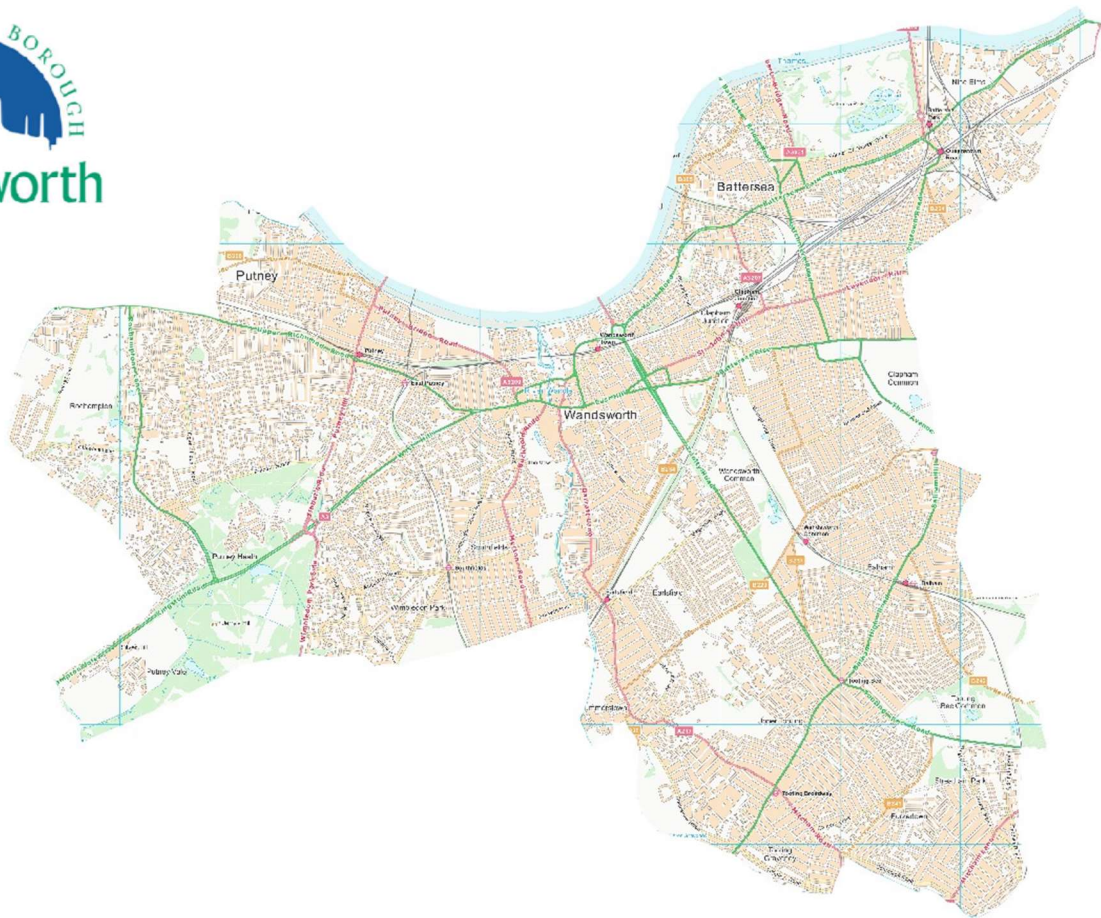


# STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT SCREENING REPORT

PREPARED FOR THE LONDON BOROUGH OF WANDSWORTH



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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is to evaluate whether a plan or programme will pose any significant environmental impacts through its implementation and delivery. The SEA process contains five stages this Screening Report being the product of Stage A, the 'Screening Assessment'. 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. Through this screening process an informed decision on whether the LFRMS requires progression onto later stages of the SEA process can be determined.

The baseline information for this SEA Screening Report reviewed environmental, social and economic factors for the following indicators:

1. Biodiversity, flora and fauna
2. Infrastructure assets
3. Population
4. Public health
5. Air quality
6. Climate factors
7. Soil and water
8. Historic and cultural environments

These indicators have revealed a number of factors affecting the London Borough of Wandsworth (Wandsworth) which may then have potential impacts for the delivery of the Wandsworth borough's flood risk management. The Wandsworth borough is expected to experience one of the fastest population growth rates in London by 2029. This will add pressure on infrastructure and is likely to encourage development with the potential for increasing the impermeable area within the Wandsworth borough. Development is also likely to cause pressures to the many open areas of land in the borough that are classified for conservation purposes. There are a growing number of children and young people suffering from mental health disorders, putting additional pressure on health care services. Air quality is also a strong concern in the Wandsworth borough and is also a high priority for improvement across the whole of London due to high levels of air pollution. There are also issues relating to water quality as both of the borough's Water Framework Directive (WFD) waterbodies do not meet good ecological status. Finally, the impacts from climate change, which link with many of these other issues, is set to increase in the future putting additional pressure on infrastructure, resources and health.

Based on the issues raised the following SEA objectives have been created:

- **SEA 1:** To maintain a target of only planting native species within the Wandsworth borough including the control and eradication of non-native invasive species.
- **SEA 2:** To make efforts to conserve rare and endangered species by supporting local biodiversity and food chains, whilst managing threats to these species.
- **SEA 3:** To effectively manage transport and infrastructure for a growing population and the effects of climate change.
- **SEA 4:** To support the connection between people and nature to help improve quality of life and manage negative mental health.
- **SEA 5:** To establish more green travel networks and more environmentally friendly modes of transport in order to improve air quality, reduce CO2 emissions and increase physical and mental health.

- **SEA 6:** To prevent any decline in water quality and secure water resources for the future, improving WFD status of waterbodies where possible.
- **SEA 7:** To conserve and enhance heritage assets and their settings particularly those at risk from neglect, decay or development pressures where flood risk or changes to the water table are a risk.

The screening analysis of the SEA objectives against the LFRMS strategic objectives indicates that the LFRMS and its associated actions are not likely to have any negative impact on the SEA issues identified in this Screening Report. The results show that there is a predicted neutral or positive impact of the LFRMS strategic objectives on the SEA objectives. The LFRMS has suitably considered the delivery of its actions regarding local environmental issues and no negative impact is predicted reasoning that the LFRMS does not require progression onto the advanced stages of the SEA process.

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# ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

Abbreviation	Definition
EA	Environment Agency
FWMA	Flood and Water Management Act (2010)
HRA	Habitats Regulations Assessment
JSNA	Joint Strategic Needs Assessment
LFRMS	Local Flood Risk Management Strategy
LLFA	Lead Local Flood Authority
NO <sup>2</sup>	Nitrogen Dioxide
PM10	Particles less than ten microns
Richmond	London Borough of Richmond upon Thames
RMA	Risk Management Authority
SAC	Special Area of Conservation
SEA	Strategic Environmental Assessment
SSSI	Sites of Special Scientific Interest
Statutory Consultees	Environment Agency, Historic England and 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

A Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is undertaken in order to judge if actions, plans and/or strategies have the potential to pose significant environmental risk to a specific area. A SEA is required to be completed under the [European SEA Directive \(2001\)](#) so that any environmental risks from actions being carried out can be identified. The SEA’s main function is to review these tasks and where necessary make sufficient considerations for where alternative actions could be used to minimise risk to the local or wider environment, including economic environmental and social factors.

The aim of this SEA screening assessment is to establish and understand the risks of implications to the local environment from the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (LFRMS). This will be done by assessing each of the proposed LFRMS strategic objectives and their associated actions which are detailed in the LFRMS Action Plan. By recognising the risks to the London Borough of Wandsworth (Wandsworth), a conclusion can then be drawn to decide if the LFRMS requires additional investigation through the appropriate assessment stage of the SEA programme.

## 1.2 Methodology

There are five stages to a SEA which each have their own various tasks to meet the objective of each stage, a summary of this is presented in *Table 1-1*. The output of Stage A is a Screening Report which is what this document entails. Progression onto the later stages of a SEA is only required if potentially significant impacts on the environment are found. The tasks within Stage B collate the relevant details in preparation for the Environmental Report which is drafted in Stage C. The Environmental Report, alongside the plan/programme/strategy it is assessing, was then assessed by the statutory consultees during Spring/Summer 2022. The following tasks in Stage E were then undertaken by assessing the reviews and outcomes from the consultation.

**Table 1-1 Summary table of stages in a SEA**

	SEA Stages	SEA Tasks
Screening Stage	<b>Stage A:</b>  Setting the context and objectives, establishing the baseline and deciding on the scope.	A1: Identifying other relevant policies, plans and programmes and environmental protection objectives.
		A2: Collecting baseline information.
		A3: Identifying environmental issues and problems.
		A4: Developing the SEA objectives and framework.
		A5: Consulting on the scope of the SEA.
Appropriate Assessment Stages	<b>Stage B:</b>  Developing and refining options and assessing affects.	B1: Testing the plan objectives against SEA objectives.
		B2: Developing strategic alternatives.
		B3: Predicting the effects of the plan, including alternatives.
		B4: Evaluating the effects of the plan, including alternatives.
		B5: Mitigating adverse effects.
	B6: Proposing measures to monitor the environmental effects of implementing the plan.	
<b>Stage C:</b>	C1: Preparing the environmental report.	



SEA Stages	SEA Tasks
Preparing the environmental report.	
<b>Stage D:</b> Consulting on the draft strategy and the SEA report.	D1: Consulting on the draft strategy and environmental report with the public and consultation bodies. D2: Assessing significant changes. D3: Making decisions and providing information.
<b>Stage E:</b> Monitoring the significant effects of implementing the strategy.	E1: Developing aims and methods for monitoring. E2: Responding to adverse effects.

### 1.3 SEA consultation questions

A requirement of the SEA procedure is to provide questions for use at consultation of the SEA Screening Report, which were responded to by statutory consultation bodies outlined in *Section 1.5*. The full list of consultation questions is displayed below for completeness and are separated under each task that has been completed.

#### Task A1: Legislation, plans and policies

1. Do you feel we have included all relevant policies, documents, plans and legislation that relate to or could affect the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy?
2. If not, what additional documentation do you think should be included?

#### Task A2: Baseline data

3. Do you agree that the baseline data we have included is appropriate to the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy that is being developed? If no, please provide reason(s).
4. Do you have, or know of, any additional baseline indicators or data that should be added into this SEA Screening Report? Please provide any appropriate links and/or documents.
5. As far as you are aware, is the baseline data correct? if no, please provide any appropriate links and/or documents with correct data.

#### Task A3: Environmental issues affecting the borough

6. Do you agree that these are the main environmental issues relating to the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy affecting the Wandsworth borough? If no, what are the main issues you believe should be included?
7. Are there any other environmental issues that you believe should be added into this SEA Screening Report? If so, please give details.
8. Do you consider any of these environmental issues to not affect the Wandsworth borough? If so, please give details.

#### **Task A4: Proposed SEA objectives**

9. Do you agree that these proposed SEA objectives are suitable in the context of the Wandsworth borough?
10. Are there any other SEA objectives that you believe should be included? If so, please give details.

#### **Task A5: Screening analysis**

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

#### **Conclusions and further comments**

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

## **1.4 Local flood risk management strategy**

### **1.4.1 LFRMS summary**

Wandsworth Council is appointed the Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) for the Wandsworth borough under the [Flood and Water Management Act \(FWMA\) \(2010\)](#). This same legislation establishes the statutory duties a LLFA must fulfil which includes the delivery of an updated LFRMS every six years, or when changes in legislation occur, often in line with Flood Risk Management Plans. Within the LFRMS a set of aims and objectives are established which detail how the LLFA will manage flood risk for the next six-year period. In addition to this there is also a set of accompanying documents which includes an Action Plan of how to deliver these actions, a monitoring and reviewing plan to track progress, a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) Screening Report, and this SEA Screening Report. The intention of this SEA is summarised in *Section 1.1* and is a requirement of any strategy that has the potential to cause impacts to the local environment.

### **1.4.2 Local area information**

The Wandsworth borough is one of 32 London boroughs and is situated in South London. The River Thames runs along the northern boundary of the borough with the London boroughs of Lambeth (East), Merton (South) and Richmond (West) bordering the remainder of the borough.

### **1.4.3 LFRMS strategic 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 SEA Screening process these strategic objectives will be assessed against the SEA objectives established in *Section 5.2*.

- 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

The SEA Screening Report is required to go through a consultation process which has involved three statutory consultee bodies which are: the Environment Agency (EA), English Heritage and Natural England. This took place between Spring/Summer 2022 and, where necessary, amendments have been included within this version of the SEA. The 14 SEA consultation questions presented in *Section 1.3* will be repeated under their relevant sections throughout this Screening Report. A public consultation took place in Spring/Summer 2023 of all the LFRMS documents, and feedback has been incorporated into the final versions of these documents.

## 2 IDENTIFICATION OF RELEVANT POLICIES

### 2.1 Task A1 summary

Task A1 is to identify any relevant policies, plans and programmes and environmental protection objectives. To do this a list of all relevant policies, documents and legislations that could impact upon the LFRMS and its actions in relation to the SEA objectives have been compiled, these are covered in *Section 2.2*.

### 2.2 Relevant policies

The relevant policies and legislations at a range of levels including international, national, regional and local, must be suitably considered when undertaking a SEA. *Table 2-1* has listed these policies, some of which overlap with those previously included within the LFRMS main report and can be found in Section 1 of the Wandsworth borough LFRMS.

**Table 2-1 Table of relevant policies and legislations to the SEA**

International
<a href="#">UNESCO World Heritage Convention (1972)</a>
<a href="#">Convention for the Protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe (1985)</a>
<a href="#">EU Habitats Directive (1992)</a>
<a href="#">The Valletta Treaty (<i>formally European Convention on the Protection of Archaeological Heritage</i>) (1992)</a>
<a href="#">EU Water Framework Directive (2000)</a>
<a href="#">European Landscape Convention (2000)</a>
<a href="#">European SEA Directive (2001)</a>
<a href="#">EU Floods Directive (2007)</a>
<a href="#">EU Birds Directive (2009)</a>
<a href="#">EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 (2020)</a>
National
<a href="#">Ancient Monuments &amp; Archaeological Areas Act (1979)</a>
<a href="#">Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981)</a>
<a href="#">Environmental Protection Act (1990)</a>
<a href="#">Planning (Listed Buildings &amp; Conservation Areas) Act (1990)</a>
<a href="#">Land Drainage Act (1991)</a>
<a href="#">The UK Biodiversity Action Plan (1994)</a>
<a href="#">Civil Contingencies Act (2004)</a>
<a href="#">Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (2006)</a>
<a href="#">The Pitt Review - Lessons learned from the 2007 summer floods (2007)</a>
<a href="#">The SuDS Manual C753F (2015)</a>
<a href="#">Climate Change Act (2008)</a>
<a href="#">Future Water: The Government's Water Strategy for England (2008)</a>
<a href="#">Flood Risk Regulations (2009)</a>
<a href="#">Flood and Water Management Act (2010)</a>
<a href="#">Biodiversity 2020: A strategy for England's wildlife and ecosystem services (2011)</a>
<a href="#">National Standards for Sustainable Drainage Systems (2011)</a>
<a href="#">National Planning Policy Guidance (NPPG) (2012)</a>
<a href="#">Water Act (2014)</a>

<a href="#">DEFRA: 25 Year Environment Plan (2018)</a>
<a href="#">National Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy for England (NFCERMS) (2020)</a>
<a href="#">Meeting our Future Water Needs: A National Framework for Water Resources (2020)</a>
<a href="#">Environment Act (2021)</a>
<a href="#">National Planning Policy Framework (2012, revised 2021)</a>
<a href="#">National Planning Practice Guidance (2016, revised 2021)</a>
<b>Regional</b>
<a href="#">Thames Catchment Flood Risk Management Plan (2009)</a>
<a href="#">Mayor of London's Climate Change Adaptation Strategy (2011)</a>
<a href="#">Thames Estuary 2100 Flood Risk Management Plan (2012)</a>
<a href="#">Thames River Basin District, River Basin Management Plan (2015)</a>
<a href="#">London Regional Flood Risk Appraisal (2018)</a>
<a href="#">The London Plan (2021)</a>
<b>Local</b>
<a href="#">Local Development Framework: Development Management Plan (2011)</a>
<a href="#">Wandsworth's Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment (2011)</a>
<a href="#">Wandsworth's Local Plan (2016)</a>
<a href="#">Wandsworth's Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (2016)</a>
<a href="#">Wandsworth's Environment and Sustainability Strategy (2019-2030)</a>
<a href="#">Wandsworth's Biodiversity Strategy (2021)</a>
<a href="#">Wandsworth's Air Quality Action Plan (2021-2025)</a>
<a href="#">Wandsworth's Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (2021)</a>
<a href="#">Wandsworth's Surface Water Management Plan (2021)</a>

## 2.3 A1 consultation questions

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

1. Do you feel we have included all relevant policies, documents, plans and legislation that relate to or could affect the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy?
2. If not, what additional documentation do you think should be included?

## 3 BASELINE INFORMATION

### 3.1 Task A2 summary

Task A2 is to collect baseline information. To do this baseline information on the Wandsworth borough was collated from a variety of sources and was used to determine any key environmental issues that may exist in the Wandsworth borough. Although the SEA Screening Report is primarily focused on issues and effects from an environmental perspective, additional social and economic baseline indicators have been included to provide a wider scope of any potential impacts from the actions in the LFRMS. The baseline information was collected in 2022 prior to public consultation taking place.

### 3.2 Wandsworth borough characteristics

There is a variety of different assets and infrastructure within the Wandsworth borough. The Wandsworth borough has four main rivers which are the River Wandle, River Graveney, Beverley Brook and the River Thames. The highest point within the Wandsworth borough is recorded in Putney Heath where the topography then reduces towards the River Thames in the north and the River Wandle in the east. Particular assets of note within the borough are its rail assets which include the Southwestern railway line and London Underground networks of the District Line, Northern Line and the London Overground Line. The main town centres are Wandsworth town centre, Balham, Clapham Junction, Putney and Tooting, with additional district centres in Earlsfield, Roehampton and Southfields. The borough also has notable conservation sites such as Wimbledon Common which is a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). Further details on the borough are described in the following sections presenting the baseline information for the area.

### 3.3 Baseline information

In this section the baseline information for the borough will be investigated for the following environmental, social and economic parameters: biodiversity, flora and fauna, infrastructure assets, population, public health, air quality, climate factors, soil and water, and historic and cultural environments. This information will assist in distinguishing any potential effects the LFRMS could cause to the local environment and residents in the Wandsworth borough.

#### 3.3.1 Biodiversity, flora and fauna

The Wandsworth borough has the aim of becoming inner-London's greenest borough as set out in [Wandsworth's Air Quality Action Plan \(2021-2025\)](#). There are many benefits behind having a variety of green infrastructure, which is what the Wandsworth borough has to offer. There are 34 parks and eight allotments within Wandsworth, in addition to other green spaces across the borough, which totals 1,700 acres, as noted in the borough's [Environment and Sustainability Strategy \(2019-2030\)](#). Targets within Wandsworth's Air Quality Action Plan include planting predominantly indigenous species to support local ecological systems and increasing tree coverage in open spaces and along streets to conserve and enhance biodiversity. In accordance with Wandsworth's [Biodiversity Strategy \(2021\)](#), there is a total of over 3,149 different species with 24 different habitat types found in the borough, this includes rare and endangered species, including peregrine falcons, black redstarts and stag beetles. *Table 3-1* presents a summary of the number of sites in the Wandsworth borough with special designations.

**Table 3-1 Designated sites of natural importance in the Wandsworth borough**

Designation	No. of sites	Site names
Special Area of Conservation	1	Wimbledon Common
Site of Specific Scientific Interest	1	Wimbledon Common
Local Nature Reserves	1	Battersea Park
Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation	31	Including Wandsworth Park

In addition to sites listed in *Table 3-1* Wandsworth will also be delivering appropriate actions in line with the requirement to produce a [Local Nature Recovery Strategy](#), which must agree priorities for the recovery of nature and map existing valuable areas for nature and plans to improve habitats in alignment with wider environmental goals.

### 3.3.2 Infrastructure assets

Like all London boroughs, the Wandsworth borough has a significant amount of critical infrastructure with some that is vulnerable to the risk of flooding from a variety of individual or combined sources. Details on the types on infrastructure and numbers of these assets in the Wandsworth borough has been presented in *Table 3-2* applying data from the [Wandsworth Infrastructure Delivery Plan \(2022\)](#). The Wandsworth borough has a variety of green infrastructure which has the potential to help tackle climate change, enhance the health and wellbeing of the public and increase biodiversity.

**Table 3-2 Infrastructure assets in the Wandsworth borough**

Type of infrastructure	Details of assets
Transport	440km roads (33.5km of TfL network)
Educational	11 Secondary Schools
Community Facilities	84 football, 6 cricket, 16 rugby, 3 hockey, 22 small third generation artificial grass pitches, 2 full size third generation artificial grass pitches, 165 tennis courts, 19 netball courts, 12 alternative sport pitches (touch rugby, ultimate frisbee etc)
Green and Blue Infrastructure	18 parks and gardens (323 Ha), 7 natural and semi-natural greenspaces (293 Ha), 92 amenity greenspace sites (169 Ha), 78 play locations, 9 allotments, 12 cemeteries/churchyards.
Health Infrastructure	40 GP practices, 9 Primary Care Networks

Further infrastructure assets that should be made clear in this SEA Screening Report are the number of properties at risk of surface water flooding within the borough. There are nearly 6,000 residential properties at risk for a 1 in 100-year rainfall event, exact figures and additional information on the numbers of properties at risk in the Wandsworth borough is presented in *Table 3-3* which has been extracted from the [Wandsworth Surface Water Management Plan \(2021\)](#).

**Table 3-3 Properties at risk of flooding from surface water in the Wandsworth borough**

	Residential	Other	Unclassified	Total
1 in 30-year rainfall event	1,890	708	198	2,796
1 in 100-year rainfall event	5,836	2,103	550	8,489
1 in 1000-year rainfall event	21,854	7,067	1,747	30,668



### 3.3.3 Population

The [Joint Strategic Needs Assessment \(JSNA\) \(2021\)](#) has estimated that the Wandsworth borough has a population of over 328,000 which is the second largest population of any inner London borough. By 2029 the population is estimated to reach above 373,000 which is one of the fastest population growth rates in London. National population is expected to continue growing for some years before beginning to plateau, and the same can be expected for the borough. Local population change is due to natural change (more births than deaths) and by housing developments, 60% of the Wandsworth borough's projected population increase will occur in the wards of Queenstown, Fairfield, St Mary's Park and Thamesfield.

The Wandsworth borough has one of the youngest populations in the country with a median age of around 33.7 years which is below the London average of 35.1 as per statistics in the Wandsworth borough's JSNA (2021). It is further projected that the largest forecast increase of population numbers will take place in the 20-29 age band due to internal migration from other parts of the UK. With the largest population increase being by 42% in the age band of 60+ years.

Population growth does cause the potential for adverse impacts due to the level of development associated with the growth. For instance, new transport infrastructure can fragment habitats through a loss of green corridors or by the addition of new structures crossing rivers and can contribute to poor water quality through increased road runoff. The impacts of infrastructure development as a result of population growth upon biodiversity and the water environment should be considered.

### 3.3.4 Public health

The JSNA (2021) states that, in the Index of Multiple Deprivation 2019, the Wandsworth borough ranked 173<sup>rd</sup> of 317 local authorities across England in terms of deprivation, with the number one ranked borough being the most deprived. As such the Wandsworth borough is within 50% of the least deprived local authorities in England whereas in 2015 it was within the 50% of the most deprived local authorities. Further to this the Wandsworth borough remains within the least deprived third of London local authorities between 2015 and 2019. Overall, in England the Wandsworth borough ranks as one of the least deprived local authorities for four of seven deprivation indexes including income; employment; education, skills and training; health deprivation and disability.

Presently the Wandsworth borough is performing lower than the national average across all immunisation programmes, this is largely a result of high population mobility, increasing population, increasing financial pressures and stresses on healthcare services. Emotional and mental health of children and young people is a key concern with an estimated 5,800 people aged 5-19 with a diagnosable mental health disorder. Adult obesity has decreased in the Wandsworth borough and figures are significantly below the averages for London and England. The proportion of people walking and cycling to work is also higher than the averages for England and London as reported in the JSNA (2021).

### 3.3.5 Air quality

Air quality in the Wandsworth borough is poor and a strategic Action Plan for how to improve this is laid out in [Wandsworth's Air Quality Action Plan \(2021-2025\)](#). This Action Plan states that the

Wandsworth borough is yet to achieve good air quality standards including compliance with both Nitrogen Dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) and particulate matter of less than ten microns (PM<sub>10</sub>). The main sources of particulate matter are indicated to come from outside of London, and even from outside the UK, and are emitted from diesel vehicles and construction sites. There are however significant contributions to pollution in local centres which comes from transport, which is also the main source of NO<sub>2</sub> in addition to emissions from heating. Between 2016 and 2019 there was a significant decrease in the number of exceedances of the one-hour mean NO<sub>2</sub> target from 1,248 (2016) to 11 (2019) with the target being 18 exceedances within an annum.

### 3.3.6 Climate factors

The most recent carbon emissions data for the Wandsworth borough shows that in 2017/18 the borough's total emissions were roughly 26,576 tonnes, but had decreased by 39% since 2008/09 as reported in the [Wandsworth Environment and Sustainability Strategy \(2019-2030\)](#). Energy usage by the borough between the years of 2016/17 and 2017/18 had increased both for gas and electric consumption. However, the Wandsworth borough was positioned below the London average and the UK average for CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per capita in 2016. Wandsworth Council has targets to achieve carbon neutral status as an organisation by 2030 and zero carbon by 2050.

The Wandsworth borough is reported to be in the top eight London boroughs for the least amount of collected household waste per person and is within the top 20 nationally according to the [Wandsworth Environment and Sustainability Strategy \(2019-2030\)](#). The amount of household waste has been declining for the past nine years.

Climate pressures from rising atmospheric temperatures is expected to exacerbate storm events and rising sea levels. This in addition to contributing to a multitude of possible effects as a result. These are predicted to include heatwaves, droughts and variable weather conditions, which are all likely to put additional pressure on infrastructure and services within the borough. The Wandsworth borough is situated within a water deficit in the UK and climate impacts will further intensify this issue. Extreme levels of temperature could also impact on health and welfare of the elderly and very young population. Effects of this change on wildlife could cause species displacement and a rise in diseases, pests and non-native species.

### 3.3.7 Soil and water

The Environment Agency has identified two waterbodies within the borough, to monitor the implementation of the [Thames River Basin Management Plan](#), these are:

- The River Wandle (from Croydon to Wandsworth) and the River Graveney
- The Beverley Brook (Motspur Park to the River Thames) and Pyl Brook (at West Barnes)

These waterbodies are recognised under the [EU Water Framework Directive \(2000\)](#) and are defined as being 'heavily modified' and do not meet WFD standards of good ecological status, according to [EA's catchment data explorer](#) as of February 2022. A 'heavily modified' waterbody is considered such if the changes to its hydromorphological characteristics would be necessary for achieving good ecological status. And if this would have adverse effects on the wider environment, navigation (including port facilities or recreation), water storage activities, water regulation, flood protection, land drainage of other sustainable human development activities. Further explanation can be found [here](#).

It should be noted that there is the potential for conflicts between conserving the historical and cultural environment and trying to implement WFD measures. The need for conserving heritage assets such as in channel structures, for example, could make alternative flood risk-reduction works unfeasible. Wherever possible opportunities should be taken to increase biodiversity (through the creation of fish passages and re-naturalising rivers) and increase water quality.

### 3.3.8 Historic and cultural environment

The Wandsworth borough has a number of historic and cultural sites which include various important and archaeological heritage sites and/or monuments. There are approximately 500 listed buildings and additional buildings of local importance, these include properties such as bridges across the River Thames, burial tombs in cemeteries, houses, churches, schools and cinemas. A summary of the numbers of historical and cultural important monuments in the Wandsworth borough is displayed in *Table 3-4*.

In addition to listed buildings the Wandsworth borough hosts six protected sites which are of special historical importance. There are also a large number of parks and gardens of special interest locally. There are also some important landmarks to note which are Battersea Power Station, London Heliport, Young’s Brewery and the Peace Pagoda. Wandsworth has several historically designated [conservation areas](#) and has no scheduled monuments. The Wandsworth borough does host 23 Archaeological Priority Areas, important non-designated assets, which cover approximately 46% of the borough as of the 2017 Historic England update, the full list can be viewed [here](#).

**Table 3-4 Historical and cultural assets in the Wandsworth borough**

Type of classification	No. of assets	Types of infrastructure
Grade I listed buildings	5	Church of St. Mary Mount Clare Granada Cinema Parkstead Roehampton House
Grade II* listed buildings	39	A variety of houses, churches, power stations, bridges and memorials. <a href="#">The full list of locally listed buildings</a> can be found on the Wandsworth Council website.
Grade II listed buildings	456	A variety of houses, churches, power stations, bridges and memorials. <a href="#">The full list of locally listed buildings</a> can be found on the Wandsworth Council website.
Registered parks and gardens	6	Battersea Park (Grade II*) Grove House (Grade II) Putney Vale Cemetery (Grade II) Springfield Hospital (Grade II) Wandsworth Park (Grade II) Wimbledon Park (Grade II*)
Archaeological Priority Areas	1 (Tier 1) 18 (Tier 2) 4 (Tier 3)	Including Wimbledon Common Barrow (Tier 1) Including Wandle Valley/Wandsworth (Tier 2) Including Battersea Channel (Tier 3)

Historic England also maintains a record of all historical assets which may be at risk. The details of these sites/buildings are within *Appendix 1 – Heritage at risk*. It is important to highlight the need

to conserve, and the where appropriate enhance, the significance of heritage assets (both designated and non-designated).

From information in the JSNA (2021) an estimated 87% of the population is culturally active but there are notable areas where there is a lack of any cultural or creative engagement. In addition to this there are 65 cultural organisations and approximately 2,800 creative organisations based in the Wandsworth borough.

### 3.4 A2 consultation questions

Questions asked during the consultation exercise based upon the baseline indicators that we have chosen:

3. Do you agree that the baseline data we have included is appropriate to the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy that is being developed? If no, please provide reason(s).
4. Do you have, or know of, any additional baseline indicators or data that should be added into this SEA screening Report? Please provide any appropriate links and/or documents.
5. As far as you are aware, is the baseline data correct? If no, please provide any appropriate links and/or documents with correct data.

## 4 IDENTIFICATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

### 4.1 Task A3 summary

Task A3 is to identify environmental issues and problems. To do this a list of issues have been identified from the information in policies collated in Task A1 and from the analysis of baseline information in Task A2. This is to establish any existing or possible environmental issues across the borough which could affect or be affected by the implementation of actions in the LFRMS.

### 4.2 Local environmental issues

The following environmental issues within *Table 4-1* have been distinguished from the baseline information gathered in *Section 3.3*. Each of the identified environmental issues has been allocated a corresponding LFRMS strategic objective which will aim to work towards reducing this issue within its actions.

**Table 4-1 Environmental issues and their potential associated problems**

Key environmental issues	Potential associated problems	Proposed LFRMS Objective
Increase in non-native species	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Loss of native species</li> <li>Increase in the spread of diseases between native and non-native species</li> <li>Unhealthy competition between species</li> </ul>	B
Reducing numbers of rare and endangered species	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reduction in species diversity</li> <li>Loss in biodiversity</li> <li>Loss of rare and endangered species</li> <li>Loss of potential funding incomes to support the maintenance of sites of natural importance</li> </ul>	B
Decrease in biodiversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Loss of local ecology</li> <li>Rise in the spread of diseases and pests between species types</li> <li>Impacts on local peoples' livelihoods</li> <li>Potential loss of recreational space</li> <li>Negative impacts to local food production</li> <li>Negative effects on the local economy</li> </ul>	B
Population increase (natural change and population mobility)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rise in the number of individuals and/or businesses at risk from flooding</li> <li>More dependent on new developments in order to support an increasing population</li> <li>Increased development could reduce the amount of permeable surface increasing flood risk</li> </ul>	A B D F
Increase in deprivation levels	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Uneven response to flood risk</li> <li>Greater dependency on council or charity donations to support property flood resilience</li> </ul>	B E

Key environmental issues	Potential associated problems	Proposed LFRMS Objective
Increasing amount of people with mental health disorders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More pressure on healthcare services</li> <li>• Potential for less investment in environmental services to help fund healthcare</li> </ul>	B D E
Decrease in air quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rising number of individuals with respiratory health conditions putting pressure on healthcare services</li> <li>• Increase in the number of vulnerable people</li> <li>• Flood risk alleviation projects could reduce air quality during construction phase</li> <li>• Detrimental effects to biodiversity impacting habitat quality by potentially altering pH and nutrient levels in both soils and water</li> </ul>	B F
Increase in CO <sub>2</sub> emissions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rise in air pollution and related issues with air quality</li> <li>• Increase in the greenhouse effect locally</li> <li>• Flood risk alleviation projects could release additional CO<sub>2</sub> emissions during construction</li> </ul>	B F
Extreme weather events (heatwaves, droughts, flooding etc.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase in the flood risk of individuals, properties and infrastructure as a result of the increase in frequency and/or intensity of meteorological events</li> </ul>	A B E F
Depletion of water resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased pressure on water supplies, worsened by the impacts of potential population growth and effects from climate change</li> <li>• Reduction in natural groundwater recharge rates due to increase in impermeable surfacing from new developments and changes in land use</li> </ul>	A B F
Reduction in water quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Possibility of not attaining 'good' ecological status by WFD deadlines</li> <li>• Risk of impacting on groundwater quality in River Terrace gravels and deeper bedrocks</li> <li>• Low water quality status could cause damaging effects to local biodiversity and ecology</li> </ul>	A B
Soil degradation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The construction of flood risk alleviation projects could contaminate land</li> </ul>	A B
Maintaining the conservation of historic environments and managing degradation to historical assets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The vulnerability of most heritage assets to flooding causing potential harm to or loss of their significance</li> <li>• The potential impact of flood risk management measures on heritage assets and their settings</li> <li>• The potential implications of flood risk for securing a sustainable reuse for heritage assets, including their repair and maintenance</li> <li>• The potential impact of changes in groundwater flows and chemistry on preserved organic and paleo-environmental remains.</li> </ul>	A B C D

Key environmental issues	Potential associated problems	Proposed LFRMS Objective
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Degradation risks posed by dewatering, increasing groundwater levels and re-wetting.</li></ul>	

### 4.3 A3 consultation questions

Questions asked during the consultation exercises based upon the environmental issues that we have identified:

6. Do you agree that these are the main environmental issues relating to the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy affecting the Wandsworth borough? If no, what are the main issues you believe should be included?
7. Are there any other environmental issues that you believe should be added into this SEA Screening Report? If so, please give details.
8. Do you consider any of these environmental issues to not affect the Wandsworth borough? If so, please give details.



## 5 SEA OBJECTIVES

### 5.1 Task A4 summary

Task A4 is to develop the SEA objectives and framework. To do this a list of seven SEA objectives have been established from the environmental issues raised in Task A3, in addition to local knowledge and understanding relating to flood risk management. The performance of the LFRMS will subsequently be assessed against these SEA objectives in *Section 6.2*.

### 5.2 SEA objectives

The SEA objectives below have been generated from the key issues found in *Section 4.2*. These will be assessed against each of the Wandsworth LFRMS strategic objectives in *Section 6.1*. These SEA objectives can also feed into any future reviews of the LFRMS and progress made in delivering its Action Plan.

- **SEA 1:** To maintain target of only planting native species within the Wandsworth borough and minimise the effects of current non-native species that are present.
- **SEA 2:** To make efforts to conserve rare and endangered species by supporting biodiversity net gain and local food chains, whilst managing threats to these species.
- **SEA 3:** To effectively manage transport and infrastructure for a growing population and the effects of climate change.
- **SEA 4:** To support the connection between people and nature to help improve quality of life and manage negative mental health.
- **SEA 5:** To establish more green travel networks and more environmentally friendly modes of transport in order to improve air quality, reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and increase physical and mental health.
- **SEA 6:** To aim for good ecology potential for water quality and secure water resources for the future, improving the WFD status of waterbodies to conserve and enhance the ecological value of rivers and wetlands.
- **SEA 7:** To conserve and enhance heritage assets and their settings particularly those at risk from neglect, decay or development pressures where flood risk or changes to the water table are a risk.

### 5.3 A4 consultation questions

Questions asked during the consultation exercises based upon the SEA objectives we proposed for assessment against the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy:

9. Do you agree that these proposed SEA objectives are suitable in the context of the Wandsworth borough?
10. Are there any other SEA objectives that you believe should be included? If so, please give details.

# 6 SCREENING ANALYSIS OF THE LOCAL FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

## 6.1 Task A5 summary

Task A5 is to assess the scope of the SEA against the LFRMS strategic objectives to establish if there will be no effect, a potential effect, or a potentially significant effect. To do this a matrix has been created in *Section 6.2* to assess each SEA objective against each LFRMS strategic objective.

## 6.2 Screening analysis

The screening analysis shown in *Table 6-1* presents the outcomes of each LFRMS strategic objective when compared to the SEA objectives to determine either a positive, neutral or negative outcome. These were allocated based on best judgement from a qualitative assessment further explored in *Section 6.3*. There are no minor or major negative effects of LFRMS strategic objectives on SEA objectives identified in this analysis, using the legend criteria displayed in *Table 6-2*. However, there are both potential minor and major positive outcomes possible from these LFRMS strategic objectives, notably for SEA objective 3. The majority of results show that there is a neutral effect which is likely due to the LFRMS strategic objective not relating to the environmental issues expressed within a particular SEA objective.

**Table 6-1 Scoring matrix of LFRMS strategy objectives against SEA objectives**

		SEA Objective Number						
		SEA 1	SEA 2	SEA 3	SEA 4	SEA 5	SEA 6	SEA 7
LFRMS Strategy Objective	A	0	+	++	+	0	++	+
	B	0	0	+	+	+	+	++
	C	0	0	+	+	+	+	+
	D	0	0	++	+	+	+	+
	E	0	0	0	+	0	+	+
	F	0	0	++	0	+	+	0

**Table 6-2 Legend criteria for Table 6-1**

++	Major positive effect on SEA objective.
+	Minor positive effect on SEA objective.
0	Neutral effect on SEA objective and/or dependent on implementation.
-	Minor negative effect on SEA objective.
--	Major negative effect on SEA objective.
?	Uncertain.

## 6.3 Screening analysis outcomes

### 6.3.1 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.*

The analysis of the LFRMS strategic objective A shows that there is a mixed response of both neutral, minor positive and major positive outcomes on the SEA objectives. The focus of strategic objective A is on improving the understanding of flood risk and flooding interactions which has the potential to offer positive benefits directly and indirectly to the SEA objectives 2, 3, 4, 6 and 7. Addressing SEA 6 this LFRMS will offer potential benefits to water quality which could be achieved by any flood reduction measures which reduce polluting road and general urban runoff entering the water bodies. Understanding the interactions between sources of flooding will also offer the opportunity for improvement to groundwater resources (aquifer recharge) by reducing impermeable surfaces. There is some potential for minor positive outcomes in relation to conserving and enhancing sites of natural and historical importance, with neutral effects between this LFRMS strategic objective and SEA 2, regulation of species, and SEA 5, air quality. As no negative effects were identified this LFRMS objective has been screened out at this stage of the SEA.

### 6.3.2 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 LFRMS strategic objective B will have a detrimental effect on environmental issues within Wandsworth. Minor positive results were found in the SEA screening analysis for SEA objectives 3, 4, 5, and 6. The focus on this LFRMS objective on mitigated development has the potential to support positive action towards resolving environmental issues. The aim of proposing sustainable and multi-beneficial solutions has the potential to support infrastructure development resilient to the effects of climate change, the connection between people and nature, green travel corridors and a reduction in water quality and resources. This is similarly the case for SEA 7 where appropriately mitigated development can help to protect and enhance historical assets which has a major positive outcome. It is for this reason that LFRMS strategic objective B has been screened out at this stage of the SEA process.

### 6.3.3 LFRMS strategic objective C

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

There is little effect from this LFRMS strategic objective on the SEA objectives as the main focus is on seeking funding and resources to support flood risk management. *Table 6-1* shows that the majority of SEA objectives achieve minor positive outcomes for the SEA objectives 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7. Funding is crucial to support the development of infrastructure and targeted funding streams may be available to help protect historical assets. Some funding options available to LLFAs have additional controls which mean flood alleviation schemes need to provide additional benefits which could offer positive environmental outcomes such as developing better infrastructure that is resilient to climate change. These funding routes will be recommended by the LLFA to support the

increase in multiple benefits within the Wandsworth borough helping to target site specific issues as highlighted in the key environmental issues. Based on this analysis LFRMS strategic objective C is screened out of the SEA process at this stage.

#### 6.3.4 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.*

A mix of neutral and positive outcomes were reached for this LFRMS strategic objective with a major positive effect recorded for SEA objective 3. Minor positive outcomes were achieved for SEA 4, 5, 6 and 7. Effectively managing sources of flood risk to homes, critical infrastructure and transport will offer a positive impact to the SEA objectives targeting the management of infrastructure and transport for climate change, improving peoples' quality of life and managing water quality decline. A lot of these issues are interrelated and this LFRMS objective covers a range of areas in managing flood risk along with other local issues. Due to this result the LFRMS strategic objective D can be screened out of this SEA.

#### 6.3.5 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.*

LFRMS strategic objective E does not offer any significant positive outcomes when compared against the SEA objectives. However minor positives have been identified in relation to SEA objective 4, 6 and 7. By educating the local community and raising awareness of flood and water management, individuals can take more responsibility for their own impact on water degradation. Improving awareness can also have positive mental health impacts for local people as they understand how to better mitigate and prepare for the impacts of flooding. The LLFA and RMAs aim to factor in raising awareness of protecting and enhancing historical assets in relation to flood risk evidencing the minor positive result for SEA 7. As there are no negative effects from this LFRMS strategic objective it has been screened out of the SEA.

#### 6.3.6 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 directly targets the topic of climate change in its aim by using climate change projections to help aid flood risk mitigation. This offers a major positive effect for SEA objective three and minor positive outcomes for SEA objectives 5 and 6. Notably SEA objective 3 aligns with this LFRMS strategic objective as it aims to better manage transport and infrastructure from the effects of climate change. Both SEA objective 3 and LFRMS strategic objective F aim to prepare for the impacts that climate change will impose, which gives this LFRMS strategic objective a major positive result in the SEA analysis. LFRMS strategic objective F has therefore been screened out of the SEA.

## 6.4 A5 consultation questions

Questions asked during the consultation exercises based upon the assessment matrix and SEA screening analysis:

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

## 7 CONCLUSIONS AND NEXT STEPS

### 7.1 Conclusions

The overall conclusion of this SEA screening report is that the Wandsworth LFRMS strategic objectives are not predicted to pose a significant harmful effect on local environmental issues. The outcomes of the screening analysis have shown that the LFRMS strategic objectives have a mixed effect on the selected SEA objectives, presenting outcomes of minor positive, major positive and neutral. It has subsequently been concluded from these results that the LFRMS has suitably considered the delivery of its strategic objectives and their associated actions in regard to local environmental issues. Effective flood risk management aims to offer various benefits towards other environmental areas through its strategies. It is therefore concluded that the LFRMS does not require progression onto the appropriate assessment stage and does not require a full SEA.

### 7.2 Consultation of the SEA

Task A5 also incorporates a consultation with the statutory consultation bodies on the scope of the SEA. To do this, statutory consultees, listed in *Section 1.5*, were consulted with prior to a public consultation period will take place in Spring/Summer 2022. The feedback from stakeholders and statutory consultees was incorporated into the final version of this SEA screening report and any corresponding LFRMS documents.

Questions asked during the consultation exercises based upon the conclusions, and this SEA screening report as a whole:

13. Do you have any comments on the conclusions that we have made in this SEA screening Report of the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy?
14. Do you have any additional comments or suggestions for this SEA Screening Report?

## APPENDIX 1 – HERITAGE AT RISK

Below is an abstract of sites/buildings with the Wandsworth borough which are listed on Historic England’s Heritage at Risk Register. Full details of each of these sites can be found online [here](#).

Entry Name	Designated Site Name	Heritage Category	List Entry Number	Site Type	Site Subtype	Building Name	Street Number	Street Name	Parliamentary Constituency	Assessment Type	Condition	Occupancy / Use	Priority Category	Previous Priority Category	Owner Type	Designation	New Entry
Springfield Hospital (main building), Glenburnie Road SW17	SPRINGFIELD HOSPITAL (MAIN BUILDING)	Listed Building grade II	1065553	Health and welfare	Hospital	Springfield Hospital (main building)		Glenburnie Road	Tooting	Building or structure	Poor	Part occupied/ part in use	F - Repair scheme in progress and (where applicable) end use or user identified; or functionally redundant buildings with new use agreed but not yet implemented.	D	Health authority	Listed Building grade II, RPG grade II	No
Battersea Park Station, Battersea Park Road SW8	Battersea Park Railway Station	Listed Building grade II	1357652	Transport	Railway transport site	Battersea Park Station		Battersea Park Road	Battersea	Building or structure	Fair	Part occupied/ part in use	E - Under repair or in fair to good repair, but no user identified; or under threat of vacancy with no obvious new user (applicable only to buildings capable of beneficial use)	E	Utility	Listed Building grade II, CA	No
Former White Lion, 14-16, Putney High Street SW15	THE WHITE LION HOTEL PUBLIC HOUSE	Listed Building grade II	1184658	Commercial	Eating and drinking establishment	Former White Lion	14	Putney High Street	Putney	Building or structure	Poor	Vacant/ not in use	D - Slow decay; solution agreed but not yet implemented	D	Commercial company	Listed Building grade II, CA	No
Former St Mark's Infant School, Battersea Rise SW11	ST MARK'S INFANT SCHOOL	Listed Building grade II	1389136	Education	College	Former St Mark's Infant School		Battersea Rise	Battersea	Building or structure	Poor	Vacant/ not in use	C - Slow decay; no solution agreed	C	Religious organisation	Listed Building grade II, CA	No
Temple in the grounds of Mount Clare, Minstead Gardens SW15	TEMPLE IN GROUNDS OF MOUNT CLARE	Listed Building grade II*	1065545	Gardens parks and urban spaces	Garden building	Temple in the grounds of Mount Clare		Minstead Gardens	Putney	Building or structure	Very bad	Not applicable	A - Immediate risk of further rapid deterioration or loss of fabric; no solution agreed	A	Religious organisation	Listed Building grade II*, CA	No
Queenstown Road Station, Queenstown Road SW8	QUEENSTOWN ROAD STATION	Listed Building grade II	1389413	Transport	Railway transport site	Queenstown Road Station		Queenstown Road	Battersea	Building or structure	Poor	Part occupied/ part in use	D - Slow decay; solution agreed but not yet implemented	D	Utility	Listed Building grade II, CA	No
100, Tooting Bec Road SW17	NUMBER 100 (INCLUDING IRON GATE AND RAILINGS TO STREET FRONTAGE)	Listed Building grade II	1357661	Domestic	Residential building		100	Tooting Bec Road	Tooting	Building or structure	Fair	Vacant/ not in use	C - Slow decay; no solution agreed	C	Private		No