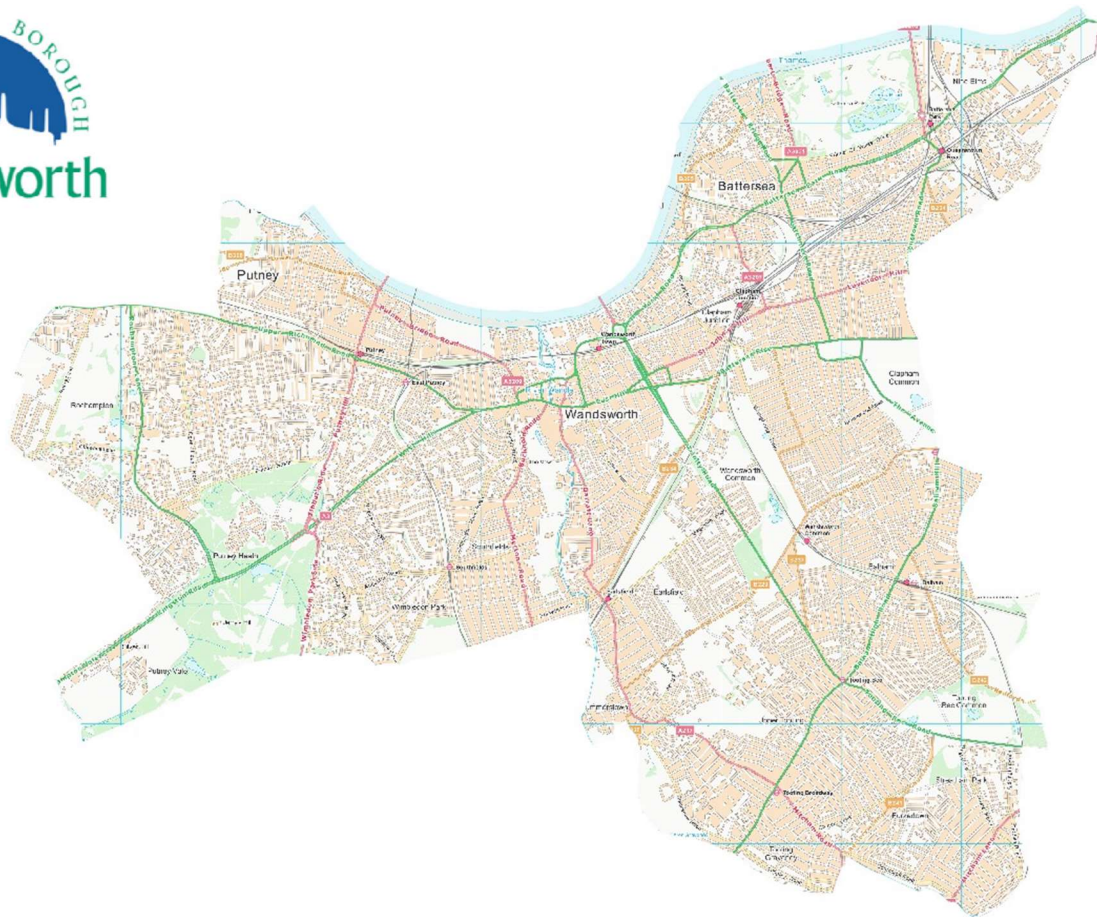


HABITATS REGULATIONS ASSESSMENT SCREENING REPORT

PREPARED FOR THE LONDON BOROUGH OF WANDSWORTH



Authored by Lauren Barraclough
Reviewed by Tom Whitworth
Approved by Mike Mair
Date August 2023
Version 4.0



REVISION HISTORY

Version	Date	Description	Prepared	Approved
1.0	Feb 2022	First draft	LB	DC
2.0	May 2022	For statutory consultation	LB	MM
3.0	Aug 2022	For public consultation	LB	MM
4.0	Aug 2023	Final version	CA	MM

LIMITATIONS

Metis Consultants Limited (Metis) have prepared this Report for the sole use of the Client. No other warranty, expressed or implied, is made as to the professional advice included in this Report or any other services provided by Metis. This Report is confidential and may not be disclosed by the Client nor relied upon by any other party without the prior and express written agreement of Metis.

The conclusions and recommendations contained in this Report are based upon information provided by others and upon the assumption that all relevant information has been provided by those parties from whom it has been requested and that such information is accurate. Information obtained by Metis has not been independently verified by Metis, unless otherwise stated in the Report.

The work described in this Report is based on the conditions encountered and the information available during the period of production. The scope of this Report and the services are accordingly factually limited by these circumstances.

Metis disclaim any undertaking or obligation to advise any person of any change in any matter affecting the Report, which may come or be brought to Metis' attention after the date of the Report.

Certain statements made in the Report that are not historical facts may constitute estimates, projections or other forward-looking statements and even though they are based on reasonable assumptions as of the date of the Report, such forward-looking statements by their nature involve risks and uncertainties that could cause actual results to differ materially from the results predicted. Metis specifically does not guarantee or warrant any estimate or projections contained in this Report.

The Client should take appropriate professional legal advice prior to implementing any recommendations made within this Report that may impact on the legal exposure of the Client.

COPYRIGHT

© This Report is the copyright of Metis Consultants Limited. Any unauthorised reproduction or usage by any person other than the addressee is strictly prohibited.

CONTACT DETAILS

Metis Consultants Ltd.
2 Sheen Road, Richmond
London, TW9 1AE
t. 020 8948 0249
e. info@metisconsultants.co.uk
w. metisconsultants.co.uk

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) is to assess whether a proposal will have any adverse impacts on European sites, also known as Natura 2000 sites. These sites include Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), Special Protection Areas (SPAs) and Ramsar sites. The process of the HRA is separated into three tasks with this Screening Report fulfilling the first task to test whether the proposal is likely to have a significant effect on the site's conservation objectives. The objective of this Screening Report is to identify and understand potential environmental impacts of the outcome of the objectives and associated actions presented in the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (LFRMS) and its Action Plan.

This screening identified one site within the administrative boundary of the London Borough of Wandsworth (Wandsworth) which is Wimbledon Common and is categorised as a SAC. Further sites were considered outside of the Wandsworth borough to account for any potential impacts caused as a result of interconnected natural processes. These additional sites include Richmond Park (SAC), South West London Waterbodies (SPA and Ramsar), Windsor Forest & Great Park (SAC) and Thames Estuary & Marshes (SPA and Ramsar).

Each of these sites have been assessed against each of the LFRMS strategic objectives determining if there would be any potential negative impacts from their implementation. No negative impacts were identified, and it is concluded that the implementation of the LFRMS and its Action Plan are not likely to cause adverse impacts to any of the relevant Natura 2000 sites assessed. The LFRMS strategic objectives and their actions aim to enhance and protect natural environments with the potential for the delivery of the LFRMS to support benefits for the conservation objectives at each of these sites.

Subsequently, all the five sites explored in this HRA Screening Report have been screened out at this stage of the HRA process and progression onto the Appropriate Assessment stage is not deemed necessary.

CONTENTS

1	INTRODUCTION	1
1.1	PURPOSE OF SCREENING	1
1.2	METHODOLOGY	1
1.3	HRA CONSULTATION QUESTIONS	2
1.4	LOCAL FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT STRATEGY	2
1.4.1	LFRMS SUMMARY	2
1.4.2	LOCAL AREA INFORMATION	3
1.4.3	STRATEGY OBJECTIVES	3
1.5	CONSULTATION PROCESS	3
2	IDENTIFICATION OF RELEVANT SITES	4
2.1	INTRODUCTION TO THE SITES	4
2.2	SITES WITHIN THE WANDSWORTH BOROUGH BOUNDARY	6
2.2.1	WIMBLEDON COMMON (SITE 1)	6
2.3	SITES IN PROXIMITY TO THE WANDSWORTH BOROUGH BOUNDARY	6
2.3.1	RICHMOND PARK (SITE 2)	6
2.3.2	SOUTH WEST LONDON WATERBODIES (SITE 3)	7
2.3.3	WINDSOR FOREST & GREAT PARK (SITE 4)	8
2.3.4	THAMES ESTUARY & MARSHES (SITE 5)	8
2.4	IDENTIFIED RELEVANT SITES CONSULTATION QUESTIONS	10
3	SCREENING ANALYSIS OF THE LOCAL FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT STRATEGY	11
3.1	SCREENING ANALYSIS SUMMARY	11
3.2	SCREENING ANALYSIS	11
3.3	SCREENING ANALYSIS OUTCOMES	12
3.3.1	LFRMS STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE A	12
3.3.2	LFRMS STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE B	12
3.3.3	LFRMS STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE C	12
3.3.4	LFRMS STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE D	12
3.3.5	LFRMS STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE E	13
3.3.6	LFRMS STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE F	13
3.4	SCREENING ANALYSIS CONSULTATION QUESTIONS	14
4	CONCLUSIONS AND NEXT STEPS	15
4.1	CONCLUSIONS	15
4.2	CONSULTATION OF THE HRA	15
4.3	CONCLUSION AND FURTHER COMMENTS CONSULTATION QUESTIONS	15

FIGURES AND TABLES

Figure 2-1 Location of relevant Natura 2000 sites in proximity to the Wandsworth borough..... 5

Table 1-1 Summary table of HRA stages and their purpose 1

Table 2-1 Wimbledon Common (Site 1) summary 6

Table 2-2 Richmond Park (Site 2) summary 7

Table 2-3 South West London Waterbodies (Site 3) summary 7

Table 2-4 Windsor Forest & Great Park (Site 4) summary 8

Table 2-5 Thames Estuary & Marshes (Site 5) summary 9

Table 3-1 Scoring matrix of LFRMS strategy objectives against HRA outcome criteria..... 11

Table 3-2 Legend criteria for Table 3-1 11

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

Abbreviation	Definition
DEFRA	Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
HRA	Habitats Regulations Assessment
JNCC	Joint Nature Conservation Committee
LFRMS	Local Flood Risk Management Strategy
LLFA	Lead Local Flood Authority
Ramsar	Ramsar Sites are wetlands of international importance designated under the Ramsar Convention
Richmond	London Borough of Richmond upon Thames
RMA	Risk Management Authority
SAC	Special Area of Conservation
SEA	Strategic Environment Assessment
SPA	Special Protection Area
Statutory Consultee	Natural England
Wandsworth	London Borough of Wandsworth
Wandsworth borough	The administrative area known as Wandsworth.
Wandsworth Council	The administrative body of people formally constituted for Wandsworth.
Wandsworth town centre	The specific geographical area of Wandsworth town, not referring to the Wandsworth borough.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Purpose of screening

The [Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations \(2017\)](#), also known as the Habitats Regulations, requires a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) to be undertaken to determine if a plan or proposal is likely to negatively impact a designated European site. European sites are also known as [Natura 2000 sites](#) and are protected sites such as a Special Area of Conservation (SAC), a Special Protection Area (SPA) and Ramsar sites - wetlands of international importance. Areas which are compensating for damage to a European site also require consideration within a HRA.

A Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (LFRMS) requires review through the process of a HRA. The purpose of this HRA Screening Report is to complete task 1 of the HRA to establish if the LFRMS strategic objectives for the London Borough of Wandsworth (Wandsworth) and/or their associated actions are likely to cause any significant damage to habitats within protected areas. The initial screening stage of a HRA has the purpose to assemble evidence of any potentially significant or likely effects, and to then assess these to see if progression to the appropriate assessment stage of the HRA process is necessary, further detail is provided in *Section 1.2*.

1.2 Methodology

A HRA is separated into three tasks:

- Task 1: identifying any significant effects
- Task 2: assessing ways to mitigate any significant effects
- Task 3: considering any exemptions

Each of these stages is specified under guidance provided by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), Natural England, and additional Welsh governing bodies.

This report will complete task 1 of the HRA procedure to conclude if there are likely to be any adverse effects on sensitive sites from the proposed LFRMS strategic objectives and their actions. If negative impacts are found, then progression onto the appropriate assessment stage will be required. It is a requirement that the HRA screening assessment must go through a statutory consultation period when the evidence will be scrutinised by the appropriate statutory consultees. The HRA only has one organisation legally required to review the report which is Natural England (statutory consultee). The full process of a HRA is displayed in *Table 1-1*.

Table 1-1 Summary table of HRA stages and their purpose

HRA stages	Purpose of task
Task 1: Screening	To check if the strategy, plan, or proposal is likely to have a significant effect on a European site’s conservation objectives.
Task 2: Appropriate Assessment	To assess the likely significant effects of the proposal in more detail and identify ways to avoid or minimise any effects.

HRA stages	Purpose of task
Task 3: Derogation	To consider if proposals that would have an adverse effect on a European site quality for exemption.

1.3 HRA consultation questions

A requirement of the HRA screening is to consult statutory consultees and allow any other stakeholders or parties to review the outcomes. To fulfil this a set of questions have been assembled, which align with each section and step taken in this Screening Report. Statutory consultation bodies were asked to respond to these consultation questions during the public consultation phase of this document. A full list of the consultation questions has been included below for completeness.

Identifying relevant sites

1. Do you feel we have included all of the most relevant Natura 2000 sites which may be significantly affected by the implementation of the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy? If not, please state other sites which you believe we have missed.
2. Do you feel we have included all relevant information for these sites?

Screening analysis

3. Do you have any comments on the method for the assessment of the HRA sites against the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy strategic objectives?
4. Do you agree with the screening analysis for each of the objectives? If not, please give reasons as to why you would screen a certain objective differently.

Conclusions and further comments

5. Do you have any comments on the conclusions that we have made in this HRA Screening Report of the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy?
6. Do you have any additional comments or suggestions for this HRA Screening Report?

1.4 Local Flood Risk Management Strategy

1.4.1 LFRMS summary

Under the [Flood and Water Management Act \(FWMA\) \(2010\)](#) the Wandsworth Council was established as the Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA). Under the same legislation it is also required that the LLFA must produce and/or update a LFRMS as per the strategy period, typically every six years, as part of their statutory duties. Within the LFRMS there are a number of strategic objectives and actions formed which explain how the LLFA plans to manage local flood risk within its borough. Additional documents are also required such as a detailed Action Plan of what the actions are to achieve each LFRMS strategic objective, a monitoring and reviewing plan to observe progress, a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Screening Report and this HRA Screening Report. The purpose of the HRA Screening Report has been presented in *Section 1.1* and is required of any plan or policy that has the potential to impact Natura 2000 sites.

1.4.2 Local area information

The Wandsworth borough is one of 32 London boroughs and is located within Greater London. The River Thames flows along the northern edge of the Wandsworth borough boundary. The Wandsworth borough borders the London Boroughs of Lambeth (east), Merton (south) and Richmond upon Thames (west). The borough is mostly low lying and has four main rivers flowing through the borough which are the River Thames, River Wandle, River Graveney and the Beverley Brook.

1.4.3 Strategy objectives

Listed below are the strategic objectives from the LFRMS for the Wandsworth borough. These LFRMS objectives were written in unison with the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames (Richmond) due to the collaborative partnership between the two boroughs in delivering their LLFA duties. As part of the HRA screening process these strategic objectives will be assessed against each of the sensitive European sites identified in *Section 1.1* and *2.3* to distinguish if they will have any potential effect on these sites.

- A. To improve our knowledge and understanding of the risk of flooding and the interactions between different sources of flooding across the London Borough of Wandsworth.
- B. To encourage appropriately mitigated development across the London Borough of Wandsworth by promoting sustainable multi-beneficial solutions to contribute to wider social, economic, and environmental outcomes.
- C. To seek and identify funding and resources available for a targeted approach to flood risk management.
- D. To proactively manage sources of local flooding to homes, critical infrastructure, and transport networks by establishing and maintaining partnerships with key organisations, including the Environment Agency and Thames Water.
- E. To work with Risk Management Authorities to raise awareness of flood risk with communities, residents, and businesses, and how they can take action to protect themselves and their property by contributing to the management and reduction of flood risk.
- F. To use knowledge of flood risk and climate change projections to inform and adapt the emergency response to flooding within the London Borough of Wandsworth.

1.5 Consultation process

This HRA Screening Report is required to go through a consultation process in which Natural England, the statutory consultee, will review and provide comments on the screening. The six HRA consultation questions presented in *Section 1.3* are repeated under their relevant chapters throughout this HRA Screening Report. A public consultation was undertaken during Spring/Summer 2023 of all the LFRMS documents, and any feedback has been incorporated into the final versions of these documents accordingly.

2 IDENTIFICATION OF RELEVANT SITES

2.1 Introduction to the sites

The first step in undertaking a HRA is to identify any European sites (Natura 2000 sites) that are within or are in proximity to the Wandsworth borough. Only one designated site has been identified within the Wandsworth borough which is Wimbledon Common which is designated a SAC. Although the actions of the LFRMS are to operate within the Wandsworth borough there is still the possibility of impacts beyond the Wandsworth borough due to the natural systems being interconnected. Because of this the additional Natura 2000 sites of Richmond Park (SAC), South West London Waterbodies (SPA & Ramsar), Windsor Forest & Great Park (SAC) and Thames Estuary & Marshes (SPA & Ramsar) have also been included as relevant sites.

Section 2.2 will present the habitat and special designation summaries for the site within the Wandsworth borough and *Section 2.3* will present those outside the borough boundary. The information for both these sections has been sourced from [Natural England](#), the [Joint Nature Conservation Committee \(JNCC\)](#) and [DEFRA's Magic Map facility](#). A map displaying the locations of the relevant sites within and in proximity to the Wandsworth borough can be viewed in *Figure 2-1*.

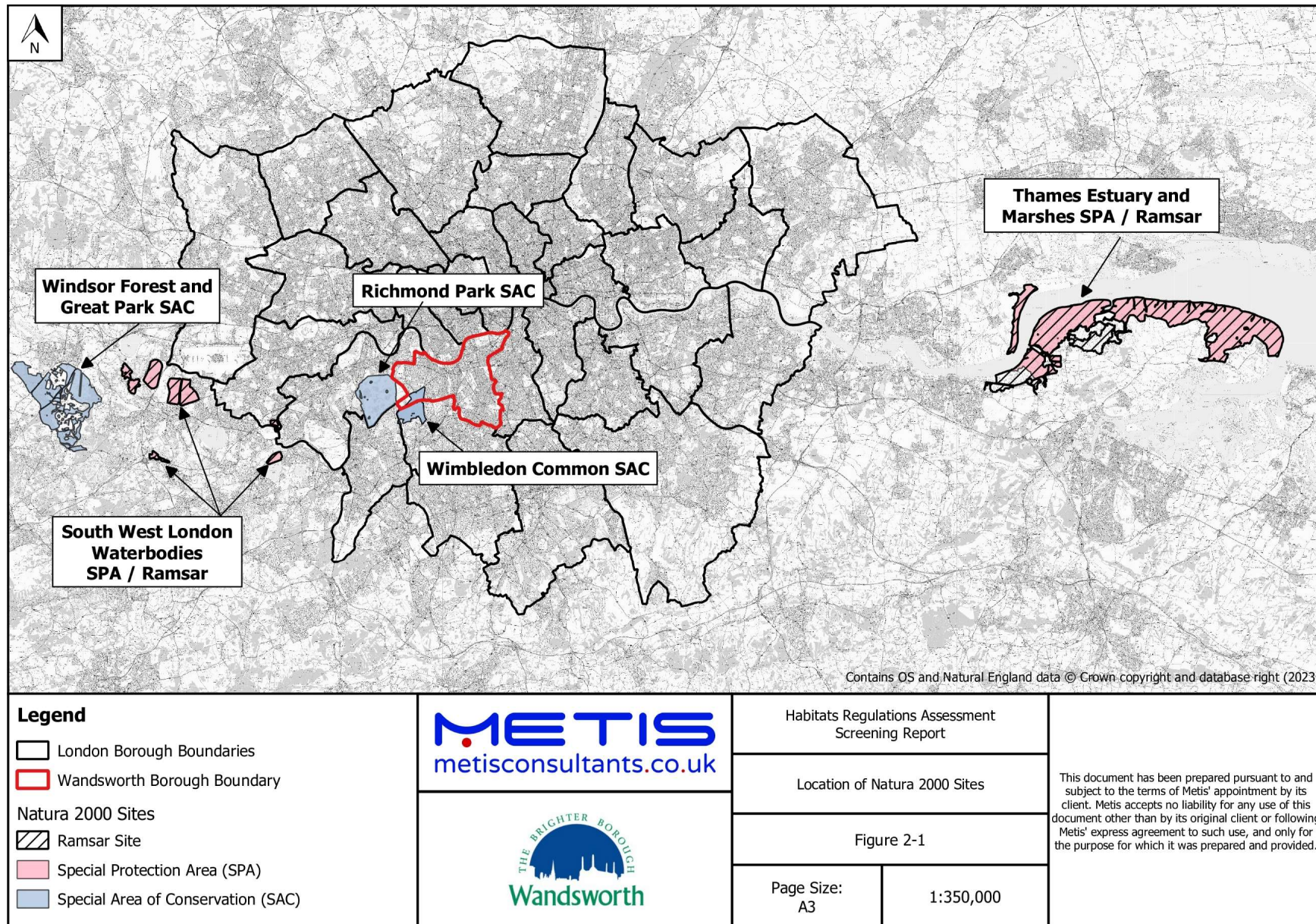


Figure 2-1 Location of relevant Natura 2000 sites in proximity to the Wandsworth borough

2.2 Sites within the Wandsworth borough boundary

2.2.1 Wimbledon Common (Site 1)

Wimbledon Common was chosen because it is situated within the Wandsworth borough. This site therefore has the potential to be affected by one or more actions within the LFRMS Action Plan and/or further activities involved with delivering the LFRMS. *Table 2-1* summarises the habitat information including the qualifying habitats and species for the SAC designation at Wimbledon Common, and the pressures and threats facing them.

Table 2-1 Wimbledon Common (Site 1) summary

Site name	Wimbledon Common
Site designation	SAC
EU code	UK0030301
Area (Ha)	351.38
Qualifying species and/or habitat features	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • H4010 Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> • H4030 European dry heaths • S1083 Stag beetle, <i>Lucanus cervus</i>
General site character	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inland water bodies (Standing water, Running water) (1%) • Bogs, Marshes, Water fringed vegetation, Fens (0.5%) • Heath, Scrub, Maquis and Garrigue, Phygrana (5%) • Dry grassland, Steppes (45%) • Improved grassland (3.5%) • Broad-leaved deciduous woodland (45%)
Current pressure and/or threats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public access / disturbance, affecting H4010, H4030, S1083 • Habitat fragmentation, affecting S1083 • Invasive species. affecting H4010, H4030, S1083 • Air pollution (impact of atmospheric nitrogen deposition), affecting H4010 and H4030
Evidence sources	European Site Conservation Objectives for Wimbledon Common SAC - UK0030301 Site Improvement Plan – Wimbledon Common

2.3 Sites in proximity to the Wandsworth borough boundary

2.3.1 Richmond Park (Site 2)

Richmond Park has been included as a relevant site because it is sited in the neighbouring borough of Richmond. This is in close proximity to the Wandsworth borough and actions from the LFRMS and Action Plan are likely to be delivered in partnership with the Richmond LLFA due to the combined authority approach taken. *Table 2-2* summarises the habitat information including the qualifying habitats and species for the SAC designation at Richmond Park, and the pressures and threats facing them.

Table 2-2 Richmond Park (Site 2) summary

Site name	Richmond Park
Site designation	SAC
Eu code	UK0030246
Area (ha)	846.27
Qualifying species and/or habitat features	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • S1083 Stag beetle, <i>Lucanus cervus</i>
General site character	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inland water bodies (Standing water, Running water) (1.5%) • Bogs, Marshes, Water fringed vegetation, Fens (0.5%) • Heath, Scrub, Maquis and Garrigue, Phygrana (25%) • Dry grassland, Steppes (18%) • Humid grassland, Mesophile grassland (5%) • Improved grassland (20%) • Broad-leaved deciduous woodland (25%) • Mixed woodland (5%)
Current pressure and/or threats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No current pressures and/or threats affecting the Natura 2000 feature(s) have been identified on this site
Evidence sources	Richmond Park Special Area of Conservation (SAC) Site Improvement Plan – Richmond Park

2.3.2 South West London Waterbodies (Site 3)

The South West London Waterbodies have been included as a relevant site because of their proximity to the Wandsworth borough indicating that they may be impacted on by the actions taken in delivering the LFRMS. *Table 2-3* summarises the habitat information including the qualifying habitats and species for the SPA and Ramsar designation for the South West London Waterbodies, and the pressures and threats facing them.

Table 2-3 South West London Waterbodies (Site 3) summary

Site name	South West London Waterbodies
Site designation	SPA and Ramsar
Eu code	UK9012171
Area (ha)	830.26
Qualifying species and/or habitat features	<p>SPA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gadwall, <i>Anas strepera</i> - A051, nb • Shoveler, <i>Anas clypeata</i> - A056, nb <p>Ramsar</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gadwall, <i>Anas strepera</i> - Wintering • Shoveler, <i>Anas clypeata</i> - Wintering
General site character	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved grassland (20%) • Broad-leaved deciduous woodland (5%) • Humid grassland, Mesophile grassland (5%) • Inland water bodies (Standing water, running water) 70%
Current pressure and/or threats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public access / disturbance, affecting A051 and A056 • Changes in species distributions, affecting A051 and A056 • Invasive species, affecting A051 and A056

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Natural changes to site conditions, affecting A051 and A056 • Fisheries: fish stocking, affecting A051 and A056 • Inappropriate weed control, affecting A051 and A056
Evidence sources	Standard Data Form – UK9012171 European Site Conservation Objectives for South West London Waterbodies SPA - UK9012171 Site Improvement Plan – South West London Waterbodies

2.3.3 Windsor Forest & Great Park (Site 4)

Windsor Forest & Great Park has been included as a relevant site because of its proximity to the Wandsworth borough indicating that it may be impacted on by the actions taken in delivering the LFRMS. *Table 2-4* summarises the habitat information including the qualifying habitats and species for the SAC designation for Windsor Forest & Great Park, and the pressures and threats facing them.

Table 2-4 Windsor Forest & Great Park (Site 4) summary

Site name	Windsor Forest & Great Park
Site designation	SAC
Eu code	UK0012586
Area (ha)	1685.92
Qualifying species and/or habitat features	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • H9120 Atlantic acidophilous beech forests with Ilex • H9190 Old acidophilous oak woods with Quercus robur on sandy plains • S1079 Violet click beetle, <i>Limoniscus violaceus</i>
General site character	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inland water bodies (Standing water, Running water) (0.5%) • Dry grassland, Steppes (4.5%) • Mixed woodland (95%)
Current pressure and/or threats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forestry and woodland management, affecting H9120, H9190 and S1079 • Invasive species, affecting H9190 and S1079 • Disease, H9190 • Air pollution (impact of atmospheric nitrogen deposition), affecting H9120 and H9190
Evidence sources	Windsor Forest and Great Park Special Area of Conservation (SAC) European Site Conservation Objectives for Windsor Forest & Great Park SAC - UK0012586 Site Improvement Plan – Windsor Forest and Great Park

2.3.4 Thames Estuary & Marshes (Site 5)

The Thames Estuary & Marshes have been included as a relevant site because the site is downstream of the Wandsworth borough within the River Thames catchment. As the Wandsworth borough is situated alongside the River Thames it is important to consider that this site has the potential to be impacted upon by changes to flows from the Wandsworth borough into the River Thames, for example in terms of water quantity and water quality. *Table 2-5* summarises the

habitat information including the qualifying habitats and species for the SPA and Ramsar designation for the Thames Estuary & Marshes, and the pressures and threats facing them.

Table 2-5 Thames Estuary & Marshes (Site 5) summary

Site name	Thames Estuary & Marshes
Site designation	SPA and Ramsar
Eu code	UK9012021
Area (ha)	4802.47
Qualifying species and/or habitat features	<p>SPA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avocet, <i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i> - A132-A, nb • Black-tailed godwit, <i>Limosa limosa islandica</i> - A616, nb • Dunlin, <i>Calidris alpina alpina</i> - A672, nb • Grey plover, <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i> - A141, nb • Hen harrier, <i>Circus cyaneus</i> - A082, nb • Knot, <i>Calidris canutus</i> - A143, nb • Redshank, <i>Tringa totanus</i> - A162, nb • Ringed plover, <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i> - A137, nb • Waterbird assemblage <p>Ramsar</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Black-tailed godwit, <i>Limosa limosa</i> - Wintering • Dunlin, <i>Calidris alpina</i> - Wintering • Grey plover, <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i> - Wintering • Knot, <i>Calidris canutus</i> - Wintering • Redshank, <i>Tringa totanus</i> - Wintering • Ringed plover, <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i> - Passage • Waterbird assemblage - Wintering • Wetland invertebrate assemblage • Wetland plant assemblage
General site character	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dry grassland, Steppes (1.9%) • Bogs, Marshes, Water fringed vegetation, Fens (3.7%) • Shingle, Sea cliffs, Islets (0.9%) • Inland water bodies (Standing water, Running water) (5.6%) • Humid grassland, Mesophile grassland (29.1%) • Salt marshes, Salt pastures, Salt steppes (1.5%) • Tidal rivers, Estuaries, Mud flats, Sand flats, Lagoons (including saltwork basins) (57.3%)
Current pressure and/or threats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coastal squeeze, affecting A132, A141, A082, A143, A162, A137 and waterbird assemblage • Public access / disturbance, affecting A132, A141, A082, A143, A162, A137 and waterbird assemblage • Invasive species, affecting A132, A141, A082, A143, A162, A137 and waterbird assemblage • Changes in species distributions, affecting A132, A141, A082, A143, A162, A137 and waterbird assemblage • Fisheries: commercial marine and estuarine, affecting A132, A141, A082, A143, A162, A137 and waterbird assemblage

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Vehicles (illicit) affecting A132, A141, A082, A143, A162, A137 and waterbird assemblage
Evidence sources	Standard Data Form – UK9012021 European Site Conservation Objectives for Thames Estuary & Marshes SPA - UK9012021 Site Improvement Plan – Greater Thames Complex

2.4 Identified relevant sites consultation questions

Questions asked during the consultation exercise based upon the screening analysis conducted:

1. Do you feel we have included all of the most relevant Natura 2000 sites which may be significantly affected by the implementation of the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy? If not, please state any additional sites which you believe should be included.
2. Do you feel we have included all the relevant information for each of these sites?

3 SCREENING ANALYSIS OF THE LOCAL FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

3.1 Screening analysis summary

The screening analysis will evaluate each of the proposed LFRMS strategic objectives against the sites identified in Sections 2.2 and 2.3. Each HRA site will be compared with each of the LFRMS strategic objectives to determine if there will be no effect, a potential effect, or a potentially significant effect on any of the Natura 2000 sites. The LFRMS strategic objectives will then be screened to reach a conclusion of whether progression onto the Appropriate Assessment stage is required.

3.2 Screening analysis

Table 3-1 displays the scoring matrix which includes the analysis of each LFRMS strategic objective and whether there are any negative effects to the Natura 2000 sites previously noted. The criteria applied in this matrix has been presented in Table 3-2. The justification for these outcomes is detailed in Section 123.3 and additional conclusions on whether a LFRMS strategic objective has been screened out of the HRA process at this screening stage have further been noted. As depicted in Table 3-1 there are no potential effects or potentially significant effects recorded for any of the sites, indicating that none of LFRMS strategic objectives pose any effect to the sensitive designated sites identified in this Screening Report.

Table 3-1 Scoring matrix of LFRMS strategy objectives against HRA outcome criteria

		HRA Site Number				
		1	2	3	4	5
LFRMS Strategy Objective	A	0	0	0	0	0
	B	0	0	0	0	0
	C	0	0	0	0	0
	D	0	0	0	0	0
	E	0	0	0	0	0
	F	0	0	0	0	0

Table 3-2 Legend criteria for Table 3-1

0	The strategic objective will have no effect on a Natura 2000 site.
-	The strategic objective could have a potential negative effect on a Natura 2000 site.
--	The strategic objective could have a potential significant negative effect on a Natura 2000 site.
?	Uncertain

3.3 Screening analysis outcomes

3.3.1 LFRMS strategic objective A

To improve our knowledge and understanding of the risk of flooding and the interactions between different sources of flooding across the London Borough of Wandsworth.

This objective aims to improve the knowledge the Wandsworth LLFA holds on flood risk, this is unlikely to produce any impact on Natura 2000 sites, as many of the associated actions of this LFRMS strategic objective are passive activities. No development will come from this LFRMS strategic objective and improving understanding of flood risk could potentially help to steer development away from these sensitive areas. As a result, this LFRMS strategic objective has been screened out of the HRA process.

3.3.2 LFRMS strategic objective B

To encourage appropriately mitigated development across the London Borough of Wandsworth by promoting sustainable multi-beneficial solutions to contribute to wider social, economic, and environmental outcomes.

It is not likely that this LFRMS strategic objective will affect a Natura 2000 site. This LFRMS strategic objective does address development, but this must be delivered in a mitigated and sustainable manner. The actions behind this LFRMS strategic objective will not affect these sensitive areas as the focus of development will be in urban centres. LFRMS strategic objective B aims to offer multiple benefits from the delivery of its actions, so it has the potential to support the protected status of European sites. For these reasons LFRMS strategic objective B has been screened out at stage 1 of the HRA.

3.3.3 LFRMS strategic objective C

To seek and identify funding and resources available for a targeted approach to flood risk management.

There is no potential for development to occur through this LFRMS strategic objective alone because the securing of funding is an initial step of a development proposal. Often funding grants for flood alleviation schemes include conditions such as improving biodiversity which would have the potential to positively support Natura 2000 sites. These added requirements also encourage the local planning authority to meet biodiversity and environmental targets set by the UK Government and other organisations. It is unlikely that actions around funding will negatively impact any of these sites which is why this LFRMS strategic objective has been screened out.

3.3.4 LFRMS strategic objective D

To proactively manage sources of local flooding to homes, critical infrastructure, and transport networks by establishing and maintaining partnerships with key organisations, including the Environment Agency and Thames Water.

This LFRMS strategic objective is not likely to affect any Natura 2000 sites. LFRMS strategic objective D is focused on partnership working in which the actions will not lead to any direct development as they are focused on the relationships between the LLFA and stakeholders such as the Environment Agency and Thames Water. Collaborative working between stakeholders is likely to

improve communication and subsequently produce better outcomes from flood risk schemes on the natural environment. Supporting a strong relationship between the LLFA and Natural England has the potential to establish better practices and opportunities in terms of uniting flood prevention measures with environmental benefits. For the above reasons this LFRMS strategic objective has been screened out.

3.3.5 LFRMS strategic objective E

To work with Risk Management Authorities to raise awareness of flood risk with communities, residents and businesses, and how they can take action to protect themselves and their property by contributing to the management and reduction of flood risk.

It is unlikely that this LFRMS strategic objective will pose a potential effect or potentially significant effect on Natura 2000 sites. By raising awareness of flood prevention measures and support local communities to take action in flood risk reduction there is the prospect of local people taking a deeper interest in caring for the environments around them. This LFRMS strategic objective and its associated actions do not lead to direct development so can be justified as not having an effect on Natura 2000 sites. There is the potential for some impact by actions taken by individuals if they add their own flood risk management infrastructure. However, this is unlikely to have a significant effect on these sites as actions to improve resident awareness will be delivered in a complementary way that promotes how the natural environment should be improved through flood risk management infrastructure. The actions involved with this LFRMS strategic objective are intended to help conserve and enhance the natural, built and/or historic environment. These are not likely to have an effect on Natura 2000 sites so is therefore screened out of the HRA screening assessment process.

3.3.6 LFRMS strategic objective F

To use knowledge of flood risk and climate change projections to inform and adapt the emergency response to flooding within the London Borough of Wandsworth.

This LFRMS strategic objective is about the emergency response to flood risk within the Wandsworth borough and how climate change projections support this. The impacts from climate change are and will continue to be thought out in the management of flood risk and implementation of flood resilience measures. By doing this the Wandsworth borough can become more resilient to the impacts of flooding and better prepared when flooding incidents do occur. Actions associated with this strategic objective are unlikely to have any adverse effects on Natura 2000 sites. LFRMS actions could instead offer benefits to these sites by providing an opportunity for partnership working in mitigating the impacts of climate change. This LFRMS strategic objective does not pose a negative effect on Natura 2000 sites and is consequently screened out at this stage.

3.4 Screening analysis consultation questions

Questions asked during the consultation exercise based upon the screening analysis conducted:

3. Do you have any comments on the method for the assessment of the HRA sites against the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy strategic objectives?
4. Do you agree with the screening analysis for each of the objectives? If not, please give reasons as to why you would screen a certain objective differently.

4 CONCLUSIONS AND NEXT STEPS

4.1 Conclusions

Results from the screening analysis have shown that none of the proposed LFRMS strategic objectives will have negative impacts on the Natura 2000 sites that have been identified for the Wandsworth borough. The LFRMS strategic objectives and their associated actions have the aims to enhance and protect the natural environment, directly and indirectly. Because of this there is the potential for some LFRMS actions to support positive outcomes for these sensitive sites, for example by increasing awareness of connected environmental issues. Natura 2000 sites beyond this study were not included as they were not considered to be geographically linked with the Wandsworth borough and were not considered to be vulnerable to the plans of this LFRMS. The results of this HRA screening analysis therefore concludes that the LFRMS does not require progression onto the Appropriate Assessment stage and does not require a full HRA.

4.2 Consultation of the HRA

The final stages of the HRA screening process involved undertaking a statutory consultation with the statutory consultee on the scope of the HRA and its analysis of the sensitive site identified. This was undertaken during Spring/Summer 2022. Following actioning the required amendments, a public consultation was conducted during Spring/Summer 2023 to ensure adequate review time for all relevant stakeholders. Feedback received from the stakeholders and statutory consultee has now been incorporated into the final version of this HRA Screening Report and all other related LFRMS documents.

4.3 Conclusion and further comments consultation questions

Questions asked during the consultation exercises based upon conclusions and this HRA Screening Report as a whole:

5. Do you have any comments on the conclusions that we have made in this HRA Screening Report of the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy?
6. Do you have any additional comments or suggestions overall for this HRA Screening Report?