

Uttlesford District Council

HABITATS REGULATION ASSESSMENT

Of

Pre Submission Draft Local Plan

April 2013



Uttlesford
District Council

Introduction

Uttlesford District Council is producing a Pre Submission Local Plan which sets out the spatial strategy, site allocations for housing, employment and education and development management policies for the District from 2016-2021.

This report documents the process and findings of a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) of the Uttlesford Pre Submission 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.

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.

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.

Pre-screening Data Collection

Through consultation with Natural England, the European Sites to be included within this assessment have been established.

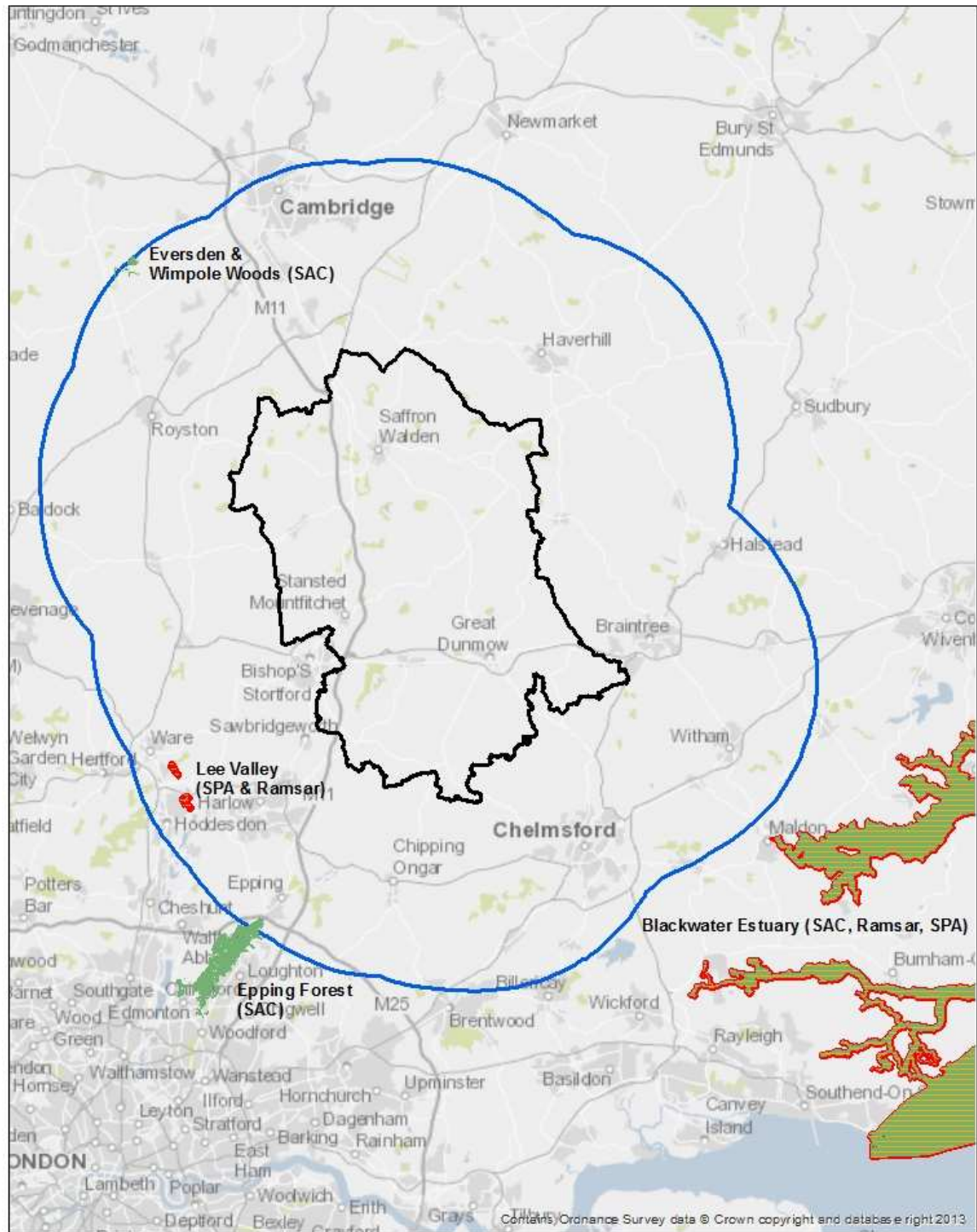
In order to identify the European Sites needed to be assessed a GIS based search was carried out for sites lying wholly or partially with 15km of the district boundary. This distance is consistent with standard practice and has been considered appropriate by Natural England in other local authorities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

- Lee Valley Rye Meads SPA & Ramsar
- Lee Valley Amwell Quarry SPA & Ramsar
- Eversden and Wimpole Woods SAC
- 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



- Key**
- Special_Protection_Areas
 - Special_Area_of_Conservation
 - Ramsar
 - District_Boundary
 - 15km Buffer Zone

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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 Pre Submission Local Plan may affect the integrity of the sites.

Site Name	Area	Location	Qualifying Features	Conservation Objectives	Condition	Vulnerable to.....
Epping Forest (SAC, SSSI)	1,600ha	The site lies approximately 14 km to the south of the District	Broad leaved deciduous woodland. North Atlantic wet heath, European dry heath, Stag Beetle	To maintain in favourable condition (or reserve if not in favourable condition) the beech forest, European dry heath, north Atlantic wet heaths and the habitats for the population of the Stag Beetle	83.66% meeting PSA target 35.66% favourable 48.24% unfavourable recovering 14.51% unfavourable no change 1.83% unfavourable declining 0% destroyed/part destroyed	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 epiphytic bryophyte 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 Corporation of

Site Name	Area	Location	Qualifying Features	Conservation Objectives	Condition	Vulnerable to.....
						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.
Eversden and Wimpole Woods (SSSI, SAC)	66.54 ha	This site lies approximately 14km to the north of the District.	Broadleaved, mix and yew woodland and Barbastelle Bat	To maintain in favourable condition (or restore if not in favourable condition) the broadleaved, mix and yew woodland.	100% meeting PSA target 39.88% favourable 60.12% favourable 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 Rye Mead & Amwell Quarry	97.42 ha	The sites lie approximately 11km south west of the	The Lee Valley comprises a series of embanked water supply reservoirs,	Rye Mead – to maintain the water level for submerged aquatic plants. Maintain suitable habitat	100% meeting PSA target 100% favourable	Standing waters and their surroundings are often a popular environment for recreational activities which should be

Site Name	Area	Location	Qualifying Features	Conservation Objectives	Condition	Vulnerable to.....
		District	sewage treatment lagoons and former gravel pits along approximately 24 km of the valley. These waterbodies support internationally important numbers of wintering gadwall and shoveler, while the reedbeds support a small but internationally important population of bittern. It also qualifies as a Ramsar by supporting the nationally scarce plant species whorled water-milfoil <i>Myriophyllum Verticillatum</i> and the rare or vulnerable invertebrate <i>Micronecta Minutissime</i> (a water-boatman)	for migrating birds. Amwell Quarry - To maintain the habitats associated with shallowly sloping margins that are not to exposed to wave action as they are important for many species associated with standing open waters. To maintain appropriate nesting and feeding conditions for birds		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.
Black Water	46109.9	The site lies	Mudflats, salt	Subject to natural change	98.49% meeting PSA	Coastal erosion. The main threat

Site Name	Area	Location	Qualifying Features	Conservation Objectives	Condition	Vulnerable to.....
Estuary SPA & Ramsar And Essex Estuaries SAC	ha	approximately 17 km south east of the District.	marshes and sandbanks. Over wintering of wildfowl and wading birds and breeding coastal birds.	to maintain estuaries and inter-tidal mudflats and sandbanks in a favourable condition	Target 23.15 Favourable 75.34 Unfavourable recovering 1.47 Unfavourable declining 0.04% destroyed/part destroyed	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 the Essex coast which seeks to provide a blueprint for managing the coastline sustainably. 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. Water-based recreation The control of motorised craft (with particular reference to jet-skies) is being addressed through

Site Name	Area	Location	Qualifying Features	Conservation Objectives	Condition	Vulnerable to.....
						<p>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</p> <p>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 water from adjacent ditches and use of tertiary treated sewage effluent.</p>

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

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 minutes 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 Reserves per thousand population.

Effects of Uttlesford Pre Submission 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 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 Flich 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 should seek to avoid 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.

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 Pre Submission Local Plan. However, as NO_x emissions are largely associated with road traffic it is reasonable to assume that the development proposed within the Pre Submission Local Plan could indirectly lead to an increase in NO_x emissions. It is for this reason that only NO_x is considered further.

According to the World Health Organisation the critical NOx concentration level for the protection of vegetation is 30 $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$.

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

Site	Critical Load Range (Kg N/ha/year)	Actual N Deposition ⁹	Actual Nox Concentration Critical Load ($\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$) 30	Grid Ref
Epping Forest	10-20	36.54	19.4	544176,200424
Lee Valley Ramsar sites	10-20	19.18	17.16	538642,210425
Eversden & Wimpole Woods	10-20	38.36	10.88	534546,252997
Black Water Estuaries	20-30	16.1	13.54	585822,207157

Effects of Uttlesford Pre Submission Local Plan

According to the Department of Transport Analysis Guidance 2012 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, NOx emissions resulting from vehicle movement associated with the Pre Submission Local Plan need not be considered further.

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.

However, in the Environment Agency's report on the revised EoE RSS 'Impact of EoE housing and Economic Growth Scenarios on Regional water supplies' it concluded that the water needs of the region could be met without an adverse effect on European Sites provided a range of water efficiency measures were introduced.

Anglian Water published its Water Resources Management Plan 2010 which assessed the impact of growth from 2010-2035 and concluded that, whilst they did not need to carry out a Habitats Regulations Assessment it recognises the impact their projects could have on European Sites and are working closely with Natural England and the Environment Agency to ensure there are no adverse impacts.

Effects of Uttlesford Pre Submission 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. 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.

Analysis of Uttlesford Pre Submission Local Plan – Policy Screening

The Pre Submission Local Plan is the new 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 Pre Submission 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 natural 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: Development within Development Limits	3	No
SP3: Employment Strategy	3	No
SP4: Land within the Airport	3	No

Policy Number & Title	Screening Results	Further Assessment Required
SP5: Retail Strategy	3	No
SP6: Meeting Housing Need	3	No
SP7: Housing Strategy	3	No
SP8: Phasing & Delivery of Housing	1	No
SP9: Environmental Protection	6	No
SP10: Minimising Flood Risk	2	No
SP11: Natural Resources	7	No
SP12: Renewable Energy & Energy Efficiency	7	No
SP13: Protection of the Countryside	6	No
SP14: Protecting the Historic Environment	6	No
SP15: Protecting the Natural Environment	6	No
SP16: Accessible Development	1	No
SP17: Access to Stansted Airport	1	No
SP18: Infrastructure	2	No
SP19: Open Space	1 & 6	No
SP20: Phasing and Delivery	3	No
Site Allocations		
Saffron Walden 1: Land between Radwinter Road & Thaxted Road & land south of the Lord Butler Leisure Centre and West of Thaxted Road	4	No
Saffron Walden 2: Land to the North of Thaxted Road	4	No
Saffron Walden 3: Former Willis and Gambier site, Radwinter Road	4	No
Saffron Walden 4: Land West of Little Walden Road	4	No
Saffron Walden 5: Land South of Ashdon Road	4	No
Saffron Walden 6: Other Residential Sites	4	No
Great Dunmow 1: Land north of Stortford Road and west of Woodside Way	4	No
Great Dunmow 2: Land West of Chelmsford Road	4	No
Great Dunmow 3: Woodlands Park	4	No
Great Dunmow 4: Land South of Ongar Road	4	No
Great Dunmow 5: Land North of Ongar Road	4	No
Great Dunmow 6: Other Residential Sites	4	No
Great Dunmow 7: Land north west of the Junction of the A120 with Chelmsford Road	4	No

Policy Number & Title	Screening Results	Further Assessment Required
Great Dunmow 8: Development Opportunity Sites	4	No
Elsenham 1: Land west of Station Road	5	No
Elsenham 2: Land west of Hall Road	5	No
Elsenham 3: Land south of Stansted Road	5	No
Elsenham 4: Land at the Orchard, Station Road	5	No
Elsenham 5: Land at Gaunts End	5	No
Great Chesterford 1: New World Timber and Great Chesterford Nursery, London Road	5	No
Great Chesterford 2: Land south of Stanley Road	5	No
Great Chesterford 3: Land next to the Community Centre	5	No
Newport 1: Bury Water Lane/Whiteditch Lane	5	No
Newport 2: Nursery Site north of Bury Water Lane	5	No
Newport 3: Land west of London Road by primary school	5	No
Newport 4: Other Residential Sites	5	No
Stansted Mountfitchet 1: St Mary's Primary School St Johns Road	5	No
Stansted Mountfitchet 2: Land at Lower Street	5	No
Stansted Mountfitchet 3: Foresthall Park	5	No
Stansted Mountfitchet 4: Other Residential Sites	5	No
Stansted Mountfitchet 5: Development Opportunity Site	5	No
Stansted Mountfitchet 6: Land at Alsa Street	5	No
Stansted Mountfitchet 7: Bury Lodge Lane	5	No
Takeley/Little Canfield 1: Land at the rear of Takeley Primary School	5	No
Takeley/Little Canfield 2: Land south of Dunmow Road and west of The Pastures/Orchard Fields	5	No
Takeley/Little Canfield 3: North View and 3 The Warren	5	No
Takeley/Little Canfield 4: Land at former Takeley Service Station and between Ridge House and Remarc	5	No
Takeley/Little Canfield 5: Land to the south of the B1256 between Olivias and New Cambridge House	5	No
Takeley/Little Canfield Policy 6: Priors Green	5	No
Takeley/Little Canfield 7: The Mobile Home Park	5	No
Thaxted 1: Sampford Road	5	No

Policy Number & Title	Screening Results	Further Assessment Required
Thaxted 2: Other Residential Sites	5	No
Clavering 1: Land to the rear of the shop and Oxleys Close	5	No
Clavering 2: Land at Jubilee Works, Stickling Green Road	5	No
Felsted 1: Land at Hartford End Brewery	5	No
Flitch Green 1: Land at Flitch Green	5	No
Great Hallingbury 1: Start Hill, Land South of B1256	5	No
Henham 1: Land at Blossom Hill Farm, South of Chickney Road	5	No
Henham 2: Land north of Chickney Road and west of Lodge Cottage	5	No
High Roding 1: Land at Meadow House Nursery	5	No
Leaden Roding 1: Holloway Crescent	5	No
Littlebury 1: Peggy's Walk	5	No
Little Chesterford 1: Chesterford Research Park	5	No
Manuden 1: Land off the Street	5	No
Radwinter 1: Land North of Walden Road	5	No
Stebbing 1: Land to east of Parkside and Garden Fields	5	No
Wendens Ambo 1: North of the B1039 and west of the B1383	5	No
Stansted Airport 1: Airport Related Employment	5	No
Stansted Airport 2: Development in the Terminal Support Area	5	No
Stansted Airport 3: Cargo Handling/Aircraft Maintenance Area	5	No
Stansted Airport 4: Development in the Southern Ancillary Area	1	No
Stansted Airport 5: Development in the Northern Ancillary Area	1	No
Stansted Airport 6: The Long Term Car Park	1	No
Stansted Airport 7: Strategic Landscape Areas	1	No
Stansted Airport 8: Public Safety Zone	1	No
Development Management Policies		
EMP1: Existing Employment Areas	1	No
EMP2: Non-Estate Employment Uses	1	
RET1: Town and Local Centres	1	
RET2: Loss of Village Shops and Other Facilities	1	
HO1: Residential Development in Settlements without Development Limits	1	
HO2: Subdivision of Dwellings and Dwellings in Multiple Occupancy	1	

Policy Number & Title	Screening Results	Further Assessment Required
HO3: Replacement dwellings in the Countryside	1	No
HO4: Residential Extensions	1	No
HO5: Affordable Housing	1	No
HO6: Housing Mix	1	No
HO7: Affordable Housing on Exception Sites	1	No
HO8: Agricultural Workers Dwellings	1	No
HO9: Removal of Agricultural/Rural Workers Dwelling Occupancy	1	No
HO10: Sites for Gypsies and Travelling Showpeople	1	No
EN1: Sustainable Energy	1	No
EN2: Environmental and Resource Management	1	No
EN3: Protection of Water Resources	6	No
EN4: Surface Water Flooding	1	No
EN5: Pollutants	1	No
EN6: Air Quality	1	No
EN7: Contaminated Land	1	No
EN8: Noise Sensitive Development	1	No
DES1: Design	1	No
DES2: Development at Stansted Airport	1	No
C1: The Stansted Airport Countryside Protection Zone	6	No
C2: Landscape Character	6	No
C3: Re-Use of Rural Buildings	1	No
C4: Change of use of Agricultural Land to Domestic Garden	1	No
HE1: Design of Development within Conservation Areas	6	No
HE2: Development affecting Listed Buildings	6	No
HE3: Scheduled Monuments and Sites of Archaeological Importance	6	No
HE4: Protecting and Enhancing the Natural Environment	6	No
HE5: Traditional Open Spaces and Trees	6	No
TA1: Vehicle Parking Standards	1	No
TA2: Car Parking Associated with Stansted Airport	1	No
INF1: Protection and Provision of Open Space, Sports Facilities and Playing Pitches	6	No
INF2: Provision of Community Facilities beyond Development Limits	1	No

Policy Number & Title	Screening Results	Further Assessment Required
INF3: Provision of outdoor sport and recreational facilities beyond development limits	1	No
INF4: Health Impact Assessments	1	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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'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 Pre Submission 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 2001-2031		Evesden and Wimpole Woods	No likely significant impact	No likely 'in combination' effect
East Hertfordshire	Core Strategy	2012	Epping Forest Lee Valley	Air quality issues – 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	Core Strategy	2009	Black Water Estuary	Recreational concerns	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	Site Allocations	2010	Black Water Estuary	Increased 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. No likely 'in combination' effect
Epping Forest	Core Strategy	2010	Lee Valley		

Housing Figures

Whilst the East of England Regional Spatial Strategy has been revoked it is still useful to help understand the possibility of any 'in combination' effect when looking at the overall housing growth for Uttlesford and adjoining local authorities.

The table below sets out the 2010 Draft Revision to the RSS for the East of England housing figures and the locally derived housing figures for adjoining local authorities. This shows that the total amount of proposed housing development for all districts, taken together, remains broadly the same as the RSS. The HRA of the RSS concluded that the level of housing could be provided without adverse effects on European Sites, it is therefore considered that Uttlesford Pre Submission Local Plan would not cause adverse effects on the European Sites when considered 'in combination' with other plans and projects.

Local Authority	RSS Housing Figures	LA Plan Housing Figures	Difference
Epping Forest	7,000	Range between 6,400-10,200	-600 to +3,200
Chelmsford	16,600	14,000	16,000
East Hertfordshire	13,600	Range between 10,000-17,000	Range between -3,600 04n + 3,400
Braintree	6,600	4,800	-1,800
South Cambridgeshire	21,000	Up to 23,000	+2,000
	64,800	58,200- 69,000	-6,600 or +4200

Conclusion

The HRA of the Pre Submission 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 Core Strategy Preferred Options 2007.

The first stage of the HRA process (screening) assessed the likely significant effects of the Pre Submission 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.