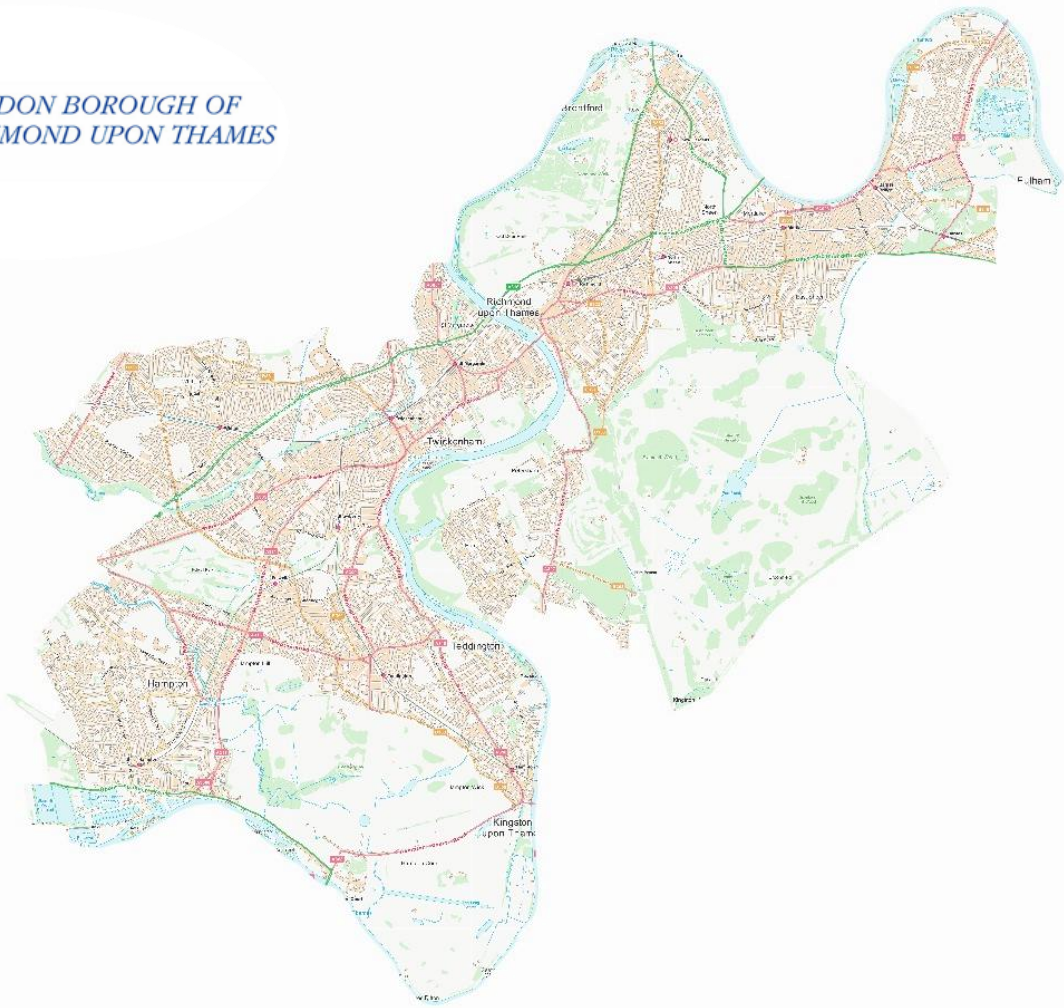


HABITATS REGULATIONS ASSESSMENT SCREENING REPORT

PREPARED FOR THE LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND UPON THAMES



Authored by	Lauren Barraclough
Reviewed by	Tom Whitworth
Approved by	Mike Mair
Date	August 2022
Version	3.0



REVISION HISTORY

Version	Date	Description	Prepared	Approved
1.0	Feb 2022	First draft	LB	DC
2.0	May 2022	Final version for statutory consultation	LB	MM
3.0	Aug 2022	Final version for public consultation	LB	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.
Spencer House
23 Sheen Road, Richmond
London, TW9 1BN
t. 020 8948 0249
e. info@metisconsultants.co.uk
w. metisconsultants.co.uk

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of a Habitats Regulation 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 Richmond upon Thames (Richmond) which is Richmond Park and is categorised as a SAC. Further sites were considered outside of the Richmond borough to account for any potential impacts caused as a result of interconnected natural processes. These additional sites include Wimbledon Common (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	2
1.4.3	LFRMS STRATEGIC 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 RICHMOND BOROUGH BOUNDARY	6
2.2.1	RICHMOND PARK (SITE 1)	6
2.3	SITES IN PROXIMITY TO THE RICHMOND BOROUGH BOUNDARY	6
2.3.1	WIMBLEDON COMMON (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	13
4	CONCLUSIONS AND NEXT STEPS	14
4.1	CONCLUSIONS	14
4.2	CONSULTATION OF THE HRA	14
4.3	CONCLUSION AND FURTHER COMMENTS CONSULTATION QUESTIONS	14

FIGURES AND TABLES

<i>Figure 2-1 Location of Natura 2000 sites in proximity to the Richmond borough</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>Table 1-1 Summary table of HRA stages and their purpose</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>Table 2-1 Richmond Park (Site 1) summary</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>Table 2-2 Wimbledon Common (Site 2) summary</i>	<i>7</i>
<i>Table 2-3 South West London Waterbodies (Site 3) summary</i>	<i>7</i>
<i>Table 2-4 Windsor Forest & Great Park (Site 4) summary</i>	<i>8</i>
<i>Table 2-5 Thames Estuary & Marshes (Site 5) summary</i>	<i>9</i>
<i>Table 3-1 Scoring matrix of LFRMS strategy objectives against HRA outcome criteria.....</i>	<i>11</i>
<i>Table 3-2 Legend criteria for Table 3-1</i>	<i>11</i>

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
Richmond borough	The administrative area known as Richmond.
Richmond Council	The administrative body of people formally constituted for Richmond.
Richmond town centre	The specific geographical area of Richmond town, not referring to the Richmond borough.
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

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Purpose of screening

The purpose of this Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) Screening Report is to understand the risks and implications posed by the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (LFRMS) to habitats and protected areas. This will include any impacts from the proposed LFRMS strategic objectives and their associated actions. The screening stage of a HRA is to gather evidence of any significant or likely effect which may then require progression onto the appropriate assessment phase, more detail is given in *Section 1.2*.

A HRA is required under the [Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations \(2017\)](#) known also as the Habitats Regulations. The assessment must be carried out to test if a plan or proposal will cause any significant harm to designated European sites. A LFRMS is considered a plan so it requires a HRA. European sites, also referred to as [Natura 2000 sites](#), are areas protected under the Habitats Regulations and include Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), Special Protection Areas (SPAs) and Ramsar sites. In addition to this any proposed SACs, SPAs, both active and proposed Ramsar Sites (wetlands of international importance), and any areas secured as sites compensating for damage to a European site, also require consideration in a HRA.

1.2 Methodology

A full HRA assessment involves a three stage process which works through identifying any significant effects (Task 1), assessing ways to mitigate any significant effects found (Task 2), considering any exemptions (Task 3). These stages are as defined by guidance produced by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), Natural England, and additional Welsh governing bodies.

This document will complete Task 1 and produce the HRA screening report to ascertain whether the proposed strategic objectives in the LFRMS for the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames (Richmond) will have any significant adverse effect on the area. If any significant effects are identified then progression onto the later tasks will be required. This report, alongside the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Screening Report will go through a public consultation period where the evidence will be reviewed by 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.
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 steps taken in this Screening Report. Statutory consultation bodies will be asked to respond to these consultation questions prior to 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 \(FWMA\) \(2010\)](#) Richmond Council is appointed the Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA). This same legislation establishes the duties which the LLFA must undertake and deliver which includes the statutory duty to produce an updated LFRMS every 6-year period. The LFRMS sets out the aims and objectives for the LLFA in managing the local flood risk in its borough. Subsequent documents include an action plan of how to deliver these actions, a monitoring and reviewing plan to track progress, a SEA Screening Report and this HRA Screening Report. The purpose of why a HRA Screening Report is necessary is outlined in *Section 1.1* and is a requirement for any plan or policy which could pose impacts to Natura 2000 sites.

1.4.2 Local area information

The Richmond borough is one of 32 London boroughs and is located in southwest London and forms part of outer London. The borough is the only London borough to bisect the River Thames. The Richmond borough borders the London Boroughs of Hounslow (northwest), Hammersmith & Fulham (north), Wandsworth (east) and the Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames (southeast), in addition to Elmbridge, Surrey where the River Thames flows along the southern edge of the Richmond borough.

1.4.3 LFRMS strategic objectives

Below is the list of LFRMS strategic objectives which have been selected and presented within the LFRMS for the Richmond borough. These strategic objectives are partnered with those for the London Borough of Wandsworth (Wandsworth) due to the collaborative partnership between both boroughs in delivering their flood risk management duties. These strategic objectives will later be assessed in *Section 3.2* against each of the sensitive European sites identified 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 Richmond upon Thames.
- B. To encourage appropriately mitigated development across the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames 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 Richmond upon Thames.

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* will be repeated under their relevant chapters throughout this HRA Screening Report. A public consultation will occur in Autumn 2022 of all the LFRMS documents, and any feedback will be incorporated into the final versions of these documents accordingly.

2 IDENTIFICATION OF RELEVANT SITES

2.1 Introduction to the sites

To begin the HRA screening process any European sites (Natura 2000 sites) within the borough must be identified. There is only one site within the Richmond borough boundary that has one of the special designations, which is Richmond Park which is designated a SAC. However, a plan or policy such as the LFRMS may have consequences for sites outside of the borough's administrative boundary due to the connections between natural systems. For this reason the following Natura 2000 sites of Wimbledon Common (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.

A map of all the relevant Natura 2000 sites explored in this HRA can be viewed in *Figure 2-1*. *Section 2.2* and *Section 2.3* will summarise the justification for why each site has been included and will present the habitat and species summaries for each site. The information gathered in both these sections has been sourced using a combination of information and mapping facilities available from [Natural England](#), the [Joint Nature Conservation Committee \(JNCC\)](#) and [DEFRA's Magic Map facility](#).

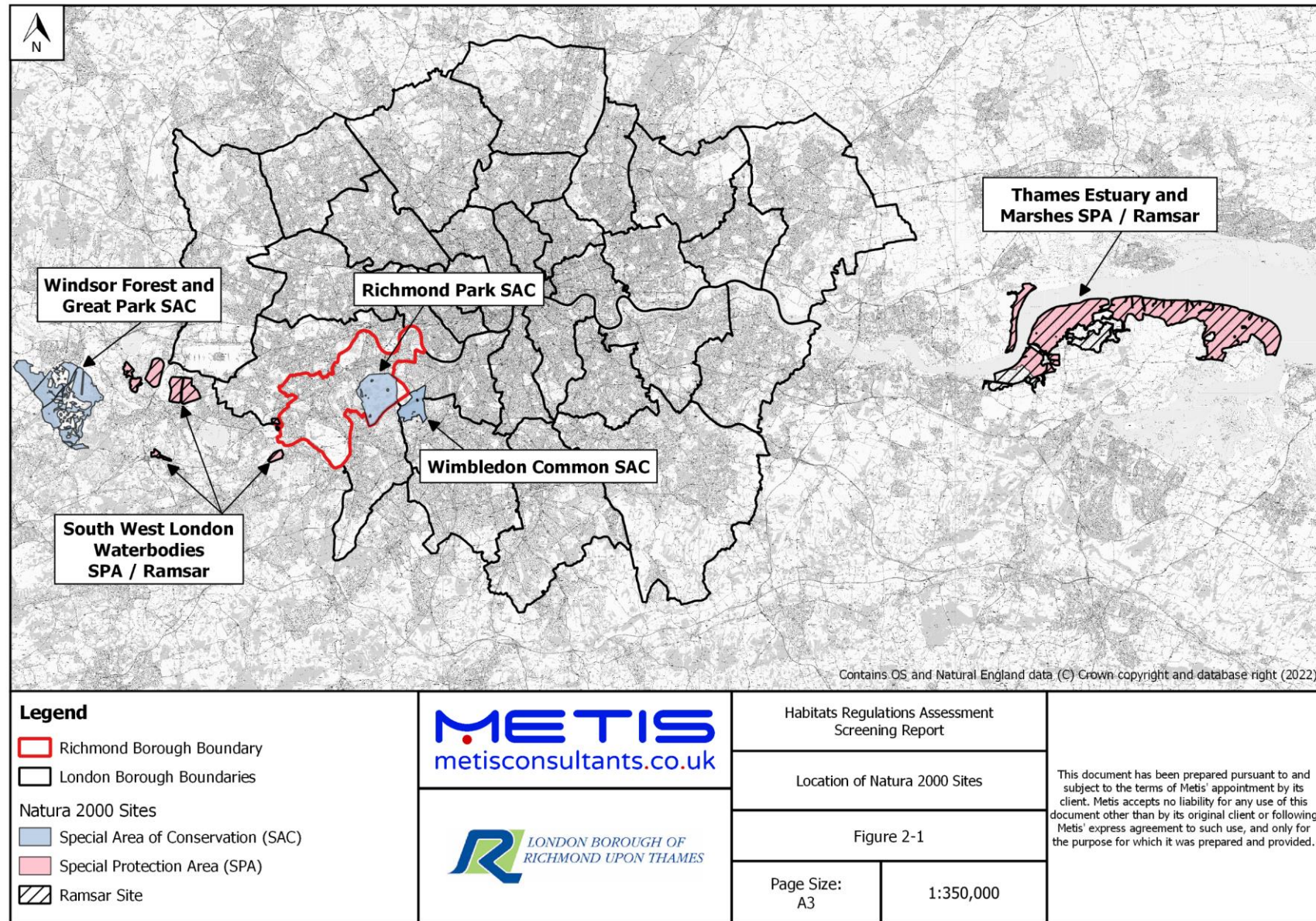


Figure 2-1 Location of Natura 2000 sites in proximity to the Richmond borough

2.2 Sites within the Richmond borough boundary

2.2.1 Richmond Park (Site 1)

Richmond Park was chosen because it is situated within the Richmond borough boundary. 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 Richmond Park, and the pressures and threats facing them.

Table 2-1 Richmond Park (Site 1) 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
Supplementary evidence	Richmond Park Special Area of Conservation (SAC) Site Improvement Plan – Richmond Park

2.3 Sites in proximity to the Richmond borough boundary

2.3.1 Wimbledon Common (Site 2)

Wimbledon Common has been included as a relevant site because it is sited in the neighbouring borough of Wandsworth. This is in close proximity to the Richmond borough therefore actions from the LFRMS and Action Plan are likely to be delivered in partnership with the Wandsworth 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 Wimbledon Common, and the pressures and threats facing them.

Table 2-2 Wimbledon Common (Site 2) 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, <i>Phygrana</i> (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
Supplementary evidence	European Site Conservation Objectives for Wimbledon Common SAC - UK0030301 Site Improvement Plan – Wimbledon Common

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 Richmond borough indicating that they may be impacted on by the actions taken in delivering the LFRMS. **Table 2-3** *Error! Reference source not found.* 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	SPA <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gadwall, <i>Anas strepera</i> - A051, nb • Shoveler, <i>Anas clypeata</i> - A056, nb Ramsar <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 Natural changes to site conditions, affecting A051 and A056 Fisheries: fish stocking, affecting A051 and A056 Inappropriate weed control, affecting A051 and A056
Supplementary evidence	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 Richmond 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 and 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
Supplementary evidence	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 Richmond borough within the River Thames catchment. As the Richmond 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 Richmond 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

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fisheries: commercial marine and estuarine, affecting A132, A141, A082, A143, A162, A137 and waterbird assemblage• Vehicles (illicit) affecting A132, A141, A082, A143, A162, A137 and waterbird assemblage
Supplementary evidence	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 to be 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 1.1* 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

The first task in analysing the LFRMS strategic objectives is to distinguish whether there will be any negative effect to any of the Natura 2000 sites identified in *Section 1.1*. Following this, evidence should be supplied to support these decisions and a conclusion on whether the objective can be screened out of the HRA process can be agreed. *Table 3-1* presents the outcomes of each strategic objective against each of the sites reviewed in this Screening Report. The criteria used within this matrix is explained in *Table 3-2*. As visible, none of the LFRMS objectives pose any effect to the sensitive European sites distinguished in this analysis.

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 Richmond upon Thames.

There is not likely to be any significant effects on any European sites from this strategic objective. This objective focuses on improving the knowledge of flooding and improving understanding of flooding interactions. This aim has the potential to increase awareness of flooding which could have additional benefits for the European Sites noted in this HRA screening report. This could lead to more focused flood risk schemes that can conserve and enhance the natural, built, and/or historic environment. Therefore this LFRMS strategic objective has been screened out at this stage of the HRA.

3.3.2 LFRMS strategic objective B

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

It is not likely that this strategic objective will have any impact on European sites. Any actions surrounding this objective's focus on development will be properly mitigated for and will not have any negative effects on these designated sites. This objective and its actions aim to steer development away from high flood risk areas, this will also be the case where Natura 2000 sites are concerned. Developments will be encouraged to offer multiple benefits in their flood mitigation solutions such as increasing biodiversity or water quality helping to provide multi-beneficial social, economic and environmental outcomes. This LFRMS strategic objective has subsequently been screened out at this stage 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.

This strategic objective itself is not likely to have any impact on these sensitive European sites. When identifying funding sources for the borough, there are likely to be additional requirements that must be met when delivering projects. These could potentially include actions to improve or maintain biodiversity and/or ecological health when developing flood risk schemes. Having additional conditions applied to funding applications is a method which the UK Government and other organisations are using to help LLFAs and themselves meet biodiversity and environmental targets. As a result this strategic objective has been screened out at this stage of the HRA process.

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 strategic objective is not likely to have any effect on European sites. This objective is about fostering new and maintaining existing partnerships with key organisations. Encouraging

collaborative working when delivering flood risk schemes has the potential to improve communication between different Risk Management Authorities (RMAs). This has been identified as an area for improvement by a number of parties in the past and is something which can be improved by all RMAs going forward. Particularly in the case of environmental and ecological concerns well maintained relationships with Natural England, among others, can help to identify any additional benefits that could be achieved in the delivery of flood risk schemes. This strategic objective has therefore been screened out at this stage of the HRA.

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.

This strategic objective is unlikely to have any adverse impacts on European sites. This objective is focused on improving communication and awareness around flood risk and interlinked environmental issues. By educating communities further they are more likely to respect Natura 2000 sites and better understand their importance. Assisting local people to understand and learn how to manage their own flood risk can help individuals take more responsibility and improve their awareness of flooding and their local environment. The objective is intended to conserve and enhance the natural, built, or historic environment through property flood resilience measures. These will not be likely to have any effect on a Natura 2000 site.

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 Richmond upon Thames.

This objective is unlikely to have an effect on a Natura 2000 site. This objective tends its focus to emergency responses towards flooding in the Richmond borough but also incorporates impacts from climate change which will be appropriately considered within flood risk planning. Actions associated with this strategic objective are unlikely to have any adverse effects on Natura 2000 sites. Instead this strategic objective could offer benefits to these sites through collaborations in mitigating climate change impacts. This determines that strategic objective F can consequently be screened out at this stage of the HRA process.

3.4 Screening analysis consultation questions

Questions to be 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

The screening analysis performed for this HRA shows that none of the proposed LFRMS strategic objectives will impose negative effects on the Natura 2000 sites identified in this report. The strategic objectives both directly and indirectly aim to enhance and protect natural and water environments through its actions. 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 Richmond borough and were not considered to be vulnerable to the plans of this LFRMS. It has therefore been concluded that the HRA for 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 in regard to the HRA screening process are to undergo a statutory consultation with the statutory consultee on the scope of the HRA and its analysis of the sensitive site identified. This will then be followed by a public consultation which will take place in Autumn 2022 and will require review from any other relevant stakeholders. Feedback received from the stakeholders and statutory consultee will then be incorporated into the final version of this HRA Screening Report and any other relating LFRMS documents.

4.3 Conclusion and further comments consultation questions

Questions to be 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?