

Views About Management



A statement of English Nature's views about the management of Islington Heronry Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).

This statement represents English Nature's views about the management of the SSSI for nature conservation. This statement sets out, in principle, our views on how the site's special conservation interest can be conserved and enhanced. English Nature has a duty to notify the owners and occupiers of the SSSI of its views about the management of the land.

Not all of the management principles will be equally appropriate to all parts of the SSSI. Also, there may be other management activities, additional to our current views, which can be beneficial to the conservation and enhancement of the features of interest.

The management views set out below do not constitute consent for any operation. English Nature's written consent is still required before carrying out any operation likely to damage the features of special interest (see your SSSI notification papers for a list of these operations). English Nature welcomes consultation with owners, occupiers and users of the SSSI to ensure that the management of this site conserves and enhances the features of interest, and to ensure that all necessary prior consents are obtained.

Management Principles

Heronry

Grey Herons nest in groups, known as heronries, high in the crowns of mature trees. Where nesting Grey Herons are present, management should aim to maintain areas of woodland with a high proportion of tall mature trees (typically between 15-30m high) to provide suitable roosting and nesting sites for the species. Grey Herons require quiet and undisturbed places in which to nest, usually preferring a commanding position over the surrounding open landscape. Nesting Grey Herons are vulnerable to human disturbance and the disturbance of woodland in the immediate vicinity of nesting birds should be kept to a minimum during the breeding season mid-March to July. Recreational use of the woodland should be discouraged, whilst shooting for game should be avoided completely in areas where Grey Herons are nesting. Grey Herons forage over extensive areas including shallow water, marshes, lagoons, estuaries, reservoirs, ditches, rivers, ponds, lakes and canals. Any open water or wetland habitats present on site should be retained to maintain local foraging habitat.