

**Newport Parish
Council & Quendon
& Rickling Parish
Council**

**Uttlesford District
Council**

Newport Quendon & Rickling Parish Council Neighbourhood Plan

**Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)
Screening Determination Statement (under
Regulation 9 and 11 of the Environmental
Assessment of Plans and Programmes 2004)**

September 2019

Executive Summary

This statement provides the determination (under Regulation 9 of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (SEA Regulations)) that the draft Newport Quendon & Rickling Neighbourhood Plan is unlikely to result in significant environmental effects and therefore does not require a Strategic Environmental Assessment. This statement also includes the reasons for this determination (in line with Regulation 11 of the SEA Regulations).

In addition this statement determines that the making of the draft Newport Quendon & Rickling Neighbourhood Plan is unlikely to result in significant effects on any European sites and consequently the plan does not require Habitat Regulation Assessment.

This determination statement is also intended to demonstrate that the Newport Quendon & Rickling Neighbourhood Plan is compatible with certain European Union obligations as required by the basic conditions, namely:

- Directive 2001/42/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 June 2001 on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment; and
- Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora

This determination has been made on 12 September 2019. Within 28 days of this determination, Uttlesford District Council will publish this determination statement in accordance with its regulatory requirements (as per Regulation 11 of the SEA Regulations). The statutory consultees will be sent a copy of this statement and copy of the statement will be available for inspection at the Council's website at <https://www.uttlesford.gov.uk/nqrnp> It will also be available on request at: Uttlesford District Council, Council Offices, London Road, Saffron Walden, Essex, CB11 4ER.

If you require any further information, then please contact Demetria Macdonald by email at dmacdonald@uttlesford.gov.uk.

Determination Statement (including reasons for the determination)

This statement has been produced to ensure the Neighbourhood Plan will, when examined, comply with the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended) in particular Regulation 32 and Regulation 15(1) e (ii) of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) (Amendment) Regulations 2015.

A neighbourhood plan is required to meet a number of basic conditions (which are set out in the Town and Country Planning Act 1990), one of which being it must not breach and must be otherwise compatible with EU and Human Rights obligations. This requires neighbourhood plans to fully consider the requirements of the SEA regulations¹ which transpose the EU's SEA Directive² into law and which requires those making plans that could impact on the environment to consider whether they are likely to have a significant effect or not.

Regulation 32 in the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended) sets out an additional basic condition to those set out in primary legislation. Regulation 32 states: *“The making of the neighbourhood plan is not likely to have a significant effect on a European site (as defined in the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (d)) or a European offshore marine site (as defined in the Offshore Marine Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 2007 (e)) (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects).*

A Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) preliminary Screening Opinion was prepared by Uttlesford District Council for the Newport Quendon & Rickling Neighbourhood Plan. This opinion, see Appendix 1 to this report, was made available to the statutory environmental bodies (Natural England, Historic England and Environment Agency) for comment starting on 16 July 2019.

Consultation responses were received from the three statutory consultees. Their conclusions are summarised below, and their detailed comments are included in **Appendix 2**.

- Historic England: We previously advised that there were unlikely to be significant effects on the Historic Environment caused by either the two site allocations that have been removed subsequently, nor the site allocation 2Que15 which remains. Our advice therefore remains that, as regards the historic environment, there are unlikely to be significant effects and we do not consider an SEA to be necessary from this perspective.
- Environment Agency: Thank you for re-consulting us on the 16 July 2019 in regards to the SEA screening opinion for the Newport Quendon and Rickling Neighbourhood Plan. We have reviewed the documents as submitted and can confirm that we do not disagree with the conclusion reached.

¹ Known fully as The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004.

² Known fully as Directive 2001/42/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 June 2001 on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment.

The amendments to the Neighbourhood Plan remove two previously allocated sites. One site allocation remains at Foxley House which will be reviewed at application stage individually. We therefore do not disagree that the Neighbourhood Plan can be screened out of requiring a SEA report.

- Natural England:

It is understood that the neighbourhood plan version subject to the current screening consultation has been revised, particularly in terms of the allocated development, which is now 19 dwellings at the site Land south of Foxley house.

The neighbourhood plan in question follows previous consultation with Natural England on the Uttlesford Local Plan. At this time, Natural England advised of the work that has been undertaken by the National Trust in relation to recreational impacts, as a result of new residential development. On Hatfield Forest Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and National Nature Reserve (NNR). To date, research has been undertaken into visitor patterns, impacts and mitigation measures to Hatfield Forest SSSI/NNR and has included winter and summer visitor surveys which have identified a Zone of Influence (Zol) of 14.6km.

In relation to the SSSIs and NNRs, or Nationally designated sites, we welcome the assessment in relation to Debden Water SSSI and Quendon Wood SSSI. Due to the proximity of Quendon Wood SSSI to the proposed development, the plan should include a requirement for proposals to demonstrate no adverse impact on Quendon Wood SSSI.

Assessment is also made in relation to Hatfield Forest SSSI/NNR, however there is concern over the approach which has concluded to screen out the impacts as a result of the allocated Foxley House development. Whilst the scale and location of the development is understood, the current evidence base supporting the development of a recreational pressure strategic solution for the Forest indicates that all scales of residential development within the Zol will cumulatively have significant effects on the designated site. As such, Natural England is unable to agree within the conclusion of the assessment in that there is no likely significant effect relating to Hatfield Forest SSSI/NNR as a result of this allocation and on this basis no SEA is required.

Natural England would advise that further consideration within the SEA is given to the recreational pressure impacts on Hatfield Forest SSSI/NNR and to this end would recommend the inclusion of an appropriate policy, or policy wording that reflects the need for mitigation measures. Natural England's advice on such mitigation measures, based on the current available evidence and information is within our letter dated 5th May 2019 to the Local Planning Authorities within the Zol. Policy reference can be taken from the policy wording agreed for the Uttlesford Local Plan, within the Statement of Common Ground between Uttlesford District Council and Natural England.

In relation to the HRA screening, Natural England has no further comment and notes the conclusion of no Likely Significant Effects for any European designated site as a result of the neighbourhood plan, either alone, or in-combination. Please note however that the work being undertaken for the Epping Forest District Council Local Plan examination and accompanying HRA assessing the in-combination air quality im-

pacts on the Epping Forest Special Area of Conservation (SAC) should be acknowledged until such a time as a decision has been made by the Local Plan Inspector.

The SEA screening assessment considers that no likely significant environmental effects resulting from the Newport Quendon and Rickling NP have been identified. The key reasons are:

- the extent of proposed development within the Hatfield Forest Zone of Influence (Zoi) that could come forward as part of the Newport Quendon & Rickling Neighbourhood Plan is approximately 0.9ha or 19 dwellings within existing development limits;
- the site is included in UDC's Local Plan and accordingly has been subject to a full environmental assessment and a second environmental assessment of the same site is not required. The results of the environmental assessment for this site can be viewed in the Sustainability Appraisal for the Regulation 19 Local Plan on page 334 (see QUE2), Table 110: Appraisal of sites – Type A villages (under 50 dwellings)

https://www.uttlesford.gov.uk/media/8228/Uttlesford-District-Council-Local-Plan-Regulation-19-Sustainability-Appraisal-SA-Environmental-Report-June-2018/pdf/UDC_Reg_19_Local_Plan_SA_Environmental_Report_DRAFT_FOR_FULL_COUNCIL.pdf

- Through a Statement of Common Ground (26 June 2019) between Natural England and Uttlesford District Council it is understood that net residential development within the Hatfield Zone of Influence will be subject to proportionate contributions to deliver mitigation measures identified within the Visitor Survey and Impact Management 2018 Ref 486 dated 13th June 2019) which will be adopted by the time the Uttlesford Local Plan is adopted;
- Whilst the Foxley House site allocation registers negative impact on the Hatfield Forest SSSI in terms of biodiversity by virtue of its impact on the Hatfield Forest SSSI, these are not identified as significant and therefore the need for an SEA is not triggered; and
- Any cumulative effects arising from the NP alone are not identified as significant.
- Any cumulative effects, in combination with other plans and projects coming forward outside of the NP, cannot be effectively addressed through an SEA at the NP level. These cumulative effects are being addressed at the district level through the SEA of the emerging Local Plan. The SEA Directive (see paragraph (9) provides for avoidance of duplication between plans and programmes where there are plan hierarchies. In this case, the SEA is appropriately undertaken at the parent plan level.
- Natural England's Interim approach to mitigation is to seek consultations on larger housing applications, in order that bespoke mitigation packages can be negotiated and agreed with relevant stakeholders including the National Trust; and
- At the current time Natural England is negotiating packages of funded measures on a case-by-case basis on the largest schemes required to contribute and this is reserved for projects of 50 or more units and the NP project is only 19 units

Further details are set out in Appendix 1 to this report.

The assessment concludes that the Neighbourhood Plan is not likely to have significant environmental effects and consequently that a strategic environmental assessment is not required.

The HRA screening concludes that the Newport Quendon & Rickling Neighbourhood Plan is not predicted to have likely significant effects on any European site, either alone or in combination with other plans and projects.

Based on the preliminary screening opinion prepared by Uttlesford in July 2019 and having considered the consultation responses from the statutory environmental bodies, Uttlesford District Council determines that the Newport Quendon & Rickling Neighbourhood Plan is unlikely to result in significant environmental effects and therefore does not require a strategic environmental assessment. The Council also determines that the Neighbourhood Plan is not likely to result in significant effects on any European site.

Appendix 1

Strategic Environmental Assessment and Habitats Regulations Assessment Screen- ing Report for the Newport Quendon & Rickling Neighbourhood Plan

July 2019

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Introduction

1.1 There are two purposes to this screening report:

SEA Screening

1.2 The purpose of this document is to help determine whether or not the draft Newport, Quendon & Rickling Neighbourhood Plan (NP) requires a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) in accordance with the European Directive 2001/42/EC and associated Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004.

1.3 Uttlesford District Council (UDC) is required to consult the statutory bodies, the Environment Agency, Natural England and English Heritage prior to reaching a screening determination and will use this report as a basis for this consultation.

HRA Screening

1.4 The purpose of this document is also to ascertain whether the making of the Newport, Quendon & Rickling Neighbourhood Plan would breach the requirements of Chapter 8 of Part 6 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017. This is a required basic condition of neighbourhood plans as laid out in Schedule 2 to the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 as amended.

1.5 Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC reads:

“Any plan or project not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site but likely to have a significant effect thereon, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, shall be subject to appropriate assessment of its implications for the site in view of the site's conservation objectives. In the light of the conclusions of the assessment of the implications for the site and subject to the provisions of paragraph 4, the competent national authorities shall agree to the plan or project only after having ascertained that it will not adversely affect the integrity of the site concerned and, if appropriate, after having obtained the opinion of the general public.”

1.6 In practice Article 6(3) requires a two-stage process.

a) initially seeing if the draft plan is likely to have a significant effect on a European site (either alone or in combination with others plans or projects); and if likely significant effects cannot be ruled out

b) subjecting the neighbourhood plan to appropriate assessment where the purpose of the appropriate assessment is to ascertain the implications of the neighbourhood plan on the European site in view of the conservation objectives of the European site.

1.7 Where an appropriate assessment is required, the plan can only proceed to adoption if it is found the plan will have no adverse effects on the integrity of the European site. At the appropriate assessment stage (if that stage is needed) account may be taken of proposed mitigation measures but not prior to this.

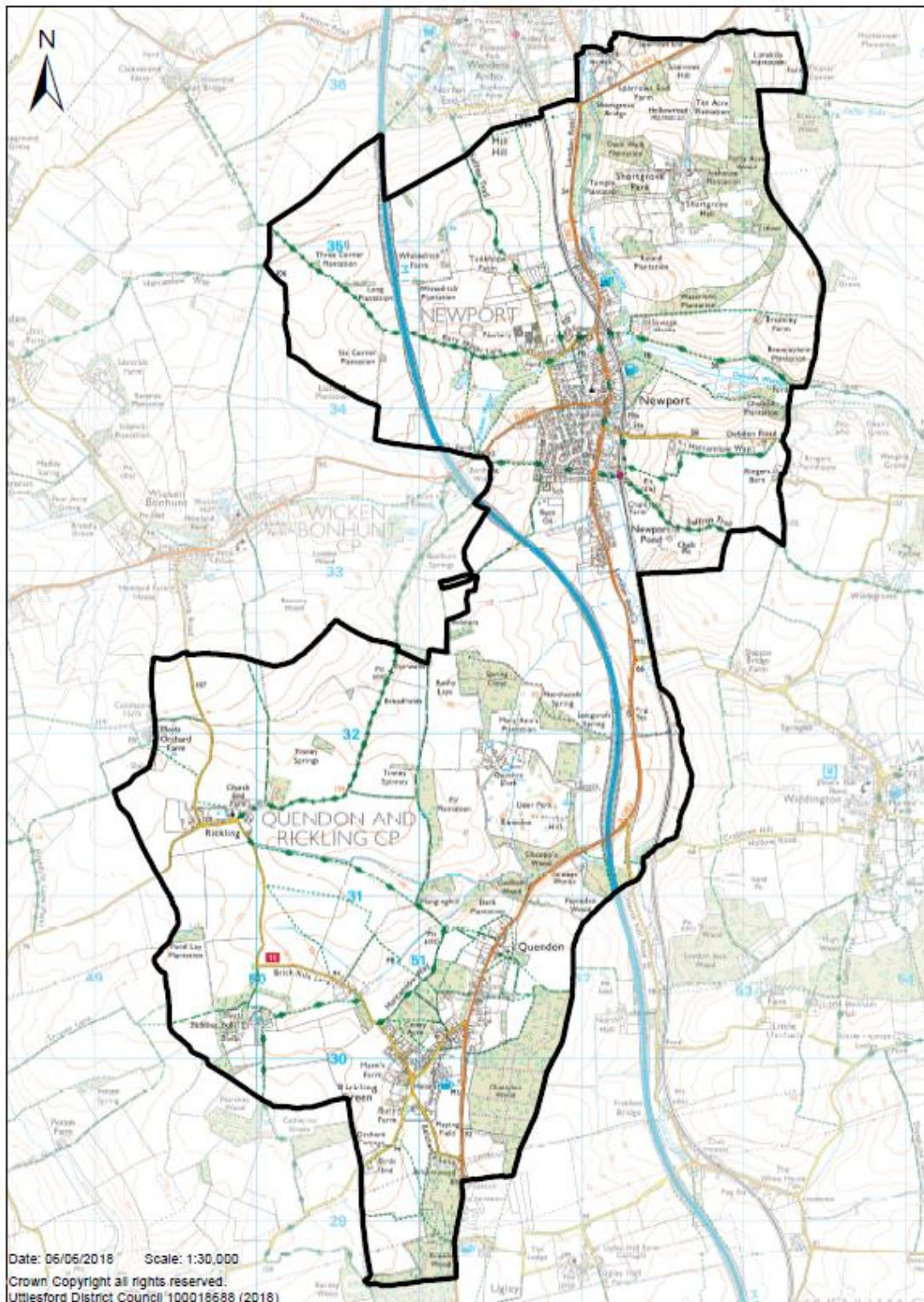
Status of this Screening Report

- 1.8 This is the second SEA/HRA screening report that has been prepared for the Newport, Quendon and Rickling Neighbourhood Plan. In July 2018, an earlier one had been prepared to reflect an earlier version of the Neighbourhood Plan; a version which was out for formal consultation (under Regulation 14 of the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations) 2 May to 15 June 2018.
- 1.9 The Newport, Quendon & Rickling Neighbourhood Plan has since been revised. Notable changes include the deletion of two site allocations in Newport which Uttlesford District Council considered had triggered the need for a Strategic Environmental Assessment. The removal of these site allocations explains this revised screening.
- 1.10 The views reached in this SEA/HRA screening report is a preliminary view prior to consulting with Natural England, the Environment Agency and Historic England.

Introduction to Newport Quendon & Rickling

- 1.11 Newport, Quendon & Rickling comprise two parishes that were designated on 16 February 2017 by Uttlesford District Council to form the Newport, Quendon and Rickling Neighbourhood plan area. The parishes are located in north Essex approximately 40 miles from London and are within commuting distance of Cambridge. The villages of Newport, Quendon and Rickling are along B1383, the old A11 which serves to connect the parish with Saffron Walden. Newport, Quendon & Rickling Parishes adjoin the parishes of Berden, Clavering, Wicken Bonhunt, Wendens Ambo, Saffron Walden, Debden, Widdington, Henham and Ugley.
- 1.12 The Newport, Quendon & Rickling Neighbourhood plan area can be seen in Figure 1. At the 2011 census the total population of the Parish was 2,939 (Newport's population was 2,352, Quendon & Rickling 587).

Figure 1: Newport, Quendon & Rickling Neighbourhood Plan Area



1.13 The Newport, Quendon & Rickling NP has the following vision:
Appendix 1 to the Newport Quendon & Rickling Neighbourhood Plan
SEA Screening Determination Statement

The Neighbourhood Plan that will conserve the character of Newport, Quendon and Rickling villages whilst allowing for long-term economic and social growth together with sustainable development.

The vision is for Newport, Quendon and Rickling to be forward thinking, vibrant villages, which are clean and healthy with a strong sense of community to provide an outstanding quality of life for current and future generations where views of the community are respected and reflected.

It is the aim of this Neighbourhood Plan to guide developments in Newport, Quendon and Rickling to 2033.

The aim for Newport, Quendon and Rickling is to have small, sustainable, timely developments that meet needs of local residents and that do not distort the shape and essence of the villages; to evolve and expand whilst retaining our unique and distinctive character.

The vision and aims are to be achieved through the following objectives:

Objective 1

To ensure Newport, Quendon & Rickling develop in a sustainable manner by ensuring the timely provision of infrastructure and services to meet the demands of current and future residents

Objective 2

To ensure that new housing is of high quality design that respects Newport Quendon & Rickling's local distinctiveness and enhances the historic character and setting of the parishes

Objective 3

To seek solutions to the traffic parking and congestion issues and reduce traffic speed and to ensure that new developments have adequate and easily accessible parking

Objective 4

To create a safer, healthier and more accessible environment for pedestrians, cyclists, other road users and residents

Objective 5

To preserve and promote green areas within the villages and parishes to retain Newport Quendon & Rickling's predominantly rural identity and to ensure that development is permitted only where it does not harm the special landscape characteristics of the area

Objective 6

To ensure Newport Quendon & Rickling has the appropriate community and public open space provisions and recreational facilities, either within the parishes or within reasonable travelling distance, to support residents of all ages

Objective 7

To ensure the conservation and enhancement of our heritage assets

Objective 8

To ensure new housing is in response to a proven housing shortage and that the housing is provided in a range of tenures, types and sizes so that local people of all ages can continue to live here

Objective 9

To ensure that the locations of new developments are sustainable and retain and complement the essential characteristics of our villages

Objective 10

To retain and support existing retail, service and other businesses and to attract new businesses which would provide improved facilities and local employment opportunities

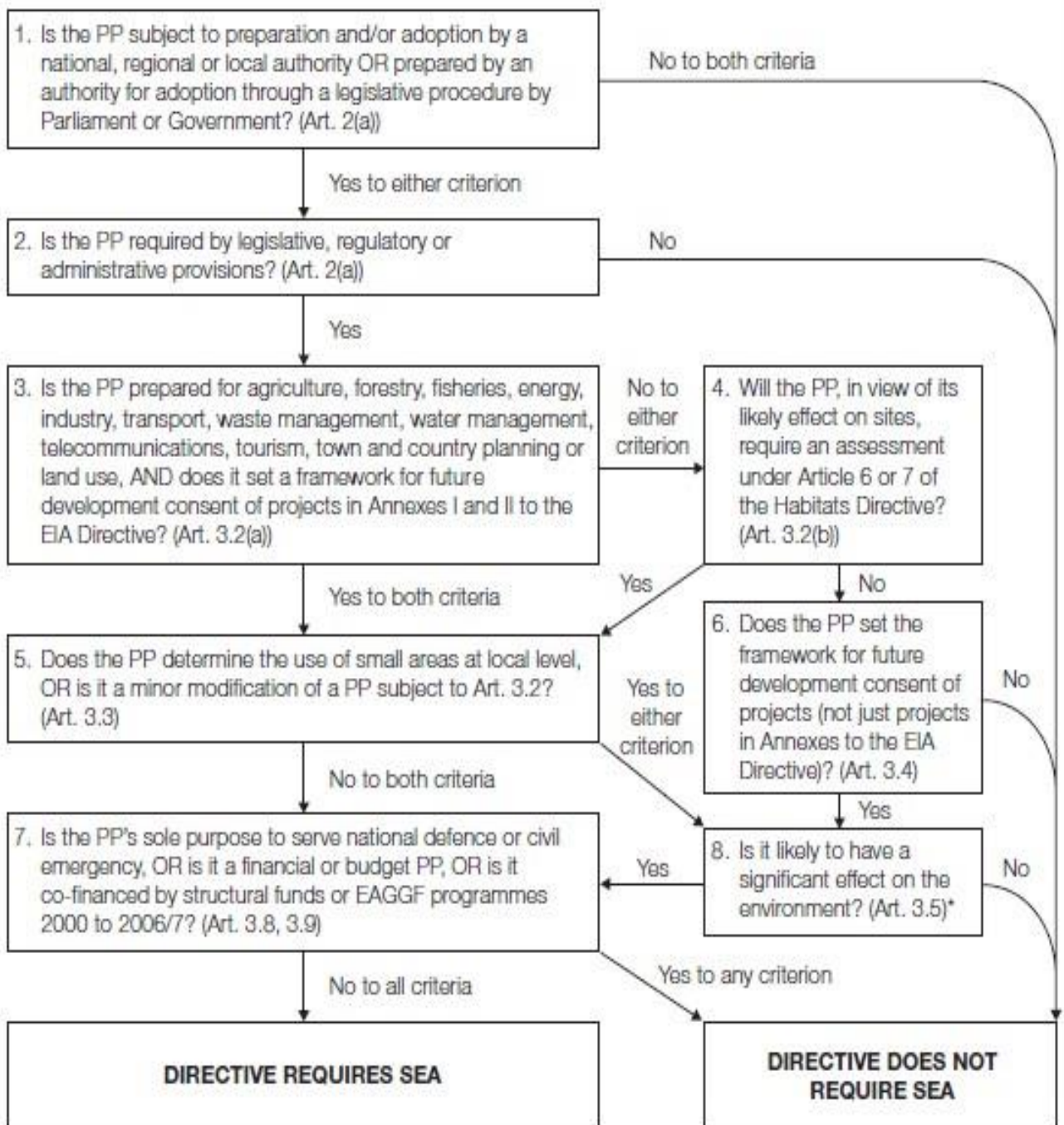
2. Legislative Background to SEA

- 2.1 The basis for Strategic Environmental Assessments legislation is European Directive 2001/42/EC which was transposed into English law by the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004, often referred to as the “*SEA Regulations*”. Detailed guidance of these regulations can be found in the Government publication “A Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive” (ODPM 2005) available to view at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/strategic-environmental-assessment-directive-guidance>

- 2.2 The Government publication “A Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive” (ODPM 2005) includes a useful table intended as a guide to the circumstances where the SEA directive applies to plans and programmes. This is reproduced below:

Figure 2 – Application of the SEA Directive to plans and programmes

This diagram is intended as a guide to the criteria for application of the Directive to plans and programmes (PPs). It has no legal status.



*The Directive requires Member States to determine whether plans or programmes in this category are likely to have significant environmental effects. These determinations may be made on a case by case basis and/or by specifying types of plan or programme.

2.3 The table below uses the diagram above to help determine whether or not the SEA directive applies to the Newport Quendon & Rickling Neighbourhood Plan.

Stage	Response	Outcome	Comment
1. Is the NP subject to preparation and/or adoption by a national, regional or local authority OR prepared by an authority for adoption through a legislative procedure by Parliament or Government? (Art. 2(a))	Yes	Go to question 2	The preparation and adoption of the NP is allowed under The Town and Country Planning Act 1990 as amended by the Localism Act 2011. The NP is being prepared by Newport Quendon and Rickling Parish Council (as the "relevant body") and will be "made" by Uttlesford District Council as the local authority. The preparation of NPs is subject to the following regulations: The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 and The Neighbourhood Planning (referendums) Regulations 2012
2. Is the NP required by legislative, regulatory or administrative provisions? (Art. 2(a))	Yes	Go to question 3	Whilst the Neighbourhood Plan is not a requirement and is optional under the provisions of The Town and Country Planning Act 1990 as amended by the Localism Act 2011, it will, if "made", form part of the statutory Development Plan for the District.
	No	NO SEA required	
3. Is the NP prepared for agriculture, forestry, fisheries, energy, industry, transport, waste management, water management, telecommunications, tourism, town and country planning or land use, AND does it set a framework for future development consent of projects in Annexes I and II (see Appendix 2) to the EIA Directive? (Art 3.2(a))	Yes to both	Go to question 5	The Neighbourhood Plan does not set the framework for future development consent of projects in Annexes I and II to the EIA Directive (see Appendix 2 for list).
	No to either	Go to question 4	
4. Will the NP, in view of its likely effect on sites, require an assessment for future development under Article 6 or 7 of the Habitats Directive? (Art. 3.2 (b))	Yes	Go to question 5	See separate assessment in section 6 of this report.
	No	Go to question 6.	
5. Does the NP determine the use of small areas at local level, OR is it a minor modification of a PP subject to Art. 3.2? (Art. 3.3)	Yes to either	Go to question 8	A Neighbourhood Plan can determine the use of small areas at a local level. The Newport Quendon & Rickling Neighbourhood Plan includes policies re-
	No to both	Go to question 7.	

Stage	Response	Outcome	Comment
			lating to the location of development and specifically allocates land for development.
6. Does the NP set the framework for future development consent of projects (not just projects in annexes to the EIA Directive)? (Art 3.4)	Yes	Go to question 8	The Neighbourhood Plan is to be used for determining future planning applications.
	No	Does not require SEA	
7. Is the NP's sole purpose to serve the national defence or civil emergency, OR is it a financial or budget PP, OR is it co-financed by structural funds or EAGGF programmes 2000 to 2006/7? (Art 3.8, 3.9)	Yes to any criteria	Does not require SEA	Not applicable
	No to all criteria	Requires SEA	
8. Is it likely to have a significant effect on the environment? (Art 3.5)	Yes	Requires SEA	Likely significant effects are explored in more detail in Section 3 of this report.
	No	Does not require SEA	

2.4 The table above tells us that an environmental assessment of the Newport Quendon & Rickling Neighbourhood Plan is only required if it is screened in following an assessment of likely significant effects on the environment.

3. Criteria for determining likely significance of effects on the environment

- 3.1 When determining whether a Neighbourhood Plan (NP) has a likely significant effect on the environment, the SEA Regulations require that the criteria set out in Schedule 1 of the SEA Regulations be considered. These are the criteria “for determining the likely significance of effects on the environment”. These criteria are split into two categories: those relating to the characteristics of the plan and those relating to the characteristics of the effects and area likely to be affected. These are set out below.

Plan characteristics

- the degree to which the plan or programme sets a framework for projects and other activities, either with regard to the location, nature, size and operating conditions or by allocating resources
- the degree to which the plan or programme influences other plans and programmes including those in a hierarchy
- the relevance of the plan or programme for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development
- environmental problems relevant to the plan or programme
- the relevance of the plan or programme for the implementation of [European] Community legislation on the environment (for example, plans and programmes linked to waste management or water protection).

Characteristics of the effects and the plan area

- the probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects
- the cumulative nature of the effects
- the transboundary nature of the effects
- the risks to human health or the environment (for example, due to accidents)
- the magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected)
- the value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to
 - special natural characteristics or cultural heritage
 - exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values
 - intensive land-use
- the effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, community or international protection status

- 3.2 In order to identify any likely significant environmental effects, Table 1 below considers the characteristics of the Newport Quendon & Rickling NP and Table 2 considers the characteristics of the effects and the plan area likely to be affected.

Table 1: Criteria for determining the likely significance of environmental effects

Plan Characteristics	Newport Quendon & Rickling NP
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the degree to which the plan or programme sets a framework for projects and other activities, either with regard to the location, nature, size and operating conditions or by allocating resources 	<p>The Newport Quendon & Rickling NP would, if adopted (“made”), form part of the Statutory Development Plan and as such will contribute to the Framework for future development consent of projects. However, the plan will sit within the wider framework set by the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), the strategic policies of the Uttlesford District Council Local Plan (2005) and the emerging Local Plan 2011 -2033. The Draft Newport, Quendon & Rickling NP includes the following policies:</p> <p>Business & Local Economy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NQRBL1 Support of new and existing businesses NQRBL2 Change of use on upper floors. NQRBL3 Business parking. NQRBL4 High speed internet connection. <p>These policies support new and existing businesses at existing business locations and within walking or cycling distances of homes of an appropriate scale to their location and where they will sustain and enhance the rural economy in the Plan area. Change of use to residential on upper floors will be supported where the ground floor uses remain in business use. More parking to support businesses will be encouraged provided there is no damage to the Conservation Areas.</p> <p>Air Quality</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NQRAQ1 Air quality impact of development proposals NQRAQ2 Cumulative impact of developments on clean air and traffic congestion <p>These two policies require the consideration of impacts on air quality of new development. Developments of 10 or more dwellings will need to be accompanied by a Transport Assessment as well as an Air Quality Impact Assessment. Where adverse impacts are identified, mitigation measures will be required.</p> <p>Water/Climate Change/Flooding</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NQRGSE1 Discharges into watercourses. NQRGSE2 Locally supplied evidence of flood risk. <p>Policy SE1 above requires that any development that will lead to discharges into watercourse only be permitted where it can be demonstrated that risk of flooding will not be increased or at least not made worse. Policy SE1 requires decision makers to take into account locally available information with regard to flood risk.</p>

Table 1: Criteria for determining the likely significance of environmental effects

Plan Characteristics	Newport Quendon & Rickling NP
	<p>Footpaths</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NQRGSE3 Footpaths and access to the countryside. <p>Policy NQRSE3 seeks new footpath links when development comes forwards.</p> <p>Health</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NQREH1 General Practice • NQREH2 Primary school places <p>Policy NQREH1 General Practice supports the timely expansion of GP practice. Policy NQREH2 requires permissions for residential development to be conditional on availability of primary school places.</p> <p>Direction of development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NQRHA1 – Coherence of the villages <p>This policy provides criteria for the location of new development in the plan area. It supports, in principle, new development within the Newport development limits boundary (uses the same boundary as that emerging through the Local Plan):</p> <p>Resists development beyond these boundaries in Newport further along the B1383 (both north and south)</p> <p>Resists development outside the Cam Valley (defined in accompanying map)</p> <p>Resists development outside the Quendon and Rickling development limits other than for development appropriate in the countryside.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NQRHA2 – Building on Brownfield Sites <p>Policy encourages development on existing brownfield sites.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NQRHA3 – Connection with the countryside <p>Establishes two areas where new development will not be supported due to the value these areas have to providing the settlement with connection to the countryside.</p>

Table 1: Criteria for determining the likely significance of environmental effects

Plan Characteristics	Newport Quendon & Rickling NP
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NQRHA4 - Building in the countryside <p>Whilst the plan as a whole does not support development in the countryside, this is a policy providing criteria for those scenarios where development does come forward (for uses appropriate in the countryside presumably).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NQRHA6 Foxley House, Quendon, site allocation. (Ref '2 Que 15') <p>This policy allocates land at Foxley House, Quendon for the development of 19 dwellings. It is linked to an emerging site allocation in the emerging Local Plan and provides five site specific criteria including need to consider the Conservation Area, access arrangements and provision of footpath directly into the village. The site is directly adjacent to the conservation area and is surrounded by residential development to the north, west and south and by the B1383 to the east.</p> <p>In the process of allocating Foxley House, the NP group have assessed all available sites and have prepared a site assessment report which is available to view alongside their plan on their website https://nqrplan.org/evidence-documents. This site was assessed both by Uttlesford District Council and Newport, Quendon and Rickling Neighbourhood Plan group to be suitable, available and deliverable for development. The site is approximately 0.9ha</p> <p>The site is included in UDC's Reg 19 Local Plan and accordingly has been subject to a full environmental assessment. The results of the environmental assessment for this site can be viewed in the Sustainability Appraisal for the Regulation 19 Local Plan on page 334 (see QUE 2), Table 110: Appraisal of sites – Type A villages (under 50 dwellings).</p> <p>https://www.uttlesford.gov.uk/media/8228/Uttlesford-District-Council-Local-Plan-Regulation-19-Sustainability-Appraisal-SA-Environmental-Report-June-2018/pdf/UDC_Reg_19_Local_Plan_SA_Environmental_Report_DRAFT_FOR_FULL_COUNCIL.pdf</p> <p>Housing, Planning and Design</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NQRHD1 Parking Standards • NQRHD2 Housing Design • NQRHD3 Use of Specimen Trees • NQRHD4 House sizes • NQRHD5 Affordable homes and local connection • NQRHD6 Affordable housing

Table 1: Criteria for determining the likely significance of environmental effects

Plan Characteristics	Newport Quendon & Rickling NP
	<p>The above policies are non-site-specific but provide requirements with regard to off-street car parking provision, design, trees, mix of sizes of homes on a scheme and a policy seeking provision of affordable housing.</p> <p>Roads and Moving Around</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NQRTR1 Extension of speed limits and footways • NQRTR2 Mitigation of traffic impacts • NQRTR3 Safe access to schools and village facilities <p>Policy NQRTR1 above requires funding towards implementing speed limits and installation of footways in the event that ribbon development is permitted along the B1383 (something not supported by the plan. Policy NQRTR2 requires contributions from developers towards the mitigation of traffic impacts such as promotion of sustainable transport measures. Policy NQRTR3 requires developers to provide safe routes to school where necessary to achieving better connectivity within the villages.</p> <p>Sport, Community and Leisure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NQRSC1 Retention of existing community facilities • NQRSC2 Financial contributions from development - • NQRSC3 Provision of amenity space and for ball sports • NQRSC4 Retention of sports fields <p>Policy NQRSC1 above protects existing community facilities. Policy NQRSC2 seeks contributions towards the provision of additional sport and leisure facilities in the parishes. Policy NQRSC3 encourages developers to exceed the provision for amenity space and ball sports set out in the Local Plan. Policy NQRSC4 protects existing sports fields.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the degree to which the plan or programme influences other plans and programmes including those in a hierarchy 	<p>A Neighbourhood Plan must be in general conformity with the strategic policies contained in the Development Plan for the District and it does not influence other plans.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the relevance of the plan or programme for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development 	<p>National policy requires a presumption in favour of sustainable development which should be seen as a golden thread through the plan-making including the Newport, Quendon & Rickling NP. Before the NP can be made it will need to be tested against the basic conditions. This includes a requirement to contribute towards the achievement of sustainable development.</p>

Table 1: Criteria for determining the likely significance of environmental effects

Plan Characteristics	Newport Quendon & Rickling NP
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> environmental problems relevant to the plan or programme 	<p>Environmental issues relevant to the Newport, Quendon & Rickling NP are set out below theme by theme:</p> <p>Biodiversity:</p> <p><u>European sites:</u> As shown on Figure 2 there are no European sites within or close to the NP area. The closest European site is the Lee Valley SPA site which is 20 km away. Another European Sites i.e. Eversden & Wimpole Woods SAC to the northwest is 22 km away from the Newport Quendon & Rickling NP boundary.</p> <p><u>SSSIs and NNRs:</u> Debden Water SSSI and Quendon Wood SSSIs fall within the NP area. The Debden Water SSSI is neutral grassland – lowland which is currently classified as Unfavourable – Recovering. Quendon Wood SSSI is broadleaved, mixed and yew woodland whose condition is classed as Favourable. As such Natural England request to be consulted on the following types of development proposal which could impact on the SSSIs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Large non- residential developments outside existing settlements/urban areas where net additional gross internal floorspace is > 1,000m² or footprint exceeds 0.2ha; Residential development of 100 units or more; Any residential development of 50 or more houses outside existing settlements/urban areas; Any transport proposal including road, rail and by water (excluding routine maintenance); Planning applications for quarries, including: new proposals, Review of Minerals Permissions (ROMP), extensions, variations to conditions etc. Oil & gas exploration/extraction; <p>Hatfield Forest SSSI and National Nature Reserve lies approximately 8 km away from the southern tip of the NP area. The Hatfield Forest SSSI zone of influence has recently been updated by Natural England following updated visitor survey work undertaken in 2018. The zone of influence has been increased to 14.6km which covers the whole Neighbourhood plan area. Through a Statement of Common Ground (26 June 2019) between Natural England and Uttlesford District Council it is understood that net residential development within the Hatfield Zone of Influence will be subject to proportionate contributions to deliver mitigation measures identified within the Visitor Survey and Impact Management 2018 ref 486 dated 13th June 2019) which will be in place by the time the Uttlesford Local Plan is adopted. It is possible that new residents at Foxley House could visit Hatfield Forest and therefore add to existing recreational pressure on the SSSI/NNR. However, a development of just 19 dwellings at over 8km away is unlikely to lead to significant effects. From this perspective, no likely significant effect from this site allo-</p>

Table 1: Criteria for determining the likely significance of environmental effects

Plan Characteristics	Newport Quendon & Rickling NP
	<p>cation is identified.</p> <p>There are no local nature reserves within the NP area. The plan area has a variety of flora and fauna as set out below.</p> <p>Population: According to the 2011 Census the total population of Newport, Quendon & Rickling Neighbourhood Plan Area was approximately 2,939 comprising 2,352 people in Newport Parish and a total of 587 people in Quendon & Rickling Parish.</p> <p>Human health: No notable health issues. The parish is currently serviced by a single GP surgery and timely expansion of the surgery will be supported.</p> <p>Flora: A variety is recorded on www.magic.gov.uk includes areas of ancient woodland and semi-natural woodland, ancient replanted woodland, deciduous woodland, woodland broadleaved, Priority Habitat Deciduous Woodland, a few traditional orchards and Wood-pasture and Parkland BAP Priority Habitat.</p> <p>Fauna: Arable Assemblage Farmland Birds include the following species corn bunting, grey partridge, lapwing, turtle dove, tree sparrow and yellow wagtail. Grassland Assemblage Birds include the following species, lapwing, and yellow wagtail. Priority Species for CS Targeting – lapwing. (Source www.magic.gov.uk)</p> <p>Soil: No noted issues. The NP area contains freely draining slightly acid but base-rich loamy soils well as lime-rich loamy and clayey soils with impeded drainage and freely draining lime-rich loamy soils. Grade 2 (very good) and Grade 3 (good to moderate) agricultural land /soil quality.</p> <p>Water The main rivers in the NP are River Cam (or Granta) and Wicken Water and an ordinary water course which is an unnamed tributary of the River Cam.</p> <p>As recorded on www.magic.gov.uk the Neighbourhood Plan Area falls under 3 Source Protection Zones (SPZ) merged (England).The majority of Quendon and Rickling Parish falls under Zone III – Total Catchment Zone and a portion of the north eastern portion of Quendon and Rickling falls within two zones namely Zone 1 – Inner Protection Zone and Zone11 – Outer Protection Zone. The western portion of Newport Parish falls under Zone II – Outer Protection Zone and the eastern part falls under Zone III – Total Catchment Zone.</p>

Table 1: Criteria for determining the likely significance of environmental effects

Plan Characteristics	Newport Quendon & Rickling NP
	<p>As recorded on www.magic.gov.uk, the whole of the NP plan area falls within Nitrate Vulnerable Zones (NVZ) 2017 –Surface Waters and Nitrate Vulnerable Zones (NVZ) 2017 – Groundwaters.</p> <p>The whole neighbourhood Area is classified as a Countryside Stewardship Water Quality Medium Priority. (www.magic.gov.uk)</p> <p>The southern-most part of Quendon and Rickling Parish is recorded as having Source Water Pesticide Issues Medium Priority (www.magic.gov.uk)</p> <p>The majority of the Neighbourhood Plan area falls under the Woodland – Water Quality Lower Spatial Priority as well falling under Woodland – Flood Risk Lower Spatial Priority. .</p> <p>As recorded on www.magic.gov.uk, the whole of the NP plan area falls within a Phosphate Issues Medium Priority Area</p> <p>From 2011-2015 the whole NP area was a Catchment Sensitive Farming Priority Area and it is currently classified as a Former Catchment Sensitive Farming Priority Catchment Area.</p> <p>Air</p> <p>The indications from monitoring to date suggest that there are local hotspots in Newport where air quality needs to be addressed. Monitoring will be extended to other parts of the B1383 commencing in July 2018. In the meantime, Newport and the wider district will benefit from the measures contained in the Saffron Walden Air Quality Action Plan, and development control intervention measures will be utilised where appropriate to do so.</p> <p>Climatic factors</p> <p>The risk of flooding being exacerbated by development is a concern of the plan. Policies NQRGSE1 Discharges into watercourses and NQRGSE2 Locally supplied evidence of flood risk are specifically focused on addressing this concern.</p> <p><u>Fluvial Flood Risk:</u> A large area in the south, central and east are within Flood Zones 3b, 3a, 3a=CC and 2. In the south the floodplain extents are very similar whilst in the north the floodplain extents vary.</p> <p><u>Surface Water Flood Risk:</u> Flow paths are defined by topography and existing watercourses, There are small areas of ponding (UFMfSW)</p>

Table 1: Criteria for determining the likely significance of environmental effects

Plan Characteristics	Newport Quendon & Rickling NP
	<p><u>Groundwater Flood Risk:</u> Low (>25% chance of emergence) to high risk (50%-75% chance of emergence) for the whole area. Lowest risk in the northeast of the village (Newport) (Source: - Uttlesford Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (JBA Consulting May 2016)). No significant adverse impacts are identified as a result of the NP policies.</p> <p>Cultural heritage:</p> <p>“The National Heritage List for England records some 53 individually listed buildings and other structures in the parish of Quendon and Rickling of which 31 are to be found in the designated Conservation Area. Some of these are timber –framed and plastered, though there are a significant number of brick buildings. Most date from 16th to 18th centuries though a few 19th century cottages along Cambridge Road are also included. Quendon Church and Quendon Court are both Grade II*, the remainder are classed as Grade II.”(Source: Quendon and Rickling Conservation Area Appraisal and Draft Management Proposals, 2015, Uttlesford District Council)</p> <p>“Newport Parish has 83 Listed Buildings of which the vast majority is located within the Conservation Area. The Church of St Mary the Virgin is Grade I dating back to the 13th century, seven buildings are Grade II* and the remainder area Grade II. Based on English Heritage Records, 5 buildings in the Conservation area are 15th century, 8 are 16th century, approximately 25% are 17th century, 30% are 18th century and 20% are 19th century.” .(Source: Newport Conservation Area Appraisal and Draft Management Proposals, 2007, Uttlesford District Council)</p> <p>No significant adverse impacts are identified as a result of the NP policies.</p> <p>Landscape:</p> <p>The study area falls within National Character Area (NCA) 86 - Suffolk and North Essex Clayland as defined by Natural England. At a local level, Newport, Quendon and Rickling are characterised in the Braintree, Brentwood, Chelmsford, Maldon and Uttlesford Landscape Character Assessments. In October 2005 these Councils jointly commissioned comprehensive Landscape Character Assessments of their respective areas. Newport falls within Landscape Character Area (LCA) A1- Cam River Valley and Quendon & Rickling fall within Landscape Character Area (LCA) B7- Debden Farmland Plateau.</p> <p>The key characteristics of Landscape Character Area (LCA) A1- Cam River Valley are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Rolling open landscape of chalky boulder clay with wide views from higher ground: • Well vegetated riverbanks with shrubs, trees and water meadows along the winding narrow river corridor; • Large-scale downland reflecting late enclosure, with rectilinear field pattern;

Table 1: Criteria for determining the likely significance of environmental effects	
Plan Characteristics	Newport Quendon & Rickling NP
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low hedges and few trees mainly in small copses; and • Dispersed settlements on valley sides connected by busy B roads. <p>The following landscape planning guidelines are recommended for LCA A1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conserve and enhance the landscape setting of settlements; • Maintain cross-valley views; • Consider the landscape pattern and structure of large woodland areas and the role they have in the composition of views to and from the area; • Ensure that new woodland planting is designed to enhance landscape character and that species composition reflects local character; • Ensure any new development on valley sides is small-scale and that it responds to historic settlement pattern, form and building materials; and • Encourage the re-use of redundant agricultural farm buildings, especially red brick or black timber framed and boarded barns”. <p>Some of the plan policies are focused at conserving and enhancing landscape quality. This includes NQRHA3 – Connection with the countryside and NQRHA1 – Coherence of the villages. No likely significant adverse impacts are identified.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the relevance of the plan or programme for the implementation of [European] Community legislation on the environment (for example, plans and programmes linked to waste management or water protection). 	<p>There are no conflicts between the Newport Quendon & Rickling NP and statutory plans linked to waste, water etc.</p>

3.3 Table 2 below focuses on any identified effects and the characteristics of the plan area.

Table 2: Criteria for determining the likely significance of environmental effects	
Effects and area characteristics	Newport, Quendon and Rickling NP
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects 	<p>The following likely impacts of the draft plan have been identified theme by theme:</p> <p>Biodiversity Debden Water SSSI and Quendon Wood SSSI are located within the plan area. The plan includes just one site allocation for 19 homes. This is not anticipated to lead to significant effects. No effects have been identified as a result of the other policies.</p> <p>Hatfield Forest SSSI and National Nature Reserve lies approximately 8km away from the southern end of the plan area whereas the zone of influence in terms of recreational pressure has been determined to be 14.6km following updated visitor surveys in 2018. The one site allocation at Foxley House is the only policy (allocates land for 19 homes) which could lead to additional pressure at the Hatfield Forest SSSI and National Nature Reserve. Given the modest level of development being allocated within an already built up environment, this policy is not considered to lead to significant effects on Hatfield Forest.</p> <p>Population The Neighbourhood Plan works within the context of the emerging Local Plan in that development in Quendon is proposed for a site allocated in the emerging Local Plan. No likely significant effects.</p> <p>Human Health The Newport surgery had a patient list of approximately 8,258 in 2017. The surgery is served by 4.25 full-time-equivalent (FTE) doctors. The size of the current surgery premises has the potential for increasing the number of consulting rooms through internal works. The size of the administration wing if required could be increased by utilising part of the car park. Timely expansion of the surgery will be supported. No likely significant effects.</p> <p>Fauna The plan area as a whole is not considered to be highly vulnerable in terms of fauna. No likely significant effects resulting from the proposed policies.</p> <p>Flora No identified effects from the plan.</p> <p>Soil The NP area contains Grade 2 (Very Good) and Grade 3 (moderate to good) agricultural land/soil quality. The Quendon site is a small site located within the village development limits and will not result in loss of agricultural land. No likely significant</p>

Table 2: Criteria for determining the likely significance of environmental effects	
Effects and area characteristics	Newport, Quendon and Rickling NP
	<p>effects.</p> <p>Water The whole of the NP area falls within Phosphate Issues – Medium Priority as well as falling within a Nitrate Vulnerable Zone 2017 for Surface Water which is designated as being at risk from agricultural pollution.</p> <p>The WFD GES - Invertebrates Objective for the River Cam is a CS Targeting Medium Priority. There are multiple waterbodies in the Cam and Ely Ouse (including South Level) catchment with WFD Objective of good ecological status rivers whose water quality issues are Medium Priority. For Wendon Brook the WFD Objective is Good Ecological Status with Medium Priority Water Quality Issues.</p> <p>The WFD objective of a Surface water safeguard Zone (DrWPA) is from Woolens Brook down to Tottenham Locks. The whole of the NP also falls within Woodland Water quality Lower Spatiality Priority. The southernmost portion of Quendon and Rickling Parish falls within a Surface Water Pesticide Issues.</p> <p>No likely significant effects arising from the NP policies.</p> <p>Air There will be very limited impacts on air quality as a result of the residential development proposed in the NP. The plan encourages sustainable modes of transport.</p> <p>Climatic Factors</p> <p><u>Fluvial Flood Risk:</u> A large area in the south, central and east are within Flood Zones 3b, 3a, 3a=CC and 2. In the south the floodplain extents are very similar whilst in the north the floodplain extents vary.</p> <p><u>Surface Water Flood Risk:</u> Flow paths are defined by topography and existing watercourses, There are small areas of ponding (UFMfSW).</p> <p><u>Groundwater Flood Risk:</u> Low (>25% chance of emergence) to high risk (50%-75% chance of emergence) for the whole area. Lowest risk in the northeast of the village (Newport) (Source: - Uttlesford Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (JBA Consulting May 2016)).</p> <p>No likely significant effects arising from the NP policies.</p>

Table 2: Criteria for determining the likely significance of environmental effects	
Effects and area characteristics	Newport, Quendon and Rickling NP
	<p><u>Material Assets</u> No likely significant effects arising from the NP policies.</p> <p>Cultural Heritage</p> <p>The NP area has a rich cultural heritage. This is well documented in the Newport Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Proposals (2007) and the Quendon and Rickling Conservation Area Appraisal and Draft Management Proposals (2015). The following best describe the Newport village character area: Key Characteristics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Linear settlement along the B1383 due to restriction by the River Cam to the east and the M11 to the west; • Fine listed buildings along the long main road as far as Bridge End including St. Mary's Church; • A tightly packed historic core; • Historical part of the village is characterised by many fine medieval and post buildings; • The 13th century St. Mary's Church on higher ground; • Considerable listed buildings from 17th, 18th and 19th centuries around Elephant Green and Church Street; • 83 Listed buildings including Grade 1 (Church of St Mary the Virgin); and • Boundary walling of the village with evidence of red brick, flint panels supported with red brick piers and curved brick capping. <p>The character of Quendon and Rickling is best described by the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 53 individually listed buildings of which 31 are in the designated Conservation Area; • Rich variety of vernacular buildings in local materials ranging from colour-washed plaster or half-timbered, to flintwork and red brick; • Discrete modern buildings with old barns converted to living space or small business units; • Linear settlement with grand buildings such as Rickling House and Quendon Court set well back from the road; • Parish Church of St Simon and St Jude; • Harcamlow Way provides a pedestrian link between Newport and Thaxted; • Rickling is a nucleated settlement with houses, pub and school clustered around the village cricket ground; and • Predominance of brick, colour-washed plaster and tiled roofed buildings interspersed with a few cottages roofed in straw thatch in the village core. <p>The maximum extent of development outside the existing settlement limits that could come forward as part of the NP is 19 dwellings through the site allocation adjacent to the Quendon Conservation Area. The Policy requires that: <i>The development must not impact adversely on the Conservation Area and must be complementary to the surrounding.</i> No likely significant effects arising from the NP policies.</p>

Table 2: Criteria for determining the likely significance of environmental effects	
Effects and area characteristics	Newport, Quendon and Rickling NP
	<p>Landscape Development in Quendon and Rickling is within the village development limits. There will be some impact on landscape as this is currently a greenfield site albeit bounded by development on all sides. No likely significant effect is however identified.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the cumulative nature of the effects 	<p>When considering cumulative impacts, the cumulative impacts of the draft NP proposals (as a whole) on the identified environmental effects should be considered as well as taking into consideration the proposals in the draft Reg 19 Local Plan.</p> <p>With regard to the NP proposals as a whole it is only the Policy NQRHA6 Foxley House that registers a potential negative impact in relation to landscape and in relation to biodiversity (with regards to visitor pressure at Hatfield Forest SSSI/NNR over 8km away). This site is also included in the emerging Local Plan. In addition to the NP, the Reg 19 Local Plan includes one further site allocation in Quendon but this site has now been constructed. The Local Plan also includes site allocations within Newport which also fall within the 14.6km zone of influence for Hatfield Forest SSSI/NNR. The emerging Local Plan is required to be subject to a full Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) under the SEA legislation. Uttlesford District Council have already undertaken a strategic environmental assessment of all of these sites and, as part of this, considered the cumulative impacts of all the Local Plan allocated sites on biodiversity and on the Hatfield Forest SSSI. The results of the environmental assessment for this site can be viewed in the Sustainability Appraisal for the Regulation 19 Local Plan on page 334 (see QUE 2), Table 110: Appraisal of sites – Type A villages (under 50 dwellings). https://www.uttlesford.gov.uk/media/8228/Uttlesford-District-Council-Local-Plan-Regulation-19-Sustainability-Appraisal-SA-Environmental-Report-June-2018/pdf/UDC_Reg_19_Local_Plan_SA_Environmental_Report_DRAFT_FOR_FULL_COUNCIL.pdf. As part of the Local Plan process, Uttlesford District Council and Natural England have agreed a mitigation strategy. It is understood that net residential development within the Hatfield Zone of Influence will be subject to proportionate contributions to deliver mitigation measures identified within the Visitor Survey and Impact Management 2018 ref 486 dated 13th June 2019) which will be in place by the time the Uttlesford Local Plan is adopted.</p> <p>As far as the Newport, Quendon and Rickling Neighbourhood Plan is concerned, whilst the Foxley House site allocation registers negative impacts in terms of biodiversity by virtue of its impact on the Hatfield Forest SSSI, these are not identified as significant and therefore the need for an SEA is not triggered.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the risks to human health or the environment (for example, due to accidents) 	<p>There are no potential risks to human health or the environment as a direct result of the development management framework proposed in the NP area.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the magnitude and spatial 	<p>The population of the parish is currently around 2,939. The NP shapes future development and identifies one location for</p>

Table 2: Criteria for determining the likely significance of environmental effects	
Effects and area characteristics	Newport, Quendon and Rickling NP
<p>extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected)</p>	<p>residential development which is also earmarked for development in the emerging Local Plan. The overall extent of development is in line with the growth that would occur in the parish without the NP being in place.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – special natural characteristics or cultural heritage – exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values – intensive land-use 	<p>Air quality: The indications from monitoring to date suggest that there are local hotspots in Newport where air quality needs to be addressed. Monitoring will be extended to other parts of the B1383 commencing in July 2018. Notwithstanding this, the plan seeks to steer development so as not to exacerbate air quality further.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, Community or international protection status 	<p>The NP has been assessed as not having any significant effects on landscape which have a recognised national, community or international protection status.</p>

4. SEA Conclusions

4.1 As a result of the assessment in Section 4, no likely significant environmental effects resulting from the Newport Quendon and Rickling NP have been identified. The key reasons for this are:

- overall level of development proposed is in line with strategic planning context that exists in the adopted 2005 Local Plan but also the emerging Local Plan currently at examination;
- the one site allocation at Foxley House which falls within the recently increased 14.6km zone of influence to Hatfield Forest SSSI/National Nature Reserve, is over 8km away and for modest development at 19 units. Importantly also, this site is also allocated in the emerging Local Plan (there is a duplicate allocation in the NP in order to reflect additional site-specific criteria). It is possible that new residents at Foxley House could visit Hatfield Forest and therefore add to existing recreational pressure on the SSSI/NNR. However, a development of just 19 dwellings at over 8km away, whilst registering some negative impact, is not likely to lead to **significant** effects on the environment. There are no other policies in the NP that have been identified with a potential impact on Hatfield Forest. With regards the emerging Local Plan, the Reg 19 Local Plan includes one further site allocation in Quendon which has now been constructed. The Local Plan also includes site allocations within Newport and these fall within the extended 14.6km zone of influence for Hatfield Forest SSSI/NNR. It is worth noting that that the draft policies in the Reg 19 Local Plan have all been subject to an SEA. The results of the environmental assessment for this site can be viewed in the Sustainability Appraisal for the Regulation 19 Local Plan on page 334 (see QUE 2), Table 110: Appraisal of sites – Type A villages (under 50 dwellings). https://www.uttlesford.gov.uk/media/8228/Uttlesford-District-Council-Local-Plan-Regulation-19-Sustainability-Appraisal-SA-Environmental-Report-June-2018/pdf/UDC_Reg_19_Local_Plan_SA_Environmental_Report_DRAFT_FOR_FU_LL_COUNCIL.pdf . As part of the Local Plan process, Uttlesford District Council and Natural England have agreed a mitigation strategy. It is understood that, in order to address cumulative impact on biodiversity, net residential development within the Hatfield Zone of Influence will be subject to proportionate contributions to deliver mitigation measures identified within the Visitor Survey and Impact Management 2018 ref 486 dated 13th June 2019) which will be in place by the time the Uttlesford Local Plan is adopted. As far as the Newport, Quendon & Rickling Neighbourhood Plan is concerned, whilst the Foxley House site allocation registers negative impacts in terms of biodiversity by virtue of its impact on the Hatfield Forest SSSI, these are not identified as significant and therefore the need for an SEA is not triggered.
- In terms of cumulative effects, it would not be appropriate to undertake SEA to assess the cumulative effects of the Neighbourhood Plan allocations and the emerging Local Plan combined since this has already been done through the SEA of the emerging Local Plan. The SEA Directive (see paragraph (9)) provides for avoidance of duplication between plans and programmes where there are plan hierarchies. In this case, the SEA assessment is appropriately undertaken at the parent plan level.

5. Legislative Background to HRA

- 5.1 The application of Habitats Regulation Assessment to land use plans is a requirement of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (the Habitats Regulations); the UK's transposition of European Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (widely referred as to the Habitats Directive). Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive requires that any plan (or project) which is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of a European site (also known as a Natura 2000 site), but would be likely to have a significant effect on such a site, either individually or in combination with other plans and projects, shall be subject to an 'appropriate assessment' of its implications for the European site in view of the site's conservation objectives. The plan-making body shall agree to the plan only after having ascertained that it will not adversely affect the integrity of the site concerned.
- 5.2 European sites provide ecological infrastructure for the protection of rare, endangered or vulnerable natural habitats of exceptional importance within the European Union. These sites consist of Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), designated under the Habitats Directive and Special Protection Areas (SPAs), designated under European Union Directive 2009/147/EC *on the conservation of wild birds* (the Birds Directive). The government also expects authorities to treat Ramsar sites, designated under the Convention of Wetlands of International Importance, UNESCO 1971, as if they are European sites.

6. HRA Screening for the Newport Quendon & Rickling NP

6.1 This section of the report:

- Considers whether there are any European sites which could potentially be affected by the Newport Quendon and Rickling NP.

6.2 Natura 2000 Sites

Natura 2000 is central to the EU nature and biodiversity policy and forms an EU wide network of nature protection areas. The aim of the network is to ensure the long-term survival of Europe's most valuable and threatened species and habitats.

The sites are designated under the European Union (EU) Birds Directive (Council Directive 79/409/EEC on the Conservation of Wild Birds) and the EU Habitats Directive (Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora).

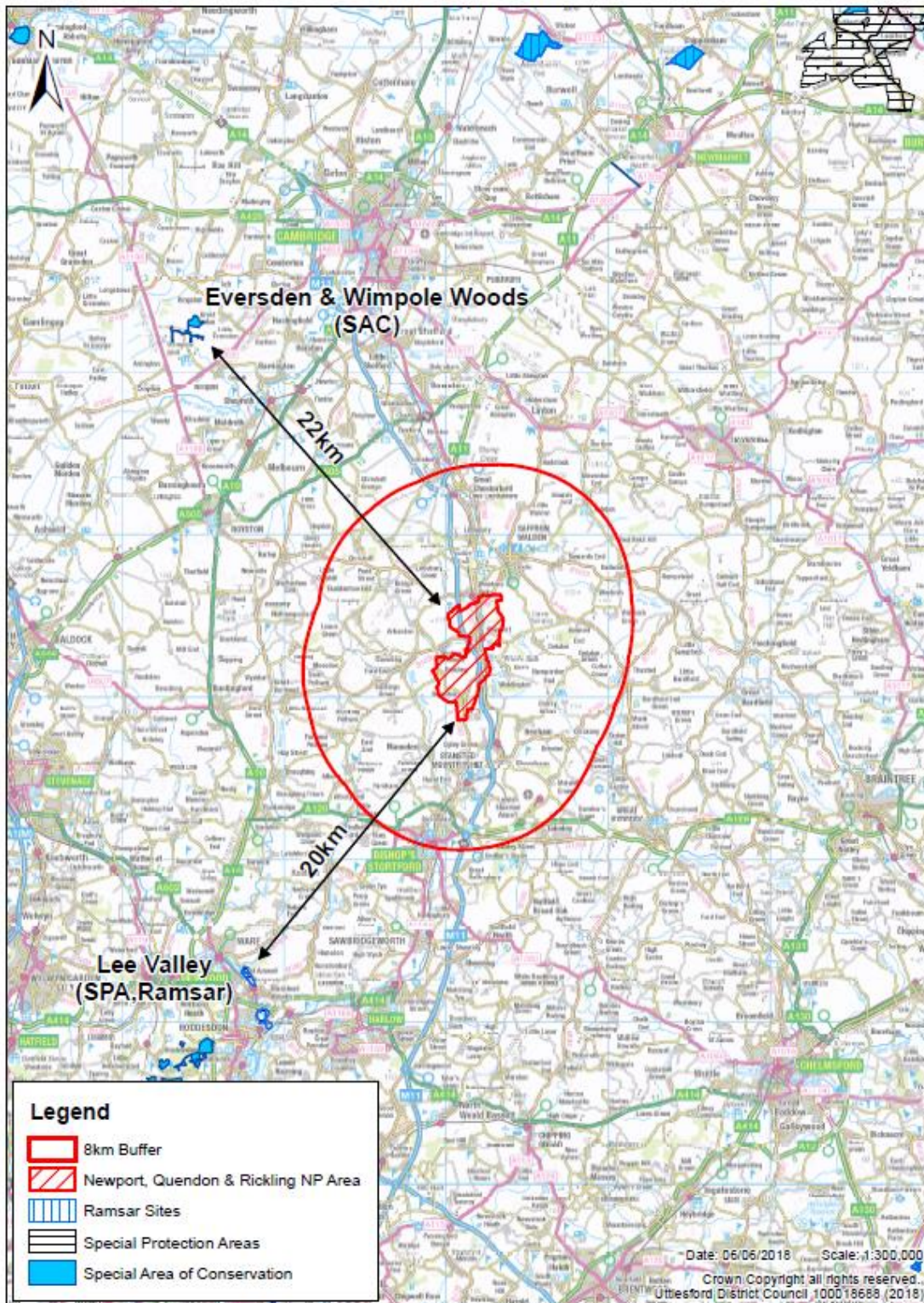
The Birds Directive requires the establishment of Special Protection Areas (SPAs) for birds. Similarly, the Habitats Directive requires Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) to be designated for other species, and for habitats. Ramsar sites (Wetlands of International Importance) are also part of the Natura 2000 network. SPAs and SACs comprise Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) and all Ramsar sites in England are SSSIs. The Natura Network in England comprises SPAs, SACs and Ramsar sites.

6.2.1 European Sites to be considered

As shown on Figure 2 below, there are no European sites which lie within or close to the Newport Quendon and Rickling NP area. The closest site is the Lee Valley SPA site which is located 20 km to the south west of the plan area. The other European site, Eversden & Wimpole Woods SAC is located 26 km to the north west of the plan area.

Both these sites are considered to be too far away to be subject to any impacts from the Newport, Quendon and Rickling Neighbourhood Plan.

**Figure 2: Newport, Quendon & Rickling Neighbourhood Plan Area
8km Buffer Zone**



7. Conclusions

7.1 Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)

The Newport Quendon and Rickling Neighbourhood Plan (NP) has been prepared for town and country planning purposes and sets a framework for future development. The policies in the Plan determine the use of small areas at a plan level commensurate with their status in local planning application determination. Identified development opportunities will be limited to small scale within development limits in Quendon

This is a preliminary view reached prior to consulting the statutory consultees: Natural England, Historic England and the Environment Agency

7.2 HRA Screening

The Neighbourhood Plan HRA Screening Assessment concludes that there are no European sites which need to be assessed for likely significant effects as a result of the Newport Quendon and Rickling NP.

Subject to Natural England's review, this HRA screening report indicates that the Newport Quendon and Rickling Neighbourhood Plan is not predicted to have likely significant effects on any European site, either in isolation or in combination with other plans and projects.

This is a preliminary view reached prior to consulting the statutory consultee: Natural England.

Appendix 2: Consultation Responses from the Statutory Environmental Bodies



Miss Demetria Macdonald
Uttlesford District Council
Council Offices London Road
Saffron Walden
Essex
CB11 4ER

Our ref: AE/2019/124316/01-L01
Your ref: SEA
Date: 14 August 2019

Dear Ms Macdonald

NEWPORT QUENDON & RICKLING NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN SCREENING OPINION FOR SEA AND HRA

Thank you for re-consulting us on the 16 July 2019 in regards to the SEA screening opinion for the Newport Quendon and Rickling Neighbourhood Plan. We have reviewed the documents as submitted and can confirm that we do not disagree with the conclusion reached.

Allocated sites

The amendments to the Neighbourhood plan remove two of the previously allocated sites. One site allocation remains at Foxley House which will be reviewed at application stage individually. We therefore do not disagree that the Neighbourhood Plan can be screened out of requiring a SEA report.

We trust the above is useful.

Yours sincerely

Miss Natalie Kermath
Planning Advisor

Direct dial
Direct e-mail

NATURAL ENGLAND: E-MAIL SENT 14/08/2019 at 17:06

Dear Demetria,

Thank you for your email requesting a revised screening opinion based on the changes to the neighbourhood plan you detail below.

We previously advised that there were unlikely to be significant effects on the Historic Environment caused by either the two site allocations that have been removed subsequently, nor the site allocation 2Que15 which remains. Our advice therefore remains that, as regards the historic environment, there are unlikely to be significant effects and we do not consider an SEA to be necessary from this perspective.

Please do contact me if you have any queries.

Kind regards,

Edward

Edward James MA BA ACIfA

Historic Places Adviser - East of England

Historic England

Direct Line:

Mobile:



Historic England

Brooklands | 24 Brooklands Avenue | Cambridge | CB2 8BU

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Date: 04 September 2019
Our ref: 288873
Your ref: SEA and HRA Screening



Hornbeam House
Crewe Business Park
Electra Way
Crewe
Cheshire
CW1 6GJ

T 0300 060 3900

BY EMAIL ONLY

Dear Demetria Macdonald

Newport, Quendon and Rickling Neighbourhood Plan – SEA and HRA Screening

Thank you for your consultation on the above dated 16 July 2019

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.

Natural England is a statutory consultee in neighbourhood planning and must be consulted on draft neighbourhood development plans by the Parish/Town Councils or Neighbourhood Forums where they consider our interests would be affected by the proposals made.

Newport, Quendon and Rickling Neighbourhood Plan

Natural England were previously consulted on the Newport, Quendon and Rickling Neighbourhood Plan SEA and HRA screening, responding within the letter dated 14th August 2018 (our reference 252274). At this time, the neighbourhood plan allocated for development of up to 150 dwellings; please see our previous response for Natural England's comments on this basis.

It is understood that the neighbourhood plan version subject to the current screening consultation has been revised, particularly in terms of the allocated development, which is now 19 dwellings at the site Land south of Foxley House, Quendon.

The neighbourhood plan in question also follows previous consultation with Natural England on the Uttlesford Local Plan. At this time, Natural England advised of the work that has been undertaken by the National Trust in relation to recreational pressure impacts, as a result of new residential development, on Hatfield Forest Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and National Nature Reserve (NNR). To date, research has been undertaken into visitor patterns, impacts and mitigation measures to Hatfield Forest SSSI/NNR and has included winter and summer visitor surveys which have identified a Zone of Influence (Zol) of 14.6km.

Whilst the work towards a strategic solution is being undertaken, Natural England advises that plans and projects falling within the Zol should consider the impacts on Hatfield Forest SSSI/NNR through the necessary assessments. As stated, the Newport, Quendon and Rickling Neighbourhood Plan allocates residential development of 19 dwellings within the plan area, which falls within the current Zol.

SEA and HRA Screening

Natural England notes the objectives of the plan and supports the overall aim of promoting sustainable development, however we also note that there is currently no objective that relates to the natural environment or biodiversity, outside of the objective referring to the rural landscape. This objective should be updated or a further objective in relation to the natural environment be included.

The SEA screening identifies the potential biodiversity and environmental issues associated with the Neighbourhood Plan, this in particular includes European designated sites and SSSIs and NNRs. For completeness it would be recommended that the hierarchy of designated sites forming the assessment is clear.

In relation to the SSSIs and NNRs, or Nationally designated sites, we welcome the assessment in relation to Debden Water SSSI and Quendon Wood SSSI. Due to the proximity of Quendon Wood SSSI to the proposed development, the plan should include a requirement for proposals to demonstrate no adverse impact on Quendon Wood SSSI.

Assessment is also made in relation to Hatfield Forest SSSI/NNR, however there is concern over the approach which has concluded to screen out the impacts as a result of the allocated Foxley House development. Whilst the scale and location of the development is understood, the current evidence base supporting the development of a recreational pressure strategic solution for the Forest indicates that all scales of residential development within the Zol will cumulatively have significant effects on the designated site. As such, Natural England is unable to agree within the conclusion of the assessment in that there is no likely significant effect relating to Hatfield Forest SSSI/NNR as a result of this allocation and on this basis no SEA is required.

Natural England would advise that further consideration within the SEA is given to the recreational pressure impacts on Hatfield Forest SSSI/NNR and to this end would recommend the inclusion of an appropriate policy, or policy wording that reflects the need for mitigation measures. Natural England's advice on such mitigation measures, based on the current available evidence and information is within our letter dated 5th May 2019 to the Local Planning Authorities within the Zol. Policy reference can be taken from the policy wording agreed for the Uttlesford Local Plan, within the Statement of Common Ground between Uttlesford District Council and Natural England.

In relation to the HRA screening, Natural England has no further comment and notes the conclusion of no Likely Significant Effects for any European designated site as a result of the neighbourhood plan, either alone, or in-combination. Please note however that the work being undertaken for the Epping Forest District Council Local Plan examination and accompanying HRA assessing the in-combination air quality impacts on the Epping Forest Special Area of Conservation (SAC) should be acknowledged until such a time as a decision has been made by the Local Plan Inspector.

Other comments

Guidance on the assessment of Neighbourhood Plans in light of the SEA Directive is contained within the [National Planning Practice Guidance](#). The guidance highlights three triggers that may require the production of an SEA, for instance where:

- a neighbourhood plan allocates sites for development
- the neighbourhood area contains sensitive natural or heritage assets that may be affected by the proposals in the plan
- the neighbourhood plan may have significant environmental effects that have not already been considered and dealt with through a sustainability appraisal of the Local Plan.

We have not assessed this Neighbourhood Plan/policies for the potential impacts to populations of protected species. It remains the case, that the responsible authority should provide information supporting this screening decision, sufficient to assess whether protected species are likely to be affected.

Notwithstanding this advice, Natural England does not routinely maintain locally specific data on all potential environmental assets. As a result the responsible authority should raise environmental issues that we have not identified on local or national biodiversity action plan species and/or habitats, local wildlife sites or local landscape character, with its own ecological and/or landscape advisers, local record centre, recording society or wildlife body on the local landscape and biodiversity receptors that may be affected by this plan, before determining whether an SA/SEA is necessary.

Please note that Natural England reserves the right to provide further comments on the environmental assessment of the plan beyond this SEA/SA screening stage, should the responsible authority seek our views on the scoping or environmental report stages. This includes any third party appeal against any screening decision you may make.

For any further consultations on your plan, please contact: consultations@naturalengland.org.uk.

Yours sincerely

Heather Read
Essex Area Delivery Team