

Uttlesford District Council

HABITATS REGULATION ASSESSMENT

Of

Regulation 18 Local Plan

July 2017



**Uttlesford
District Council**

1. Introduction

Uttlesford District Council has produced a Regulation 18 Local Plan which sets out the spatial strategy, site allocations for housing, employment and retail, and development management policies for the District up to 2033.

This report documents the process and findings of a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) of the draft Local Plan.

The purpose of the HRA Screening Stage is to determine whether any of the site allocations, strategic policies and development management policies are likely to have a significant effect on any of the following:

- Special Area of Conservation (SAC)
- Special Protection Area (SPA)
- Or Ramsar Site

Collectively Ramsar sites, SPA's and SAC's are referred to in this assessment as European Sites.

2. HRA Requirement

The requirement for Appropriate Assessments of plans or projects is outlined in Article 6(3) and (4) of the European Communities (1992) Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora ('Habitats Directive'). The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations (Amendment) 2012 transpose the requirements of the European Birds and Habitats Directives into UK legislation.

The most important sites for biodiversity form part of a Europe-wide network known as Natura 2000. This network comprises Special Protection Areas (SPAs) for birds and Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) for other habitats and species. The UK is also a contracting party to the Ramsar Convention, which protects wetlands of international importance. In order to ensure compliance with the requirements of the convention, it is expected that all competent authorities treat Ramsar sites as if they are fully designated European sites. Paragraph 118 of the National Planning Policy Framework states:

The following wildlife sites should be given the same protection as European sites:

— *potential Special Protection Areas and possible Special Areas of Conservation;*

— *listed or proposed Ramsar sites; and*

— *sites identified, or required, as compensatory measures for adverse effects on European sites, potential Special Protection Areas, possible Special Areas of Conservation, and listed or proposed Ramsar sites.*

The overall purpose of the HRA is to conclude whether or not an allocation, policy or whole development plan would adversely affect the integrity of the European site in question.

3. Habitats Regulation Assessment – Stages

There is a four stage approach to addressing the requirements of the Habitats Directive, as set out below:

Stage	Task
Stage 1: Screening	This stage identifies the likely impacts upon a European Site of a project or plan, either alone or in combination with other projects or plans, and considers whether these impacts are likely to be significant.
Stage 2: Appropriate Assessment	Where there are likely significant impacts, this stage considers the impacts of the plan or project on the integrity of the relevant European Sites, either alone or in combination with other projects or plans, with respect to the sites structure and function and their conservation objectives. Where there are adverse impacts, it also includes an assessment of the potential mitigation for those impacts.
Stage 3: Assessment of alternative solutions	Where adverse impacts are predicted, this stage examines alternative ways of achieving the objectives of the project or plan that avoid adverse impacts on the integrity of European Sites.
Stage 4: Assessment where no alternative solutions exist and where adverse impacts remain	This stage assesses compensatory measures where it is deemed that the project or plan should proceed for imperative reasons of overriding public interest.

4. Pre-screening Data Collection

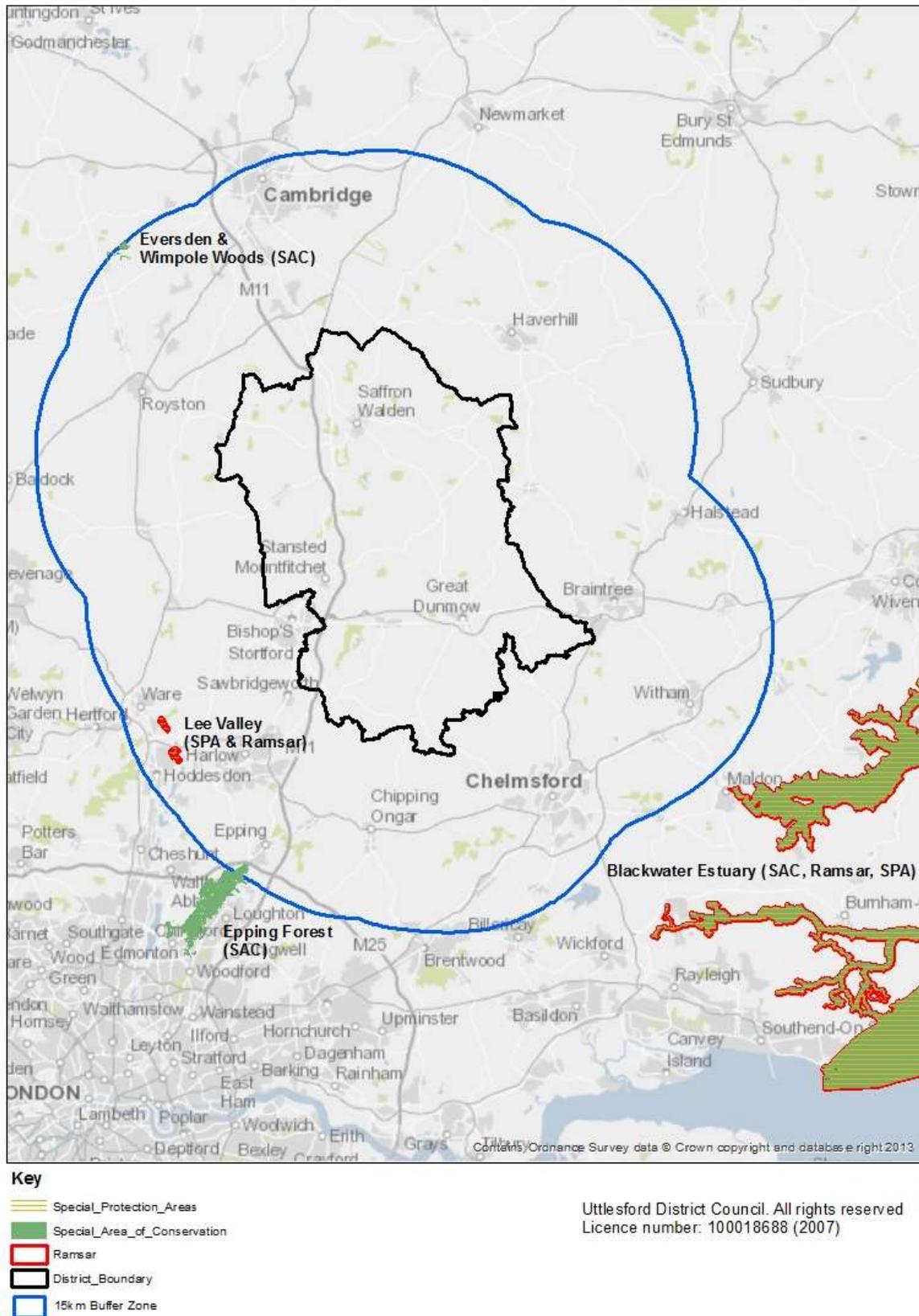
In order to identify the European Sites needed to be assessed a GIS based search was carried out for sites lying wholly or partially with 15km of the district boundary. This distance is consistent with standard practice and has been considered appropriate by Natural England in other local authorities HRAs. As illustrated in the map below, no European sites lie within the District but four lie within the 15km buffer zone:

- Rye Meads SSSI and Amwell Quarry SSSI within the Lee Valley SPA, Ramsar
- Eversden and Wimpole Woods SAC and
- Epping Forest SAC

One further site has been assessed beyond the 15km buffer zone due to the possible ‘in combination’ effect:

- Blackwater Estuary SPA, Ramsar & part of the Essex Estuary SAC

Figure 1: Identified European Sites



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5. European Sites – Ecological Information

The following table details the qualifying features for which the five identified European Sites are designated and which must be maintained in good condition to preserve site integrity. This information has informed analysis of how the potential impacts of the draft Local Plan may affect the integrity of the sites.

Site Name	Area of SAC (ha)	Location	Qualifying Features	Conservation Objectives	Condition	Vulnerable to.....
Epping Forest (SAC, SSSI)	1604 ha	The site lies approximately 14km to the south of the District	<p>Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i>; Wet heathland with cross-leaved heath</p> <p>European dry heaths</p> <p>Atlantic acidophilous beech forests with <i>Ilex</i> and sometimes also <i>Taxus</i> in the shrublayer (<i>Quercion robori-petraeae</i> or <i>Ilici-Fagenion</i>); Beech forests on acid soils</p> <p><i>Lucanus cervus</i>; Stag beetle</p>	<p>With regard to the SAC and the natural habitats and/or species for which the site has been designated (the 'Qualifying Features'), and subject to natural change;</p> <p>Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species ➤ The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats ➤ The structure and function of the habitats of qualifying species ➤ The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats and the habitats of qualifying species rely ➤ The populations of qualifying species, and, ➤ The distribution of qualifying species within the site. 	<p>35.48% Favourable</p> <p>48.17% Unfavourable – recovering</p> <p>14.53% Unfavourable – no change</p> <p>1.83% Unfavourable – declining</p>	<p>After neglect of the pollard cycle for over 100 years, repollarding of ancient beech trees was started in the early 1990s, and creation of maiden pollards was begun in 1995. The forests epiphyte population had been declining due to the death of pollards, shading and pollution from acid rain. The reintroduction of pollarding and wood pasture management is helping to reverse the decline. The slow recovery can also be attributed to the reduction of atmospheric pollutants since the passing of the 1956 Clean Air Act. There is an active policy to leave felled timber on the ground to increase the habitat for stag beetle and other saproxylic insects. In 1988, the Cooperation of London, who own and manage the forest, agreed a management strategy with English Nature to take forward the management outlined above. A comprehensive management plan was completed and consented in 1998. The site is subject to the provisions of the Epping Forest Act of 1878.</p>

Site Name	Area of SAC (ha)	Location	Qualifying Features	Conservation Objectives	Condition	Vulnerable to.....
				With regard to the SAC and the natural habitats and/or species for which the site has been designated (the 'Qualifying Features'), and subject to natural change; Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring:-		
Eversden and Wimpole Woods (SSSI, SAC)	66 ha	This site lies approximately 14km to the north of the District.	<i>Barbastella barbastellus</i> ; Barbastelle bat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The extent and distribution of the habitats of qualifying species ➤ The structure and function of the habitats of qualifying species ➤ The supporting processes on which the habitats of qualifying species rely ➤ The populations of qualifying species, and, ➤ The distribution of qualifying species within the site. 	39.77% Favourable 60.23% unfavourable - recovering	Wimpole Woods is owned and managed by the National Trust and their management is aimed at maintaining, and where possible, enhancing the barbastelle population. The current use of the wood, including public access, is considered compatible with the barbastelle interest and should not affect the barbastelle population or their roosts. Eversden Wood is privately owned and the current management is considered compatible with the use of this wood as a foraging area/flight path by barbastelles.
Lee Valley (Ramsar, SPA) Incorporating Amwell Quarry SSSI and Rye Meads SSSI	451 ha Amwell Quarry 37ha Rye Meads 60ha	The sites lie approximately 11km south west of the District	<i>Botaurus stellaris</i> ; Great bittern (Non-breeding) <i>Anas strepera</i> ; Gadwall (Non-breeding) <i>Anas clypeata</i> ; Northern shoveler (Non-breeding)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The extent and distribution of the habitats of the qualifying features ➤ The structure and function of the habitats of the qualifying features ➤ The supporting processes on which the habitats of the qualifying features rely ➤ The population of each of the qualifying features, and, ➤ The distribution of the qualifying features within the site. 	Amwell Quarry 100% favourable Rye Meads – 39.95% Favourable 60.05% Unfavourable – Recovering	Standing waters and their surroundings are often a popular environment for recreational activities which should be managed sympathetically to avoid conflict with the management of the waterbody for nature. Pollution – increases in the amount of nutrients within the waterbody (as a result of pollution from direct discharges and also from diffuse sources resulting from land management practices within the wider catchment) can lead to a loss of aquatic plants which are food sources for wetland birds.

Site Name	Area of SAC (ha)	Location	Qualifying Features	Conservation Objectives	Condition	Vulnerable to.....
<p>Black Water Estuary (Mid Essex Coast Phase 4) SPA & Ramsar</p> <p>And Essex Estuaries SAC</p>	4403 ha	The site lies approximately 17 km south east of the District.	<p><i>Branta bernicla bernicla</i>; Dark-bellied brent goose (Non-breeding)</p> <p><i>Aythya ferina</i>; Common pochard (Breeding)</p> <p><i>Circus cyaneus</i>; Hen harrier (Non-breeding)</p> <p><i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>; Ringed plover (Breeding)</p> <p><i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>; Grey plover (Non-breeding)</p> <p><i>Calidris alpina alpina</i>; Dunlin (Non-breeding)</p> <p><i>Limosa limosa islandica</i>; Black-tailed godwit (Non-breeding)</p> <p><i>Sterna albifrons</i>; Little tern (Breeding)</p> <p>Waterbird assemblage</p> <p>Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time; Subtidal sandbanks</p>	<p>With regard to the SAC and the natural habitats and/or species for which the site has been designated (the 'Qualifying Features'), and subject to natural change;</p> <p>Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring:-</p> <p>Ensure that the site contributes to achieving the aims of the Wild Birds Directive, by maintaining or restoring;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The extent and distribution of the habitats of the qualifying features ➤ The structure and function of the habitats of the qualifying features ➤ The supporting processes on which the habitats of the qualifying features rely ➤ The population of each of the qualifying features, and, ➤ The distribution of the qualifying features within the site. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats ➤ The structure and function (including typical species) of 	<p>23.51% Favourable</p> <p>74.94% Unfavourable – recovering</p> <p>1.52% unfavourable – declining</p> <p>0.04% partially destroyed</p>	<p>The main threat to the site is erosion of intertidal habitats due to a combination of sea level rise and isostatic forces operating on the land mass of Great Britain. The situation is worsened with increasing winter storm events, whilst the hard sea walls along this coastline are preventing the saltmarsh and intertidal areas from migrating inland. This situation is starting to be addressed by alternative flood defence techniques. A shoreline management plan has been prepared for Essex coast which seeks to provide a blueprint for managing the coastline sustainably.</p> <p>Nutrient enrichment – This occurs from agricultural run off and treated sewage effluent. This problem will be addressed through the Essex Estuaries candidate SAC scheme of management as well as review of discharge consents under the Habitats Regulations.</p> <p>Water based recreation: The control of motorised craft (with particular reference to jet skies) is being addressed through the Blackwater Estuary Management Plan. Enforcement of speed limits should ensure that roosting birds are not subjected to disturbance and saltmarsh habitats are protected from damage by jet-skies.</p> <p>Drought: The droughts over the last five years have resulted in lowered water tables in grazing marshes. Attempts are being made to restore this by pumping</p>

Site Name	Area of SAC (ha)	Location	Qualifying Features	Conservation Objectives	Condition	Vulnerable to.....
			<p>Estuaries</p> <p>Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide; Intertidal mudflats and sandflats</p> <p><i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals colonising mud and sand; Glasswort and other annuals colonising mud and sand</p> <p><i>Spartina</i> swards (<i>Spartinion maritimae</i>); Cord-grass swards</p> <p>Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i>)</p> <p>Mediterranean and thermo-Atlantic halophilous scrubs (<i>Sarcocornetea fruticosi</i>); Mediterranean saltmarsh scrub</p>	<p>qualifying natural habitats, and</p> <p>➤ The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats rely</p>		<p>water from adjacent ditches and use of tertiary treated sewage effluent.</p>

Source: <http://www.sssi.naturalengland.org.uk/Special/sssi/search.cfm>. As at May 2017

6. Causes of Impact

It is crucial to understand the possible impacts a land use plan can have on European Sites. Current guidance suggests that issues such as increased recreational use and increased air pollution should be considered.

The following pathways are likely to require consideration of effects and each is discussed in detail below:

- Recreational use
- Water resources
- Atmospheric pollution

7. Increased recreational use

European Sites can be adversely affected by recreational use which could lead to potential harassment to wildlife, damaged habitats, erosion and soil enrichment from dog fouling.

The Accessible Natural Greenspace Standards 'Nature Nearby' 2010 set standards and benchmarks to ensure people have access to places of wildlife interest and takes into account the distance people are willing to travel to such sites.

ANGST recommends that everyone, wherever they live, should have an accessible natural greenspace:

- *Of at least 2 hectares in size, no more than 300 metres (5-minute walk) from home;*
- *At least one accessible 20 hectare site within two kilometres of home;*
- *One accessible 100 hectare site within five kilometres of home; and*
- *One accessible 500 hectare site within ten kilometres of home; plus*
- *A minimum of one hectare of statutory Local nature Reserve per thousand population*

Effects of Uttlesford Regulation 18 Local Plan

The European Sites are situated beyond the distance recommended by Natural England for accessible greenspace and whilst theoretically it is conceivable that residents of Uttlesford may travel to one of the identified sites it is considered unlikely as Uttlesford is a rural authority where residents have immediate access to open countryside. Within Uttlesford there are no Statutory Local Nature Reserves. However there are two National Nature Reserves (Hales Wood and Hatfield Forest), nine Essex Wildlife Trust reserves as well as accessible land owned by Essex County Council, National Trust, English Heritage, Forestry

Commission and Woodland Trust. Sites within easy access to the settlements proposed for development include the Flitch Way Linear Country Park which runs through Great Dunmow from Braintree to Start Hill, Hallingbury; Hatfield Forest which provides a 410ha woodland and parkland within 6 miles of Great Dunmow and Stansted Mountfitchet and 7 miles from Elsenham; and Audley End Park a 75ha site on the edge of Saffron Walden.

Nonetheless, Local Plan policies seek to avoid a net loss of recreational open space within the District, encourage sufficient access to existing open spaces, and make provision for new space within or nearby to allocated residential sites. The new Garden Communities will have significant open space incorporated into their design.

8. Atmospheric Pollution

The main pollutants of concern for European Sites are oxides of nitrogen (NO_x), ammonia (NH₃) and sulphur dioxide (SO₂).

Pollutant	Source	Effects on European Sites
NO _x	Nitrogen oxides are mostly produced in combustion processes. About one quarter of the UK's emissions are from power stations, one half from motor vehicles, and the rest from other industrial and domestic combustion processes.	Can cause wet and dry deposition (acid deposition) which acidifies soil and freshwater bodies, damages plants and aquatic habitats. Nitrogen oxides react with organic compounds in the presence of sunlight to form ozone that can adversely affect ecosystems. These problems can be caused close to and remote from sources.
Ammonia (NH ₃)	Ammonia is released following decomposition and volatilisation of animal wastes. It is a naturally occurring trace gas.	Can cause direct damage to habitats such as leaf scorching and reduction in species richness and invasion by more aggressive nitrophiles e.g. grasses. Exceedance of NH ₃ critical level is a local issue relevant near major sources of intensive farming, manured fields or wild bird colonies
Sulphur Dioxide SO ₂	Main sources of SO ₂ emissions are electricity generation, industry and domestic fuel combustion. May also arise from shipping and increased atmospheric concentrations in busy ports.	Can cause wet and dry deposition, increase the sensitivity of plants/trees to environmental factors, visible decline symptoms such as leaf discoloration.

Looking at the sources of air pollution it is unlikely that increases in SO₂ or NH₃ emissions will be associated with the draft Local Plan. However, as NO_x emissions are largely associated with road traffic it is reasonable to assume that the development proposed within

the draft Local Plan could indirectly lead to an increase in NOx emissions. It is for this reason that only NOx is considered further.

The table below identifies the current situation of the Special Area of Conservation Sites; those highlighted in red indicate that the site is currently suffering from poor air quality.

Site	Sensitivity	Critical Load (CL) Range (Kg N/ha/year)	Level of CL exceedance
Epping Forest	Very sensitive	5-10	Very high >28kg N/ha/year
Eversden & Wimpole Woods	Potentially sensitive	11-20	High 14-28 Kg N/ha/year
Essex Estuaries	Less sensitive	21-30	Moderate 0-14Kg N/ha/year

(source: Annex 3 Atmospheric Nitrogen Theme Plan - Natural England 2015)

Effects of Uttlesford Regulation 18 Local Plan

According to the Department of Transport's Transport Analysis Guidance any development beyond 200m from the road centre the contribution of vehicle emissions to local pollution levels is not significant. As there are no European Sites within 200m of any of the roads in the District, and as any new roads linking the new settlements with the existing road network will also be over 200m of any European site, NOx emission resulting from vehicle movement associated with the new settlement allocations need not be considered further.

9. Water Resources

Veolia Water supplies the District with water from a combination of groundwater and surface water abstraction, some of which are outside the District. Wastewater is collected and treated by Thames Water Utilities and Anglian Water Services.

The East of England is generally an area of 'serious' water stress, as classified by the Environment Agency. It is vulnerable to climate change and is the driest region in the country. The period for groundwater resources to be replenished could be shorter, due to extreme weather, and as a result resources become more vulnerable. These issues, alongside the delivery of housing and economic growth throughout the region could result in adverse effects on European Sites.

Anglian Water Services Water Resources Management Plan 2015 and the Thames Water Utilities Water Resources Management Plan 2015-2040 were both accompanied by a Habitats Regulation Assessment which assessed the possible impacts of the Plan on sites of European importance; each concluded that there were no likely significant effect on any of the five sites looked at in this report.

Effects of Uttlesford Regulation 18 Local Plan

Development in the Great Dunmow area would feed into the Great Dunmow Wastewater Treatment Works which discharges into the River Chelmer which in turn flows through Chelmsford and Maldon and eventually into the Blackwater Estuary. The proposed new Garden Community West of Braintree is likely to need a new water recycling Centre which is likely to eventually flow into the Blackwater Estuary. However, despite the potential connectivity with the European Sites the construction and operation of any development will be required to comply with Environment Agency Pollution Prevention Guidelines, and the distance between the District and the European Sites is such that any negative effects are highly unlikely.

10. Analysis of Uttlesford Regulation 18 Local Plan – Policy Screening

The draft Local Plan is the new emerging Development Plan which, once adopted, will replace the existing Uttlesford Local Plan 2005.

The objective of the screening process is to initially identify those plans or policies that clearly or self-evidently would have no significant effects upon European Sites so that they could be screened out of the assessment at an early stage. A screening process was adopted as follows:

Each policy and site allocation was assessed and the relevant criteria determined for each. Policies and site allocations considered likely to have no significant adverse effect on the identified European Sites were screened out of the assessment.

Screening Results – Uttlesford Regulation 18 Local Plan

No Effect Policies
1: Non-development policies: policies that will not lead to development themselves as they relate to design or other qualitative criteria for development
2: Unknown location development policies: policies that make provision for a specific type of development but the location of the development is yet to be selected. Fundamentally therefore, unless there is evidence to indicate that the type/quantum of development provided for in the policy cannot be accommodated without potentially affecting a European Site, this would be a policy that would have no effect, because making provision for a type/quantum of development at this strategic level will not itself have any effect on a European Site.
3: Over-arching development policies: policies that relate to development proposals but no development would occur through the policy itself because other more detailed policies within the DPD will implement the proposals. It is therefore more appropriate to assess these more detailed policies
4: Urban development policies: policies promoting a concentration of development in urban areas as generally this policy approach will help to steer development away from European Sites and associated sensitive areas.
5: Managed Development: policies that steer development away from a European Site and associated sensitive areas.
6: Protective policies: policies that specifically protect the environment
7: Biodiversity policies: policies that specifically protect the natural environment
8: Enhancement policies: policies that specifically enhance the natural, built or historic environment where proposed measures are not likely to result in adverse effects upon European Sites.
Potential Effect Policies
9: Indirect Effect Policies: The policy steers significant development towards an area that includes a European Site or an area where development may indirectly affect a European Site.
Significant Effect Policies
10: Likely Effect Policies: the policy makes provision for significant development in locations which would be likely to have a significant effect on a European Site.

Policy Number & Title	Screening Results	Further Assessment Required
Strategic Policies		
SP1.....Presumption in Favour of Sustainable Development	2	No
SP2.....The Spatial Strategy 2011-2033	5	No
SP3.....The Scale and Distribution of Housing Development	5	No
SP4.....Provision of Jobs	2	No

Policy Number & Title	Screening Results	Further Assessment Required
SP5.....Garden Community Principles	5	No
SP6.....Easton Park Garden Community	5	No
SP7.....North Uttlesford Garden Community	5	No
SP8.....West of Braintree Garden Community	5	No
SP9.....Development within Development Limits	3	No
SP10....Protection of the Countryside	6	No
SP11....London Stansted Airport	5	No
SP12....Sustainable development principles	1	No

Housing		
H1....Housing Density	1	No
H2....Housing Mix	1	No
H3....Sub-division of dwellings and dwellings in multiple occupancy	2	No
H4....House Extensions and Replacement Dwellings in the Countryside and in the Green Belt	2	No
H5....Residential Development in Settlements without Development Limits	2	No
H6....Affordable Housing	2	No
H7....Affordable Housing on Exception Sites	2	No
H8....Self-Build and Custom Units	2	No
H9....Sites for Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople	2	No
H10...Accessible and Adaptable Homes for Older People and Wheelchair Users	1	No

Employment		
EMP1....Employment Strategy	3	No
EMP2....Existing and Proposed Employment Areas	5	No
EMP3:....Non-Estate Employment Uses	5	No
EMP4....Rural Economy	2	

Retail		
RET1Town and Local Centres Strategy	3	No
RET2....The location and impact of new retail development	4	No
RET3....Town and Local Centres and Shopping Frontages	5	No
RET4: ...Loss of Village Shops and Other Facilities	2	No
RET5: ...New Shops in Rural Areas	2	No

Transport		
TA1.....Accessible Development	1	No
TA2.....Sustainable Transport	1	No
TA3....Provision of Electric Charging Points	1	No
TA4.....Vehicle Parking Standards	1	No
TA5.....New Transport Infrastructure or Measures	3	No

Infrastructure		
INF1.....Infrastructure Delivery	2	No
INF2:Protection and Provision of Open Space, Sports Facilities and Playing Pitches	2/6	No
INF3.....Health Impact Assessments	1	No
INF4:High Quality communications Infrastructure and Superfast Broadband	1	No

Design		
D1.....High Quality Design	1	No
D2.....Car Parking Design	1	No
D3.....Small Scale Development / Householder Extensions	1	No
D4.....Development Frameworks and Codes	1	No
D5.....Design Review	1	No
D6.....Innovation and Variety	1	No
D7.....Design for Self and custom-build Homes	2	No
D8.....Sustainable Design and Construction	1	No
D9.....Minimising Carbon Dioxide Emissions	1	No

D10...Highly Energy Efficient Buildings	1	No
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Environment		
EN1.....Protecting the Historic Environment	1	No
EN2:Design of Development within Conservation Areas	6	No
EN3:Protecting the Significance of Conservation Areas	6	No
EN4:Development affecting Listed Buildings	6	No
EN5Scheduled Monuments and Sites of Archaeological Importance	6	No
EN6.....Historic Parks and Gardens	6	No
EN7..... Non Designated Assets of local Importance	6	No
EN8.....Protecting the Natural Environment	6	No
EN9:Protecting and Enhancing the Natural Environment	6	No
EN10:Traditional Open Spaces and Trees	6	No
EN11:Minimising Flood Risk	1	No
EN12:Surface Water Flooding	1	No
EN13:Protection of Water Resources	6	No
EN14:Minerals Safeguarding	1	No
EN15.....Pollutants	1	No
EN16.....Air Quality	1	No
EN17.....Contaminated Land	1	Ni
EN18.....Noise Sensitive Development	1	No

Countryside		
C1:Protection of Landscape Character	6	No
C2:Re-use of Rural Buildings	2	No
C3:Change of Use of Agricultural Land to Domestic Garden	2	No
C4:New Community Facilities within the Countryside	2	No

Site Allocations		
CLA1 land south of oxleys Close	5	No
DEB1 land west of Thaxted road	5	No

ELSE1 land south of Rush Lane	5	No
ELSE2 Elsenham Nurseries Stansted Road Hailes Wood Land north of Stansted Road Land south of Stansted Road Land west of Hall Road Land north of Leigh Drive	5	No
FEL1 Former Ridleys Brewery, Hartford End Land east of Braintree Road	5	No
FG1 Land off Tanton Road Land at Webb Road and Hallett Road	5	No
GtCHE1 Land north of Bartholomew Close New World Timber and Great Chesterford Nursery Land at Thorpe Lea, Walden Road	5	No
GtDUN1 Land at Helena Romanes School	4	No
GtDUN2 Land west and south-west of Great Dunmow	4	No
GtDUN3 Wood Field Woodside Way	4	No
GtDUN4 Land east of St Edmunds Lane Land west of Chelmsford Road West of Woodside Way 14 Stortford Road, Perkins Garage Brick Kiln Farm, St Edmunds Lane North of Ongar Road South of Ongar Road Woodlands Park Sector 1-3 Woodlands Park Sector 4, Little Easton (Great Dunmow) Oaklands, Ongar Road Land south of B1256(Stortford Road) and West of Buttleys Lane	4	No
HENH1 Former Goods Yard and Elsenham Goods Yard (North)	5	No
H-ROD1 Meadow House Nursery	5	No

LtDUN1 Dunmow Skips site	5	No
LtHAL1 Land at Dell Lane	5	No
NEWP2 Bricketts London Road Bury Water Lane / Whiteditch lane Land opposite Branksome Land South of Wyndhams Croft Land west of Cambridge Road Reynolds Court, Gaces Acre Land at Holmwood, Whiteditch Lane Land at Bury Water Lane	5	No
QUE2 Ventnor Lodge Cambridge Road	5	No
QUE1 Land east of Foxley House, Land south of Foxley House	5	No
RAD1 land north of Walden Road	5	No
SAF1 land south of Radwinter Road	4	No
SAF2 land r/o The Kilns Former Willis and Gambier site 119 Radwinter Road Land at Ashdon Road Commercial Centre Former Willis and Gambier Site 121 Radwinter Road Moores Garage, Thaxted Road Land west of Lime Avenue Land south of Tiptofts Lane, Thaxted Road Land north and south of Thaxted Road Land at Viceroy Coaches rear of 10-12 Bridge Street Jossaumes Thaxted Road Land at De Vigier Avenue 56 High Street	4	No
STA2 2 Lower Street Land at Walpole Farm Mead Court Land at Elms Farm	5	No

Land west of 8 Water Lane Land east of Cambridge Road (B1383) and west of High Lane		
STE1 land east of Parkside and rear of Garden Fields	5	No
TAK2 Land at Dunmow Road, Little Canfield Brewers End Chadhurst North View and 3 The Warren, Little Canfield Land at Tree Tops, Dunmow Road, Little Canfield	5	No
TAK1 Land between 1 Coppice Close and Hillcroft, south of B1256 Takeley Street,	5	No
THA2 Land off Wedow Road Land east of The Mead Molecular Products, Mill End	5	No
WIM1 Land at Mill Road	5	No

Non-Residential Allocations		
GtCHE2 Land adjacent to Community Centre	5	No
GtDUN5 Development Opportunity Sites, Great Dunmow	4	No
SAF3 Development Opportunity Sites, Saffron Walden	4	No
SA1 Stansted Airport – Land north east of Bury Lodge Lane	5	No
STA3 Land adjacent to Forest Hall School	5	No
STA4 Stansted Local Centre – east of Cambridge Road/Crafton Green	5	No
LtCHE1 Great Chesterford Research Park	4	No

None of the strategic policies, site allocations and development management policies was found to have any adverse effect on the identified European Sites.

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11. 'In combination' Assessment

In order to comply with regulations, an assessment of the Local Plan must include whether it would be likely to have significant effects in combination with other plans and projects. In order to make the assessment manageable and effective the 'in combination' assessment needs to be constrained to only relevant plans and projects.

The assessment has not identified any adverse effects arising from the allocations and policies in the draft Local Plan, however, there is potential for them to act 'in combination' with each other and with other plans or projects such that a significant effect becomes likely.

It is important to look at plans and projects in neighbouring authorities when looking at the possible 'in combination' effects.

The following table details the results of Uttlesford neighbouring Local Authorities HRA and makes a judgement based on their findings and this report whether or not there is a likelihood of any negative impacts on the identified European Sites due to 'in combination' effect.

Local Authority	Plan Assessed	Date of HRA	Sites Assessed	Screening Results	'In Combination' Effect
South Cambridgeshire	Local Plan	March 2014	Eversden and Wimpole Woods	No likely significant effects	No likely 'in combination' effect.
East Hertfordshire	Local Plan	Sept 2016	Epping Forest Lee Valley	Air quality issues and recreational pressure on Epping Forest SAC – mitigation measures needed	As discussed earlier in the report the development in Uttlesford is proposed at such a distance from European Sites that it is not an issue. No likely 'in combination' effect
Braintree	Local Plan	Aug 2016 May 2017	Black Water Estuary and Essex Estuaries	No likely significant effects due to the adequacy, appropriateness and effectiveness of the mitigation proposed.	As discussed earlier it is highly unlikely that Uttlesford residents will increase recreational pressure on European Sites due to the availability of local sites. No likely 'in combination' effect.
Chelmsford	Local Plan	March 2017	Black Water Estuary and Essex Estuaries	Recreational pressure	As discussed earlier it is highly unlikely that Uttlesford residents will increase recreation pressure on

					European Sites due to the availability of local sites. No likely 'in combination' effect
Epping Forest	Core Strategy	Oct 2010	Lee Valley Epping Forest	Pressure on recreational use	As discussed earlier it is highly unlikely that Uttlesford residents will increase recreational pressure on European Sites due to the availability of local sites.

12. Conclusion

The HRA of the draft Local Plan has been undertaken in accordance with the most up-to-date guidance, Habitats Regulations Appraisal of Plans – David Tyldesley and Associates 2012, and has been informed by previous HRA screening work and findings produced for the Submission Local Plan 2014.

The first stage of the HRA process (screening) assessed the likely significant effects of the draft Local Plan on five sites. The screening concluded that no policies or allocations would have an impact on the integrity of a protected European Site, either in isolation or in combination with each other or other relevant plans and documents.