

3. Assessment Boundary Context

Introduction

- 3.1 This Chapter aims to provide a high-level overview of the existing characteristics of the Assessment Boundary and the surrounding area to avoid the need for repetition within **Technical Chapters 6 – 15**.
- 3.2 The relevant baseline conditions of the Assessment Boundary and the surrounding area in relation to the technical topics 'scoped into' the EIA are presented within **Technical Chapters 6 – 15** and the sensitive receptors subject to a likely significant effect are outlined.

Location and Context

- 3.3 The Assessment Boundary (**Figure 1.1**) is approximately 1,024 hectares (ha) and is located within both the administrative areas of RBC and RMBC.
- 3.4 The Assessment Boundary includes an area of open moorland between the urban areas of Rochdale, Bury, Blackburn, Accrington and Halifax, consisting of Rooley Moor, Scout Moor, Cowpe Moss and Brandwood Moor that collectively form part of the Southern Pennines.
- 3.5 Parts of the Assessment Boundary comprise Common Land, primarily used for the grazing of sheep and cattle alongside public access. It is located on an area of open upland heathland and blanket bog and a number of quarried areas within the Assessment Boundary. Scout Moor Wind Farm is partially situated in the western part of / adjacent to the Assessment Boundary.
- 3.6 There are no residential properties located within the Assessment Boundary. However, there are a number of existing properties located along Rooley Moor Road to the south. Further residential properties are located within Whitworth, to the east as well as a cluster of properties situated to the north in the hamlet of Cowpe. Several residential properties are located adjacent to the west within Edenfield. There are two ancillary farm / commercial buildings within the western portion of the Assessment Boundary accessible off Market Street (B6527).
- 3.7 Section 6 (Summit to Lumb) of the Pennine Bridleway, utilised by walkers and horse riders, runs through the central section of the Assessment Boundary and is part of a larger 330km recreational trail running through North West England. This includes parts of the Mary Towneley Loop. Additionally, the Rossendale Way traverses the western and northern boundaries of the Assessment Boundary, while the Rochdale Way traverses its south-western edge.
- 3.8 There are a series of reservoirs to the east, south and west. The River Irwell lies to the north and west with the River Spodden lying to the east.

- 3.9 The southern and western extents of the Assessment Boundary alongside a discrete area in the northern part of the Assessment Boundary are designated as Green Belt (as part of the Liverpool, Manchester and West Yorkshire Green Belt).

Topography

- 3.10 The Assessment Boundary sits at an elevation of between approximately 247m Above Ordnance Datum (AOD) and 477m AOD.

Identification of Sensitive Receptors

- 3.11 **Table 3.1** lists the sensitive receptors which may potentially be impacted by likely significant effects and their relationship to the ‘factors’ or ‘receptor groups’ (termed ‘receptor categories’) outlined in Regulation 4, Paragraph 2 (and expanded on in Schedule 4) of the EIA Regulations. These are assessed within **Technical Chapters 6 – 15** and **Chapter 16: Assessment of Cumulative Effects**, where appropriate, and further detail on the receptors is provided within these Chapters.

Table 3.1: Identified sensitive receptors

Chapter	Sensitive receptor(s)	Receptor category
Chapter 6: Transport and Access	Users of local roads (the B6527 and A680), residents of communities living alongside both roads and users of Public Rights of Way (PRoW), paths and bridleways on-site	Population and human health
Chapter 7: Noise and Vibration	Local residential properties	Population and human health
Chapter 8: Shadow Flicker	Local residential properties	Population and human health
Chapter 9: Ecology	Designated sites, habitats and species of conservation concern	Biodiversity
Chapter 10: Ornithology	Bird species (Lapwing, Curlew, Kestrel, Dunlin and Merlin)	Biodiversity
Chapter 11: Landscape and Visual	Landscape character areas, visual receptors (residents and settlements, recreational routes and Places of Interest and key transport routes) and designated landscapes	Landscape and population and human health
Chapter 12: Built Heritage	Conservation Areas, listed buildings, Registered Parks and Gardens and non-designated heritage assets	Cultural heritage
Chapter 13: Archaeology	Known and potential / unknown archaeological remains and peat deposits containing paleoenvironmental remains	Cultural heritage

Chapter	Sensitive receptor(s)	Receptor category
Chapter 14: Hydrology, Hydrogeology and Peat	Surface water features, private water supplies, public water supplies, Groundwater Dependent Terrestrial Ecosystems and peat resource	Water, biodiversity and soils
Chapter 15: Climate Change	Global climate system	Climate