



Wimbledon and Putney Commons

Media Statement February 2022

Media Release Launch of Digital Mini Film Festival

To celebrate the completion of the 'Commons for the Next Generation; Green Space for All' project, supported by the National Lottery Heritage Fund, the Wimbledon and Putney Commons Conservators (WPCC) in partnership with Wimbledon Windmill Museum Trustees are launching a digital mini film festival on Saturday 24 July 2021. The series of seven films will showcase the best places, people and hidden gems which make the Commons such a special place and will be launched, one each day over the course of a week, via social media and the WPCC website.

Celebrating their 150th anniversary in 2021, Wimbledon and Putney Commons are among the UK's most significant natural and heritage landscapes. Key moments in national history can be recognised across this vast green wilderness. Points of significance, including well-known landmarks like the iconic Windmill, and those which are now hardly visible such as earthworks from WWI training camps, are scattered across an unspoilt tapestry of internationally important habitats. Now, as at so many moments in the past, the Commons provide a vital green space and lifeline for the well-being of the local community.

The Green Space for All project has seen the development of a comprehensive new masterplan for the Commons. It is the result of extensive research and considers the fragile balance between the landscape and its visitors. Careful interventions to the landscape will allow the sensitive areas of the Commons to be protected, yet still enjoyed by walkers, horse-riders, golfers and the many who come to simply enjoy the peace and quiet. Changes to facilities, interpretation and programming will allow a more diverse audience to access, understand, enjoy and respect the ecology and history. Underpinned by appropriate business planning this project gives an opportunity to provide a sustainable, inclusive future for the Commons and a timely new model for greenspaces. A public consultation on the Masterplan will be undertaken later this year.

Stephen Bound, CEO of Wimbledon and Putney Commons said: *'The development of the masterplan, made possible thanks to money raised by National Lottery players, has helped the team here define and focus on the core activities necessary to ensure that the Commons are accessible for future generations to enjoy, whilst protecting the vulnerable and often rare habitats and wildlife that call the Commons home. We are delighted that these films are showcasing the importance of the Commons to both wildlife and people.'*

The films have been created and produced by cultural consultant Barker Langham who have undertaken the majority of the work on the masterplan project. Seven chapters, one released each day, will include:

1. What are the Commons? – An Introduction
2. Culture/Heritage Value
3. Nature Walk

4. Windmill Museum
5. Sports
6. Community and Covid-19
7. Looking to the Future

The films can be viewed via our [website](#) or on our [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) pages

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NOTES for Editors:

About Wimbledon and Putney Commons

Wimbledon and Putney Commons is a charity managed by the Wimbledon and Putney Commons Conservators (WPCC). It was established under the Wimbledon and Putney Commons Act of 1871. The Commons comprise some 1,140 acres across Wimbledon Common, Putney Heath and Putney Lower Common.

About the Wimbledon Windmill Museum

The Wimbledon Windmill is a Grade II* listed windmill situated on Wimbledon Common in South West London. It is managed by the charity, the Wimbledon Windmill Museum CIO, and is preserved as a museum, with exhibits covering windmills and milling as well as local history.

About The National Lottery Heritage Fund

Using money raised by the National Lottery, we Inspire, lead and resource the UK's heritage to create positive and lasting change for people and communities, now and in the future. www.heritagefund.org.uk. Follow @HeritageFundUK on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) and use #NationalLotteryHeritageFund

Contact: Stephen Bound, Chief Executive

7655 E-mail: rangersoffice@wpcc.org.uk website: www.wpcc.org.uk

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Ranger's Office, Manor Cottage, Windmill Road, Wimbledon Common, London SW19 5NR 020 8788 7655

www.wpcc.org.uk