

CONSERVATION OF HABITATS AND SPECIES REGULATIONS 2017: HABITATS REGULATIONS
ASSESSMENT STAGE 1 AND STAGE 2

UNDERTAKEN BY GREATER MANCHESTER ECOLOGY UNIT FOR ROCHDALE BOROUGH
COUNCIL, OCTOBER 2024

STAGE 1: HRA SCREENING: DOES THE PLAN / PROJECT HAVE A LIKELY SIGNIFICANT EFFECT ON ANY EUROPEAN / RAMSAR SITE EITHER ALONE OR IN COMBINATION WITH ANY OTHER PLAN OR PROJECT?

Identifying the proposal (plan or project)

1. Name the proposed project: Planning application at Moss Bridge House
2. Give the application reference number: 24/00149/FUL
3. Provide the site address / location: Moss Bridge House, Moss Bridge Road, Rochdale, OL16 5EA
4. Give a brief description of proposed project: Single storey detached office building (Use Class E(g)) with associated landscaping following demolition of existing outbuildings

Identifying the European / Ramsar sites which are potentially affected by the plan or project (linked to the relevant pathways of impact of the plan / project)

5. Identify and list the generic impact pathways from the plan / project:

On-site impacts: air pollution, water pollution, shading

Off-site impacts: None
6. Based on 5. identify and list all the “relevant European site / Ramsar sites” ie those which could be affected by any of the impact pathways.
- Rochdale Canal SAC
7. For each relevant European site / Ramsar site, list its qualifying features.
- 1831 Floating water-plantain *Luronium natans*

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8.	Consider if there are other key species or habitats “necessary for the conservation of the qualifying features”? NA
9.	For each European site / Ramsar site, list its NE conservation objectives and identify the relevant NE Supplementary Advice. Site Improvement Plan for Natural England’s Natura 2000 Sites (IPENS) identified physical modification, air pollution as issues for Floating Water Plantain
10.	Describe the ecological surveys and survey results for the plan / project which are relevant to the European / Ramsar site qualifying features Ecological Desktop Assessment undertaken by GMEU.
Screening assessment for a “risk of a significant effect”	
11.	Is the plan or project “directly connected with or necessary to the management of the European / Ramsar site”? No

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12. For each relevant European / Ramsar site (see 6), identify and record the relevant impact pathways from the plan / project to that site's (i) qualifying features; and (ii) any habitats / species necessary for the conservation of the qualifying species.
1. Rochdale Canal SAC:
- Floating Water Plantain*
- A1. Air Pollution
 - A2. Water Quality
 - A3. Shading
13. For each impact pathway at 12, make an assessment of the “risk of a significant effect on the qualifying feature’s conservation objectives” from the plan / project **alone**. To do this, consider briefly the NE conservation objectives and Supplementary Advice
- For this purpose, you may not take into account any mitigation (ie avoidance or reduction) measures. You may take into account measures which are “integral” to the plan or project. If you are not sure if a measure is integral or not, it is safest to assume that it is not.
- A1. Air Pollution – Risk of adverse effect
 - A2. Water Quality – Risk of adverse effect
 - A3. Shading – No effect
14. For any impact pathway categorised as 13d, an “in-combination assessment with other plans or projects” is now required.
- N/A

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15. For each qualifying feature of each relevant European / Ramsar site, list all the impact pathways at 12 and confirm (based on the above):
- (i) which impact pathways are being screened out; and
 - (ii) which impact pathways are being taken to appropriate assessment.

Floating Water Plantain

A1. Air Pollution – Screened In

A2. Water Pollution – Screened In

A3. Shading – Screened Out (single storey building proposed, behind an existing 3 storey building which is closer to the canal)

STAGE 2: HRA APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT:

TO ASSESS THE EFFECTS OF THE PLAN / PROJECT ON THE INTEGRITY OF ANY EUROPEAN / RAMSAR SITE, ALONE AND IN COMBINATION WITH OTHER PLANS / PROJECTS

CAN IT BE CONCLUDED THAT THE PLAN OR PROJECT WILL HAVE NO ADVERSE EFFECT ON THE INTEGRITY OF ANY EUROPEAN SITE, EITHER ALONE OR IN COMBINATION WITH ANY OTHER PLAN OR PROJECT ?

Appropriate Assessment

1.

Confirm the European / Ramsar site impact pathways which are to be appropriately assessed (this is taken from 15(ii) of the Screening table)
1.

Rochdale Canal SAC:

Floating Water Plantain
A1. Air Pollution – Screened In
A2. Water Pollution – Screened In
2.

For each impact pathway at 1, assess and record the effects of that pathway, from the plan / project **alone**, on the qualifying feature **without reference to any mitigation measures**.

Floating Water Plantain
A1. Air Pollution – Risk of dust/pollutants released into the air during construction entering the canal and impacting on the floating water plantain
A2. Water Pollution – Risk of debris/pollutants released during construction entering the canal through site run off, impacting on the floating water plantain.

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3. For each impact pathway at 1, identify and list the proposed mitigation (avoidance or reduction) measures where you consider their beneficial effects to be sufficiently certain.

A1. Air Pollution – Construction Environment Management Plan includes measures to prevent airborne emission of dust and dirt

A2. Water Pollution - Construction Environment Management Plan includes measures to secure procedures for controlling and dealing with spillages
Storage of materials to be carried out on furthest point of site from the canal (approx.. 45m to south) to reduced risk of run-off into canal
Work to follow Canal and River Trust Code of Practice and to be agreed with Canal and River Civil Engineers

4. For each impact pathway at 1, assess and record the residual effects of that pathway, from the plan / project **alone**, on the qualifying feature **after taking into account the relevant mitigation measures**.

A1. Air Pollution – No appreciable effect

A2. Water Pollution – No appreciable effect

Adverse effect on integrity test

5. For each impact pathway, decide (based on the assessment 1-4 above) if it can be concluded with reasonable scientific certainty that the effect from the plan / project **alone, taking into account the mitigation measures**, “will have no adverse effect on the integrity of the European site”.

A1. Air Pollution – No appreciable adverse effect on integrity

A2. Water Pollution – No appreciable adverse effect on integrity

6. For any impact pathway categorised as 5c, an “in-combination assessment with other plans or projects” is now required.
N/A

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TO ASSESS THE EFFECTS OF THE PLAN / PROJECT ON THE INTEGRITY OF ANY EUROPEAN / RAMSAR SITE, ALONE AND IN COMBINATION WITH OTHER PLANS / PROJECTS

CAN IT BE CONCLUDED THAT THE PLAN OR PROJECT WILL HAVE NO ADVERSE EFFECT ON THE INTEGRITY OF ANY EUROPEAN SITE, EITHER ALONE OR IN COMBINATION WITH ANY OTHER PLAN OR PROJECT ?

7. For each qualifying feature of each relevant European / Ramsar site, list all the impact pathways which require appropriate assessment and confirm (based on the above):
- (i) which impact pathways meet the “no adverse effect on integrity (alone or in combination) test”; and
 - (ii) which impact pathways do not meet the “no adverse effect on integrity (alone or in combination) test”.

Rochdale Canal SAC
A Floating Water Plantain

- A1. Air Pollution – No adverse effect on integrity (alone or in combination)
- A2. Water Pollution – No adverse effect on integrity (alone or in combination)

Legally securing any mitigation measures

8. Where any mitigation measure is relied upon to conclude that an impact pathway will meet the “no adverse effect on integrity test”, the measure must be secured legally (eg planning condition or planning obligations). Set out in each case how this is to be achieved.
- A CEMP has been submitted with the planning application. A condition should be used as a legal mechanism to ensure it is followed during the construction work and that the additional agreements referenced within it are agreed by the LPA prior to work commencing.