moors (incl Altham)	Employment	pond, hedgerow	house sparrow, reed bunting, bluebell
60	Land lying to the west of Altham Lane, south of Barnfield Way	Clayton-le-Moors (incl Altham)	Employment	lowland mixed deciduous woodland, hedgerow	
66	York Mill, Livesey St, Rishton	Rishton	Housing	<i>not assessed in 2019</i>	
70	Woodnook Works, Bath St, Accrington. BB5 2HW	Accrington (Central)	Housing	lowland mixed deciduous woodland, lowland meadow, open mosaic habitats on previously developed ground	potential for cinnabar moth and white-letter hairstreak
74	Land south of Rhyddings Street and north of Stone Bridge Lane	Oswaldtwistle (incl Knuzden)	Housing	<i>not assessed in 2019</i>	
102	land off Fielding Street and Barn Meadow Crescent	Rishton	Housing	lowland mixed deciduous woodland, hedgerow	house sparrow, starling
103	land to the northeast of Cut Lane	Rishton	Housing	lowland mixed deciduous woodland, hedgerow, lowland dry acid grassland	house sparrow, house martin
117	Lower Barnes Street	Clayton-le-Moors (incl Altham)	Housing Housing	none	
120	Land at Hopwood Street, Accrington. BB5 0QF	Accrington (Central)	Housing	<i>not assessed in 2019</i>	
123	Land south of Stanhill Road, Knuzden BB1 2DR	Knuzden and Whitebirk	Housing	lowland mixed deciduous woodland, lowland heathland (0.03ha in area not affected by development), pond, hedgerow	reed bunting, house sparrow
152	Land at Charter Street	Accrington (Central)	Housing	lowland mixed deciduous woodland, lowland meadow	cinnabar moth, house sparrow

Site Ref.	Site name	District	Proposed use	Principal habitats present 2019	Principal & protected species 2019
155	Land at Springvale	Accrington (Central)	Gypsy and Traveller Site	<i>not assessed in 2019</i>	
172	Moorfield Industrial Estate	Clayton-le-Moors (incl Altham)	Employment	lowland mixed deciduous woodland, lowland meadow, lowland meadow	
201	Clayton Triangle	Clayton le Moors	Housing	lowland mixed deciduous woodland	house sparrow
218	land to west of Altham Lane	Clayton-le-Moors (incl. Altham)	Employment	hedgerow	
228	land between Blackburn Rd and M65 slipway. BB1 4AU	Knuzden and Whitebirk	Employment	hedgerow	house sparrow, reed bunting
229	land between Blackburn Rd, Sidebeet Lane, L&L Canal and railway. BB1 4AU	Knuzden and Whitebirk	Employment	lowland meadow, hedgerow	house sparrow, starling
230	land north of railway line between Sidebeet Lane and L&L Canal	Knuzden and Whitebirk	Employment	none	reed bunting
247	Sough Lane Gypsy and Traveller site extension	Oswaldtwistle (excl Knuzden)	Gypsy and Traveller Site	<i>not assessed in 2019</i>	
250	land west of J7 Business Park (known previously as GEC test beds). BB5 5JW	Clayton le Moors and Altham	Employment	<i>not assessed in 2019</i>	
261	27 - 71 PENDLE STREET ACCRINGTON BB5 0SL		Housing	<i>not assessed in 2019</i>	
262 part of 152	Land at Crossland Street		Gypsy and Traveller Site	lowland meadow	
78.1	Land south east of Moorfield Avenue	Huncoat	Housing	lowland meadow	house sparrow, kestrel
264 incl. 139	Land bounded by Park Road, Balfour St, Wood St and Heys Lane	Great Harwood		lowland mixed deciduous woodland	
265 incl. 75	Land off Rhoden Road/Roe Greave Road	Oswaldtwistle (incl Knuzden)	Housing	None	
266	Land off Enfield Road, Huncoat	Huncoat	Gypsy and Traveller Site	<i>not assessed in 2019</i>	
268	Huncoat Garden Village	Huncoat	Housing	<i>not assessed in 2019</i>	
269	Huncoat Garden Village	Huncoat	Housing	<i>not assessed in 2019</i>	
270	Huncoat Garden Village	Huncoat	Housing	<i>not assessed in 2019</i>	
271	Huncoat Garden Village	Huncoat	Housing	<i>not assessed in 2019</i>	
272	Huncoat Garden Village	Huncoat	Safeguarded	<i>not assessed in 2019</i>	
273	Huncoat Garden Village	Huncoat	Safeguarded	<i>not assessed in 2019</i>	
274	Huncoat Garden Village	Huncoat	new road	<i>not assessed in 2019</i>	
275 formerly 25	land adjacent Sankey House Farm	Altham	Gypsy and Traveller Site	hedgerow	cinnabar moth

Of the sites not assessed in 2019, Sites referenced 66, 74, 120, 155, 250, 261, 262 and 266 are understood to lie within the urban area and, from aerial images, appear to comprise a mixture of abandoned industrial or employment sites and improved grassland, with Site 261 being a recently cleared row of terraced houses, while possible rough grassland, scrub and trees are found only at Sites 74 and 120.

Site 247 lies within green belt and, from aerial images, appears to comprise improved grassland adjacent to an existing traveller site.

Sites 266, 268, 268, 270, 271, 272, 273 and 274 lie within the Huncoat Garden Village area. A Phase 1 survey of the Huncoat Garden Village area was carried out in 2018 (Arcadis 2018), and the report produced from that together with personal observation (2021) suggests the presence of: lowland mixed deciduous woodland, hedgerows, lowland meadow, lowland dry acid grassland, open mosaic habitats on previously developed ground and ponds

Map 2: Location of potential development sites included in the Hyndburn Local Plan

Site reference numbers relate to the site descriptions in Table 2 and used elsewhere by Hyndburn Borough Council.

Hyndburn Borough boundary marked by green line

Red = proposed Employment sites;

Purple = proposed Mixed Employment/Housing;

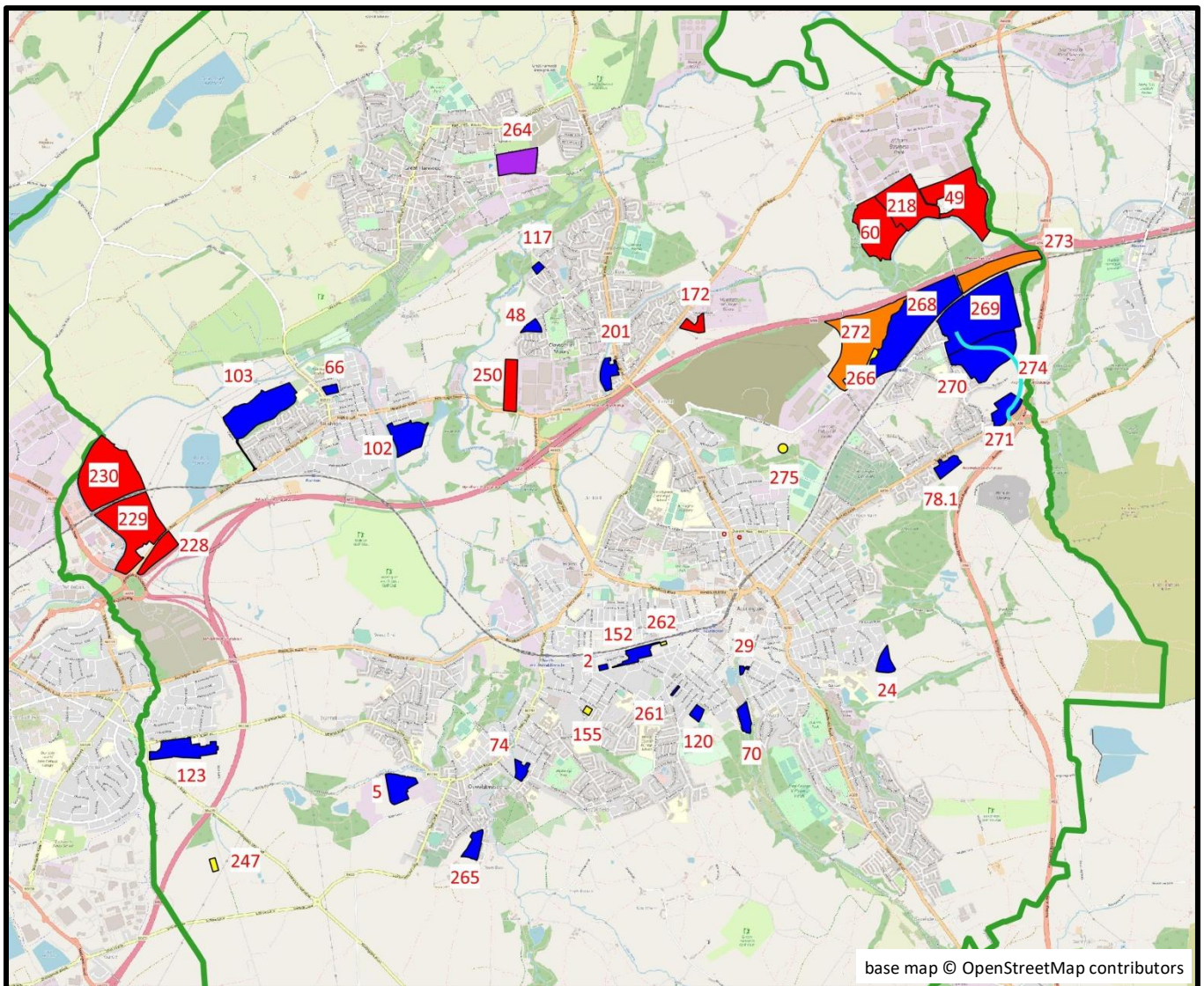
Orange = safeguarded for potential future development;

Green line = Hyndburn Borough boundary

Blue = proposed Housing sites;

Yellow = proposed Gypsy and Traveller sites;

Pale Blue line = proposed new road



4 Screening opinion: Likely effect of Local Development Plan upon European Sites

The proposals contained in the Hyndburn Local Plan are not directly connected with or necessary for the conservation management of a European site. The following therefore considers the potential risks to European sites, on its own or in combination with other proposals, based on the evidence provided above.

4.1 Direct impact upon European sites

The nearest European site to Hyndburn Borough is 10 km away. There will, therefore, be no direct loss of land within a European site caused by the actions proposed by the Hyndburn Local Plan.

4.2 Indirect impact upon European site feature habitats

Habitats of interest protected by European sites within 25 km of Hyndburn Borough are: upland heath, bog and oak woodland habitats, upland hay meadows and purple moor-grass meadows, waterways supporting floating water-plantain and various coastal habitats.

None of these habitats are found at any of the sites included in the Hyndburn Local Plan or in their near vicinity. Actions proposed by the Local Plan will not, therefore, impact upon any of these habitats or result in contraction of any of these features in the wider landscape.

4.3 Indirect impact upon European site feature species

Species of interest protected by European sites within 25 km of Hyndburn Borough are: upland breeding birds including merlin, golden plover, short-eared owl and hen harrier; seabirds and waterbirds including wintering and passage wildfowl and waders and breeding ruff, lesser black-backed gull, black-headed gull and common tern; floating water plantain; natterjack toad; and the liverwort *Petalophyllum ralfsii*.

There is no record of any of these species using any of the sites identified for possible development under the Hyndburn Local Plan and no habitats favourable to these species are present within the sites or in their near vicinity. Actions proposed by the Local Plan will not, therefore, impact upon any of these species or result in contraction in the numbers or range of these feature species in the wider landscape.

4.4 Indirect impact upon European sites through windborne pollution

The Hyndburn Local Plan provides provision for housing, employment and sites for travellers, but no heavy industrial processes are proposed and none of these developments should generate any significant degree of air pollution. Actions proposed by the Local Plan will not, therefore, impact upon any of the European sites through airborne pollutants.

4.5 Indirect impact upon European sites through water pollution

Hyndburn lies within the Ribble Catchment, so all watercourses within the Borough will eventually drain into the Ribble Estuary and, consequently, the area designated as the Ribble & Alt Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site. The Leeds & Liverpool Canal also connects to the Rochdale Canal (and hence the Rochdale Canal SAC) via the Calder & Hebble Navigational, though the Calder & Hebble separates from the Leeds & Liverpool Canal some 90 km to the east of Hyndburn along the Leeds & Liverpool Canal at Castleford. Several potential development sites included in the Hyndburn Local Plan lie close to water courses (see Map 3).

5 References

- Arcadis (2018) Huncoat Garden Village Masterplan and Delivery Strategy - Ecology Section. Hyndburn Borough Council, Accrington.
- Eaton MA, Aebischer NJ, Brown AF, Hearn RD, Lock L, Musgrove AJ, Noble DG, Stroud DA and Gregory RD (2015) Birds of Conservation Concern 4: the population status of birds in the United Kingdom, Channel Islands and Isle of Man. *British Birds* 108, 708–746.
- JNCC (2010) *Handbook for Phase 1 habitat survey: a technique for environmental audit*. JNCC, Peterborough.
- Rodwell JS Ed. (1991 et seq) *British Plant Communities (Volumes 1 - 5)*. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge.
- Skelcher G (2019) *Hyndburn Borough Council habitats survey 2019*. Hyndburn Borough Council, Accrington.
- UK Government (2021) Habitats regulations assessments: protecting a European site. <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/habitats-regulations-assessments-protecting-a-european-site>

Appendix: Considered European site lists of features and conservation objectives

1 South Pennines SAC and SPA

SAC Qualifying Features:

- H4010. Northern Atlantic wet heaths with *Erica tetralix*; Wet heathland with cross-leaved heath
- H4030. European dry heaths
- H7130. Blanket bogs*
- H7140. Transition mires and quaking bogs; Very wet mires often identified by an unstable 'quaking' surface
- H91A0. Old sessile oak woods with *Ilex* and *Blechnum* in the British Isles

SAC Conservation Objectives

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 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

SPA Qualifying Features:

- A098 *Falco columbarius*; Merlin (Breeding)
- A140 *Pluvialis apricaria*; European golden plover (Breeding)
- *Asio flammeus*; Short-eared owl
- Breeding bird assemblage

SPA Conservation Objectives

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;

- 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.

2 **Bowland Fells SPA**

SPA Qualifying Features:

- A082 *Circus cyaneus*; Hen harrier (Breeding)
- A098 *Falco columbarius*; Merlin (Breeding)

Additional Qualifying Features

- A183. *Larus fuscus*; Lesser black-backed gull (Breeding)

SPA Conservation Objectives

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;

- 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.

3 **North Pennine Dales SAC**

SAC Qualifying Features:

- H6410. *Molinia* meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (*Molinion caeruleae*); Purple moor-grass meadows
- H6520. Mountain hay meadows

SAC Conservation Objectives

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 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 and the habitats of qualifying species rely

4 Rochdale Canal SAC

SAC Qualifying Features:

- S1831. *Luronium natans*; Floating water-plantain

SAC Conservation Objectives

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 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 the qualifying species, and,
- The distribution of the qualifying species within the site.

5 Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site

SPA Qualifying Features:

- A037 *Cygnus columbianus bewickii*; Bewick's swan (Non-breeding)
- A038 *Cygnus cygnus*; Whooper swan (Non-breeding)
- A040 *Anser brachyrhynchus*; Pink-footed goose (Non-breeding)
- A048 *Tadorna tadorna*; Common shelduck (Non-breeding)
- A050 *Anas penelope*; Eurasian wigeon (Non-breeding)
- A052 *Anas crecca*; Eurasian teal (Non-breeding)
- A054 *Anas acuta*; Northern pintail (Non-breeding)
- A130 *Haematopus ostralegus*; Eurasian oystercatcher (Non-breeding)
- A137 *Charadrius hiaticula*; Ringed plover (Non-breeding)
- A140 *Pluvialis apricaria*; European golden plover (Non-breeding)
- A141 *Pluvialis squatarola*; Grey plover (Non-breeding)
- A143 *Calidris canutus*; Red knot (Non-breeding)
- A144 *Calidris alba*; Sanderling (Non-breeding)
- A149 *Calidris alpina alpina*; Dunlin (Non-breeding)
- A151 *Philomachus pugnax*; Ruff (Breeding)
- A156 *Limosa limosa islandica*; Black-tailed godwit (Non-breeding)
- A157 *Limosa lapponica*; Bar-tailed godwit (Non-breeding)
- A162 *Tringa totanus*; Common redshank (Non-breeding)
- A183 *Larus fuscus*; Lesser black-backed gull (Breeding)
- A193 *Sterna hirundo*; Common tern (Breeding)
- **Waterbird assemblage** - used regularly by over 20,000 waterbirds (waterbirds as defined by the Ramsar Convention) in any season: In the non-breeding season, the area regularly supports 323,861 individual waterbirds (5 year peak mean 1993/94 - 1997/98), including Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*, Bewick's Swan *Cygnus columbianus bewickii*, Whooper Swan *Cygnus cygnus*, Pink-footed Goose *Anser brachyrhynchus*, Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*, Wigeon *Anas penelope*, Teal *Anas crecca*, Pintail *Anas acuta*, Scaup *Aythya marila*, Common Scoter *Melanitta nigra*, Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*, Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius*, Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria*, Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*, Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*, Knot *Calidris canutus islandica*, Sanderling *Calidris alba*, Dunlin *Calidris alpina alpina*, Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa islandica*, Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*, Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*, Curlew *Numenius arquata* and Redshank *Tringa totanus*.
- **Seabird assemblage** - used regularly by over 20,000 seabirds in any season: In the breeding season, the area regularly supports 29,236 individual seabirds (count period ongoing), including Black-headed Gull *Larus ridibundus*, Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus graellsii* and Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*.

SPA Non-qualifying species of interest:

The following Annex 1 species occur in non-breeding numbers of less than European importance (less than 1% of the Great Britain population): Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus*, Merlin *Falco columbarius*, Peregrine *Falco peregrinus* and Short-eared Owl *Asio flammeus*.

SPA Conservation Objectives

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;

- 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.

Ramsar criterion

Assemblages of international importance, species with peak counts in winter:

- 222,038 waterfowl (5 year peak mean 1998/99-2002/2003)

Species/populations occurring at levels of international importance.

Species with peak counts in spring/autumn:

- Black-tailed godwit , *Limosa limosa islandica*, Iceland/W Europe, 3323 individuals, representing an average of 7% of the population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3)
- Common redshank , *Tringa totanus totanus*, 4465 individuals, representing an average of 1.7% of the population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3)
- Dunlin , *Calidris alpina alpina*, W Siberia/W Europe, 38,196 individuals, representing an average of 2.8% of the population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3 - spring peak)
- Grey plover , *Pluvialis squatarola*, E Atlantic/W Africa -wintering, 11,021 individuals, representing an average of 4.4% of the population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3 - spring peak)
- Red knot , *Calidris canutus islandica*, W & Southern Africa (wintering), 42,692 individuals, representing an average of 9.4% of the population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3)
- Ringed plover , *Charadrius hiaticula*, Europe/Northwest Africa, 3761 individuals, representing an average of, 5.1% of the population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3 - spring peak)
- Sanderling , *Calidris alba*, Eastern Atlantic 7401 individuals, representing an average of 6% of the population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3 - spring peak)

Species with peak counts in winter:

- Bar-tailed godwit , *Limosa lapponica lapponica*, W Palearctic, 13,935 individuals, representing an average of, 11.6% of the population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3)
- Eurasian oystercatcher , *Haematopus ostralegus ostralegus*, Europe & NW Africa - wintering, 18,926 individuals, representing an average of, 1.8% of the population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3)
- Eurasian teal , *Anas crecca*, NW Europe 5107 individuals, representing an average of 1% of the population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3)
- Eurasian wigeon , *Anas penelope*, NW Europe 69,841 individuals, representing an average of 4.6% of the population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3)
- Northern pintail , *Anas acuta*, NW Europe 1,497 individuals, representing an average of 2.5% of the population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3)
- Pink-footed goose , *Anser brachyrhynchus*, Greenland, Iceland/UK, 6,552 individuals, representing an average of 2.42% of the population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3)

- Tundra swan , *Cygnus columbianus bewickii*, NW Europe, 230 individuals, representing an average of 1.1% of the GB population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3)
- Whooper swan , *Cygnus cygnus*, Iceland/UK/Ireland, 211 individuals, representing an average of 1% of the population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3)

Marine/coastal wetland

- E Sand / shingle shores (including dune systems)
- G Tidal flats
- H Salt marshes
- Ts Freshwater marshes / pools: seasonal / intermittent

Noteworthy flora, International importance, Lower plants:

- *Petalophyllum ralfsii* (Conservation status: European Red List: Vulnerable; EC Habitats Directive: Annex II)

Bird species regularly supported during the breeding season:

- Black-headed gull , *Larus ridibundus*, N & C, Europe, 14888 apparently occupied nests, representing an average of 11.6% of the GB population (Seabird 2000 Census)
- Common tern , *Sterna hirundo hirundo*, N & E Europe, 182 pairs, representing an average of 1.7% of the GB population (1996)

Bird species with peak counts in spring/autumn:

- Common greenshank , *Tringa nebularia*, Europe/W Africa, 9 individuals, representing an average of 1.5% of the GB population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3)
- Eurasian curlew , *Numenius arquata arquata*, N.a. arquata Europe, (breeding) 2502 individuals, representing an average of 1.7% of the GB population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3)
- Ruff , *Philomachus pugnax*, Europe/W Africa 60 individuals, representing an average of 8.5% of the GB population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3)

Species with peak counts in winter:

- Black (common) scoter , *Melanitta nigra nigra*, 691 individuals, representing an average of 1.3% of the GB population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3)
- Black-headed gull , *Larus ridibundus*, N & C Europe, 16849 individuals, representing an average of 1% of the GB population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3)
- European golden plover, *Pluvialis apricaria apricaria*, Iceland & Faroes/E Atlantic, 3588 individuals, representing an average of 1.4% of the GB population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3)
- Great cormorant , *Phalacrocorax carbo carbo*, NW Europe, 463 individuals, representing an average of 2% of the GB population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3)
- Northern shoveler , *Anas clypeata*, NW & C Europe, 200 individuals, representing an average of 1.3% of the GB population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3)
- Red-throated diver , *Gavia stellata*, NW Europe 56 individuals, representing an average of 1.1% of the GB population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3)
- Spotted redshank , *Tringa erythropus*, Europe/W Africa, 2 individuals, representing an average of 1.4% of the GB population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3)

Species occurring at levels of national importance:

- Natterjack toad *Bufo calamita* (c. 40% GB population)