



Health Impact Assessment

Scout Moor II Further Environmental Information

June 2026

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1. Introduction

- 1.1 This Health Impact Assessment (HIA) has been prepared by Turley Economics on behalf of Cubico Sustainable Investments ('the Applicant' or 'Cubico').
- 1.2 It is submitted as part of Further Environmental Information in respect of the cross-boundary applications for full planning permission ('the Applications') relating to the construction and operation of a new onshore wind farm (to be known as 'Scout Moor II'), alongside a comprehensive moorland restoration scheme (the 'Proposed Development'), on land at Rooley Moor ('the Site').
- 1.3 The Site crosses the administrative boundaries of Rossendale Borough Council ('RBC') and Rochdale Metropolitan Borough Council ('RMBC') (collectively referred to as 'the Councils'). The Councils are the Local Planning Authorities ('LPA's') responsible for the determination of the Applications, which were originally submitted on 23 July 2025 and were validated by the Councils on 07 August 2025 (RBC ref. 2025/0267 and RMBC ref. 25/00680/FUL).
- 1.4 Following the completion of an extended period of statutory consultation on the Applications, the Applicant has evolved the Proposed Development to respond to comments received from statutory and non-statutory consultees, the public and other interested stakeholders and is hereby formally amending the Applications through the submission of Further Environmental Information ('FEI'). The FEI supersedes the information submitted in July 2025 ('the 2025 Submission') and will be subject to further statutory consultation by the Councils. A summary of the amendments to the Applications is set out in detail the Planning, Design and Access Statement (prepared by Turley), but in summary includes the reduction in turbine numbers from 'up to 17 turbines' to 'up to 12 turbines', alongside the relocation/repositioning of turbine positioning, access track layout and the layout and design of other associated infrastructure.

Introduction to Health Impact Assessments

- 1.5 The aim of a Health Impact Assessment (HIA) is to describe the potential consequences, both positive and negative, for health and wellbeing resulting from the construction and operation of a Proposed Development. It involves a multi-disciplinary approach combining qualitative and quantitative evidence from a range of technical experts.
- 1.6 The World Health Organisation (WHO) defines HIA as follows:

*"A means of assessing the health impacts of policies, plans and projects in diverse economic sectors using quantitative, qualitative and participatory techniques"*¹

¹ World Health Organisation (WHO): 'Environment, Climate Change and Health' [Online]. Available at: <http://www.who.int/hia/en/>

- 1.7 The broad purpose of an HIA is to understand the health and wellbeing of the local population and help decision-makers make choices about alternatives and improvements to actively promote positive health outcomes.
- 1.8 As such, as a means of promoting sustainable development, Policy JP-P6 ('Health') of the Greater Manchester Combined Authority's (GMCA) adopted Places for Everyone (PfE) Joint Development Plan Documents states that, to help tackle health inequality, new development will be required to *"be supported by a HIA for all developments which due to their location, nature or proximity to sensitive receptors, are likely to have a notable impact on health and wellbeing"*².
- 1.9 Similarly RBC Local Plan³ Strategic Policy ENV1 ('High Quality Development in the Borough') notes that all proposals for new development in the Borough will be expected to take account of the character and appearance of the local area, including, where appropriate a HIA for major developments, looking particularly at effects on vulnerable groups, and identification of how these may be mitigated.

The Site and the Proposed Development

- 1.10 Scout Moor II is a proposed onshore wind farm located adjacent to the existing Scout Moor Wind Farm ('SMWF'), an existing onshore wind farm (26 no. turbines), which has been operational since 2008, with an installed capacity of 65 MW.
- 1.11 The application for full planning permission proposes to deliver 12 no. turbines together with a total generation capacity of between 68 to 72 megawatts ('MW'), with associated ancillary infrastructure ("the Proposed Development"), on land at Rooley Moor and Scout Moor ("the Site"). A full description of the proposed development is included within the accompanying Planning, Design & Access Statement⁴.
- 1.12 It should however be noted that for the Proposed Development, the Applicant has a grid connection agreement for 2029, for up to 99.9MW. However, so as to not overstate this, given the reduction to 12 no. turbines, economic benefits have been presented in relation to the anticipated generation capacity between 68-72 MW, with total output to be confirmed at the procurement stage, one specifics of the individual turbines are known.
- 1.13 The Site (and the existing SMWF) occupies an area of open moorland between the urban areas of Rochdale, Bury, Blackburn, Accrington and Halifax, consisting of Rooley Moor, Cowpe Moss, and Brandwood Moor, which collectively form part of the Southern Pennines. This area spans the administrative boundaries of both Rossendale Borough Council (RBC) and Rochdale Metropolitan Borough Council (RMBC).
- 1.14 Site preparation is anticipated to commence in 2028, with completion and operation of the Proposed Development in 2030. Therefore, the main construction programme will

² Greater Manchester Combined Authority (2024) Places for Everyone Joint Development Plan Document 2022 to 2039

³ Rossendale Borough Council (2021) Rossendale Local Plan 2019 to 2036

⁴ Turley (May 2026), Scout Moor II Further Environmental Information: Planning, Design and Access Statement

last for around 2no. years. The Proposed Development will have an operational life of 40 years, and therefore is anticipated to be decommissioned in 2070.

- 1.15 Given the Proposed Development’s long-term and wide-ranging potential impacts on the local environment and communities – including in relation to issues such as renewable energy, green infrastructure and employment – a HIA is considered a relevant approach to ensure that benefits are maximised, and any potential negative impacts are effectively and suitably mitigated.
- 1.16 As the Applicant, Cubico recognise the importance of ensuring positive health benefits for local communities. As set out in their latest ESG strategy, by expanding access to affordable, safe and clean energy, Cubico intend to improve health outcomes, reduce negative environmental impacts and support broader social and economic development⁵.
- 1.17 It should be noted that the Proposed Development is supported by an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), including an initial EIA Scoping Report⁶ and subsequent Environmental Statement (ES)⁷. The EIA process provides a detailed consideration of a wide range of environmental topics and related effects, which have been referenced where relevant to human health in this HIA. Topics that have been assessed within the EIA, and which have informed this HIA include Air Quality; Noise & Vibration; Hydrology, Hydrogeology and Peat; and Ecology⁸.

HIA Scope

Overview of Approach

- 1.18 HIA is a multi-disciplinary assessment which aims to identify vulnerable groups and health priorities in the local impact area and outline the likely impact of the Proposed Development. The following stages are carried out as part of the assessment:

Figure 1.1: HIA methodology



- 1.19 A variety of resources and guidance has been published by the Department for Health & Social Care, the WHO and the NHS Healthy Urban Development Unit (HUDU) in relation to undertaking HIAs. It is considered that the HUDU’s Rapid Health Impact Assessment Tool⁹ is an appropriate means of structuring the assessment.
- 1.20 The HIA draws on publicly-available data published by organisations such as NHS Digital and the government’s Office for Health Improvements and Disparities (OHID),

⁵ Cubico Sustainable Investments (2026) Energy for Tomorrow: ESG Report 2025

⁶ Turley (2024) Scout Moor II Wind Farm: Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Scoping Report

⁷ Turley (2026) Scout Moor II Wind Farm: Environmental Statement

⁸ Please see the EIA for a detailed assessment of such effects.

⁹ NHS Healthy Urban Development Unit (2019) Rapid Health Impact Assessment Tool (4th Edition)

alongside evidence from other technical reports carried out as part of this submission and referenced as such throughout this report, such as the Planning, Design & Access Statement, Economic and Social Benefits Statement, Outdoor Access Management and Enhancement Plan, Air Quality Assessment, Biodiversity Net Gain Calculations Report, Moorland Restoration and Management Plan, Drainage Strategy Report, Sustainability, Energy & Climate Change Statement and Statement of Community Involvement.

Structure of the HIA

1.21 This HIA is structured as follows:

- **Chapter 2 Policy and Guidance Context** - Summary of the relevant health and wellbeing policies and legislation at national and local levels;
- **Chapter 3 Local Health Profile** - Presentation of a summary profile of public health of the local population living in Rossendale and Rochdale in comparison to the North West region and England as a whole;
- **Chapter 4 HUDU Rapid Health Impact Assessment** - Assessment of the impacts using the NHS Healthy Urban Development Unit (HUDU) *Rapid HIA Tool*¹⁰;
- **Chapter 5 Discussion of findings** - Conclusions of the assessment and potential mitigation measures that can be employed to reduce any potential negative impacts.

¹⁰ NHS Healthy Urban Development Unit (2019) Rapid Health Impact Assessment Tool

2. Planning and Health: Policy and Strategy Context

- 2.1 There are a range of relevant policies and strategies at national, regional and local scales, which align with the principles of a HIA. These are considered and summarised in this section.

National Planning and Health Policy

National Planning Policy Framework

- 2.2 The Labour Government published the new National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) in December 2024, which sets out the Government’s planning policies for England and how these should be applied. The NPPF provides a framework for a planning system centred around sustainable development, including the provision of homes, commercial development and supporting infrastructure.
- 2.3 The NPPF continues to set a social objective *“to support strong, vibrant and healthy communities, by ensuring that a number and range of homes can be provided to meet the needs of present and future generations; and by fostering well-designed, beautiful and safe places, with accessible services and open spaces that reflect current and future needs and support communities’ health, social and cultural well-being.”*¹¹
- 2.4 The NPPF sets that planning policies and decisions should:
- “Take into account and support the delivery of local strategies to improve health, social and cultural well-being for all sections of the community”*¹²
- 2.5 A core planning principle of the NPPF focuses on the promoting healthy and safe communities, stating that plan-making and decision-taking should aim to:
- a) *“Promote social interaction, including opportunities for meetings between people who might not otherwise come into contact with each other – for example through mixed-use developments, strong neighbourhood centres, street layouts that allow for easy pedestrian and cycle connections within and between neighbourhoods, and active street frontages;*
 - b) *Are safe and accessible, so that crime and disorder, and the fear of crime, do not undermine the quality of life or community cohesion – for example through the use of well-designed, clear and legible pedestrian and cycle routes, and high quality public space, which encourage the active and continual use of public areas; and*
 - c) *Enable and support healthy lives, through both promoting good health and preventing ill-health, especially where this would address identified local health*

¹¹ Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (December 2024) National Planning Policy Framework, para 8(b)

¹² Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (December 2024) National Planning Policy Framework, para 98(b)

and well-being needs and reduce health inequalities between the most and least deprived communities – for example through the provision of safe and accessible green infrastructure, sports facilities, local shops, access to healthier food, allotments and layouts that encourage walking and cycling.”¹³

- 2.6 The NPPF is supplemented by the web-based Planning Practice Guidance (PPG). The ‘Healthy and Safe Communities’ section of the PPG highlights that decision making in planning should consider health:

“Planning and health need to be considered together in two ways: in terms of creating environments that support and encourage healthy lifestyles, and in terms of identifying and securing the facilities needed for primary, secondary and tertiary care, and the wider health and care system (taking into account the changing needs of the population)”¹⁴.

- 2.7 The PPG identifies that “a health impact assessment is a useful tool to use where there are expected to be significant impacts”. The increasing use of HIAs mirrors changes across the planning profession; organisations such as the Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI) and Town and Country Planning Association (TCPA) are undertaking research on topics such as ‘healthy weight environments’¹⁵ and ‘housing for dementia’¹⁶. This trend is supported by advances in national legislation; human health impacts must be considered in Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA).

The Marmot Review

- 2.8 In 2008, Professor Sir Michael Marmot was tasked with chairing an independent review to propose evidence-based strategies for reducing health inequalities in England from 2010. Crucially, the review evidenced how the “*conditions in which people are born, grow, live, work and age*” - the ‘social determinants’ of health - affect health inequalities.
- 2.9 The final report was published in 2010 and concluded that six policy objectives were required to reduce health inequalities. Those of relevance to the Proposed Development are:
- Create fair employment and good work for all;
 - Ensure a healthy standard of living for all;
 - Create and develop healthy and sustainable places and communities;
 - Strengthen the role and impact of ill-health prevention.
- 2.10 The report proposed that socio-economic characteristics of a local area, such as income and employment, were central to understanding asymmetries in health and wellbeing

¹³ Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (December 2024) National Planning Policy Framework, para 96(a, b, c)

¹⁴ Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (2018-2021) and Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (2019) Planning Practice Guidance: Healthy and Safe Communities, para 001 (Reference ID:53-001-20190722)

¹⁵ Ross & Chang (2014) Planning Healthy Weight Environments: A TCPA Reuniting Health with Planning Project

¹⁶ RTPI (2017) Dementia and Town Planning

across the UK. The central message of the report is that the social determinants of health should be addressed despite the economic cost.

- 2.11 In February 2020, the Institute of Health Equity (IHE) at University College London (UCL), of which Professor Sir Michael Marmot is Director, published a subsequent report, 'Health Equity in England: The Marmot Review 10 Years On'¹⁷ which sought to understand the changes that had occurred in the nation's health and wellbeing since the original report's publication.
- 2.12 The Review stated that the last decade has been marked by deteriorating health and widening health inequalities, highlighting that *"for men and women everywhere the time spent in poor health is increasing"*¹⁸ and identifying that increasingly wide socio-economic inequalities are a key factor in this trend.
- 2.13 The Review concludes that national government should prioritise addressing health inequalities and developing a national strategy to do so, but also outlines that there are instances of local government having played a significant role in establishing whole system approaches to tackling health inequalities, which have resulted in public health improvements, and which should serve as a model for national government and other local authorities to build on.

Office for Health Improvement and Disparities

- 2.14 Public Health England (PHE) was established in 2013, and in 2021 transitioned into the Office for Health Improvement and Disparities (OHID). OHID serves as an executive agency within the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC), with an overall aim to improve the nation's health so that everyone can expect to live more of life in good health, levelling up health disparities to break the link between background and prospects for a healthy life. The body supports the delivery of national and regional priorities for prevention and health inequalities and ensuring a joined-up approach to public health, publishing data, guidance and strategies related to a wide range of health determinants. OHID's priorities include¹⁹:
- Identify and address health disparities, focusing on those groups and areas where health inequalities have greatest effect;
 - Take action on the biggest preventable risk factors for ill health and premature death including tobacco, obesity and harmful use of alcohol and drugs;
 - Work with the NHS and local government to improve access to the services which detect and act on health risks and conditions, as early as possible;
 - Develop strong partnerships across government, communities, industry and employers, to act on the wider factors that contribute to people's health, such as work, housing and education; and

¹⁷ Institute of Health Equity (2020) Health Equity in England: The Marmot Review 10 Years On

¹⁸ Ibid. p. 5

¹⁹ GOV.UK (Online) Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/office-for-health-improvement-and-disparities/about>

- Drive innovation in health improvement, harnessing the best of technology, analytics, and innovations in policy and delivery, to help deliver change where it is needed most.

Sub-Regional Planning and Health Policy

Greater Manchester Places for Everyone Joint Development Plan 2022-2039

- 2.15 Greater Manchester's PfE Joint Development Plan²⁰ recognises that good health is one of the key determinants of quality of life, as well as having a significant impact on the ability of people across the region to maximise their opportunities and to make a positive economic contribution.
- 2.16 PfE acknowledges the existence of considerable inequalities of health outcomes within Greater Manchester, with average life expectancy in the least deprived areas being more than a decade longer than in the most deprived areas²¹.
- 2.17 Policy JP-P6 ('Health') states that, to help tackle health inequality, new development will be required to:

"Be supported by a Health Impact Assessment for all developments which require to be screened for an Environmental Impact Assessment, and other proposals which, due to their location, nature or proximity to sensitive receptors, are likely to have a notable impact on health and wellbeing"

Improving Health and Care in Greater Manchester 2023-2028 Strategy

- 2.18 Greater Manchester Integrated Care Partnership (GMICP) brings together the city region's health and social care partners, as well as wider public sector and community organisations, to improve the health and wellbeing of Greater Manchester's population.
- 2.19 GMICP's 'Improving Health and Care 2023-2028 Strategy'²² focuses on the contribution of health and care to enabling all residents to live a good life through improved wellbeing. GMICP's proposed vision is for the region to be a place where:
- "Everyone can live a good life, growing up, getting on and growing old in a greener, fairer more prosperous city-region"*²³
- 2.20 The Strategy identifies significant disparities existing between and within Greater Manchester's ten localities, with further disparities existing between communities according to race, ethnicity, gender, disabilities, poverty, social exclusion, sexuality and age.

²⁰ Greater Manchester Combined Authority (2024) Places for Everyone Joint Development Plan 2022 - 2039

²¹ *Ibid*, paragraph 9.33

²² Greater Manchester Integrated Care Partnership (2023) Improving health and care in Greater Manchester 2023-2028

²³ *Ibid*.

2.21 Accordingly, the Strategy proposes the ‘Greater Manchester Model for Health’, aiming to pursue a ‘health in all policies’ approach to maximise the influences on the social determinants of health. Key aspects of the Model for Health include:

- **An inclusive economy** - where the contribution of public services is maximised through the Greater Manchester social value framework, including the contribution to the local economy in relation to employment, procurement, building and land use, and environmental impact.
- **Skills, education and good work** - focussing on good work through the spread of the Greater Manchester Good Employment Charter, improving pay and supporting wellbeing in work.
- **Healthy places** – developing neighbourhoods with cleaner air and access to green spaces where communities can come together, connect and support each other, enjoying their local environment and benefiting their physical and emotional health.

Greater Manchester Integrated Care Partnership Strategy 2023-2028

2.22 NHS Greater Manchester Integrated Care Partnership (NHS GMICP) and linked Integrated Care Board (NHS GMICB) is a partnership between the organisations that meet health and care needs across Greater Manchester, with the body having the overarching aim to support residents within the area to live longer healthier lives in thriving communities.

2.23 These supporting organisations include local authorities such as RMBC, NHS GMICB (responsible for making decisions about health services across the area), charities, patients and community groups, alongside other healthcare providers (e.g. GP surgeries and hospitals) and public services (e.g. fire and police services).

2.24 Greater Manchester’s Integrated Care Partnership Strategy²⁴ 2023-2028 sets out how to improve health of residents in the city-region and sets out outcomes the partnership aims to achieve, such as ensuring everyone has an opportunity to live a good life, has improved health and wellbeing, and experiences high quality care and support where and when needed.

2.25 To achieve these outcomes, the strategy outlines the following commitments:

- Ensure children and young people have a good start in life;
- Help people, families and communities feel more confident in managing their own health;
- Play a full part in tackling poverty and long-standing inequalities;
- Make continuous improvements in access, quality and experience – and reduce unwarranted variation;

²⁴ Greater Manchester Integrated Care Partnership Strategy (2024) Improving health and care in Greater Manchester 2023-2028

- Use technology and innovation to improve care for all;
- Ensure that people and services recover from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic as effectively and fairly as possible; and
- Help to secure a greener Greater Manchester with places that support healthy, active lives.

Greater Manchester Strategy 2021-2031

- 2.26 The GMCA's Greater Manchester Strategy (GMS)²⁵ covers the period 2021-2031 and sets out the vision of a city-region where everyone can live a good life, growing up, getting on and growing old.
- 2.27 The strategy acknowledges that the COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated longstanding inequalities, as well as highlighting new ones including access to good jobs, transport, health and housing.
- 2.28 The GMS focuses on improved wellbeing for residents, with better homes, jobs and transport. The strategy describes how work to make Greater Manchester a great place to visit, invest and study, with thriving businesses which are UK and world leading, in sectors including low carbon and digital, will continue. The GMS is designed to ensure that activity supports the achievement of a greener, fairer and more prosperous Greater Manchester, in a way which is inclusive, innovative and forward thinking, building on the pioneering and progressive culture which underpins Greater Manchester. It also shows how the region can be held to account, with a delivery plan showing the collective actions being taken, and a performance framework to demonstrate progress.
- 2.29 The strategy focuses on three shared outcomes including:
- **The wellbeing of people:** A clear focus of the strategy is to support people to have good lives, with better health; better jobs; better homes; culture and leisure opportunities; and better transport.
 - **Vibrant and successful enterprise:** The strategy sets the vision of a greater Manchester where diverse businesses can thrive, and people from all communities are supported to realise their potential. The strategy emphasises the importance of business growth and development and recognises that looking after people and the planet is good for productivity and profitability.
 - **Greater Manchester as a leading city-region in the UK and globally:** The city-region will seek capitalise on its economic, social and environmental strengths to tackle the challenges of climate change and inequalities. The strategy seeks to promote Greater Manchester as a world leading low carbon and digital city region.

²⁵ Greater Manchester Combined Authority (2024) Greater Manchester Strategy 2021-2031 good lives for all

The Greater Manchester Sustainability Strategy places a focus on carbon reduction

- 2.30 The GMCA's Greater Manchester Sustainability Strategy is intended to '*place a focus on immediate carbon reduction, whilst also acknowledging the need to go further and tackle carbon emissions that occur within the value chain*'²⁶.
- 2.31 By acknowledging the impacts of climate change globally but also in the communities within Greater Manchester, the strategy recognises the severe risks to public safety, buildings and infrastructure that climate related events pose, as well as the negative effects this could have on the health of the residents, often disproportionately impacting the more vulnerable members of the community.
- 2.32 The Strategy sets out Greater Manchester's approach to '*becoming an organisation that leads the way in delivering its own ambition for Greater Manchester's environment*' and revolves around five priorities to focus on over the next five years:
- Rapidly reduce the carbon footprint;
 - Protect and restore the environment;
 - Use resources efficiently and responsibly;
 - Adapt to a changing climate;
 - Be sustainability leaders.

Lancashire 2050 Strategy

The Lancashire 2050 Strategy²⁷, published in 2022, represents a collaborative effort by all 15 local councils across Lancashire. It establishes a long-term strategic framework for the region through to 2050, guided by a unifying vision: to create a place where '*every individual can live their best life*'. The strategy outlines a comprehensive plan structured around eight key priority areas to help realise this vision:

- Economic prosperity;
- Transport and Infrastructure;
- Environment and climate;
- Housing;
- Early years and education;
- Employment and skills;
- Health and wellbeing; and
- Communities and place.

²⁶ Greater Manchester Combined Authority (2022) Sustainability Strategy 2022-2026.

²⁷ Lancashire County Council (2022) Lancashire 2050 Strategy

- 2.33 To foster a competitive and sustainable economy, the strategy outlines a series of thematic priorities, emphasizing the growth potential of key sectors in Lancashire, particularly those related to low carbon and renewable energy. The strategy highlights that achieving economic prosperity will contribute to improving broader determinants of health, fostering social mobility, and inspiring ambition and drive among young people.
- 2.34 The strategy also establishes the region's commitment to meeting low-carbon objectives, promoting clean energy, and enhancing the natural environment. To realize these goals, it outlines the following priorities:
- To increase energy generation from low carbon sources, including renewables;
 - To significantly grow the low carbon and environment sectors of Lancashire's economy; and
 - To retain the biodiversity and natural environment.
- 2.35 Additionally, the strategy places a strong emphasis on improving health outcomes, ensuring that residents can lead healthier lives and actively contribute to both their communities and the economy.

Local Planning and Health Policy

Rochdale Core Strategy

- 2.36 Rochdale adopted its Core Strategy²⁸ in 2016 and has embarked on the preparation of a new Local Plan, following the adoption of PfE. The overall vision of the strategy is for Rochdale *'to become a prosperous borough: to grow our economy and develop our place through co-operation and partnership, improving the lives of local people'*²⁹. Two of the strategic objectives of current Core Strategy are to 'deliver a more prosperous economy', and also 'to create successful and healthy communities'.
- 2.37 In order to create successful and healthy communities, a key objective is to 'improve the general health and well-being of residents' by 'creating an economic, physical and social environment which promotes and supports healthy lifestyles'.
- 2.38 At the same time, a continued priority for the council is helping to tackle climate change and protecting and enhancing the natural environment. For this purpose, the council will seek to *'encourage renewable energy developments'* and *'safeguard natural resources such as urban greenspace, waterways and the peatlands'*.

²⁸ Rochdale Borough Council (2016), Core Strategy for the Local Plan: [About the Core Strategy for the Local Plan | Core Strategy for the Local Plan | Rochdale Borough Council](#)

²⁹ Ibid, page 16.

Rochdale Borough: Joint Strategic Needs Assessment: The Building Blocks to Keep Life on Track

- 2.39 The Rochdale Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA)³⁰ was prepared to support the borough's overall approach to improving local health and wellbeing outcomes. These are agreed across three key themes: disease reduction, long term determinants of health and improving mental wellbeing, and across ten building blocks for good health and wellbeing.
- 2.40 One of these building blocks is 'Having Meaningful Work and Sufficient Income'. This recognises that working, especially good quality work, tends to improve health, both through physical activity as well as supporting mental wellbeing, by building self confidence and individual worth. The Strategy notes that most people begin their working lives in good health, and remaining physically and mentally able to work, is crucial to wellbeing.

Rossendale Local Plan

- 2.41 Rossendale's Local Plan³¹ was adopted in 2021 and provides the statutory planning framework for the borough up to 2036.
- 2.42 Amongst the Plan's 'Objectives' relating to the 'Theme' of 'People' is *"improving health and well-being, with access to health and leisure facilities"*. Further Themes include 'Economy' (and Objectives related to *"promoting economic prosperity and helping to grow and retain local job opportunities"* and *"providing strategic infrastructure improvements"*) and 'Environment' (incorporating Objectives such as *"reducing the impact of and adapting to climate change, including... the promotion and protection of Green Infrastructure, green energy projects"* and *"protecting and enhancing natural assets, and improving biodiversity"*).
- 2.43 Green infrastructure is identified as a 'Key Topic' of the Plan, which sets out an objective to protect and enhance a network of Ecological Corridors. It is recognised that Green Infrastructure enhancement has multiple benefits, including for the health of the population. As such, Policy TR2 ('Footpaths, Cycleways and Bridleways') notes that Rossendale's public footpaths and cycleways form an essential component of the local green infrastructure network, and are a valued recreational resource which perform an important role in improving physical and emotional health.
- 2.44 The Plan recognises that Rossendale has accommodated a considerable amount of wind energy development in recent years, reflecting the high wind resource in the area. This has contributed significantly towards meeting renewable energy targets. As such the Plan notes that larger turbines may be considered within or adjacent to the existing Scout Moor Wind Farm.
- 2.45 Local Plan Policy ENV7 ('Wind Turbines') notes that commercial proposals for new wind turbines or re-powering of existing schemes) will be supported provided a number of issues are addressed to the satisfaction of the Council, including:

³⁰ Rochdale Borough Council and Heywood Middleton and Rochdale ICP (2023), Rochdale Borough Joint Strategic Needs Assessment, The Building Blocks to Keep Life on Track: [Joint Strategic Needs Assessment summary document | Rochdale Borough Council](#)

³¹ Rossendale Borough Council (2021) Rossendale Local Plan 2019-2036

- The impacts identified by the local community have been considered and fully addressed; and
- There would be no unacceptable harm to neighbour amenity, protected species or the use of public rights of way, bridleways, or a severe impact on highways.

2.46 The Plan's Strategic Policy ENV1 ('High Quality Development in the Borough') notes that all proposals for new development in the Borough will be expected to take account of the character and appearance of the local area, including, where appropriate a HIA for major developments, looking particularly at effects on vulnerable groups, and identification of how these may be mitigated.

Summary

2.47 Planning for healthy communities is a priority for national and local government. From reference to HIAs and building healthy communities in the NPPF, to Greater Manchester's and Rossendale's policy requirements to complete and submit an HIA for major developments, health is becoming a more mainstream part of planning considerations.

2.48 It is recognised that a high-quality built environment can play a crucial role in promoting sustainable communities, particularly through applying recommendations arising from a HIA.

3. Local Health Profile

- 3.1 The following health profile of the local and wider population considers general and wider determinants of health.
- 3.2 The aim of this health profile is to put into context the local health and socio-economic circumstance of the communities surrounding the Proposed Development. The study area comprises the boroughs of Rochdale and Rossendale, with available data for regional (North West) and national (England) used as relevant comparators.
- 3.3 This recognises that the Proposed Development will have a potential impact on the health of residents living in proximity, but also that there is an expectation and aspiration that both communities locally and across the UK will benefit socially from the numerous environmental advantages associated with wind farms, with this having potential impacts on their comparative health and wellbeing context.

General Health and Wider Determinants of Health

- 3.4 OHID's Public Health Outcomes Framework (PHOF) highlights health outcomes in both Rossendale³² and Rochdale³³. This shows that a number of key health outcomes are notably poorer in Rochdale, with those in Rossendale being more closely aligned to that of the wider North West region, or England.
- 3.5 Key issues highlighted included:
- **Life expectancy in Rochdale is lower than in Rossendale and the North West and nationally**, with life expectancy for men and women at 77.5 and 81.6 in Rochdale, and 78.4 and 82.2 in both Rossendale and the North West. This compares to 79.8 and 83.6 for men and women nationally.
 - **Under 75 mortality rate from all causes is notably higher in Rochdale than in wider geographies**, with 427 premature deaths per 100,000 people in Rochdale, compared to 351 per 100,000 in Rossendale, 378 per 100,000 in the North West and 321 per 100,000 in England as a whole.
 - **The proportion of children living in absolute low-income families is notably higher in Rochdale than in Rossendale and wider geographies**. In Rochdale, 32% of children live in absolute low-income families, which is higher than the comparative figures for Rossendale (22%), the wider North West region (24%) and England (19%).
 - **The percentage of homeless households is notably higher in Rochdale and Rossendale than across the North West and England**, with 23.5 per 1,000 of households owed a duty under the Homelessness Reduction Act in Rochdale and

³² Office for Health Improvement and Disparity (2026), Public Health Outcomes Framework: Rossendale

³³ Office for Health Improvement and Disparity (2026), Public Health Outcomes Framework: Rochdale

20.6 per 1,000 in Rossendale, compared to 14.6 per 1,000 across the North West and 13.6 per 1,000 in England.

- **The rate of adults who are overweight (including obesity) are higher in Rochdale**, with 68% of adults in Rochdale being overweight or obese. This compares to 67% across Rossendale and the North West region and 65% across England.
- **Childhood obesity rates are however higher in Rossendale than in wider geographies**, with 26% of pupils in Year 6 in Rossendale being classified as obese, compared to 25% in Rochdale, 24% across the North West and 22% across England.
- **Physical activity rates are lower in Rochdale**, with 59% of adults classed under this indicator, significantly lower than the rates across Rossendale (75%), the North West (66%), and the rate across England (68%).
- **Smoking prevalence in adults is notably higher in Rossendale than in Rochdale and wider geographies**, with 34% of adults smoking in Rossendale, compared to 12% in Rochdale, 11% in the North West and 10% in England as a whole.

- 3.6 The 2021 Census³⁴ also provides an insight into the health of the population, asking respondents to self-assess their general health. A similar proportion of Rochdale, Rossendale and the North West's residents self-reported that their health was 'good' or 'very good' (all c. 80%), albeit the rates in all areas were lower than England as a whole (82%). Conversely, more of Rochdale, Rossendale and the North West residents reported their health to be 'bad' or 'very bad' (all c. 6%), than nationally (5%)³⁵.

Deprivation

- 3.7 The Indices of Deprivation (IOD)³⁶ is a measure of relative deprivation across different 'small areas' (defined as 'Lower Super Output Areas', LSOAs)³⁷ in England. The 2025 edition of the IOD is based on 55 separate indicators, organised across seven distinct domains of deprivation³⁸, which are combined and weighted to calculate the Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD).

- 3.8 There are varying levels of deprivation between both Local Authorities:

- **Rochdale** ranks 19th out of 296 local authorities in England (where 1 is the most deprived and 296 is the least deprived) in terms of overall deprivation, thus

³⁴ ONS via Nomis (2026) Census 2021

³⁵ The balance comprised people self-reporting their health to be 'fair'.

³⁶ Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government (2025) English indices of deprivation

³⁷ 'Lower Super Output Areas' (LSOAs) are statistically-defined small areas (or neighbourhoods), designed to be of a similar population size for the reporting of data, with an average of c. 1,500 residents.

³⁸ The seven domains of deprivation are: Income; Employment; Health & Disability; Education, Skills & Training; Crime; Barriers to Housing and Services; Living Environment

indicating that Rochdale ranks within the first decile³⁹ for most deprived local authorities.

- **Rossendale** ranks 60th out of 296 local authorities in England in terms of overall deprivation, meaning it ranks within the second decile for most deprived local authorities.

3.9 **Table 3.1** shows the IMD broken down by each of the seven defined domains which form the IMD score, allowing identification of any specific domains of deprivation across both local authority areas.

Table 3.1: IMD Domains by decile for each local authority

	Income	Employment	Education	Health	Crime	Barriers to Housing & Services	Living Environment	Overall IMD Decile
Rochdale	1	1	2	1	1	5	3	1
Rossendale	4	3	6	2	3	2	1	2

Source: Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (2025)

3.10 **Rochdale** exhibits high degree of deprivation relating to income, employment, health and crime, ranking within the most 10% most deprived local authorities across England against these indicators.

3.11 **Rossendale** also ranks within the most deprived 10% of local authorities relating to living environment, and within the second most deprived percentile relating to health and barriers to housing and services indicators.

Living Environment

3.12 The Green Space Index was produced by the Fields in Trust⁴⁰ to quantify and compare resident accessibility to local parks and green space. This analysis reveals the following in terms of the Local Impact Area:

- There is currently less than the minimum required standard of green space within the Local Impact Area.
- By 2043, the green space standard is expected to worsen by c. 9% across both Rossendale and Rochdale.

³⁹ The Index of Multiple Deprivation splits England's 296 local authorities into 10 different deciles, with the 1st decile being the most deprived and the 10th decile being the least. English local authorities ranked 1-30 are included in the 1st decile of deprivation, 31-60 in the 2nd, 61-90 in the 3rd, 91-120 in the 4th, 121-150 in the 5th, 151-180 in the 6th, 181-209 in the 7th, 210-238 in the 8th, 239-267 in the 9th, and 268-296 in the 10th decile.

⁴⁰ Fields in Trust (2026) Green Space Index [Online] Accessible at:

https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/bad00cdfa6b140599b06c64d10dc73c9?data_id=dataSource_21-Local_Authority_GSI_Score_2023_6252%3A244%2CdataSource_18-GIS_Future_2043_4225_2948%3A244

- 3.13 Green Space is key to supporting local active lifestyles; evidence shows that living in a greener environment can promote and protect good health, aid recovery from illness and help with managing poor health, as a positive correlation exists between those who have greater exposure to greenspace and favourable physiological outcomes.
- 3.14 Green environments are associated with better mental health and wellbeing outcomes and enhanced quality of life for both children and adults, by binding communities together, reducing loneliness and mitigating environmental impacts such as air and noise pollution, heat and flooding. It has also been found that those who are from disadvantaged backgrounds appear to have a larger health benefit and reduced socio-economic related inequalities in health when living in greener communities, demonstrating how this can be used as a key tool in reduce disparities in deprivation.

Identification of Potentially Vulnerable Population Groups

- 3.15 Following the analysis of baseline data presented in this section, the following potentially vulnerable groups (several of whom have cross-cutting characteristics) have been identified:
- **People at risk of low rates of physical activity**, which is an identified local health issue (contributing to unhealthy weight as a linked issue) that could potentially be addressed through enhancements to open space and recreation infrastructure (such as enhanced walking and cycling routes).
 - **Lower-income households**, (including people both already in employment and those seeking work) who are at higher risk of poverty and deprivation, especially given current inflationary pressures and the related cost-of-living crisis.
- 3.16 References to these vulnerable groups will be made as relevant through the following assessment Chapter of this HIA.

Summary

- 3.17 In summary, key health-related findings from the above baseline assessment indicate that health inequalities exist within Rochdale and Rossendale and reflect the wider socio-economic inequalities within the region, highlighting the importance of prioritising health and wellbeing when planning new development. Analysis of IMD data suggests that there are areas of higher deprivation in the study area where improvements to the local built environment and delivery of new socio-economic opportunities could help promote improved health and wellbeing outcomes.
- 3.18 Analysis highlights the importance of implementing measures that can make a positive impact on improving the wellbeing of local people. Encouraging participation in healthy activities – including active travel and sport – would be worthwhile initiatives, where these offer the opportunity to improve physical and mental health in the locality.
- 3.19 Overall, it is therefore considered that further improving health and wellbeing outcomes should be considered as a priority locally, and that it is important that efforts are made through this HIA to understand the health impacts of the Proposed

Development, including the means by which beneficial effects can be enhanced and any potential adverse impacts can be adequately mitigated.

4. HUDU Rapid Health Impact Assessment

- 4.1 The assessment uses the *HUDU Rapid Health Impact Assessment Matrix* as outlined in the *Rapid Health Impact Assessment Tool*⁴¹. The tool enables a quick assessment of the impacts of a development plan or proposal according to eleven topics or broad determinants. It is then used to provide recommendations to address negative impacts and maximise benefits. It is made clear in the assessment whether the impact and mitigation relate to the construction or operational phase of the development.
- 4.2 Given that the Proposed Development is for entirely non-residential uses, impacts relating to the health determinant 'housing design and affordability' (listed as no. 1 within the HUDU tool) and 'access to healthy food' (listed as no. 7 within the HUDU tool) are not relevant to the assessment and therefore, have not been considered.

Name of assessor / organisation: Turley Economics

Name of project (plan or proposal): Scout Moor II

Location of project: Scout Moor II

Date of assessment: May 2026

⁴¹ NHS Healthy Urban Development Unit (2019) Rapid Health Impact Assessment Tool

2 Access to health and social care services and other social infrastructure

Assessment criteria	Relevant?	Details / evidence	Potential health impact?	Recommended mitigation or enhancement actions
Does the proposal retain or re-provide existing social infrastructure?	☐ Yes ☒ No	The Proposed Development does not displace any existing or provide new social infrastructure, and therefore there will be no change in provision of such uses.	☐ Positive ☐ Negative ☒ Neutral ☐ Uncertain	<i>No further mitigation required.</i>
Does the proposal assess the impact on health and social care services and has local NHS organisations been contacted regarding existing and planned healthcare capacity?	☐ Yes ☒ No	This criterion is not applicable to the Proposed Development as it does not provide residential uses.	☐ Positive ☐ Negative ☒ Neutral ☐ Uncertain	<i>No further mitigation required.</i>
Does the proposal include the provision, or replacement of a healthcare facility and does the facility meet NHS requirements?	☐ Yes ☒ No	The Proposed Development does not include replacement or provision of a health facility. As it does not provide residential uses, it will not generate additional demand for healthcare infrastructure.	☐ Positive ☐ Negative ☒ Neutral ☐ Uncertain	<i>No further mitigation required.</i>
Does the proposal assess the capacity, location and accessibility of other social infrastructure, e.g. primary, secondary and post 19 education needs and community facilities?	☐ Yes ☒ No	As with healthcare facilities, it is considered that the Proposed Development will not generate new demand for social infrastructure (for example, education, and other community facilities such as shops, open spaces, libraries, sports centres, community centres and churches) given that the demand for these services are driven by resident populations.	☐ Positive ☐ Negative ☒ Neutral ☐ Uncertain	<i>No further mitigation required.</i>
Does the proposal explore opportunities for shared community use and co-location of services?	☒ Yes ☐ No	As set out in the Community Benefits Charter, the Applicant is committed to investing in local communities at every stage of the project, through the provision of monetary support for	☒ Positive ☐ Negative ☐ Neutral	Continue to engage with local communities, voluntary organisations and other

	community projects. During the operational phase, the Community Wealth Fund will guarantee a minimum of £6,000 per MW of energy produced per year (adjusted for inflation), being dedicated towards funding local initiatives. In order to meet local needs, the funding will be made flexible, whilst ensuring that the greatest benefits will go to those residents living closest to the Proposed Development ⁴² .	☐ Uncertain	stakeholders to establish uses and scope of the Community Wealth Fund.
	The Applicant should continue to engage with local communities, voluntary organisations and other stakeholders to establish uses and scope of the Community Wealth Fund.		

3 Access to open space and nature

Assessment criteria	Relevant?	Details / evidence	Potential health impact?	Recommended mitigation or enhancement actions
Does the proposal retain and enhance existing open and natural spaces?	☒ Yes ☐ No	The Planning, Design & Access Statement (PDAS) prepared for the Proposed Development ⁴³ outlines that the Site encompasses 1,023 hectares (ha) of land, comprising three parcels. The main parcel comprises of an irregular shaped parcel of open moorland, characterised by expansive and undeveloped terrain with a mix of rough grassland. This part of the site will encompass the wind farm development and moorland restoration works. The other two parcels comprise the Grid Connection Route A, which extends northwards from the main parcel, terminating at the Rossendale	☒ Positive ☐ Negative ☐ Neutral ☐ Uncertain	<i>No further mitigation required.</i>

⁴² Turley (2026) Scout Moor II: Economic and Social Benefits Statement

⁴³ Turley (2026) Scout Moor II: Further Environmental Information: Planning, Design and Access Statement

Bulk Supply Point, and Grid Connection Route B, which also includes the vehicular access route to the Site.

The immediate surroundings of the site are predominantly open and undeveloped, characterised by upland moorland and degraded peatland due to numerous factors including unsuitable management and drainage, illegal off-roading and inconsistent livestock stocking levels⁴⁴. The site also contains a comprehensive access network comprising definitive Public Rights of Way (PRoW), permissive paths, Open Access Land, and registered Common Land⁴⁵.

The Proposed Development seeks to restore and enhance large parts of degraded moorland habitat. As such, a Moorland Restoration and Management Plan⁴⁶ has been prepared, which identifies the areas of degraded peatland and sets out clear and concise prescriptions to enhance and restore these areas at a minimum ratio of 1:10 in accordance with NatureScot guidance. That is, for every 1ha of peatland that is excavated to facilitate development, 10 ha of peatland will be restored.

Furthermore, in addition to new access tracks (discussed in more detail below), approximately 4.9km of existing tracks through the wind farm will be retained.

The Proposed Development's retention and enhancement of existing open and natural spaces – including new and improved access routes, as discussed below – could provide particular improvements to health and wellbeing of people at risk of low levels of physical activity, as a potentially vulnerable population

⁴⁴ Turley (2026) Scout Moor II: Sustainability, Energy & Climate Change Statement

⁴⁵ Turley (2026) Scout Moor 2 Wind Farm: Outdoor Access Management and Enhancement Plan

⁴⁶ Atmos Consulting (2026) Scout Moor II Wind Farm: Moorland Restoration and Management Plan

		group. This is applicable to all aspects of the consideration of 'access to open space and nature' as a health determinant assessed in this HIA.		
In areas of deficiency, does the proposal provide new open or natural space, or improve access to existing spaces?	☒ Yes ☐ No	As stated above, the Proposed Development aims to restore the moorland to an attractive, biodiverse and functional peatland, increasing its ability for carbon sequestration, providing consistent grazing for stock and overall enhancing the important habitats to favourable condition. Further to this, the Outdoor Access Management and Enhancement Plan ('Access Plan')⁴⁷ produced for the Proposed Development, outlines measures to enhance access and recreational opportunities. The plan's measures can be summarised as follows: • Protect Public Rights of Way ('PRoW'), Common Land, and Countryside and Rights of Way ('CRoW') Act Access Land throughout construction and operation. • Safeguard open access rights while minimising disruption to recreational users and ensuring safe, continuous access. • Enhance public access infrastructure, including new and upgraded trails, improved wayfinding, and visitor facilities • Implement measures to deter illegal off-roading, protect the landscape, and promote responsible access • Provide a long-term strategy for monitoring, management, and enforcement to maintain and improve public access. Additionally, a Section 106 Agreement will regrant public access rights over the new access tracks and hardstanding following	☒ Positive ☐ Negative ☐ Neutral ☐ Uncertain	<i>No further mitigation required.</i>

⁴⁷ Turley (2026) Scout Moor II Wind Farm: Outdoor Access Management and Enhancement Plan

construction, ensuring an overall net gain in publicly accessible land ⁴⁸ .				
Does the proposal provide a range of play spaces for children and young people?	☐ Yes ☒ No	The Proposed Development does not provide residential uses and therefore will not generate demand for nor provide formal child or youth play space.	☐ Positive ☐ Negative ☒ Neutral ☐ Uncertain	<i>No further mitigation required.</i>
Does the proposal provide links between open and natural spaces and the public realm?	☒ Yes ☐ No	As stated above, the Access Plan⁴⁹ outlines that the Proposed Development will incorporate measures to enhance public access infrastructure, including: • . Opening 15.1km of access tracks to walkers, cyclists and horse riders, comprising of 10.2km of new track, in addition to the existing 4.9km of existing tracks through SMWF which will be retained • Increasing public access land and offering additional space for recreation and wildlife appreciation. • Upgrading key infrastructure such as car parking, signage and amenity areas. • Creating new circular recreational routes to provide opportunities for outdoor exploration. • Strengthening connections between Lee Quarry and Cragg Quarry mountain bike facilities via the wind farm access tracks, improving mountain biking and multi-use access across the wider area.	☒ Positive ☐ Negative ☐ Neutral ☐ Uncertain	<i>No further mitigation required.</i>

⁴⁸ Ibid

⁴⁹ Ibid

		Reducing illegal off-roading through targeted deterrents and enforcement partnerships, protecting the landscape.		
Are the open and natural spaces welcoming and safe and accessible for all?	☒ Yes ☐ No	As outlined in the Access Plan⁵⁰, following a process of public consultation, a programme of targeted interventions has been defined to ensure that the Proposed Development delivers lasting improvements to access, recreation and landscape stewardship across the moor. One of the project's defined 'Strategic Objectives' is to support safe and inclusive access for a wide range of users, including local walkers, cyclists, horse riders, runners, families, nature groups and land managers. This is coupled with an objective to deter illegal off-road vehicle activity and support enforcement efforts, which will also ensure that open and natural spaces remain welcoming and safe and accessible for all.	☒ Positive ☐ Negative ☐ Neutral ☐ Uncertain	<i>No further mitigation required.</i>
Does the proposal set out how new open space will be managed and maintained?	☒ Yes ☐ No	The Access Plan⁵¹ states how public access will be managed throughout the development lifecycle. It has been informed by relevant legislation, national and local planning policies and best practice guidance to ensure compliance and alignment with wider strategic objectives. The Access Plan outlines that the following measures will be implemented to ensure safe access: Regular inspections of public access routes, diversions, and signage to ensure they remain in good condition and clearly communicated. Community feedback mechanisms, including engagement with the Community Liaison Group and	☒ Positive ☐ Negative ☐ Neutral ☐ Uncertain	<i>No further mitigation required.</i>

⁵⁰ Ibid.

⁵¹ Ibid.

recreational user groups, to identify access issues or improvement opportunities.

- **Regular access reviews**, ensuring enhancements continue to meet user needs, with adaptations made where necessary.
- **Action Plan for Mitigation and Monitoring**, including measures to track effectiveness and adapt management strategies as needed.
- **Monitoring of illegal off-roading activity**, in collaboration with enforcement agencies, to assess and refine deterrent measures.

By embedding these responsibilities, review mechanisms, and structured oversight, the wind farm's access strategy will remain adaptable, ensuring long-term public benefits while balancing environmental and operational considerations⁵².

4 Air quality, noise and neighbourhood amenity

Assessment criteria	Relevant?	Details / evidence	Potential health impact?	Recommended mitigation or enhancement actions
Does the proposal minimise construction impacts such as dust, noise, vibration and odours?	☒ Yes ☐ No	Activities such as site preparation (including delivery of construction material, erection of fences and barriers), movement of construction traffic (including haulage, vehicles and plant movements) and the construction works have the potential to create adverse impacts in terms of dust, noise, vibration and odours.	☐ Positive ☐ Negative ☒ Neutral ☐ Uncertain	Production of a Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) and a Construction Traffic Management Plan and implementation of measures to minimise construction impacts

⁵² Ibid.

If not mitigated effectively, this could have an adverse impact on human health, and particularly for people with / at risk of developing health issues associated with poor air quality, as a potentially vulnerable group.

such as dust, noise, vibration and odours.

The Air Quality Assessment (AQA)⁵³ produced for the Proposed Development concluded that the use of a range of best practice mitigation measures during the construction phase will be implemented to reduce dust emissions. Best-practice measures will therefore be implemented during construction to mitigate impacts of these activities.

Both a Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) and a Construction Traffic Management Plan will be adopted and secured via planning condition. The CEMP will include measures to manage resources such as materials, waste, energy and water during construction of the Proposed Scheme. The Construction Traffic Management Plan will include the following measures:

- A detailed design process to minimise the volume of material to be imported to site to help reduce HGV numbers;
- A site worker transport and travel arrangement plan will be prepared, including transport modes to and from the worksite (including pick up and drop off times);
- All materials delivery lorries (dry materials) should be sheeted to reduce dust and stop spillage on public roads;
- Specific training and disciplinary measures should be established to ensure the highest standards are maintained to prevent construction vehicles from carrying mud and debris onto the carriageway; and

⁵³ Logika Group (2026) Scout Moor II Wind Farm: Air Quality Assessment

		• Wheel cleaning facilities may be established at the site entrance Following implementation, the residual significance of potential air quality impacts from dust generated by demolition, earthworks, construction and track out activities are predicted to be not significant. It should also be noted that construction phase impacts such as air quality (including dust) and noise & vibration have considered in detail through the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process. Air quality impacts – including dust – and emissions and pollutants from road and non-road machinery were assessed and concluded not likely to be significant. Similarly, construction road traffic noise, and risk of vibration on local residential receptors were also not likely to be significant.		
Does the proposal minimise air pollution caused by traffic and energy facilities?	☒ Yes ☐ No	Air pollution caused by traffic and energy facilities can have an adverse impact on human health, and particularly for people with / at risk of developing health issues associated with poor air quality, as a potentially vulnerable group. As acknowledged within Section 3, there is proportionally already a higher degree of health-related deprivation in the local area. The AQA⁵⁴ states that as the Proposed Development is expected to generate a total of approximately 15 two-way operational trips (i.e. general maintenance, replacing parts, etc.) per turbine annually, totalling 255 two-way LDV movements per year; these trip rates are below the relevant screening thresholds, therefore it is judged that there is no requirement for a detailed assessment of road traffic impacts at existing receptors, and it can be concluded that the Proposed Development will not have a significant impact on local roadside air quality during operation.	☐ Positive ☐ Negative ☒ Neutral ☐ Uncertain	<i>No further mitigation required.</i>

⁵⁴ Ibid.

		The project's EIA Scoping Report⁵⁵ considered the potential significance of 'Infrasound and low-frequency noise' during operation. A review of the evidence base was conducted, which, in summary concludes that exposure to infrasound at levels representative of wind turbine emissions at dwellings is not associated with physiological or psychological health effects. As such, infrasound and low frequency noise are considered unlikely to be significant.		
Does the proposal minimise noise pollution caused by traffic and commercial uses?	☒ Yes ☐ No	The Proposed Development's Environmental Statement – Chapter 7 Noise & Vibration⁵⁶ reports the outcome of the assessment of likely significant environmental effects in relation to noise and vibration. The chapter outlines that operational noise has been a key consideration throughout the design process. As such, the design is the result of an iterative process to ensure that the final wind turbine layout and their locations strikes a balance between maximising the potential for renewable energy generation while providing appropriate protection for residential amenity. Additional mitigation will be required in the form of wind turbine mode management, applicable to a limited number of turbines for a specific range of wind speeds and directions to ensure that noise limits are met. Following confirmation of the choice of turbine to be installed on the Site, an Operational Noise Management Plan will be devised and enacted to ensure that no exceedances of relevant noise limits will occur. This will take the form of a scheme of low noise operational modes to be used under specific wind conditions.	☐ Positive ☐ Negative ☒ Neutral ☐ Uncertain	Production of an Operational Noise Management Plan and implementation of measures to ensure that no exceedances of relevant noise limits will occur.

⁵⁵ Turley (2024) Scout Moor II Wind Farm: Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Scoping Report

⁵⁶ Turley (2026) Scout Moor II: Environmental Statement – Chapter 7: Noise & Vibration

5 Accessibility and active travel

Assessment criteria	Relevant?	Details / evidence	Potential health impact?	Recommended mitigation or enhancement actions
Does the proposal address the ten Healthy Streets indicators?	☐ Yes ☒ No	The ten 'Healthy Streets indicators' is the policy initiative which underpins the Mayor of London's Transport Strategy ⁵⁷ and Health Inequalities Strategy ⁵⁸ as well as the draft new London Plan ⁵⁹ . This criterion is therefore not applicable to the Proposed Development.	☐ Positive ☐ Negative ☒ Neutral ☐ Uncertain	<i>No further mitigation required.</i>
Does the proposal prioritise and encourage walking, for example through the use of shared spaces?	☒ Yes ☐ No	The Access Plan⁶⁰ prepared for the Proposed Development explains how public access will be protected and managed during construction and outlines measures to enhance access and recreational opportunities during operation. It establishes a clear and proactive framework to: • Protect Public Rights of Way ('PRoW'), Common Land, and Countryside and Rights of Way ('CRoW') Act Access Land throughout construction and operation. • Safeguard open access rights while minimising disruption to recreational users and ensuring safe, continuous access. • Enhance public access infrastructure, including new and upgraded trails, improved wayfinding, and visitor facilities • Implement measures to deter illegal off-roading, protect the landscape, and promote responsible access	☒ Positive ☐ Negative ☐ Neutral ☐ Uncertain	<i>No further mitigation required.</i>

⁵⁷ Mayor of London (2018) Mayor's Transport Strategy

⁵⁸ Mayor of London (2018) The London Health Inequalities Strategy

⁵⁹ Mayor London (2019) The London Plan: Intend to Publish

⁶⁰ Turley (2026) Scout Moor II Wind Farm: Outdoor Access Management and Enhancement Plan

		Provide a long-term strategy for monitoring, management, and enforcement to maintain and improve public access. The Proposed Development's enhanced access and recreational opportunities could provide particular improvements to health and wellbeing of people at risk of low levels of physical activity, as a potentially vulnerable population group. This is applicable to all aspects of the consideration of 'accessibility and active travel' as a health determinant assessed in this HIA.		
Does the proposal prioritise and encourage cycling, for example by providing secure cycle parking, showers and cycle lanes?	☒ Yes ☐ No	This criterion is not directly applicable to the Proposed Development as it does not provide residential or commercial uses. However, it is noted – as set out above – that the Access Plan⁶¹ outlines that the Proposed Development will incorporate measures to enhance public access infrastructure, which includes new recreational access tracks for cyclists.	☒ Positive ☐ Negative ☐ Neutral ☐ Uncertain	<i>No further mitigation required.</i>
Does the proposal connect public realm and internal routes to local and strategic cycle and walking networks?	☒ Yes ☐ No	As stated in the Access Plan⁶², a number PROW cross the site, including both footpaths and bridleways, including: - The most well-known PROW within the site is Rooley Moor Road, a historic upland route linking Rochdale to Bacup. Known as the "Cotton Famine Road", it is now a restricted byway, allowing access for walkers, cyclists, horse riders, and non-motorised vehicles, but excluding motorised vehicles. It forms a key spine route across the moor. - Multiple footpaths linking local settlements, including Whitworth, Bacup, Edenfield and Boarsgreave, to the open moorland	☒ Positive ☐ Negative ☐ Neutral ☐ Uncertain	<i>No further mitigation required.</i>

⁶¹ Ibid

⁶² Ibid.

		Additional bridleways providing east-west and north-south connectivity across the Site. However, existing routes are often poorly drained, informal or difficult to navigate, limiting inclusive access. As part of the Proposed Development, a new network of purpose-built access tracks will be constructed to service the turbine locations. Once construction is complete, these tracks will be opened for public, multi-user access. With a compacted stone surface and designed to accommodate maintenance vehicles, the tracks will also be suitable for walkers, cyclists, and horse riders throughout the year. Combined with existing wind farm tracks and public footpaths, this creates an opportunity to establish a distinctive and varied setting for a range of recreational activities including walking, running, cycling, and riding⁶³.		
Does the proposal include traffic management and calming measures to help reduce and minimise road injuries?	☒ Yes ☐ No	As stated in the PDAS⁶⁴, vehicular access to the site will be via Scout Road, through the operational Scout Moor Quarry and Scout Moor Wind Farm. Due to the nature as a wind farm, the Proposed Development is not expected to generate a high volume of traffic during its operational phase. However, as explained in more detail in section 6 of this HIA 'Crime reduction and community safety', the Proposed Development's design includes measures to avoid off-roading, which is one of the concerns that residents raised during the consultation process.	☒ Positive ☐ Negative ☐ Neutral ☐ Uncertain	<i>No further mitigation required.</i>
Is the proposal well connected to public transport, local services and facilities?	☐ Yes ☒ No	This criterion is not applicable to the Proposed Development as it does not provide residential or commercial uses.	☐ Positive ☐ Negative ☐ Neutral	<i>No further mitigation required.</i>

⁶³ Ibid

⁶⁴ Turley (2026) Scout Moor II: Further Environmental Information: Planning, Design and Access Statement

		☒ Uncertain		
Does the proposal seek to reduce car use by reducing car parking provision, supported by the controlled parking zones, car clubs and travel plans measures?	☐ Yes ☒ No	This criterion is not applicable to the Proposed Development as it does not provide residential or commercial uses and will not generate notable levels of car-trips.	☐ Positive ☐ Negative ☒ Neutral ☒ Uncertain	<i>No further mitigation required</i>
Does the proposal allow people with mobility problems or a disability to access buildings and places?	☒ Yes ☐ No	Whilst the proposals do not provide residential or commercial uses, one of the objectives of the Access Plan ⁶⁵ is to support safe and inclusive access for a wide range of users, including local walkers, cyclists, horse riders, runners, families, nature groups and land managers.	☒ Positive ☐ Negative ☐ Neutral ☐ Uncertain	<i>No further mitigation required.</i>

6 Crime reduction and community safety

Assessment criteria	Relevant?	Details / evidence	Potential health impact?	Recommended mitigation or enhancement actions
Does the proposal incorporate elements to help design out crime?	☒ Yes ☐ No	As outlined in the Access Plan ⁶⁶ , one of the most consistent concerns raised through consultation was illegal off-road vehicle use – particularly by motorcycles and 4x4s. Communities described regular damage to sensitive habitats, threats to public safety, noise, littering, and anti-social behaviour. To address this issue, and as part of the Access Plan, the Proposed Development includes a coordinated package of measures in the form of a strategy to reduce illegal off-road vehicle use and safeguard the moor for legitimate users. The proposals blend physical	☒ Positive ☐ Negative ☐ Neutral ☐ Uncertain	<i>No further mitigation required.</i>

⁶⁵ Ibid.

⁶⁶ Turley (2026) Scout Moor II Wind Farm: Outdoor Access Management and Enhancement Plan

prevention, community education and targeted partnership support.

The strategy will focus on three main areas:

- **Physical Prevention** – including, installation of barriers such as fencing and maintained gates at vulnerable access points; use of CCTV cameras on the wind farm and clear signage at high-risk areas to support monitoring and discourage access; access controls built into the design of new permissive paths and infrastructure; ensuring that gates and fences are well maintained, such as the gates onto Rooley Moor Road.
- **Education and Positive Influence** - awareness campaigns through in person events on the moor, social media and local press to promote understanding and direct users to legal riding locations.
- **Partnership Support and Coordination** – including close collaboration with GMP, Lancashire Police, landowners and community groups; access to funding for grassroots deterrent measures through the Community Wealth Fund; supporting a unified approach between both police forces to ensure intelligence-sharing and consistent response; building on existing initiatives—such as Operation Dragster— increasing local capacity, creating better links between stakeholders, and equipping communities with the tools and resources they need for lasting impact.

The strategy will not only improve safety for residents and visitors of the site, but also will protect sensitive habitats and heritage features from further damage, reduce noise, erosion and anti-social behaviour and strengthen collaboration between local groups, landowners and authorities.

Does the proposal incorporate design techniques to help people feel secure and avoid creating 'gated communities'?	☒ Yes ☐ No	The concept of 'gated communities' is specific to residential development and is therefore not applicable to this proposal. However, the Proposed Development will incorporate measures to support safe and inclusive access for a wide range of users. These measures are intended to enhance the overall visitor experience while promoting responsible use of the site, ensuring that it remains welcoming and accessible to all ⁶⁷ .	☒ Positive ☐ Negative ☐ Neutral ☐ Uncertain	<i>No further mitigation required.</i>
Does the proposal include attractive, multi-use public spaces and buildings?	☐ Yes ☒ No	The Proposed Development does not involve the construction of buildings or the creation of public spaces. As such, this criterion is not applicable in this context, as there will be no structural or spatial elements that would require consideration under this requirement.	☐ Positive ☐ Negative ☒ Neutral ☐ Uncertain	<i>No further mitigation required.</i>
Has engagement and consultation been carried out with the local community and voluntary sector?	☒ Yes ☐ No	As documented in the Statement of Community Involvement (SCI)⁶⁸, a fully inclusive consultation process was undertaken. The Applicant has engaged proactively with the local community and other key stakeholders, including landowners, elected representatives, community groups, local businesses and education institutions, during the preparation of the Proposed Development's planning application. The community consultation has had two phases, included nine public exhibitions, three technical webinars, around 40,000 leaflets distributed across 20,000 homes, social media advertising, direct engagement with community groups, and political stakeholders and media coverage. In total, 253 responses were received across the various feedback channels. These were received through emails, phone calls, letters and online and physical feedback forms.	☒ Positive ☐ Negative ☐ Neutral ☐ Uncertain	<i>No further mitigation required.</i>

⁶⁷ Turley (2026) Scout Moor II Wind Farm: Outdoor Access Management and Enhancement Plan

⁶⁸ Lexington (2025) Scout Moor II Wind Farm: Statement of Community Involvement

In summary, the SCI outlines that whilst concerns about potential visual impact and effects on moorland ecology were raised, several responses welcomed the proposed community benefits and environmental enhancements, viewing these as important elements of a responsible and forward-thinking proposal. The SCI confirms that the Applicant has taken these views into consideration in refining the design and layout of the Proposed Development.

To understand the priorities of local residents in relation to proposals for the Community Wealth Fund, the Applicant developed an interactive tool for residents to choose their preferences. The most voted item was green space and environment, very closely followed by measures to support affordability and the cost of living. This feedback informed the development of the Applicant's Community Benefits Charter⁶⁹.

The SCI concludes that the development team will continue to keep communication channels open, allowing the local community to stay engaged throughout the planning process.

⁶⁹ Cubico (2025) Scout Moor Wind Farm: Community Benefits Charter

8 Access to work and training

Assessment criteria	Relevant?	Details / evidence	Potential health impact?	Recommended mitigation or enhancement actions
Does the proposal provide access to local employment and training opportunities, including temporary construction and permanent 'end-use' jobs?	☒ Yes ☐ No	The Proposed Development's lifecycle will directly support a variety of roles on and off site, from skilled trades to design and construction expertise, including potentially apprentices. The investment in construction will also support a number of indirect jobs through supply chain spending and procurement and will therefore contribute towards meeting local employment needs. As detailed in full in the Economic and Social Benefits Statement⁷⁰ produced for the Proposed Development, which supports the Applicant's Community Benefits Charter, the development will support new employment opportunities in the following ways: Pre-Development jobs – During the whole pre-development phase, it is estimated that the Proposed Development could support c.25 net additional person-years of employment across the UK, inclusive of 15 in the North West, and 5 within the Local Impact Area. Construction jobs - During the entirety construction phase, it is estimated that the Proposed Development could support between 245-260 net additional person-years of employment across the UK, inclusive of between 220- 235 in the North West, of which, between 75-80 could be contained within the Local Impact Area (Rochdale and Rossendale). This equates to between 120-130 full-time equivalent (FTE) construction-related jobs on and off-site over the duration of an estimated 2-year build period in the UK, inclusive of between 110-115 in the North West and 35-40 within the Local Impact Area. As set out in	☒ Positive ☐ Negative ☐ Neutral ☐ Uncertain	Seek to maximise employment, skills and training opportunities for local people via local procurement arrangements as the proposals progress, implementing initiatives set out in the Community Benefits Charter and through ongoing engagement with RMBC, RBC, the GMCA, LCC and other stakeholders. The potential for partnerships with RMBC, RBC, the GMCA, LCC, other public bodies (including the Department for Work and Pensions and local Job Centres), and local community groups should be explored in order to refer/identify suitable applicants and entrants for training and development programmes, as well as opportunities for local businesses in the supply chain.

⁷⁰ Turley (2026) Scout Moor II: Economic and Social Benefits Statement

the Statement⁷¹, the number of apprenticeship opportunities that could be created will be set out within Employment & Skills Plans (ESP), which will be agreed through consultation with stakeholders such as RMBC, RBC, the GMCA and LCC, prior to appointment of contractors. ESPs will set out suitable targets in relation to supporting apprenticeship roles, which could include liaison with local education institutions, to which contractors will be expected to commit.

It is estimated that c. 2 apprenticeship opportunities could be supported on an ongoing annual basis during construction.

Operation and maintenance jobs - The operation and maintenance phase of the Proposed Development is estimated to support between 90-95 net additional person-years of employment across the UK over 40 years, inclusive of between 60-65 in the North West, and 40-45 within the Local Impact Area.

The creation of employment stated above will support local, Greater Manchester and regional economies, as well as potentially national economic growth objectives. The baseline analysis of local needs presented in the Economic and Social Benefits Statement⁷² also affirmed the importance of creating new employment opportunities that will be accessible for residents, given the relatively high unemployment rates in areas such as Rochdale.

The economic growth and employment opportunities to be delivered by the Proposed Development could provide particular improvements to health and wellbeing of lower-income households, as a potentially vulnerable population group. This is applicable to all aspects of the

⁷¹ Ibid.

⁷² Ibid.

consideration of 'access to work and training' as a health determinant assessed in this HIA.				
Does the proposal provide childcare facilities?	☐ Yes ☒ No	Provision of childcare facilities is not relevant to the Proposed Development.	☐ Positive ☐ Negative ☒ Neutral ☐ Uncertain	<i>No further mitigation required.</i>
Does the proposal include managed and affordable workspace for local businesses?	☐ Yes ☒ No	Provision of managed and affordable workspace is not relevant to the Proposed Development.	☐ Positive ☐ Negative ☒ Neutral ☐ Uncertain	<i>No further mitigation required.</i>
Does the proposal include opportunities for work for local people via local procurement arrangements?	☒ Yes ☐ No	As set out above, it is anticipated that a number of the work opportunities generated by the construction phase of the Proposed Development will be taken by local people. Targets regarding local procurement of labour and supply chain opportunities during the construction phase have been indicated within the Applicant's Community Benefits Charter and the supporting Economic and Social Benefits Statement⁷³, which will be subject to further discussion with stakeholders as the proposals progress. As such, the potential for partnerships with RMBC, RBC, other public bodies (including the Department for Work and Pensions and local Job Centres) and local community groups, should be explored – in line with	☒ Positive ☐ Negative ☐ Neutral ☐ Uncertain	Seek to maximise employment, skills and training opportunities for local people via local procurement arrangements as the proposals progress, implementing initiatives set out in the Community Benefits Charter and through ongoing engagement with RMBC, RBC, the GMCA, LCC and other stakeholders. The potential for partnerships with RMBC, RBC, the GMCA, LCC, other public bodies (including the

⁷³ Ibid.

the Community Benefits Charter – in order to ensure that economic and social benefits for local residents are maximised, including referring / identifying suitable applicants, and entrants for training and development programmes taking place at the Proposed Development.	Department for Work and Pensions and local Job Centres), and local community groups should be explored in order to refer/identify suitable applicants and entrants for training and development programmes, as well as opportunities for local businesses in the supply chain.
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9 Social cohesion and inclusive design

Assessment criteria	Relevant?	Details / evidence	Potential health impact?	Recommended mitigation or enhancement actions
Does the proposal consider health inequalities by addressing local needs through community engagement?	☒ Yes ☐ No	As detailed in the SCI⁷⁴, the Applicant has engaged proactively with the local community and other key stakeholders during the preparation of the Proposed Development's planning application, and this will continue during the determination stage and beyond into delivery to ensure that these insights continue to be reflected. One of the main concerns raised during the community engagement was the impact of the Proposed Development on the moorland. According to the SCI, residents see the moor as a valuable local amenity, and many enjoy visiting it for recreation. Therefore, as part of the proposals, the Applicant has developed a comprehensive plan for restoring the peatland and moorland, as well as improving the access for residents to enjoy the wider area⁷⁵. Furthermore,	☒ Positive ☐ Negative ☐ Neutral ☒ Uncertain	<i>No further mitigation required.</i>

⁷⁴ Lexington (2025) Scout Moor II Wind Farm: Statement of Community Involvement

⁷⁵ Ibid.

		a Community Wealth Fund will be a central component of the Proposed Development, and will be informed by the feedback received during the consultation process. Once operational, the Community Wealth Fund will be managed by an independent Scout Moor Community Trust. This charity will operate alongside the Applicant and the local authorities, ensuring transparent governance and long-term benefits for local people ⁷⁶ .		
Does the proposal connect with existing communities, i.e. layout and movement which avoids physical barriers and severance and land uses and spaces which encourage social interaction?	☒ Yes ☐ No	As outlined in detail in previous sections of this HIA, the Proposed Development's delivery of new infrastructure and active transport links will maximise accessibility and integrate with the existing surroundings.	☒ Positive ☐ Negative ☐ Neutral ☐ Uncertain	<i>No further mitigation required.</i>
Does the proposal include a mix of uses and a range of community facilities?	☐ Yes ☒ No	The Proposed Development does not involve the construction of community facilities or the creation of public spaces. As such, this criterion is not applicable in this context, as there will be no structural or spatial elements that would require consideration under this requirement.	☐ Positive ☐ Negative ☒ Neutral ☐ Uncertain	<i>No further mitigation required.</i>
Does the proposal provide opportunities for the voluntary and community sectors?	☒ Yes ☐ No	As set out above, the project's Community Wealth Fund will be managed by an independent Scout Moor Community Trust, which will operate as a charity alongside the Applicant and the local authorities, ensuring transparent governance and long-term benefits for local people ⁷⁷ . This is therefore anticipated to deliver opportunities for the voluntary and community sectors, which should be confirmed as the proposals and the uses of the Community Wealth Fund are determined.	☒ Positive ☐ Negative ☐ Neutral ☐ Uncertain	Continue to engage with local communities, voluntary organisations and other stakeholders to establish uses and scope of the Community Wealth Fund.

⁷⁶ Ibid.

⁷⁷ Ibid.

Does the proposal take into account issues and principles of inclusive and age-friendly design?	☐ Yes ☒ No	As the development does not involve the construction of buildings or the creation of public spaces, it does not need to take into account the principles of inclusive and age-friendly design. These principles are typically applied to built environments and public realms intended for regular human use and access, which are not part of this proposal.	☐ Positive ☐ Negative ☒ Neutral ☐ Uncertain	<i>No further mitigation required</i>
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10 Minimising the use of resources

Assessment criteria	Relevant?	Details / evidence	Potential health impact?	Recommended mitigation or enhancement actions
Does the proposal make best use of existing land?	☒ Yes ☐ No	The Site is strategically located within proximity of the existing Scout Moor Wind Farm which comprises 26 no. turbines with a total installed capacity of 65MW. The Site's immediate surroundings are predominantly open and undeveloped, characterised by upland moorland. It does not form part of a nationally designated landscape, and it does not contain any designated heritage assets⁷⁸. Furthermore, the site is identified by Rossendale Local Plan Policy ENV7 (Wind Turbines) as being partially located within an area suitable for commercial wind turbines⁷⁹. As outlined in the PDAS⁸⁰, renewable energy generation (particularly onshore wind and solar farms), play a critical role in the UK's response to the climate emergency crisis. The Applicant followed a three-stage site selection screening process prior to the project progressing to planning application stage. This process reflects the factors which may influence	☒ Positive ☐ Negative ☐ Neutral ☐ Uncertain	<i>No further mitigation required.</i>

⁷⁸ Turley (2026) Scout Moor II: Further Environmental Information: Planning, Design and Access Statement

⁷⁹ Ibid.

⁸⁰ Ibid

		site selection for onshore wind projects identified in Draft National Policy Statement EN-3⁸¹. This process is explained in detail in the PDAS. As such, the proposal is considered to make the best use of existing land.		
Does the proposal encourage recycling, including building materials?	☒ Yes ☐ No	Whilst the nature of the Proposed Development will have many environmental advantages during operation, means of reducing environmental impacts throughout the lifecycle will be explored, to minimise and mitigate any potentially negative environmental impacts. Circular economy principles will be embedded within the construction by implementing resource efficiency and waste reduction measures. Potential actions to minimise use of resources will include returning unused surplus construction materials to suppliers or to be sold/donated to other nearby construction projects. Construction materials that cannot be reused on or off-site will be sent directly to material preprocessors, or sent to construction materials recovery facilities. Packaging take-back schemes will also ensure that where possible, materials are delivered in packaging that is suitable to be returned and reused a number of times Such measures should be set out in further detail within a project-specific CEMP, which should be secured through planning condition.	☐ Positive ☐ Negative ☒ Neutral ☐ Uncertain	Production of a Construction Environmental Management Plan to detail building materials recycling and other circular economy initiatives that will be implemented. This should be secured through planning condition.
Does the proposal incorporate sustainable design and construction techniques?	☒ Yes ☐ No	As above, sustainable construction technique will be deployed in order to minimise environmental impacts. Such measures should be set out in further detail within a project-specific CEMP, which should be secured through planning condition.	☐ Positive ☐ Negative ☒ Neutral ☐ Uncertain	Production of a Construction Environmental Management Plan to detail best-practice sustainable construction techniques that will be implemented. This should be secured through planning condition.

⁸¹ Draft national Policy Statement for Renewable Energy Infrastructure (EN-3).

11 Climate Change

Assessment criteria	Relevant?	Details / evidence	Potential health impact?	Recommended mitigation or enhancement actions
Does the proposal incorporate renewable energy?	☒ Yes ☐ No	The Proposed Development seeks to deliver 12 wind turbines together with a total generation capacity of between 68 to 72 megawatts (MW) that once operational, is forecast to generate over 9 million megawatt hours (MWh) over its lifetime (estimated to be 40 years) sufficient to power 84,552 typical UK homes each year⁸². As stated in the Economic and Social Benefits Statement⁸³, onshore wind is one of the lowest-cost, scalable electricity generation technologies in the UK, ten times cheaper than gas, which brings both social and economic benefits for households, as well as environmental advantages, by reducing reliance on gas boilers for domestic (and commercial) energy supply⁸⁴. Furthermore, the Applicant is a global leader in the renewable energy sector and its ongoing commitment to sustainability and clean energy aligns with national and international climate objectives, reinforcing its role as a key player in the renewable energy industry⁸⁵.	☒ Positive ☐ Negative ☐ Neutral ☐ Uncertain	<i>No further mitigation required</i>
Does the proposal ensure that buildings and public spaces are designed to respond to winter and summer temperatures, for example	☐ Yes ☒ No	As stated in previous sections of this HIA, the Proposed Development does not involve the construction of buildings or the creation of public spaces. As such, this criterion is not applicable in this context, as there will be no structural or spatial elements that would require consideration under this requirement.	☐ Positive ☐ Negative ☒ Neutral ☐ Uncertain	<i>No further mitigation required</i>

⁸² Turley (2026) Scout Moor II: Sustainability, Energy & Climate Change Statement

⁸³ Turley (2026) Scout Moor II: Economic and Social Benefits Statement

⁸⁴ All Party Parliamentary Groups (November 2022), Onshore wind factsheet [onshore wind factsheet 1.pdf](#)

⁸⁵ Turley (2026) Scout Moor II: Further Environmental Information: Planning, Design and Access Statement

ventilation, shading and landscaping?

Does the proposal maintain or enhance biodiversity?	☒ Yes ☐ No	As stated in the PDAS⁸⁶, large areas of the Site are underlain by peat of variable depth, some of which is currently in a degraded condition, which can be attributed to factors such as unsuitable livestock management practices and the illicit use of moorland by off-road vehicles. The Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) Calculations⁸⁷ report produced for the Proposed Development outlines that the site is dominated by blanket bog, other upland acid grassland and modified grassland. The Proposed Development results in a small comparative loss of habitat, with 31.60ha being lost. As a means of compensation, a Moorland Restoration and Management Plan (MRMP)⁸⁸ has been produced, which states the opportunity to restore and enhance large parts of this degraded moorland habitat. The MRMP identifies the areas of degraded peatland, and sets out clear and concise prescriptions to enhance and restore these areas. The restoration strategy will comprise two distinct approaches: • ‘Controlled Restoration’- traditional peatland enhancement; and • ‘Community Restoration’ – community led enhancement measures, working with those who rely on the moor for grazing and other activities The MRMP aims to restore the moorland to an attractive, biodiverse and functional peatland, increasing its ability for carbon sequestration, providing consistent grazing for stock and overall enhancing the	☒ Positive ☐ Negative ☐ Neutral ☐ Uncertain	<i>No further mitigation required.</i>
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⁸⁶ Turley (2026) Scout Moor II: Further Environmental Information: Planning, Design and Access Statement

⁸⁷ Atmos Consulting (June 2026) Scout Moor II Wind Farm: Biodiversity Net Gain Calculations

⁸⁸ Atmos Consulting (June 2026) Scout Moor II Wind Farm: Moorland Restoration and Management Plan

		important habitats to favourable condition⁸⁹. As a result, the Proposed Development will increase the biodiversity units of the site throughout the enhancement of 48ha poor condition modified grassland into good condition other upland acid grassland, and enhancement of 116.6ha of poor condition blanket bog to moderate condition of blanket bog⁹⁰. It has been demonstrated that the proposals will achieve the minimum statutory requirement for biodiversity net gain within the Proposed Development resulting in an overall biodiversity net gain for area habitats of 10.51%, for watercourse habitats of 10.62%⁹¹. The 'Ecology' ES Chapter⁹² further assessed impacts, and reported primarily negligible to minor (and not significant) ecological impacts, with some moderate beneficial (and therefore significant) impacts in relation to improvements made to degraded blanket bog habitats.		
Does the proposal incorporate sustainable urban drainage systems (SuDS) techniques?	☒ Yes ☐ No	The Drainage Strategy⁹³ produced for the Proposed Development outlines that the Surface Water Drainage Strategy will comprise the management of surface water runoff from the hardstanding and impermeable areas. The proposed strategy is based on sustainable drainage principles, employing SuDS features to manage the surface water runoff across the site. Due to the rural nature of the site, no sewer or piped drainage networks are believed to be present on site, and so, principally, all surface water will ultimately be discharged into the small watercourses running through the site. Attenuation basins will be located adjacent to and downslope of each turbine hardstanding area, with runoff shedding overland into the basin/swale features. These will	☒ Positive ☐ Negative ☐ Neutral ☐ Uncertain	<i>No further mitigation required.</i>

⁸⁹ Ibid.

⁹⁰ Atmos Consulting (June 2026) Scout Moor II Wind Farm: Biodiversity Net Gain Calculations

⁹¹ Ibid.

⁹² Turley (2026) Scout Moor II Wind Farm: Environmental Statement – Chapter 9: Ecology

⁹³ Pell Frischmann (2026) Scout Moor II: Drainage Strategy

be vegetated basins that will allow any exceedance flows to overtop and shed back into the surrounding downslope routing in to the watercourses within and adjacent to the site.

The drainage strategy proposed for the site is summarised as follows:

- The proposed access tracks will be served by a network of surface water drainage ditches adjacent to the tracks. These should be designed so that it allows wildlife to cross safely;
- Erosion protection should be utilised at all inlets and outlets;
- It is proposed that runoff from the proposed substation platform and the wind turbine hardstanding is captured by basin/swale features that will treat and attenuate the flows before being discharged back to the downstream catchments; and
- Watercourse crossings shall be designed to ensure that no detrimental impact is caused, and the contractor retains overall responsibility for the detailed design and specification of the new water crossings.

It is additionally noted that the 'Hydrology, Hydrogeology and Peat' ES Chapter⁹⁴ further assessed impacts, and reported primarily minor (and not significant) impacts during construction and operation on factors such as public and private water supply, surface water features.

⁹⁴ Turley (2026) Scout Moor II Wind Farm: Environmental Statement – Chapter 14: Hydrology, Hydrogeology and Peat

5. Discussion of Findings

Summary of Health Impacts

- 5.1 Overall the HIA has found that the Proposed Development will not result in any negative impacts on the health of the existing or future population of the immediate and local areas. The aspiration is for the development of the site to deliver long-term health and wellbeing benefits for workers, visitors and existing surrounding communities.
- 5.2 Given that the baseline analysis presented in Section 4 indicates that given that Rochdale's population specifically performs worse in terms of a number of health indicators when compared to the North West and national averages, it is important that proposed developments facilitate health and wellbeing improvements.
- 5.3 Indeed, the Proposed Development is assessed as making the following positive contributions in terms of health and wellbeing:
- **Delivering substantial renewable energy generation**, playing a critical role in the UK's response to the climate emergency crisis, of a scale sufficient to power the equivalent of 84,552 UK homes each year of operation.
 - **Restoring and enhancing areas of peatland** through a dedicated Moorland Restoration and Management Plan, and increasing biodiversity by over 10%.
 - **Enhancing access to existing green and open spaces, and delivering new routes** (including Public Rights of Way), increasing local recreational opportunities for walking, cycling, horse riding, and other non-motorised vehicles, through a dedicated Outdoor Access Management and Enhancement Plan.
 - **Implementing measures to reduce illegal off-road vehicle use, safeguarding the moor for legitimate users**, by blending physical prevention, community education and targeted partnership support.
 - **Producing a Community Benefits Charter and linked Community Wealth Fund**, incorporating findings from community consultation, to make financial contributions to community initiatives that best-respond to local needs and aspirations.
 - **Delivering employment and supply chain opportunities for local people and businesses at every stage of the project's lifecycle**, seeking – as set out in the Community Benefits Charter – to maximise local impacts through extensive engagement with public bodies, communities and other stakeholders.
- 5.4 It is also noted that the new and enhanced access and improvements to open space and recreation infrastructure, plus new employment and skills opportunities and contribution to economic growth, could have particular benefits to the health and wellbeing of people at risk of low rates of physical activity and to lower-income household, as potentially vulnerable groups identified through the baseline analysis.

Recommendations

5.5 Overall, no adverse impacts have been identified by the assessment that cannot be effectively mitigated by already-identified measures. There are therefore no specific additional mitigation measures that are required as a result of the HIA. Recommendations that have been identified which could further enhance the potential of the scheme to deliver positive health and wellbeing outcomes for residents and the wider local community, as well as relevant identified environmental mitigation measures, are summarised below:

- Continue to engage with local communities, voluntary organisations and other stakeholders to establish uses and scope of the Community Wealth Fund.
- Production of a Construction Environmental Management Plan and Construction Traffic Management Plan- to be secured through planning condition – and implementation of measures identified therein to:
 - Minimise construction impacts such as dust, noise, vibration and odours;
 - Detail building materials recycling and other circular economy initiatives that will be implemented; and
 - Detail other best-practice sustainable construction techniques that will be implemented.
- Production of an Operational Noise Management Plan and implementation of measures to ensure that no exceedances of relevant noise limits will occur.
- Seek to maximise employment, skills and training opportunities for local people via local procurement arrangements as the proposals progress, implementing initiatives set out in the Community Benefits Charter and through ongoing engagement with RMBC, RBC, the GMCA, LCC and other stakeholders.
- The potential for partnerships with RMBC, RBC, the GMCA, LCC, other public bodies (including the Department for Work and Pensions and local Job Centres), and local community groups should be explored in order to refer/identify suitable applicants and entrants for training and development programmes, as well as opportunities for local businesses in the supply chain.

Conclusion

- 5.6 The Proposed Development will result in no adverse impacts on the health and wellbeing of the existing or future local population which cannot be effectively mitigated through implementation of identified measures.
- 5.7 Indeed, the Proposed Development will deliver a number of beneficial impacts, which are likely to lead to long-term improvements in local health and wellbeing outcomes for workers of the scheme and the wider community, and which can be further enhanced through measures identified within this HIA.

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