

Date: 10 July 2026  
Our ref: 551906  
Your ref: PL/2026/0495



Ryan Killeen  
Rochdale Borough Council

Customer Services  
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**BY EMAIL ONLY**

Dear Ryan Killeen

**Planning consultation:** Erection of employment building (Classes E(g)(iii), B2 and B8) with ancillary office space, new access, car parking, servicing, boundary treatments, hard and soft landscaping and other associated works.

**Location:** Plot Q Kingsway Business Park, Michael Faraday Way, Rochdale.

Thank you for your consultation on the above dated 22 June 2026 which was received by Natural England on the same date.

Natural England is a non-departmental public body. Our statutory purpose is to ensure that the natural environment is conserved, enhanced, and managed for the benefit of present and future generations, thereby contributing to sustainable development.

**SUMMARY OF NATURAL ENGLAND'S ADVICE**

**NO OBJECTION**

Based on the plans submitted, Natural England considers that the proposed development will not have significant adverse impacts on designated sites Rochdale Canal Special Area of Conservation (SAC) or damage or destroy the interest features for which Rochdale Canal Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) has been notified and has no objection.

A lack of objection does not mean that there are no significant environmental impacts. Natural England advises that all environmental impacts and opportunities are fully considered and relevant local bodies are consulted.

Natural England's further advice on designated sites/landscapes and advice on other natural environment issues is set out below.

**Internationally and Nationally Designated Sites**

Natural England notes that the Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) has not been produced by your authority, but by BWB. As competent authority, it is your responsibility to produce the HRA and be accountable for its conclusions. We provide the advice enclosed on the assumption that your authority intends to adopt this HRA to fulfil your duty as competent authority.

We have reviewed the HRA (BWB, May 2026.) The assessment concludes that the proposal can be screened out from further stages of assessment because significant effects are unlikely to occur, either alone or in combination. On the basis of the information provided, Natural England concurs

with this view.

To meet the requirements of the Habitats Regulations, we advise you to record your decision that a likely significant effect can be ruled out. The following may provide a suitable justification for that decision:

- No hydrological link to Rochdale Canal SAC as described within the HRA at point 3.12.

### **Rochdale Canal SSSI**

Based on the plans submitted, Natural England considers that the proposed development will not damage or destroy the interest features for which the site has been notified and has no objection.

Should the proposal change, please consult us again [consultations@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto:consultations@naturalengland.org.uk).

Yours sincerely

Ruth Halliwell-Jones  
Planning Casework Officer  
Cheshire, Greater Manchester, Merseyside & Lancashire