

To Inform Habitats Regulations Assessment of Knowsley Council's Supplementary Planning Document:

Halsnead. A sustainable garden village
Masterplan Supplementary Planning Document.
Consultation Draft December 2016

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Quality information

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Table of Contents

1.	Introduction	5
1.1	Scope of the Project	5
1.1	Legislation.....	5
2.	Methodology	7
2.1	Introduction	7
2.2	Likely Significant Effects (LSE).....	7
2.3	Confirming Other Plans and Projects That May Act 'In Combination'	8
2.4	Summary of Assessment to Date	8
2.4.1	Liverpool Bay SPA / Bae Lerwpl SPA with Marine Component and Proposed Extension to the SPA.....	8
3.	Test of Likely Significant Effects	12
3.1	Introduction	12
3.2	Chapter 1: Introduction	12
3.3	Chapter 2: The Site.....	12
3.4	Chapter 3: Policy Framework	12
3.5	Chapter 4: Key Issues and Opportunities.....	13
3.6	Chapter 6: Masterplanning Guidance.....	25
3.7	Chapter 7: Implementation and Delivery	33
4.	Conclusion	34
	Appendix A : Figure 1: Location of European Designated Sites	35

Figures

Figure 1: Four-Stage Approach to Habitats Regulations Assessment (Source: CLG, 2006)	7
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Tables

Table 1: Physical Scope of Knowsley's Core Strategy HRA.....	9
Table 2. Likely Significant Effects Test of Halsnead Masterplan SPD Eight Strategic Objectives.	14
Table 3. Likely Significant Effects Test of Halsnead Masterplan SPD Key Requirements.....	16
Table 4. Likely Significant Effects Test of Halsnead Masterplan SPD Masterplanning Guidance	26

1. Introduction

1.1 Scope of the Project

AECOM has been appointed by Knowsley Council to assist the Council in undertaking a Habitats Regulations Assessment of the Council's Halsnead Masterplan Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)¹. The objective of the assessment is to identify any policies within the SPD that have potential to cause an adverse effect on Natura 2000 or European designated sites (Special Areas of Conservation, SACs, Special Protection Areas, SPAs, and Ramsar sites designated under the Ramsar convention), either in isolation or in combination with other plans and projects, and to devise appropriate mitigation strategies where such effects were identified.

A Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) screening assessment was undertaken of Knowsley Council's Core Strategy in 2012² and of the Main Modifications document in 2014³. These HRA documents concluded that the Core Strategy would not result in likely significant effects upon internationally designated sites alone or in combination with other projects or plans. Further to this, in January 2016 AECOM undertook Habitats Regulations Assessment of Knowsley Council's South of Whiston and Land South of M62 Sustainable Urban Extension, Consultation Draft Version January 201 Supplementary Planning Document (SPD). This SPD did not provide for any development beyond that defined in the Core Strategy. The HRA of the South of Whiston and Land South of M62 Sustainable Urban Extension SPD concluded that this SPD concluded that there were no impact pathways present within the SPD that could link to a European designated site alone or in combination and as such was screened out from further consideration.

The Halsnead Masterplan SPD replaces the South of Whiston and Land South of M62 Sustainable Urban Extension SPD. The previous SPD was subjected to HRA by AECOM in 2016. The substance of the SPD in terms of potential for likely significant effects on European sites has not changed. The quantum and location of development were assessed in the Core Strategy HRA and therefore do not require re-assessing in this HRA.

1.1 Legislation

The need for HRA is set out within Article 6 of the EC Habitats Directive 1992, and interpreted into British law by the Conservation of Habitats & Species Regulations 2010. The ultimate aim of the Habitats Directive is to "*maintain or restore, at favourable conservation status, natural habitats and species of wild fauna and flora of Community interest*" (Habitats Directive, Article 2(2)). This aim relates to habitats and species, not the European sites themselves, although the sites have a significant role in delivering favourable conservation status. European sites (also called Natura 2000 sites) can be defined as actual or proposed/candidate Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) or Special Protection Areas (SPA). It is also Government policy for sites designated under the Convention on Wetlands of

¹ The Core Strategy was adopted in 2016 and this Supplementary Planning Document follows on from that Core Strategy

² URS (October 2012). Knowsley Borough Council Core Strategy Habitats Regulations Assessment.
http://www.knowsley.gov.uk/pdf/SD11_CoreStrategyHabitatsRegulationsAssessment.pdf [accessed 23/12/2016]

³ URS (June 2014). HRA of Changes to the Knowsley Local Plan Core Strategy following Examination in Public
http://www.knowsley.gov.uk/pdf/SD29_KLPCS_ProposedModifications_HRA.pdf [accessed 23/12/2016]

International Importance (Ramsar sites) to be treated as having equivalent status to Natura 2000 sites.

The Habitats Directive applies the precautionary principle to protected areas. Plans and projects can only be permitted having ascertained that there will be no adverse effect on the integrity of the site(s) in question. This is in contrast to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive (SEA Directive) which does not prescribe how plan or programme proponents should respond to the findings of an environmental assessment; merely that the assessment findings (as documented in the 'environmental report') should be 'taken into account' during preparation of the plan or programme. In the case of the Habitats Directive, plans and projects may still be permitted if there are no alternatives to them and there are Imperative Reasons of Overriding Public Interest (IROPI) as to why they should go ahead. In such cases, compensation would be necessary to ensure the overall integrity of the site network.

In order to ascertain whether or not site integrity will be affected, a HRA should be undertaken of the plan or project in question.

Box 1. The legislative basis for HRA

Habitats Directive 1992

Article 6 (3) states that:

“Any plan or project not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site but likely to have a significant effect thereon, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, shall be subject to appropriate assessment of its implications for the site in view of the site's conservation objectives.”

Conservation of Habitats & Species Regulations 2010 (as amended)

The Regulations state that:

“A competent authority, before deciding to ... give any consent for a plan or project which is likely to have a significant effect on a European site ... shall make an appropriate assessment of the implications for the site in view of that sites conservation objectives... The authority shall agree to the plan or project only after having ascertained that it will not adversely affect the integrity of the European site”.

2. Methodology

2.1 Introduction

The HRA is being carried out in the absence of formal Government guidance. The Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG; was Communities and Local Government) released a consultation paper on Appropriate Assessment of Plans in 2006⁴. As yet, no further formal guidance has emerged.

Figure 1 below outlines the stages of HRA according to current draft DCLG guidance. The stages are essentially iterative, being revisited as necessary in response to more detailed information, recommendations and any relevant changes to the plan until no significant adverse effects remain.

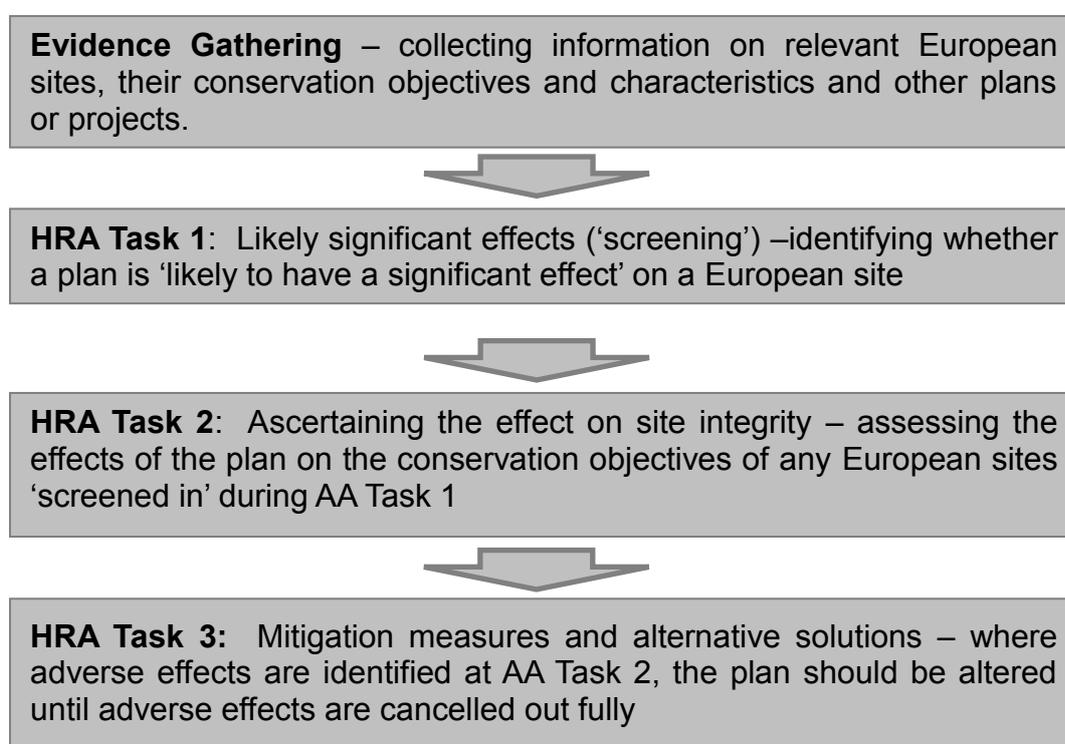


Figure 1: Four-Stage Approach to Habitats Regulations Assessment (Source: CLG, 2006)

2.2 Likely Significant Effects (LSE)

The first stage of any Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA Task 1) is a likely significant effect (LSE) test - essentially a risk assessment to decide whether the full subsequent stage known as Appropriate Assessment is required. The essential question is:

"Is the Plan, either alone or in combination with other relevant projects and plans, likely to result in a significant effect upon European sites?"

The objective is to 'screen out' those plans and projects that can, without any detailed appraisal, be said to be unlikely to result in significant adverse effects upon

⁴ DCLG (2006) Planning for the Protection of European Sites, Consultation Paper

European sites, usually because there is no mechanism for an adverse interaction with European sites. The likely significant effect test is the purpose of this HRA report.

2.3 Confirming Other Plans and Projects That May Act 'In Combination'

The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations (2010) require that plans are not considered purely in isolation but 'in combination' with other projects and plans. That analysis has already been undertaken as part of the strategic HRA undertaken for the Knowsley Core Strategy⁵. Since this SPD does not seek to deviate from development already identified and thus assessed within the Knowsley Core Strategy HRA documents (e.g. at a higher tier assessment stage), it is not necessary to repeat the analysis for this document.

Since the Knowsley Core Strategy HRA in 2012 the Sefton Coast Plan has been created and is currently subject to independent examination by the Secretary of State. Whilst this is yet to be adopted, it is in the final stages of preparation and is unlikely to change substantially. The Sefton Coast Plan has been subject to HRA and it was able to conclude that no likely significant effects would result either alone or in combination. It can be concluded that the Sefton Coast Plan would not interact with the Halsnead Masterplan SPD to create impact pathways linking to European designated sites

2.4 Summary of Assessment to Date

As discussed earlier in this document, the location and quantum of the development covered by the SPD were known and analysed for the Core Strategy HRA. As a brief summary of background information, the HRA documents for the Knowsley Core Strategy identified that there could be likely significant effects upon the following internationally designated sites resulting from the Knowsley Local Plan Core Strategy (hereafter referred to as the Core Strategy).

Locations of all relevant European designated sites are identified within **Appendix A, Figure A1**.

2.4.1 Liverpool Bay SPA / Bae Lerwpl SPA with Marine Component and Proposed Extension to the SPA

Since the Core Strategy HRA, Liverpool Bay pSPA has been identified. The designation for Liverpool Bay SPA features and extent are changing as set out in a recent consultation by Natural England. The bay stretches from Anglesey in Wales to the Lancashire coast and was classified for its non-breeding aggregations of red-throated diver *Gavia stellata* and common scoter *Melanitta nigra*. For the most part the Proposed Extension to the SPA would extend the SPA further out to sea. However, the Proposed Extension to the SPA would also bring the physical area covered by the SPA up the River Mersey to the entrance to Birkenhead Docks. The Proposed Extension would afford protection to little gull *Hydrocoloeus minutus*, and cover important foraging areas for little tern *Sterna albifrons* (colony at Gronant) and common tern *Sterna hirundo* (colony at Seaforth). The Proposed Extension would

⁵ URS (October 2012). Knowsley Borough Council Core Strategy Habitats Regulations Assessment. http://www.knowsley.gov.uk/pdf/SD11_CoreStrategyHabitatsRegulationsAssessment.pdf [accessed 23/12/2016]
URS (June 2014). HRA of Changes to the Knowsley Local Plan Core Strategy following Examination in Public http://www.knowsley.gov.uk/pdf/SD29_KLPCS_ProposedModifications_HRA.pdf [accessed 23/12/2016]

also add red-breasted merganser *Mergus serrator* and cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo* as named features of the assemblage for which the SPA is designated.

Even with the extension of the existing SPA and the additional features, this change does not alter the conclusions of the Knowsley Core Strategy HRA due to the similar sensitivities of the pSPA, and the distance of the site from Knowsley.

Table 1: Physical Scope of Knowsley's Core Strategy HRA

European site	Reason for inclusion
Mersey Estuary SPA & Ramsar Sites	Located approximately 1.6km to the south of the Knowsley Borough Core Strategy Area and with hydrological connections to it.
Manchester Mosses SAC	Located adjacent to the M62, which is one of the principal routes between Knowsley and Manchester
River Dee & Bala Lake SAC	Identified as a source of drinkable water for Merseyside.
Sefton Coast SAC	Located within Merseyside, currently subject to recreational pressures.
Dee Estuary SAC, SPA & Ramsar site	Downstream of the River Dee which is identified as a source of drinkable water for Merseyside.
Mersey Narrows & North Wirral Foreshore Ramsar and SPA	Located within Merseyside, with hydraulic connections to the Mersey and currently subject to recreational pressures.
Ribble & Alt Estuaries SPA and Ramsar sites	Located within Merseyside with hydraulic connections to the Mersey and currently subject to recreational pressures. Also potential water quality pathway through wastewater discharge from River Alt and via the River Mersey.
Liverpool Bay SPA and pSPA	Located immediately adjacent to Merseyside and is therefore a potential water quality pathway through wastewater effluent discharges as well as recreational disturbance.
River Eden SAC	Haweswater Lake (to which the River is hydrologically connected) is likely to form part of the future water supply for Merseyside.
Martin Mere SPA & Ramsar sites	Whilst this is located approximately 12.7km north of Knowsley, any renewable energy policies (e.g. wind turbines), alone or in combination have the potential to affect flight paths of qualifying bird species.

As this report is to be read in conjunction with the Knowsley Core Strategy HRA, background to these sites is not repeated within this document. To find this please refer to the Core Strategy HRA⁶.

The Knowsley Council Core Strategy HRA undertook a strategic assessment 'in-combination' of all housing and other development planned for Knowsley Council regarding the following impact pathways:

⁶ Ibid

- Disturbance;
- Mechanical/abrasive damage and nutrient enrichment;
- Loss of functionally-linked land;
- Atmospheric pollution;
- Water quality; and
- Water resources.

The HRA of the South of Whiston and Land South of M62 Sustainable Urban Extension (SUE; which is now called Halshead) in the Core Strategy concluded⁷ that:

‘no mechanism has been identified for this site to operate in combination with other sites or projects/plans in raising a likely significant effect that has not already been considered in the submission HRA.’ In other words, no site-specific likely significant effects were identified separately from the total in combination effect of housing and employment development generally across the borough.

The HRA for the Core Strategy screened out impacts from proposed development within the South of Whiston and Land South of M62 SUE⁸ (the two areas covered by this SPD), stating for each of the site allocations:

- South of Whiston SUE

‘South of Whiston SUE is located 6.5km north of the nearest European site: Mersey Estuary SPA/Ramsar site. It is also 9.2km south of the major pink-footed goose roost at Simonswood Moss...

Considering the nature of the development proposed (residential development) the site is not situated in such a way that it would cause disturbance to qualifying bird species through interference with flightlines between a coastal SPA and an inland SPA (e.g. Martin Mere which is 24km to the north of South of Whiston).

From scrutiny of photography vegetation on site appears to be pasture and arable and as such would be suitable for SPA birds. However, the site is not located in an area identified based on desk-study analysis as being of particular importance for pink-footed goose, whooper swan or Bewick's swan and therefore its development would not result in a loss of supporting habitat.’

- Land South of the M62

‘Land South of M62 SUE is located 5.5km north of the nearest European site: Mersey Estuary SPA/Ramsar site. It is also 10km south of the major pink-footed goose roost at Simonswood Moss...

Considering the nature of the development proposed (residential development) the site is not situated in such a way that it would cause disturbance to qualifying bird species through interference with flightlines between a coastal SPA and an inland SPA (e.g. Martin Mere which is 25km to the north of Land South of M62).

From scrutiny of photography vegetation on site appears to be grassland (possibly pasture), arable and woodland (since the total site area is 77.28ha and only 22.5ha

⁷ Ibid

⁸ URS (June 2014). HRA of Changes to the Knowsley Local Plan Core Strategy following Examination in Public http://www.knowsley.gov.uk/pdf/SD29_KLPCS_ProposedModifications_HRA.pdf [accessed 23/12/2016]

is required for employment land it is assumed that the woodland areas would be largely avoided). The grassland/arable areas could have some suitability for SPA birds. However, the site is not located in an area identified based on desk-study analysis as being of particular importance for pink-footed goose, whooper swan or Bewick's swan and therefore its development would not result in a loss of supporting habitat.'

The SPD: Halsnead Masterplan is a supporting document to the Core Strategy, to be read in conjunction with the Core Strategy. It does not go beyond the level of development outlined within the Core Strategy.

The purpose of this HRA is therefore very specific. It does not re-examine strategic in-combination issues that were examined in the HRA of the Core Strategy. Rather it examines impacts of the policies within this SPD to determine whether they would present any potential for policy specific impacts that could not have been identified during the strategic HRA.

Impact pathways listed above will be considered during this assessment. Background to these impact pathways is detailed within the Core Strategy HRA documents and is not repeated here.

3. Test of Likely Significant Effects

3.1 Introduction

This SPD does not explicitly provide any policies, as the policies are set by the Core Strategy. It does however provide for development management and control detail via Strategic Objectives, Key Requirements, and Masterplan Guidance. To ensure completeness, the entire SPD document has been subjected to a test of likely significant effect undertaken on a chapter by chapter basis in the following sections. Where Strategic Objectives, Key Requirements, and Masterplan Guidance are included, these are also individually assessed in the relevant chapter sections below.

3.2 Chapter 1: Introduction

This chapter describes the background to the SPD. It includes detail of the consultation process, existing policy drivers (such as Policies SUE1 and SUE2 of the Core Strategy), current land ownership, detail regarding strategic environmental assessment and Habitats Regulations Assessment and the need to '*maintain or restore, at favourable conservation status, natural habitats and species of wild fauna and flora of Community Interest*'⁹.

This is a positive chapter. It does not provide for any impact pathways that could link to European designated sites and as such can be screened out from further consideration and are not discussed further.

3.3 Chapter 2: The Site

This chapter describes the site and location covered by the SPD. It includes detail regarding accessibility, and provides a site description for the land parcel to the north of the M62 known as 'South of Whiston' and for the land to the south of the M62 known as 'Land to South of M62'. This chapter also provides details of local facilities. It should be noted that the land parcels illustrated in this chapter are not allocated within the SPD, but have been previously allocated in the overarching Core Strategy which has been subject to HRA.

This chapter does not provide for any impact pathways that could link to European designated sites and as such can be screened out from further consideration and are not discussed further.

3.4 Chapter 3: Policy Framework

This chapter summarises existing policy framework relating to this SPD. It includes reference to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG), and the Development Plans including Core Strategy which provides the overarching spatial vision for Knowsley.

The Core Strategy allocated the two land parcels included within this SPD (South of Whiston SUE and Land South of the M62). Policy SUE2c of the Core Strategy sets out the overall development strategy that included the allocation of these land parcels included in this SPD. Chapter 3 of the SPD also includes detail of other Core Strategy policies that are of relevance to this SPD. These include Core Strategy policies CS1, CS2, CS5, CS7, SC8, CS19, CS20, CS22 and CS24.

⁹ Habitats Directive, Article 2(2)

Additional policy framework referred to in this chapter includes: Knowsley Local Plan Core Strategy; Saved Policies of the Knowsley Unitary Development Plan; Joint Merseyside and Halton Waste Local Plan, a number of Supplementary Planning Documents (SPD) relating to travel, design, new residential development, developer contributions, trees and development; and the Liverpool City Region Growth Plan, and Knowsley Place Board.

This chapter provides the overarching policy framework that is relevant to the SPD. It does not provide for any impact pathways that could link to European designated sites and as such can be screened out from further consideration and are not discussed further.

3.5 Chapter 4: Key Issues and Opportunities

Chapter 4 summarises the key issues and opportunities arising from baseline analysis. This includes issues and opportunities relating to landscape and visual, townscape, archaeology, ecology, geo-environmental issues, noise, air quality, utilities, flood risk, surface water, foul drainage, transport and highways, local facilities, current land ownership, and open space. Sections within this chapter include positive provision. Air quality is noted to be a potential issue and this section provides for mitigation measures, thus limiting atmospheric pollution. The need for an incremental approach to development in line with provision of foul drainage will ensure that water quality is not detrimentally affected by the development.

This chapter does not provide for any impact pathways that could link to European designated sites and as such can be screened out from further consideration and are not discussed further.

3.6 Chapter 5: Development Framework

Chapter 5 establishes a development framework setting out key requirements for all development proposals. This chapter provides eight Strategic Objectives for the development of Halsnead. These are subject to a Likely Significant Effects Test in Table 2.

Where the 'HRA Implications' column is coloured green, there are no HRA implications as no impact pathways linking to European designated sites are present. These Strategic Objectives can be screened out from further consideration and are not discussed further within this document. Where the 'HRA implications' column is coloured orange, further consideration and discussion is required later in the document.

Table 2. Likely Significant Effects Test of Halsnead Masterplan SPD Eight Strategic Objectives.

Strategic Objective Number	Description	HRA Implications
1	Create welcoming and impressive built and natural high quality environments that link Halsnead with Whiston and are accessible by the wider community, enhancing the perception of the area and the wider Borough.	No HRA implications. This is a development management policy relating to quality of the built and natural environment including accessibility and enhancing perception of the area and wider Borough. There are no impact pathways present.
2	Diversify and enhance the quality of the housing stock at a Borough-wide and local level, providing a sustainable range and mix of homes in walkable neighbourhoods with diverse and distinct character.	No HRA implications. Provides for sustainable, diverse and improved quality of housing stock. This objective does not provide for any location or quantum of development. There are no impact pathways present.
3	Create a legible movement framework that links the existing and new community and improves connections across the M62, capitalising on existing infrastructure and public transport and improving pedestrian, equestrian and cycle connectivity, creating access for all.	No HRA implications. Provides for an improved movement framework across the M62. There are no impact pathways present.
4	Deliver well-connected, multi-functional green spaces to provide a high-quality and distinctive setting whilst enhancing the value of green and blue infrastructure to ecology, drainage, recreation, connectivity, health and sustainability.	No HRA implications. A positive objective that aims to deliver green spaces. These have potential to divert recreational pressure away from sensitive wildlife sites. There are no impact pathways present.
5	Positively use and integrate the built and landscape heritage of the site to create high quality and locally distinctive development, and to preserve key features of the historic Halsnead Park Estate as part of	No HRA implications. A development management objective relating to

Strategic Objective Number	Description	HRA Implications
	Knowsley's heritage.	heritage. There are no impact pathways present.
6	Provide a new high quality primary school with a dual role as a community hub, and ensure that new development provides support to and supplements existing community infrastructure in the local area.	No HRA implications Provides for a new primary school. This objective does not identify any extent or location of development. There are no impact pathways present.
7	Create significant new employment development at a strategic location adjacent to the intersection of the M62 and M57, meeting market demand for distribution and logistics space or other appropriate employment uses within the Liverpool City Region key economic sectors.	No HRA implications. A development management objective relating to the creation of new employment development. The objective does not identify any exact location or quantum of employment development. There are no impact pathways present.
8	Support the delivery of a new Country Park, focussed on the former Cronton Colliery.	No HRA implications. A positive objective that aims to deliver a new Country Park. This has potential to divert recreational pressure away from sensitive wildlife sites. There are no impact pathways present.

The assessment undertaken in Table 2 does not identify any impact pathways that link to European designated sites, and as such these Strategic Objectives can be screened out from further consideration and are not discussed further.

In addition to the Strategic Objectives above, this chapter also provides for Key Requirements. These are subject to a Likely Significant effects Test in Table 3.

Where the 'HRA Implications' column is coloured green, there are no HRA implications as no impact pathways linking to European designated sites are present. These Key Requirements can be screened out from further consideration and are not discussed further within this document. Where the 'HRA implications' column is coloured orange, further consideration and discussion is required later in the document.

Table 3. Likely Significant Effects Test of Halsnead Masterplan SPD Key Requirements

Key Requirement	Description	HRA Implications
HSPD1 Strategic Objectives	Development proposals must demonstrate how they deliver the strategic objectives for Halsnead.	No HRA implications A broad development management requirement ensuring that Strategic Objectives for Halsnead are met. There are no impact pathways present.
HSPD2 Framework Plan	Development will be delivered in accordance with the strategic parameters identified on the Framework Plan and subject to the additional, complementary requirements across HSPD3 – HSPD13. Planning applications for development within the masterplan area will be accompanied by written and illustrative material that demonstrates how proposals align with the Framework Plan, and apply masterplanning and design guidance set out in Section 6.	No HRA implications A broad development management requirement ensuring that development will be delivered in accordance with the Framework Plan, HSPD3 to HSPD13 and masterplanning and design guidance in Section 6. There are no impact pathways present.
HSPD3 Use and amount	Development will contribute to delivering the balance and quantum of uses identified for the site as a whole, with reference to requirements HSPD4 – HSPD13.	No HRA implications A broad development management requirement ensuring development accord with HSPD4 to HSPD13. There are no impact pathways present.
HSPD4 Residential development	Approximately 1600 new homes will be delivered within the residential development areas identified on the Framework Plan. New residential development will provide positive frontages	No HRA implications This requirement provides for 1600 new homes as previously allocated within the Core Strategy. As such this requirement is not providing for a level of development

Key Requirement	Description	HRA Implications
	<p>to existing and new streets and demonstrate alignment with the master planning and design guidance at Section 6 in particular the Character Area design guidance.</p> <p>To ensure comprehensive and holistic delivery of development with associated infrastructure to meet the needs of the community applications for development will deliver strategic infrastructure, and contribute to other infrastructure and affordable housing requirements in accordance with the approach set out in Section 7.</p> <p>Residential development south of the M62 will take access from Fox's Bank Lane and be limited to no more than 30 dwellings, subject to further feasibility and deliverability testing.</p>	<p>beyond that previously allocated and assessed in the Core Strategy. The Core Strategy document was subject to HRA.</p> <p>The remainder of this requirement is to manage development by providing positive frontages, for masterplanning to be in accord with Section 6, and holistic delivery of sequencing development in accordance with section 7. It also provides for the requirement for access to residential development south of the M62 from Fox's Bank Lane, and provides a 30 dwelling limit in this location, subject to feasibility and delivery testing.</p> <p>There are no impact pathways present.</p>
<p>HSPD5 Employment development</p>	<p>Land south of the M62 will provide a minimum of 22.5ha employment development, comprising distribution and logistics space or advanced manufacturing.</p> <p>Vehicular access will be provided from Cronton Road.</p> <p>Planning applications for employment development will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrate how the development will minimise impact on retained natural habitats including ancient woodland, protected trees, designated Local Wildlife Sites, including the ecological network connections between these; • Create a semi-natural landscaped boundary to the proposed Country Park; • Integrate the former mineral railway line link into layout design to provide an unimpeded and multi-user equestrian, footpath and cycle link over the motorway; • Ensure continued access to the Coal Authority monitoring 	<p>No HRA implications.</p> <p>The quantum of employment development identified was previously allocated in the Core Strategy.</p> <p>This requirement provides for development management including the location of access routes, and the need to demonstrate development will minimise impacts to biodiversity, the creation of a Country Park, the integration of the former mineral railway line link, continued access to the Coal Authority monitoring station, and that there will be no harmful impact upon listed buildings at Old Halsnead Hall.</p> <p>There are no impact pathways present.</p>

Key Requirement	Description	HRA Implications
	<p>station;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not impede access to and/or the enjoyment of the proposed Country Park and ensure that safe crossings are provided for non-car modes to that facility; and • Ensure there is no harmful impact on the listed building at Old Halsnead Hall or its setting. 	
<p>HSPD6 Heritage response</p>	<p>Planning applications will be accompanied by Heritage Statement. This will assess potential impacts of development proposals on heritage assets.</p> <p>Development will incorporate a sensitive response to listed buildings and structures and other heritage assets and ensure that they and their settings are preserved.</p> <p>Development will maximise the positive contributions of heritage assets, including the historic landscape elements associated with Halsnead Hall.</p>	<p>No HRA implications A development management requirement relating to heritage. There are no impact pathways present.</p>
<p>HSPD7 Movement</p>	<p>Access to the development will be from new junctions to the existing road network as shown on the Framework Plan and Access and Movement Plan.</p> <p>Development will maximise connectivity and permeability for all travel modes. The internal route hierarchy will make provision for bus penetration and use opportunities to connect and encourage movement between both sites and the existing settlement by non-car modes. In particular the development will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include a route capable of accommodating buses with a 7.3m wide carriageway, including provision of bus stops at optimum locations. 	<p>No HRA implications. A development management requirement relating to movement including internal routes hierarchy. It does not provide for any new development. There are no impact pathways present.</p>

Key Requirement	Description	HRA Implications
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide primary routes from the vehicular access points as shown on the Framework Masterplan connecting the development with surrounding area. • Deliver a network of streets in accordance with the design guidance in Section 6. • Ensure pedestrian and cycling connectivity and equestrian routes where appropriate, into and throughout the site. Routes should be convenient and attractive, based on the connections shown on the Access and Movement Plan • Provide a high quality link across the M62 suitable for all non-car modes using the route of the dismantled railway bridge over the M62, connecting Stadt Moers Country Park with the new Country park south of the M62 <p>Developers will be required to contribute to the necessary off-site works detailed in Table 5.3 and public transport infrastructure to enable accessibility to the site and mitigate highways impacts arising from the development.</p>	
HSPD8 Community facilities	<p>Land identified on the Framework Plan will be reserved for development of a new 2.5 form entry (with the capacity to expand to 3-form entry) primary school, including associated playing fields for dual school / community use.</p> <p>The Primary School will be delivered as an integral part of the development; it will be completed ready to be fully operational prior to occupation of the 300th dwelling on the development.</p> <p>The Primary School will be a well-designed focal point of the development, which directly fronts and is integrate with an adjacent open space incorporating a Neighbourhood</p>	<p>No HRA implications.</p> <p>Provides for community facilities including education. The level of development is as identified in the Core Strategy which was subject to HRA.</p> <p>There are no impact pathways present.</p>

Key Requirement	Description	HRA Implications
	<p>Equipped Area of Play (NEAP). Early years / nursery provision will be provided, either as part of the Primary School and/or as part of new or extended private facilities.</p>	
HSPD9 Strategic utilities	<p>Unless otherwise agreed with United Utilities, development shall accord with a comprehensive drainage strategy for the site to be submitted and agreed prior to development commencing. In any event, applicants will be required to demonstrate that development of individual land parcels will not sterilise the ability to bring forward other land within the site.</p>	<p>No HRA implications. A development management requirement relating to utility provision. There are no impact pathways present.</p>
HSPD10 Ground conditions	<p>Planning applications will be accompanied by a comprehensive risk assessment describing all investigations which have been undertaken on the site, any subsequent investigation required to fully characterise and mitigate the risks (for built development and open spaces) arising from ground conditions at the site and, where necessary, a scheme of appropriate mitigation. As a minimum this will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contaminated land assessment. • Detailed plan for earth disposal on site, including testing of material and remediation of any disposed material. • Phase 1 geo-environmental and geo-technical desktop study. • Coal Mining Risk Assessment. • Site specific Unexploded Ordnance information. • Ground Investigation factual reporting. 	<p>No HRA implications. A development management requirement relating to ground conditions. There are no impact pathways present.</p>

Key Requirement	Description	HRA Implications
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appropriate remediation and mitigation strategy. 	
<p>HSPD11 Open Space</p>	<p>Development will make provision for open space and Green Infrastructure, and its future maintenance, as identified in the Public Open Space Plan and guided by section 6, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integration of diverse and attractive edge landscapes that enhance existing environments and improve the visual permeability of the site • Maintaining and framing long distance views within the development and over the Mersey Valley • Ensuring positive development frontage to Public Open Space within the site and the green links and corridors that connect them • Maximising retention of existing trees and woodlands, taking opportunities to create attractive functional and recreational routes alongside and through them and replacing lost trees in accordance with the Council's 2-for-1 policy • Preserving and enhancing for biodiversity and public value important habitats including those provided by water bodies and others identified through ecological surveys (see HSPD12) • Creating a significant landscape buffer to the northern side of the M62, incorporating a suitable contoured and planted bund to aid noise and air quality mitigation, on-site surface water management in accordance with SuDS principles (based on technical studies of the appropriateness of the proposed solution for these matters), and with attractive public footpaths, cycle and equestrian routes set within it to 	<p>No HRA implications</p> <p>A positive development management requirement relating to open spaces. These have potential to divert recreational pressure away from sensitive wildlife sites.</p> <p>There are no impact pathways present.</p>

Key Requirement	Description	HRA Implications
	<p>add to its recreational value</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivering open space and play space in accordance with the Council's adopted standards for functionality quality of these uses • Taking opportunities to enhance and maximise the benefits of the historic landscape including emphasising views to historic built and landscape features • Connecting the site with attractive greenway routes, including circular pedestrian, cycling and equestrian routes around the site • Providing a strategic corridor and landscaped buffer to listed buildings from the proposed employment development <p>Development will help to deliver categories – or 'tiers' – of open space as shown in the open space plan;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Tier 1 (Strategic open space located outside the development areas shown in the Framework Plan): Existing and proposed areas of strategic Public Open Space protected from built development, and where public access will be promoted.</i> - <i>Tier 2 (Strategic open space located outside of the development areas in the Framework Plan, but to be integrated as part of that development in terms of creation, enhancement and management): Existing and proposed spaces, corridors and woodlands that create a green framework for a development aligning with Garden Village principles, including;</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Lickers Lane/Penny Wood and Sandfield Wood on Lickers Lane 	

Key Requirement	Description	HRA Implications
	<p>b. Fox Clump – woodland and associated amenity space</p> <p>c. Open space creating a setting to some of the listed structures within the site</p> <p>d. Woodlands flanking the existing 'Main Drive' (access track to the Mobile Home Park)</p> <p>e. Open space surrounding Halsnead Park mobile home park and Big Water</p> <p>f. Open space adjacent to the proposed pedestrian / cyclist and equestrian connection along the former mineral railway line (both North and South of the M62)</p> <p>g. Woodlands and semi-natural green corridors extending through the proposed employment development to the south of the M62</p> <p><i>- Tier 3 (Strategic structural spaces that will be designed and implemented as part of future development proposals): Significant open spaces but with a spatial extent that is not yet fixed, and to be shaped by development proposals, including;</i></p> <p>a. Substantial landscape buffer immediately north of the M62 to provide noise and air quality mitigation, with potential for use as part of a strategic SuDS network and with appropriate contouring for full public access including walking and cycling routes.</p> <p>b. A small park / sequence of green spaces in proximity to the proposed new Primary School, including a Neighbourhood Equipped Area of Play (NEAP) creating a green link to the centre of the site</p> <p><i>- Tier 4 (open spaces within the development areas): Smaller</i></p>	

Key Requirement	Description	HRA Implications
	<p><i>scale open spaces distributed throughout the residential development area, helping to create a Garden Village aesthetic and aligning with the Council's adopted policy standards.</i></p>	
<p>HSPD12 Ecology</p>	<p>Planning applications will be accompanied by an ecological impact assessment detailing the mitigation and management proposals for the site, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creation of a minimum 15m buffer zone around woodland groups to retain semi-mature broadleaf woodland; • Incorporation and enhancement of notable habitats (such as open mosaic habitats); • Include measures to manage ecological habitats and improve biodiversity and where possible create new habitats for this purpose; • Management to contain the spread of invasive species; • Mitigation of impact upon the identified Local Wildlife Sites within the site; • Mitigation of impact upon protected species (including European protected species) within the site, favouring habitat creation for such species on site; • Ecological Frameworks – designing in wildlife corridors and green space connections within the development site, plus recognising the ecological framework connections outside of the site (e.g. to Stadt Moers Park, Knowsley Expressway Woodlands and other Local Wildlife Sites); • Align Garden Village principles with incorporation of habitat creation within residential and employment developments 	<p>No HRA implications. A positive development management requirement relating to ecology. There are no impact pathways present.</p>

Key Requirement	Description	HRA Implications
	(e.g. tree planting, new green space development within housing for biodiversity benefits also); <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Habitat creation in built developments; and • Minimisation of the impact of the development process on retained habitats and watercourses within the development and wider area. 	

The assessment undertaken in Table 3Table 2 does not identify any impact pathways that link to European wildlife sites, and as such these Key Requirements can be screened out from further consideration and are not discussed further.

In conclusion, none of the Strategic Objectives or Key Requirements within this chapter has the potential to link to European Designated sites. As such these can be screened out from further consideration and are not discussed further.

3.7 Chapter 6: Masterplanning Guidance

Chapter 6 provides master planning and design guidance that will help influence the form and character of development brought forward accordingly. This chapter provides Masterplanning Guidance for the development of Halsnead. These are subject to a Likely Significant Effects Test in Table 4.

Where the 'HRA Implications' column is coloured green, there are no HRA implications as no impact pathways linking to European designated sites are present. Masterplanning Guidance can be screened out from further consideration and are not discussed further within this document. Where the 'HRA implications' column is coloured orange, further consideration and discussion is required later in the document.

Table 4. Likely Significant Effects Test of Halsnead Masterplan SPD Masterplanning Guidance

Masterplanning Guidance	Description	HRA implications
1 A holistic design approach	Development proposals will demonstrate how all aspects of the masterplanning guidance in section 6 have been integrated, including clear reference to our Placemaking Vision, Placemaking Pillars, Design Framework and Character Area Guidance.	No HRA implications. Guidance relating to the delivery of holistic design. There are no impact pathways present.
2 A shared placemaking vision	Developers are invited to share, develop and deliver our vision, and to demonstrate through their planning applications how they aim to maximise the opportunities it describes.	No HRA implications. Guidance relating to placemaking vision. There are no impact pathways present.
3 Rediscovering the Halsnead Park Estate: capitalising on a special heritage	Development at Halsnead will: a) Redefine and enhance the spatial character and extents of estate remnants including landscape and built features; b) Provide positive building forms and frontages that define and sensitively address historic estate features, including landscapes, buildings and other structures (e.g. perimeter wall) c) Ensure that Listed Buildings and Structures and their settings are retained, sensitively integrated and where possible enhanced, demonstrating a considered response to setting to the satisfaction of the Council and its consultees.	No HRA implications. Guidance relating to capitalising on the Halsnead Park Estate heritage features. There are no impact pathways present.
4 Embedding a Garden Village ethos: Specific to Halsnead, and	In its report 'The Art of Building a Garden City', the Town and Country Planning Association show how original Garden City concepts can be applied to a 21st Century context. Using this as a base, development at Halsnead will embed a Garden Village ethos through;	No HRA implications. Guidance relating to how to provide a Garden Village ethos. There are no impact pathways present.

Masterplanning Guidance	Description	HRA implications
adapted to the 21st Century	<p>a) Imaginatively designed homes with gardens, combining the best of town and country living to create healthy homes in vibrant communities;</p> <p>b) Generous green space linked to the wider natural environment, including surrounding countryside, biodiversity-rich woodland and public parks;</p> <p>c) A coherent network of well-managed tree-lined streets and open spaces;</p> <p>d) Opportunities for residents to grow their own food, including allotments and community gardens;</p> <p>e) Strong local facilities in walkable, sociable neighbourhoods;</p> <p>f) Integrated and accessible transport systems;</p> <p>g) A variety of housing types; and</p> <p>h) Local jobs within easy commuting distance.</p>	
5 Integrated with Whiston: enhancing a wider sustainable community	<p>Development at Halshead will deliver an enhanced sense of integration with existing communities through a clear and connected network of routes, spaces and land uses.</p> <p>There are clear opportunities for development to;</p> <p>a) Create a positive interface with Lickers Lane, ensuring clear and accessible links to Whiston Railway Station and facilitating access to existing community facilities in Whiston Village;</p> <p>b) Maximise connections from Windy Arbor Road, and in particular establish opportunity for an enhanced bus route;</p> <p>c) Create low-key access points off Fox's Bank Lane, and make the most of the attractive rural views;</p>	<p>No HRA implications.</p> <p>Guidance relating to how to integrate the development with Whiston by enhancing a wider sustainable community.</p> <p>There are no impact pathways present.</p>

Masterplanning Guidance	Description	HRA implications
	<p>d) Deliver safe, well-lit and over-looked pedestrian and cyclist access into and through Halsnead and its environmental assets such as woodlands;</p> <p>e) Retain and integrate the historic sandstone boundary wall where appropriate; and</p> <p>f) Help to create a more graduated transition between existing urban to rural environments.</p>	
<p>6 Facilitating delivery of the whole site: careful coordination over time</p>	<p>Development must support the comprehensive delivery of the whole of the Halsnead site.</p> <p>Development should align with the infrastructure planning guidance set out at Section 7. Developers will work with Knowsley Council and relevant infrastructure providers to demonstrate how early phases of development have been planned to facilitate later phases as part of a coherent, connected and high quality place. Streets, spaces and buildings will flow seamlessly across the entire development area.</p> <p>Development to the north and south of the M62 will be coordinated to facilitate the delivery of key links between new residential development, existing communities, new employment development and the new Country Park south of the M62.</p>	<p>No HRA implications.</p> <p>Guidance relating to sequencing development in line with infrastructure.</p> <p>There are no impact pathways present.</p>
<p>7 Strategic design objectives</p>	<p>Developers and their design teams should including written and illustrated material in their planning applications that demonstrates how the strategic design objectives have been met.</p>	<p>No HRA implications.</p> <p>Guidance relating to strategic design objectives.</p> <p>There are no impact pathways present.</p>
<p>8</p>	<p>The Green Infrastructure framework plan is driven by the</p>	<p>No HRA implications.</p>

Masterplanning Guidance	Description	HRA implications
Coordinated, connected and distinctive Green Infrastructure	<p>retained and enhanced natural and semi-natural landscapes of the Halsnead Park Estate, a Garden Village and the opportunity to deliver a Country Park focussed on the site of the former Cronton Colliery.</p> <p>There is clear opportunity for development to;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrate larger scale semi-natural spaces and major landscape at the strategic scale; • Ensure balanced provision through creation of new amenity and play-focussed spaces within the main development areas; • Create nodal points within a network of green links – becoming community hubs in their own right; • Deliver spaces and landscapes of high value – multifunctional Green Infrastructure that combine biodiversity functions, amenity value and practical benefits such as mitigation of noise and air quality constraints; and • Active development frontage to landscapes within the site and the green links and corridors that connect them 	<p>Guidance relating to connected and distinctive green space.</p> <p>There are no impact pathways present.</p>
9 Diverse and Public Open Space creating a great place to live	<p>The strong commitment to Green Infrastructure provision will result in Halsnead delivering a quantum of open space that exceeds minimum planning policy provisions for residential development.</p> <p>Open space will meet a wide range of amenity and recreation functions, and will create a highly distinctive green setting that emphasises the high quality of place that can be generated by the Garden Village approach.</p> <p>Development will aim to incorporate the following Public</p>	<p>No HRA implications.</p> <p>Positive Guidance relating to provision of a diverse and Public Open Space. This has potential to divert recreational activities away from sensitive wildlife sites.</p> <p>There are no impact pathways present.</p>

Masterplanning Guidance	Description	HRA implications															
	<p>Open Space;</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="412 384 689 512">Open space type / function</th> <th data-bbox="689 384 972 416">North of M62</th> <th data-bbox="972 384 1267 416">South of M62</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="412 523 689 863">Park and Garden</td> <td data-bbox="689 523 972 863">Big Water and adjacent woodlands and open spaces (subject to feasibility and future management proposals)</td> <td data-bbox="972 523 1267 863">New Country Park</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="412 874 689 1034">Amenity Greenspace</td> <td data-bbox="689 874 972 1034">circa 15.5ha distributed throughout the development area</td> <td data-bbox="972 874 1267 1034">N/A</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="412 1045 689 1385">Provision for children and young people</td> <td data-bbox="689 1045 972 1385">1 Neighbourhood Equipped Area of Play adjacent to proposed new Primary School</td> <td data-bbox="972 1045 1267 1385">no. N/A</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td data-bbox="689 1278 972 1385">1 no. Local Equipped Area of Play</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Open space type / function	North of M62	South of M62	Park and Garden	Big Water and adjacent woodlands and open spaces (subject to feasibility and future management proposals)	New Country Park	Amenity Greenspace	circa 15.5ha distributed throughout the development area	N/A	Provision for children and young people	1 Neighbourhood Equipped Area of Play adjacent to proposed new Primary School	no. N/A		1 no. Local Equipped Area of Play		
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	1 no. Local Equipped Area of Play																

Masterplanning Guidance	Description	HRA implications
	<p>Potential for further Local Areas of Play and/or informal play within the residential development area to be considered on a case by case basis.</p>	
	<p>Allotments circa 0.3ha with Potential to be potential to be integrated to integrated into Country Park new Primary design subject to School design detailed proposals subject to detailed proposals</p>	
	<p>Outdoor sports circa 3.0ha – N/A enhancements to (but potential to be existing Lickers integrated into Lane Playing Country Park Fields design subject to Potential additional detailed proposals) provision via proposed new Primary School</p>	

Masterplanning Guidance	Description	HRA implications
	<p>Natural and semi-natural space/ corridors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Big Water and Corridors around adjacent woodlands and open spaces (subject to feasibility and future management proposals). • Woodlands to Lickers Lane frontage. • Fox Clump. • Green corridor immediately north of the M62. <p>Final on-site provision (quantum, function and distribution) will be determined through pre-application discussions with Knowsley Council, with reference to;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The requirements of SPD Section 5 • The Green Infrastructure Framework Plan (masterplanning guidance 8) • The Public Open Space Framework Plan 	
<p>9 Sustainability: A development that helps people live</p>	<p>Policies in the adopted development plan set out encouraged design and development standards to support sustainability objectives including promotion of low carbon development, and renewable and low carbon infrastructure.</p>	<p>No HRA implications. Positive Guidance relating to sustainable development. By definition, sustainable development would not result in adverse effects on sensitive wildlife sites. This has</p>

Masterplanning Guidance	Description	HRA implications
more but consume less	<p>This SPD does not place requirements on development over and above those articulated through the development plan. However, it does recognise that the scale, characteristics and quality of the site offers significant potential to embed environmental sustainability at the strategic master-planning scale.</p> <p>Developers will demonstrate how this has been used as the foundation to proposed design and construction techniques at a macro and micro scale as listed at paragraphs 6.115 – 6.117.</p> <p>Developers will align with the principles of density gradient for new residential development and make necessary contributions to sustainable transport initiatives.</p>	<p>potential to reduce atmospheric pollution and improve water use and water quality.</p> <p>There are no impact pathways present.</p>

The assessment undertaken in Table 4 does not identify any impact pathways that link to European wildlife sites, and as such Masterplanning Guidance can be screened out from further consideration and are not discussed further.

In conclusion, none of the Masterplanning Guidance or other content within this chapter has the potential to link to European Designated sites. As such these can be screened out from further consideration and are not discussed further.

3.8 Chapter 7: Implementation and Delivery

This chapter summarises the intended approach to delivery. It includes detail of the delivery trajectory. For land North of the M62 it details the approach to infrastructure deliver, the delivery sequence, infrastructure requirements and delivery triggers, in-kind strategic infrastructure, development areas and on site infrastructure. For land South of the M62 it details provision of affordable housing, viability and deliverability, and funding.

This chapter does not provide for any impact pathways that could link to European designated sites and as such can be screened out from further consideration and are not discussed further.

4. Conclusion

In conclusion, the Halsnead Masterplan SPD sets out Knowsley's requirements for development within the masterplan area, essentially offering detail of development control and management policies specific to development within this strategic site. This SPD does not provide for any development beyond that defined within Knowsley's Core Strategy.

There are no impact pathways present within this SPD that could result in likely significant effects upon any European designated sites. It is concluded that this SPD does not present any potential for project-specific impacts that were not identified during the HRA of the Core Strategy. The Halsnead Masterplan SPD can be screened out from further consideration both alone and in-combination with other projects or plans.

Appendix A : Figure 1: Location of European Designated Sites

