

Date: 17 May 2013
Our ref: 85251
Your ref: HRA



Hannah Hayden
Planning Officer
Uttlesford District Council

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BY EMAIL ONLY

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Dear Ms Hayden

Planning Consultation: Uttlesford Pre Submission Draft Local Plan – Habitats Regulations Assessment Screening Report

Thank you for your consultation on the above document which was received by Natural England on 17 May 2013

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 welcomes the opportunity to provide comments on the Habitats Regulations Assessment (Screening Report) of the Uttlesford Pre Submission Draft Local Plan as a statutory consultee and specialist adviser on the application of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2012, the 'Habitats Regulations'.

We note in the introduction of the screening report that reference is made to the Conservation of Habitats and Species regulations 2010, we would point out that an amendment to the regulations came into force in August 2012.

We are generally satisfied that the screening report fully covers our concerns and consider that the screening assessment has been carried out in line with appropriate legislation and guidance. We can therefore confirm that we agree with the Report's conclusions that the Core Strategy would not be likely to have a significant effect on a European Site either alone or in combination with other plans or projects, and no further assessment work is required at this stage.

We would be happy to comment further should the need arise but if in the meantime you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact us.

For any queries relating to the specific advice in this letter only please contact Roslyn Deeming on 0300 060 1524. For any new consultations, or to provide further information on this consultation please send your correspondences to consultations@naturalengland.org.uk.

We really value your feedback to help us improve the service we offer. We have attached a feedback form to this letter and welcome any comments you might have about our service.

Yours sincerely

Roslyn Deeming
Land Use Adviser