

Uttlesford District Council

Newport and Quendon & Rickling Neighbourhood Plan Review Habitat Regulations Assessment Screening Opinion (July 2026)

1. Introduction

- 1.1. This statement determines whether the Newport, Quendon and Rickling Neighbourhood Plan Review (NQRNP2) requires a full Appropriate Assessment under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended).
- 1.2. It is noted that the previous neighbourhood NQRNP1 was screened out in September 2019, this screening is updated to evaluate the modifications proposed in NQRNP2. Specifically, the allocation of land to the east of Newport village for residential development (Policy NQR2).

2. Relevant European Sites

- 2.1. As shown on Figure 2 of the NQRNP1 SEA/HRA screening assessment¹, 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.
- 2.2. Both these sites are considered to be too far away to be subject to any impacts from the Newport, Quendon and Rickling Neighbourhood Plan Review.
- 2.3. The inclusion of the 330 dwellings allocation in NQR2 although having localised and contained impacts within the parish. It does not fall within the recreational zone of influence for the relevant European sites and does not trigger the ecological pathway to significant effects.

3. Conclusion

- 3.1. Uttlesford District Council, as the competent authority concludes that the Newport, Quendon and Rickling Neighbourhood Plan Review (NQRNP2), either alone or in combination with other plans or projects, is **not likely to have a significant effect** on any European site.
- 3.2. Consequently, a full Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment is **not required**. This statement has been prepared prior to consultation with the relevant statutory bodies.

¹ Available online: <https://www.uttlesford.gov.uk/media/9803/Newport-and-Quendon-Rickling-Neighbourhood-Plan-Strategic-Environmental-Assessment-SEA-Screening-Determination-Statement-September-2019/pdf/6. Newport Quendon Rickling NP SEA Screening Determination Statement Fin Sept 2019-r-a.pdf?m=1568307478717>