

Thank you for consulting the GMEU.

The only ecological receptor is the Walmersley Brook a tributary of the River Irwell. The Brook is retained and buffered.

There are also no high value receptors downstream that are likely to be significantly effected owing to the distance and dilution effects of the River Irwell of any negative effects on the Walmersley Brook. The nearest SBI is Castlestead Wood just over 1km downstream, designated for its woodland which is located well above the river. The nearest statutory sites down river are Ash Clough SSSI, designated for its geology and Nob End SSSI, designated for the calcareous flora associated with Leblanc waste around 10 miles downriver.

There is no evidence of any exceptional populations of protected or priority species and no designated sites within the recreational Zone of influence of the development.

*I am therefore satisfied that ecology can be scoped out of any environment assessment that may be required.*

The ecological assessment including in the scoping report whilst not read in detail will remain, therefore clarifications may be required is valid through to at least April 2027 when a review may be required.

A biodiversity net gain assessment and metric would also be required as part of any application.

**Ecologist**

Planning and Transportation