

Site Improvement Plan

Wimbledon Common

Site Improvement Plans (SIPs) have been developed for each Natura 2000 site in England as part of the Improvement Programme for England's Natura 2000 sites (IPENS). Natura 2000 sites is the combined term for sites designated as Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) and Special Protected Areas (SPA). This work has been financially supported by LIFE, a financial instrument of the European Community.

The plan provides a high level overview of the issues (both current and predicted) affecting the condition of the Natura 2000 features on the site(s) and outlines the priority measures required to improve the condition of the features. It does not cover issues where remedial actions are already in place or ongoing management activities which are required for maintenance.

The SIP consists of three parts: a Summary table, which sets out the priority Issues and Measures; a detailed Actions table, which sets out who needs to do what, when and how much it is estimated to cost; and a set of tables containing contextual information and links.

Once this current programme ends, it is anticipated that Natural England and others, working with landowners and managers, will all play a role in delivering the priority measures to improve the condition of the features on these sites.

The SIPs are based on Natural England's current evidence and knowledge. The SIPs are not legal documents, they are live documents that will be updated to reflect changes in our evidence/knowledge and as actions get underway. The information in the SIPs will be used to update England's contribution to the UK's Prioritised Action Framework (PAF).

The SIPs are not formal consultation documents, but if you have any comments about the SIP or would like more information please email us at IPENSLIFEProject@naturalengland.org.uk, or contact Natural England's Responsible Officer for the site via our enquiry service 0300 060 3900, or enquiries@naturalengland.org.uk

This Site Improvement Plan covers the following Natura 2000 site(s)

UK0030301 Wimbledon Common SAC

Site description

Wimbledon Common has a large number of old trees and much fallen decaying timber. It is at the heart of the south London centre of distribution for Stag beetle and the site is recognised as being important for this species. Management of the site is focussed on maintaining appropriate habitat conditions and there are no indications that the species is under threat on a local scale but there are concerns about the conservation of stag beetle in a wider context. Wimbledon Common also supports examples of Northern Atlantic wet heaths and European dry heaths but these are not primary reasons for selection of the site as SAC.

Plan Summary

This table shows the prioritised issues for the site(s), the features they affect, the proposed measures to address the issues and the delivery bodies whose involvement is required to deliver the measures. The list of delivery bodies will include those who have agreed to the actions as well as those where discussions over their role in delivering the actions is on-going.

Priority & Issue	Pressure or Threat	Feature(s) affected	Measure	Delivery Bodies
1 Public Access/Disturbance	Pressure	H4010 Wet heathland with cross-leaved heath, H4030 European dry heaths, S1083 Stag beetle	Implement measures to reduce visitor impact	Natural England, Wimbledon and Putney Common Conservators
2 Habitat fragmentation	Threat	S1083 Stag beetle	Species recovery project	Peoples Trust for Endangered Species
3 Invasive species	Threat	H4010 Wet heathland with cross-leaved heath, H4030 European dry heaths, S1083 Stag beetle	Develop an invasives response plan	Forest Services, Natural England, Royal Parks Agency, Wimbledon and Putney Common Conservators, London Invasive Species Initiative
4 Air Pollution: impact of atmospheric nitrogen deposition	Pressure	H4010 Wet heathland with cross-leaved heath, H4030 European dry heaths	Establish a Site Nitrogen Action Plan	Natural England

Issues and Actions

This table outlines the prioritised issues that are currently impacting or threatening the condition of the features, and the outstanding actions required to address them. It also shows, where possible, the estimated cost of the action and the delivery bodies whose involvement will be required to implement the action. Lead delivery bodies will be responsible for coordinating the implementation of the action, but not necessarily funding it. Delivery partners will need to support the lead delivery body in implementing the action. In the process of developing the SIPs Natural England has approached the delivery bodies to seek agreement on the actions and their roles in delivering them, although in some cases these discussions have not yet been concluded. Other interested parties, including landowners and managers, will be involved as the detailed actions are agreed and delivered. Funding options are indicated as potential (but not necessarily agreed or secured) sources to fund the actions.

1 Public Access/Disturbance

High visitor use of the site causes damage to sensitive habitats, and results in adverse impacts such as compaction around the base of mature trees and removal of fallen timber.

Action	Action description	Cost estimate	Timescale	Mechanism	Funding option	Delivery lead body	Delivery partner(s)
1A	Review the management plan to ensure that visitor pressure is addressed.	Not yet determined	2015	Non-Natural England funded site management plan	Staff time	Wimbledon and Putney Common Conservators	Natural England
Action	Action description	Cost estimate	Timescale	Mechanism	Funding option	Delivery lead body	Delivery partner(s)
1B	Implement measures to reduce impacts arising from public access and use of the site.	Not yet determined	2015-25	Non-Natural England funded site management plan	Local conservation funding	Wimbledon and Putney Common Conservators	Natural England

2 Habitat fragmentation

The Stag beetle remains vulnerable to extinction in the UK as a result of habitat loss and fragmentation of populations. Much work has been carried out to improve understanding of the distribution and habitat requirements of the species. Effective conservation is dependent upon protection not only of core sites such as Wimbledon Common, but public awareness of the value of gardens and retention of dead wood. Continuation of work by the Peoples Trust for Endangered Species is likely to play an important role.

Action	Action description	Cost estimate	Timescale	Mechanism	Funding option	Delivery lead body	Delivery partner(s)
2A	Continuation of the existing Peoples Trust for Endangered Species project.	Not yet determined	2015-25	Species Recovery Programme	Peoples Trust for Endangered Species	Peoples Trust for Endangered Species	n/a

3 Invasive species

Oak processionary moth is now well-established at Richmond Park and other sites in the London area; this species represents a serious threat to human health. Control is potentially damaging to invertebrate populations and is expensive which may result in reduced nature conservation management.

<i>Action</i>	<i>Action description</i>	<i>Cost estimate</i>	<i>Timescale</i>	<i>Mechanism</i>	<i>Funding option</i>	<i>Delivery lead body</i>	<i>Delivery partner(s)</i>
3A	Develop an invasive species protocol, particularly for Oak processionary moth.	Not yet determined	2015	Bio-security plan	Staff time	Wimbledon and Putney Common Conservators	Forest Services, Natural England
3B	Implement an invasive species monitoring programme.	Not yet determined	2015-25	Bio-security plan	Staff time	Wimbledon and Putney Common Conservators	Forest Services, Natural England, Royal Parks Agency
3C	Implement an invasive species control plan	£5,000	2015-25	Bio-security plan	Not yet determined	Wimbledon and Putney Common Conservators	Environment Agency, Natural England, London Invasive Species Initiative

4 Air Pollution: impact of atmospheric nitrogen deposition

Nitrogen deposition exceeds site relevant critical loads. Wimbledon Common is subject to high levels of atmospheric nitrogen oxide and ammonia deposition which is likely to be having deleterious effects on sensitive habitats, particularly the heath and mire vegetation.

<i>Action</i>	<i>Action description</i>	<i>Cost estimate</i>	<i>Timescale</i>	<i>Mechanism</i>	<i>Funding option</i>	<i>Delivery lead body</i>	<i>Delivery partner(s)</i>
4A	Reduce atmospheric nitrogen impact through the preparation of a Site Nitrogen Action Plan	Not yet determined	2015	Site Nitrogen Action Plan	Not yet determined	Natural England	Not yet determined

<i>Action</i>	<i>Action description</i>	<i>Cost estimate</i>	<i>Timescale</i>	<i>Mechanism</i>	<i>Funding option</i>	<i>Delivery lead body</i>	<i>Delivery partner(s)</i>
4B	Implementation of the actions arising from the Site Nitrogen Action Plan	Not yet determined	2016-25	Site Nitrogen Action Plan	Not yet determined	Other	Natural England

Site details

The tables in this section contain site-relevant contextual information and links

Qualifying features

#UK Special responsibility

Wimbledon Common SAC	H4010 Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i>
	H4030 European dry heaths
	S1083 <i>Lucanus cervus</i> : Stag beetle

Site location and links

Wimbledon Common SAC

Area (ha) 348.31	Grid reference TQ227719	Map link
Local Authorities	Merton; Wandsworth	
Site Conservation Objectives	European Site Conservation Objectives for Wimbledon Common SAC	
European Marine Site conservation advice	n/a	
Regulation 33/35 Package	n/a	
Marine Management Organisation site plan	n/a	

Water Framework Directive (WFD)

The Water Framework Directive (WFD) provides the main framework for managing the water environment throughout Europe. Under the WFD a management plan must be developed for each river basin district. The River Basin Management Plans (RBMP) include a summary of the measures needed for water dependent Natura 2000 sites to meet their conservation objectives. For the second round of RBMPs, SIPs are being used to capture the priorities and new measures required for water dependent habitats on Natura 2000 sites. SIP actions for non-water dependent sites/habitats do not form part of the RBMPs and associated consultation.

Wimbledon Common SAC

River basin

[Thames RBMP](#)

WFD Management catchment

London

WFD Waterbody ID (Cycle 2 draft)

GB106039022850

Overlapping or adjacent protected sites

Site(s) of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)	
Wimbledon Common SAC	Wimbledon Common SSSI

National Nature Reserve (NNR)	
Wimbledon Common SAC	n/a

Ramsar	
Wimbledon Common SAC	n/a

Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) and Special Protection Areas (SPA)	
Wimbledon Common SAC	n/a

<i>Version</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1.0	17/11/2014	

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